

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES-WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

The council met on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, and called to order at 6:45 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 Solicitor, Andy Teitz, Esq
Town Sergeant, Archie Martins

ABSENT WITH REGRET: Town Administrator, Steven Contente

The Pledge of Allegiance

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

Public Service Interviews and Appointments

NEBGC- North & East Burial Grounds Commission - One (1) five-year expired term ending January 2031; one (1) five-year unexpired term ending January 2029; and one (1) five-year unexpired Auxiliary term ending January 2028.

- a. Salome Farya, 367 High Street - interest/appointment

The Council heard from Mrs. Farya expressed her interest in becoming a member of the Bristol Housing Authority Discussions ensued between members of the Council and Mrs. Farya pertaining to Mrs. Farya's qualifications and experiences. Mrs. Farya also stated why she would consider herself to be a good fit for the position.

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to appoint Salome Farya to the North & East Burial Grounds Commission with a term set to expire in January 2031

- **Recess:**

At this point in the meeting, Council Chairman Calouro declared a brief recess from 6:52 PM until 7:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance

Council Chair Calouro led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance for the regular schedule council meeting.

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 - January 28, 2026

A2. Town Council Meeting Executive Session Minutes -
January 28, 2026

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 28, 2026 and the Executive Session Minutes of January 28, 2026 as prepared and presented.

B. Public Hearings

C. Ordinances

C1. Ordinance No 2026-01 Chapter 17, Article II Alcoholic Beverages Establishments, Section 17-82 (to decrease the number of B-V licenses from 33 to 32) **(2nd Reading)**

Teixeira/Sweeney- voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the Second Reading for the adoption of

Ordinance #2026-01. Advertise in the local newspaper

- C2.** Ordinance 2026-02 - Chapter 17, Article II Alcoholic Beverages Establishments, Section 17-82 - (to increase the number of limited BV Licenses from four to five)
(1st Reading)

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the first reading of Ordinance #2026-02. Advertise in the local newspaper.

- C3.** Ordinance No 2026-03 Chapter 21, Police, Article I- Sec. 21-11. - Regulations governing the use of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology (Flock cameras) **(1st Reading)**

- a. Councilman Ley - (Draft) Proposed Ordinance- consideration for amendments to proposed ordinance listed for first reading

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the first reading of Ordinance #2026-03. Advertise in the local newspaper.

Prior to the vote being taken, Chairman Calouro noted that although discussion is not typically held at first reading, the Council engaged in extended debate due to the substantial prior public interest and the lengthy deliberation at the previous meeting. He explained that the ordinance before the Council had been drafted by the Solicitor's Office to reflect the 4-1 majority vote and motion from the last meeting. He noted that the draft incorporates several key policy elements, including a definition of the Flock camera system and clarification of ownership; provisions governing authorized and prohibited uses; and a sunset clause requiring the Council to revisit the ordinance, at which time, if not reauthorized, both the ordinance and the use of the Flock system would terminate.

Councilman Ley referenced his proposed additions addressing restrictions on downstream data sharing; audit requirements based on a specified percentage rather than a raw number;

notification to the Council of changes to Rhode Island State Police ALPR policy; mechanisms triggering public notice and comment for certain changes; and language referencing 287(g) officers deputized under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act. He stated that, in his view, the Council was effectively considering two materially different ordinances—one reflecting the Council's earlier direction and another containing a broader set of added protections. Councilman Ley floated the possibility of tabling the matter for one month to allow time to work through the differences between the alternative draft and the Solicitor's version.

Vice Chairwoman Parella stated that she had reviewed the alternative draft in detail and made numerous comments. She acknowledged that some elements were reasonable but expressed concern that many provisions stray from the Council's intended objective and, in her view, go beyond what is necessary. She noted that while some portions reflect model language from the ACLU, many additional provisions were included by Councilman Ley with which she does not agree.

Councilman Ley responded that, while some elements draw from national model legislation, many provisions were his own additions intended to ensure the ordinance is clear and contains appropriate safeguards for moving forward with the Flock camera system in Bristol. He characterized his draft as a "conversation starter" and indicated he is open to negotiating or being flexible on certain items.

Vice Chairwoman Parella reiterated that, based on her crosswalk of the two versions, many concepts in Ley's proposal already appear in the Solicitor's draft, though sometimes restated or expanded. She emphasized that several provisions in the alternative draft appear duplicative or more broadly framed than necessary.

