

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING- MARCH 27, 2024

The council met on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, and called to order at 6:30 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

6:30 Public Service Interviews

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

It is hereby noted for the record that the Council agreed, by consensus, to consider this matter for a vote after all interviews have been conducted.

a. Douglas O'Roak, 513 Wood St, Apt 3 (interest/appointment)

The Council heard from Mr. O'Roak who expressed his interest in becoming a member of the Bristol 250th Commission. Discussions ensued between members of the Council and Mr. O'Roak pertaining to Mr. O'Roak's qualifications and experiences. Mr. O'Roak also stated why he would consider himself to be a good fit for the position.

b. William Jude Leary, 9 Patricia Ann Dr. (interest/appointment)

The Council heard from Mr. Leary who expressed his interest in becoming a member of the Bristol 250th Commission. Discussions ensued between members of the Council and Mr. Leary pertaining to Mr. Leary's qualifications and experiences. Mr. Leary also stated why he would consider himself to be a good fit for the position.

c. Michael Reilly, 21 Sandy Lane (interest/appointment)

The Council heard from Mr. Leary who expressed his interest in becoming a member of the Bristol 250th Commission. Discussions ensued between members of the Council and Mr. Leary pertaining to Mr. Leary's qualifications and experiences. Mr. Leary also stated why he would consider himself to be a good fit for the position.

d. Memo - Clerk Cordeiro re Public Service Interviews - Bristol 250th Commission

7:00 PM Regular Order of Business

VOTE ON PROVISIONAL BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

Teixeira/Ley- Voted unanimously to adopt the 2024-2025 Provisional Budget as follows:

Schedule A - (\$62,656,756)

Schedule B - (\$1,399,000) [incl. in Sched. A]

Schedule C - (\$7,093,845)

Totaling - \$69,750,601

Advertise in the local newspaper and forward same for the Public Hearing to be held on April 15, 2024.

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 - February 28, 2024

Sweeney/Teixeira - Voted unanimously to approve these minutes as prepared and presented.

B. Public Hearings

C. Ordinances

- C1.** Ordinance #2024-05 Chapter 16 Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article V. Stopping, Standing and Parking, Sec. 16-143 Parking prohibited at all times (to add one no parking space adjacent to the driveway at 45 Congregational Street) **(2nd Reading)**

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the Second Reading for the adoption of Ordinance #2024-05. Advertise in the local newspaper

- C2.** Ordinance #2024-06 Chapter 27, Article I Taxation, Sec. 27-7 Exemptions of persons over the age of 65 years and Sec. 27-9 Entitlements and amounts **(2nd Reading)**

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the Second Reading for the adoption of Ordinance #2024-06. Advertise in the local newspaper

- C3.** Ordinance #2024-07 Chapter 27 Taxation, Sec. 27-9 Entitlements and amounts (amendments to the hardship exemption) **(2nd Reading)**

Teixeira/ Sweeney- Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the Second Reading for the adoption of Ordinance #2024-07. Advertise in the local newspaper

C4. Ordinance #2024-08 Chapter 8 - Boats, Docks and Waterways, Sec. 8-71. Insurance requirement for Town marina (1st Reading)

Teixeira/Sweeney- Motioned to consider this action to constitute the first reading of Ordinance #2024-08.
Advertise in the local newspaper.
Voting in favor were Council Chairman Calouro, Councilman Ley, Teixeira, and Sweeney. Abstaining was Parrella.
Motion Passed

Prior to the vote being taken, Vice Chairwoman Parella highlighted that during the previous meeting, she had raised concerns regarding the impact of liability insurance requirements on waterfront fishermen and commercial workers. She had specifically requested data on who currently holds insurance, who encounters challenges in obtaining it, and the potential consequences of this requirement. Emphasizing the importance of safeguarding these workers' interests, she expressed disappointment at the absence of this information. Vice Chairwoman Parella also noted that she had understood that the implementation of liability insurance for commercial fishermen was to be phased in.

Councilman Sweeney clarified that the implementation would indeed be phased, with recreational boaters affected within 30 days of passage and commercial boaters within 180 days to allow adequate preparation.

Vice Chairwoman Parella reiterated the need for comprehensive data, particularly from a survey of commercial fishermen.

Harbor Master Marsilli informed the council that John McDonald, a commercial fisherman, had been tasked with gathering this information but was not aware it was to be presented at the current meeting. He stated that Mr. McDonald planned to have it ready for the second reading.

