



## Town of Bridgewater Town Council

April 7, 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.*

*Please note that the in-person meeting will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the remote connection.*

### 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) March 10, 2026 Town Council Meeting Minutes
- b) March 17, 2026 Town Council Meeting Minutes
- c) March 26, 2026 Speical Town Council Meeting Minutes

#### **B. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

#### **C. PROCLAMATIONS**

#### **D. CITIZEN OPEN FORUM**

#### **E. APPOINTMENTS**

#### **F. HEARINGS**

#### **G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS**

- a) Petition P-2026-021: Request to Amend Common Victualler License - Smit Bev Inc. dba Tropical Smoothie

#### **H. PRESENTATIONS**

#### **I. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

- a) Prison Mitigation Fund
- b) Water Update

#### **J. DISCUSSIONS**

- a) FY27 Budget Discussion with Bridgewater-Raynham School Committee, School Superintendent Powers and Bridgewater Finance Committee

- b) Middleboro Interconnection Discussion

**K. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**L. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION**

- a) Order O-FY26-056: Contract Amendment - Town Manager  
*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.*
- b) Ordinance D-FY25-019: Adoption of Clause 22I of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5 (“HERO Act”)  
*Refer to Advertising. Budget & Finance recommend at their 6/17/25 meeting. Finance Committee recommended at their 3/2/26 meeting.*
- c) General Ordinance D-FY25-020: Adoption of Clause 22J of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5 (“HERO Act”)  
*Refer to Advertising. Budget & Finance recommend at their 3/17/26 meeting. Finance Committee recommended at their 6/2/25 meeting.*
- d) Resolution R-FY26-008: Establishing a Timely and Transparent Process for Consideration of Charter Review Committee Recommendations  
*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.*

**M. OLD BUSINESS**

**N. NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Order O-F26-057: Acceptance of Grant – Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division
- b) Order O-FY26-058: Bridgewater Police Relief Assoc, MCOP Local 397 Collective Bargaining Contract Ratification
- c) Order O-FY26-059: Bridgewater Police Relief Assoc, MCOP Local 397 Collective Bargaining Agreement Contract Appropriation Transfer
- d) Order O-FY26-060: FY2026 Wage Adjustment Budget Transfers
- e) Resolution R-FY26-009: A Resolution in Recognition of Pride Month
- f) Resolution R-FY26-010: A Resolution Honoring Juneteenth
- g) Resolution R-FY26-011: A Resolution of the Bridgewater Town Council Supporting House Bill H.91 and Senate Bill S.2556, An Act to Modernize Funding for Community Media Programming

**O. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

**P. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**R. ADJOURNMENT**



**Town of Bridgewater**

**Town Council**

March 10, 2026

7:00 PM

66 Central Square

Academy Building

Council Chambers/2nd Floor

*The Town Council meeting was streamed Live via You Tube.*

**MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Johnny Loreti called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:00pm on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 in the Council Chambers.

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

Also in attendance was Town Manager Justin Casanova-Davis.

Council President Loreti noted that there were no veteran deaths and held a moment of silence for those that have passed and their families.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- a) March 3, 2026 Meeting Minutes  
*Councilor Kennedy made a motion to approve the February 17, 2026 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded 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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Council President Loreti noted that the time to submit names for the Charter Review Committee has been extended to March 31, 2026 and there were only 5 residents who submitted their names.

**PROCLAMATIONS** - None

**CITIZEN OPEN FORUM**

- David Moore, 54 Flagg Street: spoke about living, volunteering and working in the town and the building of houses and water issues.

- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: noted she is not in favor of removing agriculture. Also noted that Form Based Code needs to be changed.
- Jean DiBatiste, 260 Lakeside Drive: noted that water issues need to be corrected and need to raise Tier III water users and connection fees, and deny new connections.
- Pat Neary, Lakeside Drive: spoke about the dog ordinance and tethering to a stationery object – wants it changed from 24 hours to 5 hours. Also spoke about the water allowance granted to the Claremont Companies and the rehab hospital. Wants an explanation on why the expired permit is still being used. Wants a water impact statement on the hotel by the nip and also the sewer capacity.
- MJ Spagone, 5 Lakeshore Center: spoke on behalf of the Finance Committee and read a letter into the record.  
Councilor Loreti noted that this was due to the Charter Review Committee, this council did not bring forward, it's to bring the question to the voters.
- Carlton Hunt, 80 Austin Street: Ordinance 011 wants this to be voted on individually. Down two members and need to have a quorum.
- Joel Thomas: thanked Greg Martin and the Veterans Council for shoveling out some veterans. Spoke about the water/sewer board and shall and should. Section 27 says there shall be a water sewer board.
- Timothy Trocchio, 16 Cassidy Place: here to listen and learn and to advocate for the citizens of Bridgewater.
- Grace Lawson: spoke about needing the meeting minutes be attached to the agenda for people to see; need to get the information back to the citizens the information that they need.
- Stef D'Emelia, Harvest Lane: spoke about the water emergency mandate from the DEP and sign off for a permit for a major development.
- Marie Hayes, Bolton Place: concerned about the water.
- Eric Christianson, South Drive: concerned about the water as well.
- Kelly Kennedy, concerned about the water
- Gini Duggan, concerned about the water
- Donna Jewell, 50 Keith Place – concerned about the water. What are the pre-approved projects that we keep hearing about and what is their combined water usage. Concerned about safety.
- John Norris, 1297 Vernon Street: concerned about the water. Know that the council and the new Town Manager is doing what they can to fix it.
- Christine Smith, Gasby Drive: first time coming to a meeting, here for 20 years. Moved from another town that had similar situations.
- Rosemarie Doherty, 161 South Street: expressed her concern about the water and the Town of Bridgewater.
- Katie MacMillian, Plymouth Street: engaged on social media on what is going on in Bridgewater, just moved here. Also noted the smell from the sewer plant, needs to be looked at and discussed and can't be healthy. Was told it is poorly taken care of.
- Michael Doherty, 161 South Street: concerned about water and the cost of it.
- Tom Pratti, 37 Moulton Place: the town had good water but those days are gone,
- Cindy Dempsey, 80 Comfort Street: water was great when we were younger, concerned about this. One of the big problems other than water is communication, there is no comprehensive communication. People are confused and angry.
- 25 High Pond: lived in Bridgewater for 25 years, water is a concern, claims she had an illness caused by the water.
- Margaret Gleason, 473 Summer Street: concerned about the water

- Kathleen Whynot, Tucker Trail: concerned about the water
- Kelly Meehan, 220 Curve Street: thanked everyone for coming,
- Steve Dempsey, 80 Comfort Street: concerned about the water
- Scott McDonald, 83 Pond Street: concerned about the water, wants to leave the town.
- Maureen Carroll, 1466 Vernon Street: concerned about the water, lived in town for 40 years. Asked if anyone approached the college and get them involved with some new ideas/new minds.
- MJ Spagone, 5 Lakeshore: spoke as a resident and concerned about the water.
- Laurie Clifford, 65 Running River Road: have been following and recently started coming to meetings, getting full filter on her home, pays taxes.

**APPOINTMENTS** - None

**HEARINGS**

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

Council President Loreti opened the Continued Public Hearing at 8:16pm.  
Council President Loreti asked if anyone in the audience had any questions. No questions were asked.  
Council President Loreti asked if anyone wished to speak in favor. No one spoke.  
Council President Loreti asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition. No one spoke.  
Council President Loreti asked if any councilors had any questions. No questions were asked.  
Council President Loreti closed the Public hearing at 8:17pm.

*Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Order O-FY26-034, which was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.*

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

**LICENSE TRANSACTIONS** – None

**PRESENTATIONS** - None

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

- a) Vietnam War Memorial Project

Veterans Agent Greg Martin gave an update on the Vietnam War Memorial Project that is being built at the Edward O'Donoghue Middle School. He noted that there will be an Unveiling and Rededication Ceremony taking place on National Vietnam War Veterans Day to honor the service and sacrifice of our Vietnam veterans both past and present. That day is Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> and the time is from 10am to 1pm at the O'Donoghue Middle School, 166 Mt. Prospect Steet.

Sean Murphy noted that cost is \$7k and that includes people doing a lot of the work for free. So far a little over \$7,500 has been raised, stretch goal is \$10k. Not one penny has come out of tax payer funds. Asking for everyone to show up, not asking for money.

Councilor Linde thanked the group for the work that they are doing.

b) DPW Storm Response

This item was postponed to the next Town Council Meeting.

c) Water Update

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted some of the work that has been done: including interconnection with Middleboro being done in January; took well #3 off line for two weeks in order to redevelop the well; have doubled the capacity with the redevelopment. Routine maintenance was able to be done. Flushing has not been able to do that in a long time; users pay for these fees. Significant amount of work needs to be done with the system. Contacted the DEP department and asked for assistance, \$2M grant – DEP asked for revisions last week. Met with Congressman Keatings, Warrens office. Talked with Rep Gallagher and Senator Gallagher. Making them aware of the need for support. It is frustrating but it takes time. We are committed, we prioritize, listening and we care about what people are saying. Noting that he is going to establish a Town Manager Water Advisory Committee made up of residents. Will listen to the residents until we get it right.

Helen Gordon from Apex gave an update on the water issue noting that it takes time to build and rebuild infrastructure. Ms. Gordon spoke about the current withdrawal permit capacity is 4.11 MG maximum per day. Ms. Gordon spoke about the Vernon Street well development. Several projects going on at the same time.

Site assessment will be completed in May – determine if debris needs to be removed where well is being developed. Preliminary quality data looks good. Earliest to get the Vernon Street Wells (Treatment plant) is 2030 because of the process.

Ms. Gordon spoke about a desal plant. The City of Brockton has a contract with them to purchase water and they have some requirements to purchase water from them. Town Manager and staff have been having conversations to see if there is a capacity there. The interconnection would be located in Raynham a transmission main from the desal plant. Lot of work and approval from the State. Town has met with Brockton Rep, met with Aquaria Reps, met with Raynham reps, will have to meet with DEP for permitting, will have to go through the process of seeing if there are other wells that could be built.

Ms. Gordon spoke about the private property offer from a landowner. Vernon Street has already been approved. To transfer a private well to public supply is a process. We received a map and we discussed what it would take to design and construct. First we would have to do a preliminary planning and site screening to develop well locations; the private owner would have to do a 21E to make sure there is no potential hazardous issues in that area before the town would even consider taking private property and investing money. Will continue to have conversations with the Town Manager, will have to do a zone 2 review which is 400 feet of the wells. Checking for contaminations, other properties with oil spills, etc. If there is remediation that needs to be done the owner of the property will need to remediate before the town would move forward. If none, we could start some pump tests to see if feasible. Would have to go through a process for approval from the MA DEP for the withdrawal. Before we even get to the start of the permitting would have to go through the 21E. Reports have to be submitted to MA DEP for approval; pump testing, comprehensive paperwork and then the State decides if you can use this and what can be withdrawn and would have to do an environmental filing.

Councilor Linde asked if there was anything that we could do to make the process quicker in the interim what can be done. Problem has been around a while. People who came tonight want to know.

Ms. Gordon noted that Plymouth Street is being expedited under an emergency procurement, working with Finance Director making sure everything is done correctly. Getting fast track bids to make sure we are doing the fiduciary right thing for the community. Have looked at 5 different vendors for Plymouth Street and have chosen the less expensive one but will work the best for our situation. Designing it for a design build. If we went through regular bidding we would not be able to get them up and running as quickly. Doing everything in a phased quick manner, already have an agreement for purchase for the iron and manganese.

Ms. Gordon noted that for Vernon Street wells to make go faster the Town Manager has been working with DEP to quickly approve our items on line as soon as possible. Massachusetts has an arduous bidding process and we are trying to do whatever we can with the State.