Councilman Teixeira stated that he agreed with Vice Chairwoman Parella's assessment. In his view, the ordinance drafted by the Solicitor's Office accurately captures the Council's prior discussion and motion. He indicated that he does not see a need for significant changes and believes only minor wording adjustments, if any, may be warranted. He emphasized that Bristol's designation as one of the safest communities in Rhode Island reflects the professionalism and accreditation standards of the Bristol Police Department, which operates under both state and national requirements. Councilman Teixeira cautioned that the Council should provide the department with effective tools rather than impose overly burdensome requirements. He expressed concern that some of the more frequent or detailed

reporting proposals could create staffing and budget pressures the Town may not be able to support. Overall, he stated that many concepts raised in the alternative draft are already reflected, in substance, in the Solicitor's version.

Councilman Sweeney stated that the Council's goal is to ensure the ordinance is clear, enforceable, and effective over the long term. He emphasized the importance of pursuing statewide legislation governing ALPR technology, noting that while Bristol is currently discussing one camera, there are hundreds operating across Rhode Island. He observed that without statewide standards, the local ordinance alone will have limited broader impact. Councilman Sweeney expressed interest in the Council formally sending a letter to the Town's state delegation, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President urging adoption of comprehensive statewide legislation.

Councilman Sweeney also thanked Councilman Ley for the effort reflected in the redlined draft and noted significant overlap between the guardrails in the Solicitor's version and those in Ley's proposal. He cited examples including the definition of LPR data (such as GPS, vehicle traits, and time), the single-camera limitation with no expansion without Council approval, the prohibition on civil traffic enforcement, First Amendment protections, audit requirements, unauthorized access notification, and the sunset provision. He suggested many of Ley's proposed changes expand or restate existing guardrails and indicated he is open to hearing which specific areas Ley believes should be strengthened.

Councilman Ley reiterated that in the weeks since the last meeting he had met with residents, consulted with the ACLU and Chief Lynch, and drafted his alternative version. He again expressed concern about surveillance powers once deployed, stating that "once we let the genie out of the bottle, there's no putting the genie back in," and urged the Council to "measure twice and cut once." While acknowledging there is no perfect ordinance, he maintained that the Solicitor's draft contains "very clear gaps" in clarity and enforceability and indicated he could not support it as written, though he remains open to negotiation.

Chairman Calouro thanked the Council for the discussion and the Solicitor's Office for its work, noting the challenging task of distilling approximately 50 pages of minutes and video from the prior meeting into ordinance form. He specifically thanked Clerk Cordeiro for preparing the roughly 50 pages of minutes that informed the draft. He remarked that there is no perfect ordinance in the Town Code but stated his belief that the draft

appropriately captures the Council's prior direction, particularly with respect to the sunset provision and audit requirements.

Chairman Calouro reiterated the Council's strong trust in the Police Chief and the Bristol Police Department while emphasizing the importance of "trust, but with verification." He stated he is open to minor wording tweaks if needed and is not inflexible on small clarifying changes.

Chairman Calouro reminded the Council that the matter is currently at first reading, when detailed amendments are not typically taken up. He explained that at second reading the Council may adopt non-substantive or non-consequential changes and still proceed to adoption; however, any substantial changes would require the ordinance to be re-advertised and returned for a new first and second reading.

Councilman Ley confirmed that at the next meeting he intends to use the current draft as the base document and bring forward specific proposed amendments for Council consideration.

Town Solicitor Teitz advised Councilman Ley to identify the most important proposed changes and to present them in a separate written document specifying the sections to be amended and the proposed replacement or additional language. He further suggested that amendments be offered individually so as not to require colleagues to vote up or down on an entire package of changes. Solicitor Teitz confirmed that second reading would be the appropriate time to formally propose amendments and cautioned that if the amendments are deemed substantial, the ordinance would need to undergo additional readings and re-advertisement. He noted that part of the purpose of the first reading discussion is to give advance visibility to potential changes.

Solicitor Teitz also expressed appreciation for the Council's kind remarks but stated he could not take full credit for the ordinance drafting, noting that Peter Scorsone of his office performed significant work on the measure and should be recognized.

Vice Chairwoman Parella reiterated that she and other councilors care deeply about civil liberties and long-term consequences but believe the Solicitor's draft already captures many of the guardrails previously discussed, including limits on the number of cameras, prohibitions on civil traffic enforcement and targeting of First Amendment-protected activities, and requirements for audits and notifications. She stressed the

importance of keeping the ordinance tightly focused and workable.

