

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024

The council met on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 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
Town Solicitor, Michael Ursillo, Esq
Town Sergeant, Archie Martins

Motion RE: Consent Agenda - To Approve the Consent Agenda

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

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda withholding Item DD1 for further consideration.

It is noted for the record that discussion on item DD1 occurred at the conclusion of the public agenda, and the actions related to item DD1 are reflected, in place, as found within.

A. Submission of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

- A1.** Town Council Special Meeting Minutes - March 6, 2024
- A2.** Town Council Meeting Minutes - March 27, 2024

Sweeney/Teixeira - Voted unanimously to approve the minutes of March 6 and March 27, 2024 as prepared and presented.

B. Public Hearings

- B1.** Fabio Lopes, G Lopes Restaurant, Inc. d/b/a Sunset Cafe, 499 Hope Street, request Class BV Liquor License **(see also C2 and D1)**

Sweeney/Teixeira -Voted unanimously to close the public hearing

Prior to the vote being taken, Council Chair Calouro opened the public hearing.

Applicant Fabio Lopes addressed the council to speak in favor of the class BV Liquor license and thanked the council for consideration.

It is hereby recorded that no further testimony was provided by members of the public either in favor or opposition to the matter.

C. Ordinances

- C1.** Ordinance #2024-08 Chapter 8 - Boats, Docks and Waterways, Sec. 8-71. Insurance requirement for Town marina. **(2nd Reading)**

- a. Harbor Master Marsilli re Commercial Fishing Insurance Survey

Sweeney/Teixeira - Motioned to consider this action to constitute the Second Reading for the adoption of Ordinance #2024-08. Advertise in the local newspaper. Voting in favor was Calouro, Sweeney, Teixeira and Ley. Voting opposed was Parella.

Prior to the vote being taken, Harbormaster Marsili mentioned that he had received an additional survey response indicating that a commercial fisherman had insurance for his larger boat but not for his smaller one.

It was noted for the record that the total number of responses received was 13 with nine (9) commercial boats being insured and three (3) commercial boats with no insurance.

Vice Chairwoman Parella noted that she would not be voting in favor because she still has some concerns and that she wanted to ensure that the town was not taking any actions that could inadvertently harm the fishing community.

- C2.** Ordinance #2024-09 Chapter 17 - Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article II - Alcoholic Beverages Establishments, Sec. 17-82. - Number of Licenses (to decrease the number of B Limited licenses from 8 to 7 and increase the number of BV Licenses from 31 to 32. **(2nd Reading) (See also B1 and D1)**

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the Second Reading for the adoption of Ordinance #2024-09. Advertise in the local newspaper

- C3.** Ordinance No. 2024-10 Chapter 17 - Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article II - Alcoholic Beverages Establishments, Sec. 17-82. - Number of Licenses (to decrease the number of B Limited licenses from 7 to 6 and increase the number of BV Licenses from 32 to 33. **(1st Reading)**

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the first reading of Ordinance #2024-10. Advertise in the local newspaper.

Prior to the vote being taken Council Chairman Calouro highlighted for the record the procedure for obtaining a liquor license, emphasizing that any unused license is removed from the town ordinances.

D. Licensing Board - New Petitions

- D1.** Fabio Lopes, G Lopes Restaurant, Inc. d/b/a Sunset Cafe, 499 Hope Street, request for BV Liquor License **(See also B1 and C2)**

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Police 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.

- D2.** Joseph Zonfrilli, Jozon Enterprises, Inc.
d/b/a Domino's Pizza, 655 Metacom Avenue, request modification to Victualling License (location change)
- a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development
 - b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief
 - c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Pretreatment Coordinator, Water Pollution Control Department
 - d. recommendation - Town Administrator and Police Chief

Teixeira/Sweeney- 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.** Erin Meyer, Crate Escape Doggie Day Camp, 64 Ballou Boulevard, request for Dog Kennel License
- a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development
 - b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Police Chief

Teixeira/Sweeney- 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 Erin Meyer addressed the council and noted that the request pertained to a secondary location they intended to transition into, indicating they would operate from two locations for a period.

E. Licensing Board - Renewals

E1. Dog Kennel License Renewals 2024-2025

- a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to grant renewal of these licenses based upon the recommendations received and the receipt of all necessary renewal paperwork from the licensees and also subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies; with the exception of "A Dogs Life" Kennel that will be subject to a six-month review.

