

AUGUST 21, 2024

The special meeting of the City Council was held on Wednesday, August 21, 2024 in the City Hall Council Chambers, 111 North Main Street at 6:30 p.m. Present: Mayor Caggiano; Council Members Dickau, Olsen, Panioto, Thibeault, and Tyler. Absent: Council Member Rosengren.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Caggiano called the special meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rory Ghio, 700 Hill Street – Spoke (on videoconference) that he was in favor of the new proposed ordinance.

3. ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Recommendation from Ordinance Committee – To adopt a New Ordinance.

As recommended by the Ordinance Committee and on motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded by Council Member Thibeault, it was unanimously voted: In accordance with Section 41(f) of the Charter of the City of Bristol, to waive the reading of the proposed amendments pertaining to Chapter 2, Section 2-97.5.1 of the Code of Ordinances being introduced this date.

On motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded by Council Member Thibeault, it was voted: In accordance with Section 41(f) of the Charter of the City of Bristol, to introduce the following amendments to the Code of Ordinances; and that the time and place of Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 4:45 p.m., in Meeting Room 1-1, City Hall, First Floor, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, Connecticut be set for the holding of a public hearing thereon by the Ordinance Committee; and that the City Clerk publish notice of said public hearing and the proposed amendments to the Code of Ordinances as required by City Charter.

Underscored text is proposed to be added. [Bracketed] text is proposed for deletion.

(NEW)

Sec. 2-97.5.1 Line of Duty Determination

1. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes section 7-313e, the City of Bristol designates the Human Resources Director to determine whether a police officer or firefighter died in the line of duty as defined by General Statute 7-313e.

2. In accordance with General Statute section 7-313e, the line of duty determination shall not be used as evidence for workers' compensation claims.

A discussion was held.

Mayor Caggiano provided an example of this in North Branford where a firefighter who had cardiac disease fought a fire and later passed away of a heart attack.

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Council Member Tyler stated that she thinks an elected body, such as City Council, would be better suited to make this decision.

Council Member Thibeault stated that she feels comfortable with HR Director making the determination based off of documents provided by the Medical Examiner or Coroner.

Council Member Panioto does not feel any decision needs to be made hastily.

Mayor Caggiano expressed his opinion that the ultimate decision should be up to a professional with no bias, and the HR Director meets that qualification.

Council Member Olsen posed some questions and stated that perhaps Corporation Counsel could be the entity to make the decision.

Council Member Tyler made a motion to amend the original motion by substituting City Council for HR Director, seconded by Council Member Olsen.

A discussion was held on the amended motion.

Mayor Caggiano stated that he thinks the City would be subject to potential lawsuits when political influence is added to this, and that people have biases.

Council Member Tyler reiterated that the HR Director is appointed and that the City Council should have the final say.

Council Member Thibeault restated that the cause of death supplied by a Medical Examiner or Coroner would be relied upon to make the final decision and that the HR Director would be making the determination based off of those documents provided.

Vote taken. Motion to Amend failed 2 - 4.

Vote taken on original motion: Council Members Dickau, Panioto, and Thibeault voted in favor, Mayor Caggiano voted in favor. Council Members Olsen and Tyler were opposed. Motion passed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:54 p.m., on motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded by Council Member Tyler, it was unanimously voted: To adjourn.

ATTEST:_____

Merina Bigos
Deputy Town & City Clerk