Councilor Linde noted that the desal is an old plant, there are issues with it and Brockton is desperate to get other communities on that.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that there are a variety of opinions of the council and we want to give the council all of the options and we can collaborate. Then we can make the right decision moving forward.

Ms. Gordon noted that Apex did a capital improvement analysis for the master plan in 2024 and that program named many of those projects on there and the estimated costs. The Town Manager and Finance Director did a rate study with the projects moving forward.

Councilor Murphy noted we have a good plan and we have a communication problem. We need to explain in clear language with a timeline. Residents are going to social media and filling it with information that they have found. Need to do a better job at educating the average citizen of what the plan is. In the past the town made the decision to invest money elsewhere and not put the money towards the water.

Councilor Loreti noted that he agreed with Councilor Murphy. Need to clarify this process and take this information and put it into a format where residents can understand.

Councilor Perry noted that Vernon Street is 2030 what would be the timeline for a private property?

Ms. Gordon noted that Vernon Street wells we know a lot more about so until we have a clearer picture of the proposed location which could take one to two years. If no remediation needed then we could look at 2031/2032. There are also legal issues that would need to be completed.

Councilor Perry further asked about the timeline about the Dighton plant? Ms. Gordon noted that there are still a lot of questions about that, capacity and limits on withdrawals during certain times of year because of spawning. If we could get the 1MGD we would meet with the legislation to fast track permitting.

Councilor Perry asked with the work we have done with Plymouth Street and High Street will that bring us to a capacity where numbers are set? Ms. Gordon noted that we should be back on production unless a well goes down, noting that mid-April is when we are bringing the trailers in.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that he will try to break it down as simple as possible. Our storage tanks increased during that period.

Ms. Gordon noted that one of the biggest problems was the town was not able to pump the tanks up where they needed to be. Now we have the availability of two wells that did not have before. Will be able to do flushing and not run out of water.

Councilor Kennedy asked when the Middleboro connection is cut where will be at with water if we do not have treatment trailers.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that he wanted to be very clear about this, when they went to Middleboro they had talked and discussed this with the council. We had started conversations with Middleboro in October. And one of the things we talked about with the Town Manager there and ultimately the Selectboard when we went there, Middleboro wanted to take some time to evaluate that situation so they put a timeline of 3 months. We think it's prudent to have a longer connection, it's a good recommendation from DEP. They said we do want to partner with you, we think it is the right thing to do, we understand your plan but what we want to do is reevaluate in 3 months. They didn't say we are cut-off in 3 months. They want to evaluate in 3 months. Not necessarily saying we will continue the interconnection or not but it isn't you are cutting off at the end date. They are going to reevaluate that. So we have had that conversation with their Town Manager and their Selectboard as well.

Councilor Kennedy asked if the treatment trailers could become permanent trailers and Ms. Gordon noted yes.

Councilor Kennedy asked does the water emergency cease when we have adequate water and DPW Director Etoniru noted that the emergency declaration was for the purpose of fast tracking the approval process.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that it sounds like the trailers will help the quantity but how much does each cost and are we renting or purchasing? Ms. Gordon noted that the iron/manganese trailer is about \$500k and they are purchased and put on a concrete pad that needs to be prepared and then they do the treatment which will improve the quantity and quality. The PFAs unit is between two vendors so we do not have a cost yet.

Councilor Ellenberg asked how many trailers would we need if we brought on Vernon Street as a well and Ms. Gordon noted that the iron/manganese are more like vessels not trailers. Have to do the work of identifying what the quality is of Vernon Street before I can give estimate. If this works out well we could do a fast track on that design as well. We will have all the information available for the overall cost.

Councilor Ellenberg asked if we will have to bond out and Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that it would depend, we anticipate \$2M grant to pay for the cost.

Councilor McGrath asked if the Vernon wells would be pulling from the sub basin? Ms. Gordon noted that yes they pull from the same basin. Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that we need to resolve the issue today but need to come up with a plan for tomorrow. Dighton might be better because it is not in the basin. Ms. Gordon noted that you are in the Taunton basin but there are some that cross between Taunton basin but is in a different subbasin but do not recall the percentage.

Councilor Loreti asked what the current capacity is to pump water out of the ground? Mr. Young noted that it is 1.266M.

Councilor Loreti asked what was gained from Well 9 and Mr. Young noted that did not gain as much as we would like, noting he was not here for the well redrilling, also issues with BSU and head pressure in the wells.

Councilor Loreti asked Ms. Gordon when the town commissioned Apex for water impact Study reports and Ms. Gordon noted end of 2024. DPW Director Etoniru noted that the Town Engineer has been very consistent on making recommendations and the DPW does not approve projects. Stantec used to be the engineering firm but they were not good and Apex was brought in. A lot of items fell through the crack with the interim between Mr. Dutton and Mr. Casanova-Davis. DPW was not listened to very well but we have turned a corner.

Councilor Linde noted that we need a better definition of what is an improved project. Does Middleboro Town Meeting have to approve an extension after 90 days? Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that the Selectboard has the right to do the approval if a short period of time. We have had communication with Middleboro since October including the Town Manager and Interim.

Councilor Murphy asked about flushing and DPW Director Etoniru noted that it will be starting next week.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that there are no new tie ins for non-approved projects. Encompass is not approved and we have told them that during this period they could not tie into our water system. DPW Director Etoniru further noted that there is a subdivision on Bedford street and they were told that we do not have water for them and they are doing wells.

Councilor Kennedy asked if Broad Street was approved in May is there a timeline on when the water could be turned on for that project. DPW Director Etoniru noted that yes it was approved in May through the Form Based Code and the timeline as relayed to us by the developer is 18 months.

Building Inspector Steve Solari noted that the town uses the Permit Eyes software for permitting. Database of all the emails of what department it goes too. Approvals come back as blue and then a permit is issued. 80 Broad Street the Planning Board did not sign off that project, CED signed off on Broad Street.

*Councilor Perry made a motion to extend the meeting after 10pm. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 – Absent; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 7-0

Building Inspector Solari noted projects approved by the Planning Board that have not started are the hotel, Perkins Street, developments that are place, behind Cumbies, 40B. Contractor bays behind the car wash and the storage building behind Ace, Central Street small building.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that a building moratorium is under the purview of the council but noted that if there is an approved project, need to be careful of litigation.

Councilor Loreti asked if the Town would really get sued by denying a permit because of water and the Town Manager noted that yes, multiple legal attorneys have said yes.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that all of the departments are going to meet, be on the same page and work together and he is in agreement with adding a water impact study to the admin code. Also noted that he has met with the team on the Form Base Code and spoke about recommendation, wants the public to be informed.

Councilor Murphy asked if a portal can be created on the website to see what permits have been issued and pending. Mr. Solari noted that you can go to the Building Department website and there are instructions on how to apply for a permit.

d) **Community Budget Session**

Councilor Murphy noted that there was a woman that asked about the sewage plant and the smell. Would like an update, long term plans.

*Councilor Linde made a motion to take a 5 minute recess, which was duly seconded 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

Recess at 10:20pm.

Councilor Loreti called the meeting back to order at 10:36pm.

**DISCUSSIONS** - None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Strategic Planning**

Councilor Perry noted that Strategic Planning met and past out to the Councilors the review packet for the Town Manager which is due back by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Rules & Procedures**

Councilor McGrath noted that Rules & Procedures met in February and the 3 items on the Town Council agenda are what they met on.

**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 voted 3-0 to recommend at their 2/20/26 meeting.*

*Councilor Kennedy made a motion to Amend Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-008 by replacing Part III, Chapter 14, Article I, Section 1.B.1 with “No person owning or keeping a dog shall chain or tether a dog for longer than five hours in a twenty-four hour period and outside from 10:00pm to 6:00a.m., unless the tethering is for not more than fifteen minutes and the dog is not left unattended by the owner, guardian or keeper.” This was duly seconded by Councilor Ellenburg.*

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

*Councilor Linde made a motion to refer to Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-008 with the Amendment to advertising, which was duly seconded by Council Perry.*

Councilor Hunt noted that she had some amendments and asked if she should do them one at a time or together. Council President Loreti noted that it would probably be best if she noted the amendments on a single page and put them on the next agenda.

*Councilor Linde withdrew his motion.*

*Councilor Hunt made a motion to continue Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-008 which was duly seconded by Councilor Ellenberg.*

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) Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-011: Amend Part II Administrative Code, Chapter 1, Article III. Multiple Members Appointive Bodies  
*Rules & Procedures voted 2-1 to recommend at their 2/20/26 meeting.*

*Councilor McGrath made a motion to amend Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-011 by removing Section 3. Agricultural Commission, this was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.*

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

*Councilor Linde made a motion to amend Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-011 by removing Section 5 Cable Advisory Committee, this was duly seconded by Councilor Ellenberg.*

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

*Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-011 as amended to advertising, this was duly seconded 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

- c) Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-012: Amend Part II Administrative Code, Chapter 2, Article I. Section 3  
D. Department Heads  
*Rules & Procedures voted 3-0 to recommend at their 2/20/26 meeting.*

*Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-011 as amended to advertising, this was duly seconded 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

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS** - None

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: thanked for keeping Agriculture Commission. Other ordinance feel that there should be an explanation. Spoke about water and other projects, need updates to Form Based Code. Also commented about not getting meeting notifications with the new website.
- Stef D’Emilia, Harvest Lane: asked a few questions to Ms. Gordon and wanted to know if there was an email address where they could send her questions.
- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: learned a lot from the presentation and thanked Justin about forming an Ad Hoc Committee noting it does not need to be posted as a meeting.
- Joel Thomas, : noted that two schools tested positive for lead in February and wanted to know what the water department tested.
- Donna Jewell, Keith Place: asked that the council review the timeline of the Pasquele permit and noted that the session that the Town Manager had at the Senior Center was very good but wished more people attended.
- MJ Spagone, 5 Lakeshore Center: speaking on behalf of Chair of the FinCom, and read a memo into the record that she read at the 3/3/26 meeting.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- Councilor Linde: thanked the residents and noted that councilors do take notes. Commend the citizens, public record is important. Need to create a document that people can understand. Noted about the new barber on Broad Street and we should shop those in town.
- Councilor Hunt: thanked the citizens who came tonight.
- Councilor Murphy: thanked the residents who came out tonight and shout out to the Veterans agent.
- Councilor Perry: thanked residents who came out tonight. Shout out to the Police, Fire and DPW for their work on the last storm. Lots of information, there are plans in place, takes time and money but we will get there. Commented about the BR Sports team...Boys varsity hockey team had a great season, made the playoffs and the Boys and Girls Basketball team. Boys lost to Bishop Feehan. Both teams had a great season.
- Councilor Ellenberg: thanked the citizens for coming out.
- Councilor Kennedy: thanked the citizens for coming out and the DPW, police and fire. They did a great job. Thanked Apex for answering the questions for us.

- Councilor McGrath: no comments.
- Councilor Loreti: thanked the residents for coming out and their comments. Please email the council any comments or questions they have.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:25pm.

**March 10, 2026**

Janet Hanson  
665 Pleasant Street  
Bridgewater

To members of the Town Council

Good Evening.

First off I want to remind the council of my comments on 3/3/26 regarding the ordinances D-FY26-011 & 012. I am not for removing the Agricultural Commission. Since the explanations for them are missing I respectfully request that either they are amended before voting or that they are rewritten to include the explanations of the changes before voting on them.

Now for the major points that the majority are here for.

The FORM BASED CODE needs to be eliminated. Give the power back to the boards and committees such as the PB and not the CEDD!

The Form Based Code only favors the developers not the residents of Bridgewater.

The WATER IMPACT STUDIES: If it is to be done, then any permitting of a project needs to WAIT for the results that are pending. NOT BEFORE!

Too much power is in the hands of the CEDD!

I understand two TCs are working on this along with developing WIS regulations. The rules of the Water Impact Studies should have been in place BEFORE it was even required or done. No one seems to know what to do with it once they get it. If it is being done, then a project needs to wait for it. PERIOD!

