



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

March 3, 2026

7:00 PM

66 Central Square

Academy Building

Council Chambers/2nd Floor

The Town Council meeting is being streamed Live via You Tube.

Go to the Town of Bridgewater Facebook Page for the link.

MEETING AGENDA

Due to Massachusetts Open Meeting Law requirements, discussions will not take place during Public Comment periods. If appropriate, responses to questions and concerns will be given by the Town Manager at a future Town Council meeting.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) December 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- b) February 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

C. PROCLAMATIONS

D. CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

E. APPOINTMENTS

F. HEARINGS

- a) Order O-FY26-034: Laying Out and Acceptance of a Private Way - Calthrop Drive Extension
Public Hearing: Noticed in the 2/24/26 Enterprise.

G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

H. PRESENTATIONS

I. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) DPW Storm Response
- b) Water Update
- c) Community Budget Session

J. DISCUSSIONS

K. COMMITTEE REPORTS

L. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- a) Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-008: Proposed Amendment to Part III – Administrative Code: Chapter 14, Article I, Section 1 Dogs
Rules & Procedures votes 3-0 to recommend at their 2/20/26 meeting.
- b) Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-011: Amend Part II Administrative Code, Chapter 1, Article III. Multiple Members Appointive Bodies
Rules & Procedures votes 2-1 to recommend at their 2/20/26 meeting.
- c) Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-012: Amend Part II Administrative Code, Chapter 2, Article I. Section 3 D. Department Heads
Rules & Procedures votes 3-0 to recommend at their 2/20/26 meeting.

M. OLD BUSINESS

N. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Order O-FY26-053: Charter Change Ballot Question – Bridgewater Town Charter Article II, Legislative Branch Section 2-13(a) Annual Stipend
- b) Order O-FY26-054: Charter Change Ballot Question – Bridgewater Town Charter Article IV, Town Manager "Temporary Absence"
- c) Order O-FY26-055: Charter Change Ballot Question – Bridgewater Town Charter Article III, Section 4-3, Elected Officials Powers of Appointment

O. CITIZEN COMMENTS

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION

R. ADJOURNMENT



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

December 3, 2025

7:30 PM

Special Town Council Meeting

The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

To attend via video, click on the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88910453854>

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

Meeting ID: 889 1045 3854

MEETING MINUTES

Disclosure: Pursuant to Section 20 of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, An Act Relative to Extending Certain Covid-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, this meeting of the Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater will be fully remote and accessible to the public through remote participation to the greatest extent possible. There will be no in person attendance permitted. Citizens who wish to tune in to the meeting may do so via Zoom or Facebook Live.

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Johnny Loreti called the Special Town Council meeting to order at 7:34pm on Wednesday, December 3, 2025 via Zoom.

Present: Sean Kennedy, Adelene Ellenberg, Sonya Striggles, Mary McGrath, Johnny Loreti, Dr. Kevin Perry, Paul Murphy, Marilee Hunt and Mark Linde.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT- None

PROCLAMATIONS- None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM- None

APPOINTMENTS- None

HEARINGS- None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS- None

PRESENTATIONS- None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT- None

DISCUSSIONS- None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Linde noted that CED and Planning Board held a public hearing prior to the meeting and Planning Board voted 3-2 to not recommend Ordinance D-FY26-001 and CED voted 2-1 to recommend Ordinance D-FY26-001.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- a) Zoning Ordinance Amendment D-FY26-001: MBTA Final Compliance Ordinance for the Town of Bridgewater

Councilor Striggles made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY26-001 to advertising, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A roll call was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

Councilor Striggles noted that she does not like the position the Town was put in but will work on changing the zoning.

Councilor Linde noted that CED may meet with Planning Board first meeting in January.

OLD BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS- None

CITIZEN COMMENTS- None

COUNCIL COMMENTS- None

EXECUTIVE SESSION- None

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Hunt made a motion to adjourn, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A roll call was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

February 17, 2026

7:00 PM

66 Central Square

Academy Building

Council Chambers/2nd Floor

The Town Council meeting was streamed Live via You Tube.

The link was on the Town of Bridgewater Facebook Page

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Johnny Loreti called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:01pm on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 in the Council Chambers.

Present: Sean Kennedy, Adelene Ellenberg, Mary McGrath, Johnny Loreti, Dr. Kevin Perry, Paul Murphy, Marilee Hunt and Mark Linde.

Also in attendance was Town Manager Justin Casanova-Davis and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins.

Council President Loreti noted that the following veteran deaths and a moment of silence was held:

- Edward Clem, US Air Force, Passed away on January 18th
- Delano Cain, US Army Korean Era, Passed away on January 21st
- William Nee, US Army Paratrooper, Grenada, Passed away on January 29th
- Thomas Griffin, US Navy Korea, Passed away on February 1st

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) January 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes from the Joint Meeting with Bridgewater Town Council, Bridgewater Town Manager, Bridgewater Finance Committee, Bridgewater-Raynham School Committee, Raynham Board of Selectmen and Raynham Town Administrators.

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the January 21, 2026 General Public meeting, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0

- b) February 3, 2026 Meeting Minutes
Councilor Perry made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the January 21, 2026 General Public meeting, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Town Council President Loreti reminded that the Charter Review Committee appointments are still in process, accepting applications until March 11th.

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: gave a statement regarding FY26-028 appointment to vacant district 1 councilor seat and noted that she does not want the Town Council to appoint, they should be elected by the residents in April, 66 days away.
- Scott Pitta, 118 Pine Street: noted that Town Council should appoint a District 1 Councilor even if it's only 66 days. Someone should be in that seat. Noted that the Charter says "shall" appoint.
- Bob Cormier, 65 Grange Park: thanked Senator Bill Driscoll for co-sponsoring a bill to oversee a bill about smoke detectors in rental properties. This was by sending a note via Facebook. Encourage residents to send notes to legislation.
- Timothy Trocchio, 16 Cassidy Place: thanked Dennis Gallagher for securing over \$500k in infrastructure for the downtown area. We should continue to be involved.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: if appoint someone to the vacant chair is there a waiting period and are they allowed to vote on something that has been in place before the council.
- Eric Christianson, South Drive: noted that there should be a special election or wait until the next election for filling the vacant seat.

Councilor Linde made a motion to take F. Hearings out of order. This was duly second by Councilor Kennedy.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0

APPOINTMENTS

The interviews did not take place because Order O-FY26-048: Appointment To A Vacant District 1 Councilor Seat did not pass. The District 1 seat will remain vacant until the April Town Election.

a) Potential Vacant District I Interim Town Councilor Interviews

- Robert Cormier, 65 Grange Park
- Michaela Jessie Spagone, 5 Lakeshore Center
- Derek Silvia, 70 Old Willis Farms Road

Mr. Silvia sent an email to the Town Council Clerk on February 16th noting that he will not be interviewing for the vacant position due to scheduling change.

- Scott Pitta, 118 Pine Street
- Timothy Trocchio, 16 Cassidy Place
- Joel Thomas, 25 Alverona Road

Mr. Thomas sent an email to the Town Clerk on February 17th noting that he was withdrawing his name for consideration.

b) Board of Health:

Kevin Bloomquist (2026 - 2028)

Councilor NAME made a motion to ratify Kevin Bloomquist for the Board of Health, which was duly seconded by Councilor NAME.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0

HEARINGS

- a) Petition P-2026-016: Multiple Amendment Application for An Alcohol Establishment – Kotak LLC dba Pages III Beer and Wine, 233 Broad Street

Public Hearing: *Noticed in the 2/3/26 Enterprise*

Council President Loreti opened the public hearing at 7:17pm.

Jay Kotak, owner of Pages III noted that the current manager is moving away from the business so he will be taking full control of the business and these are the documents required by the ABCC.

Council President Loreti asked if there were any questions from the public. No questions were asked.

Council President Loreti asked if there was anyone that wished to speak in favor. No one spoke.

Council President Loreti asked if there was anyone that wished to speak in opposition. No one spoke.

Council President Loreti asked if there were any questions from the councilors:

Councilor Perry asked if the store was staying inside Roche Bros at this time and Mr. Kotak noted that changing, just changes to inside the corporation.

Council President Loreti closed the hearing at 7:19pm

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Petition P-2026-016, which was duly second by Councilor Perry.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0

- b) Ordinance D-FY26-007: Ordinance Establishing the Process for Filling a Vacant Town Councilor Role

Public Hearing: *Noticed in the 2/3/26 Enterprise.*

Council President Loreti opened the public hearing at 7:27pm.

Councilor Kennedy noted that this changes the current process being used to fill a vacant town council role. Allows council to vote on multiple candidates if they choose multiple candidates, to avoid not having enough people.

Council President Loreti asked if there were any questions from the public. No questions were asked.

Council President Loreti asked if there was anyone that wished to speak in favor:

- Eric Christianson, South Drive: in favor of rank choice voting in general.

Council President Loreti asked if there was anyone that wished to speak in opposition. No one spoke.

Council President Loreti asked if there were any questions from the councilors:

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to amend Ordinance D-FY26-007 by removing “Council” after Town and before Clerk in Section 4. This was duly second by Councilor Linde.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0

Councilor Loreti made a motion to amend Ordinance D-FY26-007 by removing Section 3 all together. This failed for a lack of a second.

Council Linde notes that the Rules & Procedures Committee should be discussing that, should not be wordsmithing at the meeting.

Councilor Loreti noted that he was not going to vote to approve this when there is vague language.

Councilor Murphy noted that they followed the process outlined up until Section 6 which would trigger a special election which would require a special election.

Councilor Loreti noted that his concern was the we do not even get to section 6 unless we vote yes.

Councilor Kennedy noted that there is no changes in the Charter from this, has the same vague language. You could add the 90 day requirement in there as well.

Councilor Perry noted that the Charter gets into specifics about the seat involved. The line is saying if the seat is not voted it will remain vacant until the next election if the next election is close or a special election. Leaving a little bit of room for the Council to make that call gives the council the ability to make that call. But goes back to the vote if the council wants to fill the seat or not.

Councilor Loreti asked if Section 6 #2, is this a majority of those present or the full council and Councilor Perry noted as long as there is a quorum of the council.

Councilor Kennedy noted that if we have a situation where there are two out at a time it still allows this process to move forward, still need to reach a majority of who is present.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that maybe add special election cannot be called 120 days prior to an election.

Councilor Perry noted that say something happened in May we could add to a November election. The council would be more inclined to fill the seat so it is not empty for a long period time. The only issue is when it is right after an election. 90 days would be sufficient time for a special election.

