

OCTOBER 11, 2022

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 in the Board of Education Auditorium, 129 Church Street at 7:04 p.m. Present: Mayor Caggiano; Council Members Howe, Olsen, Panioto, Thibeault, and Tyler. Present by videoconference: Council Member Lusitani.

1. RECOGNITION OF BRISTOL GIRLS' JUNIOR AND SENIOR LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL DIVISION CHAMPIONS.

Mayor Caggiano congratulated the Girls' Junior and Senior Little League softball teams for their State Division championships. He presented them with a Bristol All-Heart Award.

2. MOMENT OF REFLECTION FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH.

Mayor Caggiano request a moment of reflection for women who have passed away in the past year due to domestic violence.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 AND SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2022.

On motion of Council Member Tyler and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting on September 13, 2022 and the special City Council meeting on September 22, 2022.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Kimberly Villanti, 387 Brewster Road submitted a letter to the Mayor praising the Parks & Recreation Department and the Superintendent regarding her daughter's attendance at their summer program.

5. ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR.

On motion of Council Member Howe and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To adopt seven matters as part of the Consent Calendar.

6. NEW HIRE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER, PLACED ON FILE.

Communication presented from the Human Resources Department.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Howe and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To place on file the New Hire Report for the month of September, 2022.

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7. MOTOR VEHICLE, PERSONAL PROPERTY, AND REAL ESTATE TAX REFUNDS IN AMOUNT OF \$49,453.06, APPROVED.

Request presented from the Tax Collector.

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

Motor Vehicle	\$47,085.72
Personal Property	1,727.51
Real Estate	<u>639.83</u>
Total	\$49,453.06

8. APPROVAL TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION BY BRISTOL SCHOOL READINESS COUNCIL TO STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD FOR NEW INFANT AND TODDLER SPACES.

Communication from the School Readiness Liaison regarding the State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood Grant for new Infant and Toddler spaces.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Howe and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To approve submission of a grant application by the Bristol School Readiness Council from the State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood for new Infant and Toddler spaces, to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute any and all documents associated with the application/grant for FY2023, and to refer this grant to the Board of Finance for appropriation and any necessary action.

9. APPROVAL TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION BY BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR ARPA AUTO THEFT & VIOLENCE PROGRAM.

Communication from the Grants Administrator regarding the ARPA Auto Theft & Violence Grant for a one-year program to enhance efforts to reduce auto thefts and other associated crimes within the City of Bristol.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Howe and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To approve submission of a grant application for \$35,000 for the ARPA Auto Theft & Violence Program, to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute any and all documents related to this grant, and to refer this matter to the Board of Finance for any necessary action.

10. SIDEWALK DEFERRAL FOR 398 AND 406 BROAD STREET REFERRED TO BOARD OF EDUCATION AND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Communication from a representative for Francis Porrini and 406 Broad Street, LLC regarding a sidewalk deferral for 398 and 406 Broad Street.

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As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Howe and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To refer the sidewalk deferral for 398 and 406 Broad Street to the Board of Education and Board of Public Works.

11. MAYOR OR ACTING MAYOR AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE AND RETURN TO STATE OF CT (DOT) ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DEVELOPING PLAN TO REMOVE NIGHT TIME FLASHING OF TRAFFIC LIGHT ON ROUTE 229, APPROVED.

Communication from Assistant Corporation Counsel Steeg regarding the Traffic Signal Safety Improvement Project and its developing plan to remove night time flashing of the traffic light located on Route 229 at the driveways to Page Park and Bristol Eastern High School.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Howe and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute and return to the State of CT (DOT) acknowledgment of its developing plan to remove night time flashing of the traffic light located on the State road known as Route 229 at the driveways to Page Park and Bristol Eastern High School.

12. MAYOR OR ACTING MAYOR AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE VIRTUAL NET METERING CREDIT PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH DG CONNECTICUT SOLAR III, LCC.

Communication from Assistant Corporation Counsel Welch regarding the Bristol Solar One -VNM Credit Purchase Agreement.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Howe and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute the Virtual Net Metering Credit Purchase Agreement with DG Connecticut Solar III, LCC, subject to final review by the Office of Corporation Counsel.

13. RESIGNATIONS.

The following resignations were presented:

Kim Villanti, City Arts & Culture Commission.
Jenelle Howard, BEST Coordinator, BPRYCS.
Brian Skinner, Zoning Commission.

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To send letters of thanks.

14. APPOINTMENTS.

The following appointments were presented:

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MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON AIDS

Noemi De LaCruz – Appointment – no term.

Replaced Judith Gough.

Mayor's Appointment – No confirming motion required.

ENERGY COMMISSION

Tom Ragaini – Reappointment – term to 10/25.

Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Sheldon Scott – Reappointment – term to 10/25.

Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.

Motion passed in voice vote.

NORTHEAST MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Craig Kazemekas – Appointment as Board of Finance Member.

Replaced Orlando Calfe.

Board of Finance Appointment – No confirming motion required.

TEN YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT & STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Marie O'Brien – Appointment as Board of Finance Vice-Chair member – no term.

Replaced Orlando Calfe

Mayor's Appointment – No confirming motion required.

15. APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDERS FOR D'AMATO DOWNES, A JOINT VENTURE FOR \$21,047.39 FOR MEMORIAL BOULEVARD INTRADISTRICT ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL.

