

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES-WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025**

The council met on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, and called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, Council Chairman Calouro presiding:

**PRESENT:**      Council Chairman, Nathan Calouro  
                         Vice-Chairwoman, Mary Parella  
                         Councilman, Antonio "Tony" Teixeira  
                         Councilman, Timothy Sweeney  
                         Councilman, Aaron Ley

**ALSO PRESENT:**      Town Administrator, Steven Contente  
                         Assistant Town Solicitor, Andy Teitz, Esq  
                         Town Sergeant, Archie Martins

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Council Chair Calouro led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADD ITEM:**

upon the request of Council Chairman Calouro, a motion was made by Councilman Teixeira and Seconded by Councilman Ley to add an item to the agenda for discussion. At this time the council took the time to recognize the passing of Mr. Ferguson.

Chairman Calouro recognize the recent passing of Mr. Ferguson, a former Bristol Town Council member, State Representative, and former Chairman of the Bristol Democratic Party. Chairman Calouro noted Mr. Ferguson's many years of public service and dedication to the community and extended the Council's condolences to his family and friends on behalf of the Town.

**Motion RE: Consent Agenda - To Approve the Consent Agenda**

Sweeney/Teixeira - Voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as prepared and presented.

**A. Submission of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

A1. Town Council Meeting Minutes - November 12, 2025

A2. Town Council Executive Session Meeting Minutes  
(sealed, council only) - November 12, 2025

Sweeney/Teixeira - Voted unanimously to approve the minutes of November 12, 2025 and the Executive Session Minutes of November 12, 2025 as prepared and presented.

**B. Public Hearings**

**B1.** Public Hearing and Consideration for Adoption of Resolution re: pursuant to Town Charter section 208 (c), to authorize the Town of Bristol to sell Town Property on Greenway Drive, Plat 159, Lot 1057

Sweeney/Teixeira -Voted unanimously to close the public hearing

Sweeney/Teixeira - Voted unanimously to adopt the resolution authorizing the sale of Town Property on Greenway Drive, plat 159, lot 1057 pursuant to Town Charter section 208 (c).

Prior to the vote taken, Council Chairman Calouro opened the Public Hearing. There was no testimony heard in favor of this petition and no remonstrance presented in opposition thereto.

Chairman Calouro explained that the parcel is a narrow strip of land (about 5 feet wide by 90 feet long).

Assistant Town Solicitor Teitz further explained that the parcel has no public access, did not lead to the water or shoreline, and there are no utilities or infrastructure located beneath it. He further explained that the town generally does not sell public land or abandon streets, but this was a unique situation that arose during a review of the plat and lot map. He noted that the property was properly advertised and offered,

especially to abutting neighbors; one abutter wished to purchase, another declined, and a third did not respond.

### C. Ordinances

**C1.** Ordinance No. 2025-09 - Chapter 22 - Sewers and Sewage Disposal, **Article V** - (Building Sewers and Connections), **Sec. 22-109** (Operations and Maintenance); **Article VII**- (Industrial Pretreatment Program), **Section 22-235** (National categorical pretreatment standards); **Section 22-236** (Local Limits) **Article VIII**- (Industrial User Permit Fee Schedule), **Section 22-316** (Enumeration) **(2nd reading) (continued from September 10th)**

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the Second Reading for the adoption of Ordinance #2025-09. Advertise in the local newspaper

**C2.** Ordinance No. 2025-16 Chapter 16 Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article V Stopping, Standing, and Parking, Section 16-145 (9) **(changing Violation wording) (1st Reading)**

Teixeira/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the first reading of Ordinance #2025-16. Advertise in the local newspaper

**C3.** Ordinance No. 2025-17- Chapter 8 Boats, Docs and Waterways **Sec 8-72** (Parking Permits for Dock Holders) **Section 8-76** (Off-Season Parking at Marina Ferry Dock) and Chapter 16 Motor Vehicles and Traffic **Sec. 16-382** Prudence Ferry Parking; Off-Season Parking- (to extend off-season parking from November 16th to April 14th and establishment of fees by resolution **(1st reading)**)

Teixeira/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the

first reading of Ordinance #2025-17.  
Advertise in the local newspaper

**C4.** Ordinance No. 2025-18 - Chapter 5 - Amusements, Article III - Shows Exhibitions and Entertainment, Section 5-92 - License application, information required and Chapter 17 - Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article II - Alcoholic Beverage Establishments, Section 17-84 - Application, forms and required documentation, modifications to licensed premises. **(changes to license deliverables ) (1st reading)**

Teixeira/Parella - Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the first reading of Ordinance #2025-18.  
Advertise in the local newspaper

Prior to the vote being taken, members of the Council noted that the proposed changes would promote greater transparency, allow for review of changes over time, and provide department heads with clearer guidance, making it easier for them to offer informed recommendations.