We should put a moratorium or restriction on development due to the serious water issues in town. Nothing should be ok'd with the promise the water problem will be resolved in 2 yrs for example. It needs to be based on NOW not the future. If a project won't be hooked up for 2 yrs, again no approval until water situation is ok. Once the town has a solid plan and has 100% rectified the issues with long term results, then and only then can those projects be revisited at that time to see if they can be approved. NOT BEFORE!

Don't forget there are other projects being proposed such as Encompass on Claremont property. That area is only allowed max 100,000gal per day. Once the hotel and Encompass go online that would bring total water use to that. While we are working to protect the Nip, it is two fold because we now need to protect the town as there isn't any water to supply what we need for infrastructures and residents. Before any projects are approved, WIS need to be done and permitting wait for those results AND the projects shouldn't be approved even if it would be couple years before they come online. Once the town fixes the water issues and sewer and is able to rest wells, etc long term fixes that is, then and only then should the projects be revisited to approve them. They can't approve for the future. Only for the now.

Please listen to everyone tonight. A lot of good, accurate, well researched information will be presented .

With DEP, Apex and a former water/ sewer commissioner saying projects should be halted, I hope the Town Council and Town Managers listens to them.

Thank you.

Janet Hanson



**Town of Bridgewater**

**Town Council**

March 17, 2026

7:00 PM

66 Central Square

Academy Building

Council Chambers/2nd Floor

*The Town Council meeting was streamed Live via You Tube.*

**MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Johnny Loreti called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:02pm on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 in the Council Chambers.

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

Absent: Mary McGrath

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

Council President Loreti noted that there were no veteran deaths and held a moment of silence for those that have passed and their families.

*Councilor Linde made a motion to take Q. Executive Session out of order, which was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.*

A Roll Call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Absent; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea.

Motion passed 7-0

Councilor Loreti noted that he would entertain a motion to move into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares; Bridgewater Firefighters’ Union, Bridgewater Police Association and Non-Union employee - Town Manager.

*Councilor Linde made the motion, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.*

A Roll Call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Absent; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea.

Motion passed 7-0

The Executive Session began at 7:04pm and took place in Conference Room 201A. The Town Council meeting was called back to order at 7:29pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS** - None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Council President Loreti noted that he put together a rough draft of questions and comments and addressed some of them. Also noted that he met with Mr. Lincoln Andrews today and those conversations are ongoing.

**PROCLAMATIONS** - None

**CITIZEN OPEN FORUM**

- Lorraine Powers, 41 Sunrise Drive: requested Town Council support of the raising of the Pride Flag from June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: asked questions about non-approved projects and water, was the High Street Plant designed properly, spoke about the library closing on Saturdays.
- Stef D'Melia Harvest Lane: asked several questions about the temp trailers, PFAs filters, maintenance costs, expective life.
- Mark Thomas, 15 Aberdeen Lane: spoke about the stipend and not in favor of it.
- Danielle O'Leary: Board of Trustees for the Public Library – Closing the library on Saturdays, Board is behind the director with this decision.
- Timothy Trocchio, 16 Cassidy Place: spoke about the library adjusting their hours and the Town Charter.
- David Moore, 54 Flagg Street: spoke about the legislation on water and asked that the Building Inspector look at it.

**APPOINTMENTS** - None

**HEARINGS** - None

**LICENSE TRANSACTIONS**

- a) Petition P-2026-019: Granting of a Common Victualler License - 27 Perkins Street  
*Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Petition P-2026-019, which was duly seconded by Councilor Ellenberg.*

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

Motion passed 7-0

- b) Petition P-2026-020: Granting of Automatic Amusement License - 27 Perkins Street  
*Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Petition P-2026-020, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.*

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

Motion passed 7-0

**PRESENTATIONS**

- a) Historical Commission Presentation

David Moore gave an update on the Historical Commission. Noting that there is Bridgewater History at the Library. Mr. Moore asked about the elevation of status of advisory to ministerial. Rebuilding of the memorial building before the Historical Commission was notified. Another problem is the lack of hours at the Library. Had an Archivist who did some great work and she left and the position has not been able to be filled. Would like the historical room more accessible.

Councilor Linde asked what the Council could do to support their mission and Mr. Moore noted change us to ministerial, want to be at the table/recognized for the old town hall.

b) Upcoming Town Ballot Questions/Charter Review Committee

Ed Ivaldi gave a presentation on the Charter changes/Ballot Preview and gave the background. Noting that the Charter requires that every 6 years the Charter is formed to review the charter. Stipend question was submitted back in 2021 and approved in 2024. 2<sup>nd</sup> question was submitted in 2021 and approved in 2023 and the last article was not a recommendation of the Charter Review and was submitted last year and approved last year.

Stipend background: spent several months gathering input from the citizens and at that time the council seemed to have people running for office without competition and were trying to think of ways for people to get involved in running for council. Looked at other communities who offer stipends: encourage people to get involved; create diversity and help offset a financial strain; approves accountability and performance, can be held at a higher standard/attendance; time commitment that they put in. Councilors would be getting \$5k for the year and President \$7,500. \$47,500 total budget. Raynham Selectmen get \$8k per year and they half less people in town. Very common for town/cities to offer stipends. Attleboro gets \$14k/\$15k.

Town Manager Temporary Absence: felt this was broad and this clarifies how the temp absence is handled. Makes the Asst. Town Manager to fill the absence for 21 days, if assistant not available it is a department head; no member of the Town Council can serve as acting Town Manager.

Simple Charter Change that defines how Ad Hoc Committees in the Town Council are established. Right now the Town Manager has the authority this would change to the Town Council.

Councilor Linde thanked Ed and his committee and noted that he thinks the questions should be put on the ballot so the residents can decide.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

a) Library Update

- Hours
- BSU/Library Collaboration

Jed Phillips, Library Director spoke about the circumstances surrounding the closing off the Library on Saturdays. Library is thinly staffed, staff has done an amazing job, have had a full time person go out on maternity leave and cannot give those tasks to another person. Chose Saturday because that is the lowest number of visitors, impacted the least number of residents in town. School age children depend on the library after school and would not want to close on a weekday. Closing on Saturday is a temporary thing, will be reinstated when the employee comes back from maternity leave.

Councilor Linde noted that he believes this action is depriving citizens, would like to know the statistics on Friday, does not agree with this.

Mr. Phillips noted that the average number on Saturday per hour is 30 and on Friday is 42.

Councilor Kennedy noted that he appreciated Mr. Phillips making the best decision.

Councilor Loreti asked if it was possible to do two half days and Mr. Phillipos noted that it would be difficult for staff and would require staff to work 6 days a week.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that no one is happy about this decision and he commended Jed and the Library Trustees for their hard work.

Mr. Phillips further noted that BSU does 6 to 9 hours a week at the Library to provide classes and the room was less than stellar and they came to an agreement. BSU will be doing a major overhaul of the room to make it useful for the BSU classes and the town. We just have to agree to give them 6 to 9 hours per semester. Nice to have that positive.

Councilor Kennedy asked how the room will get prioritized and Mr. Phillips noted that the BSU schedule is locked in advance; very small amount of time that it would be unavailable. A lot of the adult programs happen in the evening so there is no conflict.

Councilor Ellenberg complimented the Library for allowing the writing group to write their books at the Library.

b) HR Update

- Employee Satisfaction Survey
- Collins Center Organizational Review

Carolyn Wood, Director of Human Resources gave an overview of Human Resources and some of the highlights were:

Ms. Wood noted that an employee satisfaction survey was sent out to see how we can improve and 43 responses were received.

Ms. Wood noted that the Collins Center conducted a Staffing Study and the final report is expected to be presented at a Town Council meeting in April.

Ms. Wood noted that Marissa in the HR Department has been running some great programs through grants that have been helping with the goal of enhancing a healthy workforce.

Ms. Wood also noted that they have streamlined the hiring process and expanded the volunteer program.

Council Murphy asked how many staff members were in Human Resources and how many employees were in town. Ms. Wood noted that there are 2 staff members in Human Resources and 206 total town employees.

- c) IT Update
- Website
  - Equipment (Council Chambers)

IT Director, Brad Dzierzak gave an update on the town website noting that for the FY26 budget process the IT department was asked by the the Interim Town Manager to change the website and transition to another website to save some money. Tech alert and See Click Fix are no longer available and we do understand the importance and are working on trying to get a replacement.

Mr. Dzierzak noted that he worked with Jeff Fowler from BTV to make sure the audio issues that happened two weeks ago do not happen again. Will be working over the summer when there are less council meetings to upgrade the room.

Councilor Perry asked about the search function of the website, residents using search or orders, etc. what can we do to make it better. Mr. Dzierzak noted that the main search has the ability to set the terms and add them into the website and that is what the IT staff is doing when we get more search terms.

Councilor Kennedy asked where are the documents held and Mr. Dzierzak noted that the Town Council documents are held in Civic Clerk and the other documents are in the website.

Councilor Loreti asked what systems are in place now so the issue does not occur again and Mr. Dzierzak noted that we do not know why it happened but figured out how to fix it.

Councilor Hunt asked if there was a way to have a “how to” page on how to find things and Mr. Dzierzak noted that we could do something like that.

- d) Water Update

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that the treatment units are going to be enclosed and we are working with the DEP.

William Young, Water Supervisor noted that Well 6 will be redevelopment next Monday. The town relies on our contractor and will have to limit our hydrant flushing. Wells 10a and 10b Apex and Bridgewater have been moving forward with that, bid went out on March 12<sup>th</sup>. 3 contractors were on site for a meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Bids close on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Notice to proceed by March 24<sup>th</sup>. As the weather gets nicer we are looking at hydrant damage, 3 need to be replaced in the next few weeks. With the Middleboro interconnection we have received just over 20M gallons of water. Routine maintenance at the High Street Plant and Carver Pond. Bridgewater/Raynham High School and Bridgewater Middle School are part of the lead and copper sampling – they received a notification in December that they had a lead level and we implemented a flushing procedure for the two sinks at the school and they had a licensed plumber repair those two sinks. Progress Mr. Powers made seems to have worked and we will continue to monitor that situation.

Councilor Kennedy asked for an overview of how the lead testing was done. Mr. Young noted that the DEP picks the lead testing, it is a 6 hour stagnant water test and it is what is in the faucet. Caught on routine testing.

Councilor Kennedy asked about the High Street Pump Station and navigating towards units and that there has been questions if the treatment is outfitted correctly or if there is an issue with the plant design. Mr. Young noted that it is a chemistry issue; water quality. It is not a PFAs free facility.

Councilor Murphy asked about flushing and Mr. Young noted that we have to work on getting contractors to take the well off-line and it all depends on when they are available.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that the water department was hoping to do Well 6 sooner but the contractor was not available prior to Monday. We want to take advantage of increasing the capacity of a well. Fully intend on doing the flushing. We will notice the community when we do the flushing.

Councilor Murphy noted that he has not heard many complaints about the Blue Drop system and asked if a second location has been found. He also asked for a read out of the usage for the location. Mr. Young noted that they have reached out to Blue Drop and are looking at the Fire Station or BTV and Blue Drop is going to look at the locations. Would like a read out of the location.

Councilor Perry noted that residents asked about the units, temp vs permanent and maintenance. Mr. Young noted that these vessels need maintenance over a long period of time, similar to Carvers Pond. The vessels can be a long term solution.

Councilor Ellenberg asked what is the required in the redevelopment of the wells and Mr. Young noted that in the past they have tried to do two wells a year, so every 3 years a well should be redeveloped.

Councilor Kennedy asked what the cost was associated with the units and Mr. Young noted that we have not received the bid yet so we do not know the cost.