Councilor Linde asked about the Charter and the next candidate in line and Councilor Perry noted it all depends on when the councilor vacates the seat.

Council President Loreti closed the public hearing at 7:44pm.

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to approve Ordinance D-FY26-007, which was duly second by Councilor Ellenberg.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – No Perry – Yea Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 7-1

Councilor Linde made a motion to take L. Legislation for Action out of order. This was duly second by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- a) Petition P-2026-017: Change of Manager of an Alcohol Establishment – Bridgewater Citizens Club, 60 Hale Street
Voice Vote for Approval

Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Petition P-2026-017, which was duly second by Councilor Linde.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0

PRESENTATIONS

- a) Tree Committee Presentation
Ray Ajamian, Chair of the Tree Committee gave an update on the Tree Committee. Money coming to the Tree Committee is through mitigation, there is no budget for the tree committee.

Tree Warden Brian McMahon also gave an update on the different tree ordinances in town.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Grant Opportunities
Town Manager Casanova-Davis gave an update on the grant opportunities to the Town and whether the Town needs a grant committee. People are not aware of the grants that the town has applied for. We will start publicizing some of the grants that we receive. Every single department is hands on applying for grants. Since FY21 the town has received over \$48M in grants and low interest loans. We are very aggressive in going after grants. The Town just received \$500k for a grant applied for by the DPW/CED.

Councilor Ellenberg asked if it would it be possible to provide a list to the public of the grants we received and the amounts we did in each year.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that is what they are working on doing at the moment with the Finance Department.

- b) Water Update
Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that nothing too significant to report, continue to receive water from Middleboro. Plan on having Apex come to a March meeting for a robust presentation on where we are at. During this period of receiving water from Middleboro, well redevelopment has been done on Well 3. Water department is being proactive.

Councilor Murphy noted that they get asked on a daily basis if the Blue Drop system is working. What should we communicate to folks.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that the DPW has a Facebook page and we also post on the Town Facebook page. Weather and usage plays a big part of this. We are looking at another systems outside of Blue Drop and other sites.

Councilor Murphy asked if the council could get the statistics on the usage of Blue Drop. Will this be included in the water presentation in March, what is the process for the future.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that we looked at the Senior Center but it will not work there. We now have information about another system and looking into that.

c) FY27 Budget/Community Budget Sessions

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that the preliminary budget forecast has been submitted and what is important is to inform the community of our budget. Will be having the first Community Budget Session on March 4th at 10:30am at the Senior Center to hear from the community and get feedback. Will be having night sessions also. Scheduling one on one meetings with each councilor to talk about the budget.

d) Downtown Streetlights

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that the Town Center lights were having issues last week and the infrastructure there is from the 80s, lot of water and rodent damage which will require significant repairs. Feel that the repair done last week is suitable for the moment but will require getting quotes on getting quotes on the intersection.

Councilor Murphy asked if a police detail could be there directing traffic during high traffic times.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that he has spoken with the Police Chief and there will be a detail directing traffic if this should happen again.

Councilor Linde noted that he does not believe that one detail is enough for the intersection.

Councilor Perry asked if the cost is completely on the town or if there is state money that can help and Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that there are grant opportunities and we will be exploring those. If we need to fix like last week then it is on us. Major intersection but we will look for anything to help with the costs.

Councilor McGrath spoke about page 27 of the 104 Corridor Study –Lake Nip provided water to surrounding communities and asked if maybe we can look at grants for this.

Councilor Murphy asked if the MBTA could come to a future meeting to discuss safety, signals, etc.

J. DISCUSSIONS

K. COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

a) Order O-FY26-048: Appointment To A Vacant District 1 Councilor Seat

This measure was not referred to committee. 14 days has elapsed per Section XVII of the Council Rules & Procedures, therefore this measure may be finally considered this evening.

Councilor Linde noted that he received many calls and not one person said they favored filling the seat. They want to elect a councilor in the town election. The councilor would serve during the budget process and did not decide to stay or get re-elected would not get to vote on the budget.

Councilor Perry noted that it is two months away from an election. Happy with the people that put their names in for this and hope they put their names on the ballot. This close to an election it should be up to the residents of the district.

Councilor Hunt noted that she also received many emails from people asking that residents vote for a representative themselves and not be appointed by the Council.

Councilor Loreti noted that he likes having a full council and when he sat out there he heard that if this was a district appointment we should vote to fill. We should have representation, we have a number of items coming up, water, budget and many others, would like to see a full council and the Charter requires us to do it.

Councilor McGrath noted that we received some great resumes and hopes they put in for April election; many comments from residents that it should not be filled by the council.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that we should let the people decide.

Councilor Kennedy noted that he is in favor of representation, know it is short time frame but representation is important.

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to approve Order O-FY26-048, which was duly second by Councilor Loreti.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – No; McGrath – No; Loreti – Yea; Perry – No; Murphy – No; Hunt – No; Linde - No. Motion failed 2-6

- b) Proposed General Ordinance D-FY26-004: Amendment to Chapter 3, Article II, Section 1 - Business Ethics and Conduct

Voice Vote - Refer to Advertising

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY26-004 to advertising, which was duly second by Councilor Kennedy.

Councilor Kennedy made an amendment to add page 129 and the first two paragraphs on page 130 of the agenda to Ordinance D-FY26-004. This was duly seconded by Councilor Loreti.

Councilor Perry noted that this ordinance was already referred to Rules and voted then and it should be sent back to Rules. I vote to support the amendments but request it be send back to Rules.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0

Councilor Kennedy made an amendment to replace page 136 with what is noted on Ordinance D-FY26-004. This was duly seconded by Councilor Loreti.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0

Councilor Perry made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY26-004 back to Rules and Procedures. This was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0

- c) Resolution R-FY26-007: An Assessment of the Reuse of the Former Town Hall aka TOWN HOUSE
Voice Vote for Approval

Councilor Ellenberg made a motion to amend Resolution R-FY26-007 with page 151. This was duly seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

Councilor McGrath noted that it has been 6 years since an assessment and before we spend money on re-use we should get a thorough assessment. Would like to see a cost assessment to bring the building up to code.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that the town has already invested money in it, shingling of the roof. Would like the CPC to get on board and get going on this.

Councilor Loreti asked if we have already applied for this grant and Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that we have.

Councilor McGrath asked if the grant could be used for assessment on the structure of the building and Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that it could not, grant is for mechanical, electrical and plumbing only.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that CPC receives tax payer funds and has a fund for historic preservation and we have funds that could be put into the old Town Hall.

Councilor Linde noted that those funds have to be applied for, there is a process that goes along with it. There needs to be a procedure and a process going forward.

Councilor Perry noted that we need to have a plan for the building first. Putting the cart before the horse, all for getting the funds but we need to come up with what are we going to do with the building, it needs a lot of work inside and out.

Councilor Murphy asked what we are voting on for the amendment and if the grant is a matching grant where is the money coming from.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that we need to have to look at the Town Hall. The grant was applied for because it is on an annual basis. If we are not ready to proceed we should not accept the grant.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that this is ahead of having a plan but wanted to make the deadline and not wait for a year. The Townhouse Reuse Committee is now defunct. We would need to make a new committee or have the council have CPC take on the advancement of this cause.

Councilor Hunt noted that is not what CPC does. She suggested that the CED Committee do some research and work on this. Have done the exterior and the roof and now we need to look at the interior. CPC is not going to do that kind of work, they will give you funds but will not come out and figure out what to do with those funds. Our town is not in good financial shape and we should be cautious making this a big project right now.

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to call the question which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0

Councilor Kennedy asked if this is the first step on what the work will be in the future. Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that it is a resolution and we have already applied for a grant for specific uses, that is it. We are not in a position financially to do much. Believe the resolution is mute.

Councilor Linde noted that he did some research and was told that the CPC has voted for an interior assessment. Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that they are looking at procurement for that.

Councilor Kennedy noted that he would like there to be a larger discussion on how the facility will be used, more of a plan.

Councilor Linde asked if we can forward to CED for discussion.

Councilor Loreti suggested that he add it as a discussion on a CED agenda.

Councilor Ellenberg made a motion to approve Resolution R-FY26-007, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – No; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – No; Loreti – No; Perry – No; Murphy – No; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion failed 3-5

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Order O-FY26-050: Acceptance of Grant: Old State Farm Trail Phase 4 Readiness

Councilor Perry made a motion to refer Order O-FY26-050 to Budget and Finance and Finance Committee. This was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0

- b) Order O FY26-051: Declares the downtown corridor of Bridgewater a blight area
Councilor McGrath noted that this is to declare two areas as blight to try to get community block grants.

Councilor McGrath made a motion to amend Order O-FY26-051 by adding “as shown on Exhibit A” at the end of the paragraph starting with Therefore. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that there is some work that needs to go into this Order and expect it will be sent to a few committees.

Councilor Hunt recommended that it go to the CED Committee.

Councilor McGrath noted that she would like it to come back to Downtown Revitalization because they have been working on it and then forward it to CED.

Councilor Linde noted that he would like to see two committees work on it together. What is the public relations issue with declaring a blighted area. One side of the common to me looks like it is in good shape and then another side that looks bad. Broad Street with the blighted building and boarded up windows.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that this is what the Council will need to consider.

Councilor Linde asked if there was significant grant money available and Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted the he thinks every grant is worth applying for, they exist but are not guaranteed.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that there is legal implications to the term blight and when researching it came out that blight would be handled by a town that would be doing eminent domain. Thinks this is walking down the primrose path of turning it into a metropolis in the center of town and very unwise for labeling our town blight. Would bring the town down as a whole. It’s a bad name for the town, potentially very divisive if we do the root of eminent domain.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that he just wanted to be clear that this is a conversation for the council and it is a determination that the council makes. It’s an opportunity to explore additional funding, we are not advocating for it. Decision for the council. There has been no discussion about eminent domain.

Councilor Perry noted that he would refer to subcommittee, the Downtown Revitalization has been doing some legwork on this. My intent would be for it to ultimately go to CED before it goes back to the Council as a whole. There is no intent for the town do any eminent domain.

Councilor Kennedy noted that he agrees with Councilor Perry, should be discussed in both committees. Any legal ramifications we should be made aware of. Not against but would like to know as much information as possible.

Councilor Perry made a motion to refer Order O-FY26-051 to Downtown Revitalization Ad Hoc Committee which was duly seconded by Councilor McGrath.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY26-051 to the Community and Economic Committee. This was duly seconded by Councilor Ellenberg.

Councilor Perry noted that two different committees working on the same document could create conflict or more work down the line. Usually send to one subcommittee at a time.

