



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

July 14, 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) June 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- b) June 30, 2026 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

C. PROCLAMATIONS

D. CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

E. APPOINTMENTS

F. HEARINGS

- a) Order O-FY26-071: Loan Order - Water System Improvments
Public Hearing: Advertised in the 6/29/26 Enterprise.

G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- a) Petition P-2027-001: The Granting of a Common Victualler License - Holbrook Taqueria Inc.
dba Oaxaca Mexican Taqueria, 1440 Pleasant Street

H. PRESENTATIONS

- a) Cultural Council Presentation

I. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Water Update

- b) FY27 Update

J. DISCUSSIONS

- a) Communications Discussion
- b) Legislative Document Tracking System

K. COMMITTEE REPORTS

L. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- a) Petition P-2027-002: Warrant for 2026 State Primary
It is required that the Town Council accepts and approves the Warrant as a matter of record.
- b) Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-007: Bridgewater Town Charter Article II, Legislative Branch, Term Limits
Charter Change Ordinance sent back from State for minor amendment. Voice vote for Amendment and Approval.
- c) Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-009: Bridgewater Town Charter Article III, Elected Officials Recall Provision
Charter change ordinance sent back from the State for minor amendment. Voice vote for Amendment and Approval.
- d) Proposed General Ordinance D-FY26-004: Amendment to Chapter 3, Article II, Section 1 - Business Ethics and Conduct
Voice vote to refer to Advertising. Rules & Procedures voted 3-0 to recommend at their 7/1/26 meeting.
- e) Zoning Ordinance D-FY26-014: Amendments to Central Business District Regulations
Voice vote to refer to advertising.

M. OLD BUSINESS

N. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Proposed Ordinance D-FY27-001: Amend Part II Administrative Code Chapter 2, Article II. Section 24, Order of Business & Agenda
- b) Order O-FY27-007: Acceptance of Gift - Bridgewater State University
- c) Order O-FY27-008: Transfer Order – Community Preservation Committee – Cultural Grant Match for the Town House
- d) Order O-FY27-009: Transfer Order - Library Budget Reallocation
- e) Order O-FY27-010: Transfer Order - Finance Budget Reallocation
- f) Order O-FY27-011: Transfer Order - Funding of Fire Arbitration
- g) Order O-FY27-012: Conservation Restriction - 48 Summer Street

O. CITIZEN COMMENTS

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION

R. ADJOURNMENT



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

June 16, 2026

7:00 PM

66 Central Square

Academy Building

Council Chambers/2nd Floor

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MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Paul Murphy called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:00pm on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 in the Council Chambers.

Present: Sean Kennedy, Adelene Ellenberg, Mary McGrath, Michaela Spagone, Dr. Kevin Perry, Dr. Paul Murphy, Marilee Hunt, Timothy Trocchio and Mark Linde.

Also in attendance was Town Manager Justin Casanova-Davis.

Council President Murphy noted that there were no veteran deaths but held a moment of silence for the veterans and their families.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) June 2, 2026 Meeting Minutes
Councilor Perry made a motion to take Q. Executive Session out of Order. This was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Council President Murphy asked the July 4th Committee to come in front of the Council and noted that the Town is donating \$25k through the Lopicke's Family Trust. Lisa Buzzell-Curley thanked the town and noted that they are still down funding for the fireworks.

Council President Murphy thanked the July 4th Committee for all that they do and asked everyone to donate if they can because it is a great event in town.

PROCLAMATIONS

- a) Harry Bailey
Councilor Hunt introduced Mr. Bailey and asked him to come to the podium and read the proclamation into the record.

Mr. Bailey thanked everyone for the proclamation and noted that he is still working at the Transfer Station but has moved out of town due to health issues.

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- Constance Franciosi, 675 Curve Street: spoke about the library funding and thanked Councilors Trocchio, Spagone and Linde. Spoke about a stand-out on 6/24 from 10am to 11am in front of the Library.
- Danielle O’Liari, Library Board of Trustee: how can we get creative to find answers to a long term solution. Decertification will cost a lot of money to get back and cannot try until 2029. Archivist position of \$25k be kept in the line for salaries; where are the line items in the budget; how are we funding salaries. Not every waiver will get approved. Take money already allocated to library budget and put towards the salaries.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: spoke about many towns being in a drought and residents need to conserve using water; also noted that the water issues are being worked on, does not seem like it but they are. Are the sewers able to handle the influx of the building? Maybe the Town Manager can address at the next meeting. Agree on the amendments to the CRC ordinances.
- Sam Baumgarten, 60 Short Street: spoke about the Pride and Juneteenth Flag raising and the Juneteenth event that took place at BSU. Great speakers, elegant and meaningful speakers.
- 54 Somers Drive: 2019 moved here; noted that there are families outside with signs in favor of the Library. Library is a lifeline; future, where people go with their kids.
- Zoey, 211 Flagg Street: noted how important the Library was to the community, people go there to get their school work done; kids can read books, if we don’t have funding kids lose access to that.
- Rachel Nickerson, 1776 South Street: home school mom of 3 and her children check out hundreds of books a year; 2 years ago we went to over 100 libraries in the State and nearby States; let’s get creative and fund the Library that is so essential to the community.

APPOINTMENTS

- a) Energy Committee: Will Longo (2026 - 2029)
Councilor Perry made a motion to appoint Will Longo to the Energy Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Spagone.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- b) Board of Health: Joseph Sacco (2026 - 2029)
Councilor Spagone made a motion to appoint Joseph Sacco to the Board of Health, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

c) Town Council Re-Appointment:

Finance Committee: Christopher Raymond (2026 - 2029)

Councilor Spagone made a motion to re-appoint Christopher Raymond to the Finance Committee.

This was duly seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

d) Reappointments:

- Elder Affairs Commission: Nick Bagas (2026 - 2029)

Councilor Linde made a motion to re-appoint Nick Bagas to the Elder Affairs Commission. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- Elder Affairs Commission: Marylou Harding (2026 - 2029)

Councilor Spagone made a motion to re-appoint Marylou Harding to the Elder Affairs Commission. This was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- Elder Affairs Commission: Robin Sherrick (2026 - 2029)

Councilor Spagone made a motion to re-appoint Robin Sherrick to the Elder Affairs Commission. This was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- Elder Affairs Commission: Shari Sprong (2026 - 2029)

Councilor Spagone made a motion to re-appoint Shari Sprong to the Elder Affairs Commission. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- Parks and Recreation: Thomas Arrighi (2026 - 2029)

Councilor Perry made a motion to re-appoint Thomas Arrighi to Parks and Recreation. This was duly seconded by Councilor Spagone.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- Veterans Council: Marylou Bogle (2026 - 2029)

Councilor Linde made a motion to re-appoint Marylou Bogle to the Veterans Council. This was duly seconded by Councilor Trocchio.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- Planning Board, Associate Member: Kris Fabroski: (2026 - 2027)

Councilor Linde made a motion to re-appoint Kris Fabroski to the Planning Board. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- a) P-2026-024: Granting of the Class II Used Auto Dealers License – LaBelle Sales & Service DBA Performance Auto & Marine, 1460 Pleasant Street

Council President Murphy opened the Public Hearing at 7:41pm and noted that the hearing was advertised in the June 5th Enterprise.

Steve Labelle, Petitioner, noted that he purchased Motor Cars International and they did repairs but he will not be doing repairs. Asking for a license for 160 vehicles.

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

Council President Murphy asked if anyone wished to speak in favor. No one spoke.

Council President Murphy asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition. No one spoke.

Council President Murphy asked if the Councilors had any questions.

Councilor Spagone asked if Mr. LaBelle was moving his location from Bedford Street to Pleasant Street and Mr. LaBelle noted that he will be keeping it as a separate lot for now but eventually will move some over there.

Councilor Linde asked if there were any environmental or wetland concerns and Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that none that we are aware of.

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to amend Petition P-2026-024 to change the number of vehicles to 160. This was duly seconded by Councilor Spagone.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Petition P-2026-024, this was duly seconded by Councilor Spagone.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

PRESENTATIONS

- a) Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Presentation
Gina Guasconi, Chair of the CPC and Carlton Hunt gave a detailed presentation on the Community Preservation Committee. Focusing on the Community Preservation Act, Chapter 44B, MGL signed September 14, 2000 by Gov. Cellucci; CPC Membership; CPA Definitions, project eligibility and funding process; Funding sources, revenue & CPC Annual Report.

They also spoke about past and recently completed projects and projects in process and anticipated projects.

CPC is funded by a surcharge on their taxes. The impact on the average taxpayer is approximately \$117 (FY25).

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Library Update
Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that he appreciates the advocacy that he has received and the compassion in the emails. Tried to be creative in a tight budget and have been working with the Library to make a short term solution because anything now is only a short term fix.

Jed Phillips, Library Director spoke about the Library Certification and what is needed; MAR is the minimum amount the state sets and then there is the actual. There are many requirements; must be open a certain number of hours/days; make sure services are free and do not charge; maintain training and annual reporting; certain expenditures each year; also have to resource share with others libraries in the State. We have been looking at everything to keep the Library afloat and come up with a long term solution. Current proposal: will have state aid in our account – utilize and divert those funds to supplement the shortfall in the payroll expenses to bring the library up to open hours to be eligible to apply for a waiver. It is not a guarantee solution. There will be no repeating this next year, one off and will put us in a precarious situation with the board.

Councilor Perry asked what the timeline was for the waiver and when the decision is made. Mr. Phillips noted that the annual reporting requirement is two, one is July 1st: hours, services and what we provide. Then October to submit the financial report – that is what the State goes off of. In order to be eligible to apply for a waiver the minimum numbers of hours is 53 hours a week – 5 days a

week. 48 consecutive weeks in a year. Starting 10/1 through the rest of the year to submit the application and by the November board meeting we must show we are hitting those minimum hours.

Councilor Linde noted that if a position is not filled why can't that money be used in the next fiscal year for the Library. Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that those funds cannot be used in the upcoming fiscal year.

Councilor Kennedy noted proposed using the money that the State gives the town and use it for salary and gives us the opportunity to apply for a waiver. Mr. Phillips noted that diverting state aid intended for programming and using that as a Stop Gap to supplement the shortcomings of the already approved payroll budget to have a chance; without that we will not be certified. Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that starting October 1st, looking to be open Monday to Saturday.

Councilor Trocchio asked what the risk was if we only used State aid as the bandaid and Mr. Phillips noted that they do not look too kindly on it.

Councilor Spagone asked if there was any way we can use the SALES system if we get de-certified and Mr. Phillips noted that the public library makes the decision; all libraries make the decision that if a library is de-certified then they are not part of the Sales system.

Councilor Ellenberg asked if the Friends of the Library could do major fundraising and put the \$55k towards the first half and then the fundraising to the second half of the year. Mr. Phillips noted that he cannot speak on how the fundraising money is used.

Councilor McGrath asked how many libraries were in SALES and asked how we could influence the libraries to change so libraries are not punishing each other. Mr. Phillips noted that it is unlikely that libraries would consider changing. Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that MLBC will not change their policy but a lot of communities are in this situation; MMA Finance committee is looking to petition the administration to address this.

b) Water Update

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that there will be a Water Forum on Tuesday, 6/23 from 6:30 to 7:30 in the Council Chambers and we encourage people to send in questions. BTV will be recording it.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that Bridgewater is still receiving water from Middleboro.

Council President Murphy noted that he spoke with Middleboro Select Chair Farley and expressed that we want to keep the inter connection and she noted that the item will be put on the Middleboro July 6th agenda. Council President Murphy will be attending the meeting.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis let everyone know that a notice was provided on Sunday regarding the water usage and demand and being in a level 2 drought. Many communities were sending out a message similar, encouraging people to conserve water. In the past when the town water storage have dropped we have turned on 10b and have been doing it since 2015. Some information is that it is untreated water, it is treated water but has not been filtered for iron and manganese. 10b was activated 10b in September/October. Our commitment has been to fix it, we have been doing it this way for a long time, how do we fix it. My commitment was to do everything that I could to try to stop doing

that process and that is what we are doing. That is why we are building that treatment plant. It will be on-line this summer. I also said that I have to protect the community, I did not say I would never turn 10b back on, I said I would do everything that I can to not do that. If we are in the position to turn 10b on for the town safety I will turn 10b on. Making significant progress on the treatment system at 10a and 10b. The iron/manganese treatment that was not there before could be on-line in a few weeks. PFAs will be on line a little later there.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis updated the Council with other work being conducted:

Had a call today with MA DEP to run through where we are at, follow-up on the emergency declaration that we petitioned and we want to work with them to take every opportunity to expedite some of the work that we are trying to do. Mentioned tuberculation at Carver's Pond, not seeing the capacity. MA DEP gave the approval of an expedited process at Carver's Pond so emergency work can be done.

Talked about every opportunity available to add water to our system. Discussed before with East Bridgewater to tie in with them and reached out again to the Town Administrator and asked if there was an opportunity. Unfortunately, because of water pressure it does not work. But looking at every opportunity to add water to try to mitigate using 10b until we get the project on line.

Had a conversation with the Lt. Governor today about making sure Bridgewater is on their radar in this emergency situation and asked to have an emergency meeting with her team along with MA DEP, DCAMM, livable communities group to make sure we are advocating for the town.

The Council is aware that we have mentioned it before that we have looked at alternative sources of water. Want to prioritize Vernon Street redevelopment. Also the potential tie-in of the Aquaria plant through Brockton, spoke with them today and we have a potential agreement that they worked up that they are sending to us. So that is something that we will be looking at to see if worthwhile. Working on scheduling a tour.

Works continues at 10a and 10b, doing everything and looking at everything possible. More questions will be addressed at the water forum.

Councilor Linde noted that driving around town and looking at lawn signs for power washing companies; what do we do about people that say I pay for the water so I am going to use it. We have a fine situation but it is low, not looking to penalize people but that attitude is certainly not honored. Aquaria thing is a long time away. Have spoken with Taunton in the past, is there any opportunity to talk to them again or is that already a given that it is a no.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis responded the he spoke with the Taunton Mayor a few weeks ago and we are going to look at everything.

Councilor Linde further noted that we have to deal with the MBTA Communities, we have a prison here that they pay us zero dollars and a very small amount from the college. So the State needs to get involved and have Taunton work with us. We are in an absolute crisis, I know you are trying to do as much as you can, maybe we can get their attention.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that he wanted to address the issue about power washing, people watering their lawns, comments about I pay for the water I will use it. That is why we have had these pleas about conserving water. This town has dealt with water bans for many years but have not been in an emergency situation before.

Councilor Kennedy asked if there was another avenue for public notice. Not sure how many people are aware that there is a water issue. Our water every year is State mandated. This is different.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted we did a reverse 311 system through Plymouth County. We need to go to them and they decide if it can go now or if it has to wait; currently working with the IT department to come up with our own public notice. Water Forum; Facebook, social media, podcast. Mailing in July and going to put something in from the Town Managers office.

Councilor Kennedy asked if there has been a discussion with the college so they do not have a sudden surge. Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that he spoke with President Clark and at this time of year they do have to do something for their power plant but they are trucking in the water and not using our water.

Councilor Kennedy asked if there was any idea of when the work would be done for the percolation and Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that once we give the DEP the plans they will approve the work and then we have to work with DCAMM. Have spoken with Rep. Gallagher and Senator Driscoll about the grants; there is a lot of work that needs to be done in this town and we have been trying to navigate the State for help.