Councilor Ellenberg asked when the Town Council could address the water rates for BSU or large commercial properties vs homeowners. Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that the Council adjusted the rates this year for the larger rate users and that they will continue to do a water rate study. Will be coming back to consider water rates and that is when the Town Council can address/determine rates.

e) Grant(s) Update

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that we applied for a Green Community grant for \$80k.

f) DPW Storm Response

Town Manager Casanova-Davis highlighted the work that police, fire and DPW department did during the last storm. Community members helping one another. Employees working 30 hours straight. Unfortunately, there is a large snow and ice deficit. We are going to apply for some FEMA reimbursements for those funds. Snow and ice deficits can go into the following year.

Councilor Perry noted that he thought the town did a great job considering the amount of snow and asked what the best way was for residents to report street damage. DPW Director Etoniru noted that you should call the Highway Department phone line and a ticket will be issued.

- g) National Grid Bridgewater Substation Update  
Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that National Grid is working on a substation in Bridgewater and there may be some traffic in the summer. Will work on getting someone from National Grid to give an update. March 2026 to Fall 2028.

**DISCUSSIONS** - None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Strategic Planning: Councilor Perry reminded councilors to work on their Town Manager reviews and get them to the Town Council Clerk by March 31, 2026.

**LEGISLATION FOR ACTION**

- a) Order O-FY26-040: Establishing a Downtown Façade Improvement Program and Requesting Community Preservation Act Funding  
*Downtown Revitalization Committee voted 3-0 not to recommend at their 3/5/26 meeting. Councilor Loreti made a motion to withdraw Order O-FY26-040, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.*

A Roll Call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Absent; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea.  
Motion passed 7-0

- b) Order O-FY26-049: Acceptance of Donation – High Pond Residents Association  
*Budget & Finance voted 3-0 at their 2/9/26 meeting. Finance Committee voted 8-0 at their 3/2/26 meeting. Councilor Hunt made a motion to approve Order O-FY26-049, which was duly seconded by Councilor Ellenburg.*

A Roll Call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Absent; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea.  
Motion passed 7-0

- c) Order O-FY26-050: Acceptance of Grant: Old State Farm Trail Phase 4 Readiness  
*Budget & Finance voted 2-0 at their 3/17/26 meeting. Finance Committee voted 8-0 to recommend at their 3/2/26 meeting. Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Order O-FY26-050, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.*

A Roll Call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Absent; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea.  
Motion passed 7-0

- d) Order O-FY26-052: CPC Additional Funds – Restoration of Parthenon Frieze  
*Budget and Finance voted 2-0 to recommend. Finance Committee voted 5-3 to recommend at their 3/2/26 meeting. Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Order O-FY26-052, which was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.*

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Absent; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea.  
Motion passed 7-0

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

*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 what we are doing is putting the question on the ballot for the voters to decide.

Councilor Perry noted that we should put it on the ballot and let the people make the decision.

Councilor Murphy noted that he was against this 2 ½ years ago and is still against this.

Councilor Loreti asked if this goes to the ballot and if it does pass, does the council have an obligation to defund the line item. Attorney Rawlins noted that if adopted by the voters there are some mechanisms that can be explored, can't give a yes or no. Budget is a budget.

Councilor Loreti noted that he had concerns that councilors would be eligible for other benefits. Attorney Rawlins noted that this means you are paid a stipend for the role you do.

Councilor Perry asked if the council decides not to put the order on the ballot do we violate MGL and Attorney Rawlins noted that you would be violating your own ordinance by not putting it on the ballot.

Councilor Kennedy noted that if we vote any of these down because they have gone to the State and they are solely to be put on the ballot not to approve the change. Attorney Rawlins noted that you are just placing it on the ballot, and you could be violating citizens the right to vote on it.

Councilor Kennedy noted that the language is lacking, having been on both sides, the amount of work councilors do is 30+ hours a week; we are just volunteers who are trying to help the town out.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that we have to send it to the voters, personally do not favor this. Once you give politicians money they start to give themselves more money.

*Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Order O-FY26-053 and send the question to the voters. This was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.*

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

Motion passed 6-1

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

*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 Perry made a motion to approve Order O-FY26-054 and send the question to the voters. This was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.*

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

Motion passed 7-0

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

*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 Perry made a motion to amend Order O-FY26-055 by changing Article “III” to read “IV” in the header and the first sentence. This was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.*

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

Motion passed 7-0

*Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Order O-FY26-055 with the amendment and send the question to the voters. This was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.*

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

Motion passed 7-0

- h) Petition P-2026-018: Town Election Warrant - April 25, 2026

*Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Petition P-2026-018, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.*

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

Motion passed 7-0

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

Councilor Hunt had some suggested amendments but they are not significant so she was asked to present those amendments at the public hearing meeting.

*Councilor Kennedy made a motion to refer Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-008 to advertising, which was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.*

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

Motion passed 7-0

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Order O-FY26-056: Contract Amendment - Town Manager

Councilor Murphy noted that the Town Manager has asked that he forego his 1 ½ % increase and has asked to be allowed to carryover an additional 10 days as he has not been able to take any vacation time because of not having an assistant town manager. The Town Manager has demonstrated his commitment to this role and I agree that he should be able to roll over 10 additional days.

*Councilor Perry made a motion to retain Order O-FY26-056 at Town Council. This was duly seconded by Councilor Kennedy.*

Councilor Perry noted that this is in line with other contracts taking cuts.

Councilor Loreti noted that this is what leadership looks like and he commends our Town Manager.

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

Motion passed 7-0

- b) Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-013: Adopt Chapter 220, Article III – Water Supply Capacity and Development Review

Councilor Kennedy note that the purpose of this is to set a metric that gives the town guidance on water permitting. Goal is to take the firm capacity of what the town has, the actual day to day operation of the wells and subtract the loss of the largest well in the system as a mechanism and that becomes the base if we have water or do not have water to build in the town. Does not conflict with zoning ordinance. This route was taken because building moratorium can be fought with a lawsuit. Can't have a moratorium on a certain type of building. Water moratorium needs some kind of stopping point – need to tie it to production points with the town. The goal for this is to use MGL Chapter 40 Section 54 it allows the town to regulate the infrastructure for water.

Councilor Murphy asked if this document was review by the Town Attorney and Councilor Kennedy noted that he worked with Town Attorney early on and will be working with him to see if there are any other edits that need to be made.

*Councilor Linde made a motion to continue the meeting past 10:00pm. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.*

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

Motion passed 7-0

Councilor Perry asked if this replaces any existing admin code and Councilor Kennedy noted that it slides into the particular spot in the Admin code, does not change anything, could change the rules of the Planning Board.

*Councilor Perry made a motion to refer Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-013 to Rules & Procedures, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.*

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

Motion passed 7-0

- c) Zoning Ordinance D-FY26-014: Amendments to Central Business District Regulations  
Councilor Loreti noted that there are many amendments, this codifies the process moving forward with the Central Business District, it will be with the Planning Board.

*Councilor Perry made a motion to retain Resolution R-FY26-00. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.*

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Absent; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea.  
Motion passed 7-0

- d) Resolution R-FY26-008: Establishing a Timely and Transparent Process for Consideration of Charter Review Committee Recommendations  
*Councilor Linde made a motion to retain Ordinance D-FY26-008 at Town Council. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.*

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Absent; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea.  
Motion passed 7-0

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

- Stef D'Melia, Harvest Lane: spoke about the units and noted that according to Mr. Davis these are readily available because he sees them all the time in the municipalities that he has ever worked in.
- Carlton Hunt, 80 Austin Street: made a comment that he thinks the town has done a lot.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: questions earlier answered. Do we have enough water for the current demand and when the pre approved get on-line. Supports 014 changing the zoning. CRC should be an Order.
- Gina G: Library sad to see it closing but understand. Is our certification affected with Saturday closing? Stipends was put forth when the town was in better financial shape. Understand Stef's frustration but I think we are moving forward on it.
- Bob Cormier, Grange Park: D-013 commend Councilor Kennedy for the leg work, be transparent to the developers. D-014 amendments are very strong; these are effectively building moratoriums but done the right way. This is what leadership looks like. 056 – that sends a strong message and whether someone resides here or not they do invest in the town.
- John Donna, 261 South Street: thanked the councilors for the work that they do. The Council has the town in mind. Spoke about D-013 Ordinance and it addresses some of the concerns that residents have.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- Councilor Kennedy: thanked the public for coming out tonight.
- Councilor Ellenberg: thanked the public for coming out and thanked Councilor Kennedy and Councilor Loreti for their work on the ordinance.
- Councilor Perry: noted it was a great meeting, thanked the Library Director, IT Director HR Director for coming and giving reports. They are doing a lot with little resources that they have. We are working very hard and diligent to come up with solutions. They are being engineered to doing what they need to do. The plans are in place. Just want people to not dwell on what has happened in the past. We are making strides. If Middleboro needs to be extended then there will be talks. We can't stop progress completely, we need development to fund this town. There is not a lot of wiggle room in the budget. This council is working hard on legislation. Keep it positive, dwell on the good things. Don't dwell on the negative.
- Councilor Murphy: no comments.

- Councilor Kennedy: noted that Summer Street near the prison is for trails. BSU meeting on 3/23 5 to 6pm in the Science Building in Room 285.
- Councilor Linde: noted that he is not going to let up on the Library, huge mistake. Water situation we are trying but what happens if Middleboro does not extend it. Have been told by a member of the selectboard that they are not going to extend it.
- Councilor Loreti: thanked the residents who showed up to the Budget & Finance Meeting. And the veterans who came out. Next meeting is April 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a) Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares; Bridgewater Firefighters' Union, Bridgewater Police Association and Non-Union employee - Town Manager

See above for meeting minutes – Executive Session was voted to be done in the beginning of the meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Councilor Linde made a motion to adjourn, this was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.*

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Absent; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea.  
Motion passed 7-0

Meeting Adjourned at 10:30pm.

Janet Hanson  
Pleasant St

3/17/26

I seek clarification of what a NON-Approved project means? I know water cannot be denied for those projects approved before a water emergency—AKA pre-approved, but it has been said & written that non-approved projects cannot get hooked-up. If I am not mistaken, non-approved would mean they would not be able to hook up anyways until they are approved. Are they not approved because they need water? What are they not approved for? And how long will this last? Until water emergency is lifted? Until water situation is 100% resolved for a long period of time?

I asked this question last week:

In a nutshell, do we have enough water to support/supply current residents/businesses and those pre-approved projects if they were to hook up today or even 18 months from now? That needs to be answered tonight.

A question was asked last week—was the High St. Plant designed properly? I have read an answer that it was designed based on the conditions and regulatory requirements at that time. Wells A & B have apparently changed. The New Plant can't take care of them. This is a perfect example for those making the decisions to think of the future not just the now.

Cannot assume everything will remain the same. Wells A & B are not new.

The Plant should have been designed to plan<sup>for</sup> possible issues and changes. Hopefully the Trailers for those wells will be for not only Now but for the future—to grow with the town. Same with the Vernon St Wells. We can't cut corners otherwise we will be facing the same situations in the future which would cost more money than if we did it correctly to begin with.

And why is the water brown on the east side? What is being done to resolve it? I have not heard any definite answers on that. Thankfully I do not have that issue being on the west side of town.

**LIBRARY:** Why is it closing on Saturdays? Is it staff issues or money issues? Why haven't we heard about these issues ahead of time? It doesn't make sense to close Saturday. If have to cut hours, do it on Friday instead.

**IT WEBSITE:** I have asked about this issue several times especially not being able to receive notifications of meetings.. No answer and results yet. What is being done about this issue and others?

**CHARTER CHANGES: NO TO STIPENDS!** I feel if a TC candidate needs to be enticed/encouraged to serve, they shouldn't be a councilor. Reading the reason for the stipends on page 19 of packet are ridiculous. **READ PAGE 19** at this point

**Form Base Code Changes DYY26-014:** We definitely need it to be changed and give the power back to the PB and get rid of the CED power. It should never have been approved. The PB needs to be in control along with the other committees, not the CED.