Councilor Kennedy asked if a member who is on two committees can hold seats at a joint meeting.

Town Attorney Rawlins noted that it is a really good question because it has never come up, we would have to look into that. Not sure why not. They could post a joint meeting.

Councilor Linde noted that he is asking that after the Downtown meeting takes place he wants the order referred to CED.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that both committees should be looking at it simultaneously because we need more eyes on what is going on downtown and more input.

Councilor McGrath noted that there is no reason why the order would not be referred to CED. Councilor Linde withdrew his motion.

- c) Order O-FY26-052: CPC Additional Funds - Restoration of Parthenon Frieze
Councilor Perry made a motion to refer Order O-FY26-052 to Budget and Finance and Finance Committee. This was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0

- d) Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-011: Amend Part II Administrative Code, Chapter 1, Article III. Multiple Members Appointive Bodies

Councilor Kennedy noted that this ordinance changes a few items in the Administrative Code as noted on the Ordinance.

Councilor McGrath noted that she disagrees with taking away the agricultural commission. Would like to keep that.

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY26-011 to Rules and Procedures. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0

- e) Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-012: Amend Part II Administrative Code, Chapter 2, Article I. Section 3 D. Department Heads

Councilor Perry made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY26-012 to Rules and Procedures. This was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0

- f) Order O-FY26-040: Establishing a Downtown Façade Improvement Program and Requesting Community Preservation Act Funding

Councilor Loreti noted that bring forward because of the work the Downtown Revitalization Committee is doing, will take a few committees and town department but wanted to get it going.

Councilor Perry made a motion to refer Order O-FY26-040 to Downtown Revitalization. This was duly seconded by Councilor McGrath.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: spoke about CPC and would like the CPC Committee to come before the Town Council. CPC can recommend bonding for the Town House.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: thanked the council for the vote not filling the District 1 seat. The candidates should put in for the election and have an interesting race.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Linde: thanked the residents for attending and those who called and sent emails.
- Councilor Hunt: thanked the residents who reached out to her.
- Councilor Murphy: no comments tonight.
- Councilor Perry: we voted the way we did because it was so close to the election. Want to thank those that came out tonight that put their names down, hope each put their name on the ballot. Going forward there will be lots of talk about the budget. Encourage councilors to dig deep, look at the numbers and be prepared to discuss.
- Councilor Ellenberg: thanked the residents who came out and the constituents who called her and the candidates who put their names in.
- Councilor Kennedy: thanked the public for coming out to the meeting and the candidates for taking the initiative to apply for the position.
- Councilor McGrath: no comments tonight.
- Councilor Loreti: thanked those who put their name in for the appointment and those that pulled papers. Recognized the students at Bridgewater-Raynham who sent 1,500 valentine cards to the Sr. Center.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Perry made a motion to adjourn, which was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Sean Kennedy, Councilor
 Date Introduced: 11/18/2025
 First Reading: 11/18/2025
 Second Reading: 3/3/2026
 Amendments Adopted:
 Third Reading:
 Date Adopted:
 Date Effective:

Order O-FY26-034: Laying Out and Acceptance of a Private Way - Calthrop Drive Extension

WHEREAS, the owners of the subdivision known as Calthrop Drive Extension in the subdivision commonly known as Bridgewater Preserve (formerly known as Childs Bridge Farm II), Long Built Homes has requested the Town of Bridgewater lay out and accept Calthrop Drive Extension as a public way; it is therefore;

ORDERED: that the common necessity and convenience of the inhabitants of the Town of Bridgewater require the laying out of Calthrop Drive Extension and for that purpose it is necessary to take an easement for Highway purposes and lay out as a public street or way of said Town of Bridgewater, said easement passing by or over lands of those persons shown on, attached hereto, and parties unknown.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11/18/25: Referred to Planning Board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12/17/25: Voted 5-0 to recommend the acceptance of the private way

Attachments:

- Calthrop Drive Extension Street Acceptance Request
- PB to TC - Street Acceptance Recommendation - Calthrop

VOTE #1: FIND THAT THE LAYING OUT IS REQUIRED BY COMMON CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY
 VOTE #2: APPROVE LAYING OUT THE WAY



rec'd 9/1/25
DAW

158 Charles McCombs Boulevard, New Bedford, MA 02745
Tel: (508) 995-8240 Fax: (508) 995-3275

September 2, 2025

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Debra Ward, Council Clerk
Town Council
Town of Bridgewater
Municipal Office Building
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Re: Calthrop Drive Extension in the subdivision commonly known as Bridgewater Preserve (formerly known as Childs Bridge Farm II)

Dear Debbie:

The purpose of this letter is to serve as our formal request to have Town Council consider accepting as a public way the portion of Calthrop Drive that was extended from its former cul-de-sac to its intersection with Magnolia Way. Please note that title to the right-of-way land area for this extension of Calthrop Drive is currently held by Bridgewater Preserve LLC, and said right-of-way land area is unencumbered.

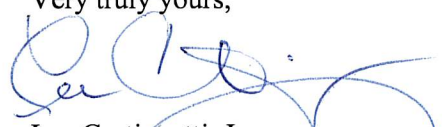
Enclosed you will find:

1. the certified abutters list;
2. a copy of the as-built plan; and
3. the legal description of the right-of-way land area for the extension of Calthrop Drive.

Please also note that a scanned copy of the as-built plan in PDF format will be sent to you via e-mail, and the legal description will be sent to you in Word format via e-mail.

If you have any questions or need any additional information or material relative to this request, please contact me. My cell phone number is (508) 965-3579 and my e-mail address is lcastignetti@longbuilthomes.com.

Thank you for your kind cooperation and assistance with this matter.

Very truly yours,

Lee Castignetti, Jr.
In-House Counsel and Director of
Land Acquisition and Development

Enclosures

Cc: Shane O'Brien, Town Planner (without enclosures)

AB EXTENSION OF CALTHROP DR
 PETITIONER: BRIDGEWATER PRESERVE LLC
 OWNER: SAME

TOWN COUNCIL
 LCASTIGNETTI@LONGBUILTHOMES.COM

8/26/25
 508-965-3579



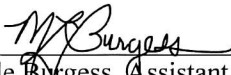
TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER, MA
 BOARD OF ASSESSORS
 66 Central Square

Direct Abutters to extension of Calthrop Drive connecting to Magnolia



11917	53-3-C16-0-R	COLBURN CDOUGLAS G & COLLEEN A	16 MAGNOLIA WAY	16 MAGNOLIA WAY	BRIDGEWATER	MA	02324
11923	53-3-C17-0-R	STEWART WILLIAM W III & DIANA	18 MAGNOLIA WAY	18 MAGNOLIA WAY	BRIDGEWATER	MA	02324
10237	53-4-0-R	O'DONNELL SHANNON & MURRAY MICHAEL	60 CALTHROP DR	60 CALTHROP DR	BRIDGEWATER	MA	02324
10239	53-5-0-R	JACKSON ROBERT S & CARLA G	55 CALTHROP DR	55 CALTHROP DR	BRIDGEWATER	MA	02324

I hereby certify this to be a true and accurate listing of owners with the most recent tax listing in the Town of Bridgewater, MA.


 Michelle Burgess, Assistant Assessor CAA

CALTHROP DRIVE – LEGAL DESCRIPTION

BEGINNING AT A POINT IN THE CURRENT TERMINUS OF CALTHROP DRIVE AND BEING THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF THE AREA TO BE DESCRIBED;

THENCE N67°23'07"W, A DISTANCE OF 45.77', TO A POINT;

THENCE WITH A CURVE TURNING TO THE RIGHT, WITH AN ARC LENGTH OF 24.39', A RADIUS OF 240.00', AND A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 05°49'23", TO A POINT;

THENCE WITH A REVERSE CURVE TURNING TO THE LEFT, WITH AN ARC LENGTH OF 133.24', A RADIUS OF 200.00', AND A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 38°10'17", TO A POINT;

THENCE N16°34'46"E, A DISTANCE OF 8.46', TO A POINT;

THENCE WITH A CURVE TURNING TO THE LEFT, WITH AN ARC LENGTH OF 29.31', A RADIUS OF 20.00', AND A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 83°57'53", TO A POINT IN THE SOUTHERLY SIDELINE OF MAGNOLIA WAY;

THENCE S67°23'07"E, A DISTANCE OF 80.45', IN THE SIDELINE OF MAGNOLIA WAY, TO A POINT;

THENCE WITH A CURVE TURNING TO THE LEFT, WITH AN ARC LENGTH OF 33.52', A RADIUS OF 20.00', AND A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 96°02'07", TO A POINT;

THENCE WITH A REVERSE CURVE TURNING TO THE RIGHT, WITH AN ARC LENGTH OF 159.89', A RADIUS OF 240.00', AND A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 38°10'17", TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

HAVING AN AREA OF 7,504 SQ.FT. (0.172AC. ±) AND BEING SHOWN ON A PLAN ENTITLED, "STREET ACCEPTANCE PLAN OF CALTHROP DRIVE AT CHILDS BRIDGE FARM II, BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS, PREPARED FOR THE TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER", DATED JULY 23, 2025.



**TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
PLANNING BOARD**

Academy Building, 66 Central Square, Room 003
Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02324
☎: (508) 697-0942 ✉: CED@bridgewaterma.org
Staff: Bob Rullij, CED Director
Shane O'Brien, Town Planner

*Patrick Driscoll, Chair
Michael MacDonald, Vice Chair
Steven Geller, Clerk
Thomas Pratti
Eric Costa, Associate
Kris Fabroski, Associate*

January 5, 2026

Johnny Loreti, President
Bridgewater Town Council
Academy Building
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

RE:– Street Acceptances – Order
Order-FY26-034: Laying Out and Accepting a Private Way – Calthrop Drive Ext

Dear President Loreti & Members of the Council:

At its meeting December 17, 2025, the Bridgewater Planning Board voted (5-0) to favorably recommend the acceptance of the private way Calthrop Drive Extension.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Shane O'Brien
Town Planner



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Sean Kennedy, Councilor
 Date Introduced: 11/18/2025
 First Reading: 11/18/2025
 Second Reading: 3/3/2026
 Amendments Adopted:
 Third Reading:
 Date Adopted:
 Date Effective:

Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-008: Proposed Amendment to Part III – Administrative Code: Chapter 14, Article I, Section 1 Dogs

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Section 2-06 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter relative to amendments to the Town ordinances, it is therefore:

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled votes to amend the Administrative Code Part III, Chapter 14, Article I, Section 1 as attached.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules & Procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2/20/26: Voted 3-0 to recommend
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

Attachments: 1. Dog Ordinance changes

VOICE VOTE - REFER TO ADVERTISING
 REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Part III: General Ordinances

Chapter 14. Animals

Article I. Canine Control

Section 1. Dogs

A. Nuisance and Dangerous Dogs

1. Definitions

a. A Nuisance dog is a dog that:

- i. By excessive barking or other disturbance is a source of annoyance to a sick person residing in the vicinity;
- ii. by excessive barking, causing damage or other interference, behaves in a manner that a reasonable person would find disruptive to quiet and peaceful enjoyment; or
- iii. has threatened or attacked livestock, a domestic animal, or a person in a manner ~~not grossly disproportionate under all the circumstances.~~

b. Dangerous dog is a dog that either;

- i. without justification, attacks a person or domestic animal causing injury or death; or
- ii. behaves in a manner that a reasonable person would believe poses an unjustified imminent threat of physical injury or death to a person or to a domestic or owned animal

c. No dog shall be deemed dangerous:

- i. solely based upon growling, barking, or both.
- ii. based upon the breed of the dog; or
- iii. If, at the time of the incident in question, the dog was reacting to another animal or person in a manner not grossly disproportionate to any of the following circumstances:
 - a. the dog was protecting or defending itself, its offspring, another domestic animal, or a person from attack or assault.
 - b. the person attacked or threatened by the dog was committing a crime upon the person or property of the owner or keeper of the dog.
 - c. the person attacked or threatened was engaged in teasing, tormenting, battering, assaulting, injuring, or otherwise provoking the dog; or
 - d. at the time of the attack or threat, the person or animal attacked or threatened had breached an enclosure or structure, including but not limited to a gated and fenced-in area, in which the dog was kept apart from the public, without being authorized to do so by the owner of the premises

A child under age 7 shall be rebuttably presumed not to have been committing a crime, provoking the dog, or trespassing at the time of the attack or threat.

2. Complaint. Any person may file a written complaint with the Town Manager's Office that a dog kept in the Town is a nuisance dog or a dangerous dog.

- 3. Disposition. The Town Manager’s Office shall investigate ~~or cause to be investigated~~ the complaint, including an examination under oath of the complainant at a public hearing. Based on credible evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, the Town Manager or its designee (hereinafter referred to as the “Hearing Authority”) shall take the following action:
 - a. Nuisance dog. If the dog is complained of as a nuisance dog, the Hearing Authority shall either (a) deem the dog a nuisance dog; or (b) dismiss the complaint.
 - b. Dangerous dog. If the dog is complained of as a dangerous dog, the Hearing Authority shall either (a) deem the dog a dangerous dog; (b) deem the dog a nuisance dog; or (c) dismiss the complaint.
 - c. Report to Town Clerk. The Hearing Authority shall report any finding that a dog is a nuisance dog or a dangerous dog to the Town Clerk.
 - d. Order valid throughout Commonwealth. Unless later overturned on appeal, any order of the Hearing Authority shall be valid throughout the Commonwealth.

4. Remedies.

- a. Nuisance dog. If the Hearing Authority has deemed the dog a nuisance dog, it may order the owner or keeper of the dog to take remedial action to ~~ameliorate~~ **rectify** the cause of the nuisance behavior.
- b. Dangerous dog. If the Hearing Authority has deemed the dog a dangerous dog, it may order one or more of the following remedies:
 - i. that the dog be humanely restrained, but no order shall require a dog to be chained or tethered to an inanimate object such as a tree, post, or building;
 - ii. that the dog be confined to the premises of the owner or keeper, meaning
 - securely
 - confined indoors or confined outdoors in a securely enclosed pen or dog run area that has a secure roof, has either a floor secured to all sides or is embedded into the ground for at least two feet, and provides the dog with proper shelter from the elements;
 - and
 - iii. when removed from the premises of the owner or keeper, the dog be securely
 - humanely muzzled and restrained with a chain or other tethering device with a maximum length of three feet and a minimum tensile strength of three hundred pounds;
 - iv. that the owner or keeper provide (i) **(a)** proof of insurance of at least \$100,000 insuring the owner or keeper against any claim, loss, damage, or injury to persons, domestic animals, or property resulting from the intentional or unintentional acts of the dog; or (ii) **(b)** proof that reasonable efforts were made to obtain such insurance;
 - v. that the owner or keeper provide to the Town Clerk, the Animal Control Officer, or other entity as directed with identifying information for the dog including but not limited to photographs, videos, veterinary records, tattooing, microchip implantations, or a combination of these;
 - vi. that the dog be altered so as not to be reproductively intact, unless the owner or

keeper provides evidence of a veterinary opinion that the dog is medically unfit for such alteration; or

vii. that the dog be humanely euthanized.

c. Restrictions following dangerousness finding

- i. No dog that has been deemed dangerous shall be ordered removed from the Town.
- ii. No person over the age of 17 who has actual knowledge that a dog has been deemed dangerous under this ordinance shall permit a child under the age of 17 to own, possess, or have care or custody of that dog. 187
- iii. No person shall transfer ownership or possession of a dog that **has** been deemed dangerous under this ordinance or offer such dog for sale or breeding without informing the **dogs'** recipient of the ~~dog of the~~ finding of dangerousness
- iv. If a hearing authority or a district court has deemed a dog to be a dangerous dog and such dog wounds a person or worries, wounds or kills any livestock or fowl, the owner or keeper of the dog shall be liable in tort to the person injured by the dog for three times the amount of damages sustained by such person.

5. Appeal. Within 10 days after an order has been issued under this ordinance, the owner or keeper of such dog may bring a petition in **before** the district court within the judicial district in which the order relative to the dog was issued, ~~addressed to the justice of the court praying that the order be reviewed by the court or the magistrate of the court.~~ After **giving** notice to all parties, the magistrate shall, under MGL c. 221, section 62C, review the order of the hearing authority, hear the witnesses and affirm the order unless it shall appear that it was made without proper cause or in bad faith, in which case the order shall be reversed. A party shall have the right to request a de novo hearing on the complaint before a justice of the court. All proceedings referred to under this section of the ordinance (Section 5, Appeal) shall be held in compliance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 140, Section 157.

6. Impoundment Pending Appeal.

- a. Order of impoundment. Pending an appeal, the Hearing Authority may petition the district court for an order to impound the dog at a shelter facility used by the Town. Failure to request such impoundment will not result in liability for the Town, the Hearing Authority, or any of the Town's agents or employees. The district court shall consider this petition in accordance with MGL c. 140, section 157.
- b. Costs of impoundment during appeal process.
 - i. If the district court affirms the Hearing Authority's order of euthanasia, the owner or keeper shall reimburse the Town for all reasonable costs incurred for the housing and care of the dog during the period of impoundment. The Town may recover unpaid charges by any of the following methods: (a) a lien on any real property owned by the owner or keeper of the dog; (b) an additional, earmarked charge on the vehicle excise of the owner or keeper of the dog; or (c) a direct bill sent to the owner or keeper of the dog.
 - ii. If the district court reverses the Hearing Authority's order of euthanasia, the Town

shall pay all reasonable costs incurred for the housing and care of the dog during the period of impoundment.

7. Penalties.

a. Seizure/impoundment. If an owner or a keeper of a dog is found in violation of an order issued under this section, the dog shall be subject to seizure and impoundment by a law enforcement or animal control officer. If it is the keeper in violation, all reasonable efforts shall be made to notify the owner of such seizure and impoundment and the owner may, within seven days, petition the Hearing Authority for return of the dog.

b. Capture/euthanasia. A dog found to be in violation of a Hearing Authority order or district court issued under this section may be captured or detained by a police officer, animal control officer, or constable. In the case of a threat to public safety or ~~of~~ if the dog is living

in

a wild state, the police officer, animal control officer, or constable may euthanize it humanely.

c. Fines/imprisonment. A dog owner or keeper who fails to comply with an order of a Hearing Authority or the district court issued under this section may be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for not more than 60 188 days, or both for a first offense or by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment in a

jail

or house of correction for not more than 90 days, or both for a second or subsequent offense.

d. Future licensure. Any owner or keeper who fails to comply with an order of a Hearing Authority or the district court issued under this section shall be prohibited from licensing a dog within the Commonwealth for five years.

B. Chaining or Tethering Dogs

1. No person owning or keeping a dog shall chain or tether a dog to a stationary object including, but not limited to, a structure, dog house, pole or tree for longer than 24 consecutive hours. A tethering so employed shall not allow the dog to leave the owner's, guardian's or keeper's property. The tether shall be designed for dogs and no logging chains or other lines or devices

not

designed for tethering dogs shall be used. No chain or tether shall weigh more than 1/8 of the dog's body weight. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a person from walking a dog on a hand-held leash. No dog under the age of 6 months shall be tethered outside for any length of time.

2. A person owning or keeping a dog may confine such dog outside, subject to the restrictions in this section, through the use of any of the following methods:

a. inside a pen or secure enclosure, if the following conditions are met:

i. the pen or secure enclosure shall have adequate space for exercise with a dimension of at least 100 square feet; provided, however, that commercial dog kennels with pens intended for the temporary boarding of dogs shall be exempt from this requirement;

ii. the pen or secure enclosure is constructed with chain link or other similar material as determined by the Building Inspector, with all four sides enclosed; and

iii. the minimum height of the fence shall be adequate to successfully confine the dog;

b. a fully fenced, electronically fenced or otherwise securely enclosed yard, wherein a dog has the ability to run but is unable to leave the enclosed yard; or

c. a trolley system or a tether attached to a pulley in a cable run, if the following conditions are

met:

i. only 1 dog shall be tethered to each cable run;

ii. the tether shall be attached to a properly fitting collar or harness worn by the dog, with enough room between the collar and the dog's throat through which 2 adult fingers may fit; provided, however, that a choke collar and a pinch collar shall not be used to tether a dog to a cable run;

iii. there shall be a swivel on at least 1 end of the tether to minimize tangling of the tether;

iv. the tether and cable run must each be at least 10 feet in length. The cable must be mounted at least 4 feet but not more than 7 feet above ground level; and

v. the length of the tether from the cable run to the dog's collar or harness shall allow continuous access to clean water and appropriate shelter at all times as described herein; provided, however, that a trolley system or tether shall be of appropriate configuration to confine the dog to the owner's, guardian's or keeper's property, to prevent the trolley system or tether from extending over an object to an edge that could result in injury to or strangulation of the dog and to prevent the trolley system or tether from becoming tangled with other object or animals.