Prior to the vote being taken, Councilman Teixeria highlighted the recommendation from the police department for a six-month review of "A Dog's Life" kennel. Lt. Wozney informed that the kennel had exceeded the permitted number of 10 dogs on the property, with 16 dogs found during inspection. A violation report was issued, followed by a subsequent inspection confirming compliance. Therefore, a six-month review was suggested.

F. Petitions - Other

- F1.** Paul M. Lapre, 19 Annawamscutt Drive, request for Council Consideration of creating an Ordinance to Limit the Use of Surveillance Cameras and Consideration for Ordinance Enforcing Violations to Trespassing on Town property extending on boundary lines of private property

Teixeira/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to deny the petition for the two ordinance requests.

Prior to the vote being taken, applicant Paul M. Lapre addressed the council. Mr. Lapre requested the council's consideration to enact an ordinance aimed at supporting all private property owners whose properties border town-owned land. The proposed ordinance would prevent any unauthorized alterations on the land within the private property domain. He asked that any violations would be reported to the police and treated as trespassing offenses. He provided an example of individuals repeatedly accessing town property, which is not within their property domain, to engage in activities such as planting, digging, weed whacking, lawn mowing, and similar actions. He urged for the creation of an ordinance to empower the police to enforce regulations against such actions.

Vice Chairwoman Parella mentioned residing in the downtown area, where people accessed a portion of the sidewalk, extending into her front yard. She expressed doubts about the town's ability to prevent people from accessing town land in such circumstances.

Town Solicitor Ursilo pointed out that there would be no necessity for an ordinance. He clarified that just as a private individual has the right to prohibit trespassing on their property, the town also possesses the right to restrict trespassing on its property. However, he noted that the situation described, as Vice Chairwoman Parella alluded to, is not unique to Bristol but is common in every city and town. He explained that there is typically a certain area beyond the street that is owned by the town, similar to how individuals with oceanfront property have a strip of public land where people can fish and move freely. He elaborated that while Mr. Lapre could initiate a civil case against those who trespassed on his property with the evidence of a survey, he could not do so for townland.

Town Solicitor Ursillo clarified that enforcing such an ordinance would be nearly impossible for the town, as just about every property owner possesses land in front of their property that is considered town property. He emphasized that this situation applies to all residents, including mail carriers and dog walkers. While the town has a licensing process for individuals wishing to maintain a town lot adjacent to their property, implementing an ordinance as requested would impact every homeowner in Bristol. He stressed that every person,

regardless of residency, has the right to use public rights of way, such as walking their dog. If someone damages town property, the town can pursue trespassing actions without the need for an ordinance. Town Solicitor Ursillo explained that the town has the same trespassing rights as individuals, and damaging town property could be addressed through the zoning enforcement officer. In this case it does not appear that there is destruction of town property.

Vice Chairwoman Parella inquires about the limitations and permissible activities on town property, citing the example of individuals planting ornamental grass near sidewalks. Town Solicitor Ursillo explains that technically, such actions would constitute trespassing on town property. However, the critical factors to consider are whether the activity poses a threat to public health and safety, interferes with the town's use of the property, or obstructs the public's right of way. While many homeowners desire their properties to look attractive up to the town property line, the town typically intervenes only when actions such as extending retaining walls onto town property obstruct the right of way. Unless an activity poses a clear obstruction or safety hazard, there is usually no need for the town to take legal action for minor issues like planting daffodils.

Town Solicitor Ursillo acknowledged the situation as likely involving a neighborly dispute and suggested resolving it directly with the neighbor.

Mr. Lepre further asked for council consideration to limit the use of cameras that are directed into neighbors' property.

Town Solicitor Ursillo clarified that according to both Federal and state laws, individuals are permitted to visually observe properties from public positions such as streets and sidewalks, including seeing yards, driveways, and houses. Therefore, it would be prohibited for a council or State to adopt an ordinance restricting surveillance cameras to focus solely on one's own property. While video voyeurism, such as aiming cameras into bedrooms or bathrooms, constitutes an invasion of privacy, the installation of security cameras capturing broader views, like those of doorbell cameras, is not inherently illegal. The town lacks the authority to prevent the installation of such cameras unless they infringe upon someone's privacy rights, in which case, legal action may be pursued. Simply having a camera that captures views into neighboring yards is akin to the observations made by pedestrians on sidewalks, and therefore not illegal.

