

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
March 17, 2026, AT 6:00 p.m.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PRESENT:

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Chairperson
Commissioner Rory Ghio
Commissioner Paul Lemieux
Commissioner Terry Lewis
Commissioner Gloria Sapp Smith
Council Member Sue Tyler

ABSENT:

Commissioner Dean Kilbourne
Jon Mace, Board of Finance Liaison

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Officer Parracino received the Medical Lifesaving Ribbon and Officer of the Month. EMT's Bailey McCann and Evan Burley received the Medical Lifesaving Ribbon.

Officers Levine, Pollock, Bazarewsky, McGrane, Frechette, and Detectives S. Verillo and Monahan received the Silver Star, and Officers Fisher, Soucy-Field, Genovese, Petzing, and Detective Doyle also received a Letter of Commendation.

Dispatcher Chomicz received a Letter of Commendation, a Stork Pin, and Dispatcher of the Month.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chief Erik Costa of the Middletown Police Department provided an overview of the city's speed cameras.

Marianne Sirois, of Shrub Road, stated that she believes police enforcement is the best way to address traffic violations.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Sapp Smith moved to APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 17, 2026, REGULAR POLICE BOARD MEETING, Seconded by Council Member Tyler.

Amended motion: APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 17, 2026, BY NOTING COMMISSIONER LEWIS AS PRESENT.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

Council Member Tyler moved to APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 24, 2026, SPECIAL POLICE BOARD MEETING, Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux.

Amended motion: APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 24, 2026, SPECIAL POLICE BOARD MEETING, BY NOTING COMMISSIONER LEMIEUX AS ABSENT.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

5. APPROVAL OF VARIOUS MONTHLY REPORTS

Council Member Tyler moved to APPROVE MONTHLY REPORTS AND PLACE ON FILE, Seconded by Commissioner Ghio.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Council Member Tyler moved to ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE, Seconded by Commissioner Ghio.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

7. COMMITTEE MINUTES

Awards Committee

Council Member Tyler noted that she attended the Awards Committee.

Council Member Tyler moved to ACCEPT THE AWARDS COMMITTEE MINUTES, Seconded by Commissioner Ghio.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.a Chief Morello

Traffic Enforcement Cameras

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu summarized that we held a public hearing and gathered public input last month. As the Police Commission, we will continue discussions about our stance on the red-light camera enforcement component for the City of Bristol. After those discussions and any additional questions, Mayor Zoppo-Sassu stated she is seeking a motion to refer the matter to the City Council and Ordinance Committee. They will develop a sample ordinance and possibly schedule several public hearings. The Police Commission will then have the opportunity to review the sample ordinance upon its return to us. If the sample ordinance is acceptable, the Ordinance Committee will hold an official public hearing, and the proposal will then go back to the City Council. If approved, it will become an ordinance within 14 days.

A discussion was held amongst the police commissioners. The commissioners would like the camera locations to be approved by the Police Commission.

Commissioner Ghio moved to REFER THE MATTER OF RED-LIGHT CAMERAS TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE AND TO INCLUDE THE LANGUAGE IN THE ORDINANCE THAT THE POLICE COMMISSION APPROVES ANY FINAL LOCATIONS AND PROGRAM-SPECIFIC DETAILS, Seconded by Council Member Tyler.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

8.b Police Commissioners

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Tyler moved to MOVE 9.a.iv to 9.b.i, Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

9.a Chief Morello

i. Chief's Report

Chief Morello discussed the Axon proposal (see attached). A discussion was held among the Commissioners, and Council Member Tyler stated that she would vote no on the Axon proposal due to the budget and many unanswered questions. Council Member Tyler asked Chief Morello if he could get a quote for just upgrading the tasers and the Axon assistant. Chief Morello will ask Axon for a quote.

Commissioner Lemieux moved to REFER TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE FOR CHIEF MORELLO TO DO A PRESENTATION PROPOSING THE NEW AXON PACKAGE INCLUDING DRONE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE DEPARTMENT, Seconded by Commissioner Lewis.

VOTE: PASSED

6 – yes

1 - no

ii. Board of Finance Request

Council Member Tyler moved to APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR \$25,904, WITH THE CITY SHARE BEING \$12,952, FOR THE DSET GRANT FOR RADIO BATTERIES AT THE FOUR SITES AND FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE, Seconded by Commissioner Sapp-Smith.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

iii. Daley Street No Parking Request

Commissioner Sapp-Smith moved TO PLACE THE DALEY STREET NO PARKING REQUEST ON FILE, Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

9.b Police Commissioners

i. Complaint from Lieutenant Berube

Council Member Tyler moved to FORWARD LIEUTENANT BERUBE'S CLAIM, AND ALL DOCUMENTS PERTAINING THERETO BE REFERRED TO THE CORPORATION COUNSEL FOR FURTHER REVIEW AND INVESTIGATION AS WARRANTED, Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

ii. Commissioner Ghio moved to GO BACK TO PRINTED POLICE BOARD PACKETS BEING DELIVERED, Seconded by Council Member Tyler.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

10. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Tyler moved to ADJOURN, Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

The regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners called for the 17th day of March, 2026, was
HEREBY ADJOURNED AT 7:36 p.m.

Lisa Ziogas
Recording Secretary