

DECEMBER 12, 2023

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 in the City Hall Council Chambers, 111 North Main Street at 7:04 p.m. Present: Mayor Caggiano; Council Members Howe, Olsen, Panioto, Rosengren, Thibeault, and Tyler.

1. OPENING CEREMONIES

The American Academy of Parks and Recreation Administration presented the City of Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Department with the 2023 National Gold Medal Finalist Plaque.

Tax Collector Ann Bednaz was recognized for achieving her CCMO and her high tax collection rate.

Tax Assessor Thomas DeNoto was recognized as Assessor of the Year by the Connecticut Association of Assessing Officers, Inc.

Dawn Labella, Office Manager for the Water and Sewer Department received the Customer Service Award from the Connecticut section of the American Water Works Association.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 14, 2023 AND THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 29, 2023

On motion of Council Member Rosengren and seconded by Council Member Thibeault, it was unanimously voted: To approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held on November 14, 2023.

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Tyler, it was unanimously voted: To approve the minutes of the special City Council meeting held on November 29, 2023.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Carol Jackson, 103 Judson Ave. – Ms. Jackson spoke of the need to expand the Senior Center and provided data to support her opinion.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council members reported on committees, activities, and events.

5. ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR

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

a. New Hire Report For October 2023

Communication received from the Human Resources Department.

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As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Olsen and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To place on file the New Hire Report for the month of November, 2023.

b. Motor Vehicle and Real Estate Tax Refunds In the Amount of \$44,987.79

Request presented from the Deputy Tax Collector.

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

Motor Vehicle	\$42,229.12
Real Estate	+ 2,758.67
Total	\$44,987.79

c. Approval of Annual Meeting Calendar of City Council

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Olsen and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To approve the annual meeting calendar of City Council for 2024.

d. Amend Contract 2P21-031B with D’Amato+Downes Joint Venture in the amount of \$100,173.30

Communication received from Public Works Director Rogozinski.

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Olsen and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To amend Contract 2P21-031B with D’Amato+Downes Joint Venture in the amount of \$100,173.30 and to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute any and all documents to effectuate the same. Said amendment will increase the contract value from \$29,085,426.26 to \$29,185,599.50.

e. Award Contract 2P24-034B Cost Estimating Services for Construction of Northeast Middle School

Communication received from Purchasing Agent Rousseau

As part of the Consent Calendar adoption and on motion of Council Member Olsen and seconded, it was unanimously voted: To award Contract 2P24-034B Cost Estimating Services for Construction of Northeast Middle School to Clough Harbour and Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$43,750.00, 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.

DECEMBER 12, 2023**6. REPORTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS****a. Salary Committee**

Recommendation of Salary Committee to increase wages of part-time/seasonal staff of the Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth, and Community Services department.

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Howe, it was unanimously voted: To recommend that City Council approve an increase in the wages of the Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth, and Community Services part-time/seasonal staff as proposed and to refer to the Board of Finance for informational purposes.

b. Ordinance Committee

Recommendation of Ordinance Committee to hold a public hearing on Sec. 15-48 of the Bristol Code of Ordinances.

On motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded by Council Member Olsen, it was unanimously voted: To waive the reading of the ordinance.

On motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded by Council Member Thibeault, it was unanimously voted: To set a public hearing by the Ordinance Committee for Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 4:45 p.m. in Meeting Room 1-1, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, Connecticut and that the City Clerk publish notice of said public hearing and the proposed amendments to the Bristol Code of Ordinances as required by City Charter.

7. OLD BUSINESS – None.**8. NEW BUSINESS****a. Communication received from Purchasing Agent Rousseau.**

On motion of Council Member Panioto and seconded by Council Member Olsen, it was unanimously voted: To award Contract 2024-052 Construction of Retaining Wall at Centre Square in the amount of \$300,000.00 and to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute any and all documents necessary to effect said contract.

b. Council Member Tyler introduced a discussion on the state's cold weather protocol and its impact on the City of Bristol.

On motion of Council Member Tyler and seconded by Council Member Thibeault, it was unanimously voted: To authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to open the Main Street Library or any other city owned building he/she deems appropriate, if necessary, to be an emergency warming center to any Bristol resident in need, in response to a "cold weather protocol" declaration by the Governor during this 2023-2024 winter season.

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9. RESIGNATIONS

The following resignations were presented:

Bernadette DuTremble – Bristol Historic District Commission

Bob Passamano – Greene Hills HVAC, Sec. 2-9

Catherine Norton – Bristol Historic District Commission, Sec. 2-9

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Panioto, it was unanimously voted: To send letters of thanks to those who served and resigned.

10. APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments were presented:

Energy Commission

Derek Jones – Appointment – term to 10/26.

Replaced Karen Hintz

Confirming motion by Council Member Olsen.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Housing Authority

Rickey Bouffard – Reappointment – term to 12/26

Confirming motion by Council Member Thibeault.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Housing Code of Appeals

Jon Fitzgerald – Reappointment – term to 12/26

Confirming motion by Council Member Rosengren.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Parks & Recreation Board

Robert Fiorito – Reappointment – term to 12/26

Confirming motion by Council Member Panioto.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Emily Michaud – Reappointment – term to 12/26

Confirming motion by Council Member Panioto.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Police Commission

Terry Lewis – Reappointment – term to 12/26

Confirming motion by Council Member Tyler.

Motion passed in voice vote.