3. A person owning or keeping a dog confined outside in accordance with this section shall provide the dog with access to clean water and appropriate dog shelter. The dog shelter shall allow the dog to remain dry and protected from the elements and shall be fully enclosed on at least three sides, roofed and have a solid floor. The entrance to the shelter shall be flexible to allow the dog's entry and exit, and sturdy enough to block entry of weather elements. The shelter shall contain clean bedding and shall be small enough to retain the dog's body heat and large enough to allow the dog to stand, lie down and turn comfortably. The enclosure shall be structurally sound and in good repair. Suitable drainage shall be provided so that water, ice or waste is not standing in or around the shelter.

~~4. No person owning or keeping a dog shall leave a dog chained or tethered outside for longer than 24 consecutive hours.~~ Already part of #1 in section B

~~5.~~ 4. Exceptions to the above restrictions on outdoor confinement shall be made for dogs actively engaged in conduct directly related to the business of shepherding or herding cattle or other livestock or engaged in conduct that is directly related to the business of cultivating agricultural products, if the restraint is reasonably necessary for the safety of the dog.

~~6.~~ 5. No person owning or keeping a dog shall subject the dog to cruel conditions or inhumane

chaining or tethering at any time. For the purposes of this subsection, “cruel conditions and inhumane chaining or tethering” shall include, but not be limited to, the following conditions:

- a. filthy and dirty confinement conditions including, but not limited to, exposure to excessive animal waste, garbage, dirty water, noxious odors, dangerous objects that could injure or kill a dog upon contact or other circumstances that could cause harm to a dog's physical or emotional health;
- b. taunting, prodding, hitting, harassing, threatening or otherwise harming a tethered or confined dog; and
- c. subjecting a dog to dangerous conditions, including attacks by other animals.

7. 6. A person who violates this section shall, for a first offense, be issued a written warning or punished by a fine of \$50, for a second offense, be punished by a fine of \$100 and for a third or subsequent offense, be punished by a fine of \$300, and be subject to impoundment of the dog in a local shelter at the owner’s or guardian’s expense pending compliance with this section, or loss of ownership of the dog

8. 7. Any fine issued under the aforementioned Section B. “Chaining and Tethering” may be assessed

through non-criminal process in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 40, Section 21 D. Each day on which any such violation continues shall be considered a separate violation of this section. The availability of non-criminal process herein shall not preclude the use of criminal process or other means of enforcement.

Section 2. Leashing of Dogs

A. Leash Required No person owning or keeping a dog in the Town of Bridgewater shall permit such dog to be at large in the Town of Bridgewater elsewhere than on the premises of the owner or keeper, except if it be on the premises of another person with the knowledge and permission of such other person. Such owner or keeper of a dog in the Town of Bridgewater, which is not on the premises of the owner or upon the premises of another person with the knowledge and permission of such person shall restrain such dog by a chain or leash not exceeding six feet in length. In any prosecution hereunder, the presence of such dog at large upon premises other than the premises of the owner or keeper of such dog shall be prima facie evidence that such knowledge and permission was not had. This provision shall not apply, however, in any area designated by the Parks and Recreation Department as a “Dog Park”, “Dog Run” or “Dog Exercise Area”. In areas so designated, dogs are not required to be restrained by a leash provided the owner or keeper of such dog is present and attentive to the dog. The Park and Recreation Department may designate a dog park, dog run, or dog exercise area only if same is enclosed by appropriate fencing to preclude the escape 190 of any dog into any other area of the park or playground not so designated as a dog park, dog run, or dog exercise area.

B. Enforcement. Any dog found to be at large in violation of this ordinance shall be caught and confined by the dog officer who shall notify forthwith the licensed owner or keeper of said dog giving the owner or keeper a period of seven days within which to recover the dog. Return of the dog to the licensed owner or keeper shall be dependent on admission of ownership or the keeping of

the dog and the assumption of responsibility by the licensed owner or keeper. The dog officer shall enter and prosecute a complaint against the owner or keeper of any dog taken into his custody under this section, as provided for in this ordinance. A dog officer having custody of a dog confined under this ordinance shall be allowed the sum of \$40 per day for each day of confinement for the care of such dog, payable by the owner or keeper thereof to the Town of Bridgewater.

- C. Fines. Violations of this Section (Section 2) of this Article shall be punishable as follows: First offense by a fine of \$75.00 Second offense by a fine of \$100.00 Third offense by a fine of \$150.00 Fourth and each subsequent offense by a fine of \$200.00 Any fine issued under this Section may be assessed through non-criminal process in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 40, Section 21 D. Each day on which any such violation continues shall be considered a separate violation of this section. The availability of non-criminal process herein shall not preclude the use of criminal process or other means of enforcement.

Section 3. No Fouling of Sidewalks, Etc.

- A. Duty to Dispose. It shall be the duty of each person who owns, possesses or controls a dog to remove and dispose of any feces left by his-her dog on any sidewalk, street or other public area in the Town. It shall further be the duty of each person who owns, possesses or controls a dog to remove and dispose of any feces left by his-her dog on any private property neither owned nor occupied by said person.
- B. Duty to Possess Means of Removal. No person who owns, possesses, or controls such dog shall appear with such dog on any sidewalk, street, park or other public area without the means of removal of any feces left by such dog. Furthermore, no person who owns, possesses, or controls such dog shall appear with such dog on any private property neither owned nor occupied by said person without the means of removal of any feces left by said dog.
- C. Method of Removal and Disposal. For the purposes of this regulation, the means of removal shall be any tool, implement, or other device carried for the purpose of picking up and containing such feces, unexposed to said person or the public. Disposal shall be accomplished by transporting such feces to a place suitable for the disposal of canine feces, or as otherwise designated as appropriate by the Board of Health.
- D. Fines. Violation of Section 3 of this Article shall be punishable as follows: First offense by a fine of \$75.00 Second offense by a fine of \$100.00 Third and each subsequent offense by a fine of \$150.00 Any fine issued under this section may be assessed through non-criminal process in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 40, Section 21 D. The availability of non-criminal process herein shall not preclude the use of criminal process or other means of enforcement. 191
- E. Exemption. This regulation shall not apply to a dog accompanying any handicapped person who, by reason of his-her handicap, is physically unable to comply with the requirements of this Ordinance, or to any individual who utilizes a guide dog.
- F. Severability. The provisions of this section are severable; and if any of the provisions of this section shall be held unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of such court shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions.

Section 4. Licensing

A. Licensing Requirement.

1. License required. The owner or keeper of any dog over the age of six months kept in the

Town of Bridgewater shall obtain a license for the dog from the Town Clerk.

2. Annual renewal. Licenses issued under this section shall be renewed on an annual basis in accordance with procedures to be determined by the Town Clerk.
3. Transfer. Within 30 days of moving into the Town within a licensing period, the owner or keeper of a dog must apply to the Town Clerk to transfer the dog's license. The Town Clerk shall issue a transfer license for a fee and in accordance with procedures that the Town Clerk shall determine.

B. Conditions.

1. Rabies vaccination. The Town Clerk shall not grant a license unless (i) (a) -the license applicant provides a veterinarian's certification or notarized letter that the dog has been vaccinated against rabies; or (ii) (b) the dog is exempted from the vaccination requirement by the Town of Bridgewater Health Department or the Town Clerk in accordance with MGL c. 140, section 145B.
2. Control. Any license granted under this section is granted on the condition that the licensed dog shall be controlled and restrained from killing, chasing, or harassing livestock or fowl.
3. Previous conviction of animal cruelty. Town Clerk shall not grant a license under this section

or

Section 5, below, to an applicant who has been convicted of one or more of the offenses set forth in MGL c. 140, section 137D within the preceding five years.

C. License Forms.

1. Symptoms of rabies. Every license issued to the owner of a dog shall have a description of the symptoms of rabies printed thereon, as supplied by the state Department of Public Health.
2. Description of dog. The owner of a dog to be licensed under this section may add to the license application form up to ten descriptive words indicating the dog's color, breed, weight, or any special markings.

D. Tags.

1. Issuance. ~~Along with the license,~~ the Town Clerk shall issue a durable tag inscribed with the license number, designation of the Town of Bridgewater, and the year of issue.
2. Affixed to dog. The owner or keeper of the licensed dog shall keep a collar or harness of leather or other suitable material affixed around the dog's neck or body to which the tag shall be securely attached.
3. Lost tags. If the tag is lost or destroyed, the owner or keeper shall immediately secure a substitute tag from the Town Clerk for a fee to be determined by the Town Clerk.
4. All dogs over 6 months of age must wear rabies tags at all times and individual dog license Tags (when required under Chapter 140 Sec 137)

E. Exemptions.

The requirements of this section shall not apply: (1) to a person to whom the applicable kennel license has been issued under this ordinance and remains in force; or (2) to a dog housed in a research institution.

F. Fees.

1. Annual license fees. Annual licenses shall be for the period January 1 through December 31.

The annual license fees are as follows:

Prior to March 1:

- a. female: \$20
- b. spayed female: \$15
- c. male: \$20
- d. neutered male: \$15

March 1 or after:

- a. Female: \$30
- b. Spayed Female: \$25
- c. Male: \$30
- d. Neutered male: \$25

To be charged the lower fee for licensing a spayed or neutered dog, the license applicant must provide proof of spay or neuter in the form of either: (a) a certificate from the veterinarian who spayed or neutered the dog; (b) a veterinary bill for performing the procedure; or (c) a statement signed under the penalties of perjury by a veterinarian registered and practicing in the Commonwealth describing the dog and stating that the veterinarian has examined the dog and that the dog appears to be spayed or neutered and therefore incapable of propagation.

The Town Clerk shall send annual licensing reminders to all residents by mail as part of the annual census.

2. Failure to comply; penalties.

Failure to comply with this section shall result in a fine of up to \$250 assessed to the owner or person in control of the dog under the following conditions:

- a. the dog is unlicensed; and
- b. the Police Department, the Health Agent, or the Animal Control Officer responds to a complaint or a stray dog report concerning the animal.

Failure to comply with this section shall result in a fine of up to \$350 assessed to the owner or person in control of the dog under the following conditions:

- a. the dog is unlicensed; and
- b. the Police Department, the Health Agent, or the Animal Control Officer responds to a complaint or a stray dog report concerning the animal; and
- c. the dog has not received a rabies vaccine pursuant to Section 4.B.1

3. Waiver of fees.

- a. Service animal. No fee shall be charged for the licensure of a service animal as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or regulations promulgated thereunder.
- b. Owner aged 70 and over. If the Town so votes in accordance with MGL c. 140, section 139(c), no fee shall be charged for the licensure of a dog owned by a person aged 70 years and older.