D. Licensing Board - New Petitions

D1. Philip Fitting, for Explore Bristol / British Car Event- Request for Mobile Food Establishment Event Permit, at the Town Beach Complex June 13, 2026, from 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM

a. recommendation- Town Administrator and Police Chief

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/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to grant this permit 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 explained that although a list of license and permit requests for the British Motor Car Event had been presented at the previous meeting, the specific request currently before the Council had not been submitted by the original petitioner. This additional request was specifically to add an additional day for a food truck on the Saturday of the two-day event at the Town Beach.

D2. Maria Cesario, Bristol Rotary Charities Foundation, request for a Bingo License - February 26th from 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM at St. Elizabeths Auditorium, 577 Wood Street

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

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

- D3.** Alisha Borrelli, Bristol Merchants Association, request for one-day Dancing & Entertainment License on lower State Street for the following events: **(see also D4 & F2)**

State Street Spring Festival - May 2, 2026, from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

State Street Arts Festival - August 1, 2026, from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

State Street Harvest Festival - September 19, 2026, from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director Public Works

d. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development

It is noted for the record that under agenda item D3, Councilman Teixeira motioned to combine agenda items D3, D4 and F2. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ley and unanimously approved. Discussions related to this combined item took place under agenda item D3. However, any actions taken on these items are individually listed under their respective agenda headings as reflected herein.

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, Alicia Borelli addressed the Council and explained that the petitions seek to continue the successful Lower State Street events that have been held over the past five to six years, now under her direction as the new fair manager. Ms. Borelli stated she has been working closely with the Clerk's Office and Town staff to maintain and build upon prior years' success. She emphasized her goal of expanding community participation through outreach to the high school, Roger Williams University, and local vendors.

Ms. Borelli further noted that the proposed event dates were intentionally selected to avoid months already heavily scheduled with community events—such as June, July, and October—so the festivals would complement rather than compete with the Town's broader event calendar.

Council members expressed appreciation that the requests were being brought forward early in the year, noting that the advance planning will assist other organizations in scheduling their own activities, minimizing conflicts, and support strong coordination. Councilors also remarked that the festivals play an important role in showcasing local businesses, increasing downtown foot traffic, and encouraging repeat patronage, and they acknowledged the significant effort required to organize the events

- D4.** Alisha Borrelli, Bristol Merchants Association, requests a Mobile Food Permit on Lower State Street for the following events: **(see also D3 and F2)**

State Street Spring Festival - May 2, 2026, from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

State Street Arts Festival - August 1, 2026, from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

State Street Harvest Festival - September 19, 2026, from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Police Chief

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

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

It is noted for the record that the motion for agenda item D4 occurred during discussion under agenda item D3, and the actions related to agenda item D4 are reflected therein.

- D5.** Thomas Bergenholtz, 205 LLC D/B/A Bistro 205, 205 Thames Street, request for Class BV Intoxicating Beverage License (**call for public hearing ~~March 18th~~ March 11th**)

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to call for public hearing on March 11, 2026.

- D6. (LATE ITEM)** Ana Barboza - Motta, Chair Bristol Fourth of July Committee - requests Bingo License for fundraiser, March 10th from 5:30-9:00 PM at the VFW, 850 Hope Street

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

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro noted that a recommendation was provide by the Bristol Police department and marked as "received at meeting".

Chairman Calouro then noted he was pleased to hear that Anna would be working with the Clerk to review timelines and establish clearer guidance and procedures going forward, so that the Fourth of July Committee's future requests and applications are submitted well in advance and internal processes are better understood by all involved. The Fourth of July Chairwoman, Ana Barboza-Motta, responded that her intent is to ensure everything is completed correctly and in a timely manner, noting that this

is how she prefers to operate and that she appreciates the opportunity to work collaboratively.

E. Licensing Board - Renewals

E1. 3 month review - Alicia Saldana, Qhali Kitchen, 34 Gooding Avenue - request for Dancing & Entertainment License **(continued from 11/12/2025)**

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

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

F. Petitions - Other

F1. Bonnie Pansa, Advisor KMS, Best Buddies Organization request council contingency funds for financial support for fundraiser event on March 28th

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to appropriate \$250 from the Town Council Contingency account in support of this program

Prior to the vote being taken, Chairman Calouro noted that he was aware petitioner Panza was unable to attend; however, the Council was joined by a special guest, Miss Emma Gray.