Harbor Master Marsilli also committed to addressing the matter at the upcoming April 1 harbor commission meeting. Vice Chairwoman Parella requested that once the information is compiled, it be shared with the council before the next meeting for thorough review.

C5. Ordinance #2024-09 Chapter 17 - 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) **(1st Reading)**

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the first reading of Ordinance #2024-09. Advertise in the local newspaper.

D. Licensing Board - New Petitions

D1. Bristol Merchants Association request for One-Day Dancing & Entertainment License(s) per the 2024 Event Schedule **(also see F2)**

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

Sweeney/Parella-Voted unanimously to grant this license(s) 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; contingent to organizers to coordinate trash management with the Director of DPW and organizer staff be designated to empty the trash barrels during the event.

Prior to the vote being taken, Councilman Teixeira highlighted that the Director of Public Works had recommended event organizers collaborate with the DPW to manage trash effectively.

Town Administrator Contente added to the discussion, suggesting that the motion should stipulate that a member of the event staff be designated to empty the trash barrels during the event, as they tend to overflow when events are busy. He emphasized the

importance of this proactive measure to maintain cleanliness. Furthermore, he assured the council that the town would arrange for trash pickup the morning after the events to ensure proper sanitation.

D2. Tracy Anthony, Trale Bristol, Inc. d/b/a Clements Marketplace, 1150 Hope Street, request for Victualling License

- a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief
- b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police
- c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Pretreatment Coordinator, Water Pollution Control
- d. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development

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, Tracy Anthony residing at 25 Brenton Road, Swansea, addressed the council. Ms. Anthony furnished the council with information regarding Clements Market's arrival in Bristol. Council members extended their best wishes and congratulations to them. They acknowledged the esteemed reputation and helpfulness of Clements Market staff. Furthermore, it was noted that Sebra Market, which occupied the premises being taken over by Clements, had been in operation for 24 years. Clements Market has been collaborating with them to identify the most popular Portuguese items, ensuring continuity in offering these products to customers.

D3. DeWolf Tavern Annual Oyster Festival, July 21, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. request for Dancing & Entertainment License, Extension of one-day Liquor License, and placement of two banners.

- a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development

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; and to refer to the Town Administrator and DPW to work with the petitioner on the placement of banners.

Prior to the vote being taken, Sherry Rego, residing at 1 Meadow Crest Drive, addressed the council and outlined the details of the Annual Oyster Festival. She mentioned that the funds raised would be to sponsor Child & Family Services of Rhode Island.

D4. DeWolf Tavern, 259 Thames Street, request for Mobile Food Establishment Event Permit for the annual Oyster Festival on July 21, 2024, from 11 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

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

Prior to the vote being taken it was clarified that the food trucks being utilized would not be serving food but rather lemonade trucks and Ice Cream trucks, thus avoiding competition with local food vendors and event food sales.

D5. Rosa Paiva, St. Elizabeth's Church, 577 Wood Street, United Brotherhood Committee request for One-Day

Dancing & Entertainment License for a Live Auction on May 18, 2024, 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

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

D6. Rosa Paiva, St. Elizabeth's Church, 577 Wood Street, United Brotherhood Committee request for One-Day Dancing & Entertainment License(s) on May 24, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m., May 25, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. and May 26, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

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

D7. Rosa Paiva, St. Elizabeth's Church, Santo Christo Committee request for One-Day Dancing & Entertainment License(s) on May 31, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m., June 1, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. and June 2, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

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

D8. George Burman, 2nd Wind Foundation, request for Dancing & Entertainment License at Maritime Center building for a benefit folk concert on May 4, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. **(also see F4)**

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

*Teixeira/ Sweeney - Voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business to consider agenda item F4 at this time.

*It is hereby noted for the record that discussion and action concerning agenda item F4 appear, in place, as found within.

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, George Burman residing at 66 Highland Road, addressed the council and provided the details of the event. He asked for council consideration to have the town reach out to SeaStreak Ferries to be brought back to Bristol, especially during the time of the event to assist in transporting people from Providence to Bristol. Mr. Burman also

suggested that he would feel comfortable in having police presence at the event.

Councilman Teixeira highlighted the recommendation made by the DPW to ensure that sufficient trash and recycling receptacles are in place during the event.

