

Town of Bridgewater
Town Council
2021 Resolutions Voted

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Town Council Resolutions

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Bridgewater Town Council

In Town Council, Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Council Resolution: R-FY21-001

Introduced By: Councilors Fitzgibbons and Rushton
 Date Introduced: August 4, 2020
 First Reading: August 4, 2020
 Second Reading: September 8, 2020
 Amendments Adopted: None
 Date Adopted: September 8, 2020
 Date Effective: October 9, 2020

Resolution R-FY21-001

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FIRST RESPONDERS

Whereas, the Bridgewater Police and Fire Departments have performed in an exemplary manner in an unprecedented global pandemic;

Whereas, the Bridgewater Police and Fire Departments have consistently performed their jobs in a manner to make the community proud;

Now therefore, the Bridgewater Town Council resolves that the Town thanks the members of the Bridgewater Police and Fire Departments for their efforts in these stressful times;

And Further Resolved, the Town will support the Bridgewater Police and Fire Departments as they work to maintain our community's quality of life now and in the future.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This measure was not referred to any committee. 14 days has elapsed per Section XVIII 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, September 8, 2020 to approve the aforementioned Resolution by a Roll Call vote (9-0).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

 Ann M. Holmberg
 Town Council Clerk

ROLL CALL VOTE – REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING.



Bridgewater Town Council

In Town Council, Tuesday, November 24, 2020

Council Resolution: R-FY21-002

Introduced By: Councilor Shawn George
 Date Introduced: November 10, 2020
 First Reading: November 10, 2020
 Second Reading: November 24, 2020
 Amendments Adopted: None
 Date Adopted: November 24, 2020
 Effective Date: November 24, 2020

Resolution R-FY21-002

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES - 2021

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 2021 and regular meetings will be held in the Academy Building, Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater MA, to the greatest extent possible, beginning at 7:30 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 5, 2021	June 29, 2021*
January 19, 2021	July 13, 2021*
February 2, 2021	August 3, 2021
February 23, 2021*	September 7, 2021
March 9, 2021*	September 21, 2021
March 23, 2021*	October 5, 2021
April 6, 2021	October 19, 2021
April 27, 2021*	November 2, 2021
May 11, 2021*	November 16, 2021
May 25, 2021*	December 7, 2021
June 8, 2021**	December 21, 2021

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

**Updated per Resolution R-FY21-006 (May 11, 2021)

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This measure was not referred to any committee. 14 days have passed per Section XVIII of the Council Rules & Procedures; therefore this measure may be finally considered. 	

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 24, 2020 to approve the aforementioned Resolution by a Roll Call vote (8-0)(Councilor Sousa Absent).

ROLL CALL VOTE – REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk



Bridgewater Town Council

In Town Council, Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Council Resolution: R-FY21-003

Introduced By:	Councilor Wood
Date Introduced	November 10, 2020
First Reading:	November 10, 2020
Second Reading:	February 23, 2021
Amendments Adopted:	February 23, 2021
Date Adopted:	February 23, 2021
Date Effective:	March 26, 2021

Resolution R-FY21-003

FY2022 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 FY 2022 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 2022.

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 A2

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

ROLL CALL VOTE – REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING.

Financial Policies and Guidelines:

The Town will adopt their Multi-Year forecast for fiscal years 2022-2026 and a Capital Improvement Program, prior to the submission of the FY Town Managers FY 2022 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 FY 2022 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 2022:
 - a. Unreserved Fund Balance (free cash) for FY 2022 (07/01/2022) will be targeted at 1.5% of the 2021 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 years Fire Department operating budget and capital requirements for the Ambulance Fleet. (See Exhibit A)
 - d. For FY 2022 the projected revenue surplus shall be set at 1.5% of the 2022 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 improvements, infrastructure and engineering costs, unfunded sick leave buyback, and outstanding OPEB liability.
4. Expenditures: See Exhibit B
 - 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.

ROLL CALL VOTE – REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING.

