



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

April 7, 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, April 7, 2026 in the Council Chambers.

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

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

Council President Loreti noted that 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 10, 2026 Town Council Meeting Minutes
Councilor Kennedy made a motion to approve the March 10, 2026 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

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

- b) March 17, 2026 Town Council Meeting Minutes
Councilor Perry made a motion to approve the March 17, 2026 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.

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

- c) March 26, 2026 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes
Councilor Perry made a motion to approve the March 26, 2026 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Councilor Loreti noted that the deadline for submission for the Charter Review committee has passed and the committee will be ratified at an upcoming Town Council meeting.

Councilor Loreti noted that he had direct conversation with members of the Middleboro Selectboard to address their concerns about the water agreement. Tonight we will discuss the path going forward and Thursday we will be holding a Special Town Council meeting. Assure everyone that Bridgewater and Middleboro are aligned and do what is best for the community.

Reminded everyone on the annual clean-up. Saturday, April 18th at 10am. Lake Nip, Carvers Pond and Town River Landing (meeting spot). Councilor Loreti introduced Sofia who is a Senior at BSU who is organizing the clean-up for her class project. There will be a gathering after the clean-up at Town River Landing.

First Responder Day is Saturday, April 25th at Town River Landing. Al Lacerda does a great job putting that on. Also Annual election day.

Recognized and commended Greg Martin, Veterans Agent on their community fundraising for the unveiling of the Veterans monument at the middle school.

Asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Steve Donohue, who served on the school committee, who recently passed away.

PROCLAMATIONS

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- Chris Ajamain, 221 Aldrich: read a letter into the record regarding Juneteenth festivities and the raising of the Juneteenth flag at the Town Library. Noted that Bridgewater is not the only town dealing with the teacher issues and we need to work together for an override.
- Tim Trocchio, 16 Cassidy Place: spoke about 22J Hero Act and how this is a small token for veterans service.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: what does new hook-ups mean? Up to a year? Needs to be clarified? Missing docs seem to be a major issue.
- Ashley Mallard, Grange Park: Bridgewater has cut all of the cheapest teachers. Teachers do not get paid overtime and they work overtime. Other departments get paid overtime. Revenue is not there for services. 75% of the staff are on the top of the salary scale. No step raises for 20 plus years. Insurance goes up faster than cola. We did this two years ago and everyone dragged their feet, no one else took the cuts. Look at other town services.
- Christine Smith, Gatsby Drive: shout washer sheets from the washer were brown what is going to happen after flushing.
- Melissa Ramondetta, 317 Lakeside Drive: March 3rd public comment followed by a March 4th email to the Town Council and she has still not heard anything.
- Greg Martin, High Street: thanked the community for showing up for the Vietnam Veteran dedication and memorial.
- John Donna, 261 South Street: spoke about the stipend on the ballot, supports the stipend, there is a lot of work being done by this council.

- James Walsh, 60 Crescent Street: spoke about a residential tax rate break and if town considering it. Concerned as a taxpayer that we do not have documentation if sued.
- Frank Sousa, Main Street: noted that sewer and water users are the only ones paying for sewer and water.

APPOINTMENTS - None

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- a) Petition P-2026-021: Request to Amend Common Victualler License - Smit Bev Inc. dba Tropical Smoothie
Petitioner Smit Patel noted that he submitted a change in hours to 24/7 because of requests from customers.

Councilor Kennedy asked Mr. Patel if there was a demand for those hours and Mr. Patel noted that there was a demand.

After further discussion Councilor Linde asked if it was possible to allow Chief Delmonte to speak on his input.

Chief Delmonte noted that he sent a letter of opposition because of congregating in that area at night. He noted that the business owner has not reached out to him to discuss. Does not see the benefit of a 24/7 license for the community.

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to approve the 24/7 request for Smit Bev dba Tropical Smoothie, which was duly seconded by Councilor Ellenberg.

A Roll Call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – No; Loreti – No; Perry – No; Murphy – No; Hunt – No; Linde – Yes. Motion fails 3-5

PRESENTATIONS - None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Prison Mitigation Fund
Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that Towns did not get prison mitigation funding in this budget and several Town Managers sent a letter to the State regarding this. Typically we get \$200k. Will keep the Council updated.
- b) Water Update
Town Manager Casanova-Davis gave a presentation with slides:
Prior to October 2025 was using Well 10b to supplement the demand of the system. During times when low 10b would be activated to meet the demand and also to replenish the tanks.