**D. Licensing Board - New Petitions**

**D1.** Karen Binder, Executive Director for Blithewold, Inc., 101 Ferry Road, Request for Victualling License

- a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police
- b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief
- c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Water Pollution Control

Sweeney/Teixeira - Voted unanimously to grant this license per the recommendations received and conditions, if any, as delineated, and also subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies

**D2.** Catherine Marshall for St. Elizabeth Holy Rosary Sodality, 577 Wood Street, request for a Bingo License on January 23rd from 5:30-9:30 pm

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to grant this license per the recommendations received and conditions, if any, as delineated, and also subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies

**D3.** Margarida Chaves for VFW Post #237, 850 Hope Street - Requests for Bingo Licenses on the second Thursday of each month, through September 2026, 5:30-10:00 pm

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to grant this license per the recommendations received and conditions, if any, as delineated, and also subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies

**D4.** Michael Cockcroft, Dean's Deli, 8 Gooding Avenue - request for Victualling License

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development

d. recommendation - Town Administrator and Water Pollution Control

Sweeney/Parella - Voted unanimously to grant this license per the recommendations received and conditions, if any, as delineated, and also subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies

Prior to the vote being taken, applicant Michael Cockcroft appeared before the council. Michael Cockcroft, 54 Fox Hill, Bristol, appeared before the Council regarding a request for a victualling license for Dean's Deli at 8 Gooding Avenue (former Dunkin' Donuts location). Mr. Cockcroft described the business as an Italian-American deli focused on take-out and catering, with approximately 30 indoor seats, offering Italian cold-cut sandwiches and prepared dinners, and noted a future plan to incorporate a small bakery area ("Blake's Cakes") for his daughter .Mr. Cockcroft indicated a target opening date of February 1.

#### **E. Licensing Board - Renewals**

**E1. 6-month review** - Karen Binder, Executive Director, Blithewold, Inc., 101 Ferry Road, re - Dancing & Entertainment License (**continued from June 18, 2025**)

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

Teixeira/Sweeney- voted unanimously to receive and file the recommendations and allow the establishment to continue with the licenses, based on the positive feedback received after the six-month review.

Prior to the vote being taken, Police Chief Lynch reported that no issues or complaints were filed during the six-month review period for the dancing and entertainment license.

**E2. 6 Month Review** -WKOC, LLC d/b/a Portside Tavern, Richard Corrente, 444 Thames Street - Modification of BV Intoxicating Beverage License for expansion of

premises (to include a portion of outdoor seating)  
**(continued from June 18, 2025) (see also E3)**

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

Teixeira/Sweeney- voted unanimously to receive and file the recommendations and allow the establishment to continue with the licenses, based on the positive feedback received after the six-month review.

Prior to the vote being taken, Police Chief Lynch reported that no issues or complaints were filed during the six-month review period. He further noted that he had spoken with nearby residents, including those who had previously raised concerns, and confirmed that there were no ongoing issues with the premises.

**E3. 6-month review** - Richard Corrente, Portside Tavern, 444 Thames Street re renewal of Dancing & Entertainment License, additionally requesting modification of License (to include outdoor entertainment and add a secondary interior location) **(continued from June 18, 2025)**  
**(see also E2)**

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

Teixeira/Sweeney- voted unanimously to receive and file the recommendations and allow the establishment to continue with the licenses, based on the positive feedback received after the six-month review.

Prior to the vote being taken, Police Chief Lynch reported that no issues or complaints were filed during the six-month review period. He further noted that he had spoken with nearby residents, including those who had previously raised concerns, and confirmed that there were no ongoing issues with the premises.

The Council recognized the owner of the Portside Tavern, Mr. Corrente, who was in attendance, and thanked him for his cooperation and responsiveness throughout the review period.

**E4. 6-month review** - Cara Massey, Executive Director, Linden Place, 500 Hope Street re - Dancing & Entertainment License  
**(continued from June 18, 2025)**

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

Parella Teixeira- voted to continue to the January 7<sup>th</sup> council agenda with the understanding that the existing license conditions remain in effect until that date while staff and the solicitor verify whether any special authorization had previously been granted for the 10:00 PM weekday end time. The motion to continue passed, with Councilman Teixeira voting in opposition.