Councilor Kennedy noted the Ordinance that he put in a few months ago is still in process. Does not want to force the States' hand and want to move forward with our water improvements.

Councilor McGrath asked if the residents will be given notice when 10b has been turned on and Town Manager Casanova-Davis responded that they try to post on as much as possible. Every year 10b was turned on except this year since 2015; it shows the commitment.

Councilor Spagone noted that she reached out the Mr. McLaughlin and he gave her the same update as you gave here. Component of the Emergency Declaration is an action plan that you were referencing that entails different items in there up to and including rule changes at the local level, are we exploring those at this point and does that in any way mesh with what I tried to put forward a few weeks back.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that the simple thing to say is absolutely there is a lot of elements within that 310CMR. We are looking at every single one of them and that is in part of what our conversation with Mass DEP is as well. Taking advantage of that opportunity and trying to navigate those things. We have to submit that action plan by June 29th, so we are already working on that and I will share that with the Council before we submit it.

Councilor Spagone noted that she had a resident that was not really informed about the individual that came up several weeks back, Mr. Andrews, about his whole thing with trying to offer up the land and the water agreement that he wanted to try to establish. They basically wanted to know what the nature of the conversation was, if one was had or not. Want to try to be as clear as possible. If that is

something that can't be discussed, Jason is not here so he cannot contribute to what can or cannot be said. If it can't be said tonight, see if it is something that can be shared at the water forum next week. I think that is something that Councilor Kennedy talked about as well and I think some folks still need a little bit of clarification.

Councilor Spagone noted that her other questions were more procedural and statistical. Know you can't give the information this evening but related to what precipitated the reverse 911 and the post that was shared on Facebook. What detail went into facilitating that, what are our red lines that we have to meet or get to that help allow us to inform people that a situation has now occurred where we need to ask people to conserve more water over a period of time. Water levels are done by levels of feet but I know we discuss water usage in millions of gallons per day, is there any way you can find a way to have that converted into the most up-to-date figures for that? Think it might put into perspective how that relates to what our water usage is and also what precipitates how we can enforce things. I believe the maximum draw of water per day is about 2 million, so is it a percentage of what our actual daily output is? Is it a component of the actual amount of gallons that are in our system actively being used or is it an average of that over a period of time. Like to have numbers that are tangible.

Relating to the work down at 10a and 10b work – are there any more additional details, ie. what does the project look like now? Expenditures to date? Where is the solid deadline and timeframes to get things online. Summer is a bit vague for the public, so if we can provide that specificity it would certainly be more helpful to folks.

From a funding standpoint, obviously a lot of the work being done will be borne by the ratepayers – can we get an update on what our Water Enterprise Fund looks like now, how much is being expended on current projects including replacement of pipes and mains and the upgrades down at 10a and 10b. Help people to understand where the money is right now, where it is being spent and what it is being spent on. Give more detailed information. Give more factual data. What is going on, what is being done.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that most of the questions are technical in nature and will have to follow up on but will give you my commitment that as much information as I can give you I will make sure we are prepared at the Water Forum to address those questions. In terms of the Andrews property, it was never offered to the Town for free, if there is an opportunity to inquire that property or accept as a donation, I know the Council President is working to have those conversations. Would discuss technical issues in another manner. Expenditures, we can lay that out and will answer those questions as the Water Forum.

Councilor Spagone further asked about the filtration lagoon at 10b and Mr. Etoniru noted that the water will be going to a lagoon and then hauled off site. T

Councilor Ellenberg noted that she has been hearing there have been water main problems and having unexplained leaks in town and our supply is going down because of the unexplained leaks. Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that we had that conversation with MA DEP today and we have not

detected any leaks. Tanks are not dropping because of undetected leaks. Found a leak at BSU and addressed that. We have Water Scope and look at usage.

Councilor Ellenberg asked about the water leak with BSU and what was found and Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that it was related to a chiller, will have to follow up with you on that.

Councilor Ellenberg urged that Vernon Street be fast tracked with DEP. Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that Vernon Street is a priority and was part of the conversation with DEP.

Councilor Trocchio noted that we need to set the standard for water usage; two big projects in my district how do we make them have water impact studies. Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that the Council has an ordinance that was submitted by a councilor. Councilor Trocchio asked if there was anyway that can apply to those two projects? Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that he would have to ask the Town Attorney but I do not believe we can apply them to those projects. We can update water rules and regulations. Every department, every business are on the same page and have a standard for moving forward.

Councilor Linde noted that the Vernon Street Well project cost was \$58M a few years ago; how would we pay for that? Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that we would probably do a loan authorization; fund through grants; the State Revolving fund for a low interest loan. If those avenues are not there then we would have to have those conversations.

Councilor Spagone asked about the Vernon Street Wells field over near Lake Nip, maybe a potential for a well. There is an Aquaphor over there, maybe add that to the list of another source of water for the long term. Water notification – can we call in for another Blue Drop system, a water truck if we get into a critical stage. Is that on our radar. Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that the Blue Drop machine uses our water supply. Will talk about the well head process during the Water Forum. Vernon Street is a permitted well but they can't expediate it in the same fashion. We are looking at long term solutions as well.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that there is another company out of Pembroke that has a hut where you can purchase water for 50 cents, that could potentially be an option. Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that if that is something this council thinks merits consideration then the Council could submit an order.

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to suspend the rules and extend the meeting to 10:30pm. This was seconded by Councilor Spagone.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – No; Hunt – Yea; Linde – No; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 7-2

Councilor Linde noted that we cannot just have one meeting in July and August.

c) FY27 Update

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that hours in Town Hall will be changing from Monday to Thursday from 8am to 4pm and asked that residents be patient with the staff.

- d) CED Update
CED Director Bob Rulli noted that the contractors were finishing up the Summer Street Park and it will be done by the end of the month. \$500k was received for the complete street grant; \$500k shared street program to continue the sidewalks that were started a few years ago. One Stop Grants – 4 were submitted on behalf of the town, 3 on behalf of the water. We had a call and they understand our emergency. The money has to be expended by a certain date and they are looking for shovel ready. 3 requests in for a total of \$2.5M. Request to Keating for \$1M. Hopefully they are hearing the Town that you want to be in compliance but you need assistance. Normally they do not make those announcements until late Summer, they would expedite if the town is awarded.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that tonight would be Mr. Rulli's last meeting with the Town and thanked him for helping his office and his team.

Councilor Perry thanked Mr. Rulli for his work for the Town and he will be missed.

- e) Residents Survey
Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that the residents survey will be released shortly.

Councilor Linde requested that a paper copy of the survey be placed at the Library.

Councilor Ellenberg asked if the councilors could see the questions and Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that it was sent to the councilors for review a week ago but he will send it out again.

DISCUSSIONS - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Plymouth County Advisory Board Update: Councilor Linde
Councilor Linde noted that Councilor McGrath and himself attend the meeting held on June 4th. There was a Public hearing on FY27 revenues and budget.

Councilor McGrath noted that spoke about pensions and most towns are not fully funded; Plymouth County wants it fully funded by 2031.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- a) Order O FY26-051: Declares the downtown corridor of Bridgewater a blight area
Referred to Downtown Revitalization Committee which has been dissolved. Needs to be referred to Community and Economic Development Committee.
Councilor McGrath made a motion to amend Order O-FY26-051 by removing Councilor Loreti's name and replacing it with Councilor Perry. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

Councilor Ellenberg noted that she is opposed to a blighted area as it will bring the value down in the town. Need to make sure it is only applied to businesses and not homes. Sets a bad example to the town. One councilor owns 15 properties in town which might be a conflict of interest.

Councilor Linde noted that we are trying to refer it to the CED committee so there can be further discussion. Some of those streets have some pretty blighted buildings. This just sends it to the committee.

Councilor McGrath noted that we will be conducting an inventory of the area.

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

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- b) Order O-FY26-072: Water Enterprise Fund Year End Budget Transfer
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 at their 6/16/26 meeting. Finance Committee voted 5-0 at their 6/15/26 meeting. Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Order O-FY26-072, which was duly seconded by Councilor Spagone.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- c) Order O-FY26-073: Sewer Enterprise End of Year Budget Transfer
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 at their 6/16/26 meeting. Finance Committee voted 5-0 at their 6/15/26 meeting. Councilor Hunt made a motion to approve Order O-FY26-073, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- d) Order O-FY26-074: Transfer Station Enterprise Fund Year End Budget Transfer
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 at their 6/16/26 meeting. Finance Committee voted 5-0 at their 6/15/26 meeting. Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Order O-FY26-074, which was duly seconded by Councilor Spagone.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- e) Order O-FY26-075: General Fund End of Year Transfers
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 at their 6/16/26 meeting. Finance Committee voted 5-0 at their 6/15/26 meeting. Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Order O-FY26-072, which was duly seconded by Councilor Spagone.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- f) Order O-FY26-076: Contractual Buyouts
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 at their 6/16/26 meeting. Finance Committee voted 6-0 at their 6/15/26 meeting. Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Order O-FY26-076, which was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- g) Order O-FY26-077: Transfer Order - Sewer Capital Fund Transfer
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 at their 6/16/26 meeting. Finance Committee voted 6-0 at their 6/15/26 meeting. Councilor Spagone made a motion to approve Order O-FY26-077, which was duly seconded by Councilor Trocchio.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- h) Budget Order O-FY27-006: CPA Reserve Accounts - FY2027
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 at their 6/16/26 meeting. Finance Committee voted 5-0 at their 6/15/26 meeting. Councilor Spagone made a motion to approve Budget Order O-FY27-006, which was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- i) Resolution R-FY26-017: Resolution Regarding Full Funding of the Bridgewater Public Library Budget
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 Spagone made a motion to amend Resolution R-FY26-017 with what is noted on the attachment. This was duly seconded by Linde.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

Councilor Spagone made a motion to approve Resolution R-FY26-017 as amended. This was duly seconded by Linde.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

Councilor Perry made a motion to extend the meeting to 11:00pm. This was duly seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – No; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 8-1

- j) Zoning Ordinance D-FY26-009: Zoning Ordinance Amendment - Central Square Property Maintenance Standards Referred to Downtown Revitalization Committee which has been dissolved. Needs to be referred to Community and Economic Development Committee.

Councilor Perry made a motion to refer Zoning Ordinance D-FY26-009 to Community & Economic Development. This was duly seconded by Councilor Spagone.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- k) Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-007: Bridgewater Town Charter Article II, Legislative Branch, Term Limits

This Charter Ordinance was previously approved and sent to the State for further approval. The State has sent it back with a request that an amendment be made and then referred back to the State for further approval.

Councilor McGrath made a motion to continue Ordinance D-FY22-007 to the next Town Council meeting This was duly seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- l) Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-009: Bridgewater Town Charter Article III, Elected Officials Recall Provision

This Charter Ordinance was previously approved and sent to the State for further approval. The State has sent it back with a request that an amendment be made and then referred back to the State for further approval.

Councilor Perry made a motion to continue Ordinance D-FY22-009 to the next Town Council meeting This was duly seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Order O-FY26-078: Bridgewater Charter Review Committee
Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY26-078 to Rules & Procedures Committee. This was duly seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- b) Order O-FY26-079: Acceptance of Gift - Lopiecke's Family Trust
Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY26-078 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; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- c) Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-017: Amend Part II Administrative Code, Chapter 1, Article III, Multiple Members Appointive Bodies
Councilor Perry made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY26-017 to Rules & Procedures Committee. This was duly seconded by Councilor Spagone.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- d) Proposed Zoning Ordinance D-FY26-018: Zoning Ordinance to Amend Words Pertaining to 'Town Council'
Councilor Spagone made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY26-018 to Planning Board and Community & Economic Development Committee. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio – Yea. Motion passed 9-0

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: last prop 2 ½ was because of the way the question was written; old days if you had a well you were required to have a sign – suggest it not being a homemade sign; all have to work together to not have to use our water. Need to look at BSU for their usage; need to be concerned about fires, not about lawns or filling swimming pools. Suggest going to 5 minutes for comments.
- John, 165 Pratt Town Lane: sent an email about the funding of the Library and the programs they offer for little or no cost.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor McGrath noted that the Fire Department moved their monument to the new fire station; attended the retirement of the flags and the Boys Scouts did a lot with that.
- Councilor Linde noted that he attended two events and also read our Juneteenth proclamation at the Library on Monday, great event. July 4th Committee is at a shortfall for funding and every Monday night there is a fundraising at Barrett's.
- Councilor Perry noted that he attended the Juneteenth celebration at BSU on Saturday and it was a good event. Also noted that we are doing the best we can with what we have but getting to a point as a town we are feeling the pain of the non-passage of an override. FY28 budget is going to be more devastating than now especially to public safety.
- Councilor Trocchio noted that on June 18th from 6:30 to 8:30pm the VFW is hosting an indoor golf tournament at 925 Bedford Street; cash bar;
- Councilor Ellenberg thanked the CPA for their presentation; agree lawn signs for personal wells is a good idea; gift for the Library will be used for the Library and would be happy to work on a fundraiser.

- Councilor Spagone thanked the councilors for the vote on the Library; will be writing a Resolution for the Senior Center. Keep reaching out to my colleagues.
- Councilor Hunt thanked everyone for a great meeting, wonderful town; wish we could get the money for everything.
- Councilor Kennedy – No comments
- Councilor Murphy noted that the 4th of July Committee still needs the support and to help if you can.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

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

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio – Yea. Motion passed 9-0

Meeting adjourned at 11:01pm.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council

June 30, 2026

7:00 PM

Special Town Council Meeting

66 Central Square
Conference Room 201A/2nd Floor

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Paul Murphy called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:02pm on Tuesday, June 30, 2026 in the Council Chambers.

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

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

Council President Murphy noted that there were no veteran deaths but held a moment of silence for the veterans and their families.

Councilor Spagone made a motion to take Q. Executive Session out of turn. This was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

Council President Murphy read the executive session language into the record.

A Roll Call vote was taken and the results are as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0.

The Town Council went into Executive Session at 7:04pm in Conference Room 201A.

The Town Council returned to open session at 8:21pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT - None

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: asked for clarification – what is different than what has been in place since December. Does not understand the wording of any site on or before of June 30th, is that an approved project, unclear.
- John Norris: I am in favor of a water moratorium but want something in writing from the state that we will not lose our grants or future grants.
- Jean DiBittasta, 260 Lakeside Drive: in favor of establishing; need clear exclusions for projects in process and state driven by law. Should have a fixed date and then be reviewed to see where we are. Tied to the MassDEP emergency. Residents should consider not doing fireworks this year because of the issue with the water.
- Steve LaBelle, 292 Bedford Street: need to have a DEP permit from the Boston office to put that in effect and you have not applied for that. Does the board realize how important business is to the community. The town does not survive without business and challenge the Governor. The townspeople need to know what small businesses do in town. To defend some of these lawsuits the town will be spending thousands and thousands of dollars plus if the town loses. Building permit can be rescinded, a water permit cannot. I do not think the towns people realize the lawsuits that are going to be coming into the town.
- James Walsh, Crescent Street: in favor of the water moratorium; we need time; changes to the Form Based Code; every week we wait there are more units and we just can't afford it. Schools are struggling, services are down, we need time. When the water emergency ends the water moratorium ends.
- Mark Trombly, 123 Old Farm Road: does not believe the water moratorium is the answer; it will stop growth and will stop the tax revenues. Existing homeowners could face higher taxes and less services. Ask the council to reject the water moratorium.