And lastly R - FY26-008

**DYY26-008 CRC Resolution:** Definitely support this.

CRC work needs to be acknowledged and worked on in a timely manner by the TC. Not 6 years later when the next CRC is being formed!

Thank you.  
Janet H. H.



**Town of Bridgewater**  
**Special Town Council Meeting**

March 26, 2026

6:30 PM

The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

**MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Johnny Loreti called the Special Town Council meeting to order at 6:30pm on Tuesday, March 26, 2026. The meeting took place via Zoom.

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

Absent: Mark Linde and Adelene Ellenberg.

Also in attendance was Town Manager Justin Casanova-Davis.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Town Manager Request - Extension of budget submission (By One Week - Until April, 14, 2026)

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that due to several areas of the budget being looked at, he is requesting that the submission of the budget be changed from the April 7<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting to a Special Town Council meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Councilor Loreti noted that he was in agreement with this and the April 14<sup>th</sup> Special Town Council meeting will be strictly to focus on the budget.

Councilor Perry agreed that the Special Town Council meeting should just be for focusing on the budget.

*Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Town Manager Casanova-Davis' request to extend the submission of the FY27 budget by one week, April 14, 2026. This was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.*

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

Motion passed 6 to 0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Motion passed 6 to 0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm.



## Bridgewater Town Council

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Introduced By:

Date Introduced: 4/7/2026

First Reading: 4/7/2026

Second Reading:

Amendments Adopted:

Third Reading:

Date Adopted:

Date Effective:

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### **Petition P-2026-021: Request to Amend Common Victualler License - Smit Bev Inc. dba Tropical Smoothie**

**WHEREAS**, Smit Bev Inc. dba Tropical Smoothie was issued a Common Victualler License in May 2025 for the establishment located at 3 Broad Street, Bridgewater, Massachusetts; and

**WHEREAS**, Smit Bev Inc. dba Tropical Smoothie was approved for hours of operation not to exceed:

- Monday – Friday: 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.
- Saturday – Sunday: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.; and

**WHEREAS**, Smit Bev Inc. dba Tropical Smoothie has submitted a request to amend its hours of operation to twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bridgewater Town Council, acting as the licensing authority for Common Victualler Licenses, has received recommendations and oppositions from the Building Inspector, Fire Department, Police Department, and Health Department, all of whom have oversight authority regarding such establishments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council must determine whether the public good requires that such amendment be granted;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED** that the Bridgewater Town Council vote to **approve / deny** the request of Smit Bev Inc. dba Tropical Smoothie to amend its Common Victualler License to allow hours of operation of twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week at the premises located at 3 Broad Street, Bridgewater, Massachusetts, subject to all applicable laws, regulations, and conditions imposed by the Town.

#### **Committee Referrals and Dispositions:**

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL

REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Attachments:

1. Common Victualler - Transfer License Checklist
2. Tropical Smoothie Cafe - 3 Broad Street - 24 Hour Request 3.5.26

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL  
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Town Council Meeting Date: 4/7/26

Applicant Name: Smit Bev Inc. DBA Tropical Smoothie  
Address: 3 Broad Street  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: smitpateltropical@gmail.com

**AMENDMENT TO COMMON VICTUALLER LICENSE**

Smit Bev Inc. dba Tropical Smoothie located at 3 Broad Street was approved for a Common Victualler license by the Town Council in May of 2025 with the hours of:  
Monday to Friday 7:00am to 12:00am  
Saturday and Sunday 8:00am to 12:00am

Smit Bev, dba Tropical Smoothie has now submitted a requested to modify their Common Victualler license by being open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

X Request from Petitioner  
Town Fees:  
\$100.00 Application Fee

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**Recommendation(s)/Opposition(s):**

- X Tax Office
  - No taxes owed

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- X Fire Department
  - No concerns or objections for this business to operate as a 24-hour business.

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- X Police Department
  - Oppose the 24/7 request as there are a few 24/7 operations in Town but none with areas to congregate. This environment is typically prone to late night disturbances, driving disproportionate demand on police services for the rest of the Town.

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- X Building Department
  - Not in favor of this request. The Town could end up with multiple alike businesses asking for the same and having a town center as a gathering spot late into the evenings which could put a strain on town services such as police and fire.

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- X Health Department
  - Has no concern with this request.



Smit Bev Inc  
DBA Tropical Smoothie Cafe MA-062  
3 Broad Street  
Bridgewater, MA 02324  
Email: smitpateltropical@gmail.com

March 04, 2026

Town Manager's Office  
Town of Bridgewater  
Bridgewater, MA

**Re: Request for Approval to Modify Hours of Operation to 24/7**

Dear Town Manager's Office,

I am writing on behalf of Smit Bev Inc, DBA Tropical Smoothie Cafe MA-062, located at 3 Broad Street, Bridgewater, MA, to formally request approval to modify our current hours of operation to 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

**Current Hours of Operation:**

Monday – Friday: 7:00 AM – 12:00 AM  
Saturday – Sunday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM

**Proposed Hours of Operation:**

24 hours per day, 7 days per week

This request is based on several key factors:

- 1. Strong Demonstrated Demand:** We have received consistent requests from customers seeking later-night and early-morning options, including healthcare staff, first responders, commercial drivers, and other shift-based professionals in the area.
- 2. Limited Late-Night Food Options in the Area:** There are few healthy, quick-service dining options available in Bridgewater during overnight and early morning hours. Operating 24/7 would help fill this gap and further enhance local dining availability.
- 3. Proven Operational Capacity:** We have an experienced management team and well-established operating procedures in place. Our team is fully prepared to successfully manage extended hours with strong oversight and consistent service standards.
- 4. Job Creation:** Expanding to 24-hour service will create additional employment opportunities for local residents.

**5. Increased Local Economic Activity:** Extended hours are expected to generate additional sales and corresponding tax revenue for the Town of Bridgewater.

**6. Property Ownership & Maintenance Commitment:** I am both the business owner and the property owner. As landlord, I take great pride in maintaining the building and surrounding property to a high standard and will continue to ensure the premises remain clean, secure, and professionally managed.

We believe that transitioning to 24/7 service will provide meaningful benefits to the community and contribute positively to the local economy. I appreciate your consideration of this request and am happy to provide any additional information if needed.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Smit Patel  
Owner  
Smit Bev Inc  
DBA Tropical Smoothie Cafe MA-062  
smitpateltropical@gmail.com



# Bridgewater Town Council

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Introduced By:  
Date Introduced:  
First Reading:  
Second Reading:  
Amendments Adopted:  
Third Reading:  
Date Adopted:  
Date Effective:

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## Prison Mitigation Fund

### Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

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

Attachments:            1.    DPH Letter MCI Funding 4.1.26

# Town of Shirley

## SELECT BOARD



7 KEADY WAY – SHIRLEY, MASSACHUSETTS - 01464-2812  
*Brian Hildebrant —Chair, Andree Jean Jacques —Vice Chair, Debra Flagg—Clerk*

Tel: (978) 425-2600, x200  
Fax: (978) 425-2602  
[selectboard@shirley-ma.gov](mailto:selectboard@shirley-ma.gov)

March 25, 2026

Commissioner Robbie Goldstein  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
250 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02108

Commissioner Goldstein,

We are reaching out to request your assistance in ensuring our ability to provide proper Emergency Medical Services to the Cities and Towns we represent.

Each of our communities has the distinction of hosting a Massachusetts Correctional Facility. In the past, our communities received state funding annually to provide necessary Emergency Medical Services to these facilities. Those funds were completely eliminated during the Fiscal Year 2026 state budgeting process creating a significant challenge in providing adequate Emergency Services to our residents, businesses, and the Correctional Facilities we host.

We are seeking financial assistance and support from the Department of Public Health from the remaining \$5 million in competitive grant funding for extraordinary emergency services. With the assistance of our State Delegation, we have already communicated the need of such funds by responding to the Request for Information for extraordinary Emergency Services and fully intend to submit grant applications when available.

Our concern is the timing and disbursement of awarded funds. The extraordinary challenges created due to the loss of funding is impacting each of our cities and towns now in Fiscal Year 2026. We are working with our State Senators and Representatives to have the funds fully restored in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget cycle. Based on the projected opening of the grant applications, our fear is that the award notices and disbursements will be made after the current Fiscal Year end.

Given the severity of our circumstances, we respectfully ask that you consider expediting the grant award process so that disbursement of those awards could provide relief in the current Fiscal Year. We appreciate your willingness and commitment to ensuring proper Emergency Medical Services to our communities.

Sincerely,

Bryan Sawyer  
Town Administrator  
Town of Shirley

Robert Garrity  
Town Administrator  
Town of Norfolk

John Woodsmall  
Town Administrator  
Town of Lancaster

Justin Casanova-Davis  
Town Manager  
Town of Bridgewater

Kerry Lafleur  
Town Manager  
Town of Concord



## Bridgewater Town Council

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Introduced By: Town Manager  
Date Introduced: 3/17/2026  
First Reading: 3/17/2026  
Second Reading: 4/7/2026  
Amendments Adopted:  
Third Reading:  
Date Adopted:  
Date Effective:

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### **Order O-FY26-056: Contract Amendment - Town Manager**

**ORDERED**, in accordance with Section 4-1 of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, that the Town Council assembled vote to ratify the negotiated amendment to the employment agreement with Mr. Justin Casanova-Davis.

**Explanation:**

*Due to current budget constraints, Town Manager Casanova-Davis has requested that his proposed COLA for Fiscal Year 2027 be reduced.*

**Committee Referrals and Dispositions:**

*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.*

Attachments: 1. Contract Amendment 2026

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL  
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

## AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT OF TOWN MANAGER

This amendment is made and entered into this    day of March, 2026, by and between the Town of Bridgewater, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a municipal corporation, hereinafter called the “Town”, acting by and through its Town Council hereinafter called “Town Council” and Justin Casanova-Davis, hereinafter called “Town Manager”, as parties to the Employment Agreement dated April 23, 2025 (the “Contract”) agree as follows:

### WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Justin Casanova-Davis agreed to a Contract with the Town of Bridgewater on April 23, 2025;

WHEREAS, Justin Casanova-Davis wishes to ensure the Town of Bridgewater is placed in the best possible position for the upcoming budget season;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the above and mutual covenants contained herein, the parties agree to the following amendments:

Section 3. B. shall be amended by adding the following sentence to the end of that paragraph:

“The Town Manager will waive any potential 1.5 % performance increase for fiscal year 2027.”

Section 5. B. shall be amended as follows:

“B. For each subsequent year of this Agreement, the Employee is entitled to accrue unused vacation leave, up to a maximum of twenty-five (25) days. In the event the Employee’s employment is terminated, either voluntarily or involuntarily, the Employee shall be compensated for all accrued vacation time.”

Except as set forth in this Amendment, the Contract is unaffected and shall continue in full force and effect in accordance with its terms. If there is a conflict between this Amendment and the Contract, the terms of this Amendment will prevail.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Town, has caused this Amendment to be signed and executed in its behalf by its Town Council and the Town Manager has signed and executed this Amendment, both in duplicate.

Town Council Town of Bridgewater

Town Manager, Town of Bridgewater

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## Bridgewater Town Council

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Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor  
Fred Chase, Councilor  
Sonya Striggles, Councilor

Date Introduced: 4/8/2025

First Reading: 4/8/2025

Second Reading: 6/3/2025

Amendments Adopted:

Third Reading: 4/7/2026

Date Adopted:

Date Effective:

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

**WHEREAS**, the HERO Act mandates that property tax exemptions under clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, or 22F shall be increased annually by the amount equal to the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for that year, as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Revenue shall annually inform each municipality of the amount of such increase to ensure that veterans' exemptions maintain their value over time; and

**WHEREAS**, the HERO Act helps provide meaningful and sustainable financial relief to eligible veterans.

**NOW THEREFORE**, in accordance with Section 2-06 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, the Town Council hereby adopts the following as a General Ordinance of the Town:

#### **SECTION 1: PURPOSE**

The purpose of this ordinance is to adopt Clause 22I of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, in order to provide CPI-adjusted property tax exemptions to eligible veterans beginning in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26).