- F2.** Robert McNeil, McNeil Design Collaborative d/b/a The Northeast Golf Company, 96 Broad Common Road, request to add a Class C Liquor License

Teixeira/Ley - Voted unanimously to deny or to refer the matter to the Town Solicitor to draft an ordinance for a single Class C Liquor License for council consideration on May 8, 2024; and schedule the public hearing for the May 29, 2024, council meeting; and also to refer the matter to the Town Administrator and Town Solicitor to draft an agreement for the Class C License, contingent upon approval, with stringent terms governing its use.

Prior to the vote being taken, It was noted for the record that a Class C license is defined as allowing sales for consumption on the premises where no food is cooked, but prepared food is allowed. This is in contrast to Class B licenses, which require victualling licenses and mandate that food be prepared and served on the premises.

Mr. McNeil stated that a Class C license would best fit their needs as they do not operate a kitchen or have a clubhouse. Their service is conducted from a mobile structure. Although they initially sought a Class BV license, they could not meet the requirements for a kitchen and thus could not cook food at their location. The Class C license would be more suitable for their needs, and they have already made agreements with local caterers and delis. They intend to sell canned beer and canned seltzers. Given their short three-year term agreement with the property, they were not planning to invest in infrastructure to accommodate a kitchen area. Alcohol sales are a major revenue component of their operation.

Chairman Colouro noted that the Council wants to see the golf course succeed. He highlighted that the initial request was for a Class BV Limited license, to which Mr. McNeil had committed to adhering to the rules and regulations. The Clerk, as required, followed up on the license requirements, noting that clearance from the Department of Health was not obtained. Mr. McNeil had informed the Clerk that the Department of Health told him clearance was not required. However, upon further inquiry, the Department of Health indicated that Mr. McNeil had not informed them about the Class BV Limited license he petitioned for. Chairman Colouro expressed concern that this was a negative

start and felt that establishing a Class C license would set an inappropriate precedent. He emphasized that this was not a reflection on the applicant, but creating a Class C license opens a door he is unwilling to open. He reiterated his support for the Class BV Limited license, where food is served and prepared, consistent with other Bristol establishments that serve alcohol.

Vice Chairwoman Parella expressed her lack of awareness regarding a Class C license and inquired about the parameters for prepared food, questioning whether microwaved prepacked food would qualify. It was clarified that a BV license would necessitate a full kitchen with a sink, food preparation space, and septic requirements.

Councilman Sweeney recalled the original proposal including a kitchen, which McNeil refuted, stating that a kitchen was never part of their original plan.

Vice Chairwoman Parella stated over her years on the council she had previously been skeptical of any liquor licenses and emphasized the importance of food service regulations and the strides made to get to this point. She expressed concern about the potential consequences of introducing a Class C license, fearing it may open a proverbial Pandora's box.

Mr. McNeil emphasized that the establishment wouldn't be feasible without the Class C license and expressed doubts about overcoming this hurdle. He explained that the current lease agreement, which was only a three-year deal with the town, made it impractical to invest in building structures. Despite their partnership with Vigilant Brewery, the venture was considered unviable.

Discussions ensued regarding the partnership with Vigilant Brewery. It was noted that brewery licenses and their regulations are governed by state regulations, and not handled at the local level.

Councilman Ley acknowledged the unique circumstances of the situation, highlighting that the town had never had a viable golf course before, which presented ambiguous territory. He suggested a different approach to this situation compared to other local establishments.

Vice Chairwoman Parella recommended considering establishing strict criteria to accommodate a Class C license, emphasizing the need for caution before granting such licenses. She pointed out that the land was not owned by the applicant and suggested

imposing restrictions on the Class C license as an initial step before considering a longer lease or building construction. She emphasized the importance of avoiding the problems associated with unregulated establishments.

Chairman Calouro noted for the record that Mr. McNeil had committed to complying with his original request for the Class BV Limited license and emphasized the significance of obtaining a liquor license in Bristol. He reiterated that there were no surprises in these discussions, and Mr. McNeil had stated his commitment to meeting the requirements.