E. Licensing Board - Renewals

E1. Jennifer Medina, Carvalho Group LLC, d/b/a Pisco y Tequila Bistro, 382 Thames Street, Unit 1 re 6-month review

- a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

Sweeney/Teixeira-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

E2. Tattoo License Renewals 2024-2025

- a. recommendation from Town Administrator and Director of Community Development
- b. recommendation from 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

E3. Cesspool License Renewals 2024-2025

- a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Superintendent of Water Pollution Department

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

E4. Alicia V. Saldana, Qhali, 34 Gooding Avenue, re 6-month review and request for Class BV Liquor License

- a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief
- b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police
- c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development

Sweeney/Teixeira-Voted unanimously to refer the matter to the Town Solicitor to draft an ordinance for one additional Class BV Liquor License for council consideration on April 17, 2024; and schedule the public hearing for the May 8, 2024, council meeting.

Prior to the vote being taken, Alicia Saldana, owner of the business establishment addressed the council and provided them with an overview of the progress of her new business and asked the council for consideration to consider elevating her limited liquor license to a full liquor license.

F. Petitions - Other

F1. Joao Medeiros, 577 Wood Street - re modification of accessible parking designation **(2nd Reading)**
(continued from February 28, 2024)

- a. (draft) Resolution

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to consider this action to be the second

reading for the adoption of the resolution for an accessible parking space. Inform the Public Works Department.

F2. Bristol Merchants Association request for Approval of Event Schedule for 2024 **(also see D1)**

- a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief
- b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police
- c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to approve the petition per the recommendations received and conditions, if any, as delineated and subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances.

F3. Resolution - Bristol Fourth of July Celebration - 2024

* Sweeney/Teixeira - Voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business to combine agenda item I2 with F3.

**It is hereby noted for the record that discussion and action pertaining to both agenda items F3 and I2 have been consolidated, and agenda item I2 follows the same motion as F3.*

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to adopt this resolution and provide a copy to the Administration for distribution to all departments

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro noted that agenda item F3 also appeared on the agenda as item I2, stating that the item had been inadvertently duplicated on the agenda.

F4. George Burman, 2nd Wind Foundation, request to sell and serve alcoholic beverages at the Maritime Center for a Benefit Folk Concert and BBQ on May 4, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. **(also see D8)**

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Harbor Master

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development

d. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

e. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

Teixeira/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to approve the petition per the recommendations received and subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies

F5. Bristol Police Department Invitation to Town Council and Council Support for the 2nd Annual Battle of the Badges Charity Softball Game on June 6, 2024, starts at 6:00 p.m.

Teixeira/Ley- Voted unanimously to appropriate \$1500 from the Town Council Contingency account in support of this program

Prior to the vote being taken, Officer Correia addressed the council and provided a highlight of the Battle of the Badges event. Noting that last year's proceeds of over \$10,000 were distributed towards supporting local initiatives such as Bristol Youth Sports and summer camp programs. He asked for the council's consideration and continued support.

Councilman Teixeira proposed appropriating \$1500 to the event.

G. Appointments

G1. Board of Canvassers (1 (D) term set to expire March 2030)

a. Frances C. O'Donnell, 68 Franklin Street -
Interest/Reappointment

b. recommendation - Erich Haslehurst, Chairman,
Bristol Democratic Town Committee

Teixeira/Parella- Voted unanimously to
reappoint Frances C. O'Donnell to the
Board of Canvassers with a term set to
expire in March 2030

G2. Bristol County Water Authority (1 unexpired term set
to expire February 2025)

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

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

(move agenda Item)

*Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to
suspend the regular order of business
to consider agenda item I1 at this
time.

*It is hereby noted for the record that discussion and action
concerning agenda item I1 appear, in place, as found within.

H. Old Business

H1. Draft Resolution in Support of Legislation Amending
the Town of Bristol's Real Estate Tax Exemption for
Persons Over the Age of Sixty-five (65) Years to
Require that Eligible Properties be Owned and Occupied

by Said Persons for a Period of Twenty (20) Years
(continued from February 28, 2024)

Teixeira/ Parella- Motioned to approve the legislation for Real Estate Tax Exemption for Persons Over the Age of Sixty-five (65) Years to Require that Eligible Properties be Owned and Occupied by Said Persons for a Period of Twenty (20) Years and to authorize the Clerk to send to the General Assembly a resolution in support of same. Voting in favor was Calouro, Parella, and Teixeira. Voting opposed was Sweeney and Ley.