Prior to the vote being taken, Councilman Teixeira questioned the listed weekday closing time of 10:00 p.m. (Monday-Thursday), asking whether the Town ordinance limited such entertainment to 9:00 p.m. on those days. Town Clerk Cordeiro stated that she did not recall the specific ordinance provision at that time and would need to further review the Town Code. There was uncertainty as to whether the Council had previously granted special authorization permitting Linden Place to operate until 10:00 p.m. on weekdays.

The Town Solicitor advised that if the ordinance established a 9:00 p.m. limitation, any 10:00 p.m. closing time would require explicit Council approval, and that staff would need to verify the applicable ordinance and prior Council action.

Parella/Ley- voted unanimously to take agenda item E4 from the table

*(This agenda item was taken from the table later in the meeting following Council approval and noted in section K pursuant to council action)*

Parella/Sweeney- voted unanimously to receive and file the recommendations and allow the

establishment to continue with the licenses, based on the positive feedback received after the six-month review.

Later in the meeting, after section K-Reports portion of the agenda (and reflected therein) , Town Clerk Cordeiro requested that the Council consider taking Agenda Item E-4 from the table. She explained that the Town Code had since been verified and confirmed that the applicant was in compliance with the current ordinance, and that taking the item from the table may avoid an unnecessary continuation.

The Town Solicitor advised that, as the matter had been continued and no dialogue had occurred with the applicant, it was procedurally permissible under Robert's Rules of Order for the Council to take up the agenda item again. A motion was made and approved.

Town Clerk Cordeiro then confirmed that Town Code Section 5-97 provides: All indoor entertainment shall cease by 10:00 p.m. on nights from Sunday through Thursday, and by 12:00 midnight on Friday and Saturday nights. All outdoor entertainment shall cease by 10:00 p.m. on nights from Sunday through Thursday, and by 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

Councilman Teixeira expressed concern regarding the allowance of entertainment until 10:00 p.m. on weeknights and stated that he did not believe such hours were appropriate.

Based on this clarification, the Council agreed to proceed with processing the agenda item

**E5. 6-month review** -Allison Barr, Allison's Pampered Pets, 7 Michael Drive - Modification of Kennel License **(to increase number of dogs from 10 to 15 or more in residential zone) (continued from June 18, 2025)**

a. recommendation - Town Administrator, Chief of Police and Animal Control Director

Texeira/Parella - voted unanimously to receive and file the recommendations and allow the establishment to continue

with the licenses, based on the positive feedback received after the six-month review.

Prior to the vote being taken Town Clerk Cordeiro confirmed that the review was conducted specifically to evaluate the business' operations following the increase from 10 to 15 dogs. It was noted that there had been no calls for service or complaints received by the Town regarding the kennel during this period.

Ms. Barr addressed the Council and reported that she had recently undergone an unannounced DEM inspection, was found to be in compliance and approved by DEM and has been operating the business for approximately 20 years.

Council members congratulated Ms. Barr on the longevity of her business, continued compliance, and the positive outcome of the DEM inspection

**E6. Junk Second Hand/Junk Dealer License Renewals 2026**

- a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Police Chief
- b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development
- c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Code Compliance Officer

Sweeney/Teixeira-Voted unanimously to grant the renewal of these licenses per the recommendations received and conditions, if any, as delineated, and also subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies

**F. Petitions - Other**

**F1.** Nils Weldy, on behalf of the Rhode Island Brewers Guild, requests permission to sell/serve alcohol on Town Leased Land for Ocean State Brewers Festival at Bristol Golf Park, 96 Broadcommon Road, on June 27, 2026, from 2:00 PM to 5:30 PM

- a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police
- b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief
- c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development
- d. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director Parks and Recreation
- e. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

Sweeney/Teixeira - Voted unanimously to grant this request per the recommendations received and conditions, as delineated in the DPW and Police Chief's Recommendation, and also subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances

Prior to the vote being taken, Niles Weldy, on behalf of the Rhode Island Brewers Guild, appeared before the Council to request permission to sell and serve alcohol on Town-leased land at Bristol Golf Park, for the Ocean State Brewers Festival. The event was described as a Rhode Island-only craft beer tasting festival intended to provide marketing and consumer engagement opportunities for local breweries, held in partnership with Bristol Golf Park and Vigilant Brewing. Organizers outlined parking plans using on-site spaces and cooperation with nearby businesses while encouraging ride-share and drop-offs.

Police Chief Lynch reported that a prior, similar event at Unity Park was professionally run and recommended requiring two uniformed police details (at the organizer's expense) and that all alcohol servers be TIPS-certified; DPW conditions regarding recycling were also noted.