Mr. McNeil clarified that there was a misunderstanding, as it was impossible to install a kitchen on public property. He stated that he was unaware of the Class C license and applied for the BV Limited license because he believed it was his only option.

Town Administrator Contente acknowledged the significant investment involved and the lengthy process to reach this point. He recognized the importance of beer being part of the long tradition on the golf course. Town Administrator Contente hesitated to speak on behalf of the business due to the circumstances surrounding the BV license but believed that everyone deserves a chance. He reminded the council that they had discretion in granting or denying any future Class C license petitions. He suggested imposing restrictions on a Class C liquor license for the golf course for the current season. He further recommended reporting back to the council at the end of the season in October and proposed approving the license on a conditional basis.

Chairman Calouro acknowledged that the town had fulfilled its responsibilities to ensure the success of the initial liquor license request. He expressed concern that the applicant now appeared to be suggesting they would not be successful without the council's support for the Class C license. Chairman Calouro clarified that the town did not place the applicant in this position and had done everything asked of them to support their initial request. He emphasized that the applicant was not before the town again because the council did not support them; and the responsibility should lie with the applicant rather than the council.

Hesitations were noted regarding the adoption of a Class C license, with a zero-tolerance policy for any associated issues. However, the council expressed willingness to consider reviewing restrictions and establishing clear guidelines for this special circumstance. Consideration for items such as access to water

with clear extenuating circumstances because no other alternative could be reached and a more permanent solution would need to be considered.

F3. Madeline Predaris, 1 Old Ferry Road, request temporary installation of sculptures on light poles at Town Common

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Parks and Recreation

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to deny the petition based on the recommendations received.

Prior to the vote being taken, Madeline Predaris addressed the council seeking approval to install temporary installation of sculptures on light poles at the Town Common. Noting that they were working with an artist in Oakland, California to install the art pieces. The proposal is being presented by members of an engineering class at Roger Williams University. She acknowledged members of her team including Will, who did the wind analysis, Billy, who did the structural part, and Lucas, who created the mounting design.

Members of the encouraged other avenues such as utilizing the local library, Mt. Hope Farm, or Bristol Art Gallery. However, denied the petition request based on the recommendations and concerns about the weight of the sculptures.

F4. Denise Panichas, Executive Director, of The Samaritans of Rhode Island, request for support of Resolution for Suicide Prevention Barriers on Bridges over Narragansett Bay

a. (Draft) Resolution - Urging the RI State Legislature to Support Allocating Funding for Permanent Safety Barriers On Rhode Island's Bridges over Narragansett Bay

Sweeney/Parella-Motioned to Support the Resolution Allocating Funding for Permanent Safety Barriers On Rhode Island's Bridges over

Narragansett Bay and direct the Clerk to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor and members of the Town of Bristol State Legislative Delegation. Voting in favor was Calouro, Parella, Sweeney, and Ley. Abstaining was Teixeira.

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro noted an email correspondence received informing the council that the representative from the Samaritas was not able to attend due to the flu.

Councilman Sweeney expressed his support for the resolution, emphasizing his belief that barriers save lives. He stated that even one life lost to suicide is too many, and if implementing barriers can help prevent suicide, he is fully supportive.

Councilman Teixeira recited some of the language of the resolution, emphasizing that any life lost to suicide is one too many. He recounted examples of suicide events he had recalled during his tenure in the school department, noting that none of them occurred on bridges. He expressed skepticism about the efficacy of barriers on the bridge based on his experience, pointing out that there are other means of suicide. Councilman Teixeira emphasized the importance of strengthening support systems such as networking, family, and friends, who may not always intervene. He argued that investment should be directed towards these support systems rather than bridge barriers and stated his opposition to the resolution.

F5. Daniel Manchester, 125 Peck Avenue, Bristol Historical and Preservation Society, request use of Town Common to hold annual Flea and Fair on Saturday, August 10, 2024, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (set-up 7:00 AM), rain date Sunday, August 11, 2024

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Parks and Recreation

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Police Chief

Teixeira/Sweeney- 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

- F6.** Ana Isabel dos Reis Couto, Rhode Island Day of Portugal, request to fly Portuguese Flag with a flag-raising ceremony, Town Hall 10 Court Street on ~~June 5,~~ June 3, 2024 at 11:00 AM
- a. Memo from Clerk of Canvassers re qualifying signatures received

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to approve this petition, allowing that a 3 X 5 foot 'flag of Portugal' may be flown on a Town flagpole at Town Hall June 3, 2024, with the Town assuming no responsibility for the care of this flag beyond its raising.