- Mach/Equip/Vehicles
- Software
- Infrastructure
- Land & Land Improvement
- Building & Building Improvements

FY 2022 Town Manger'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.
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 Towns current service level and a budget which will meet the Town Managers service priorities.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget & Finance Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2/16/21: Vote 3-0 recommend approval with proposed amendments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2/16/21: Vote 3-0 recommend approval with proposed amendments

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 23, 2021, to approve the aforementioned Resolution, as amended, by a Roll Call vote (9-0).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk



Bridgewater Town Council

In Town Council, Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Council Resolution: R-FY21-004

Introduced By: Councilor Wood
 Date Introduced: November 10, 2020
 First Reading: November 10, 2020
 Second Reading: December 15, 2020
 Amendments Adopted: December 15, 2020
 Date Adopted: December 15, 2020
 Date Effective: January 15, 2021

Resolution R-FY21-004

EARLY VOTING LOCATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a large number of Bridgewater voters chose to take advantage of Early Voting in the November election; and

WHEREAS, a large number of Early Votes were cast in person; and

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk office staff required constant contact with State resources from secure workstation computers; and

WHEREAS, the Early Vote location was in the same building as the Town Clerk’s office, offering to minimize the travel of ballots and keeping those ballots secure; and

WHEREAS, using the Town Council Chambers as the primary location for the Early Vote offered a smooth, efficient, and safe path for the voters;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED THAT; To make any future “Early Voting” process as efficient as possible, all Early Voting procedures ought to occur within the building where the Town Clerk’s office is located, preferably in the Town Council Chambers, or as determined to be the best location by the Town Clerk.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
• Rules & Procedures Committee	• 12/3/20: Vote 2-0 recommend approval.

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 15, 2020, to approve the aforementioned Resolution by a Roll Call vote (9-0).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

 Ann M. Holmberg
 Town Council Clerk

ROLL CALL VOTE – REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING.



Bridgewater Town Council

In Town Council, Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Council Resolution: R-FY21-005

Introduced By:	Town Manager
Date Introduced	February 23, 2021
First Reading:	February 23, 2021
Second Reading:	March 9, 2021
Amendments Adopted:	None
Date Adopted:	March 9, 2021
Date Effective:	April 9, 2021

Resolution R-FY21-005

SERSG INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, in or about the year 1996, the municipalities of Abington, Bridgewater, Brockton, Canton, East Bridgewater, Easton, Foxborough, Mansfield, Norton, Raynham, Sharon, Stoughton, Taunton and West Bridgewater, entered into an Intermunicipal Agreement pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 4A of the Massachusetts General Laws, to create the Southeastern Regional Services Group (SERSG) for, among other things, the provision of certain municipal services through joint action;

WHEREAS, since that time, the municipalities of Dighton, Hanson, Lakeville, Medfield, Middleborough, Milton, Norfolk, North Attleborough, Plainville, Wrentham and Swansea have joined SERSG;

WHEREAS, Chapter 40 Section 4A of the Massachusetts General Laws authorizes a governmental unit therein described to enter into an agreement with one or more other governmental units "to perform jointly any services, activities or understandings which any of the contracting units is authorized by law to perform ..." for a maximum term of twenty-five years;

WHEREAS, the twenty-five year anniversary of the original agreement is approaching and the parties wish to continue their participation in SERSG; and

WHEREAS, each of the governmental units that are current members of SERSG have voted to reauthorize and amend the original agreement in accordance with the procedures set forth in said Chapter 40 Section 4A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and mutual benefits to be derived by the parties hereto, the Local Governments agree as follows:

ROLL CALL VOTE – REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING.

AGREEMENT

The Inter-Municipal Agreement made and entered into in the year 1996, by which the Southeastern Regional Services Group was created, is hereby reauthorized and amended by striking Section 2 of said agreement and replacing it with the following:

2. REAUTHORIZATION AND TERM

This Agreement is hereby reauthorized with a new effective date of February 1, 2021 for a term of twenty-five years, unless terminated by a vote of the SERSG Board and subject always, however, to the rights of members to withdraw as provided in the original Intermunicipal Agreement.

All other terms of said Agreement shall remain in full force and effect without amendment and are attached hereto and incorporated herein.

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 09, 2021, to approve the aforementioned Resolution by a Roll Call vote (7-0)(Councilor Rushton Absent, District 5 Vacancy).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget & Finance Committee• Finance Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3/2/21: Vote 3-0 recommend approval.• 3/8/21: Vote 6-0 recommend approval.



Bridgewater Town Council

In Town Council, Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Council Resolution: R-FY21-006

Introduced By: Councilor Shawn George
Date Introduced: April 27, 2021
First Reading: April 27, 2021
Second Reading: May 11, 2021
Amendments Adopted: None
Date Adopted: May 11, 2021
Date Effective: May 11, 2021

Resolution R-FY21-006

AMEND JUNE 2021 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATE

WHEREAS: The May 25 and June 1, 2021 Town Council meetings occur on back-to-back Tuesdays which is not ideal for maximum productivity

RESOLVED: The first Regular Town Council meeting in June 2021 be amended to June 8, 2021

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This measure was not referred to a committee.• 14 days has elapsed per Section XVIII of the Council Rules & Procedures, therefore may be 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, May 11, 2021, to approve the aforementioned Order by a Roll Call vote (9-0).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk

ROLL CALL VOTE – REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING.



