

JANUARY 13, 2026

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 in the City Hall Council Chambers, 111 North Main Street at 7:02 p.m. Present: Mayor Zoppo-Sassu; Council Members Dickau, Kelley, Seymour, and Tyler. Absent: Council Members Hahn and Rosengren.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Fire Chief Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation of Proclamation to Lee McFadden of the Bristol America250 Committee. Ms. McFadden gave a brief overview of the committee's planned events.

A moment of silence was observed for the following people: Renee Good of Minneapolis, retired firefighter Christopher "Kit" Critchley, former Public Works Board Commissioner Donald Padlo, and Firefighter Technician Jay Kelly.

Fire Chief Hart spoke in remembrance of Jay Kelly.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cheryl Thibeault, 73 Yarde Dr. – Ms. Thibeault urged City Council to vote "no" on item 6.g. which is to discharge the Animal Control Facility Building Committee. She explained the work the committee had done over the past two years and why she believes it should remain intact.

Morris Patton, 49 Field St. – Mr. Patton introduced his nonprofit organization called, "Dad's Up Front." He explained that he created it to help fathers remain in their children's lives and invited the public to its first event on January 31, 2026 at the Boys and Girls Club.

Kristen Giantonio, 275 Allentown Rd. – Ms. Giantonio urged the Council to approve agenda items 6.b. and 6.c. to approve an additional Parent Ambassador position and make the working hours more flexible.

Mathew Biadun, 53 Buff Rd. – Mr. Biadun stated that he understands that plans for the Animal Control Facility may have changed and regionalization may be necessary, however, he feels the current committee is knowledgeable and stayed on track so he would like the same committee to see the project through.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council members reported on committees, activities, and events.

JANUARY 13, 2026

5. ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR

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

a. New Hire Report for December 2025

Communication received from the Human Resources Department.

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

b. Tax Refunds in the Amount of \$25,973.83

Request presented from Tax Collector Bednaz.

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

Motor Vehicle	\$20,131.42
Real Estate	+ 5,842.41
Total	\$25,973.83

c. Lot A-2 Prospect Street Fee Waiver

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Tyler and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To accept the waiver of fees and interest on the 2024 real estate Grand List for 30 days from the billing date in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 12-145 for Lot A-2 Prospect Street – bill number 2024-01-0103092.

6. REPORTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**a. Salary Committee**

On motion of Council Member Dickau and seconded by Council Member Tyler, it was unanimously voted: To approve wage increases for part-time and seasonal positions based on current position value in the Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Department effective Sunday, January 18, 2026, and to refer to the Board of Finance for informational purposes.

b. Salary Committee

On motion of Council Member Dickau and seconded by Council Member Tyler, it was unanimously voted: To approve one (1) additional position of Parent Ambassador, non-bargaining, grant funded with a two-year term at the rate of \$25.00 per hour, and refer to the Board Finance for informational purposes.

JANUARY 13, 2026

c. Salary Committee

On motion of Council Member Dickau and seconded by Council Member Tyler, it was unanimously voted: To approve the change of the Parent Ambassador work schedule from “not to exceed 10 hours per month,” to “not to exceed 120 hours per fiscal year.”

d. Ordinance Committee

As recommended by the Ordinance Committee and on motion of Council Member Dickau and seconded by Council Member Tyler, 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 18, Planning, Article XII Bristol Transportation Commission Sections 18-167 through 18-171 of the Code of Ordinances being introduced this date.

On motion of Council Member Dickau and seconded by Council Member Tyler, 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 Tuesday, February 3, 2026 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.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu and Council Member Dickau explained that the Ordinance Committee will also be creating an ordinance for the Property Tax Exemption For Veterans with a Permanent and Total Disability Rating, which would apply to a veteran’s home or motor vehicle tax, but not both. Council Member Dickau explained that, in accordance with legislation, the City may adopt this ordinance without a public hearing.

e. Real Estate Committee

On motion of Council Member Dickau and seconded by Council Member Tyler, it was unanimously voted: To authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to enter into a 6-month listing agreement with Bottom Line Realty to act as its real estate agent for the sale of city owned property known as 135 East Main Street, Map 41, Lot 10. The listing price is anticipated to be \$125,000.