**F2.** Andrea Rounds, on behalf of the Steering Committee of Sowams Heritage, requests council consideration to adopt a resolution endorsing the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area

- a. draft Resolution 2025-12-10-F2

Parella/Teixeira -Voted unanimously to refer to adopt a resolution endorsing the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro noted that three late items were received in support of the proposed resolution and were accepted as "received at meeting" materials from the Bristol Art Museum, Linden Place, and Tony Morttini.

Andrea Rounds, speaking on behalf of the Sowams Heritage Area Steering Committee, requested Council endorsement of a resolution supporting the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area. Ms. Rounds presented supporting materials, including letters of support from Linden Place, the Bristol Art Museum, the Port Marker Project, and Coggeshall Farm, noting that these organizations are part of the broader Sowams "family."

Ms. Rounds described Sowams as a regional initiative connecting Bristol with neighboring communities through shared Indigenous and early colonial history, landscapes, and cultural resources. She emphasized that designation as a National Heritage Area would not alter local zoning or land-use authority, but would provide a framework for interpretation, education, conservation, tourism, and regional collaboration. She further explained that the initiative seeks to create a platform where all voices, including tribal communities, may tell their own stories.

In response to a question from Councilman Teixeira regarding language in the feasibility study indicating that three federally recognized tribes had chosen not to engage at this time, while requesting to be kept informed, Ms. Rounds stated that only the tribes themselves can speak to their reasons. She clarified that the initiative does not involve itself in tribal relations, but instead aims to keep the door open for future participation and to provide a welcoming platform should the designation be approved.

Council members expressed support for the proposal. Vice Chairwoman Parella praised the project and Ms. Rounds' extensive one-on-one outreach efforts, stating that she was pleased to support the resolution so that Bristol would not be left out of the participating communities.

Councilman Ley highlighted the significant work involved and noted that the initiative encourages residents to think beyond

present-day municipal boundaries, recognizing that the land was used and stewarded by others long before, and underscored the importance of preserving it for future generations.

Councilman Sweeney commended Ms. Rounds' energy and reiterated that designation as a National Heritage Area would not affect local control, but would elevate Bristol's history, Indigenous stewardship, educational opportunities, tourism, and partnerships.

Chairman Calouro remarked that the resolution was concise and well-crafted, noting in particular its closing statement that Bristol is "proud to join the communities of Sowams in endorsing the designation of Sowams as a National Heritage Area," and observed that the designation could assist in attracting federal resources to support and enhance local historic and cultural assets.

- F3.** Executive Director Guy, Pokanoket Management Group requests for Tax Abatement under Section 8 of the Tax Stabilization Agreement, Parcel 135-0012-000
  - a. (copy) Caretaker Lease Agreement
  - b. Affidavit from Sagamore William Guy
  - c. Summary of Preservation Activities
  - d. (copy) Resolution 2025-4-23-I3 - Recommendation to State Legislature to Amend R.I.G.L § 44-3-3 and R.I.G.L. § 45-13-5.1
  - e. (copy) Tax Stabilization Agreement for Real Property Town of Bristol and The Pokanoket Management Group Effective as of December 31, 2024
  - f. recommendation - Town Administrator and Tax Assessor/Collector
  - g. Memorandum from the Town Solicitors Office

Parella/Sweeney- Voted to abate the amount for this year of \$13,809.98 from the tax stabilization agreement,

representing the property tax on the two-family residence (Parcel 135-0012-000) on the Pokanoket property. The motion passed, with Chairman Calouro and councilman Teixeira voting in opposition.

Prior to the vote being taken Assistant town Solicitor Teitz provided background, explaining that Brown University transferred approximately 224.93 acres of largely restricted, culturally significant land, along with a two-family residence situated on approximately 2.06 acres, to the Pokanoket Management Group. While Brown University, as an educational institution, had not paid local property taxes (with a portion of the open land reimbursed through the State PILOT program), the Pokanoket Tribe does not receive a categorical property tax exemption. The Town therefore supported state legislation granting tax-exempt status and eligibility for State PILOT reimbursement, estimated at approximately 27% of forgone taxes. During the two-year lag before full State reimbursement, the TSA requires the Tribe to make annual payments to the Town.

Solicitor Teitz explained that the TSA established an annual payment of \$39,667.86, calculated by valuing the open land at the Town's farm/forest rate (approximately \$115 per acre, totaling \$25,857.88) and applying the full assessed tax to the two-family dwelling (approximately \$13,809.98). He noted that Section 8 of the TSA permits the Council to grant voluntary abatements, in whole or in part, if the property is used solely to support preservation and maintenance of historic values and generates no unrelated income.