Prior to the vote being taken Tax Assessor Dimeo provided an overview of the proposed senior tax exemption. She outlined her process, indicating that she had compiled a list of senior residents currently benefiting from the exemption and assessed the duration of homeownership for each individual. Noting that out of the 1,800 seniors documented receiving the exemption, approximately 1,300 had owned their homes for more than 20 years.

Tax Assessor Dimeo noted that the recent adoption of the elderly exemption increase, of \$50 per tier, incurring an annual cost of \$94,000. Tax Assessor Dimeo highlighted her research into the number of new seniors applying for the exemption over the past five years, noting a range of 20 to 50 applicants annually. However, in 2024, there was a significant uptick, with the town receiving 150 new applications.

She explained that in recent discussions, the town's objective was to offer a more substantial and impactful exemption that would be cost-effective and not place undue burden on the town. To achieve this goal, she reviewed residency requirements in other cities and towns throughout the state. The proposal presented included a 20-year residency requirement, which would enable an increase in the exemption while ensuring its feasibility. She noted that a Chart was provided to the council that displayed the current number of seniors by age and the number of years they have owned their homes to help show the effect a residency requirement would have on the senior exemption.

Councilman Sweeney raised concerns about the potential financial impact and sustainability of the proposed senior tax exemption. He questioned whether the town had thoroughly considered the long-term costs associated with the exemption, especially as the population continues to age.

Tax Assessor Dimeo responded by referencing recent census data indicating a projected 20% increase in the senior population over the next decade. She highlighted the significant rise in applications for the exemption, from 27 in the previous fiscal year to 127 in the current year. She emphasized that this surge in applications could pose challenges in sustaining the cost of the exemption, which prompted the proposal of the residency requirement as a means of managing the influx and ensuring the program's viability.

Councilman Sweeney expressed his reservations about the proposed 20-year residency requirement. He emphasized his desire to support seniors and attract more to the town, highlighting their contributions through volunteering and boosting the local economy. Sweeney suggested shifting towards an income-based approach to target those seniors most in need of assistance.

Councilman Sweeney questioned whether the current proposal would effectively aid those in need, particularly considering affluent residents who might not benefit significantly. He proposed considering an income threshold, suggesting that seniors earning below a certain amount would receive a higher exemption, while higher earners would receive a standard exemption of \$250.

Councilman Sweeney emphasized the importance of directing support to those who truly require it, rather than providing blanket exemptions to wealthier seniors. Councilman Sweeney sought clarification on whether an income-based system would better achieve this objective and provide more meaningful assistance to those in need.

Tax Assessor Dimeo responded by referencing the workshop where she presented census data detailing the income levels of seniors in the town. She acknowledged that this approach would involve a more intricate discussion. If the council wished to maintain the current exemption of up to \$300 per individual and additionally introduce a separate exemption for seniors with lower incomes, it would likely require a separate ordinance.

Vice Chairwoman Parella acknowledged Councilman Sweeney's suggestion to explore means testing further as a potential solution. She emphasized the importance of incorporating

residency requirements to support long-standing residents, particularly given the rising property values in the area.

Vice Chairwoman Parella recognized the necessity of implementing residency requirements to ensure the sustainability of the program. However, she also expressed a belief that more could be done to address the needs of long-standing residents who may not benefit from the current framework.

Vice Chairwoman Parella acknowledged the high-earning seniors may not need the exemption but stressed the importance of finding the right balance. While uncertain about the exact duration of residency required, she viewed the proposed 20-year requirement as a positive initial step in the right direction.

Councilman Teixeira motioned to approve the proposed legislation for Real Estate Tax Exemption for Persons Over the Age of Sixty-five (65) Years to Require that Eligible Properties be Owned and Occupied by Said Persons for a Period of Twenty (20) Years.

Councilman Ley acknowledged the hard work put in by the Tax Assessor to provide all the relevant information.

Councilman Ley reiterated the primary objective of the discussion, which was centered around affordability. He outlined two potential models under consideration: a residency requirement, an income requirement, or a combination of both. Councilman Ley expressed concerns that solely implementing a residency requirement might not effectively target affordability and could inadvertently exclude struggling seniors who haven't met the residency threshold.

