

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES-WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2026

The council met on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 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, Timothy Sweeney
Councilman, Aaron Ley

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator, Steven Contente
Assistant Town Solicitor, Amy Goins, Esq

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Councilman, Antonio "Tony" Teixeira
Town Sergeant, Archie Martins

The Pledge of Allegiance

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

Public Service Interviews and Appointments

Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees - 1 three-year term set to expire January 2029

a. Kaitlyn Carmody, 12 Ellen Street - interested/appointment

The Council heard from Ms. Carmody who expressed her interest in becoming a member of the Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees . Discussions ensued between members of the Council and Ms. Carmody pertaining to Mr. Carmody's qualifications and experiences. Ms. Carmody also stated why she would consider herself to be a good fit for the position.

b. Christina Palmer, 7 Church Cove Road - interested/appointment

The Council heard from Ms. Palmer who expressed her interest in becoming a member of the Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees . Discussions ensued between members of the Council and Ms. Palmer pertaining to Mr. Palmer's qualifications and experiences. Ms. Palmer also stated why she would consider herself to be a good fit for the position.

c. Anne Silvia, Chair Board of Trustees - recommendation for Kaitlyn Carmody

It is hereby noted for the record that the Council agreed, by consensus, to consider this matter for vote at the next council meeting scheduled for July 29, 2026.

Motion RE: Consent Agenda - To Approve the Consent Agenda

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

A. Submission of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

A1. Town Council Meeting Minutes - June 3, 2026

A2. Town Council Executive Session Meeting Minutes
(sealed, council only) - June 3, 2026

Sweeney/Ley - Voted unanimously to approve the minutes of June 3, 2026 and the Executive Session Minutes of June 3, 2026 as prepared and presented.

B. Public Hearings

C. Ordinances

D. Licensing Board - New Petitions

Combining items

* Sweeney/Ley- Voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business to combine agenda items D1, D2, D3, D4, and F1.

It is noted for the record that discussion of these matters occurred under Agenda Item D1; however, any actions taken on each item are separately reflected under their respective agenda headings herein

D1. Maryanne Brandmeier, for The Japan American Society of Rhode Island request for Mobile Food Establishment Event Permit, Black Ships Festival at Rockwell Park on Friday, August 14, 2026, from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (**see also D2, D3, D4, F1**)

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

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

d. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

Sweeney/Ley - 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, Maryanne Brandmeier, representing The Japan American Society of Rhode Island, provided an overview of the upcoming Black Ships Festival and the planned events. She expressed gratitude to the Council and the Town for their ongoing support of the organization and the festival. She noted that events of the detail could be found at blackshipsri.org.

D2. Maryanne Brandmeier, for The Japan American Society of Rhode Island requests a Mobile Food Establishment Event Permit, Black Ships Festival at Independence Park on Saturday, August 15, 2026, from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM (**see also D1, D3, D4, F1**)

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

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

d. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

Sweeney/Ley - 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. Maryanne Brandmeier, The Japan American Society of Rhode Island, request for One-Day Dancing and Entertainment License for Black Ships Festival at Rockwell Park on Friday, August 14, 2026, from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM **(see also D1, D2, D4, F1)**

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

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

Sweeney/Ley - 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. Maryanne Brandmeier, The Japan American Society of Rhode Island, requests a One-Day Dancing and Entertainment License for Black Ships Festival at Independence Park on Saturday, August 15, 2026, from 10:00AM - 3:00 PM **(see also D1, D2, D3, F1)**

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

- b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief
- c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Parks and Recreation

Sweeney/Ley - 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

D5. Karen Binder, Blithewold, 101 Ferry Road, requests modification to Dancing & Entertainment License (modification of hours)

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

Sweeney/Parella- Voted unanimously to grant the modification of hour for 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, Karen Binder appeared before the council regarding the request for a modification of hours. She stated the change is intended to be all-inclusive for events planned throughout the upcoming year and to provide operational flexibility.

D6. Christopher Kerr, Tragmar Ale Works 87-1 Gooding Avenue -request modification to Dancing & Entertainment License (modification of hours)

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

Sweeney/Ley-Voted unanimously to grant the modification of hour for 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 Christopher Kerr appeared before the council regarding the modification. He requested an additional hour of operation to provide scheduling flexibility.

D7. Steve Cavalieri, Cup Defenders Association, 230 Wood Street, requests a modification of the Dancing & Entertainment License (to include Friday)

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

Sweeney-Ley- Voted unanimously to grant the modification of hour for 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 Steve Cavalieri regarding the modification. He stated the request is specifically to accommodate indoor karaoke on Fridays.

D8. Rebecca Ernst, Pivotal Brewing Company, 522 Wood Street, requests modification to Dancing & Entertainment License **(modification of hours)**

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development

Sweeney/Ley- Voted unanimously to grant the modification of hour for 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, petitioner Rebecca Ernst appeared before the council regarding the modification. She stated the request provides flexibility to host events within her regular business hours.

