

JANUARY 12, 2021

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on January 12, 2021 in the City Hall Council Chambers, 111 North Main Street at 7:03 p.m. Present: Mayor Zoppo-Sassu; Council Members Barney, Fortier, Hahn, Kelley, Preleski, and Rosado.

1. MOMENT OF REFLECTION FOR ACTIVITIES AT U.S. CAPITOL AND FAMILIES WHO LOST LOVED ONES.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu requested a Moment of Reflection for the activities at the U.S. Capitol and the families who lost loved ones.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON DECEMBER 8, 2020 AND SPECIAL MEETING ON DECEMBER 30, 2020.

On motion of Council Member Barney and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting on December 8, 2020 and the special City Council meeting on December 30, 2020.

3. CHANGE IN POSITION TITLES FOR BRISTOL POLICE DEPUTY CHIEFS.

The position titles of the Police Captains were changed to Deputy Chiefs after a recent City of Bristol ordinance adoption. Police Chief Gould presented Deputy Chiefs Guerrera and Tavares with their new badges.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Shelly Whitlock-Pope, Executive Director of Shepard Meadows Therapeutic Riding Center stated the organization was one of six professional associations of therapeutic horsemanship international premier accredited centers in Connecticut. They serve individuals with disabilities and special needs, but also have programs for therapeutic horseback riding, horsemanship, veterans, blacksmithing, and youth at risk. Their goals for this year include a new barn and equine learning center.

Jeff Caggiano, 27 Cricket Hill Road had questions regarding the retirement of the Fire Chief, the local distribution of the COVID vaccine, and transparency in politics.

5. ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR.

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

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

Communication presented from the Human Resources Department.

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As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Hahn and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To place on file the New Hire Report for the month of December, 2020.

7. MOTOR VEHICLE AND REAL ESTATE TAX REFUNDS IN AMOUNT OF \$33,212.27, APPROVED.

Request presented from the Tax Collector.

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

Motor Vehicle	\$14,877.63
Real Estate	<u>18,334.64</u>
Total	\$33,212.27

8. CONTRACT 2A21-047 ANNUAL NATURAL GAS SUPPLY AGREEMENT TO SPARK ENERGY GAS, LLC FOR A TERM THROUGH JANUARY 2023, APPROVED.

Communication from the Purchasing Agent regarding a new natural gas procurement contract.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Hahn and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To award Contract 2A21-047 Annual Natural Gas Supply Agreement to Spark Energy Gas, LLC for a contract term through January 2023 and to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate said Contract.

9. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF BRISTOL RETIREMENT BOARD AND HOOKER & HOLCOMBE INVESTMENT ADVISORS.

Recommendation presented from the Retirement Board regarding the Retirement Board Investment Advisors.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Hahn and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To approve the agreement between the City of Bristol Retirement Board and Hooker & Holcombe Investment Advisors. It was also voted to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to sign the Agreement and forward it to the Corporation Counsel for review.

10. MAYOR AUTHORIZED TO SIGN DOCUMENTS FOR CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ON APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAND USE RESTRICTION FOR 894 MIDDLE STREET, FORMER LAVIERO METALS PROPERTY.

Communication from the Assistant Corporation Counsel Conlin regarding 894

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Middle Street.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Hahn and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To authorize the Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, to sign and certify any and all documents required by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection on the City's Application for Environmental Land Use Restriction for 894 Middle Street, the former Laviero Metals property.

11. REORGANIZATION OF TREASURER'S AND COMPTROLLER'S DEPARTMENTS, APPROVED.

Council Member Fortier stated this reorganization was included in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Treasurer and Comptroller for the supervision of day-to-day operations in the Treasurer's Office. The reorganization includes the elimination of positions, the division and reassignment of duties, and the cross training of employees.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu noted the reorganization would generate approximately \$28,000 in savings for the City.

As recommended by the Salary Committee and on motion of Council Member Fortier, Chrm., and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To approve a reorganization of the Treasurer's and Comptroller's Departments.

12. ACCEPTANCE OF \$11,500 FOR CONDEMNATION OF LOT 5 PARK STREET REGARDING STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 72 AT ROUTE 69.