When asked about other communities in Rhode Island with income-eligible senior exemptions, Tax Assessor Dimeo confirmed that 13 communities utilized the income-based exemption. Councilman Ley suggested that adopting a similar approach could align with the goal of affordability. He noted that implementing an income-based exemption would ensure that seniors with substantial retirements or financial means may still receive the standard tax exemption they qualify for under current laws. Also noting that he only saw one other community that utilized a 20-year residency requirement.

Councilman Ley expressed apprehension that imposing strict residency requirements might send the wrong message, potentially deterring seniors from relocating to the area if they fall short

of the specified residency threshold and that he didn't think he can support the 20 year residence requirement.

Tax Assessor Dimeo reminded the members of the council that the Town of Bristol also offers hardship exemptions that seniors may also qualify for.

Discussions ensued regarding census data.

Councilman Teixeira noted that two recent ordinances have passed addressing hardships and exemptions. He expressed his belief that the majority of constituents he interacts with are long-standing residents who have faced these issues and that he is in support of the residency requirement.

Discussions ensued regarding the terms and definitions of residency and various residency scenarios.

Chairman Calouro reiterated that the focus of the discussion was on considering the draft resolution supporting legislation, emphasizing that the council cannot enact it independently. State legislation is necessary for implementation, requiring the support of state legislators.

Chairman Calouro acknowledged Councilman Sweeney's earlier initiative regarding potential income requirements, deeming it a relevant discussion as they deliberate on the implementation process.

Chairman Calouro reminded the council of previous legislative changes enabling a three-tiered system, intended for future discussion and for implementation in the subsequent year's budget.

Chairman Calouro expressed support for the residency requirement, stressing the importance of earning privileges over time, using an analogy of time requirements for employment benefits. He highlighted the council's collective goal of aiding elderly residents to remain in their homes, emphasizing the value of longstanding community contributions.

Chairman Calouro expressed openness to considering the need for income requirements but cautioned against the complexity of implementation. He highlighted the complexity of assessing individuals' income levels, emphasizing the potential for discrepancies where someone may appear to have little income yet possess significant wealth. He clarified that Councilman Sweeney's proposal stems from a genuine desire to allocate resources where they are most needed, based on demonstrated need.

However, Chairman Calouro admitted uncertainty regarding the implementation of such a system and raised concerns about the additional resources it might require. He stressed the importance of not diverting funds from supporting seniors to administrative tasks. Despite these reservations, he affirmed his support for the residency requirement, particularly the proposed 20-year duration, aligning with the council's commitment to assisting longstanding community members.

I. Other New Business Requiring Town Council Action

11. Clerk Cordeiro re Appointment of Deputy Town Clerk

Ley/Parella -Voted unanimously to ratify the Clerk's appointment of Carla DaCosta to the position of Deputy Town Clerk.

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro expressed great enthusiasm as she introduced her appointment of the new deputy town clerk, Carla DaCosta. She explained that Mrs. DaCosta was a lifelong resident of Bristol, and brings a wealth of experience to the role, with over 25 years of combined experience as an executive assistant and in human resources.

Clerk Cordeiro noted that Mrs. DaCosta has been actively involved in the community, participating in organizations such as the Rockwell Parent Teachers Association and the Fourth of July Committee. Notably, Carla's grandfather, Orlando Bisbano, served as a Town Clerk from 1969 to 1984, and his portrait overlooks her as she takes on this role, symbolizing his enduring presence and support.

Supporting Mrs. DaCosta in her new role was her wife, Betty, her daughter Jessica—who eagerly anticipated witnessing her mother's swearing-in ceremony—and her sister, Joanna. With the Council's approval, Clerk Cordeiro requested ratification of Carla DaCosta's appointment as deputy town clerk.

At this point in the meeting, Clerk Cordeiro administered the oath of office to Deputy DaCosta.

Members of the Council and Town Administration congratulated Mrs. DaCosta on her new appointment.

12. Resolution - Bristol Fourth of July Celebration- 2024

**It is hereby noted for the record that discussion and action pertaining to both agenda items F3 and I2 have been consolidated, and agenda item I2 follows the same motion as F3.*

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to adopt this resolution and provide a copy to the Administration for distribution to all departments

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 #1038 Walley School Plumbing

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to refer this matter to the Town Administrator and the Director of Parks and Recreation 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 \$367,336.00

J2. Bid #1039 Walley School Mechanical

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

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

- Temptec Mechanical, LLC in the amount of \$594,823.00

J3. Bid #1040 Walley School Electrical

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

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

- East Bay Power, LLC in the amount of \$\$360,250.00
 - (deduct alternate - \$15,950.00)
- Kelly Electric, LLC in the amount of \$405,000.00
 - (deduct alternate - \$5,000)
- F7S Electric, Inc in the amount of \$314,500
 - (deduct alternate - \$8,000)

J4. Bid #1041 Portable Toilets for 239th Fourth of July Celebration

Teixeira/Parella- 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.

