

**Town of Bridgewater
Town Council
FY25 Resolutions**

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Ordinance Number	Ordinance Title	Date Adopted
R-FY25-001	National POW/MIA Recognition Day	September 17, 2024
R-FY25-002	To Raise the POW/MIA Flag	October 15, 2024
R-FY25-003	FY2026 Budget Resolution	November 26, 2024
R-FY25-004	Town Council Meeting Dates – 2025	December 17, 2024
R-FY25-005	Summer Street Parkland Grant	January 21, 2025
R-FY25-006	Asking the Town Manager to look into PFAS Grants	March 4, 2025
R-FY25-009	Recognition of Pride Month	April 22, 2025
R-FY25-010	Honoring Juneteenth	April 22, 2025
R-FY25-011	Honoring Purple Heart Month	April 22, 2025
R-FY25-012	FY26 School District Budget Funding Letter	May 20, 2025
R-FY25-013	Support of FY2026 Budget	June 3, 2025
R-FY25-014	School Finance Review Resolution	July 15, 2025



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Mark Linde, Councilor
Sonya Striggles
Date Introduced: 9/17/2024
First Reading: 9/17/2024
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted: 9/17/2024
Date Effective: 9/17/2024

Resolution: R-FY25-001: National POW/MIA Recognition Day

WHEREAS, National POW/MIA Recognition Day was established in 1979 through a proclamation signed by President Jimmy Carter; and

WHEREAS, since then, each subsequent President has issued an annual proclamation commemorating the third Friday in September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day; and

WHEREAS, we should honor and recognize the brave and selfless heroes and their families; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, does hereby proclaim that each year the third Friday in September will be known as **NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY** in the Town of Bridgewater, and will fly the POW/MIA Flag at the Academy Building and remember what it represents.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

n accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, to approve the aforementioned Order, by a Roll-call vote 9-0-0.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk

VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Fred Chase, Councilor
Striggles Sonya
Date Introduced: 10/1/2024
First Reading: 10/1/2024
Second Reading: 10/15/2024
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted: 10/15/2024
Date Effective: 11/15/2024

Resolution R-FY25-002: A Resolution to Raise the POW/MIA Flag

WHEREAS, on September 17, 2024, the Town of Bridgewater observed National POW/MIA Recognition Day; and

WHEREAS, on National POW/MIA Recognition Day in 2024 the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater, by proclamation, approved the raising of the POW/MIA Flag at the Academy Building in commemoration of the plight of American military personnel held captive or deemed missing in action on foreign shores; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of American veterans have been held captive or are believed missing in action arising from conflicts over the course of many decades; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridgewater is committed to showing respect and gratitude to those Americans who are classified as prisoners of war or missing in action;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Bridgewater, by and through its Town Council assembled, does hereby approve the foregoing and urges that the POW/MIA flag be raised at all times.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

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

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, to approve the aforementioned Resolution, by a Roll-call vote 9-0-0.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk

VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By:	Kevin Perry, Councilor
Date Introduced:	11/12/2024
First Reading:	11/12/2024
Second Reading:	11/26/2024
Amendments Adopted:	
Third Reading:	
Date Adopted:	11/26/2024
Date Effective:	12/26/2024

Resolution R-FY25-003: FY2026 Budget Resolution

WHEREAS: A methodical and disciplined approach to the operating budget is warranted.

RESOLVED: Pursuant to establishing guidelines and priorities for the Town Manager to develop the Annual Budget, the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to adopt the following Policy Guidelines for the Town Manager to use in creating the FY2026 Budget:

The Town Council is adopting these budget policy guidelines pursuant to Section 6-1 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter. Based on these guidelines, the Town Manager will develop budgetary goals and the Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 that commences on July 1, 2026.

Introduction

The following financial principles set forth the framework for our overall fiscal planning and management of the Town of Bridgewater's resources and are designed to ensure the Town's sound financial condition, now and in the future.

Sound Financial Condition is defined as:

- Cash Solvency – the ability to pay bills in a timely fashion
- Budgetary Solvency – the ability to annually balance the budget
- Long Term Solvency – the ability to pay for future costs
- Service Level Solvency – the ability to provide needed and desired services
- Reserve Solvency – the ability to adapt and respond to economic conditions
- Capital Solvency – the ability to assess, maintain, and replace our capital assets
- Bond Rating – maintain or improve current bond rating Aa3.

