



## Town of Bridgewater Rules and Procedure Committee

September 9, 2025

7:00 PM

66 Central Square

Academy Building

Conference Room 201A/2nd Floor

and via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88414883048>

*A Quorum of the Town Council May be in Attendance*

### MEETING MINUTES

#### A. Call to Order

Councilor McGrath called the Town Council Rules & Procedures Committee meeting to order at 7:00pm on Tuesday, September 9, 2025. The meeting was held in Conference Room 201A/2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Academy Building and via Zoom.

#### Council Members Present:

Councilor McGrath

Councilor Linde

Councilor Kennedy

#### B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a) July 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes

*Councilor Linde made a motion to approve the July 24, 2025 meeting minutes, 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.

#### C. Public Comment

- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: noted that she sent an email to the subcommittee on 005, does not want to be known as a city, should stay a town.
- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: thanked Councilor Kennedy for submitting new items and supports 003.
- James Walsh, 30 Pleasant Street: noted that he is in support of 30 day change on 003, opposes changing town to city, is there a specific benefit.

#### D. Items Referred

a) Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-002: Amendment to Bridgewater Town Charter: Article IV, Section 4-1 Town Manager Term of Office

*After some discussion, Councilor Kennedy made a motion to recommend Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-002 back to the Town Council. This was 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.

- b) Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-003: Amendment to Bridgewater Town Charter Article VIII, Section 8-2 Citizen Referendum Petition Timeframe  
Councilor Kennedy noted that the time needs to be extended more than 10 days.

Councilor Linde and McGrath both noted that they agree with 30 days.

*Councilor Kennedy made a motion to recommend Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-003 back to the Town Council. This was 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) Proposed General Ordinance D-FY26-004: Amendment to Chapter 3, Article II, Section 1 - Business Ethics and Conduct

Councilor Kennedy noted that changes would hold people accountable and this would expand to those that deal with finances.

Councilor Linde thanked Councilor Kennedy for the hard work in writing up the Charter legislation.

*Councilor Kennedy made a motion to amend Proposed General Ordinance D-FY26-004 with Attachment A, 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.

*Councilor Linde made a motion to recommend Proposed General Ordinance D-FY26-004 with amendments, 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. Discussion**

- a) 2022 Town Council Charter Change Proposed Ordinances
1. D-FY22-004: Town Charter Article III, Elected Officials, Library Trustees
  2. D-FY22-005: Town Charter "Town" to "City" Amendment
  3. D-FY22-011: Town Charter Article V, Administrative Organizations, City Attorney, Term Limits

Discussion on D-FY22-004:

Councilor Linde noted that this is an elected body but powers have diminished; would like Library Trustees at a meeting for more input.

Councilor McGrath noted that meeting with Town Manager should take place before moving to change anything.

Discussion on D-FY22-005:

Councilor Linde noted grant money is available for cities and not towns. Randolph is a City but called Town. Goes on a ballot so residents would vote.

Councilor Kennedy noted that he appreciates town but needs to understand the pros and cons and review before sending to Town Council.

Councilor McGrath noted that she looked at MMA, not required to be called city. Rather see it as a town, 14 towns are city form of government but called Town.

Councilor Kennedy noted that he would like to make a few telephone calls, do not want the town to be wrapped into anything.

Discussion on D-FY22-011:

Councilor McGrath noted that the current Town Attorney has a contract, not paid by the hour. If paid by the hour it would cost more money to the town.

Councilor Linde noted that he was in agreement with Councilor McGrath and further noted that a conversation should be had with the Town Manager to see what direction he was going in.

Councilor Kennedy noted that should discuss with the Town Manager since he does the hiring; not opposed to it, do we feel we are being represented.

b) Suggested Charter Changes from the Charter Committee

**F. Public Comment**

- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: noted that it was a good conversation but got lost. CED Subcommittee Chair is suppose to meet with the library trustees according to the Charter.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: noted that she is confused on D-FY22-011 and term limits. Don't want Library to loose control. If name change does that affect grants.

**G. 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 8:00p.m.

**Town of Bridgewater**  
Rules and Procedure Committee Agenda  
Tuesday, September 9, 2025

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 November 14, 2025, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.