



Town of Bridgewater Rules and Procedure Committee

May 27, 2025

7:00 PM

The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

To attend via video, click on the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83275109787>

To attend via phone, dial: 1(646) 876-9923

Meeting ID: 832 7510 9787

MEETING MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Councilor McGrath called the Town Council Rules & Procedures Committee meeting to order at 7:00pm pm Tuesday, May 27, 2025. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Council Members Present:

Councilor McGrath

Councilor Linde

Councilor Kennedy

B. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

C. ITEMS REFERRED

- a) Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-010: Proposed Amendment to Chapter 157, Article II, Section 1

Councilor McGrath noted what the requested changes are.

Councilor Kennedy agrees with the intent but thinks accordance with the Federal Public Law is referencing Federal buildings and is wondering if that needs to be changed.

Councilor McGrath noted that the State usually follows Federal when it comes to flags.

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to recommend a motion to change “accordance” t “the spirit of”. Which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A roll call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

Councilor Linde made a motion to recommend with amendments. Which was duly seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

A roll call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

- b) Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-016: Bridgewater Town Charter Article III, Section 4-3, Elected Officials Powers of Appointment

Councilor McGrath noted that this references the wrong Charter information. Should make a recommendation that the Town Council amend because it is not listed correctly.

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to recommend amending the following: Change Article “III” to be “IV”; change “Elected Officials” to “Town Manager” and (b) “Multiple Member Appointive Organizations” to “Boards, Committees and Agencies”. This was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A roll call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

Councilor Linde noted that the request is from the Town Manager Ad Hoc Committee. It would need to go to the State and then back to the voters.

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to recommend that “majority” be changed to “2/3”, this was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A roll call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

- c) Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-017: Proposed Amendment to Part II – Administrative Code: Chapter 60, Article I, Section 1 – Elections

Councilor Linde made a motion to take c) under Items Referred, which was duly seconded Councilor Kennedy.

A roll call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

Councilor Linde made a motion to suspend the rules and allow Tina Larson to speak, which was seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

A roll call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

Town Clerk Tina Larson spoke regarding the elections of the Town and feels that 7am to 8pm is a long day and her staff members get paid overtime for 15 hours, expensive proposition. With

early voting not so sure need extended hours. State election is mandated by the State, this is only for town elections. Would like to propose 10am to 8pm, that is what Raynham does.

Councilor Kennedy looked into this and where the Charter stands and MGL. From what he can tell you can move the time to 10am but it must end at 8pm. The Saturday date is in the Charter and would require a Charter change.

Councilor McGrath noted that many people work on Saturdays and the time should stay the same. Keep it the same so no one gets confused, paying overtime is not that much.

Councilor Linde noted that people should have every opportunity to vote; not concerned about the money. Not in favor of changing the hours.

Councilor Kennedy asked what the amount of savings it would be if shortening 3 hours. Town Clerk Larson noted that it would save 3 hours of overtime for staff and poll workers.

Councilor Kennedy concerned on who actually controls the decision. Mass General Laws gives it to the Town Clerk but we do not have anything in there. Wants to make sure it is something we can do. If there is nothing specific in the Charter that everything needs to be in accordance with State Law. Not sure we are able to do this.

Councilor McGrath noted that this goes through the Attorney, who looks at it prior to first reading.

Councilor Linde made a motion to keep hours that are set.

Councilor Kennedy questions whether the section referenced in the Charter is correct.

A roll call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

Councilor Linde withdrew his motion.

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer to Town Council to discuss further, which was seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

A roll call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

- d) Ordinance D-FY25-019: Adoption of Clause 22I of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5 (“HERO Act”)

Councilor McGrath noted that this is to give veterans a cost of living.

Councilor Linde made a motion to recommend removing Fred Chase from being a sponsor, which was duly seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

A roll call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to recommend with amendments, which was duly seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

A roll call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

- e) General Ordinance D-FY25-020: Adoption of Clause 22J of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5 (“HERO Act”)

Councilor McGrath noted that this is to give veterans with certain disability would get an increase. It would not be in effect until FY27 because of the timing.

Councilor Linde made a motion to recommend, which was duly seconded.

A roll call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

Councilor McGrath asked the other councilors if meetings should stay via Zoom and Councilor Kennedy noted that being able to do research on his home computer is beneficial to him.

Councilor Linde noted that there were some Charter orders that were submitted to Rules that never made it out of Rules.

Councilor McGrath noted that no committee should have anything more than a month, need to change the Charter.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

E. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Councilor Linde made a motion to adjourn, which was duly seconded Councilor Kennedy.

A roll call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on July 24, 2025, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.