APPOINTMENTS - None

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - None

PRESENTATIONS - None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT- None

DISCUSSIONS- None

COMMITTEE REPORTS- None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION- None

OLD BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Order O-FY26-080: Emergency Measure – Petition MassDEP to Amend its Emergency Declaration to include the following Moratorium

Councilor Linde made a motion to declare and accept the emergency preamble. This was duly seconded by Councilor Ellenberg.

A Roll Call vote was taken and the results are as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea.
Motion passed 9-0.

Councilor Spagone made a motion to suspend Section XVIII “Readings” of the Council Rules & Procedures. This was duly seconded by Councilor Hunt.

A Roll Call vote was taken and the results are as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea.
Motion passed 9-0.

Councilor Trocchio noted it is a water hook-up moratorium and supports this Order. Supporting this measure helps us set a standard and say this is an emergency and this allows us to do that. The overall intent is to preserve public safety not to avoid the MBTA Act or new building of multi family housing.

Councilor Linde noted he is strongly in favor of this. Have heard nothing but this from the residents for a while. Other options are down the road and do not think we can wait to do this. Know we need business but we need water and we can’t continue to kick the can down the road.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that she is also in support of the water moratorium. The State has put in the emergency mandate and they are above us and if we pass this we have the DEP behind us, that is my personal opinion.

Councilor Spagone noted that she is in support of this because it is long overdue and an emergency supersedes any litigation. We need to take a step back because we have been moving in a way that has not been checked or balances. It was irresponsible to allow these projects to go forward. You are saying go ahead when you do not have water. This demonstrates both to the public and those that want to build in town that we need to review what is going on so we can make sure that we have the potable water for all.

Councilor Kennedy noted that there were some questions asked from the public. The State has not given us a very clear answer on the grants. State Rep has said one thing but it is not in writing. Attorney General did not say we will stay in compliance with the MBTA Act. We have many grants pending. Declined as a town to pay more taxes and the only way to stop higher taxes is growth. List of addresses of potentially being developed and there is a concern of litigation. We are going to put the State in a position to call them on this if they are going to exclude grants for an emergency.

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to amend Order O-FY26-080 to add “which expires on December 4, 2026” after 2026 on the 2nd to last Whereas. This was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A Roll Call vote was taken for the amendment and the results are as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 9-0.

Councilor Kennedy noted based on the list in front of us approved projects could mean site plan approval, survey approval, etc and we could add something in there with those that have investments.

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to amend Order O-FY26-080 by replacing “a building permit” with “any approved project” under 1. on the 2nd to last paragraph and to add “Approved Project Definition: any project that has site plan approval, survey approval, a building permit, comprehensive permit or approved subdivision.” after 1. This was duly seconded by Councilor Spagone.

Councilor Trocchio noted that he thinks this is a twofold amendment. Definitions are good but I would pause with the pre-approval because we will lean into the emergency act. We are doing what we believe is right with our water source.

Ms. Ellenberg noted that Counsel advised us to keep it simple and adding this is not keeping it simple. Attorney has said there is no case law on this and we may be a case of first impression. Only town in the commonwealth with a state emergency with the DEP and I think we can stand on that with our defense and we should not put in any amendments because it weakens.

Mr. Linde noted we need to keep it simple, does not think we have the infrastructure to support.

Ms. McGrath noted we are just defining what an approved project is.

Councilor Kennedy noted that it expands that section to both allow projects that are currently in various stages without halting that development and to prevent additional litigation down the road. To find the middle ground to prevent lawsuits.

A Roll Call vote was taken for the amendment and the results are as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – No; McGrath – No; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – No; Trocchio - No. Motion passed 5-4.

Councilor Murphy asked that the approved project list be put on the website.

Building Inspector Steve Solari gave an update on the approved projects: 85 homes and 4 duplexes that are approved. 20 houses for Jasper and Duxburro 40B. Medeiros Way is a 9 lot subdivision. Subdivision on East Street. 4 lot subdivision on Cross Street – cleared land. Pinnacle Point off of Broad Street, that is 4 duplexes. One House on Mansion Way off of South Street. 58 have comprehensive permit. Hotel at Lake Shore Drive – approved back in 2023, going thru the permitting process. Henry Perkins Foundry – 150 units that have not started yet, they are a few years away, they have to demo the factory. There is not as many projects as people think there are. Hotel and Perkins are the biggest that have not been permitted yet but have been approved. Most of the houses average 12 to 15 a year.

Councilor Kennedy asked if any of these projects are going to need water before September and Mr. Solari noted that houses will be the 40B projects; the hotel is about a year away; nothing is going to happen in the next couple of months.

Ms. Ellenberg noted that this moratorium will be for 6 months so it will not impact the projects you described to us.

Mr. Solari noted that if a house got done quicker than usual it would be impacted.

Councilor Kennedy asked if the developers will continue with the process if there is no water and Mr. Solari noted that some of the smaller units will do wells; 40B have already been done, streets are in and all set up for water.

Councilor Trocchio noted that he thinks if we are going to declare a water moratorium, we should not make any changes, can pull back this water moratorium. Let us call it an emergency, gives us the best possible outcome to survive any type of litigation.

Councilor Spagone asked the Town Attorney if there was any clarification from the Commonwealth as to our ability to implement a moratorium without major consequences against us.

Attorney Rawlins noted that he had a communication with the Attorney General's office indicating that they can consider these emergency grants but could not give a definitive answer until they review it further. Further noting that he does not feel comfortable saying the State will give the grants when there is nothing in writing from the State.

Councilor Spagone asked the Town Attorney when we do put this in place what is going to be our effective enforcement mechanism.

Attorney Rawlins noted that the order is to petition the DEP under the current emergency order to declare a water moratorium. We would go to the DEP as part of the water plan under 21G, the DEP would either sign off on it or give us reasons why. Once they sign off on the plan they would be part of the enforcement but we would be the gate keeper of the moratorium. We will be saying that we have backing to not issue to tie-in to the public water source. Not sure what enforcement means, it would be up to us to say you are a pre-approved plan and you get to tie-in. We would also be able to say these projects cannot tie-in.

Councilor Spagone asked if we need to state anything regarding existing wells and tie in wells.

Attorney Rawlins noted that if a project has a private well they would not need to tie-in to the Bridgewater water supply.

Councilor Linde noted that he liked the analogy that Councilor Trocchio said, this will allow us to move forward.

Councilor Kennedy noted we are and have been in an extremely tight spot; we have received grant money, we need funding for the Vernon Street wells; we need to ensure that we have long term water and looks forward to working with the council to not over build and be conservative with the water. Knows people are going to be upset, this writes it down what the Town Manager has been doing for the past 6 months.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: thanked the council for passing and shame on the State if they take away grant money. Also noted that Executive Sessions should not be done in the beginning if you want to move them up do them at 6:30. Becoming a bad habit.

- Jean DiBattista, 260 Lakeside Drive: concerned about the exclusion that just passed. Support reasonable definitions but there has been circumstances in this town where things have been approved when they should have been expired.

Councilor Perry left the zoom meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Ellenberg: thanked the residents for coming out. Pleased the moratorium was passed, it was a little lax, will only last for 6 months and have taken a positive step for the town.
- Councilor Spagone: noted that this is an initial first step; gives us an opportunity to firm it up more as we go forward.
- Councilor Hunt: noted that it is interesting to see how difficult it has been to be on the Town Council and to appreciate what everyone does. Enforcing the moratorium was tough choice, grateful for the people who are running our town. Bridgewater is dealing with something that has grown over many years and finally addressing it and fixing it as best we can. I am grateful for the town employees and the town councilors and the residents who come in and talk to us.
- Councilor Trocchio: noted that this is a step in the right direction, not in favor of the amendments. Adding that this week there will be a substantial heat wave and to make sure you check on your neighbors, don't leave your pets outside.
- Councilor Linde: thanked the residents, had to make a difficult decision but we are in an emergency situation. Hopefully we will have better news in 6 months. Sorry that the Commonwealth does not understand the emergency we are in. The Town Manager and Water Super have done their due diligence. The heat is going to be really bad and we should work on someplace where people can go.
- Councilor McGrath: the Cert Team will be going out to do wellness checks Also noted that people should watch the Soccer matches, makes you appreciate more.
- Councilor Kennedy: noted that there are going to be some pleased with it and some not pleased with it. We will see what the State does and he hopes they understand we have an emergency and we need the grant money to get ourselves out of this emergency. Thanked everyone who stayed.
- Councilor Murphy: noted he will be present at the 7/6 meeting in Middleboro to work on an extension for the town. Hopefully we can continue to make progress. 4th of July committee is still collecting funds. Thanked the councilors and the citizens.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares.

The Executive Session took place at the beginning of the meeting. See above.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Council President Murphy read the executive session language into the record.

A voice vote was taken and the results are as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Spagone – Yea; Perry – Left the meeting; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea; Trocchio - Yea. Motion passed 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 5/19/2026
First Reading: 5/19/2026
Second Reading: 6/2/2026
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading: 7/14/2026
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY26-071: Loan Order - Water System Improvements

ORDERED, that **\$8,500,000** is appropriated, to pay costs of the design and construction of upgrades to the Town's water production treatment and distribution system associated with the Plymouth Street Wells Project, so-called, and other water infrastructure improvements, including, but not limited to, costs of a water treatment study, well development, water treatment facilities, emergency tie-in facilities, constructing and reconstructing water mains and other distribution facilities, related engineering services, and the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Town Manager is authorized to borrow said amount under G.L. c. 44, §§ 7 and/or 8 and/or G.L. c. 29C; that the Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Manager, is authorized to borrow all or any portion of this amount from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (the "Trust"), and in connection therewith to enter into a financing agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") with respect to such loan or loans and for any federal or state aid available for the project or for the financing thereof; that the Town Manager is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the DEP, to expend all funds available for the project and to take all other action necessary or convenient to carry out the projects.

Explanation:

This loan order provides funding for water infrastructure improvements, including the construction and completion of a new treatment system for treating the water at Wells 10A and 10B. Ultimately, it will ensure the Town recovers lost supply capacity and provides treatment for iron, manganese, and PFAS. The Town has already received \$2 million in grant funding to offset the project's costs. In addition, funds will be utilized to complete additional water infrastructure improvements, such as water main replacement, and additional water supply development, such as the Vernon Street Wells.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

• Finance Committee	• 6/1/26: voted 6-0 to recommend
• Budget & Finance	• 6/2/26: voted 3-0 to recommend
• Town Council	• 6/2/26: voted to refer to advertising
• Town Council	• 7/14/26: Public Hearing being held

Attachments: None

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By:

Date Introduced: 7/14/2026

First Reading: 7/14/2026

Second Reading:

Amendments Adopted:

Third Reading:

Date Adopted:

Date Effective:

Petition P-2027-001: The Granting of a Common Victualler License - Holbrook Taqueria Inc. dba Oaxaca Mexican Taqueria, 1440 Pleasant Street

WHEREAS, Alvato Bracamont has submitted all applicable documentation as required for a license to operate a food establishment for Holbrook Taqueria Inc dba Oaxaca Mexican Taqueria located at 1440 Pleasant Street, Bridgewater, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, Alvato Bracamontes will serve as the manager of record and the hours of operation will be: Sunday to Saturday: 9:00 am to 10:00 pm and;

WHEREAS, Holbrook Taqueria Inc dba Oaxaca Mexican Taqueria has complied with the requirements of the Town of Bridgewater and applicable state laws inclusive of the Building Code, Fire Codes and Health Department's Food Service Specifications governing the serving of food to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Bridgewater Town Council, acting as the Legislative body of the Town has such licensing authority and with the affirmative recommendation of the Bridgewater Building Inspector, Fire, Police, and Health Departments who have oversight authority, it appears that the public good so requires such license be granted;

The Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, pursuant to Chapter 140 - section 2 and section 6 respectively of the Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.), in Town Council assembled approve the petition of Holbrook Taqueria Inc dba Oaxaca Mexican Taqueria be granted a license to operate a food establishment within the Town of Bridgewater.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL

REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Attachments:

1. Oaxaca Mexican Taqueria CV License Checklist
2. Oaxaca Mexican Taqueria License Application

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Town Council Meeting Date: July 14, 2026

Applicant Name:	Holbrook Taqueria Inc. dba Oaxaca Mexican Taqueria
Address:	1440 Pleasant Street
Telephone:	(774) 559-883
Email:	alvaro@oaxacamexicantaqueria-net.

NEW COMMON VICTUALLER

<u>X</u>	Application
<u>X</u>	Business Certificate (Issued by the Town Clerk)
<u>X</u>	Copy of one of the Following: Lease Agreement, Purchase & Sale Agreement, or Deed (if property owner)
<u>X</u>	Floor plan
<u>X</u>	Delinquent Tax Certification
<u>X</u>	State Tax Affidavit
<u>X</u>	Workmen's Compensation Insurance Affidavit
	Town Fees:
<u>X</u>	\$150 Application Fee
<u>X</u>	\$100 License Fee

Recommendations:

<u>X</u>	Fire Department
<u>X</u>	Police Department
<u>X</u>	Building Department

Notes:

- 1) Alvato Bracamortes is requesting a Common Vicatualler license at 1440 Pleasant Street for Holbrook Taqueria Inc. dba Oaxaca Mexican Taqueria restaurant.
- 2) All required paperwork has been submitted to the Town.
- 3) Requested seating capacity is 10.
- 4) The Fire and Police Departments have no issues with the issuance of this license.
- 5) Building Inspector will conduct final inspections and CI before opening. License will not be released until notification from Building Inspector.



**TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
COMMON VICTUALLER
LICENSE APPLICATION AND PETITION**

All licenses expire December 31st of the year they are issued

DATE: 6/24/26

NEW APPLICATION

RENEWAL

The Undersigned Submits Application for Approval of License:

Alvaro Bracamonte S

(NAME)

50 stetson st Bridgewater, MA 02324

(HOME ADDRESS)

Hillbrook Taperia inc DBA Oaxaca Mexican Taperia

(BUSINESS NAME)

1446 Pleasant st Bridgewater, MA 02324

(BUSINESS ADDRESS)

(BUSINESS PHONE NUMBER) 774-559-8830

(APPLICANT CELL PHONE NUMBER) 774-559-8830

(APPLICANT E-MAIL) Alvaro@oaxacamexican.com

(MANAGER NAME) Alvaro Bracamonte S

(MANAGER CELL PHONE NUMBER) 774-559-8830

PROPOSED HOURS OF BUSINESS:

Monday 9am to 10 pm
Tuesday 9am to 10 pm
Wednesday 9am to 10 pm
Thursday 9am to 10 pm
Friday 9am to 10 pm
Saturday 9am to 10 pm
Sunday 9am to 10 pm

SEATING CAPACITY: 10

DO YOU PLAN TO HAVE A
JUKEBOX/AUTOMATIC AMUSEMENT
DEVICE?

YES _____ NO X

ARE YOU PLANNING TO FILE FOR AN
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE?