On motion of Council Member Hahn and seconded, it was unanimously voted: That the City of Bristol accept the condemnation amount of Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$11,500) from the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation for City owned property known as Lot 5 Park Street. The purpose of the condemnation of Lot 5 Park Street is to allow the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation to complete the project known as Major Intersection Improvements on Route 72 at Route 69. It was also voted to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to sign and execute any necessary documents to effectuate this transaction and to refer this matter to the Corporation Counsel's Office.

13. CREATION OF NEW POSITION OF ARTS & CULTURE SUPERVISOR WITHIN PARKS, RECREATION, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT REFERRED TO SALARY COMMITTEE.

On motion of Council Member Hahn and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To bring to the table an item from the Rockwell Theater Task Force.

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Council Member Hahn explained this position was discussed during the planning of the theater. This supervisor would also work on other projects that the Arts and Culture Commission supports.

As recommended by the Rockwell Theater Planning Task Force and on motion of Council Member Hahn and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To refer to the Salary Committee the creation of a new position of Arts & Culture Supervisor within the Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Department.

14. RESIGNATIONS.

The following resignations were presented:

*James Bernier, Board of Police Commissioners.
Jennifer Arasimowicz, City Energy Commission.*

On motion of Council Member Fortier and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To place the resignations on file and send letters of thanks.

15. APPOINTMENTS.

The following appointments were presented:

CITY ENERGY COMMISSION

Jeffrey Andrade – Appointment – unexpired term to April, 2022.
Replaced Jennifer Arasimowicz.
Confirming motion by Council Member Hahn.
Motion passed in voice vote.

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Anthony Benvenuto – Reappointment – term to January, 2024.
Confirming motion by Council Member Fortier.
Motion passed in voice vote.

Harold Kilby – Reappointment – term to January, 2024.
Confirming motion by Council Member Fortier.
Motion passed in voice vote.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ADVISORY BOARD

Kimberly Caron – Reappointment – term to January, 2024.
Confirmation motion by Council Member Fortier.
Motion passed in voice vote.

BRISTOL HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Patricia Philippon – Reappointment – term to January, 2026.
Confirming motion by Council Member Fortier.
Motion passed in voice vote.

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Michelle Crowley, alternate member – Appointment – term to January, 2026.
 Confirming motion by Council Member Fortier.
 Motion passed in voice vote.

INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

Carolyn Checovetes, alternate member – Reappointment – term to January, 2024.
 Mayor's Appointment – No confirming motion required.

David James Scarritt, alternate member – Reappointment – term to January, 2024.
 Mayor's Appointment – No confirming motion required.

BOARD OF LIBRARY DIRECTORS

Thomas LaPorte – Reappointment – term to January, 2024.
 Confirming motion by Council Member Fortier.
 Motion passed in voice vote.

Jarre Betts – Reappointment – term to January, 2024.
 Confirming motion by Council Member Fortier.
 Motion passed in voice vote.

BRISTOL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Franklin Caputo, Citizen at Large member – Reappointment – term to January, 2024.
 Confirming motion by Council Member Fortier.
 Motion passed in voice vote.

Sean Gingery, Citizen at Large member – Reappointment – term to January, 2024.
 Confirming motion by Council Member Fortier.
 Motion passed in voice vote.

Robert Flanagan, City Planner – Reappointment – term to January, 2024.
 Confirming motion by Council Member Fortier.
 Motion passed in voice vote.

16. AWARD OF CONTRACT 2C21-042 NON-EXCAVATED SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION TO NATIONAL WATER MAIN CLEANING COMPANY ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS THROUGH DECEMBER 2022 FOR \$117,700, APPROVED.

Communication presented from the Purchasing Agent regarding the on-call non-excavated sanitary sewer rehabilitation services.

On motion of Council Member Fortier and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To award Contract 2C21-042 Non-Excavated Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation to National Water Main Cleaning Company, provided on an as-needed basis for the period through December 2022, in the amount of \$117,700 and to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate said Contract.

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17. APPROVAL OF CONSULTING CONTRACT FOR PROJECT-BASED AND ON-CALL SERVICES WITH MILONE & MACBROOM, INC. RELATED TO ADMINISTRATION OF CDBG-CV FUNDS FOR UP TO \$25,000.

Communication presented from the Grants Administrator regarding the allocation of funds for administering CDBG-CV funds.