Representatives of the Pokanoket Management Group and the Tribe, including Attorney Ty Palermo, Property Manager Tony Marie Walmsley, and Sesham "Dancing Star" Tracy from the Pokanoket Tribe, addressed the Council. They described the caretaker arrangement for the residence, explaining that occupants contribute reduced payments in exchange for extensive property oversight and maintenance, including monitoring approximately 255 acres and more than two miles of shoreline, addressing trespass, illegal dumping and hunting, trail damage, and vandalism, and coordinating with Tribal security, the Bristol Police Department, and DEM. They stated that all contributions from the residence are used solely for insurance, utilities, septic services, and necessary repairs, and that the Tribe has been on the land for just over one year, does not receive

federal tribal funding, and is relying heavily on volunteer labor while beginning long-term conservation, forestry, and restoration planning in coordination with partner agencies. They requested a full abatement of the dwelling portion, asserting that anything less would significantly impede stewardship efforts and planned educational and environmental initiatives.

Solicitor Teitz advised that, based on the information submitted, including rent rolls and task descriptions, the dwelling continued to function in part as an income-producing property rather than exclusively as full-time caretaker housing. He therefore recommended a 50% abatement of the dwelling portion, approximately \$6,904.99, for the current year only, with the option for the Tribe to reapply in the following year.

Tax Assessor Leadem confirmed that under Brown University's ownership, the residential parcel had historically been fully taxed and noted that the current fiscal year budget assumed full collection of the TSA payment; accordingly, any abatement would require the Town to absorb the resulting revenue shortfall.

Council members discussed the request, weighing the Tribe's early-stage financial challenges and the long-term public benefit of permanent land preservation against fiscal responsibility and consistency for taxpayers.

Vice Chairwoman Parella expressed support for fully abating the dwelling portion during the Tribe's first full year on the property, with reconsideration in the second year of the TSA. Other members raised concerns regarding budgetary impact and precedent, while acknowledging the unique cultural, historical, and environmental significance of the property.

Solicitor Teitz clarified that the abatement request before the Council would apply only to the current year, and that the Tribe may return in the following year to request further abatement pursuant to Section 8 of the TSA.

Chairman Calouro stated that the Town, at the request of the Council and in coordination with the Pokanoket Tribe, was the driving force behind the state legislation that established the PILOT framework and categorical property tax exemption, noting that the Town's state representatives and senators acted at the Town's request. He emphasized that the Town and Council have been extremely supportive of the Tribe and will continue to be, and that the level of support should not be measured solely by whether a 50% or 100% abatement is granted.

He expressed respect for the Tribe's request and stated that it was appropriate for the Council to have the discussion. Chairman Calouro noted that, in his view, the Town Solicitor's recommendation of a 50% abatement of the two-family residence was extremely fair, well-reasoned, and made in good faith, taking into account that the property continues to generate revenue. He emphasized that the proposed abatement applies only to the current year and that any future request would require separate Council consideration.

Chairman Calouro stated that while he would respect the Council's decision should it choose a different approach, he believed the recommended abatement appropriately balanced fiscal responsibility with continued support for the Tribe, and that the discussion had been constructive and undertaken in good faith by all parties

Councilman Ley noted that the Pokanoket Tribe is already obligated under the TSA for approximately \$39,000 annually and has indicated difficulty meeting even the approximately \$26,000 land portion of that payment. While he agreed that the Town Solicitor's recommendation of a 50% abatement of the two-family residence was fair, he stated that he was also open to considering a full abatement of the dwelling portion for the current year in light of the Tribe's financial circumstances and early stage of stewardship.

Following discussion, Vice Chairwoman Parella moved to abate the full \$13,809.98 dwelling portion of the TSA payment for the current year, while leaving intact the land component of approximately \$25,857.88.

Chairman Calouro voting in opposition. He stated for the record that he believed a 50% abatement of the dwelling portion would have been a more balanced approach, while reiterating his support for the Tribe and the preservation of the property.

Solicitor Teitz clarified that under this action, the Tribe remains responsible for the TSA payment attributable to the open land and may return in the following year to request further abatement pursuant to Section 8 of the TSA.