D9. Kyle Olsen, STAR Laundromat, 390 Metacom Avenue request for Public Laundry License **(new ownership)**

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Water Pollution Control

Sweeney/Ley-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

E. Licensing Board - Renewals

E1. Notification of Name Change for Alicia Saldana, Qhali Corporation, 34 Gooding Avenue - from Qhali

Corporation d/b/a Qhali Kitchen to Qhali Corporation
d/b/a Mr. Tito. (Receive and File Only).

Parella/Sweeney -Voted unanimously to
receive and file

Prior to the vote being taken it was reported that the
notification is for a business name change and does not involve
a stock transfer. The item was presented as a courtesy notice to
the Council and the public, requiring no formal approval

E2. Dancing & Entertainment- 2026-2027 License Renewals

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of
Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

Sweeney/Ley Voted unanimously to grant
the renewal of these 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

E3. Public Laundry License Renewals 2026-2027

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of
Community Development

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Water
Pollution Control

c. Recommendation- Town Administrator and Bristol
Police Department

Sweeney/Parella- Voted unanimously to
grant the renewal of these 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

F. Petitions - Other

- F1.** *Nicole Sarault, The Japan American Society of RI, request to fly Japanese Flag during the 43rd Anniversary of the Black Ship's Festival at Independence Park and Rockwell Park on August 14-16, 2026 (**see also D1, D2, D3, D4**)

a. memo from Clerk of Canvassers regarding qualifying signatures received

Sweeney/Ley- Voted unanimously to approve this petition, allowing the "Japan" flag may be flown at Independence Park and Rockwell Park from August 14 until August 16, 2025, with the Town assuming no responsibility for the care of this flag beyond its raising

- F2.** Maria Semeraro-Bellanca, 43 Bayview Avenue, Unit #2F, request for Accessible Parking Space in the Vicinity of Residence (1st reading)

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

Sweeney/Ley- Voted unanimously continue the matter to the July 29, 2026 meeting, constitute as a first reading, and direct staff to review the matter further

Prior to the vote being taken, the Council heard from petitioner Maria Semeraro-Bellanca regarding her request for an accessible parking space. Ms. Semeraro-Bellanca stated that she has a neurological disability with fluctuating symptoms and explained that she previously relied on her son for assistance, but he has since left for college. She noted that off-street parking is limited because the property's driveway requires vehicles to be stacked, which would block other tenants and require cars to be moved frequently. She further stated that the existing accessible parking space in front of the residence is continuously occupied by a neighboring resident.

Police Chief Lynch reviewed the Police Department's initial recommendation to deny the request, noting that there is

currently one designated accessible parking space in front of the residence and another located near 30 Bayview Avenue. He stated that while the driveway could potentially accommodate up to three vehicles, its use may be subject to landlord restrictions.

Vice-Chairwoman Parella requested clarification regarding the number of active accessible parking placard holders in the immediate area to better evaluate the need for an additional space. Police Chief Lynch stated that he was unsure whether the DMV would provide geographically specific information identifying accessible parking placard holders in the area. He indicated that, if such information was unavailable, the Police Department could potentially review Town records to determine whether any existing designated accessible parking spaces had been approved for nearby residents.

The Council also heard from neighboring resident Claire Demarest, who stated that on-street parking on Bayview Avenue is frequently congested due to nearby student housing and visitors. She further noted that the property's driveway is narrow and, according to the landlord, is intended primarily for use during parking bans.

Town Administrator Contente reported that during his site visit, the existing accessible parking space was occupied and that he considered the space at 30 Bayview Avenue to be too far removed from the petitioner's residence to provide practical access. He also stated that the driveway serves primarily as an access lane rather than functional parking and recommended that the Council consider establishing a second accessible parking space in front of 43 Bayview Avenue.

Following discussion, the Council agreed to continue the matter to allow staff to research the number and location of active accessible parking placard holders in the area and further evaluate the existing parking conditions before taking action.

G. Appointments

G1. Historic District Commission - (3 three-year terms set to expire July 2029 and 1 three-year unexpired (2nd Auxiliary) position set to expire July 2027)

a. Benjamin Bergenholtz, 385 High Street - interest/reappointment

b. Susan Church, 29 Garfield Avenue-
interest/reappointment

c. Christopher Ponder, 736 Hope Street -
interest/reappointment

Sweeney/Ley- Voted unanimously to
reappoint Benjamin Bergholtz, Susan
Church and Christopher Ponder to the
Historic District Commission with a
term set to expire in July 2029

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. 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

I. Other New Business Requiring Town Council Action

11. Public Notice from CRMC Josue & Jennifer Canario, 15
Riverview Avenue, requires a response by July 2, 2026

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Harbor
Master

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of
Community Development

Sweeney/Ley-Voted unanimously to receive and
file

12. Public Notice from CRMC Jeffrey & Anne Swinney, 35
Brookwood Road, requires a response by July 2, 2026

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Harbor
Master

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development

Sweeney/Ley-Voted unanimously to receive and file

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

K. Special Reports

K1. BCWA Tri-Town Monthly Report - May 27, 2026

Sweeney/Ley- Voted unanimously to receive and file

L. Town Solicitor

M. Executive Sessions

M1. RIGL § 42-46-5, (a) (2) - pertaining to litigation, or work sessions pertaining to litigation - 1:26-cv-00150-MSM-PAS, Town of Bristol v. Transportation Security Administration, et al.

