

**Town of Bridgewater
Town Council
FY24 Resolutions**

Directory of Documents

[Town Council Ordinances](#)

(Click on Ordinance Number/Name to View Document)

Ordinance Number	Ordinance Title	Date Adopted
R-FY24-001	Apply, Accept, Expend Land Grant	August 8, 2023
R-FY24-002	First Responders Day	October 10, 2023
R-FY24-003	Town Council Meeting Dates – 2024	December 19, 2023
R-FY24-004	2025 Budget Resolution	December 19, 2023
R-FY24-005	Route 18 Corridor Transportation Planning	March 26, 2024



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 7/11/2023
First Reading: 7/11/2023
Second Reading: 8/8/2023
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted: 8/8/2023
Date Effective: 9/8/2023

Resolution R-FY24-001: A Resolution to Apply for, Accept, and Expend a Grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation services' Local Aquisitions for Natural Diversity (Land) Grant Program

WHEREAS: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Division of Conservation Services (DCS) is making funding available through the Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Program;

WHEREAS: The LAND Program was established in 1961 to assist municipal conservation commissions in acquiring land for natural resources protection and passive outdoor recreation purposes;

WHEREAS: The permanent preservation of open space is a priority of the CITY known as the Town of Bridgewater; and

WHEREAS: The CITY will vote to appropriate, and/or borrowing according to M.G.L. Chapter 44, particularly Section 8C, to borrow the sum of \$340,000, for the purpose of purchasing for conservation and passive outdoor recreation purposes, by eminent domain or negotiated purchase or otherwise.

WHEREAS: The CITY known as the Town of Bridgewater has identified an assembly of parcels of .57 acres known as the Broad Street Two Lot Property Purchase that would be preserved for land conservation, public access and uses ancillary to passive recreation.

WHEREAS: The CITY known as the Town of Bridgewater intends to submit an application to EEA to fund up to sixty-six percent of the purchase price of the purchase in fee for the property known as the Broad Street Two Lot Property Purchase.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the City Manager be and is hereby authorized and requested to file an application with EEA for a LAND grant;

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2. That the city manager be and is hereby authorized to accept grant funds and execute contracts, and any amendment thereto, in order to carry out the terms, purposes, and conditions of EEA DCS LAND Grant Program;

3. That the city manager be and is hereby authorized to take such other actions as are necessary to carry out the terms purposes, and conditions of EEA DCS LAND Grant Program.

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, August 8, 2023, to approve the aforementioned Resolution, by a Roll-call vote 8-0.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget & Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting 8/8/23 prior to Town Council meeting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finance Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7/31/23: Voted 6-0 to recommend

Attachments: None



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Bradford McKinnon, Councilor
Date Introduced: 9/19/2023
First Reading: 9/19/2023
Second Reading: 10/10/2023
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading: 1/6/2025
Date Adopted: 10/10/2023
Date Effective: 11/10/2023

Resolution R-FY24-002: First Responders Day

WHEREAS, first responders include firefighters, police officers, nurses, doctors, military personnel, and anyone else that works in the healthcare fields; and

WHEREAS, first responders are a vital part of the community and risk their lives and selflessly run into danger to protect our residents; and

WHEREAS, we ask more of our first responders today than ever before; and

WHEREAS, first responders are highly trained and undergo extensive education, training, and personal sacrifice to develop the expertise required to respond to emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, the families of first responders also deserve appreciation and respect for the sacrifices they make in order to support their loved ones' service; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of first responders are killed in the line of duty each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, we should honor the brave, selfless, and compassionate heroes who save countless lives every day and pay tribute to those who paid the ultimate price;

NOW THEREFORE, the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, does hereby proclaim that each year the last Saturday in April will be known as **FIRST RESPONDERS DAY** in the Town of Bridgewater, and urge all citizens to recognize and honor the sacrifices that First Responders make.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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VOICE VOTE

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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 10, 2024, to approve the aforementioned Resolution by a Roll-call vote 9-0-0.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Erik Moore, Councilor
Date Introduced: 11/21/2023
First Reading: 11/21/2023
Second Reading: 12/19/2023
Amendments Adopted: 12/19/2023
Third Reading:
Date Adopted: 12/19/2023
Date Effective: 1/1/2024

Resolution R-FY24-003: Town Council Meeting Dates - 2024

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 7:30 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 2024 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.