4. Removal from list - No refund of fees. No license fee paid under this section shall be refunded, in whole or in part, due to mistake or due to the subsequent death, loss, spay or neuter, removal from the Town or the Commonwealth, or other disposal of the licensed dog. At any time during the annual license period that the licensed dog dies, is removed from Town, or is otherwise not subject to licensing under this section, the licensee may notify the Town Clerk, and the Town Clerk shall remove the dog from the list of licensed canines. The Town Clerk may require proof that the dog no longer is subject to licensure in the Town prior to removing it from the list.

Section 5. Kennels

A. Personal Kennel (~~Kennel A~~)

~~1. License optional (Kennel A-1). An owner or keeper of four or fewer dogs, three months or older, may elect to secure a Personal Kennel License from the Town Clerk rather than licensing each dog under Section 4, above.~~

1 2. License mandatory (Kennel A-2). An owner or keeper of five or more dogs, three months or older, must secure a Personal Kennel License from the Town Clerk or other type of kennel license as may be applicable under this section.

2 3. Definition. A Personal Kennel is a pack or collection of five or more dogs ~~(or fewer dogs, as in the case of a License-Optional Personal Kennel (Kennel A-1) as defined above at Section 5.A.1),~~ three months or older, owned or kept under single ownership for private personal purposes.

3 4. Breeding. Breeding of dogs owned or kept under a Personal Kennel License may be done only for the purpose of improving, exhibiting, or showing the breed; for legal sporting activity; or for other personal reasons.

4 5. Sales allowed. Dogs bred at a Personal Kennel may be sold, traded, bartered, or otherwise distributed only by private sale to other breeders or individuals and not to wholesalers, brokers, or pet shops.

5 6. Sales prohibited, restricted. No holder of a Personal Kennel License may sell, trade, barter, or otherwise distribute any dog not bred from a personally owned dog, except dogs temporarily housed at a Personal Kennel in conjunction with an animal shelter or rescue program registered with the state Department of Agricultural Resources if the sale, trade, barter, or other distribution is not for profit.

B. Other Types of Kennels.

1. Commercial Boarding or Training Kennel (Kennel B) is an establishment used for boarding, holding, day care, overnight stays, or training of animals that are not the property of the owner of the establishment where such services are rendered for a fee or other consideration and generally rendered in the absence of the owner of the animal. A "Commercial Boarding or Training Kennel" (a) shall not include an animal shelter or animal control facility, a pet shop licensed by the state Director of Animal Health, a grooming facility operated solely for the purpose of grooming animals and not for overnight boarding, or an individual who temporarily and not in the normal course of business boards or otherwise cares for animals owned by

others. (b) they shall maintain records of individual dog licenses for all dogs in its care that are required to be licensed under Chapter 140 Sec 137. (c) Shall report to the licensing authority injuries to animals or people that occur on their premises and the licensing authority shall investigate all reports. Under the new MGLs, MDAR has the authority to assist with

investigations

and enforcement when necessary.

2. Commercial Breeder Kennel (Kennel C) is an establishment, other than a Personal Kennel, engaged in the business of breeding animals for sale or exchange to wholesalers, brokers, or pet shops for a fee or other consideration.

3. Domestic Charitable Corporation Kennel (Kennel D) is a facility operated, owned, or maintained by a domestic charitable corporation registered with the state Department of Agricultural Resources or an animal welfare society or other nonprofit organization incorporated for the purpose of providing for and promoting the welfare, protection, and humane treatment of animals, including a veterinary hospital or clinic operated by or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian that operates consistent with such purposes while providing veterinary treatment and care.

4. Veterinary Kennel (Kennel E) is a veterinary hospital or clinic that boards dogs for reasons in addition to medical treatment and care; a "Veterinary Kennel" shall not include a hospital or clinic used solely to house dogs that have undergone veterinary treatment or observation or will do so only for the period of time necessary to accomplish that veterinary case.

C. License Requirements

1. License required. A person or entity maintaining any type of kennel listed in this section (except a License-Optional Personal Kennel (Kennel A-1) as defined above at Section 5.A.1) shall obtain the appropriate kennel license from the Town Clerk and in accordance with procedures that the Town Clerk shall determine.

2. 4. Licensing inspection and authority. No kennel license shall be issued or renewed until a kennel has passed inspection by the Town Animal Control Officer or designee. A licensing authority must specify the type of kennel license and the maximum number of animals allowed in a kennel and this number must be on their kennel license. A licensing authority shall issue, suspend, renew and revoke kennel licenses.

3. 2. Renewal. Licenses issued under this section shall be renewed periodically in accordance with a schedule and procedures to be determined by the Town Clerk. No kennel license can be renewed without the ACO performing an inspection.

4. 3. License fees, calculation, exemption. The fees for licenses issued under this section will be established by the Town Clerk. For purposes of calculating kennel license fees, only dogs over the age of six months shall be counted in the total number of dogs kept in a kennel. No kennel license fee shall be charged to a domestic charitable corporation incorporated exclusively for the purpose

of protecting animals from cruelty, neglect, abuse, or suffering.

5. Failure to comply, penalty. Failure to comply with the licensing requirements of this section shall be punishable by a fine of \$50.

D. Kennel Operation.

1. Standards. Kennels must be operated and maintained in a sanitary and humane manner.
2. Records. The name and address of the owner of each dog kept in a kennel, other than dogs belonging to the person maintaining the kennel, shall be kept at the kennel and available for inspection at any time.
3. Kennel tags. ~~Dog tags~~ A holder of a kennel license shall cause each dog kept in its kennel to wear, while in the kennel, a collar or harness of suitable material to which a tag shall be securely attached. This tag shall be inscribed with the number of the kennel license, name of the Town of Bridgewater, and year of issue. Such tags shall be issued by the Town Clerk in such number as the number of dogs kept in the kennel. **dogs at a kennel and OWNED by the kennel licensee are exempt from individual dog licensing. Dogs owned by someone other than the kennel owner must be individually licensed if they are over 6 months**
4. Inspections. The Chief of Police, the Animal Control Officer, the Health Agent or the agent of any of these ("Inspecting Authority") may inspect any kennel at any time for compliance with the above requirements.
5. License suspension, revocation. If the Inspecting Authority determines that the kennel is not being maintained in a sanitary or humane manner or if records are not properly kept, the Inspecting Authority may revoke or suspend the kennel license.

E. Citizen Complaints.

1. Filing. Twenty-five citizens of the Town may file a petition with the Town Manager stating that they are aggrieved or annoyed to an unreasonable extent due to excessive barking or other conditions associated with a kennel.
2. Hearing. Within seven days of the filing of such petition, the Town Manager or its designee ("Hearing Authority") shall give notice to all interested parties of a public hearing concerning the petition to be held within fourteen days after the date of the notice.
3. Investigation. At the hearing, the Hearing Authority may cause an investigation of the kennel that is the subject of the petition or take such other action as it deems prudent.
4. Disposition. Following the public hearing and any investigation or other proceedings, the Hearing Authority may suspend or revoke the kennel license, may take other such action to regulate the kennel that it deems prudent, or may dismiss the petition. The Hearing Authority shall cause written notice of any order issued under this section to be mailed immediately to the holder of the kennel license and the Town Clerk.
5. Appeal. Within ten days of the issuance of any order under this paragraph, the holder of the affected license may bring a petition for judicial review in the district court for the judicial district in which the

kennel is located, which shall consider the petition in accordance with MGL c. 140, section 137C

6. Penalties. A person maintaining a kennel after revocation or during suspension of a license under this section shall be punished by a fine of \$250.”

Section 6. Enforcing Authorities

Any police officer of the Town, the Health Agent or the Animal Control Officer of the Town may enforce the provisions of this Article as well as those articulated under Massachusetts General Laws.

Section 7. Non-Criminal Dispositions

Fines assessed under Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this ordinance, as previously stated herein, may be assessed through non-criminal process in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 21 D. The availability of non-criminal process under this article shall not preclude the use of criminal process or other means of enforcement.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Sean Kennedy, Councilor
Date Introduced: 2/17/2026
First Reading: 2/17/2026
Second Reading: 3/3/2026
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-011: Amend Part II Administrative Code, Chapter 1, Article III. Multiple Members Appointive Bodies

WHEREAS, In accordance with the provisions of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter relative to amendments to the Administrative Code, it is therefore;

ORDERED that; the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to amend the Bridgewater Administrative Code, Part II, Chapter 1, Article III, Multiple Members Appointive Bodies as follows:

Section 3. Agricultural Commission

Delete entire section.

Section 5. Cable Advisory Committee

Delete entire section.

Section 7. Community Preservation Committee

A. Establishment and term of office. There shall be a Community Preservation Committee consisting of nine members. The Town Manager shall, based upon recommendations from the respective committees, appoint the following: one member of the Conservation Commission; one member of the Bridgewater Historic District Commission; one member of the Historical Commission; one member of the Planning Board; ~~one member of the Affordable Housing Trust Committee~~; one member of the Housing Authority; one member of the Open Space Committee; and one member of the Parks and Recreation Commission. These appointees will not require ratification from the Town Council. The Town Manager shall appoint ~~two~~ **two** ~~one~~ at-large members, whose appointments shall be ratified by the Town Council. Members will serve for three-year staggered terms

B. Authorities and responsibilities.

(1) Acquisition and preservation

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- (a) The Community Preservation Committee shall make recommendations to the Town Council for the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space; for the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources; for the acquisition, creation and preservation of land for recreational use; for the creation, preservation and support of community housing; and for the rehabilitation or restoration of open space, land for recreational use and community housing that is reacquired or created as provided in MGL c.44B. With respect to community housing, the Community Preservation Committee shall recommend, whenever possible, the reuse of existing buildings or construction of new buildings on previously developed sites. Annually, the Committee, with the assistance of the Finance Director, shall make budget recommendations to the Town Manager for inclusion in the annual Town budget.
- (b) The Community Preservation Committee may include in its recommendation to the Town Council a recommendation to set aside for later spending funds for specific purposes that are consistent with community preservation but for which sufficient revenues are not then available in the Community Preservation Fund. The Committee may recommend to the Town Council that funds be borrowed and repaid with Community Preservation funds to accomplish Community Preservation objectives.
- (c) In considering its recommendations, the Community Preservation Committee shall use as a guideline local and regional open space plans, housing plans, 59 and the Master Plan. The Committee may develop its own guidelines concerning Community Preservation expenditures with the active participation of other Town multiple member bodies as well as public participation. The Community Preservation Committee is a ministerial committee of the Town.
- (2) Needs study. Annually, the Community Preservation Committee shall study the needs, possibilities and resources of the Town regarding community preservation. The Committee shall consult with existing Town multiple member bodies, including the Conservation Commission, the Historical Commission, the Open Space Committee, the Planning Board, Parks and Recreation, and the Housing Authority, in conducting such studies. As part of its study, the Committee shall hold one or more public informational hearings on the needs, possibilities and resources of the Town regarding community preservation possibilities and resources, notice of which shall be posted publicly and on the Town's web site two weeks prior to the scheduled public informational hearing
- (3) Monitor. The Community Preservation Committee shall monitor progress of CPA funded projects.
- (4) Management. Real property interests acquired with community preservation funds shall be owned and managed by the Town unless otherwise specified by vote of the Town Council.