Since coming to Bridgewater my mission was what can we do to not activate that well. Worked with the team to see if we can do a interconnection, that was the in the Water Action Plan – not done in 2024 or 2025 that was the decisions made then. We self-petitioned for an emergency declaration and partnered with Middleboro and we thank them for their collaboration.

Where we are: town established an interconnection with Middleboro; have not activated well 10b; not allowing new tie ins for non-approved projects during this period.

From January until now we redeveloped well #3 which redeveloped the capacity of the well. Redeveloped Well #6 which increased the capacity of the well. Performed routine maintenance on well #5 and #8. It allowed us to evaluate the best path forward to bring wells 10a and 10b on line.

Moving forward with Plymouth Street well construction, submitted a grant request that is under review by the EPA; applied for SR funding from the State but we were not approved; currently conducting flushing to remove sediment from the mains.

Where we are going: construct treatment vessels to allow wells 10a and 10b to be utilized to increase water capacity. Will continue to advocate for Federal and State resources to mitigate costs. Actively working on seeking PFAs settlement funds. Talking with the EPA about additional funding for infrastructure programs. PFAs low interest loan funding. Exploring future water supply.

Water Superintendent Bill Young noted that some areas are more affected by brown water because of the way they are serviced, less flow goes to that side of town. Highest demand users are Broad Street and down towards 24. Flushing is currently being done. High Street Treatment Plant moving East.

Councilor Kennedy asked why do we flush hydrants at night and if the storage tanks are at a safe capacity to do the flushing. Mr. Young noted that staffing operations and when our systems start to replenish, we counteract what we use during the day and that the storage tanks are at a safe capacity.

Councilor Kennedy asked where we are today for the pumping numbers and Mr. Young noted that today we pulled 1.33M gallons out of the ground. Councilor Kennedy asked if that is due to the demand for today or what is the current capacity to pump out of those, is that the max capacity. Mr. Young noted that is the maximum capacity to pump out of those but right now we are also in a situation where we are filling out tanks and flushing and we also had a fire today that was also a factor in the daily operations.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis spoke about tuberculation because when you look at the Water Master Plan and look at capacity you see capacity significantly higher vs what the actual capacity is and one of the things that we are grappling with now is tuberculation and the Carvers Pond Wells.

Mr. Young noted that the way the system runs now is they all run off of transmission mains, meaning water goes in, it's blended and then treated all at the same time. Right now it seems at Carvers Pond we are having an issue with wells competing with each other to try to push the water to the facility. Bought in an engineer firm to come and look at opportunities to be able to mitigate that situation, whether it's to replace the water main, clean the water main and things of that nature. Well 5 that we have referenced in the past that has not had a good development might have been a great redevelopment, great redrill we just don't know because of the tuberculation that is going on within that water system on the raw transmission side.

Councilor Linde made a motion to extend the meeting past 10pm, 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 – No; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yes. Motion passes: 7-1

Councilor Loreti noted that he would like to see a side by side version of design capacity versus operational capacity so we can understand budget actuals versus to identify where we are at and fully understand.

Councilor Kennedy asked if we sent cameras down the pipes and Mr. Young noted that is the next step we are going to take.

Councilor Perry noted that when we start flushing how much brown water should the general public be dealing with and how long will it last. Mr. Young noted that it depends on the service area, how bad the water main is, sediment in the system and type of pipe in that area. Hopefully it is within 15 to 20 minutes running your cold faucet after flushing.

Councilor Perry asked if the East side of town will see an improvement after the flushing and Mr. Young noted that they should.

Councilor Murphy noted that a few citizens have asked about vacuuming tanks, why aren't we doing it, what should be the process. Mr. Young noted that we have not had the capacity of being able to pump out of the ground. So when you go and do tank work you take it off-line and once you put something inside the tank it could potentially cause a bacteria. It takes approximately 3 to 5 days just to get a sample where we just don't have the water capacity to be able to be pulled out of the ground to do something like that. That is what we are looking to do with the projects that we are working on.

Councilor Murphy asked how often that happens in a normal case and when was the last time the town has done that. Mr. Young noted usually every 3 years and 2021 is the last time the town did that.