#### **G. Appointments**

**G1.** Board of Tax Assessment Review - 2 three-year terms (1 Democratic Alternate and 1 Republican Alternate) set to expire December 2029

a. Letter of recommendations from Republican Town Committee

b. Letter of recommendations from Democratic Town Committee

Teixeira/Sweeney-Voted unanimously to reappoint Peter Hewett and Cornelia "Nina" Murphy as Alternates to the Board of Tax Assessment Review with a term set to expire in December 2028

**G2.** Board of Tenants' Affairs - Appointments to fill 2 two-year terms, set to expire January 2028

a. Richard Hunter, 1014 Hope Street, Apt E6 - interest/reappointment

b. Linda Heroux, 1014 Hope Street, Apt V3 - interest/reappointment

Teixeira/Sweeney-Voted unanimously to reappoint Richard Hunter and Linda Heroux to the Board of Tenants' Affairs with terms set to expire in January 2028

**G3.** Bristol Housing Authority - Appointment to fill one term, set to expire January 2031

a. Edward Correia 46 Varnum Avenue- Letter of interest/reappointment

b. Recommendation - BHA Executive Director Pansa

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to reappoint Edward Correia to Bristol Housing Authority with a term set to expire in January 2031

**G4.** Coastal Resources Management Council - Appointments to fill 1 one-year term, set to expire January 2027

a. John Troiano, 707 Hope Street-  
interest/reappointment

Teixeira/Sweeney-Voted unanimously to reappoint John Troiano to Coastal Resources Management Council with a term set to expire in January 2027

**G5.** Conservation Commission - 1 three-year term set to expire January 2028

a. Raymond Payson, 131 Ferry Road -  
interest/reappointment

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to reappoint Raymond Payson to the Conservation Commission with a term set to expire in January 2028

At the conclusion of the board appointments, Chairman Calouro took a moment to express his deep gratitude and appreciation for all members of the community who volunteer their time to serve on one of the town's many boards and commissions. He acknowledged the invaluable contributions of these individuals, recognizing their commitment to the betterment of the community.

#### **H. Old Business**

**H1.** **Request to continue matter to January 28, 2026**, re: RI State Police- Office of the Superintendent and Director of Public Safety requests approval of the installation of a Flock Safety camera in the Town of Bristol **(continued from 11/12/2025)**

Teixeira/Sweeney-Voted unanimously to continue this matter until the meeting of January 28, 2026

**H2.** **(Continued from November 12, 2025, for adoption of proposed Resolution)** Chief Lynch, Bristol Police Department - report on School Bus Safety Legislation

and for council consideration to support a resolution to have the school department proactively review this legislation, to consider an RFQ like other communities.

a. (draft) Resolution

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to adopt the resolution as presented and direct the Town Clerk to send a copy of the resolution to the members of the Bristol- Warren Regional School Committee and to the Superintendent of the BWRSD

**I. Other New Business Requiring Town Council Action**

**I1.** Public Notice from CRMC re - Christopher & Mary Fay, 476 Poppasquash Road, requires response by **December 30, 2025**

a. recommendation- Town Administrator and Harbor Master

b. recommendation - Bristol Harbor Commission

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to receive and place this matter on file

**I2.** Town Administrator Contente regarding Traffic Calming: Hopeworth Avenue

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to authorize the Administration and the Department of Public Works to initiate an engineering study for Hopeworth Avenue, at a cost not to exceed \$6,000

Prior to the vote being taken, Prior to the vote being taken, Town Administrator Contente reported that, based on a traffic calming petition initiated by the Police Department, concerns have been raised regarding vehicle

speeds and safety conditions on Hopeworth Avenue. He recommended that the Town proceed with a professional engineering evaluation, rather than immediate physical changes, to determine appropriate traffic calming measures.

Town Administrator Contente explained that the study will evaluate roadway geometry, traffic volumes, and potential traffic calming options, including but not limited to signage, pavement markings, and physical devices, prior to Council consideration of any specific improvements.

**I3.** Town Administrator Contente regarding Gooding and Metacom Avenue Pedestrian Signal Change

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to support a request that the Rhode Island State Traffic Commission review the pedestrian safety conditions at the Gooding Avenue/Metacom Avenue intersection.

Prior to the vote being taken, Town Administrator Contente reported a pedestrian safety concern brought to his attention by a resident. He stated that after receiving the information, he personally observed the issue while stopped at the Gooding Avenue/Metacom Avenue intersection. He described an incident in which a pedestrian activated the crossing signal and used appropriate caution; however, a vehicle traveling on Gooding Avenue accelerated toward the intersection and the pedestrian was forced to run to avoid the vehicle.

The Administrator explained that, as currently timed, activating the pedestrian signal stops only the left and right traffic lanes, while perpendicular traffic retains a green light. He requested the Council's support in asking the Rhode Island State Traffic Commission to evaluate the intersection and consider implementing an all-direction stop when the pedestrian signal is activated to improve safety.

