



Town of Bridgewater Rules and Procedure Committee

July 24, 2025

10:00 AM

66 Central Square

Academy Building

Conference Room 201A/Second Floor

MEETING MINUTES

A Quorum of the Town Council may be in attendance.

A. Call to Order

Councilor McGrath called the Town Council Rules & Procedures Committee meeting to order at 10:00a.m. on Thursday, July 24, 2025. The meeting was held in Conference Room 201A/2nd Floor of the Academy Building.

Council Members Present:

Councilor McGrath

Councilor Linde

Councilor Kennedy

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a) May 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to approve the May 27, 2025 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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

C. Public Comment - None

D. Items for Discussion

a) 2022 Town Council Charter Change Proposed Ordinances:

1. D-FY22-002: Town Charter correction of typographical and punctuation Errors

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to recommend Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-002, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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

2. D-FY22-004: Town Charter Article III, Elected Officials, Library Trustees
Councilor Linde made a motion to suspend the rules and allow Mr. Ivaldi to speak, which was duly seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

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

Councilor Linde noted that the Library Trustees wanted to come before the Town Council to discuss this. Trustees have an issue about their role. Town Manager hires the Director of the Library not the Trustees.

Mr. Ivaldi noted that the Trustees want to provide a written recommendation not be the only one to hire. Trustees want to be present at each interview. Trustees are different than other boards and committees; want to have more control of the money they get and is spent. This is meant to give them more say in how the Library functions. Right now they have no say.

Councilor Linde made a motion to postpone Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-004 to the next scheduled meeting, which was duly seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

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

Councilor Linde would like a Library Trustee at the next meeting.

3. D-FY22-005: Town Charter "Town" to "City" Amendment
Councilor Kennedy noted that there are designations that are specific to Town and Cities. Would like Town attorney to provide insight into this. Not saying I don't support this but not sure of the repercussions of this.

Councilor Linde noted that he believes there is more money available for cities, good to have legal advice. Should talk to MMA. People want the town feel but if we have the opportunity to get more money.

Councilor Kennedy noted that he has heard residents who do not want the Town to become a City. What is my effect down the road. If becoming a city does it give more control to the Commonwealth.

Mr. Ivaldi noted that the Charter Change Committee did this because we wanted to be consistent with what we are. We are a city form of government. Can still call yourself a town with signage.

Councilor McGrath asked why when formed did we keep it as Town and not change to a city and Mr. Ivaldi noted that people voted not to be called a city.

Councilor Linde made a motion to postpone Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-005 to the next scheduled meeting, which was duly seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

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

Councilor Linde noted that he would like to get more information and research from Attorney.

4. D-FY22-006: Town Charter Article II, Term of Office
Councilor McGrath noted that D-FY22-006 was combined with D-FY22-007.

5. D-FY22-010: Town Charter Article IV, City Manager Term of Office
Councilor Kennedy noted that shall appoint to a maximum 5 year renewable term to me notes that it is up to 5 years.

Councilor McGrath thinks 3 years is good and not 5 years, this already exists.

Mr. Ivaldi noted that the Charter dictates what the contract needs to say, nothing in there drives the contract.

Councilor McGrath recommended that the ordinance be tabled so we can make a charter change ourselves.

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to table Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-010, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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

6. D-FY22-011: Town Charter Article V, Administrative Organizations, City Attorney, Term Limits

Mr. Ivaldi noted that the Charter Review committee felt there needed to be a term put on the Town Attorney, recommending 3 year renewable term.

Councilor Lindae noted that he thinks it should be every 3 years, would love to see a municipal law firm.

Mr. Ivaldi noted that he has no idea who changed the wording. Don't feel the Town Manager should be hiring the Town Attorney. Shows that they are representing the Town Manager not the Town.

Councilor Kennedy noted that he would be in favor of this except the five year term.

Councilor McGrath noted that she would like to start fresh and look into it more, would like to speak with the Town Manager.

Councilor Linde made a motion to table Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-011, which was duly seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

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

E. Public Comment

Mr Ivaldi: only represented a small portion of what was recommended. Added a table of contents, update definitions, gender neutral language. We do not have a Home Rule Charter we have a Special Charter. Page 8 3 have moved forward. Page 9 none have been acted upon. Why post just on the Enterprise, should be posting on the Town Facebook page.

Councilor Kennedy noted that open meeting law says it needs to be posted in the Enterprise.

Mr. Ivaldi also noted that on page 10 right now it is 30 days for approval and want to change is to 72 hours.

Councilor Kennedy noted that he would need to look at citizen petitions. Not opposed to shorten it but has to be in accordance with other stuff.

Mr. Ivaldi: better clarity. Page 15 about financial management , not acted upon. List of the current approved projects and status. Annual audit looking at operational functions and making recommendations. Audit Committee that does it yearly – outside help or volunteers.

Mr. Ivaldi: citizen participation – lengthen the time to gather signatures. Article 9 no changes. Added Enforcement of Charter – gives the Council President to manage through any Charter violations. We have a standing violation now with Charter Objections. President is supposed to ask is there any Charter Objection before every vote. Removing Article 10. Not need anymore.

F. Adjournment of Meeting

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:57am.

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 September 9, 2025 to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.