Councilor Murphy asked if the cause has been determined for wells 10a and 10b for the rising levels. Mr. Young noted that it is a number of factors. The years of service it has been there, ground water quality that is there, the soils that are in the ground. These other wells already had filtration systems in place, so just looking at a raw water sample of the iron or manganese. Councilor Murphy further noted that in the past two years the numbers have gone up and Mr. Young noted that that is why we are in the process of moving those wells to the High Street Treatment facility.

Councilor Murphy asked what the vessels are going to treat. Mr. Young noted that the green sand vessels will treat manganese and iron and have the carbon PFAs units that will treat for the PFAs.

Councilor Murphy asked how that connects to the High Street Treatment Plant. Mr. Young noted that it does not connect to the treatment plant. It is one water system but two totally separate treatment systems.

Councilor Murphy asked about the purchasing of the vessels, will an appropriation be brought forward to the Town Council. Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that there is a \$2M grant that we receive and the Council has done a few appropriations for loan authorizations. \$7M that was directly for the main High Street Treatment plant and will look to the bond counsel to see if that language is okay for this work. Also did a \$1.5M loan authorization that is sufficient to do some of this work. Went out to bid and got that bid information.

Finance Director Laurie Guerrini noted that one a Loan Authorization is approved a special fund is created and all the expenses for that project are segregated to that fund.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that the water being purchased from Middleboro is being kept in a segmented fund because we are going after PFAs litigation. Received some PFAS funds, retained earnings funds, this council changed the rates. Could be some cost recovery.

Councilor Murphy noted that BSU is paying more in water and sewer rates since the Town Council raised the rates, shifting the burden to heavier users.

Councilor Loreti noted that we want to have foresight now because it was not done in the past, are these wells worth the project, worth developing. Mr. Young noted that the wells are worth the project and starting to move and break ground.

Councilor McGrath asked how long it was going to take for the treatment vessels to be up and running and Mr. Young noted that right now by June 29th.

Councilor McGrath asked if Mr. Young if he thought wells 10a and 10b were contaminated and Mr. Young noted that they are no different than any other well. It is all just different levels of the same contaminants.

Councilor McGrath noted that the Vernon Street permits were expired and Mr. Young noted that they are still active and are still on the water management act.

Councilor McGrath asked if a treatment vessel will be put at Vernon Street and Mr. Young noted potentially yes, that will be the next step once we finish 10a and 10b.

Councilor Linde noted that the information is complexed and he learns something new at every meeting. Residents are concerned, there is a lot of freedom of information act going on, is there a better way to educate the public.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that we want to be as transparent and clear as possible and there is a lot of information. We are creating a water dashboard specifically for the website for an update on water projects. It will say what the drought status is, updates on where we are at, what has been completed, what is in the planning process, will put images on there. We will keep residents as up to date as possible. Will be the central area where people will get that information.

Councilor Murphy asked if we purchase the vessels for 10a and 10b and decide that 10a and/or 10b have to be taken off-line, can those vessels move to Vernon street or a different well location.

Mr. Young noted that he is not an engineer so he would refer to Azu to respond.

DPW Director Azu Etoniru noted that over the last few years when turning on wells 10a and 10b the tanks filled up quickly, which means they have very good volume of water. The problem with 10a and 10b is back when it was done 10/20 years ago it was built without a filtration and does not know the rationale for this. Bridgewater has very high iron content so those wells were not being treated before the water got into the distribution system. We saw in Mr. Young the ability to figure out treatment. High Street plant was started and constructed before EPA came out with mandate for

PFA's treatments, so we still have to upgrade treatment plant and High Street. The beauty for the vessels for 10a and 10b is very cost effective way of treating water and getting into the system. Will give the other wells the ability to rest once back on-line. Do not see where 10a and 10b will not work. Tuberculation is the inside of the pipe and get weaker with age. Engineering will be replacing some of those pipes.

Councilor Ellenberg asked how many miles of pipe have to be replaced. Mr. Etoniru noted that he was talking about the pipes that go from the wells to the treatment plant not to the homes. Approximately 400 feet at Carvers Pond and the cost is about \$400k.