Emma Gray, serving as the club's secretary, addressed the Council on the club's behalf. She explained that Best Buddies is seeking financial support to help fund additional field trips. In particular, she shared that many students have been asking to attend a Providence Bruins game, but the club "just doesn't have any money" to make the trip possible. She candidly described that her friends had been "begging" for the Bruins outing and noted she had not yet had an opportunity to discuss the matter further with Ms. Panza the amount of funding needed to support the event. Several councilors praised her response as honest and sincere.

Chairman Caoluro remarked that Emma did an "outstanding job," noting, in a playful manor, she had outperformed an adult interviewee earlier that evening. Other councilors expressed appreciation for her straightforward explanation, her advocacy on behalf of her classmates, and the positive impact of the Best Buddies program.

- F2.** Alisha Borrelli, Bristol Merchants Association, requests road closures for Lower State Street, both intersections, State & Hope Street, and State & Thames Street from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM (set up and vendor operations) for the following events: **(see also D3 and D4)**

State Street Spring Festival - May 2, 2026, from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

State Street Arts Festival - August 1, 2026, from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

State Street Harvest Festival - September 19, 2026, from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Police Chief

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Department of Public Works

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to grant the street closures for the BMA events scheduled for:

- State Street Spring Festival
May 2, 2026, from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- State Street Arts Festival
Aug. 1, 2026, from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- State Street Harvest Festival
September 19, 2026, from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

It is noted for the record that the motion for agenda item F2 occurred during discussion under agenda item D3, and the actions related to agenda item D4 are reflected therein

F3. Katie Sousa (Ferreira), 239 Wood Street - Request for a concrete pedestrian walkway across the grassed area from sidewalk to curb in front of the referenced property

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Public Works

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to approve the request, contingent upon review and approval by the Department of Public Works in accordance with the Director's written recommendation, and with the explicit condition that all costs associated with the installation of the walkway—including any work required by DPW—shall be borne solely by the petitioner

Prior to the vote being taken, Chairman Calouro asked whether the petitioner was present; no one came forward. Chairman Calouro then read into the record the written recommendation from DPW Director Parella, who stated he had no objection to granting the request, provided it is made contingent upon Department of Public Works review and approval of a detailed plan prior to any work commencing.

Specifically, the Director recommended that the plan include the name of the contractor, the materials to be used, the limits and length of the proposed walkway, the thickness of the concrete, and any other pertinent construction details. He further advised that it be made explicitly clear to the petitioner that all costs associated with installation of the walkway, including any work required by DPW, shall be the sole responsibility of the petitioner.

F4. Executive Director, Karen Binder, Blithewold Inc, 101 Ferry Road - Request for One Additional Class BV Liquor License

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief

c. recommendation - Town Administrator and Director of Community Development

Sweeney/Parella- Voted unanimously to refer the matter to the Town Solicitor to draft an ordinance for Council consideration on March 11, 2026, and to place the item on the agenda to call for a public hearing.

Prior to the vote being taken, VBinder explained that Blithewold has hosted weddings and special events for more than 20 years. Currently, when weddings and large events are held, the onsite caterer (Blackstone) provides alcohol service under its own liquor license. For Blithewold's in-house events—such as teas, Christmas teas, bridal showers, and "Sparkle" events—which operate under Blithewold's victualing license, the organization must repeatedly apply for individual one-day licenses, which are capped at twelve per year. When clients wish to rent the mansion for events that fall outside those twelve dates, Blithewold must hire an outside company solely to provide licensed alcohol service, creating additional costs for both the organization and its clients.

Ms. Binder noted that Blithewold's staff are all TIPS-certified and that the organization has a long history of hosting events without incident. She stated that obtaining its own license for these house-run functions would allow for more consistent and cost-effective service while maintaining responsible practices.

Chairman Calouro reminded the Council of its recent policy discussion from the prior meeting regarding liquor license requests from establishments without a direct history of operating under their own liquor license. He summarized that the Council had adopted an informal policy whereby such applicants would first be considered for a limited Class BV license (beer and wine only) for a six-month period, after which the applicant could return to the Council to request an upgrade to a full Class BV (intoxicating beverage) license, contingent upon a satisfactory record during the trial period.

Ms. Binder indicated that this approach was acceptable to Blithewold, stating that a limited Class BV license for six months "sounds great."