On motion of Council Member Fortier and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To approve a consulting contract for project-based and on-call services related to the administration of CDBG-CV funds for up to \$25,000 with Milone & MacBroom, Inc., to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to sign any necessary documents, and to refer this matter to the Board of Finance for the appropriation of funds.

18. AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF BRISTOL AND NEW COLONY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RELATED TO 273 RIVERSIDE AVENUE, APPROVED.

Communication presented from the Economic and Community Development Executive Director regarding the redevelopment of the J.H. Sessions Building located at 273 Riverside Avenue.

On motion of Council Member Fortier and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To approve the Agreement by and between the City of Bristol and the New Colony Development Corporation for professional services related to 273 Riverside Avenue. It was also voted to authorize the Mayor, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu or the Acting Mayor to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City of Bristol.

19. AUTHORIZATION FOR MAYOR TO ENTER INTO RIGHT OF WAY USE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF BRISTOL AND BRISTOL SOLAR ONE, LLC FOR PORTION OF MINOR STREET, APPROVED.

Communication from the Assistant Corporation Counsel Conlin regarding a Right of Way Use Agreement for a portion of an unaccepted road known as Minor Street.

On motion of Council Member Fortier and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To authorize the Mayor to enter into a Right of Way Use Agreement by and between the City of Bristol and Bristol Solar One, LLC for use of a portion of an unaccepted road known as Minor Street, as shown on Assessor's Map 66, subject to the review of the Corporation Counsel.

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20. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS TO DISCUSS LITIGATION MATTER OF FESTIVAL FUN PARKS VS. CITY OF BRISTOL SUPERIOR COURT DOCKET #HBB-CV-20-6059739 AND MATTER OF RODNEY GOTOWALA VS. CITY OF BRISTOL, WCC#601043867.

At 8:20 p.m., on motion of Council Member Hahn and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To convene into Executive Sessions to discuss the litigation matter of Festival Fun Parks vs. City of Bristol, Superior Docket #HBB-CV-20-6059739 and the matter of Rodney Gotowala vs. City of Bristol, WCC#601043867.

Present to discuss the litigation matter of Festival Fun Parks vs. City of Bristol, Superior Docket #HBB-CV-20-6059739: Mayor Zoppo-Sassu; Council Members Barney, Fortier, Hahn, Kelley, Preleski, and Rosado; Corporation Counsel Clift; Assistant Corporation Counsel Conlin; and Assessor DeNoto.

Present to discuss the matter of Rodney Gotowala vs. City of Bristol, WCC#601043867: Mayor Zoppo-Sassu; Council Members Barney, Fortier, Hahn, Kelley, Preleski, and Rosado; and Assistant Corporation Counsel Steeg.

Discussion was held. No votes were taken.

At 8:46 p.m., on motion of Council Member Hahn and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To reconvene into Public Session.

21. APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT IN MATTER OF RODNEY GOTOWALA VS. CITY OF BRISTOL WC#601043867 FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS.

On motion of Council Member Rosado and seconded, it was unanimously voted: That the City of Bristol enter into a Full and Final settlement in the matter of Rodney Gotowala vs. City of Bristol WC#601043867 in consideration of a payment of Ninety Thousand (\$90,000) Dollars. This settlement resolves the outstanding Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-433c "Benefits for Policemen or Firemen Disabled or Dead as a result of Hypertension or Heart Disease".

It was also voted that the City of Bristol enter into a Full and Final Settlement for any and all workers' compensation claims filed by Rodney Gotowala, for the total amount of Thirty-Five Thousand (\$35,000) Dollars. The dates of these claims are listed below, but are not limited to, and are for:

May 28, 1981	December 5, 1981	November 6, 1982	July 10, 1984
October 14, 1986	August 20, 1987	March 29, 1988	December 13, 1988
May 12, 1994	February 2, 1995	August 10, 1996	May 8, 2000
June 3, 2003	August 2, 2009	October 17, 2009	March 6, 2010
May 17, 2011	January 21, 2012	February 4, 2014.	

It was further voted to authorize the Mayor, Acting Mayor, Corporation Counsel, or Assistant Corporation Counsel to execute the Full and Final Settlements.

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22. ADJOURNMENT.

At 8:49 p.m., on motion of Council Member Fortier and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To adjourn.

ATTEST: _____

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Town & City Clerk