To this end we will adhere to the following financial policies.

VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Financial Policies and Guidelines:

The Town will adopt a Multi-year forecast for fiscal years 2026 – 2030 and a Capital Improvement Program, prior to submission of the Town Manager's FY2026 Budget. This will give the Town a broader more forwarding looking perspective to better understand the budgetary cost drivers and our revenue capacity. Projecting forward will allow us to foresee where a structural deficit may exist when building out our operating budget for the ensuing year.

The following will be applied in preparing the FY2026 Budget.

1. The town will avoid budgetary practices that balance current expenditures at the expense of meeting future year's expenses, such as postponing maintenance and upkeep of our facilities and equipment.
2. Recurring operating costs will be funded by recurring sources of revenue. In addition, to budget prudently and plan for contingencies, the town sets the following reserve objectives for FY 2026:
 - a. Unreserved Fund Balance (free cash) for FY 2026 (07/01/2026) will be targeted at 2% of the 2026 operating budget and used only for one-time expenditures such as capital improvements, capital equipment, unexpected or extraordinary expenses such as unbudgeted snow and ice removal expenses and/or to meet the stabilization reserve policy objectives
 - b. The Town will maintain a Stabilization Fund as its main financial reserve in the event of an emergency, unforeseen circumstances, or an extraordinary need. It shall be the goal of the town to achieve and maintain a balance in the Stabilization Fund equal to 10% of its operating budget.
3. Revenue:
 - a. Revenue Estimating: the revenues will be estimated conservatively, using an objective analytical approach. The goal is to predict revenues as accurately as possible while erring on the side of caution
 - b. The Town will use methodologies established that best fit the accuracy of specific forecasting, in other words, different methods for different revenue types: Property Tax, Local Aid, Local Receipts, and Other Available Funds.
 - c. Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation: A five-year forecast will be used to determine available funds to support, proportionately, the ensuing year's Fire Department operating budget and capital requirements for the Ambulance Fleet.
 - d. For FY2026 the projected revenue surplus shall be set at 2% of the 2026 operating budget. Revenue surpluses are essential to continue the annual funding of the Stabilization Fund at the 10% level, fund capital purchases of machinery, equipment, and vehicles, capital building improvement, infrastructure and engineering costs, unfunded sick leave buyback, and outstanding OPEB liability.
4. Expenditures:
 - a. Estimating Major Cost Drivers: This compilation will address the increases necessary to fund the major budgetary cost drivers – salaries and benefits – which support our current service levels.
 - b. Maintenance of Capital Assets: The Town will compile a budget that will maintain capital assets and infrastructure to protect the town's investment. The Town will compile a budget that will maintain our assets to protect the Town's investment, support and provide services, community, and economic development. Specifically:
 - Mach/Equip/Vehicles
 - Software

VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

- Infrastructure
- Land & Land Improvement
- Building & Building Improvements

c. New Program or Initiatives: The Town will budget for new programs or initiatives only after fully funding existing major cost drivers and the maintenance of capital assets.

FY 2026 Town Manager's Budget Objectives

1. Continue the Town's efforts within all departments to obtain grant funding from federal, state, and other sources in order to offset capital expenditures and major initiatives
2. Review cost implication of contracted services vs. staffing in various departments
3. Continue to enhance the Town's website and use other technologies as cost-effective means for delivering information and services, increasing public awareness, and encouraging public feedback.
4. Submit a budget which maintains the Town's current service level and a budget which will meet the Town Manager's services priorities.
5. Develop a plan that will improve Town (within projected funds) owned roads that are in need of improvements. Understanding that a great deal of roads are in need of repair, present a priority of what road(s) will be a priority for FY26, where funding will include projected Chapter 90 funds, State/Federal grants, and capital funds.
6. Continue to develop and complete the Town's parks/trails and indicate which ones may be completed in FY26 for the residences of the community.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget & Finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11/26/24: Voted 3-0 to recommend
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11/18/24: Voted 5-0 to recommend

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, to approve the aforementioned Resolution, by a Voice vote Of 8-0-0.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:


Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk

VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Kevin Perry, Councilor
Date Introduced: 11/26/2024
First Reading: 11/26/2024
Second Reading: 12/17/2024
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted: 12/17/2024
Date Effective: 1/1/2025

Resolution R-FY25-004: Town Council Meeting Dates - 2025

WHEREAS: The Bridgewater Town Council Rules and Procedures, Section III Meetings states, “The Town Council will hold regular meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. In the months of June, July and August, the Council will meet monthly on the first Tuesday, following the first Monday”; and

WHEREAS: Adoption of this Resolution, establishes regular meeting dates which are an exception to the aforementioned rule; and

RESOLVED: The following dates are established as regular meetings for the calendar year 2025 and regular meetings will be held in the Academy Building, Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater MA, to the greatest extent possible, beginning at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

January 7, 2025	June 17, 2025
January 21, 2025	July 15, 2025
February 4, 2025	August 12, 2025
February 18, 2025	September 2, 2025
March 4, 2025	September 16, 2025
March 18, 2025	October 7, 2025
April 8, 2025	October 21, 2025
April 22, 2025	November 4, 2025
May 6, 2025	November 18, 2025
May 20, 2025	December 2, 2025
June 3, 2025	December 16, 2025

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Referral(s)
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.

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, to approve the aforementioned Resolution, by a Voice vote of 8-0-0.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By:	Blythe Robinson, Acting Town Manager
Date Introduced:	1/7/2025
First Reading:	1/7/2025
Second Reading:	1/21/2025
Amendments Adopted:	1/21/2025
Third Reading:	
Date Adopted:	1/21/2025
Date Effective:	2/21/2025

Resolution R-FY25-005: A Resolution to File and Accept Grants with and From the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Program for Improvements to Summer Street Park

Whereas: Summer Street Park is a community-wide asset and the preservation and improvements to this facility are a Town priority as evidenced in the most recent Open Space and Recreation Plan; and

Whereas: Summer Street Park is dedicated to park and recreation purposes as adopted 10/1/24 by the Town Council on Order O-FY25-007, under M.G.L. Chapter 45, Section 3; and

Whereas: Summer Street Park's ultimate restoration, guided in principle by the Master Plan, will greatly enhance this facility with improved infrastructure, path systems, site lighting, universal access, etc.; and
Whereas: The main focus of the Plan is to increase the available space in the downtown area to provide adequate publicly accessible space for recreational activities; and

Whereas: The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is offering reimbursable grants to cities and towns to support the preservation and restoration of urban parks through the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities grant program (PARC) (301 CMR 5.00); and

Whereas: Phase I of the Common Restoration Project will cost a total of **\$1,058,900**, and the Town has appropriated that amount in funding for Phase I of the Summer Street Park Project;”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

1. That the Town Manager be and is hereby authorized to file and accept grants from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs; and
2. That the Town Manager be and is hereby authorized to take such other actions as are necessary to carry out the terms, purposes, and conditions of this grant to be administered by the Parks and Recreation Department; and
3. That this resolution shall take effect upon passage.

VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

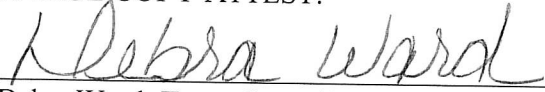
Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)

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.

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2024, to approve the aforementioned Resolution, by a Roll-call vote 8-0-0.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:


Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By:	Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced:	2/4/2025
First Reading:	2/4/2025
Second Reading:	3/4/2025
Amendments Adopted:	
Third Reading:	
Date Adopted:	3/4/2025
Date Effective:	4/4/2025

Resolution R-FY25-006: Asking the Town Manager to explore applying for the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Grant as Part of a Comprehensive Strategy to Fund PFAS Remediation

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridgewater is committed to ensuring the safety and quality of its public drinking water supply;

WHEREAS, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination poses a significant health risk to residents and requires immediate and long-term remediation efforts;

WHEREAS, the Town has diligently pursued various funding opportunities, including grants and low-interest loans, to address water quality issues;

WHEREAS, the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Grant Program, administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, provides financial assistance to eligible communities for addressing emerging contaminants, including PFAS;

