

Board of Fire Commissioners' Regular Meeting

January 22, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., in City Hall Council Chambers, 111 N Main Street Bristol, CT

Present: Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Commissioners Sean Moore, Dana Jandreau, Hal Kilby, Anthony Benvenuto, and Council Member Peter Kelly and Fire Chief Richard Hart.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Zoppo-Sassu at 6:00 pm and a moment of silence was taken in honor of Fire Department Retiree Christopher "Kitt" Critchley and Fire Equipment Technician Jason "Jay" Kelly.

2. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- a. Chief Hart and Commissioner Dana Jandreau swore in recruit firefighters Justin Tomlin and Kayla Janick.
- b. Chief Hart and Deputy Chief David Simard recognized members of the fire department for their actions at a serious motor vehicle accident, incident number 25-2593, on November 22, 2025.
 - Captain Thomas Scully
 - Firefighter Brock Clark
 - Firefighter Brian Kemish
 - Lieutenant Nathan England
 - Firefighter Zachary Higley
 - Firefighter Donald Perrault
 - Firefighter Pablo Gomez- Charry
 - Lieutenant Charles Judd
 - Firefighter Marcin Kaczerski
 - Firefighter Thomas Ogonowski
 - Lieutenant Adam Hayes
 - Firefighter Adam Chilberg
 - Firefighter Anthony Quarto
- c. Chief Hart recognized Firefighter Donald Perrault for his life saving actions at a motor vehicle accident on December 22, 2025.
- d. Mayor Zoppo-Sassu requested the board break for a 3-minute recess to allow pictures to be taken. On motion of Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Benvenuto it was unanimously voted to: Break for a 3-minute recess.
- e. On motion of Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Benvenuto it was unanimously voted: To resume the meeting at 6:18 pm.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a. Bristol Fire Department Lieutenant James Marks of Local Bristol Fire's unions, Local 773 spoke and expressed his gratitude for actions taken by the Board of Fire Commissioners for their condolences, and attendance to services for Jay Kelly. He thanked Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu for her support to the department, quick resolution of an issue, and attendance of Jay Kelly's services. He thanked Chief Hart for his leadership, support to the department and family of Jay, and his facilitation of services in the week following the sudden passing of Fire Equipment Technician Jay Kelly.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Chief Hart read a letter from Mayor Bobby Sanchez of New Britain for his condolences.
- b. Chief Hart read a card received from the dispatchers of Seattle, Washington for their condolences.
- c. Commissioner Moore expressed his appreciation to our mutual aid partners for their support and city coverage. He expressed gratitude to those who brought food and flowers to the department. Chief Hart advised a letter of thanks will be sent to those who assisted Bristol during this time.
- d. Chief Hart spoke regarding a house fire that occurred today at 2:33 pm. He advised that the call came in advising there was heavy fire to the rear of the home and it was possibly occupied. Once on scene crews searched the first and second floor with high heat and no visibility but located the occupant on the second floor. The occupant was assisted by EMS and later transported to Bridgeport for his injuries. Fire Department crews are still on scene at this time.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. On motion of Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Jandreau it was unanimously voted: To approve the December 18, 2025 meeting minutes.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY REPORTS

- a. Commissioner Jandreau noted that in the Tower1 report headquarters is still waiting on the installation of the Opticom. Chief Hart advised that they are waiting on the vendor to complete the project which occurred in 3 phases.
- b. Mayor Zoppo-Sassu shared that the Carriers are concerned over parking availability due to the popularity of the restaurants and advised plans to add in angled parking along N. Main Street where the bump outs are and advised this would also help with the flow of traffic near fire headquarters.
- c. On motion of Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Kilby it was unanimously voted: To approve the December 18, 2025 meeting minutes.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Commissioner Moore provided an update for the Fire Station 3 Building Committee. He shared the bay doors are in and being installed. The project is now scheduled to be completed February 23, 2026.
- b. The Personnel Committee had nothing to report at this time.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Chief Hart shared the department accepted the UTV from Capital Region #3. He advised that UTV is free to the department, but requires that it be insured and stored by the city. He advised that a MOU needs to be in place with added capabilities for brush firefighting added, this cost is an estimated \$7,800.00. On motion of Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Jandreau it was unanimously voted: To accept the UTV.
- b. Commissioner Kilby discussed the installation of red-light cameras and the Fire Board writing a letter to the Police Commissioners in support of their installation. Mayor Zoppo-Sassu gave an overview of the discussions taking place around this item. She advised that these cameras would not be installed at all intersections, just the ones that have been identified by UConn Data and the Traffic Start Team by those with the highest crash data. These cameras would then allow a Police Department designee to review and then decide if a citation be issued. She advised that any revenue from these citations would then be allocated only to the account associated with the cameras to fund the employee salary who is doing the review, and to improve these problematic intersections. The board would like Commissioner Kilby to write a letter of their unanimous support for the camera. Mayor Zoppo- Sassu advised that on February 17th there will be a meeting for public testimony if anyone would like to speak in person on the matter.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Chief Hart requested permission from the board to explore billing for motor vehicle accident clean up by the department. He was advised to check in with Corp Council and DPW for their billing process and vendor information. It was requested by Commissioner Moore that he inquire with other local departments to determine if this is a common practice.
- b. Mayor Zoppo- Sassu advised that there was conflicting language regarding pension benefits from the Local 773 contract and the City's Pension Ordinance and Charter. The matter has been referred to the Ordinance Committee and Retirement Board to clarify language.

10. ADJOURN

- a. On motion of Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Jandreau, it was unanimously voted: To adjourn the meeting at 6:44 pm.

Recording Secretary: Sara Bianchi

