



## 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.

**In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.**