G. Appointments

G1. Board of Canvassers - Three 6- year terms set to expire March 2032 (1 (R) Member, 1 (R) Alternate, 1 (D) Alternate)

a. recommendation - Thomas M. Carroll, Chairman, Republican Town Committee re reappointment of Member, Peter Hewett, 11 Wendy Drive and Alternate, Lynette Lacerda, 365 Metacom Avenue

b. recommendation - Erich Haslehurst, Chairman, Democratic Town Committee re reappointment of Alternate, Michele LaGuardia, 24 Smith Street

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to reappoint Peter Hewett, Lynette Lacerda, and Michele LaGuardia to the Board of Canvassers, as recommended by the party Chairs, with a term set to expire in March 2032

G2. BCWA - One 3-year term set to expire March 2029

a. Juan Mariscal, 8 Curtis Road - interest/reappointment

Parella/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to reappoint Juan Mariscal to the BCWA with a term set to expire in March 2029

G3. Harbor Commission - 4 three-year (2 Member/2 Auxiliary) terms set to expire March 2029

a. Robert Hamel -Full Member, 859 Hope Street - interest/reappointment

b. Michael Tamulaites- Auxiliary Member, 51 Everett Avenue - interest/reappointment

c. Vasco "Skip" Castro-Auxiliary Member, 101 Woodlawn Avenue - interest/reappointment

d. John McDonald - Full Member, 15 Stephen Drive - resignation

Teixera/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to

- reappoint Rober Hamel-full member; Michael Tamulaites- full member; and Vasco "Skip" Castro Auxiliary Member to the Harbor Commission with a term set to expire in March 2029.
- to accept this resignation and to instruct the Clerk to send a letter of thanks for service;
- and to advertise in the local paper

Prior to the vote being taken, Chairman Calouro noted McDonald's longtime service and that he is a commercial fisherman, which is a Charter requirement for at least one Harbor Commission member. Because the remaining candidates are not commercial fishermen, the Council agreed not to automatically move any auxiliary member into McDonald's full seat. Instead, the Council directed that the position be advertised to seek a new full member who meets the commercial fisherman requirement.

G4. Historic District Commission - 1 three-year unexpired term (2nd Auxiliary) set to expire July 2028

a. Robert Camara, 71 Sea Breeze Lane - interest/appointment

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

G5. Waypoyset Trust - 1 two-year term expiring February 2028

a. Bryan Leffingwell, 4 Massasoit Avenue - interest/reappointment

b. Rachel Martin, 3 Freeborn Road -
interest/appointment

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously
to reappoint Bryan Leffingwell to
the Waypoysset Trust with a term set
to expire in July 2028

Prior to the vote being taken, Councilman Teixeira suggested
that a letter be sent to Ms. Martin thanking her for her
interest in serving and encouraging her to continue to explore
opportunities on other boards or commissions that may be of
interest to her

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.** Discussion and possible action to propose amendments
to the Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance to establish a
process when required license documents are not
provided in a timely manner **(continued from 1/28/2026)**

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously
to direct the Solicitor's Office to
draft a proposed policy/resolution
consistent with the discussion.

Town Solicitor Teitz reviewed the longstanding state framework
governing alcoholic beverage licenses, noting that all such

licenses expire on November 30 and renew on December 1 each year, a requirement in place for decades. He explained that, to renew, license holders must submit required documentation, including any applicable Department of Health inspections (for food service), building and zoning compliance confirmations, and, most critically, a Certificate of Good Standing from the Rhode Island Division of Taxation. He emphasized that this certificate covers not only income taxes but also sales tax, employee withholding, and other state tax obligations, making it an important safeguard for both the state and employees.

Town Solicitor Teitz noted that the Clerk's Office begins sending renewal packets as early as August, which include a detailed checklist of required items and a clearly highlighted notice that all materials must be submitted by November 30th, with failure to comply penalties or non-issuance of the license. Despite this advance notice, some establishments still wait until late November to request their Certificate of Good Standing, even though the Division of Taxation advises that processing may take up to fifteen days. As a result, some businesses reach the end of November without the certificate in hand.

Town Solicitor Teitz then referenced Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation (DBR) rules, reading the key provision that if the Certificate of Good Standing is not provided by November 30, "the licensee shall be closed on December 1 and thereafter until said certificate is provided." He stressed that state law does not permit a restaurant or bar to continue operating with alcohol on the premises without a valid license, even if the establishment claims it will not sell the alcohol. He described the Council's typical November practice of approving renewals "subject to meeting all legal requirements," with licenses issued only after all documents are received, and stated the key policy question is how to handle establishments that remain non-compliant as of December 1.

To address this, the Solicitor proposed a formal policy framework. At the November renewal meeting (for example, November 18, 2026), the Clerk would present renewals in two lists:

- List One: Establishments that have submitted all required documents, including the Certificate of Good Standing.
- List Two: Establishments missing one or more required items, most commonly the Certificate of Good Standing.