#### **SECTION 2: ADOPTION OF CLAUSE 22I – CPI-ADJUSTED PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS**

Pursuant to Clause 22I, the Town of Bridgewater shall adjust property tax exemptions for eligible veterans based on the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI). The exemption amounts shall be revised each fiscal year in accordance with the CPI as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The projected FY26 adjustment is 3.3%.

- **Eligibility:** Veterans currently receiving property tax exemptions under Chapter 59, Section 5.

VOICE VOTE - REFER TO ADVERTISING

**SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION & ADMINISTRATION**

(a) The Bridgewater Board of Assessors shall be responsible for administering these exemptions and applying annual CPI adjustments.

(b) Eligible veterans must meet existing requirements under G.L. c. 59, §5 and submit applications as required by the Bridgewater Assessor’s Office.

(c) The Veterans’ Services Office shall confirm the eligibility of applicants under Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, or 22F.

(d) The exemptions shall be reflected in the tax bills issued for the applicable fiscal year.

**SECTION 4: EFFECTIVE DATE**

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and approval as required by law and shall be applicable beginning Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26).

**SECTION 5: SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of this ordinance is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

**Committee Referrals and Dispositions:**

<b>Referral(s)</b>	<b>Disposition(s)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Town Council</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4/8/25: First reading - referred to Rules &amp; Procedures</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rules &amp; Procedures</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5/27/25: Voted 3-0 to recommend with amendments</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Town Council</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6/3/25: Second Reading - referred to Budget &amp; Finance and Finance Committee</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Budget &amp; Finance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6/17/25: Voted 3-0 to recommend</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finance Committee</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3/2/26: Voted to recommend to be sent back to Town Council for corrections which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.</li></ul>

Attachments: 1. Rules and Procedures Amendments 5.27.25 for Hero Act 22I

**Amendments made and voted at the 5/27/25 Rules & Procedures meeting**

Under Sponsor Names:

- Remove Fred Chase Name

Under Section 1

- Change “2026 (FY26)” to “2027 (FY27)”

Under Section 2

- Change “FY26” to “FY27”

Under Section 4:

- Change “(FY26)” to “(FY27)”



## Bridgewater Town Council

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Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor  
Date Introduced: 5/20/2025  
First Reading: 5/20/2025  
Second Reading: 4/7/2026  
Amendments Adopted:  
Third Reading:  
Date Adopted:  
Date Effective:

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

**WHEREAS**, the HERO Act provides for increased property tax exemptions to service-connected disabled veterans to further recognize and support their service; and

**WHEREAS**, Clause 22J of the Act authorizes municipalities to double current exemption amounts for disabled veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Bridgewater seeks to offer enhanced financial relief to those with service-connected disabilities.

**NOW THEREFORE**, in accordance with Section 2-06 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, the Town Council hereby adopts the following as a General Ordinance of the Town:

**SECTION 1: PURPOSE**

The purpose of this ordinance is to adopt Clause 22J of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, in order to increase property tax exemptions for service-connected disabled veterans beginning in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26).

**SECTION 2: ADOPTION OF CLAUSE 22J – INCREASED EXEMPTIONS FOR DISABLED VETERANS**

Pursuant to Clause 22J, the Town of Bridgewater shall increase property tax exemptions for service-connected disabled veterans by up to 50% of their current exemption amount, effective FY26.

- **Veterans with a 10%-90% disability rating** shall receive an exemption increase from \$400 to \$600.
- **Veterans with a 100% disability rating** shall receive an exemption increase from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

**SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION & ADMINISTRATION**

VOICE VOTE - REFER TO ADVERTISING

- (a) The Bridgewater Board of Assessors shall be responsible for administering these exemptions.
- (b) Eligible veterans must meet existing requirements under G.L. c. 59, §5 and submit applications as required by the Bridgewater Assessor’s Office.
- (c) The Veterans’ Services Office shall confirm the eligibility of applicants under Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, or 22F.
- (d) The exemptions shall be reflected in the tax bills issued for the applicable fiscal year.

**SECTION 4: EFFECTIVE DATE**

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and approval as required by law and shall be applicable beginning Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26).

**SECTION 5: SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of this ordinance is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

**Committee Referrals and Dispositions:**

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5/20/25: First Reading - referred to Rules &amp; Procedures, Budget &amp; Finance and Finance Committee</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rules &amp; Procedures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5/27/25: Voted 3-0 to recommend</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6/2/25: Voted to recommend</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget &amp; Finance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6/3/25: Voted 3-0 to continue</li> <li>• 6/17/25: Voted 3-0 to continue</li> <li>• 2/9/26: Voted 3-0 to continue</li> <li>• 3/17/26: Voted 2-0 to recommend with amendments.</li> </ul>

Attachments:                      None



## Bridgewater Town Council

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Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor  
Date Introduced: 3/17/2026  
First Reading: 3/17/2026  
Second Reading: 4/7/2026  
Amendments Adopted:  
Third Reading:  
Date Adopted:  
Date Effective:

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### **Resolution R-FY26-008: Establishing a Timely and Transparent Process for Consideration of Charter Review Committee Recommendations**

**WHEREAS**, the Bridgewater Town Charter provides for a periodic review of the Town Charter by a Charter Review Committee appointed by the Town Council, which committee is charged with reviewing the Charter and submitting recommendations to the Town Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Charter (as distinct from the Administrative Code) is the Town's foundational governing document, and proposed amendments to the Charter require review and action by the Town Council and subsequent submission through the required state and voter ratification process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council recognizes the significant public service performed by Charter Review Committee members and the importance of evaluating their work promptly, transparently, and in a manner that supports informed public participation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council further recognizes that prior Charter Review Committees have expressed frustration regarding the pace and clarity of the process by which recommendations were advanced, and the Town Council seeks to establish a predictable pathway from receipt of the final report to Council consideration; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council's standing committee structure includes the Rules and Procedures Committee, which is the appropriate committee to review and report out matters related to the Town Charter and Council processes;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council adopts the attached process and commitments with respect to the Charter Review Committee's final report.

#### **Committee Referrals and Dispositions:**

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL  
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

*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.*

Attachments:            1.    CRC Resolution

## TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

### RESOLUTION

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#### 1. Receipt and Docketing

- A. Upon receipt of the Charter Review Committee's final report, the Council Clerk shall docket the report and distribute it electronically to all Councilors.
- B. The Council President shall cause the report to be listed on a Town Council agenda for acknowledgement and referral within **thirty (30) days** of receipt, subject to meeting schedule and administrative needs.
- 

#### 2. Referral to Rules and Procedures

- A. At the first Town Council meeting at which the report is acknowledged, the Town Council shall refer the final report and accompanying recommendations to the Rules and Procedures Committee for review and recommendation.
- 

#### 3. Published Work Plan

- A. Within **forty-five (45) days** of referral, the Rules and Procedures Committee shall hold an initial posted meeting to:
1. confirm receipt and scope;
  2. identify any drafting, legal, or administrative support needed; and
  3. adopt and publish a work plan identifying the order and approach by which recommendations will be reviewed (including grouping by topic where appropriate).
- B. The work plan shall include anticipated milestones for committee discussion and reporting to the Town Council.
- 

#### 4. Committee Reporting and Council Consideration Targets

- A. The Town Council expresses its intent that the Rules and Procedures Committee will, to the extent practicable, provide rolling reports (topic-by-topic or recommendation-by-recommendation) rather than waiting to report all items at once.
- B. Within **ninety (90) days** after the Charter Review Committee final report is formally acknowledged by the Town Council, the Rules and Procedures Committee shall present to

the Town Council an initial “take-up” agenda identifying a set of recommendations proposed to be addressed first (the “Initial Set”), which may include recommendations proposed for no further action at that time.

C. With respect to the Initial Set, the Town Council intends that the Rules and Procedures Committee will bring forward a preliminary disposition for each item, which may include:

1. advancing draft Charter amendment language for Council consideration;
2. recommending no further action at this time; or
3. recommending additional review and a revised schedule for consideration.

D. Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed to require the Town Council to take up, vote on, or advance every recommendation submitted by the Charter Review Committee; rather, this Resolution reflects the Town Council’s commitment to timely organization, transparency, and forward progress.

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## **5. Transparency and Public Tracking**

A. The Council Clerk shall maintain a Charter Review Recommendation Tracking Log listing, at minimum:

1. each recommendation (or grouped topic area);
2. whether it has been included in an Initial Set or subsequent “take-up” agenda;
3. current status (e.g., under review, drafting, scheduled for discussion, reported out, advanced, no further action, continued); and
4. key dates (receipt, acknowledgement/referral, committee discussion dates, report-out dates, and Council action dates where applicable).

B. The Tracking Log shall be updated at least monthly while recommendations remain under active review and made available through the Town’s normal posting and records practices.

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## **6. Preservation of Council Discretion and Legal Compliance**

A. This Resolution is a statement of Town Council policy regarding process and transparency. It does not limit the Town Council’s discretion to amend, combine, sequence, postpone, or decline to advance any recommendation, nor does it alter any legal requirements applicable to Charter amendments.

B. Nothing in this Resolution creates a private right of action or enforceable deadline.





## Bridgewater Town Council

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Introduced By: Town Manager  
Date Introduced: 4/7/2026  
First Reading: 4/7/2026  
Second Reading:  
Amendments Adopted:  
Third Reading:  
Date Adopted:  
Date Effective:

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### **Order O-F26-057: Acceptance of Grant – Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division**

**ORDERED**, that the Town Council assembled vote to,

**WHEREAS:** Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53A, states as follows:

“An officer ... of any city or town ... may accept grants or gifts of funds from ... from the commonwealth ... or an agency thereof, ... and may expend such funds for the purposes of such grant or gift ... with the approval of the city manager and city council...;” and

**WHEREAS:** The Town of Bridgewater has received notice of a Green Communities Competitive grant award of \$84,995.00 from the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division for the following projects:

- \$75,000 Library – Window Replacement
- \$2,495 Town – Building Operator Certification
- 7,500 Town – Battery Electric Vehicle

**Now, therefore,** in accordance with Chapter 44, §53A of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Town Council votes to take the following action:

**ORDERED** that the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to accept and to expend the grant in accordance with stated purpose thereof.

Explanation:

*The purpose of these projects are to help with energy savings, emission reductions and*

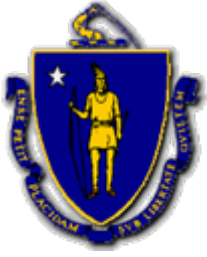
#### **Committee Referrals and Dispositions:**

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING

VOICE VOTE TO REFER TO BUDGET & FINANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

Attachments:            1.    bridgewater CPT14-1 award letter



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES**  
100 CAMBRIDGE ST., 9<sup>th</sup> FLOOR  
BOSTON, MA 02114  
Telephone: 617-626-7300

**Maura T. Healey**  
Governor

**Rebecca L. Tepper**  
Secretary

**Kimberley Driscoll**  
Lt. Governor

**Elizabeth Mahony**  
Commissioner

March 4, 2026

Justin Casanova-Davis, Town Manager  
Town of Bridgewater  
66 Central Square  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Dear Manager Casanova-Davis:

I am pleased to inform you that the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division has approved an award of \$84,995.00 for the following projects proposed in the Town of Bridgewater Green Communities Competitive Grant application.

