

OCTOBER 14, 2025

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 in the City Hall Council Chambers, 111 North Main Street at 7:05 p.m. Present: Mayor Caggiano; Council Members Dickau, Olsen, Panioto, Rosengren, Thibeault, and Tyler.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Caggiano announced that this was Council Member Panioto's final Council meeting. He complimented him and thanked him for his dedicated service to the community. Council Member Panioto stated that it was an honor to serve for the past four years and spoke highly about his experience.

A moment of silence was held for Doreen Mastrobattisto and the third anniversary of the passing of Lt. Dustin Demonte and Sgt. Alex Hamzy.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Council Member Olsen and seconded by Council Member Rosengren, it was unanimously voted: To approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held on September 9, 2025.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Shelby Pons, 143 Larkspur Lane – Ms. Pons asked the Republicans to stop blaming the Democrats for the Board of Education budget and provided information on the deficit, state mandates, and expenditures.

Michelle Rudy, 102 Henderson Street – Ms. Rudy spoke on behalf of the Friends of Hoppers-Birge Pond Nature Preserve. Ms. Rudy emphasized the need to preserve more of the land in order to protect endangered habitats and preserve significant geological features.

Marcus Patton, 27 Henderson Street – Speaking as the Acting Chairperson of the Diversity Council, Mr. Patton spoke about the Diversity Council's role in the upcoming "cash mob" at Guac & Roll. He also stated that the board would like to see "cash mobs" happen at least quarterly.

Maci Hopkins – Maci is a young student who is collecting bottles and cans in order to purchase items to make Kindness Bags for the Agape House.

Marcel Boisvert, 113 East Road – Mr. Boisvert spoke about flooding and property erosion.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council members reported on committees, activities, and events.

OCTOBER 14, 2025

5. ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR

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

a. New Hire Report for September 2025

Communication received from the Human Resources Department.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To place on file the New Hire Report for the month of September, 2025.

b. Tax Refunds in the Amount of \$36,768.77

Request presented from Tax Collector Bednaz.

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

Motor Vehicle	\$26,199.43
Real Estate	<u>+10,569.34</u>
Total	\$36,768.77

c. Bristol Police Department Grants

Communication received from Police Chief Morello.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To authorize the Bristol Police Department to apply for and accept the following state funded grants: Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Grant, DUI Enforcement Grant, Click It or Ticket Grant, and the Speed & Aggressive Driving Grant. These grants are fully funded through the State of CT Department of Transportation Highway Safety.

d. Amendment to Contract 2P24-076 WMC Engineers for Inspection and Construction Administration

Communication received from Public Works Director Rogozinski.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To authorize the Mayor to sign a contract amendment to Contract 2P24-076, WMC Engineers for Inspection and Construction Administration services of East St. Bridge in the amount of \$143,000. Said amendment shall cover the cost of winter

OCTOBER 14, 2025

inspection services and water main replacement work and shall be fully funded through the Federal Local Bridge Program.

e. Memorandum of Understanding for Information Technology Task Force

Communication received from Comptroller Waldron.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Information Technology Task Force between the City and the Board of Education.

6. REPORTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Ordinance Committee

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 to Chapter 8, Flood and Erosion Control, Section 8-2 Board Designated, of the Code of Ordinances being introduced this date.

On motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded by Council Member Olsen, it was unanimously 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 Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 4:55 p.m., in Meeting Room 1-1, City Hall, 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.

Council Member Panioto stated that the committee feels the Board of Public Works has more experience with flooding and erosion.

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

Sec. 8-2. Board designated.

The [city council] Board of Public Works is hereby constituted as the flood and erosion control board for the city and, as such board, shall have all the duties and powers granted by state statutes. The director of public works shall coordinate a report to be delivered to the flood and erosion control board twice per calendar year by March 31 and September 30 of that year. The mayor may call a special meeting of the board as needed to discuss and take action on items in the submitted reports or as necessary.

(Code 1960, § 14-2; Ord. of 10-6-61; Ord. of 10-9-12; Ord. of 5-24-18)

OCTOBER 14, 2025

Mayor Caggiano reported that the Northeast Middle School project is on schedule for the July 2026 opening and that the next change order from the committee will be a credit to the account.

7. **OLD BUSINESS** – None.

8. **NEW BUSINESS** – None.

9. **RESIGNATIONS**

Thomas Marra – Zoning Commission – Sec. 2-9

Barbara O'Neill – Library Board

Kate Kerchaert – Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative f.k.a. School Readiness Council

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

10. **APPOINTMENTS**

a. The following appointments were presented:

Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative

Whitney Shufelt – Appointment – term to 8/26.

Confirming motion by Council Member Rosengren.

Motion passed in voice vote.

City Energy Commission

Tom Ragaini – Reappointment – term expires 10/28

Confirming motion by Council Member Thibeault.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Sheldon Scott – Reappointment – term expires 10/28

Confirming motion by Council Member Thibeault.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Inland Wetlands Commission

Justin Bridges – Appointment as alternate member – term expires 6/27.

Replaced Valentino.

Confirming motion by Council Member Olsen.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Zoning Commission

Sara Mangiafico – Appointment as regular member – term expires 6/26.

Replaced Tom Marra.

Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.

Motion passed in voice vote.

OCTOBER 14, 2025

11. BRISTOL ZONING COMMISSION REFERRAL RESPONSE

Communication received from the Bristol Zoning Commission.

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Rosengren, it was unanimously voted: To accept the letter and report from the Zoning Commission.

Council Member Thibeault explained the background for the referral and stated that she would ask the Ordinance Committee Chairperson to consider this topic at their next meeting.

12. CONTRACTS**a. Contract 2P25-086 Architectural/Engineering Services Relative to Renovation of the Edgewood Pre-K Academy**

Communication received from Schools Project Manager Landon.

Mayor Caggiano explained the background of this agenda item and stated that it has not yet gone through the Board of Finance for allocation.

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Panioto, it was unanimously voted: To table action on this item until after the Board of Finance has met.

13. GRANTS**a. Centre Square Pocket Park Grant**

Communication received from Grants Administrator Leger.

On motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded by Council Member Thibeault, it was unanimously voted: To authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to submit an application for total funding up to \$575,000, with up to \$287,500 requested from the Urban Green & Community Garden Grant Program at DEEP and \$287,500 to be matched with a combination of in-kind services of Public Works staff (calculated at approximately \$117,500) and the remainder in City funds (up to \$170,000); and to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to complete and submit all necessary paperwork and forward this request to the Board of Finance for action.

14. RESOLUTIONS**a. Request from Eversource Re: 530 Stevens Street**

Communication received from Assistant Corporation Counsel Conlin.

OCTOBER 14, 2025

On motion of Council Member Olsen and seconded by Council Member Dickau, it was unanimously voted: To approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor or Acting Mayor of the City of Bristol to execute and deliver in the name of the City, an easement to the Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, and to do any and all other acts to effectuate the same.

The Resolution reads as follows –

BE IT RESOLVED: That the City of Bristol grant and convey to the Connecticut Light & Power Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, a corporation chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly and having its principal office in the Town of Berlin, in the State of Connecticut, its successors and assigns, permanent rights for the installation, maintenance, and repair of electric (and gas) lines over, under, and across land of the City of Bristol as set forth in the proposed easement presented to this meeting, which is hereby ordered filed with the records of this meeting: and,

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Mayor or Acting Mayor of the City of Bristol be authorized to execute and deliver in the name of the City of Bristol an easement presented to this meeting and to do any and all other acts to effectuate the foregoing.

A roll call vote was taken.

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Council Member Dickau		
“ ” Olsen		
“ ” Panioto		
“ ” Rosengren		
“ ” Thibeault		
“ ” Tyler		
Mayor Caggiano		

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: YES – 7; NO – 0; ABSTAIN – 0.

b. Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program

Communication received from Director Krueger of the Department of Aging.

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Tyler, it was unanimously voted: To waive the reading of the resolution.

On motion of Council Member Rosengren and seconded by Council Member Tyler, it was unanimously voted: To approve a resolution adopting a Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program for senior citizens who volunteer their services to qualifying entities in the City.

The Resolution reads as follows –

OCTOBER 14, 2025

BE IT RESOLVED that in order to promote the goals of scientific, educational, literary, historical, governmental, charitable and non-profit entities located in the City of Bristol by drawing upon the skills, knowledge and experience of its senior citizens, the City Council of the City of Bristol hereby establishes a Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program for senior citizens who choose to donate their time, talent and experience by volunteering to provide services to such entities as follows:

- A. Qualifying senior citizens who volunteer to provide services to qualifying scientific, educational, literary, historical, governmental, charitable and non-profit entities located in the City of Bristol shall be eligible for a tax credit on their real property tax bills in accordance with the provisions hereof. In order to qualify for the benefits of the senior citizens volunteer tax relief pilot program, taxpayers must be age 60 or older, own real property in the City of Bristol, must occupy the property as a principal residence and must have an annual gross income of not more than \$45,000 single, or \$50,000 couple, not including Social Security. Participating senior citizens may earn an annual tax credit of \$300.00 per household by performing a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer service in a fiscal year to qualified non-profit entities.
- B. The program shall apply to volunteer work performed in fiscal year 2025-2026 and after, in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution and the guidelines and policies referred to in paragraphs D and E. The tax credit shall be applied to the tax bill due July 1 following the fiscal year in which the work is performed.
- C. The tax credits earned by the participants in the Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program shall not exceed \$24,000 in a fiscal year on a first-come first-serve basis.
- D. The Assessor and Senior Center Executive Director shall develop guidelines and policies to administer the Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program, including guidelines for qualifications for participating seniors and participating nonprofit entities, and for timing and form of applications.
- E. An extension time of two months, through August 31, 2026, to file for the Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program will be allowed upon presentation of letter of medical proof from your doctor stating that you were under a doctor's care during the designated filing period of February 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026.
- F. The City Council shall review and evaluate the Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program after one year from the date of its approval.

OCTOBER 14, 2025

A roll call vote was taken.