He explained that List One would proceed as usual, with renewals granted effective December 1 through November 30 of the following year. For List Two, however, he recommended only a short, conditional renewal—from December 1 to the date of the first December Council meeting (for example, December 9).

Under DBR rules, Solicitor Teitz emphasized, those licensees cannot lawfully sell alcohol without the Certificate of Good Standing and renewed license by December 1. Their options would be to either (1) cease all alcohol-related operations and remove alcohol from the premises while operating only as a victualing establishment, or (2) close entirely until compliant. He recommended that the Police Department conduct compliance checks on or after December 1.

Solicitor Teitz further proposed that all establishments on the second list be required to appear at the December Council meeting. By that time, they would be expected either to have cured all deficiencies or to demonstrate good cause for the delay. He explained that good cause must be genuinely compelling, offering examples such as a death in the family, serious illness of a key responsible party, or fire or major damage at the premises. In such limited cases, the Council could consider a brief extension (for example, to the January meeting) without requiring a full reapplication, but alcohol still could not be stored or sold until compliance is achieved. He made clear that simply waiting until late November to request the Certificate of Good Standing would not qualify as good cause.

Vice Councilwoman Parella asked whether a non-compliant establishment could operate as BYOB. Solicitor Teitz responded no, explaining that while some non-licensed restaurants may allow BYOB under state rules, a licensed premise that is temporarily out of compliance may not use BYOB as a workaround.

At the Chair's request, Town Clerk Cordeiro confirmed that licensees receive substantial advance notice. She stated renewal packets are mailed in August with a clear, itemized checklist and red-highlighted deadlines. She added that most establishments comply on time and that staff conduct follow-ups throughout the fall by phone, email, and reminders when items are missing. The Clerk also noted the office is working toward implementation of an online licensing portal to allow electronic submissions and additional automated notifications.

Councilor Sweeney asked whether reminders are currently limited to mailed letters or also sent by email. Clerk Cordeiro explained that the initial renewal application is sent via mail, with reminders and additional follow-up conducted by email and

phone. She emphasized Licensing Assistant Cathy Marshall's diligence in personally following up with license holders as needed. Clerk Cordeiro added that once the new online system is fully implemented, it will allow for more comprehensive email communications.

Councilwoman Parella suggested that once the policy is adopted, the Town should send a plain-language notice urging licensees to request their Certificate of Good Standing by mid-October, given state processing timelines and the importance of November for many establishments. Clerk Cordeiro noted that this is already the Town's current practice and emphasized her intention to provide liquor license holders with clear communication of any policy adopted by the Council. She added that, recognizing businesses are often tied up during the summer and holiday seasons, her office sends the notice in early August to allow adequate time for establishments to comply.

Councilman Teixeira stressed the importance of maintaining a clear record of the Clerk's Office outreach—letters, emails, and calls—particularly for any licensee who may later claim lack of notice. Clerk Cordeiro emphasized that this is the current practice in her office and noted that Licensing Assistant Cathy Marshall maintains a diligent and detailed log of all communications. The Solicitor indicated that his office would likely send individualized notices to historically late applicants in addition to the general notice issued to all licensees. He reiterated that if a licensee fails to comply by the December meeting and cannot demonstrate good cause, the Council is under no legal obligation to continue extending the license, and the establishment may be required to reapply as a new license.

Chairman Calouro summarized that the goal is to be fair to the majority of businesses that comply while allowing reasonable flexibility in cases of genuine hardship. He noted that the intent is not to have a licensee lose their license due to circumstances beyond their control; however, when noncompliance results simply from inaction, it is the Town's responsibility to ensure requirements are met.

- 12.** Director of Parks and Recreation, Renshausen
Request for Town Council consideration of proposed amendments to Chapter 18 concerning the Recreation Board, Sec. 18-41 (Created; Members; Terms; Compensation) to revise the number of board members

and to clarify the advisory role of the Recreation Board

Sweeney/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to Continue the matter to the March 11, 2026 council meeting

- I3.** Consideration and Potential Action Regarding House Bill #H7224 - An Act Relating to Municipal Contracts (RIGL §45-55-9 Small Purchases)
(To consider and potentially take action on a resolution in support of House Bill #H7224, which proposes amendments to Rhode Island General Laws §45-55-9 to increase municipal small purchase thresholds from \$10,000 to \$25,000 for construction procurements and from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for all other procurements)

Sweeney/Parella- Voted unanimously to adopt the resolution and to authorize the Clerk to send to the General Assembly a resolution in support of same.