List of projects funded:

- \$75,000, Library — Window replacement
- \$2,495, Town — Building Operator Certification
- \$7,500, Town — Battery Electric Vehicle

The Division reviewed Bridgewater's grant application and has determined these are viable projects that meet the eligibility requirements of our Competitive Grant program. **Please note that, due to the competitive nature of this grant program, the use of these funds is restricted to the specifically approved projects listed above.**

Jane Pfister, Green Communities Grant Coordinator, will follow up with the contacts listed in your competitive grant application to discuss the next steps, including coordination of the grant contract process. We congratulate you on your grant award and applaud your efforts to create a cleaner energy future for your community and the Commonwealth as a whole.

We request that you hold off on publicizing your award until DOER formally announces the grant awards.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 617-823-4029 or by email at [Joanne.Bissetta@mass.gov](mailto:Joanne.Bissetta@mass.gov) with any questions you may have regarding your grant award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne Bissetta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Joanne Bissetta, Director  
Green Communities Division

Cc:

Johnny Loreti, President, Town Council

Shane O'Brien, Town Planner

Lisa Sullivan, Southeast Regional Coordinator



# Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager  
 Date Introduced: 4/7/2026  
 First Reading: 4/7/2026  
 Second Reading:  
 Amendments Adopted:  
 Third Reading:  
 Date Adopted:  
 Date Effective:

## **Order O-FY26-058: Bridgewater Police Relief Assoc, MCOP Local 397 Collective Bargaining Contract Ratification**

**ORDERED**, in accordance with section 4-2 (15) of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, that the Town Council assembled vote to approve the negotiated agreement(s) covering:

1. MOA Bridgewater Police Relief Assoc., MCOP 397 July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027
2. MOA Bridgewater Police Relief Assoc., MCOP 397 July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028

**Explanation:**

*The Town Manager negotiated an agreement with the Bridgewater Police Relief Association, MCOP Local 397. An affirmative vote of the Council will approve the contract as presented. A concurrent transfer request will fund the appropriation thereof.*

**Committee Referrals and Dispositions:**

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
•	•

- Attachments:
1. MOA BPD 2024-2027
  2. MOA BPD 2027-2028

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING  
 REFER TO BUDGET & FINANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Memorandum of Agreement**  
**between the Bridgewater Police Relief Association, MCOP Local 397**  
**and**  
**The Town of Bridgewater**

**July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2027**

This Memorandum of Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into on this \_\_\_ day of March, 2026, between the Town of Bridgewater ("Town") and the Bridgewater Police Relief Association, MCOP Local 397 ("Association"). This Agreement succeeds the previous agreement, dated July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2024. Unless changed by this Agreement, all provisions of the prior agreement remain in place. This Agreement and the terms herein are subject to ratification by the Association and Town.

The Town and the Association agree as follows:

**The following items are retroactive upon ratification by the Town and Association, unless noted as otherwise:**

1. Increase of wages (COLA) under Article XIX Compensation, as follows:
  - a. July 1, 2024                      base wage increase of 2%
  - b. July 1, 2025                      base wage Increase of 1%
  - c. July 1, 2026                      base wage Increase of 1%
  - d. January 1, 2027                  base wage Increase of 1%
  
2. Article XIX, Compensation: Wage step 28th, shall be calculated by creditable years of service as measured by Plymouth County Retirement Board and years of Law Enforcement service with the (MBTA) Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. To be eligible for this step calculation, the officer must have (21) twenty-one years of service with the Bridgewater Police Department.

**The following items are effective upon ratification by the Town and Association, unless noted as otherwise:**

**3. Article VI - PERSONAL DAYS**

Amend to change from four (4) to **five (5)** personal days effective July 1, 2026.

**4. Amendment to Article IV, Uniforms and Clothing Allowance:**

Increase of \$100 per officer annually, currently \$1,400, increased to \$1,500.

5. Article XIV Health Insurance

"For all employees hired after April 1, 2026, it is agreed that the Town will pay 75% of the total cost of Health Insurance for each Employee and the Employee will pay 25% toward the cost of the Town's Contributory Group Insurance Plan consisting of Mayflower Municipal Health Group's BCBS, Network Blue Benchmark Plan, and HPHC Benchmark Plan."

6. Article VII – Holidays

Add Juneteenth as an enumerated holiday.

7. Article XIX Compensation. Rewrite paid detail language as follows:

**Detail Rates**

<i>Base Detail Rate (Road Job &amp; Private Event)</i>	\$77.50 per hour*
<i>Saturdays and 6pm – 6AM</i>	one and one half times base detail rate
<i>Sundays and Holidays</i>	double the base detail rate
<i>Municipal Detail Rate</i>	Employee's overtime rate
<i>Strike Detail Rate</i>	double the base detail rate

\*Effective 30 days after contract ratification - \$77.50.

Effective July 1, 2026, the base detail rates shall be increased to \$80.00 per hour.

Effective July 1, 2027, the base detail rates shall be increased to \$82.50 per hour.

**Detail & Road Job Descriptions:**

**MUNICIPAL DETAIL** All Municipal Details shall be paid at the employee's overtime rate. Any detail which derives from work conducted by any Town department or through a subcontractor hired by the Town shall be considered a Municipal Detail. Any out of town Police Officer, Auxiliary Officer, Campus Officer, Special Police Officer or Deputy Sheriff will receive straight detail rate of pay and will **NOT** be paid at weekend, holiday or overtime rate of detail pay.

July 4th Details – All Bridgewater police officers working July 4th events (whether on that

date or postponed), including but not limited to the carnival, parade and fireworks, shall be paid at Time and One Half of the officer's Hourly Rate of Pay or the base Detail Rate above, whichever is greater.

**ROAD JOB DETAIL** A road job will be defined as any detail in which a police officer has to direct traffic on any public way within the borders of Bridgewater during maintenance or construction of roadways and property which immediately abuts such roadway. Any road job paid by a private vendor which is not a municipal agency shall be paid at detail rate with a 4-hour minimum. Any road job that goes over four (4) hours shall receive a minimum eight (8) hours pay. Road jobs beyond eight (8) hours will be compensated hour for hour at time and one half the detail rate.

**PRIVATE EVENT DETAIL** Any event paid by a private vendor which is not a municipal agency shall be paid at detail rate with a 4-hour minimum. Events worked beyond 4 hours will be paid by each additional hour. Any part of an hour worked is additional hour compensation. For purposes of definition, a "***PRIVATE EVENT***" will be defined as any event which does not include maintenance or construction of roadways and property which immediately abuts the roadway. Any out-of-town Police Officer, Auxiliary Officer, Campus Officer, Special Police Officer or Deputy Sheriff will receive straight detail rate of pay and will **NOT** be paid at weekend, holiday or overtime rate of detail pay.

**STRIKE DETAIL** Double the detail rate of pay shall be paid for officers hired for details at union picket lines or labor strikes.

There will be a four (4) hour minimum. Road jobs beyond four (4) hours will be compensated eight (8) hours. Details and Road jobs beyond eight (8) hours will be compensated hour for hour at time and one-half the detail rate.

Any Officer working a Road Job that goes over four (4) hours shall receive a minimum of eight (8) hours' pay. Road jobs beyond eight (8) hours will be compensated hour for hour at time and one half.

Road Jobs that are called in after 8:00 p.m. the day prior to the detail is scheduled to start, shall pay a minimum of eight (8) hours pay. Road jobs that are requested as an immediate response, for any reason, shall pay a minimum of eight (8) hours pay. Municipal Details and Private Event Details shall be exempt from this provision.

Road Jobs worked on a Saturday will be paid at time and one-half detail rate. Road Jobs worked on Sundays and holidays will be paid double time detail rate.

Road Jobs worked between the hours of 6pm and 6am will be paid at time and one-half detail rate.

Any detail cancelled within two (2) hours of the scheduled start time, shall be paid with a 4-hour minimum.

10. Amendment to Article XIX Compensation: Strike out first two paragraphs and replace with the following:

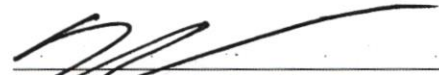
*All full-time employees who work any hours between 4 PM and 8 AM shall receive a shift differential for those hours equal to:*

*07/01/2003 - 8.0% of the employee's base salary as listed above.*

*This shift differential shall be exclusive of educational benefits, is not to be considered as part of an employee's base salary but shall be calculated and paid on a prorated hourly basis.*

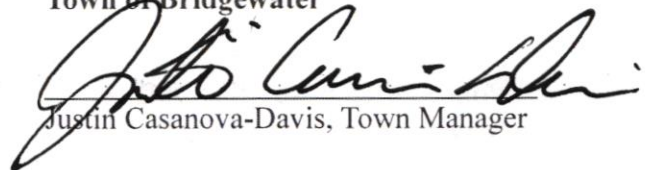
Signed on this 17 day of March, 2026.

Bridgewater Police Association, MCOP 397

  
Matthew Lynch, President

  
Ryan Swart, Vice President

Town of Bridgewater

  
Justin Casanova-Davis, Town Manager

Memorandum of Agreement  
between the Bridgewater Police Relief Association, MCOP Local 397  
and  
The Town of Bridgewater

**July 1, 2027, to June 30, 2028**

This Memorandum of Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into on this 17 day of March, 2026, between the Town of Bridgewater ("Town") and the Bridgewater Police Relief Association, MCOP local 397 ("Association"). This Agreement succeeds the previous agreement, dated July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2027. Unless changed by this Agreement, all provisions of the prior agreement remain in place. This Agreement and the terms herein are subject to ratification by the Association and Town.

1. Increase of wages (COLA) under Article XIX Compensation:

07/01/2027 base wage increase of 1.5%

2. Increase of wage steps, under Article XIX Compensation, effective 7/1/27:

a. Wage Step 10 base wage increase of 0.5%

b. Wage Step 15 base wage increase of 0.5%

c. Wage Step 20 base wage increase of 0.5%

3. Effective July 1, 2027, In recognition of the certification requirements of the Massachusetts Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission to ensure the professionalism of the Bridgewater Police Department, each officer shall receive annually ~~\$750~~ to be paid one-half in the second payroll in December and the other half in the second payroll in June of each fiscal year. This compensation shall be included in base pay for all purposes.

4. Increase in Detail wages, under Article XIX Compensation, including:

Effective 7/1/27, detail rates shall be as follows:

**DETAIL RATES**

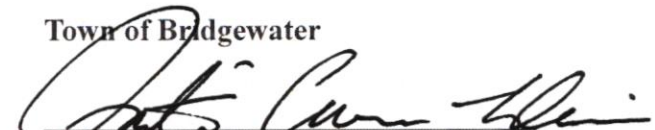
	7/1/27
<i>Base Detail Rate (Road Job &amp; Private Event)</i>	<b>\$82.50 per hour</b>
<i>Saturdays and 6pm – 6AM</i>	<b>one and one half base detail rate (\$123.75/hour)</b>
<i>Sundays and Holidays</i>	<b>double the base detail rate (\$165/hour)</b>
<i>Municipal Detail Rate</i>	<b>Employee's overtime rate</b>
<i>Strike Detail Rate</i>	<b>double the base detail rate (\$165/hour)</b>

Signed on this 17 day of March, 2026.