Councilor Kennedy asked if Mr. Young was in constant communication with BSU regarding their water usage. Mr. Etoniru noted that BSU has a power plant at the university and every year they have to power down and drain that. Last year they did not notify the town when they were doing that work. We have communicated with them that they cannot do that work unless they speak with the town.

Councilor Kennedy asked about the well heads on 10a and 10b and looked at the map and there is some encroachment on that, is this being looked into by the town. Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted yes it is being looked into.

Councilor Kennedy asked about the bidding process during the emergency and if the information was available on-line. Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that went for a bid process and had one bidder that withdrew because of the timeframe so did another bid. Contacted 8 DCAM certified contractors; notified them of the project, got 3 bidders and we have that information and will put the information dashboard. We received a waiver from DCAM for the procurement process.

Councilor Loreti asked if we applied for the state revolving funds in 2025. Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted the town did apply but did not qualify, the program is over prescribed.

Councilor Loreti noted that there has been concern that tanks are not at a safe level and asked Mr. Young to speak about it. Mr. Young noted that would like to keep around 80% depending on system operations and the daily demand. Have not seen that since he has been here.

Councilor Loreti asked what the town has gone up to since connecting to Middleboro and Mr. Young noted that he does not think he should say because it is critical infrastructure, security risk.

DISCUSSIONS

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

Councilor Loreti noted that we have the school committee/district and the Finance Committee in attendance and asked that Discussions be taken out of turn.

Councilor Perry made a motion to take J. Discussions out of order, which was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.

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

Councilor Loreti opened the floor to the School Committee to speak.

Superintendent Powers thanked the town council for inviting the group to the table and to work together to come together for the students and the staff.

Rachel King Chair of the School Committee noted that this is a difficult budget but we want to work together for the benefit of the students. Have had cuts for two years in a row and feel that this is as far as we can go. This would restore 10 classroom teacher positions. Classroom sizes are high, has been challenging for students, families and teachers. 10 positions are critical positions and High School is facing accreditation.

School Committee Member Michael Losche noted that he wanted to reiterate this was a difficult discussion, there was a lot of back and forth. Took a lot of convincing to get to 10. This could provide some relief at the high school.

School Committee Member Hoy noted that if you are not angry at what is happening at the schools then you are not understanding what is happening. This is state wide. We need to pass this budget.

MJ Spagone, Finance Committee Chair noted that she understands how serious the situation is and the level of funding. Need to work together to find a solution which may not be the best outcome. Need to do what is best for the residents of the town.

John Higgins, Finance Committee Member asked what the process is and Ms. King explained how the budget is approved and if not approved how it is amended or if not amended.

Councilor Loreti noted that he would like to have a joint meeting with the Finance Committee once the budget is presented at the 4/14 Town Council meeting and referred.

Superintendent Powers noted that the assessment to the towns are driven by enrollment as of October 1st. How many are from Bridgewater and how many are from Raynham. Usually a 60/40 split.

Ms. King noted that the preliminary budget presented by Superintendent Powers in January has not changed. To be successful with all of the students across the district we would need this budget. We know both towns are having challenges but our job is to help the students.

Ms. Dana Sullivan, Finance Committee Member asked if Chapter 70 funds change does that ease the burden on the towns? Superintendent Powers noted that the School Committee would need to vote.

Mr. Rigobert Noel, Finance Committee Member noted that he has a child that is a sophomore and are we thinking about other ways about educating our kids. Private funding, governor, curious to know if these are conversations that are happening, feels like we are kicking the can down main street and will have a gap year after year.

Superintendent Powers noted that the High School took a hit last year and trying to come up with ways to get the best for the students. Working with BSU, Massasoit, Bristol College, offering dual enrollment programs. Entire business department is gone.

Mr. Noel noted that Massachusetts is a hub for corporate partners and is this something that should be looked into. Are there ways to partner with them.

Ms. King noted that this is the public school system in our town and if the state is not going to step in and help fund the school then it falls on the town and the taxpayers and if the towns are not paying the taxes for a better education for the students or services that is the level of services you will get in the town. We are using every penny we have and it is not enough.

MJ Spagone noted that we need to think outside the box and think of new ways to address the shortfall we are facing.

Mr. Losche noted that the Town of Bridgewater is not the only town with this issue and a corporate partnership is not a long term substantiable plan. It has become obvious that we do not have enough money to fund this town and if anyone thinks that their current taxes is enough it is not.

