

OCTOBER 10, 2023

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 in the City Hall Council Chambers, 111 North Main Street at 7:00 p.m. Present: Mayor Caggiano; Council Members Howe, Olsen, Panioto, Rosengren, Thibeault, and Tyler.

1. OPENING CEREMONIES

A moment of silence was held for all those suffering in the Middle East and here. Mayor Caggiano thanked Mr. D'Amato and his company for their timely completion of City Hall. He also thanked the previous administrations that began the City Hall project.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Howe, it was unanimously voted: To approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held on September 12, 2023.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Peter Kelley, 44 Southdown Dr. – Mr. Kelley spoke of the previous administration's role in the downtown development of Bristol. He also posed a few questions.

Stacie Roberge, 61 Peppermint Ln. – Ms. Roberge expressed concern over the vetting process of appointments.

Deborah Schur, 6 Pilgrim Rd. – Ms. Schur expressed concern over the vetting process and criteria used to make appointments.

Shelby Pons, 143 Larkspur Ln. – Ms. Pons stated that racism should be denounced. She also stated that the Board of Education members are volunteering their time because they care about children and are working hard to do what they feel is best for the children.

Sarah Sullivan, 155 Ashley Rd. – Ms. Sullivan provided information on businesses that have opened and closed in Bristol over the past couple of years.

Mike Erosenko, 40 Palmorr Pl. – Mr. Erosenko expressed disappointment in the choice of Board of Education candidate and of a Council member's actions.

Brian Cohen, 284 Willimantic, Chaplin CT – Mr. Cohen stated his concern over the use of children in pictures on the Bristol Housing Authority's posts.

Morris "Rippy" Patton, 49 Field St. – Mr. Patton spoke about topics that arose from the Mayoral candidate debate. He also thanked Mr. Rosado for speaking with certain groups.

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4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council members reported on committees, activities, and events.

5. ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR

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

a. New Hire Report For September 2023

Communication received 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, 2023.

b. Motor Vehicle and Real Estate Tax Refunds In the Amount of \$38,478.30

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	\$29,068.94
Personal Property	79.08
Real Estate	+ <u>9,330.28</u>
Total	\$38,478.30

c. Approval of grant applications for the FY24 Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Grant, 2024 DUI Enforcement Grant, Click It or Ticket Grant, and the Speed & Aggressive Driving Enforcement Grant

Communication received from Police Chief Gould.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Howe and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To approve the applications for the FY24 Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Grant, 2024 DUI Enforcement Grant, Click It or Ticket Grant, and the Speed & Aggressive Driving Enforcement Grant.

d. Award Contract 2P24-015 Personal Property Tax Audits to Tax Management Associates, Inc.

Communication received from Purchasing Agent Rousseau.

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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 award Contract 2P24-015 Personal Property Tax Audits to Tax Management Associates, Inc. and to refer to the Office of Corporation Counsel for contract review, and to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute any and all documents necessary to effect said contract.

e. Approval of grant submission by the Parks, Recreation, Youth, & Community Services for a Local Prevention Council grant to support vaping prevention

Communication received from Superintendent of PRYCS Medeiros.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Howe and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To approve the submission by the Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services Department for a \$7,141.55 Local Prevention Council grant from the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' Prevention and Health Promotion Division, in collaboration with the Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations, to support the local prevention council – BEST – with vaping prevention efforts in Bristol.

f. Authorization of the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute any and all documents associated with the City of Bristol's Local Emergency Medical Services Plan

Communication received from Emergency Management.

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 any and all documents associated with the City of Bristol's Local Emergency Medical Services Plan.

g. Award Contract 2P24-004 Stewardship Permit Implementation for Bristol Landfill to WSP USA Inc.

Communication received from Purchasing Agent Rousseau.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Howe and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To award Contract 2P24-004 Stewardship Permit Implementation for Bristol Landfill to WSP USA Inc. in the amount of \$45,740.00 and to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute any and all documents necessary to effect said contract.

h. Award Contract 2P24-011 Asset Management Software to Brightly Software, Inc.

Communication received from Purchasing Agent Rousseau.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Howe and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To award Contract 2P24-011 Asset Management Software

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to Brightly Software, Inc. in the amount of \$54,384.70 and to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute any and all documents necessary to effect said contract.

i. Award Contract 2024-019 Managed Detection and Response Software to Tyler Technologies, Inc.

Communication received from Purchasing Agent Rousseau.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Howe and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To award Contract 2024-019 Managed Detection and Response Software to Tyler Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$145,000.00 and to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute any and all documents necessary to effect said contract.