C. Interrelationships

- (1) Town Council: The Committee shall meet at least annually with the Town Council to discuss issues pertaining to acquisition and preservation pursuant to the Community Preservation Act.
- (2) Town Manager: The Committee meets as necessary with the Town Manager and all municipal departments and other administrative staff to effectuate accomplishment of its mission.
- (3) Other Bodies: The Committee meets as necessary with any Board, Commission or Committee of the Town, particularly the Affordable Housing Trust and the Financial Committee, to effectuate accomplishment of its mission.

Reference: MGL c. 44B

Section 27. Water and Sewer Board

- A. Term of office. There shall be a Water and Sewer Board consisting of three members who have **water or wastewater engineering or public health** experience. The members shall serve for staggered three year terms.
- B. Authorities and responsibilities. The Water and Sewer Board is responsible for recommending improvements to the municipal water pollution control facilities and water treatment and distribution

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facilities in the Town, and serves as an advisory board to the Public Works Director for establishment of rules and regulations governing the operation of all Town water pollution control facilities and water treatment and distribution facilities. ~~The Water and Sewer Board recommends user rates to the Town Manager subject to Town Council ratification.~~ The Water and Sewer Board is an advisory committee of the Town.

C. Interrelationships.

- (1) Town Council: The Water and Sewer Board interacts with the Town Council concerning policies and legislation governing operation of water pollution control and collection facilities and the water treatment and distribution facilities.
- (2) Town Manager: The Water and Sewer Board interacts with the Town Manager concerning implementation of the rules and regulations referenced, as well as ensuring that adequate administrative personnel are available to ensure the effective operation of such facilities.
- (3) Other Bodies: The Water and Sewer Board interacts with other multiple member appointive bodies as necessary to accomplish its purposes.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules & Procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2/20/26: Voted 2-1 to recommend
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

Attachments: None

VOICE VOTE TO REFER TO ADVERTISING
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Sean Kennedy, Councilor
Date Introduced: 2/17/2026
First Reading: 2/17/2026
Second Reading: 3/3/2026
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

**Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-012: Amend Part II Administrative Code, Chapter 2, Article I. Section 3
D. Department Heads**

WHEREAS, In accordance with the provisions of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter relative to amendments to the Administrative Code, it is therefore;

ORDERED that; the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to amend the Bridgewater Administrative Code, Part II, Chapter 2, Article I, Section 3 D. Department Heads:

D. Department Heads

(1) The term “department head” as used in this section shall mean the following positions:

- (a) Building **Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer**
- ~~(b) Chief Assessor~~
- ~~(c) Collector~~
- (d) Community and Economic Development Director
- ~~(e) Conservation Agent~~
- (f) Elder Affairs Director
- (g) Finance Director
- (h) Fire Chief
- ~~(i) Hearings Officer~~
- (j) Health Agent
- (k) Human Resources Director
- (l) ~~Information Technology Director~~ **Chief Information Officer**
- (m) Library Director
- (n) Parks and Recreation Director
- (o) Police Chief
- (p) Public Works Director

VOICE VOTE REFER TO ADVERTISING
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

- ~~(q) Roadways Superintendent~~
- ~~(r) Town Accountant~~
- (s) Town Attorney
- ~~(t) Treasurer~~
- ~~(u) Water Pollution Control and Water Supply Director~~
- (v) Veterans ~~Director~~ **Agent**

(2) Appointments of department heads made by the Town Manager shall become effective upon ratification by the Council after submission of such appointments in accordance with rules made by the Council from time to time governing the approval of such appointments. The appointments of all other officers and employees shall be deemed, for the purposes of Section 4-3 of the Charter, to have been approved when made by the Manager.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules & Procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2/20/26: Voted 3-0 to recommend
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

Attachments: None



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 3/3/2026
First Reading: 3/3/2026
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY26-053: Charter Change Ballot Question – Bridgewater Town Charter Article II, Legislative Branch Section 2-13(a) Annual Stipend

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater approved Ordinance D-FY22-008 at a public hearing held on April 23, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts House of Representatives approved Ordinance D-FY22-008 on February 9, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Maura Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, approved and signed Ordinance D-FY22-008 on February 12, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED:

1. That the Town of Bridgewater, pursuant to G.L. c. 59, § 21C(g), shall seek voter approval at the Town election to be held on April 25, 2026, to approve Ordinance D-FY22-008; and
2. That the Town Clerk is hereby directed to place the following question on the official ballot:

“Shall an Annual Stipend be amended to reflect that each member of the Town Council shall receive an annual stipend, payable in arrears, in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and the Town Council President shall receive an annual stipend, payable in arrears, in the amount of seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500). Incumbent Councilors shall receive a stipend as above set forth as of each annual Town Election Day. A Councilor who vacates their office will be entitled to receive a pro-rated stipend as of the last date of their service. Regardless of compensation, members of the Town Council shall not be eligible for benefits from the Town. Any modification of the stipend amounts set-forth herein may be adopted by ordinance duly adopted by

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING
VOICE VOTE TO RETAIN AT TOWN COUNCIL

the Town Council, provided however that no increase or reduction in such stipends shall take effect during the year in which such increase or reduction is voted, and no change in such ordinance shall be made between the election of a new council and the qualification of the new council. Persons elected to serve as councilors by special town election shall be eligible for payment of an annual stipend payable in arrears in the amount of \$5,000 reduced on a pro-rated basis commensurate with the number of days beginning with the date of the special election. Such ordinance shall be subject to the provisions of MGL Chapter 39, Section 6A.”

Yes _____ No _____

Explanation:

The Bridgewater Town Council has approved a proposal to change the Charter through Ordinance D-FY22-008, the State Legislation has approved and now voters must decide whether to officially adopt that change. If voters approve the ballot question, the Charter change takes effect. If voters reject it, the Charter remains as it is.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
•	•
•	•
•	•

Attachments: 1. Ordinance D-FY22-008 Annual Stipend Packet



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Fred Chase, Councilor
Date Introduced: 9/7/2021
First Reading: 9/7/2021
Second Reading: 8/8/2023
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading: 9/5/2023
Date Adopted: 4/23/2024
Date Effective:

Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-008: Bridgewater Town Charter Article II, Legislative Branch Section 2-13(a) Annual Stipend

ORDERED that The Town Charter, Article II, Legislative Branch Section 2-13(a) Annual Stipend shall be amended to reflect that each member of the Town Council shall receive an annual stipend, payable in arrears, in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and the Town Council President shall receive an annual stipend, payable in arrears, in the amount of seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500). Incumbent Councilors shall receive a stipend as above set forth as of each annual Town Election Day. A Councilor who vacates their office will be entitled to receive a pro-rated stipend as of the last date of their service. Regardless of compensation, members of the Town Council shall not be eligible for benefits from the Town. Any modification of the stipend amounts set-forth herein may be adopted by ordinance duly adopted by the Town Council, provided however that no increase or reduction in such stipends shall take effect during the year in which such increase or reduction is voted, and no change in such ordinance shall be made between the election of a new council and the qualification of the new council. Persons elected to serve as councilors by special town election or appointment shall be eligible for payment of an annual stipend payable in arrears in the amount of \$5,000 reduced on a pro-rated basis commensurate with the number of days beginning with the date of the special election or appointment. Such ordinance shall be subject to the provisions of MGL Chapter 39, Section 6A.

Such amendment shall be effective only after approval by the Town Council, the State Legislature and the voters of the Town of Bridgewater.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referrals and Dispositions

- 9/7/21: Town Council First Reading - Referred to Rules & Procedures
- 1/5/22: Rules & Procedures - Voted to recommend with amendments.
- 8/8/23: Town Council - Second Reading
- 9/5/23: Town Council Third Reading - Referred back to Rules & Procedures

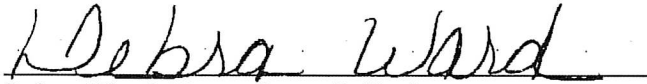
VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

- 10/3/23: Rules & Procedures - Voted 3-0 to recommend changes
- 10/10/23: Town Council Fourth Reading - voted to continue to next meeting with further information from Town Counsel.
- 10/24/23: Town Council - Voted with amendments to refer to Advertising.
- 11/21/23: Town Council - voted to refer back to Rules & Procedures
- 3/18/24: Rules & Procedures - voted 3-0 to recommend with amendments
- 3/26/24: Town Council - voted to recommend with amendments and referred to Advertising.
- 4/23/24: Town Council - Public Hearing held. Voted 8-0 to approve.

Attachments: None

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 Tuesday, April 23, 2024, to approve the aforementioned Ordinance, by a Roll-call vote 8-0.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:



Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk

VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Chapter 20
of the Acts of 2026

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ANNUAL STIPEND FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE CITY KNOWN AS THE TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 2-13 of Article II of the charter of the city known as the town of Bridgewater, which is on file with the state archivist, as provided by section 12 of chapter 43B of the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (a) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

(a) Annual Stipend - Subject to section 6A of chapter 39 of the General Laws, each member of the town council shall receive an annual stipend, payable in arrears, in the amount of \$5,000 and the town council president shall receive an annual stipend, payable in arrears, in the amount of \$7,500. Incumbent councilors shall receive a stipend as provided in this section, as of each annual town election day. A councilor who vacates their office may receive a pro-rated stipend as of the last date of the councilor's service. Regardless of compensation, members of the town council shall not be eligible for benefits from the town.