It was further moved that the Mayor or Acting Mayor be authorized to sign any document necessary to effectuate this motion and that this matter be referred to the Corporation Counsel.

f. Real Estate Committee

On motion of Council Member Dickau and seconded by Council Member Seymour, it was unanimously voted: To amend the motion regarding the acceptance of an offer from Keith MacDonald, or his assigns, in response to RFP #2026-015 entitled, "Sale of Surplus Property at Burlington Avenue, Assessor's Map 21, Lot 420-1 and 420-1A" which was adopted by the City Council at its November 12, 2025 meeting, so that it would read: that the City Council accept the offer from Keith MacDonald, or his assigns, in response to RFP (Requests For Proposals) #2026-015 entitled, “Sale of Surplus Property at Burlington Avenue, Assessors Map 21, Lot 420-1 and 420-1A”. The terms of acceptance of this proposal are as follows:

JANUARY 13, 2026

1. The purchase price shall be a cash transaction of \$5,000.00;
2. The purchaser shall merge it with his property known as 336 Burlington Avenue, Bristol, CT;
3. All costs associated with this transaction, including but not limited to, costs of surveys/maps, closing costs, publication notices, etc. shall be the responsibility of the purchaser. The City of Bristol shall incur no costs in this transaction nor does it make any representations to the purchaser of its allowable use of this lot.

It was further moved that the Mayor or Acting Mayor be authorized to sign any documents necessary to effectuate this motion and that this matter be referred to the Corporation Counsel.

g. Animal Control Facility Building Committee

On motion of Council Member Tyler and seconded by Council Member Dickau, it was unanimously voted: To discharge the current Animal Control Facility Committee due to new scope and direction as well as to reassign city employees who are not electors to liaison status.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu explained that she would like the new committee to work towards a regional facility in order to receive a grant that would fund 100% of the project as opposed to spending the approximate \$6.5 million for the Cross Street property and construction.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Council Member Kelley made a statement offering condolences to Renee Good's family, friends, and the community of Minneapolis. He expressed concern of the action of ICE and stated that accountability is needed from the Department of Homeland Security and the federal government.

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu stated that the City is having discussions with the West Cemetery Association to strategize arrangements for the cemetery's long-term stability.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Cash Penny Rounding Standard

On motion of Council Member Kelley and seconded by Council Member Dickau, it was unanimously voted: To adopt the following cash penny rounding standard policy as proposed by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) as follows:

- \$.01 and .02 are rounded down to \$.00
- .03 and .04 are rounded up to .05
- .06 and .07 are rounded down to .05
- .08 and .09 are rounded up to .10

It was further moved that in the event the federal government adopts a different rounding standard for commerce that differs from the City's standard, then, and upon the effective date of the federal government standard, said federal standard shall supersede this policy.

JANUARY 13, 2026

b. Personal Property Tax Exemption

On motion of Council Member Dickau and seconded by Council Member Kelley, it was unanimously voted: To bring onto the table the matter of granting a personal property tax exemption to Better Molded Products, Inc. for assessment years 2022, 2023, and 2024.

On motion of Council Member Tyler and seconded by Council Member Dickau, it was unanimously voted: That pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-94e, the City Council grant a personal property tax exemption to Better Molded Products, Inc. for assessment years 2022, 2023, and 2024 for property as listed under unique ID# P0270881 based upon Better Molded Products, Inc. request to file its M-65 exemption pas the statutory deadline, and to further direct the City Assessor and City Tax Collector to make any adjustments to their lists which result from the granting of this exemption, including waiving any penalties for late filing.

c. Municipal Grant In Aid Certification

On motion of Council Member Seymour and seconded by Council Member Dickau, it was unanimously voted: To bring onto the table the matter of the Municipal Grant In Aid Certification for the Office of Policy and Management.

On motion of Council Member Seymour and seconded by Council Member Dickau, it was unanimously voted: To authorize the Mayor to sign any and all documents associated with the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management, Municipal Grant In Aid Certification for Fiscal Year 2026 in the amount of \$4,856,624.00.

d. Mayor's Announcements

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu thanked the I.T. staff, specifically Eric Evans, Chris Soper, and Janet Little for working over the weekend to fix the equipment failure and protect all of our systems.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu stated that the City Council in conjunction with Corporation Counsel have been speaking about the Chippabee Golf Course issue and whether acquiring the property for a municipal golf course would be a feasible option. There will be more meetings and discussions with various City departments.

9. RESIGNATIONS

Dave Haberfeld – Fair Rent Commission

Robert Powell – Bristol Parking Authority

Luke Veins – Youth Commission

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

10. APPOINTMENTS

a. The following appointments were presented:

JANUARY 13, 2026

Capital Improvement Committee

Keith Godreau – Appointment – no term.
Replaced John Smith.
Confirming motion by Council Member Dickau.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Bristol Early Childhood Collaborative

Cristina Gutierrez – Appointment as Parent Rep. – term to 8/26.
Confirming motion by Council Member Dickau.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Board of Fire Commissioners

Sandra Bogdanski – Appointment – term to 1/29.
Replaced Joyce Ptak.
Confirming motion by Council Member Dickau.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Bristol Historic District Commission

Alicia Jennings – Appointment as regular member – term to 1/31.
Replaced Patricia Philippon.
Confirming motion by Council Member Seymour.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Greg Hartmann – Appointment as alternate member – term to 8/29.
Replaced Alicia Jennings.
Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Library Board

Valina Carpenter – Reappointment – term to 1/29.
Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Andrea Kapchensky – Reappointment – term to 1/29.
Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Nichola Jakubowski – Reappointment – term to 1/29.
Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Board of Park Commissioners

Cynthia Donovan – Reappointment – term to 12/28.
Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.
Motion passed in voice vote.