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Council Member Dickau		
“ ” Olsen		
“ ” Panioto		
“ ” Rosengren		
“ ” Thibeault		
“ ” Tyler		
Mayor Caggiano		

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: YES – 7; NO – 0; ABSTAIN – 0.

c. Senior Homeowner Tax Relief Program

Communication received from Assistant Corporation Counsel Conlin.

On motion of Council Member Olsen and seconded by Council Member Dickau, it was unanimously voted: To approve a resolution to increase the household income limit for the City Senior Homeowner Tax Relief Program.

The Resolution reads as follows –

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Bristol Senior Homeowner Tax Relief Local Program, established pursuant to Connecticut General Statute section 12-129n, is hereby amended, that the income eligibility is established at a maximum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00) per year, per household, including Social Security retirement benefits. All other program requirements currently in effect shall remain the same.

A roll call vote was taken.

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Council Member Dickau		
“ ” Olsen		
“ ” Panioto		
“ ” Rosengren		
“ ” Thibeault		
“ ” Tyler		
Mayor Caggiano		

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: YES – 7; NO – 0; ABSTAIN – 0.

OCTOBER 14, 2025

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:02 p.m., on motion of Council Member Rosengren and seconded by Council Member Dickau, 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 regarding litigation matter: Bristol Sports Center DST Delaware Statutory Trust v. City of Bristol, Superior Court docket number HHB-CV-24-6086843-S: Mayor Caggiano; Council Members Dickau, Olsen, Panioto, Rosengren, Thibeault, and Tyler; Corporation Counsel Krawiecki; Assistant Corporation Counsels Conlin, Steeg, and Matney; and Assessor DeNoto.

b. Present to discuss and take any action as necessary regarding litigation matter: Walmart Real Estate Business Trust v. City of Bristol, Superior Court docket number HHB-CV-23-6079989-S: Mayor Caggiano; Council Members Dickau, Olsen, Panioto, Rosengren, Thibeault, and Tyler; Corporation Counsel Krawiecki; Assistant Corporation Counsels Conlin, Steeg, and Matney; and Assessor DeNoto.

c. Present to discuss and take any action as necessary regarding litigation matter Wal-Mart East Limited Partnership and Cedar Bristol, LLC v. City of Bristol, Superior Court docket number HHB-CV-23-6079992-S: Mayor Caggiano; Council Members Dickau, Olsen, Panioto, Rosengren, Thibeault, and Tyler; Corporation Counsel Krawiecki; Assistant Corporation Counsels Conlin, Steeg, and Matney; and Assessor DeNoto.

Discussion was held. No votes were taken.

At 8:20 p.m. Mayor Caggiano called the regular meeting of the City Council back into public session.

On motion of Council Member Rosengren and seconded by Council Member Tyler, it was unanimously voted: that the City of Bristol settle the matter of Bristol Sports Center DST Delaware Statutory Trust v. City of Bristol, Superior Court Docket Number HHB-CV-24-6086843-S, by Stipulation, which shall adjust the full market value of the properties at 383 Middle Street, Assessor's Map 3, lot 35, Account number 0172553 unique ID# 2398 as follows:

Grand List year 2023	\$22,720,000.00
Grand List year 2024	\$24,100,000.00
Grand List year 2025	\$25,425,000.00
Grand List year 2026	\$26,500,000.00

It was further moved that the Assessor is hereby authorized to adjust the Grand Lists in accordance with this Stipulation, and that the Corporation Counsel be authorized to execute the Stipulation on behalf of the City of Bristol. Council Member Panioto recused himself from this item.

OCTOBER 14, 2025

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Dickau, it was unanimously voted: that the City of Bristol settle the matter of Walmart Real Estate Trust v. City of Bristol, Superior Court Docket Number HHB-CV-23-6079989-S, by Stipulation, which shall adjust the full market value of the properties at 1400 Farmington Avenue, Assessor's Map 46, lot 73, Account number 0099155 unique ID# 11023 as follows:

Grand List year 2022	\$11,500,000.00
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It was further moved that the Assessor is hereby authorized to adjust the Grand Lists in accordance with this Stipulation, and that the Corporation Counsel be authorized to execute the Stipulation on behalf of the City of Bristol.

On motion of Council Member Dickau and seconded by Council Member Rosengren, it was unanimously voted: that the City of Bristol settle the matter of Wal-Mart East Limited Partnership and Cedar Bristol, LLC v. City of Bristol, Superior Court Docket Number HHB-CV-23-6079992-S, by Stipulation, which shall adjust the full market value of the property at 325 Oakland Street, Assessor's Map 24, lot 236-14, Account number 0046353, unique ID#1730 as follows:

Grand List year 2022	\$3,950,000.00
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It was further moved that the Assessor is hereby authorized to adjust the Grand List in accordance with this Stipulation, and that the Corporation Counsel be authorized to execute the Stipulation on behalf of the City of Bristol.

16. OTHER BUSINESS – None.

17. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:25 p.m., on motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded by Council Member Thibeault, it was unanimously voted: To adjourn.

ATTEST: _____

Erica Cabiya
Town & City Clerk