Subject to said section 6A of said chapter 39, any modification of the stipend amounts set forth in this section may be adopted by ordinance duly adopted by the town council; provided, however, that any such ordinance shall not take effect during the year in which such increase or reduction is voted on; and provided further, that no change to such ordinance shall be made between the election and qualification of a new council. Persons elected to serve as councilors by special town election or appointment shall be eligible for payment of an annual stipend payable in arrears in the amount of \$5,000 reduced on a pro-rated basis commensurate with the number of days beginning with the date of the special election or appointment.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon acceptance by a majority of the voters in the city known as the town of Bridgewater, but not otherwise.

House of Representatives, February 9, 2026.

Passed to be enacted,

Paul Houtz, Speaker.

In Senate, February 9, 2026.

Passed to be enacted,

Michael F. Rush President.

February 12, 2026.
Approved,

M. T. Heg Governor.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 3/3/2026
First Reading: 3/3/2026
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY26-054: Charter Change Ballot Question – Bridgewater Town Charter Article IV, Town Manager "Temporary Absence"

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater approved Ordinance D-FY22-003 at a public hearing held on October 10, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts House of Representatives approved Ordinance D-FY22-003 on February 9, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Maura Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, approved and signed Ordinance D-FY22-003 on February 12, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED:

1. That the Town of Bridgewater, pursuant to G.L. c. 59, § 21C(g), shall seek voter approval at the Town election to be held on April 25, 2026, to approve Ordinance D-FY22-003; and
2. That the Town Clerk is hereby directed to place the following question on the official ballot:

“ Shall Section 4-7 Temporary Absence, be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

In the event of a temporary absence by the Town Manager of not more than twenty-one consecutive days, the Assistant Town Manager shall perform the duties of that office.

If the Assistant Town Manager is for any reason unable to serve, the Town Manager shall appoint a department head of the Town to perform the duties of that office during that period, by a letter filed with the Town Clerk and the Town Council.

In the event of failure of the Town Manager to make such designation or if the person so designated is for any

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VOICE VOTE TO RETAIN AT TOWN COUNCIL

reason unable to serve, or is deemed not qualified by the Town Council, the Town Council may appoint some other qualified person to perform the duties of the Town Manager until the Town Manager returns.

No member of the Town Council shall serve as acting Town Manager.”

Yes _____ No _____

Explanation:

The Bridgewater Town Council has approved a proposal to change the Charter through Ordinance D-FY22-003, the State Legislation has approved and now voters must decide whether to officially adopt that change. If voters approve the ballot question, the Charter change takes effect. If voters reject it, the Charter remains as it is.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
•	•
•	•
•	•

Attachments:

1. Ordinance D-FY22-008 Town Manager Temporary Absence Packet



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Dennis Gallagher, Councilor
Shawn George, Councilor
Date Introduced: 9/7/2021
First Reading: 9/7/2021
Second Reading: 8/8/2023
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading: 10/10/2023
Date Adopted: 10/10/2023
Date Effective:

Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-003: Bridgewater Town Charter Article IV, Town Manager "Temporary Absence"

WHEREAS, Article 89, Section 8 of the Massachusetts Constitution allows the legislative body of the Town of Bridgewater to vote to submit a Special Act to the State Legislature to Amend the current Charter of the Town;

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled votes to amend the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, Article IV, Section 4-7 and to send said amendment to the State Legislature as a Special Act as follows:

Section 4-7 shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

"SECTION 4-7. TEMPORARY ABSENCE

In the event of a temporary absence by the Town Manager of not more than twenty-one consecutive days, the Assistant Town Manager shall perform the duties of that office.

If the Assistant Town Manager is for any reason unable to serve, the Town Manager shall appoint a department head of the Town to perform the duties of that office during that period, by a letter filed with the Town Clerk and the Town Council.

In the event of failure of the Town Manager to make such designation or if the person so designated is for any reason unable to serve, or is deemed not qualified by the Town Council, the Town Council may appoint some other qualified person to perform the duties of the Town Manager until the Town Manager returns.

No member of the Town Council shall serve as acting Town Manager."

Said Amendment shall only become effective and is contingent upon approval by the Town Council, the State Legislature and the voters of the Town of Bridgewater.

Explanation:

VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

The current recommendations by the charter review committee suggests that "a department head" be appointed interim in the Town Manager absence. This order will clearly indicate that the ATM shall act in his/her absence.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rules & Procedures Committee• Second Reading: 8/8/23• Third Reading: 9/5/23• Fourth Reading: 9/19/23 <p><i>This Ordinance was advertised in the 9/25/23 Enterprise.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12/22/21: Voted 2-0 to recommend as amended

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 Tuesday, October 10, 2023, to approve the aforementioned Ordinance, by a Roll-call vote 9-0.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:



Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk

Chapter 22
of the Acts of 2026

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE FILLING OF ANY TEMPORARY ABSENCE OF THE TOWN
MANAGER IN THE CITY KNOWN AS THE TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court
assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Article IV of the charter of the city known as the town of
Bridgewater, which is on file with the state archivist, as provided by
section 12 of chapter 43B of the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking
out section 4-7 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 4-7. TEMPORARY ABSENCE

In the event of a temporary absence of the town manager of not more than
21 consecutive days, the assistant town manager shall perform the duties of
that office.

If the assistant town manager is for any reason unable to serve, the town
manager shall appoint a department head of the town to perform the duties of
the office of town manager during that period, by a letter filed with the
town clerk and the town council.

In the event of failure of the town manager to make such a designation or
if the person so designated is for any reason unable to serve or is deemed
not qualified by the town council, the town council may appoint some other
qualified person to perform the duties of the town manager until the town
manager returns.

No member of the town council shall serve as acting town manager.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon approval by a majority of the
voters of the city known as the town of Bridgewater, but not otherwise.

House of Representatives, February 9, 2026.

Passed to be enacted,

Paul J. Donato, Speaker.

In Senate, February 9, 2026.

Passed to be enacted,

Michael F. Rusch President.

Feb 12, 2026.
Approved,

M. T. Healy

Governor.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 3/3/2026
First Reading: 3/3/2026
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY26-055: Charter Change Ballot Question – Bridgewater Town Charter Article III, Section 4-3, Elected Officials Powers of Appointment

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater approved Ordinance D-FY26-016 at a public hearing held on July 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts House of Representatives approved Ordinance D-FY26-016 on February 9, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Maura Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, approved and signed Ordinance D-FY26-016 on February 12, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED:

1. That the Town of Bridgewater, pursuant to G.L. c. 59, § 21C(g), shall seek voter approval at the Town election to be held on April 25, 2026, to approve Ordinance D-FY25-016; and
2. That the Town Clerk is hereby directed to place the following question on the official ballot:

“Shall Article III, Section 4-3 be amended as noted below:

(b) Multiple Member Appointive Organizations. - Except as otherwise provided by this charter, the town manager shall appoint all boards, committees and agencies *except ad hoc committees established by a majority vote of the Town Council to assist the Town Council in carrying out the Council’s responsibilities*. Members of all appointed boards and committees shall be residents of the town. All appointments of boards, committees and agencies, as defined within the administrative code, shall be subject to the ratification of the town council. The town manager shall form a citizen’s advisory committee to help in evaluating and selecting those

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VOICE VOTE TO RETAIN AT TOWN COUNCIL

individuals for appointment. The number and terms of office of the committee shall be established by ordinance.

Yes _____ No _____

Explanation:

The Bridgewater Town Council has approved a proposal to change the Charter through Ordinance D-FY25-016, the State Legislation has approved and now voters must decide whether to officially adopt that change. If voters approve the ballot question, the Charter change takes effect. If voters reject it, the Charter remains as it is.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
•	•
•	•
•	•

Attachments:

1. Ordinance D-FY25-016 Powers of Appointment Packet



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Kevin Perry, Councilor
 Date Introduced: 2/4/2025
 First Reading: 2/4/2025
 Second Reading: 6/3/2025
 Amendments Adopted:
 Third Reading: 7/15/2025
 Date Adopted:
 Date Effective:

Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-016: Bridgewater Town Charter Article IV, Section 4-3, Town Manager Powers of Appointment

ORDERED that the Town Charter, Article IV, Section 4-3 be amended as noted below:

(b) Boards, Committees and Agencies. - Except as otherwise provided by this charter, the town manager shall appoint all boards, committees and agencies *except ad hoc committees established by a 2/3 vote of the Town Council to assist the Town Council in carrying out the Council's responsibilities*. Members of all appointed boards and committees shall be residents of the town. All appointments of boards, committees and agencies, as defined within the administrative code, shall be subject to the ratification of the town council. The town manager shall form a citizen's advisory committee to help in evaluating and selecting those individuals for appointment. The number and terms of office of the committee shall be established by ordinance.

Said Amendment shall only become effective and is contingent upon approval by the Town Council, the State Legislature and the voters of the Town of Bridgewater

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules & Procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5/27/25: Voted 3-0 to recommend with amendments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6/3/25: Referred to advertising.

VOICE VOTE - REFER TO ADVERTISING
 REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

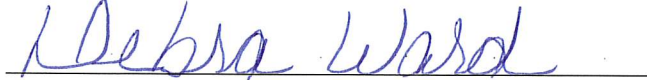
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7/15/25: Public Hearing held. Voted 9-0 to approve.
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Attachments: None

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 Tuesday, July 15, 2025, to approve the aforementioned Ordinance by a Roll Call vote (9-0).

Said amendment shall only become effective and is contingent upon approval by the State Legislature and the voters of the Town of Bridgewater.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:



Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk

VOICE VOTE - REFER TO ADVERTISING
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Chapter 21
of the Acts of 2026

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court

AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE TOWN MANAGER'S POWERS OF APPOINTMENT IN THE CITY KNOWN AS THE TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Section 4-3 of article IV of the charter of the city known as the town of Bridgewater, which is on file in the office of the archivist of the commonwealth, as provided in section 12 of chapter 43B of the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (b) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

(b) Boards, Committees and Agencies - Except as otherwise provided by this charter, the town manager shall appoint all boards, committees and agencies except ad hoc committees established by a 2/3 vote of the town council to assist the town council in carrying out the town council's responsibilities. Members of all appointed board and committees shall be residents of the town. All appointments of boards, committees and agencies, as defined with the administrative code, shall be subject to the ratification of the town council. The town manager shall form a citizen's advisory committee to help in evaluating and selecting those individuals for appointment. The number and terms of office of the committee shall be established by ordinance.

House of Representatives, February 9, 2026.

Passed to be enacted,

Paul Amato, Speaker.

In Senate, February 9, 2026.

Passed to be enacted,

Michael F. Rush, President.

February 12, 2026.
Approved,

M. T. Healy Governor.