YES _____ NO X

ANY STATEMENT PROVIDED IN THIS APPLICATION THAT IS INACCURATE IN ANY WAY MAY BE CONSIDERED A MATERIAL MISREPRESENTATION AND SHALL BE SUFFICIENT CAUSE FOR REFUSAL, SUSPENSION, REVOCATION, OR DENIAL OF THE LICENSE SUBJECT TO THIS APPLICATION. SIGNED UNDER THE PAIN AND PENALTY OF PERJURY.

Alvaro Bracamonte S

(signature of applicant)

6-24-26

(date)

Alvaro Bracamonte S

(name of applicant)



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Bridgewater
Plymouth County
Business Certificate

June - 24, 2026

In conformity with the provisions of Chapter One Hundred and Ten, Section Five of the General Laws, as amended, the undersigned hereby declare(s) that a business is conducted under the title of:

Holbrook taqueria inc DBA (Oaxaca mexican taqueria)
(Name of Business)

and is conducted at 1440 pleasant st Bridgewater MA 02324
(Address of Business)

in Bridgewater Massachusetts, by the following person(s), entity, partnership, or corporation.

FULL NAME

Alvaro Bracamonte

RESIDENCE

50 stilson st
Bridgewater MA 02324

SIGNATURE(S)

Alvaro Bracamonte

Email address for renewals: alvaro@oaxaca-mexican-taqueria-net

The above named _____ Personally, appeared before me and made oath that the foregoing statement is true.

A certificate issued in accordance with this section shall be in force and effect for four years for the date of issue and shall be renewed every four years thereafter so long as such business shall be conducted and shall lapse and be voided unless so renewed.

June 24 2030

Certificate Expires

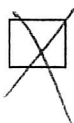
(Town Seal)

Jolie Sprague Martin

Town Clerk/Notary

(notary seal)

Please Check One:



New Business



Renewal



Town of Bridgewater Business (D.B.A) Certificate/ Zoning Approval Form

Applicant Information (please print or type)

Name: Alvaro Bracamontes
Address: 50 station st Bridgewater, MA 02324
Phone: 774-559-8830
E-mail: Alvaro@oaxamexicantavernia.net

Business Information

Business Name: Holbrook tavernia inc DBA Oaxaca Mexican Tavernia
Type of Business: Restaurant

Business Location/ Address: 1446 pleasant st Bridgewater, MA 02324

Do you have Company Vehicles: ☒ Yes ☐ No If Yes, How Many 1

Number of Employees: 5

If this is a home business, complete the following:

- Will there be non-resident employees on premises? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If so how many? _____
- Will there be patrons coming to the house ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Will there be outside advertising on premises ☐ Yes ☐ No

Needs Final inspections & CI To open

Official Town Use Only

☒ Approved ☐ Denied

[Signature]

Zoning Enforcement Official

6/24/26

Date

Bridgewater Cultural Council

2026 Event Funding

Approved

This is where LCCs/TCCs can see applications their council chose to approve.

Once your council completes your Annual Report, the system automatically sends a short email notifying successful applicants that they have been approved for funding. However, councils must still follow up with successful applicants by emailing or mailing a full approval communication. This would include more specific information, such as award amount and your LCC/TCC payment policy. You can use the teal export button at the top left of the list to export mail merge fields. This can be helpful when sending final approval notifications to grantees.

Sample approval letters and additional materials can be found in the LCC Toolkit on the MCC's website.

1-20 of 23

☐	#	Application ID	Applicant	Project Title	Amount Requested	Grant Amount	
☐	1	FY26-LCC-116071	Bruce, James	Community Floral Expressions	\$3,825	\$250	Open
☐	2	FY26-LCC-118918	Wise, Dennis	The Theft of Dignity: Webster Presentation	\$950	\$600	Open
☐	3	FY26-LCC-119476	Santarcangelo, Julia	Spanish class with Tess	\$1,500	\$1,300	Open
☐	4	FY26-LCC-120451	Kelley, Thomas	Irish and American Folk music concerts	\$300	\$250	Open
☐	5	FY26-LCC-121120	Krushas, Jason	Music Festival in Bridgewater	\$5,000	\$3,000	Open
☐	6	FY26-LCC-126859	Herzog, Jenny	Music Theory, Songwriting, Performance at Old Colony Correctional Center	\$3,000	\$1,375	Open
☐	7	FY26-LCC-127065	ROSE, JACQUELYN	Bridgewater Community Dance 2026	\$3,380	\$900	Open
☐	8	FY26-LCC-128269	Hurlbut, Steven M.	Jumpin' Juba senior concert	\$400	\$275	Open
☐	9	FY26-LCC-129036	South Shore Children's Chorus, Corp.	SSCC Bridgewater Programs & BSU Partnership	\$1,250	\$925	Open
☐	10	FY26-LCC-125363	Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights, Inc.	Bridgewater Juneteenth Celebration	\$5,000	\$3,125	Open
☐	11	FY26-LCC-118564	Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School	Mean Girls High School Version	\$3,500	\$500	Open
☐	12	FY26-LCC-119499	Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School Theatre Company	B-P Theatre Company's Spring Musical	\$1,000	\$1,000	Open
☐	13	FY26-LCC-131091	CityClass, LLC	Dance Class & Guitar Class Pilot	\$1,500	\$250	Open
☐	14	FY26-LCC-130681	Soule Homestead Education Center, Inc., The	Annual Festivals: Sheep Day	\$750	\$625	Open
☐	15	FY26-LCC-127809	Natural Resources Trust of Easton, Inc.	NRT Celebrates Local Artists at the Harvest and Craft Fair	\$500	\$500	Open

☐	16	FY26-LCC-127780	Mayflower Camerata and Chamber Orchestra	Classical Masters: Haydn and Mozart	\$750	\$750	Open
☐	17	FY26-LCC-126241	Bridgewater Antiphonal Brass Society, Inc.	July 4th Band Concert	\$800	\$800	Open
☐	18	FY26-LCC-126040	Fuller Craft Museum, Inc.	Craft for All	\$300	\$300	Open
☐	19	FY26-LCC-124534	Altrusa International of Plymouth County, MA, Inc.	Memory Kits for Bridgewater Council on Aging	\$750	\$500	Open
☐	20	FY26-LCC-121685	Bridgewater-Raynham Music Boosters, Inc.	2026 BRRHS Marching Band Season Support	\$3,000	\$2,750	Open
☐	21	FY26-LCC-119557	Southeastern Massachusetts Festival Chorus, Inc.	Sing We Now of Christmas and The Wonderful World of Stage and Screen	\$1,500	\$1,050	Open
☐	22	FY26-LCC-118837	Be Community	be; social	\$1,500	\$1,500	Open
☐	23	FY26-LCC-117873	MUSIC Dance.edu	I am Autistic I am Fantastic - The Musical	\$580	\$580	Open

Funding for the year was \$23,897 of which we were able to distribute \$23,105.

Excess funds will extend into our 2027 funding statement.

EARLY BIRD
DISCOUNT AVAILABLE
BUY NOW & SAVE!

Soule Homestead Education Center

SHEEP DAY Festival

May 16th • 10am - 3pm

Presale discount ends May 9th

• SHEEP SHEARING DEMOS •

• FIBER ARTS DEMOS •

• SHEEPDOG DEMO •

• VENDORS, ARTISTS, & MUSIC •

• KID CRAFTS & PLAY AREA •

• FOOD FOR SALE •



Come for a day of
fun & learning at
Soule Homestead





46 SOULE ST • MIDDLEBORO • WWW.SOULEHOMESTEAD.ORG

THIS EVENT IS A FUNDRAISER AND ALL MONEY RAISED SUPPORTS THE OPERATION & PRESERVATION OF OUR NONPROFIT.

This event wouldn't be possible without the grant support from the cultural councils from Kingston, Carver, Lakeville, Plympton, Middleborough, Bridgewater, & Plymouth.



MEAN GIRLS

HIGH SCHOOL VERSION

2

Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 7:30 PM – 10:30 PM EDT

Mean Girls High School Edition - Raynwater Players

Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School

Thu, Apr 30

Fri, May 1

Sat, May 2



Page 36 of 101



PATRICK KEARNS LOUIE BELLO TIMMY BROWN MARIAH ROSE

16 MAY, 2026
1:00PM - 8:00PM

SATURDAY
80 Spring St. Bridgewater, MA
BRIDGEWATER COUNTRY FEST

FIRE FOR EFFECT FOUNDATION INC
PRESENTS

NOT FOR PROFIT EVENT
BENEFITING Fire For Effect
Foundations Back To The
Field Program

WWW.FFEF.ORG/EVENTS



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By:

Date Introduced: 7/14/2026

First Reading: 7/14/2026

Second Reading:

Amendments Adopted:

Third Reading:

Date Adopted:

Date Effective:

Petition P-2027-002: Warrant for 2026 State Primary

ORDERED: That the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, assembled accepts, as a matter of record, the attached 2026 State Primary Warrant to be provided to the Town Clerk.

Explanation:

It is required that the Town Council accepts and approves the attached Warrant as a matter of record.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Attachments: 1. September Primary Warrant 2026

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH**

WARRANT FOR 2026 STATE PRIMARY

Plymouth County SS.

To the Constables of the Town of Bridgewater

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said city or town who are qualified to vote in Primaries to vote at:

Precincts 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 & 9
Edward O'Donoghue Middle School, 166 Mount Prospect Street

On **TUESDAY, THE FIRST DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026**, from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the State Primaries for the candidates of political parties for the following offices:

SENATOR IN CONGRESS	For this Commonwealth
GOVERNOR	For this Commonwealth
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	For this Commonwealth
ATTORNEY GENERAL	For this Commonwealth
SECRETARY OF STATE	For this Commonwealth
TREASURER	For this Commonwealth
AUDITOR	For this Commonwealth
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	Ninth Congressional District
COUNCILLOR	Second Councillor District
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	Norfolk, Plymouth & Bristol Senate District
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	Eighth Plymouth House of Representative District
DISTRICT ATTORNEY	Plymouth County District
REGISTER OF PROBATE	Plymouth County District
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	Plymouth County District
COUNTY TREASURER	Plymouth County District

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hands this _____ day of _____, 2026.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Town Council of Bridgewater

Posting: Academy Building, Senior Center & Bridgewater Public Library

Online viewing: www.bridgewaterma.gov

(Indicate method of service of warrant)

_____, 2026.
Constable

Warrant must be posted by **August 25, 2026** (at least *seven days* prior to the **September 1, 2026** State Primary).



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Dennis Gallagher, Councilor
Shawn George
Date Introduced: 9/7/2021
First Reading: 9/7/2021
Second Reading: 8/8/2023
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading: 7/14/2026
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-007: Bridgewater Town Charter Article II, Legislative Branch, Term Limits

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled votes to amend the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, Article II, Section 2-12 and to send said amendment to the State Legislature as a Special Act as follows:

Section 2-12(b) shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

(b) Term Limits –

- (1) No person shall be eligible to be elected or appointed as a District Council member of the Town Council if, at any point during the term of office for which the person may be elected or appointed, the service of the eligible person would exceed four District Councilor elections terms or appointments to the Town Council.
- (2) No person shall be eligible to be elected or appointed as an At-large Council member of the Town Council if, at any point during the term of office for which the person may be elected or appointed, the service of the eligible person would exceed four elections terms or appointments to the Town Council.
- (3) For the purpose of this section, prior service as an At-Large Councilor shall not prevent seeking election as a District Councilor. Prior service as a District Councilor shall not prevent seeking election as an At-Large Councilor.
- (4) A term lasting less than 24 months shall not be included in calculating the total number of terms served by a member of the Town Council.

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

AMENDMENTS NEEDED AT THE REQUEST OF THE STATE
VOICE VOTE TO REFER BACK

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
• Rules & Procedures • Second Reading: 8/8/23 • Third Reading: 9/5/23 • Fourth Reading: 9/19/23 This Ordinance was advertised in the 9/25/23 Enterprise. • Town Council	• 12/21/21: Voted to recommend as amended • Ordinance sent back from State for minor amendment. 6/16/26: voted to continue

Attachments:

1. Amendment to Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-007 Charter Change - Term Limits

AMENDMENTS NEEDED AT THE REQUEST OF THE STATE
VOICE VOTE TO REFER BACK

Requested change to last paragraph on Propose Ordinance D-FY22-007 by State Legislation:

Original Ordinance wording:

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

State Wording:

Said Amendment shall only become effective and is contingent upon approval by the Town Council, the State Legislature and by a majority of the voters of the City known as the Town of Bridgewater, but not otherwise.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Fred Chase, Councilor
Date Introduced: 9/7/2021
First Reading: 9/7/2021
Second Reading: 8/8/2023
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading: 7/14/2026
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-009: Bridgewater Town Charter Article III, Elected Officials Recall Provision

ORDERED that the Town Charter, Article II, Legislative Branch shall be amended to include a recall provision as below:

“(a) Any holder of an elective office in the Town of Bridgewater may be recalled and removed there from by the qualified voters of said Town as herein provided.

(b) One hundred or more of a district’s registered voters, or in the case of an at large official four hundred or more registered voters, may file with the Town Clerk an affidavit containing the name of the officer and the office held whose recall is sought and a statement of the offenses upon which the petition is based. An allegation of offenses which shall constitute a basis for recall of an elected official under this section shall include, but not be limited to, the following transgressions: (1) conviction of a felony or conviction of the following misdemeanors as defined by Massachusetts General Laws: domestic violence, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the illegal manufacture, distribution or dispensing of controlled substances, assault or criminal harassment, while presently in office; or (2) admission of facts, while presently in office, sufficient to be convicted of a felony or sufficient to be convicted of the following misdemeanors as defined in Massachusetts General Laws: domestic violence, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the illegal manufacture, distribution or dispensing of controlled substances, assault or criminal harassment; or (3) violation of the conflict of interest law (M.G.L. c. 268A) while presently in office, as determined by the State Ethics Commission or the Attorney General; (4) attendance at less than fifty (50%) of the posted public meetings of the board or office of which the official was an elected member or to which the official has been elected or appointed as part of their elected position during the previous twelve (12) months; (5) insobriety while performing official functions, being placed under guardianship or conservatorship by a probate court; or (6) corruption, conviction of bribery, or extortion or (7) violation of law, regulation, bylaw or other abdication of the applicable requirements of the elected position. The elected official’s vote on a matter (other than in connection with a conflict of interest violation reference above) shall not be grounds for a recall petition. Said Town Clerk and the Board of Registrars shall, within five business days, certify thereon the number of

AMENDMENTS NEEDED AT THE REQUEST OF THE STATE
VOICE VOTE TO REFER BACK

signatures which are names of registered voters of the Town. The Town Clerk shall upon certification deliver to said voters making the affidavit copies of petition blanks demanding such recall, copies of which shall be kept available. The blanks shall be issued by the Town Clerk with said Clerk's signature and official seal attached thereto. They shall be dated, shall be addressed to the Town Council, and shall contain the names of all persons to whom they are issued, the name of the person whose recall is sought, the office held by the person named, the grounds of recall as stated in the affidavit and shall demand the election of a successor to said office. A copy of the petition shall be entered in a record book to be kept in the office of the Town Clerk. The recall petition shall be returned and filed with the Town Clerk within 21 calendar days after the certification of the affidavit and shall have been signed by no less than at least ten percent (10%) of the registered voters of the district or the Town, as the case may be, based on the last Town election, who shall add to their signatures the street and number if any, of their residences. The Town Clerk shall within twenty-four hours of receipt of the petition, submit the petition to the Board of Registrars of voters in the Town, and the Registrars shall within 14 calendar days certify thereon the number of signatures which are names of registered voters of the Town.