- I4.** CRMC - Public Notice, Herreshoff Marine Museum, 1 Burnside Street (**extension requested for response date**)
- a. Harbor Master Marsili - request to extend response date
- b. CRMC Deputy Director Miguel - extension granted, required response before **March 18, 2026**

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted unanimously to continue to the March 11, 2026 council agenda.

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro explained that the original CRMC comment deadline of March 4 did not allow sufficient time for the Harbor Commission to review the application and make a recommendation to the Council. At the request of the Harbor Master, an extension was formally sought from CRMC. The CRMC Deputy Director granted the extension, moving the response deadline to March 18 so the Harbor Commission may meet, review the matter, and provide input. Chairman Calouro noted that the Bristol Phoenix had advertised the original response date and emphasized the importance of ensuring the public was notified of the continuation to March 18.

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 No 1081 - Souvenir Merchandise for the 241st - 242nd 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 being taken, Clerk Cordeiro presented the following bid tabulations for the bids received, as outlined below:

- Graphic Ink with a base bid amount of \$65,883.60
- Catalog Kings - No Lump Sum Provided in bid presented

J2. Bid No 1082- Portable Toilets for the 241st and 242nd Fourth of July Events and Celebrations

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

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro presented the following bid tabulations for the bids received, as outlined below:

- Hallman's Septic and Portable Toilets, LLC with a base bid amount of \$11,843

J3. Bid No 1083 - 2026-2027 Fourth of July Celebration Fireworks Display

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted

unanimously to refer this matter to the Town Administrator and the fourth of July Committee to act in the best interest of the Town

Prior to the vote being taken, Clerk Cordeiro presented the following bid tabulations for the bids received, as outlined below:

- Pyrotecnico Fireworks in the amount of:
 - 2026 - \$27,500
 - 2027 - \$23,500
 - TOTAL : \$51,000

K. Special Reports

K1. BCWA Tri-Town Month Report - January 22, 2026

Teixeira/Sweeney- Voted
unanimously to receive and file

Chairman Calouro concluded the meeting by congratulating the Mt. Hope High School girls' gymnastics team on winning the State Gymnastics Championship.

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. BCWA Meeting Minutes - December 11, 2025

(CA) AA2. BCWA Properties Committee Minutes - December 3, 2025

(CA) AA3. Zoning Board Meeting Minutes- January 5, 2026

(CA) AA4. Bristol Harbor Commission Meeting Minutes- February 2, 2026

(CA) AA5. Bristol Fire Department Board of Engineers Meeting Minutes- February 2, 2026

- (CA) AA6. Bristol 250th Commission Meeting Minutes - November 18, 2025
- (CA) AA7. Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes - January 6, 2026
- (CA) AA8. Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes - December 2, 2025
- (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 the month-end February
- (CA) DD. Proclamations, Resolutions & Citations**
- Approval of consent agenda = "motion to adopt these Proclamations, Resolutions and Citations as prepared and presented"**
- (CA) DD1. Proclamation - Fred Toyosaburo Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution
- (CA) DD2. Citation - Chief Michael DeMello - President of the RI Association of Fire Chiefs (signed)
- (CA) DD3. Resolution No. 2026-1-28 I3 (signed)
- (CA) EE. Utility Petitions**
- Approval of consent agenda = "motion to approve these petitions"**
- (CA) EE1. Water Pollution Control Facility - Sewer Permits
- (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 Burrillville Resolution No. 26-01 - In Support of House Bill 2026 - H 7049 and Senate Bill