Bridgewater Police Association, MCOP 397

  
Matthew Lynch, President

Town of Bridgewater

  
Justin Casanova-Davis, Town Manager

  
Ryan Swart, Vice President



# Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager  
 Date Introduced: 4/7/2026  
 First Reading: 4/7/2026  
 Second Reading:  
 Amendments Adopted:  
 Third Reading:  
 Date Adopted:  
 Date Effective:

## Order O-FY26-059: Bridgewater Police Relief Assoc, MCOP Local 397 Collective Bargaining Agreement Contract Appropriation Transfer

**ORDERED**, Pursuant to Section 6-4 of the Town of Bridgewater Charter, that the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to appropriate and transfer from below schedule Source of Funds to below schedule Use of Funds:

FUND	SOURCES OF FUNDING			AMOUNT
0100 DEPT 133	WAGE ADJ	WAGE ADJUSTMENTS CBA	01335001-578012	\$135,715.00
8013 OOTS	PRIOR YEAR	OTHER ONE TIME STAB FUND	80135-596100	\$118,985.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$254,700.00</b>
DEPT	USES OF FUNDING			AMOUNT
210-POLICE	FY25 PY	02105001-510001	PRIOR YEAR RETRO	\$118,985.00
210-POLICE	FY26 BUA	02105001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	\$135,715.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$254,700.00</b>

Description: Settlement-Bridgewater Police Relief Assoc.MCOP Local 397-CBA July 1,2024 - June 30,2027

### Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING  
 REFER TO BUDGET & FINANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Attachments:           None



# Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager  
 Date Introduced: 4/7/2026  
 First Reading: 4/7/2026  
 Second Reading:  
 Amendments Adopted:  
 Third Reading:  
 Date Adopted:  
 Date Effective:

## Order O-FY26-060: FY2026 Wage Adjustment Budget Transfers

**ORDERED**, that the Town Council assembled vote to

Pursuant to Section 6-4 of the Town of Bridgewater Charter, that the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to appropriate and transfer to and from the attached schedule.

**Explanation:**

*FY2026 USW, Non-Union, Library Budget transfers from Wage Adjustment account.*

**Committee Referrals and Dispositions:**

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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•	•
•	•

Attachments: 1. Copy of SOURCES AND USES USW - NonUnion CBA WAGE ADJUSTMENT FY26

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING  
 REFER TO BUDGET & FINANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

DEPT		SOURCES OF FUNDING		Amount
133	WAGE ADJ	WAGE ADJUSTMENTS CBA	01335001-578012	\$ 118,059.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$ 118,059.00</b>
DEPT	CBA	USES OF FUNDING		Amount
TOWN COUNCIL	NON UNION	01115001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	1,595.00
ACCOUNTANT	NON UNION	01355001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	10,740.00
ASSESSORS	USW	01415001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	10,051.00
TREASR/COLLECT	USW	01455001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	10,625.00
HR	NON UNION	01525001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	3,030.00
IT	USW	01555001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	2,821.00
TOWN CLERK	USW	01615001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	7,442.00
CED	USW	01825001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	3,987.00
TOWN BLDG	NON UNION	01925001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	897.00
POLICE	NON UNION	02105001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	13,239.00
FIRE	NON UNION	02205001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	7,854.00
ISD	USW	02405001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	12,427.00
ENGINEERING	USW	04105001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	2,612.00
HIGHWAY	USW/NON UNION	04205001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	6,608.00
HEALTH	USW	05105001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	1,411.00
COA	USW	05415001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	5,383.00
VETERAN'S	USW	05435001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	1,836.00
LIBRARY	NON UNION	06105001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	2,413.00
LIBRARY	BPLSA	06105001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	6,575.00
RECREATION	USW	06305001-510000	FULL TIME WAGES	6,513.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$ 118,059.00</b>



# Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Paul Murphy, Councilor  
 Date Introduced: 4/7/2026  
 First Reading: 4/7/2026  
 Second Reading:  
 Amendments Adopted:  
 Third Reading:  
 Date Adopted:  
 Date Effective:

## Resolution R-FY26-009: A Resolution in Recognition of Pride Month

**Whereas**, since 2016, Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights (BCCR) has worked alongside the Town of Bridgewater to foster a community rooted in equal rights, inclusion, and mutual respect; and

**Whereas**, since 2021, the Town Council has affirmed these values by issuing annual Resolutions declaring Bridgewater a welcoming community – where all individuals, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identity, can live free from hatred, harassment, and violence; and

**Whereas**, for five consecutive years, the Bridgewater Town Council have further demonstrated their commitment by voting to raise the Pride Flag and participate in a ceremony that has been a meaningful affirmation of support, drawing community members, families, and allies together; and

**Whereas**, the Town of Bridgewater has made great strides in demonstrating support for the LGBTQ+ community, our friends, family members, and neighbors continue to face rising levels of hateful rhetoric; and

**Whereas**, it is essential that the Town of Bridgewater remain a community of safety, acceptance, and unwavering support for all.

**Be it resolved**, that the Bridgewater Town Council proclaims the Pride Flag will be flown from June 1, 2026, until June 15, 2026 at the Bridgewater Public Library.

### Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
•	•

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

•	•
•	•

Attachments:

1. Pride Flag Photo
2. Pride Letter 2026-2





<https://www.bccrcivilrights.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/BridgewaterCommForCivilRights>  
[bridgewatercommforcivilrights@gmail.com](mailto:bridgewatercommforcivilrights@gmail.com)

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March 25, 2026

Members of the Town Council  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Subject: Raising of the Pride Flag & a Resolution in Honor of Pride Month, June 1–15,  
2026 according to Ordinance D-FY21-007

Dear Members of the Town Council:

Since 2016, Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights (BCCR) has worked alongside the Town of Bridgewater to foster a community rooted in equal rights, inclusion, and mutual respect. Since 2021, the Town Council has affirmed these values by issuing annual Resolutions declaring Bridgewater a welcoming community - where all individuals, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identity, can live free from hatred, harassment, and violence.

For five consecutive years, the elected leaders of our Town have further demonstrated their commitment by voting to raise the Pride Flag. This ceremony has been a visible, meaningful affirmation of support, drawing community members, families, and allies together in celebration.

As we approach Pride Month 2026, we respectfully request that the Town Council:

- Issue a Resolution in honor of Pride Month to reaffirm Bridgewater's commitment to inclusion and equality
- Support the raising of the Pride Flag on Monday, June 1, at 3:30 pm, with the flag remaining in place until June 15
- Attend a brief ceremony at the time of the flag raising.

We invite you to read the Town Council's Resolution at that time and celebrate the beginning of Pride Month with us, continuing this important tradition and standing in solidarity with all residents of Bridgewater.

Bridgewater has demonstrated its commitment to being a welcoming and inclusive community for all, including our LGBTQ+ friends, family members, and neighbors. At a time when hateful rhetoric is rising nationwide, our town's visible and consistent support sends a powerful message about who we are and what we stand for. It is important that Bridgewater continue to lead with the same spirit of safety, acceptance, and unwavering support that has become part of our community identity.

We appreciate your leadership and look forward to your positive response.

As mandated by the Town's General Ordinance D-FY21-007, a photograph of the Pride Flag is included with this request.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights, Pride Flag Committee:*

Cristina Ajemian

Jenise Campbell-Means

Kayla DeFino

David Michael

Laurene Powers



# Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Paul Murphy, Councilor  
 Date Introduced: 4/7/2026  
 First Reading: 4/7/2026  
 Second Reading:  
 Amendments Adopted:  
 Third Reading:  
 Date Adopted:  
 Date Effective:

## Resolution R-FY26-010: A Resolution Honoring Juneteenth

**Whereas**, since 2016, Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights (BCCR) has worked alongside the Town of Bridgewater to foster a community rooted in equal rights, inclusion, and mutual respect; and

**Whereas**, In May 2021, the Town of Bridgewater designated June 19th (Juneteenth) a Town Holiday and every year since then, The Town Council has supported the raising of the Juneteenth flag, and,

**Whereas**, since 2021, Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights, the First Parish Bridgewater Unitarian Universalist Church, and the Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice have worked together to host powerful Juneteenth celebrations, with the support of the Town of Bridgewater, the Bridgewater Public Library, and the broader communities; and

**Whereas**, the Juneteenth Committee remains dedicated to hosting Juneteenth 2026 at University Park on the grounds of Bridgewater State University, on June 13; and

**Be it resolved**, that the Bridgewater Town Council declares June 13, 2026 a day of commemoration and celebration; and

**Be it further resolved**, that the Juneteenth Flag will be flown from June 15, 2026 until June 30, 2026 at the Bridgewater Public Library.

### Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
•	•

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

•	•
•	•

Attachments:           None



## Bridgewater Town Council

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Introduced By: Marilee Hunt  
Date Introduced: 4/7/2026  
First Reading: 4/7/2026  
Second Reading:  
Amendments Adopted:  
Third Reading:  
Date Adopted:  
Date Effective:

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### **Resolution R-FY26-011: A Resolution of the Bridgewater Town Council Supporting House Bill H.91 and Senate Bill S.2556, An Act to Modernize Funding for Community Media Programming**

**WHEREAS**, for numerous years the Town of Bridgewater and its Access Corporation have enjoyed the benefit of a strong partnership with a resourceful community media center, Bridgewater Community Access Corporation (BTV); and

**WHEREAS**, BTV has provided live-streamed television coverage of Town Council meetings and has also offered on-demand archived programming, local school sports, and community events at no cost to viewers; and

**WHEREAS**, Town officials and staff rely on BTV for real-time meeting coverage as well as the ability to access video recordings of meetings and events; and

**WHEREAS**, in recent years more residents have transitioned from traditional cable television to streaming services, resulting in a steady decline in cable franchise revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, streaming companies are not currently required to contribute to the support of local community media programming even though they utilize the same broadband infrastructure as cable providers;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Bridgewater Town Council hereby formally endorses and adopts the letter attached hereto addressed to the State Representative and State Senator regarding this matter; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Bridgewater Town Council affirms its unwavering commitment to maintaining the same level of Community Access Television services for the Town of Bridgewater.

#### **Committee Referrals and Dispositions:**

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

Attachments:

1. Letter in Support of House Bill H.91 to Senator Driscoll and Rep Gallagher

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

Johnny Loreti  
Councilor-At-Large  
President

Mary McGrath  
Councilor-At-Large  
Vice President

Mark Linde  
District 2 Councilor

Adelene Ellenberg  
Councilor-At-Large

# Town of Bridgewater

## OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL



Paul Murphy  
Councilor-At-Large

Sean Kennedy  
District 3 Councilor

Dr. Kevin Perry  
Councilor-At-Large

Marilee Hunt  
Councilor-At-Large

DATE

The Honorable William J. Driscoll, Jr.  
Massachusetts State Senate  
State House, Room 507  
Boston, MA 02133

Dennis C. Gallagher  
State Representative – 8<sup>th</sup> Plymouth District  
24 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Senator Driscoll and Representative Gallagher:

We, the elected Town Council of Bridgewater, write unitedly supporting the passage of House Bill H. 91 and Senate Bill S.2556—An Act to Modernize Funding for Community Media Programming.

For numerous years the Town of Bridgewater and its Access Corporation have enjoyed the benefit of a strong partnership and resourceful community media center, our Bridgewater Community Access Corporation (BTV).

For many, many years, BTV has not only provided live-streamed television coverage of our Council meetings, but has offered the same as on-demand, archived programming ----all at no cost to viewers. We, as Town officials, and our staff, gratefully rely on BTV for full “at the moment” meeting coverage AS WELL AS the capacity to access video recordings of the same.

In recent years, however, more citizens have been moving from cable television to streaming services and, thus, the cable franchise revenue steadily declines. Streaming companies use the same broadband infrastructure as Cable but are not currently required to contribute to the support of local community media programming.

**H.91 and S.2556 are designed to correct that imbalance and help stabilize funding for community media centers like BTV.**

Funding from the proposed legislation will not completely replace existing cable franchise revenue, but it will help and allow Bridgewater Community Access Corporation to continue operating well into the future, by providing a predictable and sustainable source of support.

Thus, we ask you to endorse H. 91 and S. 2556---An Act to Modernize Funding for Community Media Programming.

Sincerely:

---

Johnny Loretta, Council President  
Councilor at Large

---

Mary McGrath, Council Vice President  
Councilor at Large

---

Adelene Ellenberg,  
Councilor at Large

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Marilee Kenney Hunt  
Councilor at Large

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Sean Kennedy  
Councilor District 3

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Mark Linde  
Councilor District 2

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Paul Murphy  
Councilor at Large

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Dr. Kevin Perry  
Councilor at Large