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridgewater qualifies as a Tier Two community under this program, and despite potential federal funding delays, it remains in the Town's best interest to submit an application to secure financial resources for PFAS remediation;

WHEREAS, this application shall be part of a broader, long-term approach to establish a sustainable and diversified funding strategy for PFAS remediation, including additional state and federal grant opportunities, low-interest financing, and other appropriate funding mechanisms;

WHEREAS, PFAS remediation is scheduled as part of the Town's 2026-2030 budget, and as the Town is currently preparing for the FY 2026 budget, this initiative is timely and necessary;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts:

VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

1. That the Town Manager explore the filing of an application for the EC-SDC Grant Program to support PFAS remediation efforts.
2. That the Town Council remains committed to exploring all available resources to protect public health and ensure the long-term sustainability of Bridgewater's water supply.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This measure was not referred to committee. 14 days has elapsed per Section XVII of the Council Rules & Procedures, therefore this measure may be finally considered this evening.

Attachments: None

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, to approve the aforementioned Resolution by a Roll-call vote 8-0-0.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By:	Fred Chase, Councilor
Date Introduced:	4/8/2025
First Reading:	4/8/2025
Second Reading:	4/22/2025
Amendments Adopted:	
Third Reading:	
Date Adopted:	4/22/2025
Date Effective:	5/22/2025

Resolution R-FY25-009: A Resolution in Recognition of Pride Month

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

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

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

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

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

Be it resolved, that the Bridgewater Town Council proclaims the Pride Flag will be flown at the Bridgewater Public Library from June 2, 2025, until June 15, 2025;

Be it further resolved, that should the new flagpoles in front of the Academy Building be installed prior to June 2, 2025, the Pride Flag will be flown at that location instead of the Bridgewater Public Library.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

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

VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Attachments: 1. Pride Flag Letter to TC - 3-6-2025
 2. Pride Flag Photo

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, to approve the aforementioned Resolution by a voice vote.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk



<https://www.bccrcivilrights.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/BridgewaterCommForCivilRights>
bridgewatercommforcivilrights@gmail.com

March 21, 2025

Members of the Town Council
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Subject: Request for the Elevation of the Pride Flag & a Resolution in Honor of Pride Month, June 2–15, 2025, according to Ordinance D-FY21-007

Dear Members of the Town Council:

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

For four consecutive years, the elected leaders of our Town have further demonstrated their commitment by unanimously voting to raise the Pride Flag in front of the Academy Building. These ceremonies have been a visible, meaningful affirmation of support, drawing community members, families, and allies together in celebration.

As we approach Pride Month 2025, we respectfully request that the Town Council:

- Issue a Resolution in honor of Pride Month to reaffirm Bridgewater's commitment to inclusion and equality
- Raise the Pride Flag on Monday, June 2, at 3:30 PM, with the flag remaining in place until June 15
- Permit a brief ceremony at the Academy Building at the time of the flag raising.

If the Academy Building poles are not installed in time, we request permission to use the flagpole at the Bridgewater Public Library as an alternative location.

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

While Bridgewater has made great strides in demonstrating support for the LGBTQ+ community, our friends, family members, and neighbors continue to face rising levels of hateful rhetoric nationwide. Now more than ever, it is essential that Bridgewater remain a community of safety, acceptance, and unwavering support.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights, Pride Flag Committee:

Cristina Ajemian

Jenise Campbell-Means

Kayla DeFino

David Michael

Laurene Powers

Sandra Smiley





Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By:	Fred Chase, Councilor
Date Introduced:	4/8/2025
First Reading:	4/8/2025
Second Reading:	4/22/2025
Amendments Adopted:	
Third Reading:	
Date Adopted:	4/22/2025
Date Effective:	5/22/2025

Resolution R-FY25-010: A Resolution Honoring Juneteenth

Whereas, since 2021, Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights (BCCR), the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church Bridgewater (FPUUB), and the Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice (MRISJ) have worked together to host successful Juneteenth celebrations, with the support of the Town of Bridgewater, the Bridgewater Public Library, and the broader community; and

Whereas, despite the unfortunate cancellation of the 2023 event due to inclement weather, the Juneteenth Committee remained committed, successfully hosting Juneteenth 2024 at University Park in partnership with the Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice at Bridgewater State University; and

Whereas, the Juneteenth committee, in cooperation with those mentioned above, are once again hosting a Juneteenth celebration to take place on June 21st at University Park; and

Whereas, In May 2021, the Town of Bridgewater designated June 19th (Juneteenth) a Town Holiday and in June 2022, 2023 and 2024, The Town Council supporting the raising of the Juneteenth flag.

Be it resolved, that the Bridgewater Town Council declares June 19, 2025 a day of commemoration and celebration and proclaims that the Juneteenth Flag will be flown at the Bridgewater Public Library from June 16, 2025, until June 30, 2025;

Be it further resolved, that should the new flagpoles in front of the Academy Building be installed prior to June 16, 2025, the Juneteenth Flag will be flown at that location instead of the Bridgewater Public Library.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

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

Attachments: 1. Juneteenth-Flag-Letter-to-TC-3-11-2025

VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

2. Picture1

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, to approve the aforementioned Resolution by a voice vote.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk



<https://www.bccrcivilrights.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/BridgewaterCommForCivilRights>
bridgewatercommforcivilrights@gmail.com

March 13, 2025

Members of the Town Council
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Subject: Request for the Elevation of the Juneteenth Flag & a Resolution in Honor of Juneteenth 2025, according to Ordinance D-FY21-007

Dear Members of the Town Council:

Since 2021, Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights (BCCR), the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church Bridgewater (FPUUB), and the Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice (MRISJ) have worked together to host successful Juneteenth celebrations, with the support of the Town of Bridgewater, the Bridgewater Public Library, and the broader community.

Despite the unfortunate cancellation of the 2023 event due to inclement weather, the Juneteenth Committee remained committed, successfully hosting Juneteenth 2024 at University Park in partnership with the Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice at Bridgewater State University. We are proud to announce that Juneteenth 2025 will again be held at University Park on June 21.

Since 2022, the Town of Bridgewater has recognized June 19 (Juneteenth) as a Town holiday, and for the past three years, the Town Council has unanimously supported raising the Juneteenth Flag in honor of this important commemoration.

We respectfully request that the Juneteenth Flag be raised again this year on Monday, June 16, and remain through June 30, in front of the Academy Building. If the new flagpoles at the Academy Building are not yet installed, we request the use of the flagpole at the Bridgewater Public Library as a backup location.

Additionally, we request permission to hold a brief flag-raising ceremony on Monday, June 16, at 3:30 PM at the Academy Building or, if necessary, at the Library. We invite you to read the Town Council's Juneteenth Resolution at this time and join us in celebrating the continued progress toward liberty and justice for all.

As Town leaders, your actions have a powerful impact. Symbols and seemingly small gestures hold great meaning, and by once again raising the Juneteenth Flag, you affirm that Juneteenth is an essential part of American history. Through your leadership, you send a clear message that Bridgewater values the civil rights of all.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to your positive response.

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

Sincerely,

Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights, Juneteenth Flag Committee

Cristina Ajemian

Jenise Campbell- Means

Kayla DeFino

David Michael

Laurene Powers

Sandra Smiley



JUNETEENTH
JUNE 19, 1865



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Mary McGrath, Councilor
Date Introduced: 4/8/2025
First Reading: 4/8/2025
Second Reading: 4/22/2025
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted: 4/22/2025
Date Effective: 5/22/2025

Resolution R-FY25-011: A Resolution Honoring Purple Heart Month

WHEREAS, the people of the Town of Bridgewater have great admiration and the utmost gratitude for all men and women who have selflessly served their country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women from Bridgewater who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, our community has a proud tradition of military service and many of our citizens have earned the Purple Heart Medal as a result of being wounded while engaged in combat with an enemy force, construed as a singularly meritorious act of essential service; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council unanimously signed a Proclamation on March 18, 2025 proclaiming the month of May as Purple Heart Month in the Town of Bridgewater.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bridgewater Town Council proclaims that the Purple Heart Flag will be flown under the POW/MIA Flag in front of the Academy Building from May 1, 2025 to May 31, 2025.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

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

Attachments:

1. Purple Heart Flag
2. Purple Heart Flag Request to Town Council

PURPLE HEART



Some gave all

All gave some

KILLED IN ACTION • WOUNDED IN ACTION



Veteran's Council, Town of Bridgewater

Bridgewater Veteran's Center

40 Orange Street
Bridgewater, MA 02324

March 26, 2025

Town Council, Town of Bridgewater
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Subject: Request to the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater, MA regarding the raising of the Purple Heart Flag, May 1 - 31, according to Ordinance D-FY21-007

Members of the Town Council,

The Veteran's Council of the Town of Bridgewater, on behalf of the veterans of Bridgewater and, more particularly, those veterans both past and present who bear the honor of the Purple Heart, request your approval to fly the Purple Heart flag on the flag pole in front of the Academy Building for the entire month of May 2025. The Purple Heart flag shall fly below the POW flag.

- Resolution #R-2014-001 designated the Town of Bridgewater a Purple Heart town in 2014.
- A Proclamation dated March 18, 2025 was signed unanimously by all eight councilors proclaiming the month of May as Purple Heart Month in the Town of Bridgewater.

Respectfully,

Veteran's Council, Town of Bridgewater

Chairman Jonathan Algarin
Vice Chair Lisa Buzzell-Curley
Kate Anderson
Mary Bogle
Dennise Caratazzola
Thomas Carson
Paul LaPorte
Gregory Martin
Sean Murphy
David Siden

Bridgewater:

Preserving Our Past. Enriching Our Present. Building Our Future.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By:	Sonya Striggles, Councilor
Date Introduced:	5/6/2025
First Reading:	5/6/2025
Second Reading:	5/20/2025
Amendments Adopted:	
Third Reading:	
Date Adopted:	5/20/2025
Date Effective:	6/20/2025

Resolution R-FY25-012: Resolution on FY26 School District Budget Funding

WHEREAS: the Town of Raynham has proposed sending a letter to the Bridgewater Raynham School Committee asking them not to hold a district wide meeting as part of the process of determining the FY26 school budget; and

WHEREAS: the Town Council agrees with this approach and desires to make their position known to the School Committee;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town Council authorizes the Town Council president to execute the attached letter and transmit it to the Bridgewater Raynham School Committee on their behalf.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

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

Attachments: 1. Letter to School Committee (1)

Johnny Loreti
Councilor-At-Large
President

Mary McGrath
Councilor-At-Large
Vice President

Mark Linde
District 2 Councilor

Adelene Ellenberg
Councilor-At-Large

Town of Bridgewater

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL



Sonya Striggles
District 1 Councilor

Paul Murphy
Councilor-At-Large

Sean Kennedy
District 3 Councilor

Dr. Kevin Perry
Councilor-At-Large

Marilee Hunt
Councilor-At-Large

May 23, 2025

Rachel King, Chair
Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School Committee
166 Mt. Prospect Street
Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02324

Dear Chairwoman King and Committee Members:

In the spirit of mutual respect and a shared commitment to the well-being of our communities, the Bridgewater Town Council respectfully requests that your Committee consider and vote at your upcoming meeting on June 11th to confirm your intention to honor the outcome of a potential Proposition 2½ override vote related to the Fiscal Year 2026 School Committee budget.

Specifically, we ask that your Committee commit to accepting the decision made by the voters—whatever that decision may be—and that, in the event the override vote does not pass, your Committee agrees not to pursue the option of calling a Joint Town Meeting for the District. We believe that removing this option in advance will reinforce trust in the process and promote unity among our municipal partners and residents.

Please know that we make this request not lightly, but rather out of a deep concern that such a scenario—whereby a Joint Town Meeting could conceivably override the expressed will of the voters—would have devastating effects on both of our communities. It could force the towns to make up the funding shortfall by depleting reserves intended for other obligations and critical needs, and/or by triggering widespread layoffs, including among essential public safety personnel such as police officers and firefighters. In turn, this could significantly curtail services to our residents, undermining the very fabric of the communities we are all committed to serve.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this request and remain committed to working collaboratively with you and our partners in the Town to support the needs of all our residents.

