

JANUARY 14, 2025

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 in the City Hall Council Chambers, 111 North Main Street at 7:04 p.m. Present: Mayor Caggiano; Council Members Dickau, Olsen, Panioto, Rosengren, Thibeault, and Tyler.

1. CALL TO ORDER**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Council Member Tyler and seconded by Council Member Rosengren, it was unanimously voted: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 10, 2024.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Diane Kosis, 20 Oak Road, Southington – Spoke about the quality of life with the constant low frequency noise coming from Reworld. She submitted the following documents for the record: Letter from Quiet Communities Inc., Letter from Southington Town Council to DEEP, and State Representative Rebecca Martinez’s proposed legislation.

Francis Pickering, 60 Panthorn Trail, Southington – Asked the City to do something about the noise pollution from Reworld. He spoke about information he gathered from his research.

Justine McGowan, 16 Mill Pond Drive, Bristol – Stated that the noise from Reworld causes sleep deprivation. She also stated that the noise can be harmful to a person’s mental health and quality of life.

Bob Crowley, 1985 West Street, Unit #57, Southington – Asked the Council to help alleviate the constant noise from Reworld.

David James, 21 West Broad Street, Plainville – Stated that the constant noise from Reworld affects his family’s sleep and health. He expressed concern about Reworld being trusted to monitor the medical waste burning. He stated that he believes Reworld will drive property values down.

Diana Decrescenzo, 129 North Ridge Court, Southington – Spoke about the noise and the risk of breathing unhealthy air from Reworld. She also expressed concern about the burning of medical waste.

Mayor Caggiano stated that the Bristol Burlington Health District is addressing the noise issue and that there is ongoing litigation. He explained that Reworld has committed to spending another \$1.5 million to rectify the situation.

Julie Erwin, 81 Woodchuck Lane, Harwinton – Owns multiple properties in Bristol. Stated that she is opposed to the installation of traffic cameras.

JANUARY 14, 2025

Jeremy (last name illegible), 359 Broad Street, Bristol – Stated that he is opposed to traffic cameras. He feels that business owners being held responsible for paying a traffic ticket for their employees' infraction is unfair to the business owner.

Daniel Bailey, 71 Sonstrom Road, Bristol – Stated that he is in favor of traffic cameras. He expressed his opinion that it will improve the safety of pedestrians.

Catherine Crowley, 328 Washington Street, Bristol – Stated that she is opposed to traffic cameras. She feels traffic cameras are unconstitutional.

Robert Cochran, 32 Ridge Road, Bristol – Stated that he is opposed to traffic cameras. He spoke about safety, especially when a truck is towing a trailer or cargo. He believes slamming on the brakes could cause more accidents. He also stated that the driver of a company vehicle should be held responsible for paying the ticket, not the business owner.

Donna Barbati, 167 Birch Street, Bristol – Stated that she is opposed to traffic cameras. She encouraged people to do their own research and look at the data.

David Dionne, 91 Oakwood Circle, Bristol – Stated that he is opposed to traffic cameras. He also stated that he agrees with the prior public speakers and would like to let police officers do their jobs.

Jeffrey Hayden, 50 Melinda Lane, Bristol – Requested sidewalks be put in from the south end of city-owned property at Southside School through the property at 93 Tuttle Road, which is approximately a total of 182 linear feet. He feels lack of sidewalks is a safety issue year-round that is made worse by wintry conditions.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council members reported on committees, activities, and events.

5. ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Rosengren, it was unanimously voted: To adopt five items as part of the Consent Calendar.

a. New Hire Report for December 2024

Communication received from the Human Resources Department.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To place on file the New Hire Report for the month of December, 2024.

JANUARY 14, 2025

b. Tax Refunds in the Amount of \$12,695.81

Request presented from Tax Collector Bednaz.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To approve the Tax Refunds as follows –

Motor Vehicle	\$12,695.81
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c. Positive Referral from Planning Commission for 685 Lake Avenue, Map 4, Lot 17

Communication received from the Bristol Planning Commission.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To place on file the Planning Commission's positive referral for 685 Lake Avenue, Map 4, Lot 17.

d. Request for Planning & Conservation Commission to review the City's Participation in the Highlands Conservation Region

Communication received from Public Works Director Rogozinski.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To request the Planning and Conservation Commission to review the City's potential participation in the Highlands Conservation Region and make a recommendation to City Council.

e. Eversource Energy Easement at 30 Hope Street

Communication received from Assistant Corporation Counsel Conlin.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To consider and approve a request from Eversource Energy for an easement to be located at 30 Hope Street in order to provide electrical energy to the new municipal garage.

6. REPORTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Real Estate Committee

As recommended by the Real Estate Committee and on motion of Council Member Tyler and seconded by Council Member Olsen, it was unanimously voted: To accept the following property from Gaski's Realty, Inc. by receiving a Deed in Lieu of Foreclosure to resolve the outstanding property taxes due the City of Bristol: Map 43, Lot 99B-1, 125 Frederick Street. It was further moved that this matter be referred to the Corporation Counsel to prepare and/or review any necessary documents, and that the Mayor, or Acting Mayor, be authorized to execute any necessary documents to effectuate the same.

JANUARY 14, 2025

7. OLD BUSINESS

Council Member Dickau spoke about the likely closures of Countryside Manor and Sheriden Woods. He provided statistical information and asked numerous questions concerning the employees.

Mayor Caggiano gave an update about the process and help for the employees.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. On motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded by Council Member Tyler, it was unanimously voted: To authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to sign and execute the Bristol Salvation Army Use of Facilities Request Form. This will allow the use of the Salvation Army of Bristol facility located at 19 Stearns Street as a cold weather emergency shelter. It was further moved that this matter be referred to the Corporation Counsel for any necessary action to effectuate this motion.

b. Council Member Dickau asked Mayor Caggiano about a letter he wrote for a Charter School application.

9. RESIGNATIONS

The following resignations were presented:

Nicole LaPorte – Cemetery Commission, Sec. 2-9

Colleen Nicastrò – Historic District Commission, Sec. 2-9

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Panioto, it was unanimously voted: To accept the resignations and send letters of thanks.

10. APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments were presented:

Cemetery Commission

Maya Bringe – Appointment – term to 3/25

Replaced Nicole LaPorte.

Confirming motion by Council Member Panioto.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Energy Commission

Eric Carlson – Mayoral appointment as Bd. Of Education Liaison

JANUARY 14, 2025*Fire Commission*

Dana Jandreau – Reappointment – term to 1/28
Confirming motion by Council Member Thibeault.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Historic District Commission

Colleen Nicastro – Reappointment – term to 1/30
Confirming motion by Council Member Rosengren.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Jennifer St. John – Appointment – term to 1/30
Confirming motion by Council Member Rosengren.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Library Board

Elizabeth Kanachovski – Reappointment – term to 1/28
Confirming motion by Council Member Olsen.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Pina Salvatore - Reappointment – term to 1/28
Confirming motion by Council Member Olsen.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Barbara O'Neill - Reappointment – term to 1/28
Confirming motion by Council Member Olsen.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Danielle Rivard – Appointment – term to 1/28
Replaced Tom Jensen.
Confirming motion by Council Member Olsen.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Transportation Commission

Peter Del Mastro – Appointment – term to 1/28
Confirming motion by Council Member Thibeault.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Youth Commission

Donna Osuch – Appointment as Private Youth Serving Agency Member – term to 1/28
Confirming motion by Council Member Rosengren.
Motion passed in voice vote.

JANUARY 14, 2025

11. INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE AGREEMENT

- a.** Communication received from Police Chief Morello.

On motion of Council Member Tyler and seconded by Council Member Dickau, it was unanimously voted: To approve an agreement between the City of Bristol and the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, and to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute any and all documents to effect said contract.

Police Chief Morello explained that the process behind this agreement has already been in place, but this agreement provides more resources to the City.

12. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - PETER COURT ACCESSWAY MAINTENANCE

- a.** Communication received from Public Works Director Rogozinski.

On motion of Council Member Olsen and seconded by Council Member Rosengren, it was unanimously voted: To direct the Department of Public Works to cease any and all maintenance of the road accessway identified as Peter Court, effective January 17, 2025.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:33 p.m., on motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Rosengren, it was unanimously voted: To convene into Executive Session to discuss items a. – c. below.

a. Present to discuss and take any action as necessary on litigation matter: DG Connecticut Solar III, LLC vs. City of Bristol, Superior Court Docket No. HHB-CV-23-6078561-S: Mayor Caggiano; Council Members Dickau, Olsen, Panioto, Rosengren, Thibeault, and Tyler; Corporation Counsel Krawiecki; Assistant Corporation Counsels Conlin, and Steeg; and Assessor Tom DeNoto.

b. Present to discuss and take any action as necessary on litigation matter: Meridian Towers Associates, LP v. City of Bristol, Superior Court Docket No. HHB-CV-23-6079841-S: Mayor Caggiano; Council Members Dickau, Olsen, Panioto, Rosengren, Thibeault, and Tyler; Corporation Counsel Krawiecki; Assistant Corporation Counsels Conlin and Steeg; and Assessor Tom DeNoto.

c. Present to discuss and take any action as necessary on the matter of Sandra Daniels-Hipler v. City of Bristol, WCC #7074340, WCC #W001221059, WCC #W000655403: Mayor Caggiano; Council Members Dickau, Olsen, Panioto, Thibeault, and Tyler; Corporation Counsel Krawiecki; Assistant Corporation Counsels Conlin, and Steeg. Council Member Rosengren recused himself due to a conflict of interest.

Discussion was held. No votes were taken.

JANUARY 14, 2025

At 8:56 p.m., on motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Panioto it was unanimously voted: To reconvene into Public Session.

On motion of Council Member Rosengren and seconded by Council Member Dickau, it was unanimously voted: To resolve litigation matter, Superior Court Docket No. HHB-CV-23-6078561-S, DG Connecticut Solar III v. City of Bristol by a Stipulation for Judgment whereby the City of Bristol agrees to fully exempt the personal property of the plaintiff subject to Connecticut General Statutes section 12-81(57) and section 16-244u, and that the Assessor be directed to make said adjustment to the Grand List.

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Olsen, it was unanimously voted: To resolve the litigation matter, Meridian Towers Associates, LP v. City of Bristol, Superior Court Docket No. HHB-CV-23-6079841-S by Stipulation for Judgment at the agreed upon Full Market Value of \$15,950,000.00 and that the Assessor be authorized to adjust the October 1, 2022 Grand List in accordance with this Stipulation.

On motion of Council Member Olsen and seconded by Council Member Tyler, it was voted: That the City of Bristol enter into a Full and Final settlement in the matter of Sandra Daniels-Hipler v. City of Bristol for any and all workers' compensation claims filed by Sandra Daniels-Hipler for WCC file #7074340, WCC file #W001221059, and WCC File #W000655403 for the total amount of Seventy-Five Thousand (\$75,000.00) Dollars. The dates of these claims are listed, but are not limited to the following: December 27, 2012, June 10, 2014, January 12, 2016.

It was further voted that the Mayor, Acting Mayor, Corporation Counsel or Assistant Corporation Counsel be authorized to execute the Full and Final Settlement. *[Council Member Rosengren had previously recused himself from this agenda item due to a conflict of interest.]*

14. OTHER BUSINESS – None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 p.m., on motion of Council Member Rosengren and seconded by Council Member Dickau, it was unanimously voted: To adjourn.

ATTEST:_____

**Erica Cabiya
Town & City Clerk**