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro noted that the applicant called with a correction of the date and the correct date of the ceremony would be on Monday, June 3, 2024.

- F7.** Anthony Merryman, 40 Kickemuit Avenue, request for curb cut and removal of Town tree
- a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development
- b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Tree Warden
- c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Police Chief

Sweeney/ Parela- Voted unanimously to continue the matter to the May 8, 2024 council meeting

Prior to the vote being taken, Chairman Calouro stated for the record that curb-cut applications typically appear in the consent agenda unless there is a motion to deny or concerns regarding the petition.

Mr. Merryman, residing at 40 Kickemuit Avenue, addressed the council, outlining his reasons for petitioning for a curb cut and the removal of a tree. He cited issues with clearance when backing out of the driveway, hauling boats, and visual obstructions. He also mentioned the consideration to extend the driveway to match the width of his garage doors. Mr. Merryman explained the confusion surrounding the road line's boundaries and ownership of the tree, which he claimed to be 50% owned by the town and himself. He highlighted discrepancies in measurements conducted by the BPD and DPW. Mr. Merryman proposed a project that involved removing the tree and planting two or three new, smaller trees. He stated that he could commission the tree removal but being that the tree is 50% owned by the town he would hope to go through the town's tree crew. There was debate regarding the health of the tree.

Town Administrator Contente suggested that if a survey could prove the tree was 50% owned by the petitioner, they might reconsider their recommendation. He recommended continuing the matter to the next council meeting to determine proper ownership. Contente stated that if the tree was owned outright by the town, he would agree to keep it as recommended by the Tree Warden. However, if the tree was partially owned by Mr. Merryman, he would have the right to trim or remove it.

Discussions ensued about the process of the original request.

- F8.** Office of Governor Daniel McKee re consideration for adoption of Resolution for a Litter-Free Rhode Island
- a. (draft) resolution for a Litter-Free Rhode Island

Sweeney/Teixeira-Voted unanimously to Support the Resolution for a Litter-Free Rhode Island.

Prior to the vote being taken, Councilman Teixeira recommended reaching out to local community groups that may be interested in participating.

G. Appointments

- G1.** Police Pension Fund Board of Trustees - (one 3-year term set to expire April 2027)

- a. Raymond C. Falcoa, 55 Brooks Farm Drive -
Interest/Reappointment

Teixeira/ Parella- Voted unanimously to reappoint Raymond C. Falcoa to the Police Pension Fund Board of Trustees with a term set to expire in April 2027

G2. Bristol Planning Board (one 3-year term set to expire April 2027)

- a. Anthony Murgo, 5 Karen Ann Drive -
Interest/Reappointment

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to reappoint Anthony Murgo to the Bristol Planning Board with a term set to expire in April 2027

G3. Christmas Festival Committee 2024-2025

- a. Annette M. Campbell, 106 Cedar Avenue, Portsmouth, Interest/Appointment
- b. Kevin Deeb, 12 Third School Street - Interest/Appointment
- c. Danielle Hill, 1362 Hope Street - Interest/Appointment
- d. recommendation - David Scarpino, Chairman of Christmas Committee, to appoint Annette Campbell and Kevin Deeb
- e. recommendation - David Scarpino, Chairman of Christmas Committee, to appoint Danielle Hill

Teixeira/Parella- voted unanimously in favor of the slate of candidates for the ensuing term based on the recommendation of the Chair.

G4. Recreation Board (one 3-year term set to expire February 2027)

a. Joseph P. Bruno, 44 Sandra Court - Interest/Appointment

b. Michael Tomaselli, 4 Dixon Avenue - Interest/Appointment

Sweeney/Teixeira - Voted unanimously to instruct the Clerk to set a special meeting for interviews to be held at the convenience of the parties

G5. Bristol 250th Commission (3 council appointments set to expire December 2027)

a. Warren Rensehausen, 112 Church Street - Interest/Appointment

b. Andrea Rounds, 15 Milk Street - Interest/Appointment

c. William J. Leary, 9 Patricia Ann Drive - Interest/Appointment

d. Douglas ORoak, 513 Wood Street, Apt 3 - Interest/Appointment

e. Michael Rielly, 21 Sandy Lane - Interest/Appointment

Parella/Ley- Voted unanimously to continue the matter to the next council meeting of May 8, 2024, and also consider a revised resolution to the Bristol 250th Commission to to increase the number of council appointees from three to five.

