

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL



Rules & Procedures Committee Meeting

Committee Members:

*Shawn George, Chair
District 3 Councilor*

*Peter Colombotos, Member
District 5 Councilor*

*Frank Sousa, Member
District 7 Councilor*

Location: Academy Building
66 Central Square
Room 201B
Bridgewater, MA

Date & Time: Monday, February 24, 2020
7:00 p.m.
Agenda

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2020 FEB 20 P 1:06

- A. Call to Order
- B. Legislation Referred:
 - 1. Ordinance D-FY20-005: General Ordinance - Commercial Parking Licensing
- C. Public Comment
- D. Adjourn



Bridgewater Town Council

In Town Council, Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Council Ordinance: D-FY20-005

Introduced By: Councilor Shawn George
Date Introduced: February 4, 2020
First Reading: February 4, 2020
Second Reading: February 25, 2020
Amendments Adopted:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Proposed Ordinance D-FY20-005

GENERAL ORDINANCE – COMMERCIAL PARKING LICENSING

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Section 2-6 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter relative to amendments to the Administrative Code, and

WHEREAS, during certain events private property owners use their properties to park automobiles for a fee, and;

WHEREAS, the use of property for paid parking can create unintended and unexpected traffic congestion and create hazardous driving conditions, and;

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridgewater has an interest in preserving the peace and safety of its residents and visitors, it is therefore;

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled votes to amend the Bridgewater Administrative Code, Part III, Chapter 260, Article XV by adding a new Section 14 to read as follows:

Chapter 260, Streets and Sidewalks

Article XV, Paid Parking

Section 14. Licensing Procedure and Regulations for Commercial Parking

Section 14. Licensing Procedure and Regulations for Commercial Parking

For purposes of this section, a commercial parking lot shall be defined as any space paved or unpaved which is proposed to be used for the parking of vehicles for a fee. It shall not include parking lots associated with residential housing developments in which the parking is strictly for the residents.

Owners of property to be used for commercial paid parking shall, at least 45 days prior to the commercial parking use of the property, apply for a license for such use. The Town Manager, by regulation, shall establish a fee for licensure which shall not exceed \$100 per year, and criteria for the issuance of a license, including a finding that there exists a public demand for the commercial parking lot and that the commercial parking lot is necessary to protect the public convenience or welfare.

The Town Manager may issue a license under such terms and conditions as he deems appropriate which will protect the public convenience or welfare including any condition which will promote the orderly access and egress of vehicles from a commercial parking lot to the public way or which will reduce hazards to pedestrians within the parking lot or upon the public way.

NOT FOR ACTION – REQUIRES ADVERTISING.

Each licensed lot must maintain a live exit available to every vehicle parked on the lot, no vehicle shall be blocked in for any reason. Any parking configuration shall not permit backing onto a street or road.

In addition to the provisions of Section 13 of Article XV, a fine issued under this Section may be assessed through non-criminal process in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 40, Section 21 D. Each day on which any such violation continues shall be considered a separate violation of this section. The availability of non-criminal process herein shall not preclude the use of criminal process or other means of enforcement.

Explanation: Several large events in Bridgewater, including July 4 festivities and Bridgewater State University graduations, encourage property owners to offer their properties for paid parking to the public. Often these uses create public safety issues for the Bridgewater Police and Fire Departments, as well as BSU Police. In addition, they can cause pedestrian safety issues. This addendum to the Town's General Ordinances will allow the Town Manager to require these property owners to secure a license to use their properties for such use. This will allow the Town to plan for such uses and deploy public safety personnel accordingly, including requiring a detail officer if the Police Chief so requires.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rules & Procedures Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet 2/24/20. Will provide disposition to full Council.