Communication from the Memorial Boulevard Intradistrict Arts Magnet School Committee regarding change orders with D'Amato Downes, a Joint Venture for the Memorial Boulevard Intradistrict Arts Magnet School.

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To approve the change orders for D'Amato Downes, a Joint Venture for \$21,047.39 for the Memorial Boulevard Intradistrict Arts Magnet School.

16. APPROVAL OF FOUR YEAR SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS FOR \$3,296,750 FOR BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT RADIO SYSTEM UPGRADE.

Communication from Chief of Police Gould regarding a four (4) year agreement with Motorola to perform a radio system upgrade.

On motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To approve a four (4) year service agreement with Motorola Solutions to perform a system upgrade for \$3,296,750, which was reviewed by Corporation Counsel, and to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute any and all necessary documents.

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17. RESOLUTION REGARDING SENIOR VOLUNTEER TAX RELIEF PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, ADOPTED.

Communication from Executive Director Tomascak of Department of Aging regarding the Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program.

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To waive the reading of the Resolution, but to include it as part of the minutes.

Council Member Panioto moved and it was seconded: That the following Resolution be adopted –

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 2022-2023 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, 2023, to file for the Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program will be allowed upon presentation of letter of

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medical proof from your doctor stating that you were under a doctor's care during the designated filing period of February 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023.

- F. The City Council shall review and evaluate the Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program after one year from the date of its approval.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano, or Acting Mayor, is authorized to execute the Program on behalf of the City of Bristol in the form and manner approved by the Corporation Counsel.

A roll call vote was taken.

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Council Member Howe		
“ ” Lusitani (videoconference)		Council Member Olsen
“ ” Panioto		
“ ” Thibeault		
“ ” Tyler		
Mayor Caggiano		

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: YES – 6; NO – 1; ABSTAIN – 1.

(Council Member Olsen voted to “Abstain”. She stated that seniors who work part-time do not have time to perform volunteer work. She noted the City can do better than the \$300 tax credit.

Mayor Caggiano requested clarification from Corporation Counsel regarding abstaining. Corporation Counsel provided an explanation of the process when a Member abstains. He noted it was used for a conflict of interest. The Council Members could request a Member to cast an aye or nay vote.

Mayor Caggiano asked the Council Members whether they would request an aye or nay vote from the abstaining Council Member and no Council Member requested a vote. The Mayor stated he would let the abstention go.)

18. RESOLUTION REGARDING GRANT AGREEMENT WITH CT-DEEP FOR REPLACEMENT OF PEQUABUCK RIVER RETAINING WALL ON MEMORIAL BOULEVARD, ADOPTED.

Communication from Assistant Corporation Counsel Conlin regarding a \$1.2M grant agreement with CT-DEEP for replacement of the Pequabuck River retaining wall on Memorial Boulevard.

Council Member Panioto moved and it was seconded: That the following Resolution be adopted –

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor or Acting Mayor is authorized to enter into a Grant Agreement with the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, #2022-228 in the amount of one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000.00) for the Pequabuck River Retaining Wall Replacement at Memorial Boulevard.

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A roll call vote was taken.

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Council Member Howe		
“ ” Lusitani (videoconference)		
“ ” Olsen		
“ ” Panioto		
“ ” Thibeault		
“ ” Tyler		
Mayor Caggiano		

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

19. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH KJR CONSULTING TO CONDUCT DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION/ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CLIMATE SURVEY.

Communication presented from Director of Human Resources Penney regarding a contract with KJR Consulting for a climate survey.

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To approve a contract with KJR Consulting to conduct a Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion/Organizational Development climate survey and to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute any and all documents necessary.

20. RESOLUTION RELATING TO ORDINANCE SECS. 13-122 THROUGH 13-130, CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS, REGARDING CITY COUNCIL APPROVALS, ADOPTED.

Communication from Assistant Corporation Counsel Conlin regarding Cannabis establishments.

Council Member Tyler moved and it was seconded: That the following Resolution be adopted –

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2022 the City Council adopted Ordinance sections 13-122 through 13-130 relating to Cannabis Establishments; and

WHEREAS, sections 126 and 128 of said Cannabis Establishments Ordinances require City Council approval for Cannabis Establishments within the City.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following requirements must be met by a Cannabis Establishment for consideration of approval by the City Council:

- 1) A written request, addressed to the Mayor of the City of Bristol, that the City Council approve its business location at a particular address within the City of Bristol, proof of ownership or a valid leasehold interest shall be attached.

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- 2) A written communication from the City Planner that the proposed cannabis establishment has met the requirements of sections 124 and 125 of the Ordinance.
- 3) Proof that the cannabis establishment has obtained a valid provisional or permanent State of Connecticut license to operate, pursuant to Ordinance section 13-124, at a particular address within the City of Bristol which matches the address in the written request in number one (1) above.
- 4) Within 30 days of the receipt of all the items identified above, the City Council shall take action on the request for approval by the cannabis establishment. Approval by the City Council shall be by a vote of the majority of City Council members at such meeting attended in person by the applicant where a Motion for Approval is presented for consideration.

A roll call vote was taken.

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Council Member Howe		
“ ” Lusitani (videoconference)		
“ ” Olsen		
“ ” Panioto		
“ ” Thibeault		
“ ” Tyler		
Mayor Caggiano		

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

21. ADJOURNMENT.

At 7:52 p.m., on motion of Council Member Tyler and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To adjourn.

ATTEST:_____

Therese Pac
Town & City Clerk