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

- The Throne Depot with the per unit cost amount of \$387.00
 - Cost Per Regular Unit: \$79.00
 - Cost Per Handicap Unit: \$79.00
 - Cost Per Multipurpose Unit: \$79.00
 - Cost Per Daily Cleaning: \$22.00
- Hallman's Septic and Portable Toilets, LLC with the per unit cost amount of \$270.00
 - Cost Per Regular Unit: \$60.00
 - Cost Per Handicap Unit: \$135.00
 - Cost Per Multipurpose Unit: \$250.00
 - Cost Per Daily Cleaning: \$15.00 (per unit)
- United site Services Northeast, Inc with the per unit cost amount of \$498.00
 - Cost Per Regular Unit: \$78.00
 - Cost Per Handicap Unit: \$114.00
 - Cost Per Multipurpose Unit: \$135.00
 - Cost Per Daily Cleaning: \$30.00 (per unit)

K. Special Reports

- K1.** Juan Mariscal, Chairman, Bristol County Water Authority, Tri-Town Monthly Report, February 22, 2024

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

L. Town Solicitor

M. Executive Sessions

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. Capital Projects Committee Meeting Minutes, January 23, 2024
- (CA) AA2. Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes, February 12, 2024
- (CA) AA3. Board of Fire Engineers Meeting Minutes, March 4, 2024
- (CA) AA4. Zoning Board of Review Meeting Minutes, February 5, 2024
- (CA) AA5. Rogers Free Library, Board of Trustees Minutes, January 18, 2024

(CA) BB. Budget Adjustments

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

(CA) CC. Financial Reports

- (CA) CC1. CC1. Town Treasurer Hassell re - Revenue and Expenditure Statement - June 30, 2024

(CA) DD. Proclamations, Resolutions & Citations

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

- (CA) DD1. Citation to Genevieve Marszalek upon the occasion of her 110th birthday

(CA) EE. Utility Petitions

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

- (CA) EE1. Narragansett Electric request to install underground facilities on Burton Street

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

(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 Charlestown Resolution in Opposition to any Revival of the Old Saybrook to Kenyon Bypass

- (CA) FF2. Town of Charleston Resolution in Support of Amendments to RIGL 45-24-38 General Provisions-Substandard Lots of Record

- (CA) FF3. Town of Warren - Resolution - In opposition to H 7983

- (CA) FF4. Bristol Warren Regional School Committee Resolution - Funding Formula A

- (CA) FF5. Resolution recognizing Bristol BookFest Weekend, April 5 & 6, 2024

- (CA) FF6. Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee-Resolution in Support of Full Funding of Categorical Transportation Aid as outlined in RIGL 16-7.2-6

- (CA) FF7. Town of Hopkinton Resolution Opposing HB 7981 Legislation relating to Towns and Cities - Zoning Ordinances

- (CA) FF8. Town of Hopkinton Resolution Opposing S 2018 Legislation Relating to Taxation - Levy and Assessment of Local Taxes
- (CA) FF9. Town of Hopkinton Resolution Opposing H 7683, S 2361 and S 2372 Legislation Relating to Taxation - Real Estate Conveyance Tax
- (CA) FF10. Town of Hopkinton Resolution Opposing HB 7681 Legislation Relating to Towns and Cities - Tax Valuation Freeze on Affordable Housing
- (CA) FF11. Town of Hopkinton Resolution Opposing HB 7651 Legislation Relating to Towns and Cities - Low Income Housing (8% Alternative Tax Rate)
- (CA) FF12. Town of Hopkinton Resolution Opposing HB 7378 Legislation Relating to Towns and Cities - Homestead Exemption
- (CA) FF13. Town of Hopkinton Resolution Opposing HB 7980 Legislation Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles - Mobile and Manufactured Homes
- (CA) FF14. Town of Tiverton Resolution in Support of Fully Funding State Aid to Libraries to the Full Twenty-Five (25%) Percent Level