Prior to the vote being taken, members of the council noted that since the committee was established by resolution and not by charter, they would consider revising the resolution to include all applicants, given the significant interest expressed.

G6. Capital Project Commission (one 5-year term set to expire May 2029)

a. Donald R. Hemond - interest/reappointment

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to reappoint Donald R. Hemond to the Capital Project Commission with a term set to expire in May 2029

G7. Bristol County Water Authority (one unexpired term ending February 2025)

a. Richard E. Fournier, Jr., 37 Shore Road - Interest/Appointment

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to appoint Richard E. Fournier to the Bristol County Water Authority with a term set to expire in February 2025

G8. Assistant Harbormaster (part-time) (one 1-year term set to expire January 2025)

a. Donald Fitting, 10 Woburn Street - Interest/Reappointment

b. recommendation - Harbor Master request to reappoint Donald Fitting, as Part-time Assistant Harbormaster

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to reappoint Donald Fitting as a part-time Assistant Harbor Master with a term set to expire in January 2025

G9. Bristol Board of Canvassers (modification of position appointments)

a. recommendation - Thomas Carroll, Chairman of the Republican Town Committee

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to modify the position of Peter Hewit to the full member with a term to expire March 2026 and Michale Smith to an Alternate member with a term set to expire in March 2026.

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro noted that the current full Republican member, Michael Smith, had requested to step down to the alternate position, while the current alternate, Peter Hewit, had expressed interest in serving as the full member. The recommendation was made by the Republican Town Committee Chair to elevate Mr. Hewit to the full member position and appoint Mr. Smith as the alternate member.

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 volunteered 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. Chairman Calouro emphasized the importance of their selfless efforts in helping to shape and enhance the town's governance. On behalf of himself and the members of the council, he extended a heartfelt thank you to all those who dedicated their time and expertise to the collective well-being of the community.

H. Old Business

H1. Director of Community Development Williamson re (draft) Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update - 2024 **(Continued from 10/4/2023)**

a. copy of (draft) Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Teixeira/Ley- Voted unanimously to adopt this plan and to authorize the Community Development Department to forward same to FEMA and REMA.

Prior to the vote being taken, Town Planner Tanner highlighted that the council had previously reviewed the hazard plan and had already adopted the 2024 plan. He explained that after adoption, the plan is sent to FEMA and REMA for final approval and comments. Ed Tanner, Town Planner, mentioned that minor comments and corrections had been made, but nothing substantial.

Members of the council thanked the town departments for all of their work and hard efforts that were made to provide a thorough hazard mitigation plan.

I. Other New Business Requiring Town Council Action

- I1.** Bristol Firemen's Memorial and Welfare Committee request for support of 69th Annual Fundraiser and Program Book

Teixeira/Ley- Voted unanimously to appropriate \$250 from the Town Council Contingency account in support of this program and to purchase two full-page ads sponsored by the Town Council, Town Administrator, and Town Clerk.

- I2.** Bristol Conservation Commission re 35th Annual Keep Bristol Clean, April 27, 2024, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to receive and file

Toni Mortinin and Jay Masciel from the conservation commission addressed the council. They reported that the commission had received a \$750 microgrant from the Governor's office and a \$200 donation from Baycoast Bank. They announced that the annual cleanup day would start at the DPW and encouraged public participation. Gloves and trash bags will be provided, along with a list of suggested cleanup locations. Although the event will run for three hours starting at 9 AM, participants are not required to stay the entire time. Any assistance would be appreciated, and the event will proceed rain or shine. Dunkin' Donuts has donated coffee and doughnuts for the participants.

