

## NOVEMBER 10, 2025

The special meeting of the City Council was held on Monday, November 10, 2025 in Meeting Room 3-1, 111 North Main Street at 3:05 p.m. Present: Mayor Caggiano; Council Members Olsen, Panioto, Rosengren, Thibeault, and Tyler. Present via telephone: Council Member Dickau

### 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

### 2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mayor-elect Ellen Zoppo Sassu, 47 Kory Lane – Requested that item 5 be handled with integrity and to remove any potential appointments from the agenda.

### 3. **TAX MATTER**

Communication received from Assistant Corporation Counsel Conlin.

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Tyler, it was unanimously voted: To authorize the Tax Collector to remove the interest penalty for tax account unique ID# P0254827-A in the amount of \$66,987.36 which includes all interest through October 31, 2025.

Assessor Tom DeNoto stated that there was confusion between the Tax Management Associates consultant and the company's accountant in how the information was communicated, which is the basis for this waiver. He further stated that this is a negotiation to accept the findings of the audit.

Council members Olsen and Tyler asked questions for clarification.

Tax Collector Bednaz referenced C.G.S. Sec. 12-53 to support her opposition to this decision.

### 4. **ORDINANCE ADOPTION**

#### **a. Ordinance Committee**

As recommended by the Ordinance Committee and on motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded by Council Member Rosengren, 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.

As recommended by the Ordinance Committee and on motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded by Council Member Thibeault, it was unanimously voted: That Sec. 8-2. Board Designated of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bristol, Connecticut, is hereby amended to read as follows. It was further moved that the City Clerk publish said amendments and additions to the Code of Ordinances, and that they become effective upon the expiration of 14 days from the date of their publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Bristol.

Council Member Panioto stated that the Council has had discussions with the Public Works Director and Board about this change.

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

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### **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)*

### **5. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

*Bryant Lishness – Board of Ethics*

*Jennifer St. John – Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative*

*Katie D'Agostino – ARPA Task Force*

*Chris Hayden – Bristol Burlington Health District Commission*

*John Lodovico – Board of Finance effective 11/7/2025 by special vote on motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Olsen. Motion passed unanimously.*

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.

The following appointments were presented:

#### *Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative*

*Donna Koser – Appointment – Term to 8/26.*

*Confirming motion by Council Member Olsen.*

*Motion passed in voice vote.*

#### *Animal Control Building Committee*

*Cheryl Thibeault – Appointment – No term.*

*Confirming motion by Council Member Panioto.*

*Council Member Thibeault recused herself and exited meeting room. Motion passed in voice vote.*

#### *Retirement Board*

*Joshua Lemire – Appointment – Term expires 7/30.*

*Confirming motion by Council Member Panioto.*

*Motion passed in voice vote.*

#### *Bristol Fire Chief*

*Richard Hart – Reappointment as Fire Chief – Special two-year term to expire 11/27 with option to extend appointment an additional two years.*

*Confirming motion by Council Member Rosengren.*

*Motion passed in voice vote.*

Council Member Tyler stated that she would like to receive appointments prior to the meeting in which they will be voted on.

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Communication received from the Human Resources Director Haselkamp.

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Rosengren, it was unanimously voted: To approve the reappointment for Richard Hart as Fire Chief, effective November 18, 2025 for a two-year term with an option for an additional two years, and to approve the employment agreement between the City of Bristol and Fire Chief Richard Hart, and to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute any necessary documents to effectuate the same.

H.R. Director Haselkamp explained that the adjustment to the Fire Chief's contract is to mitigate the salary disparity between the Fire Chief's and the Police Chief's contract.

Mayor Caggiano clarified that by Charter, the Fire Chief appointment can be less than two years and that the incoming Mayor will have the option to reappoint the Chief and negotiate his contract.

**7. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 3:24 p.m., on motion of Council Member Rosengren and seconded by Council Member Thibeault, 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, Superior Court docket number HHB-CV-23-6079294-S, Bristol Communities Limited Partnership v. City of Bristol: Mayor Caggiano; Council Members Dickau (via telephone), Olsen, Panioto, Rosengren, Thibeault, and Tyler; Corporation Counsel Krawiecki; Assistant Corporation Counsels Conlin and Steeg; and Assessor DeNoto.

**b.** Present to discuss and take any action as necessary regarding litigation matter, Superior Court docket number HHB-CV-23-6079295-S, FAH Redstone Limited Partnership v. City of Bristol: Mayor Caggiano; Council Members Dickau (via telephone), Olsen, Panioto, Rosengren, Thibeault, and Tyler; Corporation Counsel Krawiecki; Assistant Corporation Counsels Conlin and Steeg; and Assessor DeNoto.

**c.** Present to discuss and take action on Local #1338, Nutmeg Independent Labor Unions contract approval: Mayor Caggiano; Council Members Dickau (via telephone), Olsen, Panioto, Rosengren, Thibeault, and Tyler; Corporation Counsel Krawiecki; Assistant Corporation Counsels Conlin and Steeg; and Human Resources Director Haselkamp.

Discussion was held. No votes were taken.

At 3:42 p.m. Mayor Caggiano called the regular meeting of the City Council back into public session.

On motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded by Council Member Olsen, it was unanimously voted: That the litigation matter, Superior Court docket number HHB-CV-23-6079294-S, Bristol Communities Limited Partnership v. City of Bristol, be settled by stipulation, which shall adjust the Grand List 2022 full market value of the subject properties at \$7,700,000.00, with individual properties to be settled in a pro-rata fashion.

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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 Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Panioto, it was unanimously voted: That the litigation matter, Superior Court docket number HHB-CV-23-6079295-S, FAH Redstone Limited Partnership v. City of Bristol, be settled by stipulation, which shall adjust the Grand List 2022 full market value of the subject properties at \$9,000,000.00, with individual properties to be settled in a pro-rata fashion.

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 Olsen and seconded by Council Member Thibeault, it was unanimously voted: To approve the funding for a tentative agreement reached between the City of Bristol and Local #1338 of Nutmeg Independent Labor Unions for a three-year contract from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028. Mayor Caggiano stated that this contract still needs approval from the union.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

At 3:45 p.m., on motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Olsen, it was unanimously voted: To adjourn.

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Erica Cabiya**  
**Town & City Clerk**