(CA) GG. Distributions/Communications

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

- (CA) GG1. Town Administrator Contente to Millennium Trailers re Award Bid #1031 Fourth of July Souvenir Trailer
- (CA) GG2. Charles C. Cavalconte, 88 Church Street, Letter of Thanks
- (CA) GG3. Adopted Resolution for FY 2025 State Budget Allocation for Funding Rogers Free Library
- (CA) GG4. Resolution re FY2025 State Budget Allocation for Funding Rogers Free Library - Gov. McKee, Senators and Representatives
- (CA) GG5. Town Administrator Contente to Westway Construction Inc. re Award Bid #1036 Walley School Roof Replacement Installation

- (CA) GG6. Town Administrator Contente to Westway Construction Inc. re Award Bid #1036 Walley School Roof Replacement Installation
- (CA) GG7. Town Administrator Contente to New England Building & Bridge (NEBB), Peter Donatelli re Award Bid #1032 Mt. Hope Avenue Drainage Improvements.
- (CA) GG8. Town Administrator to TSL, LLC - Intent to Renew 5-year term as referenced in Lease Agreement for Plat 9, Lot 38
- (CA) GG9. Town Administrator Contente - 2023 Annual Report
- (CA) HH. Distributions/Notice of Meetings**
(Office copy only)
- Approval of consent agenda = "motion to receive and place these items on file"**
- (CA) HH1. Planning Board Public Hearing, March 14, 2024
- (CA) HH2. Planning Board Public Hearing, March 14, 2024
- (CA) HH3. Bristol Fourth of July Committee, Souvenir Sub-Committee Meeting, March 7, 2024
- (CA) HH4. Bristol Fourth of July Committee, Music & Entertainment, Meeting, March 12, 2024
- (CA) HH5. Conservation Commission Meeting, Amended Agenda, March 5, 2024
- (CA) HH6. Harbor Commission Meeting, March 4, 2024
- (CA) HH7. Board of Canvassers Meeting, Amended Agenda, March 11, 2024
- (CA) HH8. Planning Board Meeting, March 14, 2024
- (CA) HH9. Bristol Fourth of July Committee, General Committee Meeting, March 12, 2024
- (CA) HH10. Bristol Fourth of July Committee, Souvenir Sub-Committee Meeting, March 14, 2024
- (CA) HH11. Bristol Fourth of July Committee, Policy Sub-Committee Meeting, March 14, 2024

- (CA) HH12. Bristol Fourth of July Committee, Cornhole Tournament Committee Meeting, March 19, 2024
- (CA) HH13. Technical Review Committee Meeting, March 14th, 2024
- (CA) HH14. Bristol Personnel Board Meeting, March 14, 2024
- (CA) HH15. Bristol Christmas Festival Committee Meeting, March 11, 2024
- (CA) HH16. Technical Review Committee Meeting, March 19, 2024
- (CA) HH17. Technical Review Committee Meeting, March 19, 2024
- (CA) HH18. North and East Burial Grounds Commission Meeting, March 13, 2024
- (CA) HH19. Bristol Fourth of July Committee, Spring Breakfast Sub-Committee Meeting, March 20, 2024
- (CA) HH20. Bristol Fourth of July Committee, Parade Meeting, March 20, 2024
- (CA) HH21. Zoning Board of Review Meeting, April 1, 2024
- (CA) HH22. Bristol Housing Authority Meeting, March 14, 2024
- (CA) HH23. Historic District Commission Meeting, April 4, 2024
- (CA) HH24. Harbor Commission Meeting, March 27, 2024
- (CA) HH25. Rogers Free Library, Board of Trustees Meeting, March 21, 2024
- (CA) HH26. Capital Projects Commission Meeting, March 26, 2024
- (CA) HH27. Bristol Fourth of July Committee, Interfaith Sub-Committee Meeting, March 27, 2024
- (CA) HH28. Bristol Fourth of July Committee, Orange Crate Derby Sub-Committee Meeting, March 27, 2024
- (CA) HH29. Bristol Fourth of July Committee, Souvenir Sub-Committee Meeting, March 28, 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) II1. Anthony Montoya, 484 Thames Street, Claim for Personal Injury

(CA) II2. Joseph S. DeMelo, Jr., 1 Roosevelt Drive, Claim for Damage to Vehicle

(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"

(CA) KK1. Kevin O'Rourke, 232 Wood Street, request for curb cut

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and 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 8:30 pm.

Melissa Cordeiro, Council Clerk