Assistant Town Solicitor Amy Goins advised the Council that she had provided a memorandum earlier in the day regarding the pending litigation. She noted that the information contained in the memorandum, specifically that the court had extended the defendants' deadline to July 10, was now a matter of public record. As a result, she stated that unless the Council had additional questions requiring confidential legal advice, an Executive Session was not necessary.

The Council raised no additional questions and opted to forego the 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 Harbor Commission Meeting Minutes - June 1, 2026

(CA) AA2. BCWA Board Meeting Minutes - April 23, 2026

(CA) AA3. Bristol Fire Department Board of Engineers Meeting Minutes - June 2, 2026

(CA) AA4. Bristol Zoning Board of Review Meeting Minutes - May 4, 2026

(CA) AA5. Bristol 250th Commission Meeting Minutes - May 7, 2026

(CA) AA6. Bristol Planning Board Meeting Minutes - May 14, 2026

(CA) BB. Budget Adjustments

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

(CA) CC. Financial Reports

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

(CA) CC1. Town Treasurer Carulli - YTD Budget Actuals for June 2026

(CA) DD. Proclamations, Resolutions & Citations

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

(CA) DD1. Commendation - Dakota S. Beckvold - Eagle Scout Award

(CA) DD2. Resolution No. 2026-06-03- I2 Authorizing the Assessment of Valuations and Levy of Taxes, Sewer Service Fees and Sewer Assessments (signed)

(CA) EE. Utility Petitions

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

- (CA) EE1. The Narragansett Electric and Verizon New England Inc. - request to install new pole 95-50 on Metacom Avenue

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 South Kingstown - Resolution in Support of House Bill 2026-8030

- (CA) FF2. Town of Hopkinton - Resolution in Support of Rhode Island Senate Bill 2239

- (CA) FF3. Town of Hopkinton - Resolution Opposing House Bill 7632

- (CA) FF4. Town of Little Compton - Resolution in Support of Rhode Island Senate Bill 2481

(CA) GG. Distributions/Communications

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

- (CA) GG1. Award Letter - Bid #1090 2026-2027 Tree Planting Services

- (CA) GG2. Award Letter - Bid #1069 - Municipal Tree Maintenance and Stump Grinding Services

- (CA) GG3. Award Letter - Bid #1087 - Town Wide HVAC Repairs and Maintenance

- (CA) GG4. Award Letter - Bid #1088 - Town Wide Landscaping - DaPonte's Landscaping Services, Inc.

- (CA) GG5. Town Solicitor - Memorandum regarding Recently Enacted Legislation re: Extended Hours for Class B Liquor Licenses for World Cup Games

- (CA) GG6. Letter of Appreciation - Michael O'Loughlin - Historic District Commission

(CA) HH. Distributions/Notice of Meetings

(Office copy only)

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

- (CA) HH1. Conservation Commission Meeting - June 2, 2026
- (CA) HH2. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Membership Subcommittee Meeting - June 4, 2026
- (CA) HH3. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Karaoke Subcommittee Meeting - June 11, 2026
- (CA) HH4. BCWA Finance Committee Meeting - June 9, 2026
- (CA) HH5. North and East Burial Grounds Commission Meeting - June 10, 2026
- (CA) HH6. Bristol Fourth of July Committee General Committee Meeting - June 11, 2026
- (CA) HH7. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Ball Sub-Committee Meeting - June 15, 2026
- (CA) HH8. Planning Board Comprehensive Plan Update Meeting (Amended) - June 11, 2026
- (CA) HH9. Planning Board Comprehensive Plan Update Meeting - June 11, 2026
- (CA) HH10. Bristol 250th Commission Meeting - June 9, 2026
- (CA) HH11. BCWA Finance Committee Meeting - June 9, 2026
- (CA) HH12. Bristol Christmas Festival Committee General Committee Meeting - June 15, 2026
- (CA) HH13. Bristol Housing Authority Meeting - June 18, 2026
- (CA) HH14. Historic District Commission Meeting - June 29, 2026
- (CA) HH15. BCWA Board of Directors Meeting - June 24, 2026

(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. James V Wright, 23 Hamlet Court - Claim for damages

(CA) II2. Notice of Claim - Richard O'Donnell

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

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

(CA) JJ1. DEM and Town of Bristol - Memorandum of Agreement
Cooperative Hunter-Landowner Management Plan
(signed)

(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 Vice Chairwoman Parella, seconded by Councilman Sweeney and voted unanimously, the Chairman declared this meeting to be adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk
Council Clerk