FURTHER RESOLVED: Due to COVID-19 restrictions relative to building capacity and social distancing requirements, remote participation for Councilors will be offered while allowable under the revised Open Meeting Law and meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.

January 2, 2024	June 18, 2024
January 16, 2024	July 16, 2024
February 6, 2024	August 13, 2024
February 20, 2024	September 10, 2024*
March 12, 2024*	September 17, 2024*
March 26, 2024*	October 1, 2024
April 9, 2024*	October 15, 2024
April 23, 2024*	November 12, 2024*
May 7, 2024	November 26, 2024*
May 21, 2024	December 3, 2024
June 4, 2024	December 17, 2024

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*Exceptions to Section III of the Council Rules and Procedures are noted with an asterisk.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

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 19, 2023, to approve the aforementioned Resolution, by a Roll-call vote 8-0.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Dennis Gallagher, Councilor
Date Introduced: 11/21/2023
First Reading: 11/21/2023
Second Reading: 12/19/2023
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted: 12/19/2023
Date Effective: 1/19/2024

Resolution R-FY24-004: FY2025 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 FY2025 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 2025 that commences on July 1, 2024.

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.

Financial Policies and Guidelines:

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The Town will adopt a Multi-year forecast for fiscal years 2025 – 2029 and a Capital Improvement Program, prior to submission of the Town Manager’s FY2025 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 FY2025 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 2025:
 - a. Unreserved Fund Balance (free cash) for FY 2024 (07/01/2025) will be targeted at 2% of the 2025 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 FY2025 the projected revenue surplus shall be set at 2% of the 2025 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
 - Infrastructure

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- 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 2025 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 FY25, 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 FY25 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"> • 12/5/23: Voted 3-0 to recommend.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12/4/23: Voted 7-0 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, December 19, 2023, to approve the aforementioned Resolution, by a Roll-call vote 8-0.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Kevin Perry, Councilor
Date Introduced: 3/12/2024
First Reading: 3/12/2024
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted: 3/26/2024
Date Effective: 4/26/2024

Resolution R-FY24-005: Route 18 Corridor Transportation Planning Study

WHEREAS, Old Colony Planning Council has published its final draft of the Route 18 Corridor Transportation Planning Study which makes recommendations regarding the Central Square traffic pattern and changes to signalization, and;

WHEREAS, There are long delays at the Bedford Street (Route 18/28) northbound stop approach intersection entering Central Square, and this intersection is considered failed during the morning peak hour and the afternoon peak hour, and;

WHEREAS, Vehicle queues from northbound traffic at the Broad Street (Route 18)/Main Street (Route 28)/Summer Street (Route 104) intersection queue into Central Square creating delays for traffic trying to enter the oval on the Bedford Street northbound stop approach and the South Street stop approach, and;

WHEREAS, The South Street intersection at Central Square is considered failed during the morning and afternoon peak hour, and;

WHEREAS, The recommendation for improving peak hour traffic flow at the south end of the oval, including the Bedford Street (Route 18) northbound approach and the South Street (Route 104) approach is to create a single point signalized intersection, and;

WHEREAS, As part of the Town of Bridgewater's plan to redesign and revitalize Central Square, (called "Revitalizing the Heart of Bridgewater: Vision to Reality"), the town has developed a plan to reconfigure Central Square, and;

WHEREAS, This concept plan calls for reconfiguring the angled parking in the center from angled to parallel parking. The plan has one travel lane on each side of the oval (one on the northbound side and one on the southbound side).

WHEREAS, The plan would widen sidewalks for outdoor restaurant seating and a bicycle lane would be

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added on both sides of the oval.

WHEREAS, The plan would install Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons at crosswalks in Central Square to improve pedestrian visibility and safety for crossing Central Square.

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

That the Town Council endorses this concept plan and is prepared to seek a solution to the ease traffic congestion, drastically improve pedestrian safety and access, and improve bicycle and pedestrian routes throughout the Central Square area, and;

That the Town Council requests the Town Manager to present an appropriation to fund preliminary engineering services to begin the Central Square Improvement Program, and;

That the Town Council requests the Town Manager to present a comprehensive plan and timeline to the Town Council for approval after the preliminary engineering has been completed.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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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 26, 2024, to approve the aforementioned Resolution, by a Roll-call vote 9-0-0.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk