

A Special Meeting of the **Capital Improvement and Strategic Planning Committee** was held on July 22, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, Connecticut.

Members Present: Mayor Caggiano, Cheryl Thibeault, Sebastian Panioto, Marie O'Brien, John Smith, Tom Hislop, Susan Tyler and Diane Waldron.

Also Present: Dave Maikowski, Howard Schmelder, Bill Veits, John Soares

City Staff: Robin Manuele, Jessica Pilgrim, Bob Flanagan, Justin Malley Jason Krueger, Nancy Haynes, Debbie Prozzo, Chief Morello,

1. Call to Order

Mayor Caggiano called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Public Participation

None.

3. Discussion of Strategic Plan Template and Long-Term Planning for the City of Bristol and to take any action as necessary.

The Mayor stated these meetings will be a series of workshops with input from various Department Heads, Boards/Commissions and Community members to discuss the City's Strategic Plan and priorities. The meetings will be held for the next few months at 4 pm the 4th Tuesday of the month. This is not just a plan, but Diane, Justin, the Mayor and Bob Flanagan have been working together to develop a template for the strategic plan and using other models as references. Different documents were discussed such as the Bristol Rising 2008 comprehensive document and the Plan of Conservation and Development. Examples were presented from Southbury and South Windsor. The Committee discussed defining the problems that need to be solved in Bristol and obtaining citizen feedback. Everyone present in the room stated what they felt was their top priority or problem.

Some of the topics discussed included the following:

- Senior Housing units being built are not affordable. Where are seniors going to end up? Jason Krueger stated said the City needs to think more economically as well. Seniors are on fixed income. Bob Flanagan stated there are 450 senior housing approved which have not yet broken ground.
- Nancy Haynes, Purchasing Agent discussed demographics things that would sell the community, ie parks, education concerts etc. things that would appeal to the audience/residents.
- Debbie Prozzo discussed demographics as well. The Library use is at an all time and touches on all age groups. Seeing focus on 55+ age group. Library looking to expand resources/programs for this group, but are land locked – hard to find growth because of this.
- Chief Morello discussed business growth projections which would impact traffic etc. More residential growth would increase public safety needs
- Howard Schmelder discussed the challenges and opportunities with regard to economic development, how many empty buildings are in Bristol and how could these be redeveloped/repurposed and put to good use. As well as the residential rehab program – ECD has been putting a lot of money into this over the years.
- Tom Hislop discussed the redevelopment and making use of what is already out there. Would like to see use of what is there as in the chic miller property.
- John Smith discussed identify/regenerate relationship with surrounding communities including regionalization to make government more efficient.

- Dave M. spoke regarding building the grand list and more money coming in so the City could offer more abatements to seniors etc. The City should try to not be reactive to getting new business into the City and be proactive.
- The Mayor asked what type of industry does the City want to attract, for example data center, energy, fuel cell etc

4. Adjournment.

Commissioner Smith made a motion seconded by Commission O'Brien "to adjourn" at 5:27 p.m. Motion approved.