

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 19 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER ENTITLED “VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE” TO SUPPORT, RECOGNIZE, AND HONOR THE SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN OF ALL BRANCHES OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater to support, recognize, and honor the servicemen and servicewomen of all branches of the Armed Forces of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Council seek to engage a broad spectrum of the public in this effort and intend the Veterans Advisory Committee to actively engage with civic organizations, government entities, and community groups to effectuate the mission described above; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:48-2 and N.J.S.A. 40A:69A-30 grant a municipality broad power to enact ordinances as it may deem necessary and proper for the good government therein; and

BE IT THEREFORE ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey that Chapter 19 of the Municipal Code of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey entitled “Veterans Advisory Committee” is created and inserted into the Municipal Code pursuant to the provisions hereof:

Section I:

A new chapter shall be inserted into the Municipal Code of the Township of Bridgewater as Chapter 19, shall be entitled as “Veterans Advisory Committee,” and shall contain the following provisions:

Chapter 19: Veterans Advisory Committee

19-1 Establishment

Pursuant to the power conferred to this municipality in N.J.S.A. 40:48-2 and N.J.S.A. 40A:69A-30, there is hereby established a Veterans Advisory Committee to support, recognize, and honor the servicemen and servicewomen of all branches of the Armed Forces of the United States of America. The term “Committee,” when used by itself in this Chapter, shall refer to the Bridgewater Township Veterans Advisory Committee.

19-2 Appointment; Membership; Term

- A. The Committee shall consist of seven members, each of whom may or may not be residents of the Township of Bridgewater. Members shall be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Township Council. Members shall be appointed for a term of three calendar years from the date of appointment. The initial appointment terms will be staggered in order to prevent all seven members' terms from expiring at the same time. Initial appointments will contain two one-year terms, two two-year term and three three-year term. In the event of a vacancy prior to the expiration of member’s term, the Mayor shall appoint, with advice and consent of the Council, a resident qualified member to fill the vacancy.

- B. Notwithstanding Subsection A of this Section, the Veterans Advisory Committee shall contain at least one of the following:
- (1) An active duty or reserve member of any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States of America;
 - (2) A family member of an active duty member of any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States of America; and
 - (3) A member in good standing of an incorporated veterans organization;

19-3 Organization

The membership of the Committee shall appoint from among their membership a chairperson who shall preside of meetings of the Committee. The Committee may approve by-laws for conduct of its business that are consistent with this Chapter and any other relevant legal provision.

19-4 Duties and Functions

- A. The Committee shall advise the Mayor and the Township Council on ways and means to support, recognize, and honor the servicemen and servicewomen of the Armed Forces of the United States.
- B. The Committee is encouraged to engage and collaborate with civic organizations, government entities, and community groups to effectuate the purpose of support, recognize, and honor veterans of all service branches of the United States military.
- C. The Committee shall be authorized and encouraged to apply for and to accept grants and contributions under the auspices of and through the Township of Bridgewater from public and private sources to finance its initiatives. The Committee shall make no expenditure or commitment of Township funds without the specific authorization of the Council, except that the Mayor, to the extent of staff availability, may authorize administrative staff support for grant applications and publicity.

Section II

All ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section III

If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to this section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision and the remainder of this Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

Section IV

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and publication in the manner required by New Jersey general law but, in no event, less than 20 days after its final passage by the Township Council and approval by the Mayor, where such approval is required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:69A-181(b).

Adopted: March 2, 2020
Effective: March 26, 2020