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Matt Baronowski – Appointment, Business Representative – term to 8/24

Replaced Jennifer Bilbraut.

Confirming motion by Council Member Olsen.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Sewer Commission

Kathy Ferrier – Reappointment – term to 12/26

Confirming motion by Council Member Olsen.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Francis Porrini – Reappointment – term to 12/26

Confirming motion by Council Member Olsen.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Storm Water Trust

Faye Duquette – Appointment – term to 12/26

Confirming motion by Council Member Rosengren.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Water Commission

Kathy Ferrier – Reappointment – term to 12/26

Confirming motion by Council Member Olsen.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Francis Porrini – Reappointment – term to 12/26

Confirming motion by Council Member Olsen.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Rory Ghio – Appointment as an alternate – term to 12/26.

Replaced John Lafreniere

Confirming motion by Council Member Rosengren.

Motion passed in voice vote.

Liza Salgado-Sirko – Appointment as an alternate – term to 12/26.

Replaced Christopher Callahan

Confirming motion by Council Member Rosengren.

Motion passed in voice vote.

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11. RESOLUTION FOR FFY 2023 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT (EMPG) APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,363.55, ADOPTED.

Communication received from Grants Administrator Dawn Leger.

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

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Rosengren, it was unanimously voted: To adopt the resolution to submit an EMPG grant application in the amount of \$33,363.55, to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute the application and any and all documents associated with the application and grant, for the City Clerk to validate the Mayor as the City Official authorized to sign these documents on behalf of the City Council, and to refer the matter to the Board of Finance for any necessary action.

The Resolution reads as follows –

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Bristol, Connecticut, that the filing of a grant application for \$33,363.55 to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, for the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant funding is hereby approved and that the Mayor or Acting Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into, deliver, and execute such application and any and all other documents relating to this application/grant, including but not limited to any final grant documents, and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of this application/grant;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this matter be referred to the Board of Finance for any necessary action.

A roll call vote was taken.

YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Council Member Howe		
“ ”	Olsen	
“ ”	Panioto	
“ “	Rosengren	
“ ”	Thibeault	
“ ”	Tyler	
	Mayor Caggiano	

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

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12. AWARD CONTRACT 2P24-040 DEPLOYMENT OF SCHNEIDER ECOSTRUXURE SYSTEM AT BRISTOL SCHOOLS

Communication received from Purchasing Agent Rousseau

On motion of Council Member Olsen and seconded by Council Member Rosengren, it was unanimously voted: To award Contract 2P24-040 Deployment of Schneider EcoStruxure System at Bristol Schools to SNE Building Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$2,660,000.00, 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.

13. ITEM TABLED – APPROVAL OF CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENT APPLICATION BY BUD’S GOODS OF CT AT 135 CROSS STREET, BRISTOL

Communication received from Assistant Corporation Counsel.

On motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Tyler, it was unanimously voted: To table this matter to a later date as the Social Equity Council has not yet given its approval.

14. AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE THE LOTCIP GRANT COMMITMENT LETTER TO FUND THE DIVINITY STREET CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Communication received from Public Works Director Rogozinski.

On motion of Council Member Howe and seconded by Council Member Panioto, it was unanimously voted: To authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute the LOTCIP grant commitment fund letter for the Divinity Street culvert replacement project in the amount of \$1,104,018.74, and to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to sign any and all federal, state, and local environmental permit applications required to complete construction of the Divinity Street culvert replacement project.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ANY ACTION AS NECESSARY ON MATTER OF ANN MARIE BARROS VS. CITY OF BRISTOL, WCC FILE #: 601089653

At 8:14 p.m., on motion of Council Member Rosengren and seconded by Council Member Tyler, it was unanimously voted: To convene into Executive Session to review item #15 Ann Marie Barros v. City of Bristol, WCC File #: 601089653 and item #16 C.G.S. Section 7-313h “Firefighters Cancer Relief Fund.”

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Present to discuss the matter of Ann Marie Barros vs. City of Bristol: Mayor Caggiano; Council Members Howe, Olsen, Panioto, Rosengren, Thibeault, and Tyler; Corporation Counsel Krawiecki; Assistant Corporation Counsels Conlin, Steeg, and Matney; and outside counsel Erik Bartlett of McGann, Bartlett, & Brown Law.

Present to discuss C.G.S. Section 7-313h “Firefighters Cancer Relief Account”: Mayor Caggiano; Council Members Howe, Olsen, Panioto, Rosengren, Thibeault, and Tyler; Corporation Counsel Krawiecki; Assistant Corporation Counsels Conlin, Steeg, and Matney; outside counsel Erik Bartlett of McGann, Bartlett, & Brown Law; and Human Resources Director Mark Penney.

Discussion was held. No votes were taken.

At 8:59 p.m., on motion of Council Member Thibeault and seconded by Council Member Rosengren, it was unanimously voted: To reconvene into Public Session.

No action was taken on the matter of Ann Marie Barros vs. City of Bristol WCC #: 601089653.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ANY ACTION AS NECESSARY ON C.G.S. SECTION 7-313h “FIREFIGHTERS CANCER RELIEF ACCOUNT.”

No action was taken on the discussion of the C.G.S. Section 7-313h “Firefighters Cancer Relief Account.”

17. OTHER BUSINESS – None.

18. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 p.m., on motion of Council Member Howe and seconded by Council Member Panioto, it was unanimously voted: To adjourn.

ATTEST: _____

**Erica Cabiya
Town & City Clerk**