6. Reports and Committee Reports

a. Salary Committee

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Howe, it was unanimously voted: To approve a change to the part-time position of Administrative Assistant – Legal (Local 233, Salary Code 6) to full time effective October 11, 2023 and to refer to the Board of Finance for funding.

b. Ordinance Committee

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

On motion of Council Member Tyler and seconded by Council Member Thibeault, it was unanimously voted: To adopt amendments to the Bristol Code of Ordinances Chapter 5, Sec. 5-21.2. Failure to Secure Building Permit. Fines and Penalties, and 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.

7. Old Business – None.

8. New Business – None.

9. Resignations

The following resignations were presented:

Joseph Kelaita Jr. – Zoning Commission

Desira Nichole Powell – Diversity Council, Sec. 2-9

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

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10. Appointments

Deputy Treasurer

Ryan Bodley – Appointment – No term.
 Replaced Retired Deputy Jeanne Doerr.
 Confirming motion by Council Member Thibeault.
 Motion passed in voice vote.

11. AWARD CONTRACT 2C24-012 KERN PARK IMPROVEMENTS TO STONEHEDGE LANDSCAPING COMPANY, LLC

Communication received from Purchasing Agent Rousseau.

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Tyler, it was unanimously voted: To award Contract 2C24-012 Kern Park Improvements to Stonehedge Landscaping Company, LLC in the amount of \$215,800.00, and to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute any and all documents necessary to effect said contract.

12. APPROVE RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A SENIOR VOLUNTEER TAX RELIEF PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Communication received from the Executive Director of Department of Aging.

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

Council Member Howe moved and it was seconded by Council Member Olsen: 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

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\$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 2023-2024 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, 2024, 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, 2024 through June 30, 2024.
- F. The City Council shall review and evaluate the Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program after one year from the date of its approval.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

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

13. APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE NEW ENGLAND EDIBLES, LLC TO OPERATE AS A CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENT AT 159 EAST MAIN STREET

Recommendation received from Corporation Counsel.

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On motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded by Council Member Olsen, it was unanimously voted: To table this item until the next meeting.

14. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR OR ACTING MAYOR TO PROVIDE A LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT FOR APPLICATION FOR \$1.1 MILLION DOLLAR BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION GRANT

Communication received from Corporation Counsel.

On motion of Council Member Howe and seconded by Council Member Thibeault, it was unanimously voted: To authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to provide a letter of endorsement for Mr. Bhruqesh Patel's application for a \$1,100,000 Brownfield remediation grant through the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments for environmental cleanup activities at 40 West Street, formerly known as Chic Miller Chevrolet.

15. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR OR ACTING MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR ELECTRICITY GENERATION FOR JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027

Communication received from Purchasing Agent Rousseau.

On motion of Council Member Tyler and seconded by Council Member Rosengren, it was unanimously voted: To table this item until the next meeting.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ANY ACTION AS NECESSARY ON LITIGATION MATTER #HHB-CV-20-6059735-S SBK, LLC v. CITY OF BRISTOL

At 8:16 p.m., on motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Rosengren, it was unanimously voted: To convene into Executive Sessions to review item #16 HHB-CV-20-6059735-S SBK, LLC v. CITY OF BRISTOL and #17 HHB-CV-20-6059736-S 570 MAIN STREET, LLC v. CITY OF BRISTOL.

Present to discuss these litigation matters: Mayor Caggiano; Council Members Howe, Olsen, Panioto, Rosengren, Thibeault, and Tyler; Corporation Counsel Krawiecki; Assistant Corporation Counsels Conlin, Steeg, and Matney; and Tax Assessor Tom DeNoto.

Discussion was held. No votes were taken.

At 8:24 p.m., on motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Rosengren, it was unanimously voted: To reconvene into Public Session.

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On motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded by Council Member Howe, it was unanimously voted: To resolve the matter of SBK, LLC v. City of Bristol, Superior Court docket number HHB-CV-20-6059735-S by stipulation to judgment which authorizes the Assessor to adjust the 2019 Grand List value of the property to \$382,000.00, and to authorize the Corporation Counsel to execute the stipulation to judgment.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ANY ACTION AS NECESSARY ON LITIGATION MATTER #HHB-CV-20-6059736-S 570 MAIN STREET, LLC v. CITY OF BRISTOL

On motion of Council Member Olsen and seconded by Council Member Panioto, it was unanimously voted: To resolve by stipulation to judgment the matter of 570 Main Street, LLC v. City of Bristol, Superior Court docket number HHB-CV-20-6059736-S, which authorizes the Assessor to adjust the 2019 Grand List value of the property to \$316,000.00, and further to authorize the Corporation Counsel to execute the stipulation to judgment.

18. OTHER BUSINESS

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:26 p.m., on motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Howe, it was unanimously voted: To adjourn.

ATTEST: _____

**Erica Cabiya
Town & City Clerk**