- I3.** Public Notice from CRMC, re Douglas & Kathryn O'Brien, 461 Poppasquash Road, requires response by April 14, 2024

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Harbor Master

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to receive and file

I4. Public Notice from CRMC, re Town of Bristol c/o Steven Contente, Thames Street, requires response by April 25, 2024

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Harbor Master

Teixeira/Sweeney - Voted
unanimously to receive and file

I5. Public Notice from CRMC, re Jeanine & Daniel McConaghy, 135 Kickemuit Avenue, requires response by April 18, 2024

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Harbor Master

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development

Sweeney/Teixeira - Voted
unanimously to receive and file

I6. Public Notice from CRMC, re Town of Bristol c/o Steven Contente, Sherman Avenue, requires response by April 27, 2024

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Harbor Master

Teixeira/Sweeney - Voted
unanimously to receive and file

I7. Town Administrator Contente re Town Christmas Light expenditure and options

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted
unanimously to receive and file.

Prior to the vote being taken, Town Administrator Contente introduced DPW general maintenance crew members Paul Mello and Mark Grey. He explained to the council that RI Energy had removed some town trees in early fall due to disease. In partnership with the State, the town is in the process of replanting new trees. Some of the removed trees had circuitry for the seasonal Christmas lights, which were originally installed in the 1950s. The DPW and the electrical inspector are working together to repair this circuitry. The intent was to utilize unused snow and ice removal funds for the cost of the project.

Paul Mello, GMO with the DPW, presented the council with a proposal to update and correct the electrical and lighting systems for the seasonal Christmas lights in the downtown area. He explained that the wiring, initially installed in the 1950s, had been used for hanging garlands and Christmas trees with lights, some of which played music. Since 1987, the town started stringing lights in the downtown area. The same electrical wiring is still in use today and has endured many storms, bad weather, natural elements, and its proximity to the harbor. What was once up to code no longer meets today's standards. Over the years, there has been significant damage and many repairs made to the electrical system, posing safety issues. They propose replacing 1,500 feet of wiring from Bradford Street to Church Street to bring it up to code. The new system will include updated timers, and they will use LED lights that last longer and save on electricity.

There are two types of LED holiday lights being proposed, both displayed on Lower State Street: one in front of the Hot Point Sign and the other in front of the Nest. The bulbs are slightly larger than previous versions used. Proposed were C7 bulbs in soft white/antique frosted, and the other type is an opticore light with diamond cuts. The light cost estimate is approximately \$12,000, not including the electrical project.

Town Administrator Contente noted that he wanted the public to be aware of the change from smaller bulbs to larger replaceable bulbs. There are two trees in the downtown area displaying the two options, and he thought it would be nice for the council and the public to weigh in on their preference. A survey will be placed on the town's website for voting.

Discussions followed about extending the locations of the holiday lights display, noting that this could be done at a later date if the council chooses to.

There were also discussions about the holiday snowflakes. The original snowflake was created by an artist in Boston who superimposed a photo of a snowflake on wire netting. It was determined to be about 30 years old, having suffered damage and exposure to the elements. It was noted that there was a second snowflake. It was noted that structurally the snowflake was fine however, it needed light repairs.

18. Town Administrator Contente Recommendation for Reorganization of Police Department Rank Structure

Teixeira/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to approve the reorganization of the police department rank structure as presented in the amended recommendation that was marked received at meeting.

Prior to the vote, Clerk Cordeiro informed the council of a late item that had been received, noting a correction in the reorganization structure recommendation provided by the administrator. The correction clarified that the increase in the current supervisory ranks was by two positions, not one as initially listed.

Town Administrator Contente reminded the council that the reorganization rank structure had been discussed in detail during the council budget meetings. He emphasized that the changes included an increase of two supervisors, with no increase in full-time personnel. He explained that the adjustments in ranks would allow for more supervision on each shift. The benefits of this change would include savings on overtime and, most importantly, an increase in supervision.

It was noted that the rank changes would take effect in July to accommodate time for examinations and procedural requirements.

Discussions ensued regarding the effects on pension systems.

I9. Bond Counsel re Reimbursement and Borrowing Resolutions for up to \$2,660,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2024 of Town Council

Teixeira/Sweeney -Voted unanimously to adopt the Borrowing Resolution as presented.

Prior to the vote, Bond Counsel Sandra Mack addressed the council, highlighting the reimbursements and borrowing resolution. She noted that the resolution aimed to support capital projects for roads, sidewalks, drainage, and open space.

Discussions then ensued regarding various aspects, including the cost of issuance, direct purchase, public sales, and the closing schedule.