**I4.** Town Administrator Contente update on Compost Sales Revenue and Operational Review

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to receive and file

Prior to the vote being taken, Town Administrator Contente provided an update on the Town's compost operation and its financial outlook. He explained that recent and pending PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) regulations in several New England states have significantly affected the regional compost market, as stricter PFAS limits in other states have reduced demand and complicated off-site sales. This regulatory environment has contributed to lower-than-anticipated compost revenues and uncertainty regarding future income from the program.

Town Administrator Contente noted that Rhode Island currently does not have a PFAS limit applicable to the Town's compost product and that the material being produced remains in compliance with all existing state regulations. Following brief discussion, including confirmation that the Town will continue to monitor regulatory developments and market conditions.

**CF. Citizens Public Forum**

*PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK DURING THE CITIZENS PUBLIC FORUM MUST NOTIFY THE COUNCIL CLERK PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING*

**J. Bills & Expenditures**

**J1. Bid 1074- Long-Term Lease for Former Byfield School Building**

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to refer this matter to the Town Administrator to solicit proposals for a real estate marketing firm and to act in the best interest of the Town in moving the process forward.

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordiero noted This bid closed without any submissions.

Councilmember members briefly acknowledged the continued interest in returning the vacant building to productive use. Town Administrator Contente explained the difficulty of attracting qualified parties through the Town's standard bid process alone and recommended that the Town solicit bids for a professional real estate marketing firm.

The intent of engaging such a firm would be to assist with marketing and positioning the Byfield property, identifying and engaging potential long-term tenants, and advising the Town on strategies for reuse of the building.

**J2.** Bid 1076 Catering Services for the Fourth of July Ball, June 20, 2026

- CP's Catering in the amount of \$37,405.00 with a per plate cost of \$135

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to refer this matter to the Town Administrator and the fourth of July Committee to act in the best interest of the Town.

**J3.** RFQ 1077 Architectural Design Services and Construction Administration Services Former Guiteras School Reuse as Government Center/Town Hall

- Lerner Ladds Bartels - Pawtucket
- RGB Architects - Providence
- Brewster Thornton Group Architects, LLC -Providence
- GMI Architects Architecture and Interiors - Bristol
- DBWW Architects - Providence

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to refer this matter to the Town Administrator to act in the best interest of the Town.

**K. Special Reports**

*It is hereby noted for the record that, no items were received for special reports.*

**(ADD ITEM)**

Upon the request of Town Administrator Contente, a motion was made by Councilman Teixeira and seconded by Councilman Sweeney to add an item to the agenda for discussion to introduce the Town's new Deputy Treasurer, Lan Lee. The Council welcomed Ms. Lee and wished her much success in her new role.

*At this point in the meeting, Town Clerk Cordeiro requested that the Council consider taking Agenda Item E-4 from the table. She explained that the Town Code had since been verified and confirmed that the applicant was in compliance with the current ordinance, and that taking the item from the table would avoid an unnecessary continuation. A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Parella and seconded by Councilman Ley to take agenda item E4 from the table. Discussion related to this matter is reflected under Agenda Item E-4.*

**L. Town Solicitor**

At the conclusion of the public meeting, and prior to convening into executive session, Chairman Calouro extended his Merry Christmas wishes to all residents on behalf of himself and the Council. Councilman Teixeira also offered his annual holiday greeting, wishing everyone "Feliz Navidad e Boas Festas."

**M. Executive Sessions**

M1. Town Administrator Contente requests for Executive Session Pursuant to RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(2)- litigation Citizens Bank

Teixeira/ Sweeney- Voted unanimously to convene in Executive Session pursuant to RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(2)- litigation Citizens Bank at 8:55 PM.

Teixeira/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to resume open session and seal the minutes of the Executive Session at 9:45 pm.

Solicitor Ursillo announced that no motion was made nor voted on in Executive Session

Consent Agenda Items:

**(CA) AA. Submission of Minutes - Boards and Commissions**

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"**

- (CA) AA1. Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes - October 7, 2025
- (CA) AA2. Bristol 250th Commission Meeting Minutes - September 16, 2025
- (CA) AA3. Bristol 250th Commission Meeting Minutes - October 21, 2025
- (CA) AA4. Bristol Housing Authority Meeting Minutes - October 9, 2025
- (CA) AA5. Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - September 18, 2025
- (CA) AA6. Bristol Warren Regional School Committee Business Meeting Minutes - August 25, 2025
- (CA) AA7. Bristol Harbor Commission Meeting Minutes - December 1, 2025
- (CA) AA8. Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes - November 10, 2025

**(CA) BB. Budget Adjustments**

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to approve these adjustments"**

- (CA) BB1. Tax Assessor Leadem - Recommended Abatement & Additions as of November 2025