Councilor Ellenberg noted we need to ask BSU to send their teaching interns over to our classes for credit and put an extra adult in the classroom.

Superintendent Powers noted that BSU and the District already have a great partnership but some students may choose to go to Easton or East Bridgewater. Yes benefit to have another adult in the classroom but that adult needs to have a level of training and experience because the teacher needs to work with both of them.

Councilor Ellenberg asked how many students are doing internships with the system? Superintendent Powers noted that he does not have that number but will get it to Councilor Ellenberg.

Superintendent Powers noted that in June of 2025 we were looking at losing positions but not all of the positions. Plus had retirees and would not fill. Desi does not take into consideration all of the certified staff. The numbers of different. Budget document represents all of the employees, nurses, special ed, etc.

Councilor Loreti noted that we are asking for 10 more teaching positions but from how many. Are we working with 302 or 312. Need to understand so I can advocate for that.

Councilor Linde noted that we do not know yet what the town side is yet. Looks like reduction in hours, closures of buildings, our Town Manager decided not to take his Cola. What is the teacher increase on the Colas for the current contract? Superintendent Powers noted that they are currently in a 3 year contract, year 1 was 2%, year 2 was a split so 2 ½% and 2 ½ % in the 3rd year. This was after the year before getting a zero cost of living increase.

Councilor Linde questioned why the Superintendent accepted a raise and hired an assistant Superintendent. Ms. King noted that Mr. Powers is running the large district with a small office and he needed an assistant. He received a raise because his pay was well under by other districts and

school superintendents in general. If he left we would have to do a search and we would have to pay more.

Councilor McGrath asked about the IDA Grants and the amount that goes to the teachers yearly. Superintendent Powers noted that he does not have that number but he can get it.

Councilor McGrath asked is it true that the School Committee voted to not allow students outside the district to attend the high school? Superintendent Powers noted that yes for this year the School Committee did vote not to participate in the school choice program for students coming into the district.

Councilor Kennedy noted that multiples councilors and school committee members have gone to the State to speak about Chapter 70 funding, teachers went for funding, the state is not funding the schools. Is the state supposed to reimburse 100% for transportation? Superintendent Powers noted that yes the State never made that happen. It is an unfunded mandate.

Councilor Kennedy noted that residents want to know what the long term plan is so students don't go out of district. We have a growth problem, with water and zoning and building. Have long term discussions over staffing and services to plan to save money by spending money.

Councilor Perry noted that there have been great comments and thanked the school committee for their work. Noted that the kids deserve better. We are running into a state problem, they are not doing their job. As President last year I worked to get an override on the table and it failed in both towns. I feel it failed because the contract that came out at the time and residents were asking how money is spent. As a school district you are \$20M behind a school similar size. As a town Bridgewater is \$20M to \$30M behind a town of similar size with the budget those towns have. Fundings for schools come from the state and the town and when the state does not fund it comes from the town. We will need to look at an override to see if the residents want to invest in the education of the students.

b) Middleboro Interconnection Discussion

Meeting was called back to order at 9:04pm.

Council President Loreti noted that he spoke with Middleboro Selectboard member that we will not be moving forward with any new connections and will have an outdoor water ban. There will be a Special Town Council Meeting on Thursday at 7pm in Council Chambers.

Councilor Ellenberg asked if it was going to be clear to BSU about water because residents are offended by BSU watering during a draught. Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that he met with President Clark and their team and we have told them about the watering and they do have some wells of their own.

Councilor Ellenberg asked how much of the water is from their own wells and how much coming from the town and Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that he did not have that information but would get it for the council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Downtown Revitalization

Councilor McGrath noted that the committee met and referred one item - Declaring Blighted area.

Rules and Procedures

Councilor McGrath noted that the committee met and both items were held in the committee.

Town Manager Review

Councilor Perry noted that the Councilors provided the Town Manager performance reviews and they are being combined together by the Town Council Clerk and once complete they will be discussed with the Town Manager.

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.

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to approve Order O-FY26-056, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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

- b) 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.

Councilor Linde made a motion to amend Ordinance D-FY25-019, by removing sponsor Fred Chase and Sonya Striggles and changing all FY26 dates to FY27 dates. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 8-0
Councilor Kennedy made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY25-019, to advertising, this was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

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

- 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.

Councilor Perry made a motion to amend Ordinance D-FY25-020, by changing all FY26 dates to FY27 dates. This was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY25-020, to advertising, this was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

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

- 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.

Councilor Loreti noted that original packet did not have the attachments but they have been added.

Councilor Murphy made a motion to amend Resolution R-FY26-008 to include the attachment. This was duly seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

Councilor Loreti noted that this would lay out what the process would be for the Charter Review Committee with their recommendations.

Councilor McGrath noted that she is not sure in the Charter that this could be done. POW/MIA flag ordinance was in Rules & Procedures for 10 months and was told it could not be taken out.

Councilor Loreti asked if the Resolution could be changed to an Order and Town Attorney Rawlins noted that it cannot be changed. Attorney Rawlins further noted that the Council could bring something back and add it to the Council Rules & Procedures. The council could adopt this as a resolution and consider it a policy of the council as it is laying out some rules.

Councilor Kennedy noted that this could be a large list of items depending on what the Charter Review Committee comes up with. Agree with the intent and would agree to be on the committee to take on Charter changes when they arise.

Councilor McGrath noted that maybe add if something is in a committee for 45 days or more a councilor can ask why it is in a committee.

Town Attorney Rawlins noted that the council already has that process, can call back something at any point and time, the whole Town Council must vote on it to be called back.

Councilor Linde noted that we should look at our own Rules and Procedures of our Council and this might be a better place for it.

Councilor Perry noted that this gives us a framework to work with for the Charter Review Committee.

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

Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Resolution R-FY26-008 but including the attachment. This was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

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

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Order O-F26-057: Acceptance of Grant – Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division
Councilor Perry made a motion to refer Order O-FY26-057 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee. This was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

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

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

Chief Delmonte noted that this was not an easy contract and appreciated the work that went into this.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that he appreciated the collaboration with the police union and thanked them for their cost effective contract with union group.

Councilor Hunt made a motion to refer Order O-FY26-058 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

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

- c) Order O-FY26-059: Bridgewater Police Relief Assoc, MCOP Local 397 Collective Bargaining Agreement Contract Appropriation Transfer
Councilor Perry made a motion to refer Order O-FY26-059 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee. This was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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

- d) Order O-FY26-060: FY2026 Wage Adjustment Budget Transfers
Justin: wage adjustments transfer for FY26 for 48 people.

Councilor Perry made a motion to refer Order O-FY26-060 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee. This was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.

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

- e) Resolution R-FY26-009: A Resolution in Recognition of Pride Month
Councilor Linde made a motion to retain Resolution R-FY26-009 at Town Council. This was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.

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

- f) Resolution R-FY26-010: A Resolution Honoring Juneteenth
Councilor Linde made a motion to retain Resolution R-FY26-010 at Town Council. This was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.

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

- 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
Councilor Linde made a motion to retain Resolution R-FY26-011 at Town Council. This was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Stef D'Melia, Harvest Lane: appreciate that there is transparency, notes it is his understanding that we have major leaks in the town. Have they been found and how many have they been predicting we have lost.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: what is Middleboro's definition of new.
- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: complimented the Town Manager on the simple presentation, thinks there are some numbers there that are being improved and we should see that, hope this calms the information that is being put out on Facebook.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Linde: appreciates all the residents that stayed until the end of the meeting, have too much on some of the agendas and need to look at that going forward. We are showing good faith on this side and do not like to see the other side taking raises.
- Councilor Hunt: attended an event at the Boston Childrens Hospital about toxic items with kids.
- Councilor Murphy: nothing tonight
- Councilor Perry: thanked everyone for coming out, thanked Greg Martin for the work on the Vietnam memorial, great turnout. Thanked the community members who put that together.
- Councilor Ellenberg: Charter Review Committee hope they will consider returning to Open Town meeting.
- Councilor Kennedy: thanked everyone for a productive meeting. Thanked the Finance committee and school committee for joining us.
- Councilor McGrath: Spoke about single stairwells in low income houses
- Councilor Loreti: thanked everyone for coming out tonight. School committee and superintendent. Confident the council and the Town Manager can tackle the challenges.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:38pm.

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, May 5, 2026, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.