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 #1042 Walley School Exterior Doors

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

Prior to the vote taken, the Clerk read the following bids:

- Westway Construction in the amount of \$116,000.00

K. Special Reports

K1. Bristol County Water Authority Tri-Town Monthly Report Summary of Notable Activities and Reports

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

L. Town Solicitor

M. Executive Sessions

- M1. Town Administrator Contente Request for Executive Session Pursuant to RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(5) - Open Space Acquisition

Teixeira/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to convene in Executive Session pursuant to RIGL Section 42-46-5 (a) (5) concerning the Acquisition of Open Space at 9:31 PM.

Sweeney/Teixiera - Voted unanimously to resume open session and seal the minutes of the Executive Session at 9:41PM.

Town Solicitor Ursillo announced that a motion was made and a 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. Bristol Fire Department Board of Engineers Meeting Minutes, April 1, 2024
- (CA) AA2. Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes, January 23, 2024
- (CA) AA3. Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes, February 1, 2024
- (CA) AA4. Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes, March 5, 2024
- (CA) AA5. Zoning Board of Review Meeting Minutes, March 4, 2024
- (CA) AA6. Bristol Planning Board Meeting Minutes, February 8, 2024

(CA) AA7. Town of Bristol Housing Authority Minutes, March 14, 2024

(CA) BB. Budget Adjustments

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

(CA) BB1. Tax Assessor DiMeo re Recommended Abatements and Additions for April - 2024

(CA) CC. Financial Reports

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

(CA) DD. Proclamations, Resolutions & Citations

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

(CA) DD1. Resolution Bristol Fourth of July Celebration - 2024

Sweeney/Teixeira- voted
unanimously to receive and file.

Prior to the vote being taken Councilman Texeira provided some additional information the the Fourth of July celebrations noting that the Chief Marahall announcement was scheduled for April 30, 2024; the May breakfast was scheduled for May 19th, and that the Town Administrator was currently working on maintaining the area where the Orage Crate Durby was to take place.

(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) FF1. Town of North Smithfield Public Schools Resolution Healthy School Meals for All/Universal Free School Meals

(CA) FF2. North Smithfield Public School Resolution Funding Formula

(CA) FF3. Town of Burrillville Resolution in opposition to House Bill 2024-H 7763 and Senate Bill 2024-S 2679 relating to Public Records - Access to Public Records Act

(CA) GG. Distributions/Communications

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

(CA) GG1. Town Administrator Contente to Representative Stephen M. Casey, Chairman House Municipal Government and Housing Committee re Bill H-7981 - relating to Towns and Cities - Zoning Ordinances

(CA) GG2. Letter to Bristol Senators and Representatives re Town Council Resolution and Proposed Legislative Amendment (Senior Tax Exemptions)

(CA) GG3. Town Administrator Contente to F&S Electric, Inc. Fredrick Souza re Bid #1040 Walley School Electrical

(CA) GG4. Town Administrator Contente to Tempotec Mechanical LLC re Bid #1039 Walley School Mechanical

(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 County Water Authority Personnel Committee Meeting, March 27, 2024

(CA) HH2. Bristol County Water Authority Board of Directors Meeting, March 27, 2024

(CA) HH3. Conservation Commission Meeting, April 2, 2024

(CA) HH4. Town of Bristol Storm Water Annual Reports for Permit Year 20 (2023)

(CA) HH5. Harbor Commission Meeting, April 1, 2024

(CA) HH6. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Pickleball Meeting, April 9, 2024

- (CA) HH7. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Cultural Night Meeting, April 9, 2024
- (CA) HH8. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Ball Meeting, April 9, 2024
- (CA) HH9. Planning Board Meeting, April 11, 2024
- (CA) HH10. Town of Bristol Housing Authority Meeting, April 11, 2024
- (CA) HH11. Recreation Board Meeting, April 10, 2024
- (CA) HH12. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Souvenir Sub Committee Meeting, April 16, 2024
- (CA) HH13. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Pageant Sub-Committee Meeting, April 16, 2024
- (CA) HH14. Capital Projects Commission Meeting, April 23, 2024

(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) 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 Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilman Teixeira and voted unanimously, the Chairman declared this meeting to be adjourned at 9:41 pm.

Melissa Cordeiro
Council Clerk

DRAFT