Johnny Loreti
Town Council President



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 5/20/2025
First Reading: 5/20/2025
Second Reading: 6/3/2025
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted: 6/3/2025
Date Effective: 6/3/2025

Resolution R-FY25-013: Resolution of Support for FY2026 Annual Budget Order No. O-FY26-001

WHEREAS, the Town Manager submitted the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Budget to the Clerk of the Town Council on April 1, 2025, in accordance with Section 6-3 of the Town Charter; and

WHEREAS, Budget Order O-FY26-001 was introduced to the Town Council on April 8, 2025, and referred to the Budget & Finance Subcommittee, with a public hearing duly advertised in accordance with the Charter; and

WHEREAS, the FY2026 Budget has been adopted by operation of law pursuant to Section 6-3(b) of the Charter May 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Council acknowledges the significance of the adopted budget in supporting essential municipal operations and community services, and recognizes the work of the Town Manager, department heads, and staff in its development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bridgewater Town Council formally expresses its support for the FY2026 Annual Budget as adopted, and reaffirms its commitment to responsible stewardship of public funds, collaborative governance, and public engagement in the budget process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing on June 3, 2025, to receive public input on the FY2026 Budget and provide a forum for Council discussion and community feedback.

Adopted by the Town Council of Bridgewater this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

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

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL

REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Attachments: None

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, to approve the aforementioned Resolution.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 6/26/2025
First Reading: 6/26/2025
Second Reading: 7/15/2025
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted: 7/15/2025
Date Effective: 8/15/2025

Resolution R-FY25-014: A Resolution Requesting an Independent Operational and Financial Review of the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District

WHEREAS, the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District represents the largest recurring expenditure funded by the Town of Bridgewater; and

WHEREAS, the Bridgewater Town Council has a fiduciary responsibility to its residents to ensure that all public funds are allocated and managed in a manner that is sustainable, efficient, and aligned with community priorities; and

WHEREAS, recent trends in school budget growth, combined with constrained municipal revenues and a failed override, have underscored the need for a thorough evaluation of how educational resources are budgeted, deployed, and managed; and

WHEREAS, an independent third-party review would support transparency, identify areas for cost optimization, and help inform long-term planning by both the School Committee and Town Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bridgewater Town Council respectfully requests the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School Committee commission an independent operational and financial review of the School District to include, but not be limited to:

- A review of budgeting procedures and forecasting accuracy;
- Staffing structure and personnel cost trends;
- Special education service delivery, out-of-district placements, and settlement practices;
- Central administration and overhead;
- Use and oversight of revolving funds and grant funding;
- Compliance with internal financial controls and procurement standards;
- Opportunities to align expenditures with long-term sustainability and student outcomes.

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL

REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this review be conducted by an experienced, independent firm under standards appropriate to financial and operational consulting engagements, and that findings be shared publicly to promote transparency and collaborative improvement.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

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

Attachments: 1. School Finance Review Letter

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, February 1, 2025, to approve the aforementioned Resolution by a Roll Call vote (6-3).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Johnny Loreti
Councilor-At-Large
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Marilee Hunt
Councilor-At-Large

{Date}

Ms. Rachel King, Chair
Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School Committee
166 Mt. Prospect Street
Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02324

On behalf of the Bridgewater Town Council, I am writing to express our interest in working collaboratively to strengthen transparency, improve fiscal sustainability, and maintain the trust of the residents we jointly serve.

As you are well aware, the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District accounts for the largest share of the town's operating budget. With limited revenue growth and a recently failed override, our constituents are asking important questions about how resources are managed and how we ensure accountability without compromising educational quality.

To support this goal, the Town Council voted to formally request that the School Committee commission an independent operational and financial review of the District. The scope of this review would include internal budgeting procedures, personnel and special education costs, the use of revolving funds, compliance with financial controls, and any systemic issues contributing to structural deficits.

Such a review would not be a formal audit, but rather a consulting engagement under recognized standards to evaluate processes, detect inefficiencies, and identify practical opportunities for improvement. We believe the results could strengthen both public confidence and intergovernmental collaboration.

We would be glad to assist in scoping this review, identifying qualified firms, and ensuring alignment with community priorities. We hope you will view this proposal as an opportunity to lead with transparency, foresight, and fiscal discipline.

Sincerely,

Johnny Loreti
President, Bridgewater Town Council