2026 - S 2147 Adjusting Primary Election Day to
Wednesday After Labor Day

- (CA) FF2. Town of Hopkinton - Resolution Requesting the Rhode Island Governor and General Assembly to Restore General Revenue Sharing to Rhode Island Cities and Towns
- (CA) FF3. City of Cranston - Resolution Requesting the General Assembly Consider Swift Action to Change the Date of the September 2026 Rhode Island Statewide Primary Election Due To Concerns Regarding the Labor Day Holiday
- (CA) FF4. Town of Tiverton Resolution 2026-0001 - Resolution Related to Low and Moderate Income Housing
- (CA) FF5. Town of West Greenwich Resolution 2026-2 - Resolution in Support of House Bill 2026-H7127, Section 6 - Transfer of Management of Big River Reservoir Land to the RI DEM for use of Open Space
- (CA) FF6. Town of West Greenwich Resolution 2026-1 - Resolution in Support of Senate Bill S2275 and House Bill H7447 Relating to Low-Moderate- Income Housing- Comprehensive Permits
- (CA) FF7. Town of Portsmouth Resolution #2026-01-27-A - Resolution of the Town Council in Support of Municipalities Collaborating in Reviewing, Analyzing, and Responding to the 2025 Affordable Housing Laws
- (CA) FF8. Town of Portsmouth - Resolution #2026-01-27-B - Resolution of the Town of Portsmouth Regarding Low and Moderate Income Housing
- (CA) FF9. Town of Portsmouth Resolution 2026-01-27-C - Requesting the General Assembly to Consider Amending Legislation Relating to Accessory Dwelling Units
- (CA) FF10. Town of Portsmouth Resolution #2026-01-27-E - Resolution of the Portsmouth Town Council in Support of Legislation to Modernize and Standardize the Access to Public Records Act
- (CA) FF11. Town of Portsmouth - Joint Municipal Statement - RI Municipalities on the 2025 State Affordable Housing Laws

(CA) GG. Distributions/Communications

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

- (CA) GG1. State of Rhode Island Traffic Commission - Traffic Study on Metacom Avenue -Woodlawn Ave/Weetamoe Farm Drive
- (CA) GG2. State of Rhode Island Traffic Commission - Request for a crosswalk across Hope Street (RI 114) intersection with Poppasquash Road
- (CA) GG3. State of Rhode Island Traffic Commission - request for traffic signal at the intersection of Metacom and Jameson Drive
- (CA) GG4. State of RI Energy Facility Sitting Board re Public Comment Hearing - March 12, 2026
- (CA) GG5. Mike and Luniece Schless, 180 Ferry Road - Letter of Opposition - Flock Camera
- (CA) GG6. Robinson + Cole - Docket No. SB-2025-04 - The Narragansett Electric Company F184N-4&5/E183-3 Bristol & Warren Tap 115kV Line Rebuild Project Response to EFSB Record Request - Evidentiary Hearing
- (CA) GG7. Bristol Police Department 2025 Annual Report
- (CA) GG8. Award Letter Bid 1077 - Brewster Thornton Group Architects, LLC, Nathaniel Ginsburg, AIA, Partner
- (CA) GG9. Public Notice State Planning Council Quadrennial Federal Certification Review Opportunity to Participate in Public Meeting and Provide Public Comment
- (CA) GG10. Joshua Cabral, 192 Wood Street - letter of thanks for service to the NEBGC
- (CA) GG11. Kasey Feijo, 667 Metacom Avenue Unit 16 - letter of thanks for service on the Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees

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

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

- (CA) HH1. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Promotions Sub Committee - February 5, 2026
- (CA) HH2. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Pageant Sub Committee - February 2, 2026
- (CA) HH3. Bristol 250th Commission Meeting Dates 2026
- (CA) HH4. Capital Projects Commission Meeting - January 27, 2026
- (CA) HH5. Harbor Commission Meeting - February 2, 2026
- (CA) HH6. Conservation Commission Meeting - February 3, 2026
- (CA) HH7. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Four of Diamonds Subcommittee Meeting - February 9, 2026
- (CA) HH8. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Ball Subcommittee Meeting - February 9, 2026
- (CA) HH9. Planning Board Meeting - February 12, 2026
- (CA) HH10. Coastal Resources Management Council Meeting Calendar February 2026
- (CA) HH11. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Souvenir Subcommittee Meeting - February 12, 2026
- (CA) HH12. North and East Burial Grounds Commission Meeting - February 11, 2026
- (CA) HH13. Bristol Fourth of July Karaoke Sub-Committee Meeting - February 12, 2026
- (CA) HH14. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Membership Subcommittee - February 17, 2026
- (CA) HH15. Bristol Fourth of July Committee General Committee Meeting - February 17, 2026
- (CA) HH16. Bristol Fourth of July Committee Souvenir Subcommittee Meeting - February 23, 2026
- (CA) HH17. Public Notice Request for Zoning Modification Permit - Gilbert Almeida, 984 Hope Street

(CA) HH18. Department of Community Development - Capital
Projects Commission Meeting - February 17, 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) III1. Maria Rego, 12 Shaws Lane - Claim for Damages

(CA) III2. Ronald Poisson, 61 Constitution Street - Claim for
Damages

(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 8:12 pm.

Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk
Council Clerk