

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER



OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Rules & Procedures Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 5, 2022

A. CALL TO ORDER

Councilor Erik Moore, Chair of the Rules & Procedures Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:00PM, noted committee members in attendance and absent and confirmed enough members are present to constitute a quorum. The meeting was conducted remotely via Zoom and public participation was encouraged and allowed via that medium.

Committee Member	Present	Not Present
Councilor Erik Moore, District 1 (Chair)	X	
Councilor Shawn George, District 3	X	
Councilor Frank Sousa, District 7	X	

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- **Approval of meeting minutes from 12/22** - Councilor Moore asked for approval of the R&P meeting minutes from 12/22. A motion to approve was made by Councilor George, seconded by Councilor Moore, and passed by a 2-0 roll call vote as follows: George – YES, Moore – YES. Councilor Sousa abstained since he was not present at the 12/22 meeting.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

- There was no public comment

C. Discussions

- The Councilors discussed approaches for the charter change approach. Additional research is needed. Discussion will continue in subsequent meetings.

C. LEGISLATION REFERRED

- **Ordinance D-FY22-002 Bridgewater Town Charter Amendment Correction of Typographical and Punctuation Errors**

Committee Chair Moore suggested that we continue to postpone this change until R&P completes all other changes.

A motion to “postpone to the next scheduled meeting date” was made by Councilor George, seconded by Councilor Sousa, and passed by a 3-0 roll call vote as follows: George – YES, Sousa – YES, Moore – YES. The ordinance will remain in committee for future consideration.

- **Ordinance D-FY22-004 Bridgewater Town Charter Article III, Elected Officials, Library Trustees**

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The committee members discussed the ordinance and determined that additional information was needed concerning consistent naming and apparently conflicting responsibilities with other aspects of the charter.

A motion to “postpone to the next scheduled meeting date” was made by Councilor George, seconded by Councilor Sousa, and passed by a 3-0 roll call vote as follows: George – YES, Sousa – YES, Moore – YES. The ordinance will remain in committee for future consideration.

- **Ordinance D-FY22-005 Bridgewater Town Charter “Town” to “City” Amendment**

The Committee members discussed the need to get Town Council input on “City” vs “Town” via a discussion at an upcoming Town Council meeting. Since this is an impactful change, input is desired before making all the changes.

A motion to “postpone to the next scheduled meeting date” was made by Councilor George, seconded by Councilor Sousa, and passed by a 3-0 roll call vote as follows: George – YES, Sousa – YES, Moore – YES. The ordinance will remain in committee for future consideration.

- **Ordinance D-FY22-006 Bridgewater Town Charter Article II, Legislative Branch, Term of Office**

Councilor Moore confirmed the language proposed in this ordinance was duplicative of language recently passed by the Town Council. It is therefore no longer needed or relevant.

A motion to “table the ordinance” was made by Councilor George, seconded by Councilor Sousa, and passed by a 3-0 roll call vote as follows: George – YES, Sousa – YES, Moore – YES. The ordinance will no longer be considered or actioned by this Committee.

- **Ordinance D-FY22-008 Bridgewater Town Charter Article II, Legislative Branch, Annual Stipend**

The committee members discussed the language suggested by the town attorney to introduce a public vote to the compensation approval process.

A motion to approve the amendments was made by Councilor George, seconded by Councilor Sousa, and passed by a 3-0 roll call vote as follows: George – YES, Sousa – YES, Moore – YES.

A motion to “recommend as amended” made by Councilor George, seconded by Councilor Sousa, and passed by a 3-0 roll call vote as follows: George – YES, Sousa – YES, Moore – YES. The amended ordinance will return to the Town Council for consideration.

- **Ordinance D-FY22-011 Bridgewater Town Charter Article V, Administrative Organizations, City Attorney, Term Limits**

Councilor George expressed opposition to the city attorney terms limits and a desire to decision this in the next meeting. The committee members discussed concerns about this ordinance because it didn’t reflect the “at will” employee status of the town attorney and therefore wasn’t actionable.

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A motion “**not to** recommend approval” was made by Councilor George, seconded by Councilor Sousa, and passed by a 3-0 roll call vote as follows: George – YES, Sousa – YES, Moore – YES. The ordinance will return to the Town Council with a “Not Recommended” outcome.

F. ADJOURN

Councilor George made a motion to Adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa. A roll call vote was taken and the results were recorded as follows: George – YES, Sousa – YES, Moore – YES. The motion passed 3-0.

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Rules & Procedures Committee assembled voted, at their meeting on Thursday, January 27, 2022, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted, by a Roll Call vote 3-0.