(c) If the petition shall be certified by the Town Clerk and the Board of Registrars, and found to be sufficient, the Town Clerk shall submit the same with the Town Clerk's certification to the Town Council without delay and said Council shall within five business days give written notice of the receipt of the certificate to the officer sought to be recalled. If the officer does not resign within five business days thereafter, the Town Council shall order an election to be held on a date fixed by them not less than 60 nor more than 90 calendar days after the date of the Town Clerk's certification that a sufficient petition has been filed; provided, however, if any other Town election is to occur within 100 calendar days after certification, the Town Council shall postpone the holding of the recall election to the date of such other election. If a vacancy occurs in said office after a recall election has been ordered, the election shall nevertheless proceed as specified in the section provided.

(d) An officer sought to be removed by recall may be a candidate for re-election and, unless the officer requests otherwise in writing, the Town Clerk shall place the officer's name on the ballot without nomination. The nomination of other candidates, the publication of the warrant for the recall election, and the conduct of the same, shall all be in accordance with the provisions of law relating to elections, unless otherwise provided in this act.

(e) The incumbent shall continue to perform the duties of office until the recall election. If then re-elected, the officer shall continue in office for the remainder of the unexpired term, subject to recall as before, except as provided in this section. If the majority of the votes cast upon the question of recall is in the affirmative, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. If not re-elected in the recall election, the officer shall be deemed removed upon the qualification of the successor, who shall hold office during the unexpired term. If the successor fails to qualify within five calendar days after receiving notification of the election, the incumbent shall be deemed removed and the office vacant.

(f) Ballots used in a recall election shall submit the following proposition in the order indicated: FOR the recall of (name of officer) (office held) or AGAINST the recall of (name of officer) (office held). Immediately at the right of each proposition there shall be an oval in which the voter, by filling in the oval, may vote for either of said propositions. Under the proposition shall appear the word "Candidates", the direction "Vote for One", and beneath this the names of candidates nominated as hereinbefore provided. In the case of machine voting or punch card balloting, or other forms of balloting provision shall be made to allow the same intent of the voter. If a majority of the votes cast upon the question of recall is in the affirmative, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. If a majority of votes on the question is in the negative, the ballots for candidates need not be counted.

(g) No recall petition shall be filed against an officer within six months after taking office, or in the case of an
AMENDMENTS NEEDED AT THE REQUEST OF THE STATE
VOICE VOTE TO REFER BACK

officer subjected to a recall election and not removed thereby, until at least six months after that election.

(h) No person who has been recalled from an office or who has resigned from office while recall proceedings were pending against that person, shall be appointed to any Town office within two years after such removal by recall or resignation.”

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

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s) and Disposition(s)
• 9/7/21: Town Council First Reading - Referred to Rules & Procedures • 12/22/21: Rules & Procedures Voted to recommend with amendments. • 8/8/23: Town Council Second Reading - Voted to retain at Council • 9/5/23: Town Council Third Reading - Referred back to Rules & Procedures • 10/3/23: Rules & Procedures Voted 3-0 to recommend changes • 10/10/23: Town Council Fourth Reading - referred back to Rules & Procedures • 11/9/23: Rules & Procedures - voted 3-0 with amendments • 11/21/23: Town Council - Approved for Advertising • 4/23/24: Town Council - Public Hearing held. Voted 8-0 to approve. • 6/16/26: Ordinance sent back from State for minor amendment. Voted to continue until next meeting.

- Attachments:
1. Amendment to Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-009 Charter Change - Elected Officials Recall Provision

Requested change to last paragraph on Propose Ordinance D-FY22-009 by State Legislation:

Original Ordinance wording:

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

State Wording:

Said Amendment shall only become effective and is contingent upon approval by the Town Council, the State Legislature and by a majority of the voters of the City known as the Town of Bridgewater, but not otherwise.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Sean Kennedy, Councilor
Date Introduced: 8/12/2025
First Reading: 8/12/2025
Second Reading: 10/21/2025
Amendments Adopted: 2/17/2026
Third Reading: 7/14/2026
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

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

ORDERED that pursuant to M.G.L., Chapter 268A; the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to amend the Bridgewater General Ordinances, Chapter 3, Article II, Section 1, Business Ethics and Conduct as follows:

Replace the existing language with the following:

The continued success of the Town is dependent upon our citizens' trust, and we are dedicated to preserving that trust. The Town will comply with all applicable laws and regulations and expects its department heads, supervisors, and employees to conduct business in accordance with the letter, spirit, and intent of all relevant laws, and to avoid any illegal or unethical conduct.

In order to comply with the 2009 Ethics Reform Act, all public employees are required to complete an ethics training program every two years. New employees must complete the training within 30 days of becoming a public employee and every two years thereafter. All public employees must also acknowledge receipt of the Summary of the Conflict of Interest Law within 30 days of hire and annually thereafter, as required by the State Ethics Commission. For purposes of this section, "acknowledge receipt" means the employee shall complete the electronic acknowledgment through the State Ethics Commission's online portal. Records of such acknowledgments are retained at the state level, and the Town Clerk may request verification as needed.

Ethics Training website – <https://massethicstraining.skillburst.com>

In accordance with Section 9-1 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, certain exempt employees are required to complete a Statement of Financial Interest. The statement is a supplement to the State Conflict of Interest Law and prohibits Town employees from making, or participating in making, any decision on any issue in which they have an economic interest, unless they comply with the State Ethics Commission's advice or rulings

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

under the Conflict of Interest Law, G.L. c. 268A.

Required reporting employees must complete and submit the statement within seven (7) days of employment, appointment, transfer, or promotion. Any employee who does not comply with the terms of this Ordinance shall be subject to appropriate discipline including suspension or termination, consistent with the requirements of the state civil service law and the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, as well as to civil or criminal prosecution under any other applicable state laws.

Pursuant to the provisions of Ordinance #D-FY26-004 (effective date:) the Required Reporters are listed as the following:

A. Heads of the following departments:

- Board of Assessors (Principal Assessor)
- Fire and EMS (Fire Chief)
- Public Works (Director, including Roadways/Highway)
- Community and Economic Development (Director, including Building and Zoning Official/Inspector of Buildings)
- Plumbing and Gas Inspector
- Police (Police Chief)
- Sealer of Weights and Measures
- Finance (Director/Town Accountant, including Treasurer/Collector)
- Wiring Inspector/Assistant Inspector
- Human Resources (Director)
- Informational Technologies (Director)
- Hearings Officer
- Elder Affairs (Director)
- Library (Director)
- Veterans' (Director/Veterans' Agent)
- Parks and Recreation (Director)

B. The following Town officials and Town employees:

- Conservation Agent
- Health Agent and Assistant Health Agent
- Town Council (All Members)
- Town Counsel and Associate Town Counsel
- Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager

C. All members of the following Boards, Committees, or Commissions:

- Affordable Housing Trust
- Board of Assessors
- Community Preservation Committee
- Conservation Commission
- Financial Committee
- Board of Health
- Historic District Commission
- Housing Authority

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- Planning Board
- Water and Sewer Board
- Zoning Board of Appeals

Explanation:

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the Business Ethics and Conduct section of Chapter 3, Article II, Section 1 of the Bridgewater General Ordinances, superseding Ordinance #D-2013-002 (effective November 15, 2013), to update the list of required reporters for the Statement of Financial Interest to promote transparency and accountability in compliance with the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter (Article I, Section 1-8) and M.G.L. c. 268A. It updates outdated references (e.g., changing "Roadways (Highway)" to "Public Works"), includes new departments formed after 2013, and expands the list to include members of boards, committees, and commissions with moderate to high risk of conflicts (e.g., those with regulatory, permitting, or fiscal authority, per M.G.L. c. 268A, Sections 19-23).

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

• Town Council	• 8/12/25: Referred to Rules & Procedures
• Rules & Procedures	• 9/9/25: Voted 3-0 to recommend with amendments
• Town Council	• 10/21/25: Motion to continue
• Town Council	• 2/17/26:: Amendments made and referred back to Rules & Procedures
• Rules & Procedures	• 2/20/26 : Voted to continue to their next meeting • 4/3/26: Voted to continue to their next meeting • 7/1/26: Voted 3-0 to recommend

Attachments: 1. Proposed General Ordinance D-FY26-004 Business Ethics and Conduct
Proposed Amendments

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

Proposed General Ordinance D-FY26-004: Business Ethics and Conduct
Proposed Amendments

Replace the existing language under “Business Ethics and Conduct” within Chapter 3, Article II, Section 1 as follows:

The continued success of the Town is dependent upon our citizens' trust and we are dedicated to preserving that trust. The Town will comply with all applicable laws and regulations and expects its department heads, supervisors, and employees to conduct business in accordance with the letter, spirit, and intent of all relevant laws, and to avoid any illegal or unethical conduct.

In order to comply with the 2009 Ethics Reform Act, all public employees are required to complete an ethics training program every two years. New employees must complete the training within 30 days of becoming a public employee and every two years thereafter. ~~After successfully completing the training on the state Ethics Training website—www.muniprogram.state.ma.us, employees must print and submit a copy of the certificate to the Human Resource office so that the Town has a record that this mandatory course was completed. An official copy of the same must also be filed with the Town Clerk.~~ **All public employees must also acknowledge receipt of the Summary of the Conflict of Interest Law within 30 days of hire and annually thereafter, as required by the State Ethics Commission. For purposes of this section, “acknowledge receipt” means the employee shall complete the electronic acknowledgement through the State Ethics Commission’s online portal. Records of such acknowledgements are retained at the state level, and the Town Clerk may request verification as needed.**

Ethics Training website: <https://massethicstraining.skillburst.com>

~~In accordance with section 9-1 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, certain exempt employees are required to complete a Statement of Financial Interest. The statement is a supplement to the State Conflict Law and it prohibits Town employees from making or participating in making any decision on any issue in which he/she has an economic interest, unless they comply with the State Ethics Commission’s advice or rulings under the Conflict of Interest Law, G.L. c.268A.~~

~~Required reporting employees must complete and submit the statement within seven (7) seven days of employment, appointment, transfer or promotion. Any employee who does not comply with the terms of Ordinance shall be subject to appropriate discipline including suspension, or termination, consistent with any requirements of the state civil service law and the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, as well as to civil or criminal prosecution under any other applicable state laws.~~

Pursuant to Article IX, Section 9-1 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Chapter 55, Article I of the Bridgewater General Ordinances, certain Town officials and Town employees identified in this section shall complete a Statement of Financial Interest. Such statement shall serve as a supplement to the State Conflict of Interest Law, G.L. c. 268A,

and shall prohibit Town officials and Town employees from making or participating in any decision in which they have an economic interest, except in accordance with the advice or rulings of the State Ethics Commission under said law. Required Reporters shall complete and submit the Statement of Financial Interest within seven (7) days of becoming a Required Reporter, whether by election, appointment, employment, transfer, or promotion.

Any Town employee who is required to file and fails to comply with the terms of this Ordinance shall be subject to appropriate discipline, including suspension or termination, consistent with applicable law, civil service requirements, collective bargaining agreements, personal policies, and the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter. Any Town official, board member, committee member, or commission member who is required to file and fails to comply shall be subject to such consequences, remedies, or enforcement as may be authorized by this Ordinance, the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, and other applicable law. Nothing herein shall preclude civil or criminal enforcement under any other applicable state law.

Pursuant to the provisions of Ordinance #~~D-2013-002~~ (effective date: November 15, 2013) **D-FY26-004** the Required Reporters are listed as following:

A. Heads of the following departments:

- Assessors
- Fire Department and EMS (Fire Chief)
- Roadways (Highway) Public Works (Director)
- Community and Economic Development (Director)
- Building and Zoning Official (Inspector of Buildings)
- Plumbing and Gas Inspector
- Police Department (Police Chief)
- Finance (Director/Town Accountant)
- Human Resources (Director)
- Information Technology (Director)
- Library (Director)
- Sealer of Weights and Measures
- Treasurer/Collector
- Town Accountant/Director of Finance
- Wiring Inspector/Assistant Inspector

B. The following Town officials and Town employees:

- Conservation Agent
- Health Agent and Assistant Health Agent
- Town Council (All Members)
- Town Counsel and Associate Town Counsel
- Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager

- ~~Veterans Agent~~

C. All members of the following Boards, Committees, or Commissions:

- Affordable Housing Trust
- Board of Assessors
- Community Preservation Committee
- Conservation Commission
- Financial Committee
- Board of Health
- Historic District Commission
- Housing Authority
- Planning Board
- Water and Sewer Board
- Zoning Board of Appeals

See Town Council Ordinance #D-2013-002 for complete legislation. The requisite reporting form is available in the Town Clerk's Office.

In general, the use of good judgment ~~based on~~ **grounded in** high ethical principles, ~~will~~ **shall** guide employees with respect to acceptable conduct. If a situation arises where it is difficult to determine the proper course of action, employees ~~shall~~ **are expected to** discuss the matter openly with their immediate supervisor, department head, and, if necessary, with Human Resources for advice.

Explanation:

*The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the Business Ethics and Conduct section of Chapter 3, Article II, Section 1 of the Bridgewater General Ordinances, superseding Ordinance #D-2013-002 (effective November 15, 2013). **The amendments modernize ethics compliance by updating the training requirements to reflect the State Ethics Commission's online portal, eliminating outdated paper-based acknowledgment practices and adding the statutory annual acknowledgement requirement under M.G.L. c. 268A Section 28. The ordinance also updates the Required Reports list maintained within this section. Collectively, these updates promote transparency, strengthen accountability, and ensure that the Town's Business Ethics and Conduct requirements remain current.** to update the list of required reporters for the Statement of Financial Interest to promote transparency and accountability in compliance with the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter (Article I, Section 1-8) and M.G.L. c. 268A. It updates outdated references (e.g., changing "Roadways (Highway)" to "Public Works"), includes new departments formed after 2013, and expands the list to include members of boards, committees, and commissions with moderate to high risk of conflicts (e.g., those with regulatory, permitting, or fiscal authority, per M.G.L. c. 268A, Sections 19-23).*



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 3/17/2026
First Reading: 3/17/2026
Second Reading: 7/14/2026
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Zoning Ordinance D-FY26-014: Amendments to Central Business District Regulations

Be it ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater, pursuant to the authority granted by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A and the Bridgewater Town Charter, that the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Bridgewater is hereby amended as attached.

Explanation:

The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the Town of Bridgewater Zoning Ordinance as it relates to the Central Business District (CBD) in order to clarify applicable use regulations, dimensional requirements, parking requirements, development review procedures, and the respective roles of the Planning Board and administrative staff in the review of development proposals within the Central Business District.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
Town Council	3/17/26: Referred to Planning Board and CEDC.
Joint Meeting with Planning Board and CEDC	6/17/26: Public Hearing sheduled. Notice advertised in the 6/3/26 and 6/10/26 Enterprise. Voted to continue to 6/24/26. 6/24/26: Voted to recommend with amendments.

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

• Town Council	• 7/14/26: Refer to Advertising
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Attachments: 1. Ordinance D-FY26-014 Planning Board - CEDC Joint Meeting Amendments

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



Community & Economic Development Division
Economic Development/Planning

Municipal Office Building
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0950

June 30, 2026

President Paul Murphy
Bridgewater Town Council
Academy Building
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

RE: Ordinance D-FY26-014 Zoning Ordinance – Amendments to Central Business District Regulations

Dear President Murphy & Members of the Council:

At its meeting June 24, 2026, the Bridgewater Planning Board held a joint public hearing with the Council CED Committee on the above referenced ordinance. The Planning Board voted in favor (5-0) to **recommend** D-FY26-014 to the Town Council, but not in its current form. The Planning Board recommended the attached edited version in place of the original version. The sections recommended to be modified are:

- 4.2 Table of Dimensional Requirements – Central Business District Standard and Redevelopment
- 6.1.4 CBD Parking
- 9.6.6 Requirements.
- 9.6.8 Design Standards
- 9.8.4.2 Development Review Process.
- 9.8.4.3 Development Plan Review Submittals.
- 9.8.5.1 Waivers and Variances
- 9.8.6.3 Mixed Use Frontage
- 9.8.6.4 Transitional Frontage
- 9.8.6.5 Flex Frontage
- 10.6 Site Plan Approval

No other changes are recommended. A complete summary of the recommended changes is attached.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat" followed by a stylized, looped monogram or surname.

Patrick Driscoll,
Planning Board Chair

4.2 TABLE OF DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Central Business District, Standard & Redevelopment

Minimum Lot Size	No minimum lot size for existing non-conforming lots. Newly created lots require 10,000 sq. ft.
Minimum Lot Area Per Dwelling Unit	See Sec. 9.6.7 Density for CBD-S – N/A for CBD-R
Minimum Lot Frontage	No minimum lot frontage for existing non-conforming lots. New lots require 100 feet.
Minimum Depth FRONT/REAR/SIDE	No setback front or side requirements for existing non-conforming lots. <u>Existing conforming and new</u> lots require 5' front and 5' side setbacks. All lots require 15 feet rear setback.*
Maximum Building Height STORY/FEET	3.5 /45' CBD-S <u>4/45'</u> and CBD-R
Maximum % Building Coverage	No restrictions – determine by the required yard depth and parking requirements.
Maximum % Lot Coverage	80%
Minimum % Open Space	20%
Maximum % Impervious	N/A

- See Section 9.8 for exceptions to maximum building height in CBD-R
- *Projects in the CBD-S and CBD-R fronting on Main St. shall maintain a minimum front yard setback of the existing structure or 20 feet.

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6.1.4 CBD Parking.

1. In the Central Business District, required off-street parking facilities or loading bays may be located on any lot within five hundred feet of the principal use they are designed to serve. Where the inclusion of loadings bays is not practical, loading from the street will be allowed during prescribed posted hours. The distance shall be measured as a straight line between the two closest points of the property lines. If the property on which the off-site parking is located is owned by anyone other than the property owner of the principal use, the property owner of the principal use must secure a letter of agreement with the other property owner confirming the indefinite deed restriction on the property to be utilized use of the property for off-site parking.
2. In the Central Business District, all off-street parking spaces (surface or structured) and loading bays which are to be constructed or expanded, shall be constructed or expanded between a principal building and the rear and/or side lot lines unless otherwise allowed under paragraph 3, below. Such parking spaces or bays shall be set back at least the same distance as the principal building from the right of way of any street or a minimum of twenty feet, whichever is greater.
3. In the Central Business District-S, all off-street parking facilities existing as of the effective date of these provisions may be expanded between the setback line of the principal building and any street, provided a special permit is granted by the Planning Board. The special permit shall be granted if the Planning Board determines that such expansion could not be adequately accommodated elsewhere on the lot, and the design and layout of said improvements and related appurtenances are approved under Section 10.6 Site Plan Approval.
4. Applicants for development or redevelopment within the Central Business District-S or R, who cannot meet parking requirements on site (and/or off site per Section 6.1.4.1 above) shall demonstrate that there will, at a minimum, be no net loss of parking on site. Parking below the minimum requirement established in this section shall be allowed only through a special permit granted by the Planning Board, and shall be subject to the following requirements:
 - a. The applicant cannot meet the parking standards of these bylaws on the property where the use is proposed and/or on any lot within five hundred feet.
 - b. As many parking spaces as reasonably feasible have been added on site and/or off site in an attempt to meet the parking requirements, and, at a minimum, there has been no reduction in the existing number of parking spaces on site.

An applicant for no net loss of parking must submit an application for a special permit which contains a statement addressing both of the requirements both requirements set forth above.

9.6.6 Requirements. All development within the CBD-S, unless otherwise specified below, is subject to the following requirements:

1. The location, size, and proposed uses of the development are properly located on the site.
2. Adjacent properties are protected from nuisance caused by noise, fumes, drainage, shading, traffic, and/or glare of lights.
3. Significant natural features are preserved as much as possible.
4. Historic features or buildings are preserved as much as possible.
5. Properties located within the Historic District shall comply with the rules and regulations of the Historic District Commission.
6. For all new construction, ground floors must be designed to accommodate commercial uses to a depth of at least 20 feet from the front façade, by maintaining a floor to ceiling height of at least 15 feet, within this depth. Commercial/Retail/Restaurant uses must occupy 80% of the gross floor area of the ground floor. (Note that any use allowed in the CBD per Section 3.2 Table of Use Regulations is permitted so long as the ground floor is designed to accommodate commercial uses.)
7. Architectural details of new buildings and additions, and textures of wall and roof materials, should be harmonious with the building's overall architectural style and should preserve and enhance the character of the surrounding area and meet the Design Standards of Section 9.6.8.
8. For new buildings and additions, the mass, proportion, and scale of the building, and proportions and relationships between doors and windows, should be harmonious among themselves and with those of the surrounding area and meet the Design Standards of Section 9.6.8.
9. Parcels in contiguous ownership shall be designed as and considered one project.
10. Parking shall comply with Section 6.1.4 CBD Parking.
11. All drive aisle widths shall be a minimum of 18' unless one-way traffic is proposed, and all parking areas shall maintain a minimum of 10% of the gross area as landscaping in addition to any other requirement in this Ordinance.
12. Drives and parking areas shall not be illuminated by lighting fixtures higher than twenty (20) feet. Sidewalks shall not be illuminated by lighting fixtures higher than fifteen (15) feet.

13. All lighting fixtures shall be shielded to have a total cutoff of all light at less than ninety (90) degrees. The total cutoff of all light shall occur within the property lines of the parcel to be developed.

9.6.8 Design Standards. The standards below apply to any new construction as well as to additions, as relevant (for example, an addition to the rear of an existing building would not trigger compliance with standards related to frontages and front façades). Design standards do not apply to a change of use in an existing building that is not being expanded with an addition.

1. The building's location shall be visually parallel or perpendicular to the street. The design of proposed buildings, structures and additions shall complement, whenever feasible, the general setback, roof line, roof pitch, arrangement of openings, color, exterior materials, proportion and scale of existing buildings in the vicinity.
2. Buildings shall be placed close to the road and sidewalk to encourage pedestrian traffic; long horizontal facades shall be avoided by incorporating recesses and projections, of a minimum of two feet in depth; entrance ways shall be emphasized by use of rooflines, changes in materials, landscape treatments or other architectural elements; franchise architecture with highly contrasting color scheme, non-traditional forms, reflective siding and roof materials shall be avoided; drive-through elements shall be architecturally incorporated into the building; drive-through elements generally shall not face the street; the material used for additions shall complement the materials of the original structure.
3. Building styles do not necessarily have to be identical to existing styles or mimic historic styles but should be complimentary and enhance the appearance of the area.
4. Buildings may be 3.5 stories tall or 45' in height.
5. Rooflines: Pitched roofs are preferred, but flat roofs may be allowed for taller buildings and when green roofs are proposed; roof colors shall be earth tones or a color that is darker than the facade and garish roof colors shall not be used; visible roofing materials shall complement the color and texture of the building's facade; roof mounted mechanical equipment shall be screened from public view or grouped at the rear of the structure where visibility is limited.
6. Twenty percent (20%) of the gross square feet of each lot shall be vegetated open-space. A landscaping plan stamped by a Registered Landscape Architect shall be submitted to the SPGA for review and approval.
7. Street facades should ensure that the building and landscaping enhances the streetscape and does not detract from the character of the area.
8. Building Signs: sign colors shall complement the colors on the building; carved wooded signs are encouraged; internally illuminated signs are not allowed; lighting fixtures illuminating signs shall be located so light is directed only onto the sign facade.
9. A minimum of 30% of the building's street side facade shall contain windows or glass-fronted doors on the ground floor and a minimum of 20% on the upper stories. The

windows shall be divided by muntins and framed with a casing trim; awnings shall be designed as an integral part of the building facade; metal awnings are discouraged.

10. ~~The requirement for commercial development may be accommodated on an adjacent parcel or parcels, providing the commercial development is constructed in conjunction and coordination with the residential development and reflects the character of a village or town center. An approved site plan of the entire development project must outline project phasing and scheduling as well as conditions of approval. Unless otherwise permitted elsewhere in this Section, no~~ No residential units are allowed on the ground floor of a mixed use development within the CBD-S.

9.8.4.2 Development Plan Review Process.

1. Preliminary Application Review

- a. Prior to the submittal of a Development Plan Review application, all DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS shall submit materials to DCED for a preliminary application review meeting with DCED staff. The purpose of the preliminary application shall be to afford the applicant input from DCED staff during the formative stages of the concept design and to highlight areas where the applicant may need to give additional attention prior to filing a Development Plan application. A preliminary application meeting is intended to encourage discussion and to provide guidance to the applicant. However, any opinions or advice offered by DCED staff shall not constitute or imply an approval or a denial of a project.
- b. The current owner of record or an authorized representative may request a preliminary application review meeting by submitting the required materials with a cover letter that is time-stamped at the Town Clerk's Office. The materials shall include one (1) original and seven (7) copies on a flash drive of the required conceptual materials per the CBD-R Preliminary Application Submission Requirements and Checklist.
- c. Prior to scheduling a preliminary application review meeting, and within ten (10) days of receiving the request, DCED shall notify the applicant as to whether the materials are adequate for a preliminary application review meeting and, if applicable, specify the time and location for the meeting. Said meeting shall be scheduled to occur within twenty (20) days of receiving the original request for a preliminary application review meeting. A petitioner may request to reschedule this meeting for another time through direct consultation with DCED.
- d. Comments shall be compiled by DCED staff and forwarded to the current owner of record or the authorized representative within five (5) business days of the review meeting. A copy of said comments shall be transmitted to the Building Inspector and the Town Clerk.

2. Development Plan Review Process

- a. Upon advisement from DCED on the preliminary application review, an applicant may submit a complete Development Plan to DCED pursuant to the requirements of Section 9.8.4.3 and the Development Plan Review Application and Checklist.
- b. DCED Director and Staff shall review all applications and for checklist for completeness within ten (10) days of receiving the application. If deemed

incomplete, based on the contents of the Development Plan Review Application and Checklist, DCED shall send a letter to the applicant via certified mail detailing the missing items and the applicant shall be invited to resubmit. Once the DCED Director and Staff deems an application complete, Staff will schedule a public ~~information meeting hearing with the Planning Board~~.

- c. Within thirty (30) days, or other agreed upon extension of time by the parties, of the opening of the public hearing the Planning Board shall render its decision and file the decision with the town clerk. ~~of deeming the application complete, DCED Staff shall determine whether the application satisfies all the checklist requirements. At the beginning of the 30-day review period by the CED office, the submittals and plans for development shall be sent to the planning board for review at a regularly scheduled planning board meeting. Within the 30-day approval period (unless extended by agreement) the Planning Board shall report its comment and final recommendation back to the CED Department prior to the issuance of any permit. If it does, the application shall be approved. If it does not, DCED Staff shall submit, in writing, any shortcomings to the applicant. Denied applications may be submitted again once any shortcomings are addressed.~~
- d. Where an application requires a variance as determined by the Building Commissioner ~~DCED Director~~, the application may be conditionally approved by the Planning Board ~~DCED Staff~~, pending the outcome of the variance request as described in Section 9.8.6.

9.8.4.3 Development Plan Review Submittals.

1. The current owner of record or an authorized representative shall submit a copy of the development plan review application to DCED after the original application is time-stamped at the Town Clerk's Office.
2. All plans and drawings submitted to the Staff and the Planning Board shall be prepared by a professional licensed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the applicable discipline (i.e. architecture, landscape architecture, and engineering) and shall include all information required as part of the Development Plan Review Application and Checklist.

9.8.5 Waivers and Variances.

9.8.5.1 Waivers. A waiver may be requested for any of the checklist requirements referenced in Section 9.8.4 which may not be applicable to a particular project. An applicant may request a waiver, which may be granted at the discretion of the ~~DCED~~ Planning Board.

9.8.6.3 Mixed-use Frontage.

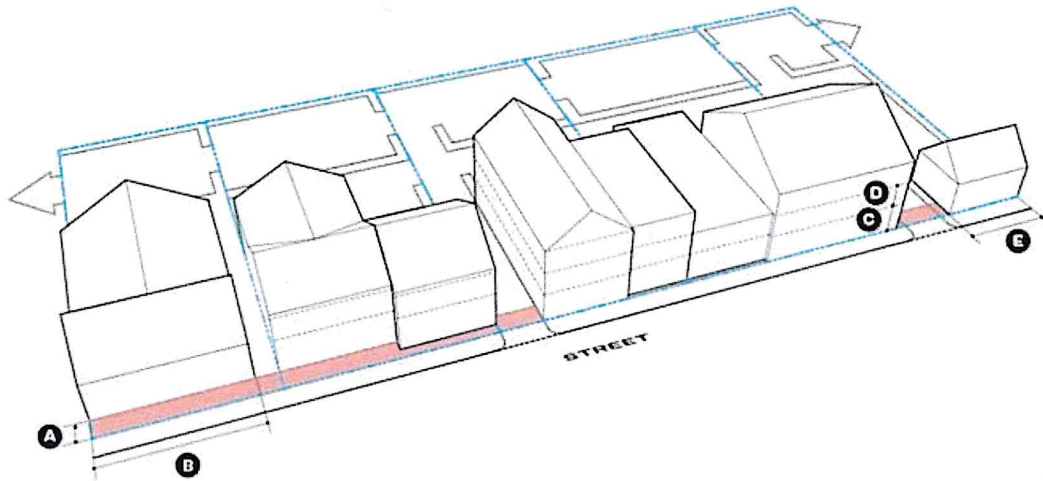
1. Illustrations And Intent. The photos and statements below are provided as illustrations of intent and are advisory only. They do not have the power of law. Refer to the standards on the following pages for the specific prescriptions and restrictions of the Mixed-Use Frontage Village Center Frontage-Building Envelope Standard. Where these photos or statements may be inconsistent with the regulations, the regulations prevail.

The purpose of this frontage is to develop village-scale mixed-use buildings that are close to the sidewalk and support pedestrian activity. New development should continue the character and historic patterns of Central Square. This frontage requires GROUND STORY activation through commercial and other uses that address the needs of the community and strengthen Bridgewater's historical core and sense of place.





2. Siting



A Primary Front Setback (min/max)	0 ft	10 ft
Side Setback (min)	0 ft	
Rear Setback (min)	0 ft*	
Lot Coverage (max)	90%	

* If abutting Residential, the minimum rear setback is twenty (20) feet.

3. Use & Elements

Ground Floor Fenestration (min/max)	30%	90%
Upper Story Fenestration (min/max)	20%	70%
<u>Commercial Ground Story Space Depth (min)</u>	<u>25 ft</u>	
<u>Active Ground Story Commercial (min)</u>	<u>70%</u>	
Blank Wall (max)	20 ft	

4. Massing & Height

B Building width (max)	<u>200-100</u> ft	
C Façade Build Out (min)	80%	
D Ground Story Height (min/max)	15 ft	20 ft
E Upper Story Height (min/max)	10 ft	12 ft
Ground Story Clear Height (min)	12 ft	
Upper Story Clear Height (min)	8 ft	
Building Height (max)	<u>4-3.5</u> stories	
Building Footprint (max)	6,000 sf	

~~* If located behind Frontage buildings, 16,000 sf is permitted.~~

5. Design Standards

- a. Buildings at TERMINATED VISTAS serve as focal points and should be articulated with design features and character that respond visually to their location.
- b. When a use other than retail occupies the GROUND STORY, the space should be designed to accommodate retail such as providing adequate clear height for ventilation and exhaust.
- c. Building support functions, such as lobbies, rental offices, and club/activity rooms may be located at grade; however, excluding the lobby, no more than 25% of the BES SITE FRONTAGE shall be occupied by such uses.
- d. Loading and servicing shall be to the rear and off an alley, if present.
- e. Within 8 feet of a BLOCK CORNER, the GROUND STORY FAÇADE may be chamfered to form a corner entry.

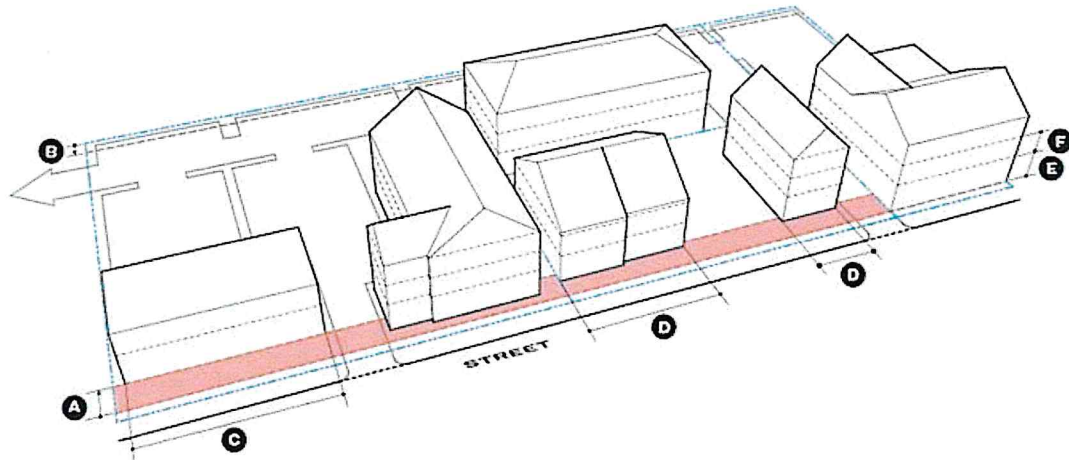
9.8.6.4 Transitional Frontage.

1. Illustrations And Intent. These photos and statements are provided as illustrations of intent and are advisory only. They do not have the power of law. Refer to the standards on the following pages for the specific prescriptions and restrictions of the Transitional Frontage Building Envelope Standard. Where these photos or statements may be inconsistent with the regulations, the regulations prevail.

The purpose of this frontage is to develop neighborhood-scale mixed-use buildings that are close to the sidewalk and support pedestrian activity. This frontage requires commercial activation along the frontage.~~a CONVERTIBLE GROUND STORY to provide flexibility to changing community needs and ensure commercial activity can be located anywhere along the frontage type.~~



2. Siting



A Primary Front Setback (min/max)	5 ft	20 ft
Side Setback (min)	0 ft	
B Rear Setback (min)	10 ft*	
Lot Coverage (max)	75%	
Building Separation (min)	12 ft	

* If abutting Residential, the minimum rear setback is twenty (20) feet.

3. Use & Elements

Ground Floor Fenestration (min/max)	30%	70%
Upper Story Fenestration (min/max)	20%	70%
Convertible Ground Story Space Depth (min)	30 ft	
Active Ground Story Commercial (min)	70%	
Blank Wall (max)	20 ft	

4. Massing & Height

C Building width (max)	200 100ft	
D Façade Build Out (min)	50%	
E Ground Story Height (min/max)	15 ft	20 ft
F Upper Story Height (min/max)	10 ft	12 ft
Ground Story Clear Height (min)	12 ft	
Upper Story Clear Height (min)	8 ft	
Building Height (max)	4 3.5stories*	
Building Footprint (max)	6,000 sf*	

~~* Up to 5 stories is permitted for lots over 160,000 square feet provided the structure is behind FRONTAGE buildings on Broad Street, Spring Street or Plymouth Street and provided that any additional stories are occupied only by residential uses.~~

~~** If located behind FRONTAGE buildings, 25,000 sf is permitted.~~

5. Design Standards

- a. Buildings at TERMINATED VISTAS serve as focal points and should be articulated with design features and character that respond visually to their location.
- b. When a use other than retail occupies the GROUND STORY, the space should be designed to accommodate retail such as providing adequate clear height for ventilation and exhaust.
- c. Loading and servicing shall be to the rear and off the alley, if present.
- d. Within 8 feet of a BLOCK CORNER, the GROUND STORY FAÇADE may be chamfered to form a corner entry.
- e. ~~For RESIDENTIAL UNITS on the GROUND STORY, the finished floor elevation shall be no less than 3 feet above the average elevation of the fronting sidewalk for the BES SITE. Alternatively, the windowsills can be raised to a maximum of five (5) ft if landscaping is provided between the building and the right-of-way.~~

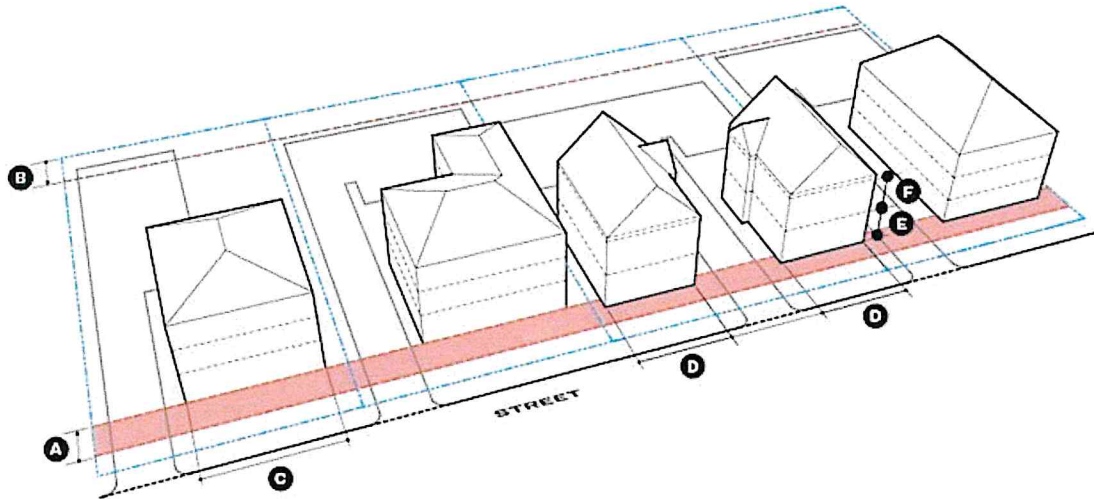
9.8.6.5 Flex Frontage

1. Illustrations And Intent. These photos and statements are provided as illustrations of intent and are advisory only. They do not have the power of law. Refer to the standards on the following pages for the specific prescriptions and restrictions of the Flex Frontage Building Envelope Standard. Where these photos or statements may be inconsistent with the regulations, the regulations prevail.

The purpose of this frontage is to develop neighborhood-scale buildings with a range of uses and housing types. Neighborhood-friendly businesses are allowed and encouraged, especially at intersections and adjacent to the village and neighborhood center frontages. All building space along the street frontage shall be commercial, retail, office or restaurant uses.



2. Siting



A Primary Front Setback (min/max)	10 ft	25 ft
Side Setback (min)	0 ft	
B Rear Setback (min)	20 ft	
Lot Coverage (max)	75%	
Building Separation (min)	12 ft	

3. Use & Elements

Ground Floor Fenestration (min/max)	30%	70%
Upper Story Fenestration (min/max)	20%	70%
<u>Active Ground Story Commercial (min)</u>	<u>70%</u>	
Blank Wall (max)	20 ft	

4. Massing & Height

C Building width (max)	<u>150-100ft</u>	
D Façade Build Out (min)	50%	
E Ground Story Height (min/max)	10 ft	20 ft
F Upper Story Height (min/max)	10 ft	12 ft
Ground Story Clear Height (min)	12 ft	
Upper Story Clear Height (min)	8 ft	
Building Height (max)	<u>4-3.5stories*</u>	
Building Footprint (max)	3500 sf	

*Up to 5 stories is permitted for lots over 160,000 square feet provided the structure is behind FRONTAGE buildings on Broad Street, Spring Street or Plymouth Street and provided that any additional stories are occupied only by residential uses.

~~** If located behind FRONTAGE buildings, 8,000 sf is permitted.~~

5. Design Standards

- a. Loading and servicing shall be to the rear and off the alley, if present.
- b. For RESIDENTIAL UNITS on the GROUND STORY, the finished floor elevation shall be no less than 3 feet above the average elevation of the fronting sidewalk for the BES SITE. Alternatively, the windowsills can be raised to a maximum of five (5) feet if landscaping is provided between the building and the right-of-way.

9.8.7 General Architectural Standards

9.8.7.1 General Intent. The primary purposes of the General Architectural Standards, working in tandem with the Building Envelope Standards, are to:

1. reinforce, enhance, and support a vibrant and safe pedestrian environment through the application of high-quality materials and architectural designs and
2. to achieve an aesthetic that promotes a distinct visual identity, is rich in character, creates inviting public spaces, and is strengthened by the diversity and quality of its architecture and public spaces.

The character of new building facades should complement the materials and general scale of surrounding neighborhood buildings and, through the application of these standards, create a cohesive ensemble of buildings.

9.8.8 Building Wall Materials. All Illustrations and precedent images that follow are for illustrative purposes only, with no regulatory effect. They are provided as examples and shall not imply that every element in the image is permitted.

9.8.8.1 Intent. The BUILDING WALL MATERIALS standards are intended to achieve simple configurations and solid craftsmanship. The building walls should be developed using construction techniques and structural constraints of time-tested, long-lasting building materials.

9.8.8.2 General Standards for all Buildings/Building Envelope Standards

1. To achieve simple configurations, the type and color variation of BUILDING WALL MATERIALS should be minimal and kept to three (3) or fewer.

10.6 SITE PLAN APPROVAL

10.6.1 Applicability. The following types of activities and uses require site plan review by the Planning Board:

1. Construction, exterior alteration or exterior expansion of or change of use within a municipal, institutional or residential structure with two or more dwelling units.

~~* CBD-R is exempt from this and should follow the Development Plan Review Process.~~



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Paul Murphy, Councilor
Date Introduced: 7/14/2026
First Reading: 7/14/2026
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Proposed Ordinance D-FY27-001: Amend Part II Administrative Code Chapter 2, Article II. Section 24, Order of Business & Agenda

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

ORDERED that; the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to amend the Bridgewater Administrative Code, Part II, Chapter 2, Article II, Section 24 Order of Business & Agenda as follows:

All items for the agenda, including any relevant communications from town officers and town boards other than the Town Manager, shall be submitted to the Council Clerk in writing no later than 10:00 AM on the ~~Wednesday~~ **Tuesday** preceding the regular Council meeting. The agenda including any additional relevant information shall be provided to the Council by ~~12:00 noon~~ **4:00 PM** on the ~~Friday~~ **Thursday** preceding a Tuesday Council meeting.

Explanation:

Due to the Academy Building's revised operating hours and Friday closure, the deadline for submitting items for the Town Council agenda must be adjusted.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
•	•

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING
VOICE VOTE TO REFER TO RULES & PROCEDURES

•	•
•	•

Attachments: None



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 7/14/2026
First Reading: 7/14/2026
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY27-007: Acceptance of Gift - Bridgewater State University

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 two gifts from Bridgewater State University totaling \$110,000. 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 the gift of \$60,000 from BSU and to expend the gift in accordance with stated purpose thereof which is equal amounts to be distributed to the Police Department, Fire Department and Highway Department.

FURTHER ORDERED that the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to accept the gift of \$50,000 from BSU and to expend the gift in accordance with stated purpose thereof which is either renovations to the former gas station at Summer and Plymouth Street or for improvement of the adjacent intersection.

Explanation:

BSU Annual Donation to Public Safety equally divided to Police, Fire, and Highway for ongoing Community Partnership. BSU also made an additional donation for renovations to the former gas station or improvements to the adjacent intersection.

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING

REFER TO BUDGET & FINANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

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

Attachments: 1. BSU Donation FY27



June 15, 2026

Mr. Justin Casanova-Davis, Town Manager
Town of Bridgewater
Memorial Building
25 South Street
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Re: Restricted Gift to the Town of Bridgewater

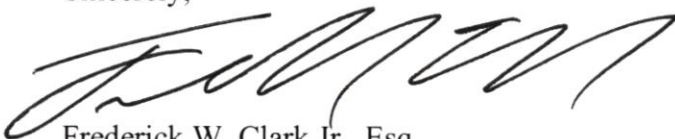
Dear Mr. Casanova-Davis:

On behalf of Bridgewater State University, I am pleased to provide the Town of Bridgewater with a restricted one-time gift of funds in the amount of \$60,000. It is Bridgewater State University's intent to restrict our gift so that equal amounts be distributed to the Town of Bridgewater Fire Department, Town of Bridgewater Police Department and to the Town of Bridgewater Highway Department. The funds from Bridgewater State University are provided in Fiscal Year 2026 but may be used at any time within the next twelve months by the Town of Bridgewater for the restricted purpose noted above.

In addition, I am pleased to provide the Town of Bridgewater with a restricted one-time gift of funds in the amount of \$50,000 from the Foundation. It is Bridgewater State University's intent to restrict our gift to either renovations to the former gas station at Summer and Plymouth Streets or for improvement of the adjacent intersection. These funds are also being provided in Fiscal Year 2026 and may be used by the Town of Bridgewater at any time with the next twelve months for the designated purpose.

It is important for BSU and the Town of Bridgewater to continue finding ways to share resources for our mutual benefit and especially for the benefit of our students.

Sincerely,



Frederick W. Clark Jr., Esq.
President



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 7/14/2026
First Reading: 7/14/2026
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY27-008: Transfer Order – Community Preservation Committee – Cultural Grant Match for the Town House

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled vote to

In accordance with Section 6-4 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, vote to appropriate \$8,000 from CPA Administrative funds (Account #530000) to match the Cultural grant received by the Town for the assessment of the Town House.

Explanation:

Approved by the CPC for funds to be used as a match to support the Town receiving a grant from the Massachusetts Systems Replacement Plan Grant Program.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

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

Attachments: 1. Notice of Admin Funds to Match Cultural Grant of the Town House

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING

REFER TO BUDGET & FINANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE



Town of Bridgewater, MA

Community Preservation Committee

66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

June 25, 2026

Mr. Justin Cassanova-Davis, Town Manager
Town of Bridgewater
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Re: Notification of Use of CPA Admin Funds for Cultural Grant Match for the Town House

Dear Mr. Cassanova-Davis:

This letter is to inform you that a vote was taken at the CPC's June 24th, 2026, meeting in regard to your letter dated May 20th, 2026, which requested that CPA funds be used as a match to support the Town's application to a Massachusetts Systems Replacement Plan Grant Program. The following motion, made by Laurie Keane and duly seconded, passed with 5 yeas and 0 nays.

That the CPC allocate \$8,000 Administrative funds, account 530000, FY27, to match the Cultural grant received by the Town for the assessment of the Town House.

Congratulations on the subsequent award of this grant! We're looking forward to the assessment as a step to restore such an important building to Bridgewater's history and our Town center. As always, please let me know if you have any questions/comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gina Guasconi".

Gina Guasconi, Chair
Community Preservation Committee

cc: Laurie Guerrini
Josh McGraw
Carlton Hunt
Adelene Ellenberg
Debra Ward
Paul Murphy



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 7/14/2026
First Reading: 7/14/2026
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY27-009: Transfer Order - Library Budget Reallocation

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 of Use of Funds \$56,000:

SOURCES OF FUNDING			Amount
Library Expenses	06105012	Operational expenses	\$ 17,000.00
Library Expenses	06105195	Building Maintenance	\$ 39,000.00
Total:			\$ 56,000.00
USES OF FUNDING			Amount
Library Salaries Wages	06105001	Salaries Wages Benefits	\$ 56,000.00
Total			\$ 56,000.00

Explanation:

To reallocate FY2027 budgeted funding from Library Expenditures to Library Salaries. The expenditures will be covered with Library state aid funding.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
•	•

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: 7/14/2026
First Reading: 7/14/2026
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY27-010: Transfer Order - Finance Budget Reallocation

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 of Use of Funds \$37,549.00:

SOURCES OF FUNDING			Amount
Treasury/Collection Salaries/Wages/Ben	01455001	Salaries Wages Benefits	\$ 37,549.00
Total:			\$ 37,549.00
USES OF FUNDING			Amount
Assessors Salaries/Wages/Benefits	01415001	Salaries Wages Benefits	\$ 37,549.00
Total			\$ 37,549.00

Explanation:

To reallocate FY2027 budgeted funding in the Treasury/Collector's Salaries to the Assessors Salaries within the Finance Department. This will allow funding of an administrative (pt) position in the Assessing Department.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
•	•

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

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•	•

Attachments: None



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 7/14/2026
First Reading: 7/14/2026
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY27-011: Transfer Order - Funding of Fire Arbitration

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 of Use of Funds \$1,024,340:

SOURCES OF FUNDING			Amount
Stabilization Fund	8004	Stabilization Trust Fund	\$ 1,024,340.00
Total:			\$ 1,024,340.00
USES OF FUNDING			Amount
Fire/EMS Salaries/Wages/Benefits FY2025	02205001	Salaries Wages Benefits	\$ 155,739.00
Fire/EMS Salaries/Wages/Benefits FY2026	02205001	Salaries Wages Benefits	\$ 250,891.00
Fire/EMS Salaries/Wages/Benefits FY2027	02205001	Salaries Wages Benefits	\$ 617,710.00
Total			\$ 1,024,340.00

Explanation:

To provide funding for the Joint Labor Management Committee's award decision regarding arbitration between the Town and the Bridgewater Firefighters' union from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

•	•
•	•
•	•

- Attachments:

1.

Decision and Award Bridgewater Firefighters IAFF Local 2611 and Town of Bridgewater JLM-24-10842 (003)

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BEFORE THE JOINT LABOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

In the Matter of Interest Arbitration Between:	)	
	)	
	)	
Bridgewater Firefighters, IAFF Local 2611	)	Decision and Award
	)	
and	)	JLM-24-10842
	)	
Town of Bridgewater	)	
	)	

Committee Members: Sheila Mayberry, Neutral Chair
David Gagne, Management Committee Member
Robert Green, Labor Committee Member

Appearances: For the Employer: John J. Clifford, Esq.
For the Union: Hailey Ferguson, Esq.

Date of Hearing: March 20, 2026

Location: Bridgewater, Massachusetts

I. INTRODUCTION

On March 20, 2026, the Joint Labor Management Committee's appointed Panel held an interest arbitration hearing between the Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, and the Bridgewater Firefighters Union, IFFA Local 2611. The Panel admitted documentary evidence and witness testimony. Each party filed a post-hearing brief on May 15, 2026.

The issues certified for arbitration are as follows:

Union Issues

1. Wages
2. EMS Stipend

3. Active Shooter / Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Incentive Pay: Amend Article 17, add new Section 6
4. Educational Incentive Pay: Amend Article 13, Section 2
5. Holiday: Amend Article 5, Section 2

Town Issues

1. Wages
2. Health Insurance: Amend Article 10
3. Vacation Language: Amend Article 7, add new Section 9
4. Vacation Language: Amend Article 7, add new Section 10

Pursuant to JLMC Statute (Chapter 589 of the Acts of 1987), an arbitration panel must consider the following factors in determining any awards:

1. Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 59, Section 21C.
2. The financial ability of the municipality to meet costs, to include such factors as
 - (i) its state reimbursements and assessments;
 - (ii) its long and short term bonded indebtedness;
 - (iii) its estimated share in the metropolitan district commission's deficit;
 - (iv) its estimated share in the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's deficit; and
 - (v) consideration of average per capita property tax burden, average annual income of community members, the effect any accord might have on the respective property tax rates on the city or town.
3. The interests and welfare of the public.
4. The hazards of employment, physical, educational and mental qualifications, job training and skills involved.
5. A comparison of wages, hours and conditions of employment of the employees with those of other employees performing similar services, and with other employees generally in public and private employment in comparable communities.
6. The decisions and recommendations of the fact-finder, if any.
7. The average consumer prices for goods and services, e.g., the cost of living.

8. The overall compensation presently received by the employees, including direct wages and fringe benefits.
10. Such other factors that are considered in collective bargaining, mediation, fact-finding, arbitration or otherwise between parties, in the public services or in private employment.
11. The Parties' stipulations.

II. FINDINGS AND AWARDS

1. Wages

Union's Proposal

- a. Effective 7/1/24: 5%
- b. Effective 7/1/25: 5%
- c. Effective 7/1/26: 5%

Town's Proposal

- a. Effective 7/1/24: No Change in Compensation
- b. Effective 7/1/25: 0.75%
- c. Effective 7/1/26: 0.75%

Findings

The Panel has reviewed the record evidence and arguments of the Parties and deliberated over the impact of the Town's financial condition and its ability to pay increases in wages and benefits.

The Town of Bridgewater is experiencing very challenging financial circumstances. It is eliminating jobs and reducing hours of many employees. In 2025, the Town's voters rejected, 55% to 44%, a Proposition 2 1/2 override vote to stave off reductions in the Town's budget. The Panel finds that the decision in 2026 not to seek an override after the decisive rejection in 2025 was reasonable. The FY26 budget was balanced with \$450,000 from one-time revenue sources, thereby adding to the structural deficit for FY27. For FY27, only \$540,000 in new revenue was available to fund increases in the Town's operational budget, necessitating reductions in hours

and services, as well as layoffs. The Town's priority was to fully fund public safety, while making reductions in other categories, as follows:

Category	2027 Net Reduction
General Government	-\$229,648 (-5.24%)
Public Safety	-\$24,536 (-0.17%)
Department of Public Works	-\$131,796 (-7.21%)
Health & Human Services	-\$49,600 (-8.74%)
Culture / Recreation	-\$116,411 (-11.28%)
Total Reductions	-\$551,991

The available revenue from the Ambulance funds will be used to balance the Town's budget and a certain percentage of it will be used to partially pay for the Fire Department's budget. New revenue will also be used to shore up other departments' budgets and to pay for increases in the Fire Department. This Panel finds, therefore, that while there is insufficient revenue to pay for the Union's proposed wage increase, there are funds to pay for a wage increase that will not be regressive and also reflect the reality of the Town's current financial circumstances.

With respect to the income levels of members of the Town's police and firefighter bargaining units, the Panel finds that the Town has attempted to maintain pattern bargaining for wage increases between the bargaining units over time. The Panel also finds that bargaining unit members' wages and benefits are comparable to similar communities in the region.

Award

Based upon the evidence of the Town's ability to pay and arguments presented by the Parties, the Panel awards wage increases as follows:

Effective 7/1/2024: 2%

Effective 7/1/2025: 1%

Effective 7/1/2026: 1%

Effective 1/1/2027: 1%

2. EMS Stipend

Union's Proposal

Effective 7/1/24: 18.5% increase

Effective 7/1/25: 19.5% increase

Effective 7/1/26: 20.5% increase

Town's Response

No Change

Findings

The Panel finds that the EMT stipend must include an increased financial recognition of the skills required by certified EMTs and all the services they provide.

Award

The EMT Stipend increase shall be as follows:

Effective 7/1/2024: 0.5%

Effective 7/1/2025: 0.5%

Effective 7/1/2026: 0.5%

3. Active Shooter / Hostile Event Response ("ASHER") Incentive Pay (Article 17)

Union's Proposal

The Union proposes to add a new Section 6 to Article 17 to memorialize a stipend, whereby members receive a base wage increase of 1% for completing required ASHER training.

Town's Response

No Change

Findings

The Panel does not find that a stipend for completing ASHER training is warranted at this time.

Award

None

4. Educational Incentive Pay (Article 13)

Union's Proposal

The Union proposes to replace the existing flat stipends in Section 2 of Article 13 with percentage-based incentives, based upon the employee's wages, assigned to each educational degree, as follows:

Effective 7/1/2024

- a. Associate's degree: 6%
- b. Bachelor's degree: 7.5%
- c. Master's degree: 9%

Effective 7/1/2025

- a. Associate's degree: 10%
- b. Bachelor's degree: 15%
- c. Master's degree: 20%

Effective 7/1/2026

- a. Associate's degree: 15%
- b. Bachelor's degree: 20%
- c. Master's degree: 25%

Town's Response

No Change

Findings

The existing flat stipends are \$3500 for an Associate's degree, \$4500 for a Bachelor's degree, and \$5500 for a Master's degree. Based on the evidence and arguments presented, the Panel agrees that the educational stipend should instead be calculated as a percentage of the employee's wages, with the provision that no calculated stipend should be lower than the existing flat stipend; therefore, the existing flat stipends now constitute the *minimum* amount. Since this item has been treated as separate and distinct from the wages, it should also be treated as such

during the term of this Agreement. The Panel finds that this change should be implemented in the third year of the contract's term.

Award

Effective July 1, 2026, the educational stipends shall be:

- a. Associate's degree: 5% of wages (\$3500 minimum)
- b. Bachelor's degree: 6.5% of wages (\$4500 minimum)
- c. Master's degree: 7.5% of wages (\$5500 minimum)

5. Health Insurance (Article 10)

Town's Proposal

Effective 7/1/25, all new bargaining unit members shall contribute 25% towards the cost of the Town's contributory group insurance plan, consisting of Mayflower Health Group's BCBS Network Blue Benchmark Plan and HPHC Benchmark Plan.

Union's Response

No Change

Findings

Based upon the argument and the evidence provided by the Parties, the Panel finds that, while increasing the contributory percentage is not unreasonable, it is impractical to implement any change at this point in the negotiations. Therefore, the Panel determines that no change in this rate shall be implemented during the term of this Agreement. However, the Panel recommends that the Town's proposal be discussed during the next round of negotiations.

Award

None

6. Vacation Language (Article 7)

Town's Proposals

1. Add a new Section 9 – Vacation Buyback, as follows:

A member may annually trade in up to eight (8) vacation days per year for compensation but must notify the Town in writing by November 1st of their intent to do so. Once submitted, this request is irrevocable, and the accrual time will be deducted from the member's available vacation balance. The payment will be made at the member's current rate of pay and will appear in the first payroll in December. The payment will be made with regular shift pay. If a member elects to use this provision in one calendar year, the members cannot carry over vacation time in any amount to the succeeding calendar year.

2. Add a new Section 10 – Line-of-Duty Injury, as follows:

In the event a member is absent from duty due to a line-of-duty injury but is able to go on a pre-scheduled vacation, he/she/they shall be required to utilize accrued vacation and/or personal time. The employees' injured-on-duty status and compensation will not be affected.

Union's Response

No Change

Findings

Based upon the arguments of the Parties, the Panel finds insufficient evidence to award the Town's proposal.

Award

None

7. Holiday Language (Article 5)

Union's Proposals

Amend Article V, Section 2 to read:

"... Holiday pay shall be twelve (12) hours pay at the employee's base hourly rate of pay or ata (sic)." Tour off, at the employee's discretion."

The Union also argued to amend Section 2 to remove the requirement that members must give the Chief four (4) days prior notice before taking a holiday off.

Town's Response

No Change

Findings

Based upon the arguments of the Parties, the Panel does not find sufficient justification to award the Union's proposals.

Award

None

III. AWARD SUMMARY

1. Wages

Effective 7/1/2024: 2%

Effective 7/1/2025: 1%

Effective 7/1/2026: 1%

Effective 1/1/2027: 1%

2. EMT Stipend

Effective 7/1/2024: 0.5%

Effective 7/1/2025: 0.5%

Effective 7/1/2026: 0.5%

3. Active Shooter / Hostile Event Response ("ASHER") Incentive Pay (Article 17)

The Panel does not award the Union's proposal.

4. Educational Incentive Pay (Article 13)

Effective July 1, 2026, the educational stipends shall be:

- a. Associate's degree: 5% of wages (\$3500 minimum)
- b. Bachelor's degree: 6.5% of wages (\$4500 minimum)
- c. Master's degree: 7.5% of wages (\$5500 minimum)

5. Health Insurance (Article 10)

The Panel does not award the Town's proposal.

6. Vacation Language (Article 7)

The Panel does not award either of the Town's proposals.

7. Holiday Language (Article 5)

The Panel does not award either of the Union's proposals.



Sheila Mayberry, Neutral Chair



David Gagne, Management Committee Member



Robert Green, Labor Committee Member

June 24, 2026



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 7/14/2026
First Reading: 7/14/2026
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY27-012: Conservation Restriction - 48 Summer Street

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 grant award of \$313,900 from the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs for the 46 Summer Street Conservation Restriction Purchase. 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 does hereby approve and accept the Conservation Restriction as submitted by Town Counsel.

Explanation:

The Town is required to place a conservation restriction as part of the project agreement with the state. Town Counsel is finalizing the final version.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
•	•

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING

Attachments: None