JANUARY 13, 2026*Bristol Parking Authority*

Michael Petosa – Appointment – term to 4/28.
Replaced Robert Powell.
Confirming motion by Council Member Dickau.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Retirement Board

Motion to correct the expiration term of Thomas Barnes to July 2030 by Council Member Tyler, and seconded by Council Member Dickau. Motion passed unanimously.

James Pelletier – Appointment as Police Union Rep. – term to 7/28.
Replaced Peter Dauphinais.
Confirming motion by Council Member Dickau.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Transportation Commission

David Rooks – Reappointment – term to 1/29.
Confirming motion by Council Member Dickau.
Motion passed in voice vote.

David Calhoun – Appointment – term to 1/29.
Replaced Steve Coan.
Confirming motion by Council Member Dickau.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Youth Commission

Cecilia Garay – Appointment – term to 1/29.
Replaced Lance Washington.
Confirming motion by Council Member Dickau.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Alexander Parenti – Appointment as Under 21 Rep. – term to 5/27.
Replaced Luke Veins.
Confirming motion by Council Member Dickau.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Zoning Commission

Morris Patton – Appointment as an alternate member – term to 12/28.
Replaced Mike Deroehn.
Confirming motion by Council Member Seymour.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Jeffrey Hayden – Appointment as an alternate member– term to 12/28.
Replaced Sara Mangiafico.
Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.
Motion passed in voice vote.

JANUARY 13, 2026*Acting Town & City Clerk*

Merina Bigos – Appointment effective January 26, 2026 – term to 3/26.

Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Animal Control Facility Building Committee

Lindsey Rivers – Reappointment – no term.

Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Luis Lorenzo Ruiz – Reappointment – no term.

Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Frank Stawski – Reappointment – no term.

Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Chris Hayden – Reappointment – no term.

Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Nancy Levesque – Appointment – no term.

Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Lynn DellaBianca – Appointment – no term.

Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Holly Goodwin – Appointment – no term.

Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Ray Zagurski – Appointment as liaison – no term.

Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Dave Oakes – Appointment as liaison – no term.

Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Deputy Police Chief Moskowitz – Appointment as liaison – no term.

Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.

Motion passed in voice vote.

BBHD Project Liaison

David Hartley – Mayoral Appointment as liaison – no term.

JANUARY 13, 2026

11. CONTRACTS**a. Contract 2C26-002 Renovations at Beals Community Center for Bristol-Burlington Health District**

On motion of Council Member Tyler and seconded by Council Member Dickau, it was unanimously voted: To award Contract 2C26-002 Renovations at Beals Community Center for Bristol-Burlington Health District to Orlando Annulli & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$2,158,000 and to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute any and all documents necessary to effect said contract.

b. Contract 2P26-028 Move Management Services for Northeast Middle School

On motion of Council Member Tyler and seconded by Council Member Dickau, it was unanimously voted: To award Contract 2P26-028 Move Management Services for Northeast Middle School to Arcadis U.S. Inc. in the amount of \$106,690.00, and to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute any and all documents necessary to effect said contract.

12. RESOLUTION**a. Resolution for Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services Department – DEEP Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant**

Communication received from the Office of Corporation Counsel.

On motion of Council Member Tyler and seconded by Council Member Dickau, it was unanimously voted: To approve a resolution authorizing Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu to sign and deliver any and all documents necessary and appropriate to carry out the terms of the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership grant on behalf of the City of Bristol.

The Resolution reads as follows –

WHEREAS, the City of Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Department has applied for, and been awarded a matching grant in the amount of \$1,930,000.00 by the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership, and;

WHEREAS, the Bristol Board of Finance has approved the Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Service Department's capital improvement budget request including the matching amount of \$1,930,000.00 for improvements to be made at Rockwell Park;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Bristol, acting herein by its duly elected City Council, approves the City's matching amount of \$1,930,000.00, (total project costs \$3,860,000.00) for renovations and improvements to Rockwell Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu is authorized to sign and deliver any and all documents necessary and appropriate to carry out the terms of said grant on behalf of the City of Bristol.

JANUARY 13, 2026

A roll call vote was taken.

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Council Member Dickau		
“ ” Kelley		
“ ” Seymour		
“ ” Tyler		
Mayor Zoppo-Sassu		

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: YES – 5; NO – 0; ABSTAIN – 0.

13. OTHER BUSINESS – None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:10 p.m., on motion of Council Member Tyler and seconded by Council Member Dickau, it was unanimously voted: To adjourn.

ATTEST: _____
Erica Cabiya
Town & City Clerk