**(CA) CC. Financial Reports**

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"**

- (CA) CC1. Town Treasurer Carulli- YTD- Budget to Actuals for the month-end of November

**(CA) DD. Proclamations, Resolutions & Citations**

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to adopt these Proclamations, Resolutions and Citations as prepared and presented"**

(CA) DD1. Resolution 2025-11-12- H2 - Support of Legislation Allowing the Town of Bristol to Provide Property Tax Relief to Owner-Occupied Mixed-Use Properties (signed)

(CA) DD2. Resolution 2025-11-12-II BCI Checks for Applicants to Town Board, Commission, Committee or Town Appointment Positions (Adopted)

(CA) DD3. Citation - Candace "Candy" Pansa (Signed)

**(CA) EE. Utility Petitions**

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to approve these petitions"**

**(CA) FF. City & Town Resolutions Not Previously Considered**

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"**

**(CA) GG. Distributions/Communications**

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"**

(CA) GG1. Thank You - Samaritans of Rhode Island

(CA) GG2. Bid #1075 - Heat Pump System - Water Pollution Control Facility

(CA) GG3. Clerk Cordeiro to State Senators and Representatives regarding support of resolution supporting property tax relief for owner-occupied mixed-use properties

(CA) GG4. Director Williams - Herreshoff Marine Museum - Marina Expansion Proposal

**(CA) HH. Distributions/Notice of Meetings**  
(Office copy only)

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"**

(CA) HH1. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Karaoke Fundraiser Sub-Committee Meeting - November 13, 2025

(CA) HH2. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Souvenir Sub-Committee Meeting - November 13, 2025

- (CA) HH3. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Macaroni Supper Sub-Committee Meeting - November 19th, 2025
- (CA) HH4. Housing Authority Meeting Calendar 2026
- (CA) HH5. Bristol County Water Authority Finance Committee Meeting - November 13, 2025
- (CA) HH6. The North and East Burial Grounds Commission Meeting - November 12, 2025
- (CA) HH7. Town of Bristol Housing Authority Meeting - November 13, 2025
- (CA) HH8. Bristol Technical Review Committee Meeting - November 20, 2025
- (CA) HH9. Bristol 250th Commission Meeting - November 18, 2025
- (CA) HH10. Planning Board Meeting - November 13, 2025
- (CA) HH11. Zoning Board of Review Meeting - December 1, 2025
- (CA) HH12. Planning Board Comprehensive Plan Update Meeting - November 20, 2025
- (CA) HH13. Bristol Fourth of July Committee 250th Celebration Meeting - November 19, 2025
- (CA) HH14. Bristol Fourth of July Committee General Committee Meeting - November 19, 2025
- (CA) HH15. Bristol Fourth of July Fireworks Subcommittee Meeting - November 20, 2025
- (CA) HH16. Bristol Fourth of July Interfaith Subcommittee Meeting - November 20, 2025
- (CA) HH17. Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting - November 20, 2025
- (CA) HH18. Properties Committee Meeting - December 3, 2025
- (CA) HH19. Harbor Commission Meeting - December 1, 2025
- (CA) HH20. Capital Projects Commission Meeting - November 25, 2025

- (CA) HH21. Bristol Harbor Protection Team Meeting - December 1, 2025
- (CA) HH22. Conservation Commission Meeting - December 2, 2025
- (CA) HH23. Historic District Commission Meeting - December 4, 2025
- (CA) HH24. Town of Bristol Housing Authority Meeting - December 11, 2025
- (CA) HH25. Bristol Fourth of July Committee 2026 General Committee Meetings
- (CA) HH26. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Music and Entertainment - Concerts Meeting - December 9, 2025
- (CA) HH27. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Promotions Meeting - December 9, 2025
- (CA) HH28. Town of Bristol Housing Authority Meeting - December 11, 2025
- (CA) HH29. Town of Bristol Housing Authority Meeting - December 11, 2025

**(CA) II. Claims (Referrals)**

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to refer these items to the Insurance Committee and at its discretion to the Interlocal Trust"**

- (CA) III. Zackary Brodeur, 15 Rose Lane, Shannock, RI - claim for damage

**(CA) JJ. Miscellaneous Items Requiring Council Approval**

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to approve these items"**

- (CA) KK. Curb cut petitions as approved by the director of public works

**Approval of consent agenda = "motion to grant these curb cuts per the recommendation of, and conditions specified by, the Director of Public Works"**

There being no further business, upon a motion by Sweeney, seconded by Teixeira and voted unanimously, the Chairman declared this meeting to be adjourned at 9:45 pm.



Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk  
Council Clerk

DRAFT