Bridgewater Town Council

In Town Council, Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Council Resolution: R-FY21-007

Introduced By: Councilors Gallagher, Chase and Rushton

Date Introduced: May 11, 2021

First Reading: May 11, 2021

Second Reading: May 25, 2021

Amendments Adopted:

Date Adopted: May 25, 2021

Date Effective: June 25, 2021

Resolution R-FY21-007

A RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF GAY PRIDE MONTH

Whereas, The Town of Bridgewater is committed to creating an inclusive, safe and compassionate community through supporting its diversity, and

Whereas: In January 2016, the Town of Bridgewater proclaimed its support of the Bridgewater Citizens for Civility and Respect (now known as Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights) by resolving that we are a community of civility; where intolerant speech and behavior are unacceptable, thus ensuring our town remains a respectful place to live, work, attend school, visit and conduct business, and

Whereas: The Town of Bridgewater has a diverse LGBTQ+ community that includes people of all ethnicities, religions and professions who should be able to live without fear of prejudice, discrimination, violence or hatred based on the gender identity or sexual orientation, and

Whereas, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts became the first State in the Nation to recognize and allow same sex marriages, and

Whereas, everyone should be able to live and work without fear of prejudice, discrimination, violence or hatred based on gender identity or sexual orientation and that right should be acknowledged at all levels of government; and

Therefore Be it resolved, that the Town of Bridgewater, on behalf of its residents, hereby proclaims June 2021 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Pride Month in the Town of Bridgewater and;

Be it further resolved that the Bridgewater Town Council fully supports the Gay Pride Flag to be flown with the United States Flag in front of the Academy Building in the Town of Bridgewater for the week of June 7-13, 2021.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This measure was not referred to any committee. 14 days has elapsed, therefore it may be finally considered this evening. 	

ROLL CALL VOTE – REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING.

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, May 25th, 2021, to approve the aforementioned Order by a Roll Call vote 9-0.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Joshua McGraw
Executive Assistant



Bridgewater Town Council

In Town Council, Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Council Resolution: R-FY21-008

Introduced By: Councilor Rushton
Date Introduced: May 11, 2021
First Reading: May 11, 2021
Second Reading: May 25, 2021
Amendments Adopted:
Date Adopted: May 25, 2021
Date Effective: June 25, 2021

Resolution R-FY21-008

A RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO DIVERSITY AND RESPECT

Whereas; Bridgewater is a town that highly values diversity, dignity and respect for all individuals. As the Legislative Branch of the town, the Town Council recognizes its responsibility to make the following declarations and;

Whereas; The Town Council opposes unequivocally any expression of hate, prejudice, intolerance, or discrimination toward any individual or group and;

Whereas; The Town Council commits to engaging the Town on race, equity and inclusion through broad and collaborative public engagement; and

Be It Resolved; The Town Council denounces any form of racism, discrimination or intolerance as a threat to the safety and well-being of the public. We call upon the entire Bridgewater community to welcome every resident, visitor, employee and resident student in the Town.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">This measure was not referred to any committee.	14 days has elapsed, therefore it 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, May 25th, 2021, to approve the aforementioned Order by a Roll Call vote 9-0.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Joshua McGraw
Executive Assistant



Bridgewater Town Council

In Town Council, Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Council Resolution: R-FY21-010

Introduced By: Councilors Gallagher and Rushton
Date Introduced: May 25, 2021
First Reading: May 25, 2021
Second Reading: June 8, 2021
Amendments Adopted:
Date Adopted: June 8, 2021
Date Effective: July 9, 2021

Resolution R-FY21-010

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING JUNE 19TH AS A TOWN HOLIDAY

Whereas Juneteenth is commemorated on the anniversary date of the June 19, 1865 announcement by Union Army general Gordon Granger, proclaiming freedom from slavery in Texas, and

Whereas commemoration of Juneteenth has involved celebrations dating to 1866, at first involving church-centered community gatherings in Texas, then spreading across the South through the early twentieth century, and

Whereas Juneteenth became more celebrated in the late twentieth century with a focus on African American freedom and arts, and

Whereas the Town of Bridgewater welcomes celebrations of its diversity, and recognizes the importance of acknowledging our residents' various and varied histories;

Now Therefore, the Town of Bridgewater recognizes the date of June 19 as Juneteenth, a holiday celebrating the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">This measure was not referred to any committee. 14 days has elapsed; therefore, it 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, June 8, 2021, to approve the aforementioned Resolution by a Roll Call vote 9-0.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Joshua McGraw
Executive Assistant

ROLL CALL VOTE – REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING.