

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY EVENING - SEPTEMBER 19, 2018**

PRESENT: Calouro, Sweeney, Tyska, Parella, and Stuart

ALSO PRESENT: Steven Contente, Town Administrator  
Michael A. Ursillo, Esq., Town Solicitor  
A. Archie Martins, Town Sergeant

The Council met in regular session on Wednesday evening, September 20, 2018 in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, beginning at 7:01 o'clock PM, Council Chairman Calouro presiding:

**PRESENTATION**

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - Presentation of National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System Plaque

Prior to the commencement of this evening's regular agenda, Melinda Hopkins and Holly Kaput of FEMA Region 1 addressed the Council and informed its honorable body that the Town of Bristol was recently elevated from a rating of 8 to a rating of 7. It was noted that this change of rating will result in generally lower flood insurance rates for Bristol residents with reductions averaging approximately \$200 per year.

The visitors also presented the Council with a plaque commemorating the new rating.

Council Chairman Calouro thanked Director of Community Development Williamson and her staff for achieving this new rating.

Director of Community Development Williamson noted that the work was completed by Building Official Pimenta, Principal Planner Tanner, Public Works Director McBride, Fire Chief DeMello and Librarian Prescott for their assistance.

**MOTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA - TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Stuart/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.

A. SUBMISSION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

1. Town Council Meeting - August 22, 2018

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

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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1. Elizabeth Brito, Owner, 1776 Liquors, Ltd., d/b/a 1776 Liquors, 597 Metacom Avenue - Request for Transfer of Class A Liquor License to: Joseph M. Brito, Jr. (New Owner/Stockholder), 1776 Liquors, Ltd., Same d/b/a and Location (see agenda item D1 also)
  - a. Recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief (approve)
  - b. Recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police (approve with conditions)

Stuart/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to close the Public Hearing.

Prior to the vote taken, Council Chairman Calouro opened the Public Hearing. There was no testimony presented in favor of the petition nor was any remonstrance presented in opposition thereto.

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

C. ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance #2018-14, Chapter 16, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article V, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 16-146, Parking time limited in designated places (to remove one-half hour parking - Bradford Street), **2<sup>nd</sup> reading for adoption**

Sweeney/Stuart - Voted unanimously to consider this action to constitute the Second Reading for adoption of Ordinance #2018-14. Advertise in local newspaper.

D. LICENSING BOARD - NEW PETITIONS

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1. Elizabeth Brito, Owner, 1776 Liquors, Ltd., d/b/a 1776 Liquors, 597 Metacom Avenue - Request for Transfer of Class A Liquor License to: Joseph M. Brito, Jr. (New Owner/Stockholder), 1776 Liquors, Ltd., Same d/b/a and Location (see agenda item B1 above)

*It is hereby noted for the record that discussion and action concerning this agenda item took place as part of agenda item B1 as found above.*

2. Joseph M. Brito, Jr., d/b/a 1776 Liquors, 597 Metacom Avenue - Request for Sunday Sales License
  - a. Recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief (approve)
  - b. Recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police (approve with conditions)

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

3. Carolyn Almonte, for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School PTG, 127 State Street - Request for Bingo License, September 28 & November 2, 2018
  - a. Recommendation - Town Administrator and Fire Chief (approve)
  - b. Recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police (approve)

Sweeney/Parella - Voted unanimously to grant this license per the recommendations received and subject to conformance to all laws and ordinances and payment of all fees, taxes, and levies.

4. Paul M. LaFleur, on behalf of Bristol Athletic Hall of Fame and Bristol Theatre Company - Request for Dancing and Entertainment License for

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Fundraising Event at Reynolds School, October 19, 2018

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

Prior to the vote taken, the Clerk informed the Council that the petitioner has withdrawn his request to sell and serve alcoholic beverages which makes the need to have an entertainment license moot.

E. LICENSING BOARD - RENEWALS

F. PETITIONS - OTHER

1. Paul M. LaFleur, on behalf of Bristol Athletic Hall of Fame and Bristol Theatre Company - Request Permission to Serve/Sell Alcoholic Beverages in Reynolds School Auditorium for Joint Fundraising Event, October 19, 2018

*See agenda item D4 as found above.*

G. APPOINTMENTS

1. Public Service Appointments-September
  - a. Fourth of July Committee - 2018-2019 Proposed Membership List

Councilman Sweeney nominated the slate of committee members as proposed.

There were no counter-nominations.

Sweeney/Stuart - Voted unanimously to close nominations and to instruct the Clerk to cast one ballot in favor of the slate, as proposed, for the ensuing term.

- b. Planning Board - 2<sup>nd</sup> Auxiliary Member (to fill unexpired term to expire in July 2021)
  1. Richard Rugeiro, 21 Kingswood Road - interest/appointment

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2. Frank N. Caruso, 100 Aaron Avenue - interest/appointment
3. Anne Marie Silvia, 75 Maple Lane - interest/appointment

Sweeney/Stuart - Voted unanimously to continue this matter to the Special Meeting scheduled for September 25, 2018.

- c. Conservation Commission (to fill unexpired term to expire in December 2020)

1. Kathleen M. Trier, 75 Maple Lane - interest/appointment

Sweeney/Stuart - Voted unanimously to continue this matter to the Special Meeting scheduled for September 25, 2018.

H. OLD BUSINESS

I. OTHER NEW BUSINESS REQUIRING TOWN COUNCIL ACTION

1. Richard Ferreira, General Chairman, Firemen's Memorial and Welfare Committee, Bristol Volunteer Fire Department, 4 Annawamscutt Drive - Request for Support of 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fundraiser/Program Book

Stuart/Parella - Voted unanimously to appropriate \$100 from the Town Council Contingency line in support of this request.

2. Discussion re Senior Citizen Exemption, **Councilman Tyska's prerogative from August 22, 2018**

Tyska/Stuart - Voted unanimously to refer this matter to the Town Administrator, Town Treasurer, and Tax Assessor for a recommendation to be considered during next year's budget deliberations.

Prior to the vote taken, Tax Assessor DiMeo explained that most Towns provide some type of senior exemption but that it is

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difficult to compare these since rules vary. She added that some consider length of residency and may be governed by income levels.

Tax Assessor DiMeo noted that the Town of Bristol is essentially in the middle and that there are no restrictions if the resident is of age.

A discussion ensued regarding the spreadsheets provided with Councilman Tyska stating that he believes that the matter should be considered comprehensively. He suggested that the Town should look at its policies and procedures in order to keep its tax exemptions relevant.

Council Chairman Calouro suggested that the Town Administrator, Town Treasurer, and Tax Assessor might look into this and report back to the Council.

Responding to questions concerning who applies for elderly tax exemptions, Tax Assessor DiMeo reported that many of the Town's seniors are 'snow birds' and do not qualify due to their residency status. She added that most on the rolls are over 75.

Councilwoman Parella asked to know the last time an adjustment was made and also if the Town ever considered residency requirements (length of time).

Councilwoman Parella noted that one approach might be to provide the exemption only to those who may be on fixed retirement incomes versus those who may be employed.

Tax Assessor DiMeo noted that some communities provide exemptions based upon HUD income guidelines.

Councilman Stuart suggested that the exemptions might be based upon the resources available while being mindful of the needs of the senior population.

Councilwoman Parella suggested that the Administration might provide several "scenarios" before budget time adding a cost to each of these.

Councilman Sweeney suggested that any reports and recommendations should look at demographics, also.

3. Economic Development Coordinator Vitale re Black Ships Festival - Economic Impact Study Results

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

Prior to the vote taken, Economic Development Coordinator Vitale provided a printed presentation for Council consideration and explained some of its details.

Councilman Sweeney asked to know if the festival met expectations with Economic Development Coordinator Vitale explaining that the festival exceeded expectations especially since the festival was a "pilot program" in Bristol.

Economic Development Coordinator Vitale noted that the festival drew a broad-based audience.

Council Chairman Calouro noted that Economic Development Coordinator Vitale's report shows that the local economy derived a good benefit from the festival. He congratulated Town Administrator Contente and the Council for their support of the festival.

Council Chairman Calouro also commended the Black Ships Committee and Economic Development Coordinator Vitale for their work toward the success.

Patrick T. Conley of 1 Bristol Point Road expressed his pleasure at the success of the festival and explained some of the history of the festival when it was located in Newport and also Bristol's connection with the Perry family. Dr. Conley noted that Town Administrator Contente was enthusiastic about the festival and that this influenced the festival committee.

Dr. Conley suggested that there might be a plaque placed in Thomas Park commemorating the Bristol connection to the Perry family. He added that the committee is looking at the first weekend after Labor Day for next year's festival and that he is of the opinion that the event "belongs here" in future years.

Councilwoman Parella noted that Dr. Conley's information on the Perry family and its connection to the Town was very interesting and thanked him for sharing this with the Council. She added that the festival was well-done and that she was pleased that it was brought to Bristol.

Council Chairman Calouro suggested that Roger Williams University students might be enlisted to complete some economic impact studies to include this festival and that Frances O'Donnell

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General Chairman of the Fourth of July Committee is also seeking such a study from the university.

J. BILLS & EXPENDITURES

1. Bid #890 - Bristol Maritime Center Phase 3  
Masonry Stabilization

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

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

Contracting Specialists	Attleboro, MA	\$236,240
Folan Waterproofing	South Easton, MA	\$101,700

Director of Community Development Williamson explained that the Town received a grant from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission totaling \$150,000 and that this amount may allow the Town to complete the current phase and one of the Add-Alternate phases. She added that there is Town building bond funds available for the other Add-Alternate item.

K. SPECIAL REPORTS

1. Allan Klepper, Barrington Director, Bristol County Water Authority - Monthly Report for September

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

L. TOWN SOLICITOR

1. Request for Executive Session Pursuant to RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(5) Lease of Real Property - Former Minturn Farm Landfill for Solar Project

*It is hereby noted for the record that action on this agenda item took place at the conclusion of the public agenda as found below.*

- \*AMEND ITEM 2.** Request for Executive Session Pursuant to RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(5) Lease or Sale of Real Property - Gooding Avenue Property

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*It is hereby noted for the record that action on this agenda item took place at the conclusion of the public agenda as found below.*

M. INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS AGENDA ITEMS

1. Calouro

a. Council Prerogatives - Council Chairman Calouro noted that the Council prerogative items were designed to share specific information such as reporting on the passing of an individual or to conversely report some happy occurrence. He noted that it was also designed to provide focus on a particular item that perhaps may need urgent attention.

Town Solicitor Ursillo added that the Council should avoid adding "business" items thorough its prerogatives since these would better serve the public interest if included on a regular published agenda. He added that publishing the agenda allows for the public to react and determine if they wish to attend a meeting when a particular item will be discussed.

2. Sweeney

a. Rally4Recovery - Councilman Sweeney reported that there will be a Rally4Recovey on Saturday on the Town Common.

3. Tyska

a. Seniors - Councilman Tyska noted that the Town's population includes 25% senior citizens and that the average across the state is 20%. He noted that the Town should look at its support services for this demographic.

b. Benjamin Church Senior Center - Councilman Tyska noted that the Center received a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation to make a Town-wide assessment of senior services. He added that he looks forward to reading the report.

4. Parella

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a. Pink Bag Initiative - Councilwoman Parella suggested that the next agenda might include an item for an update to the previously discussed "pink bag" initiative which promotes recycling of textiles and other household items. She noted that the entity that runs this program experienced some growing pains and that it will be up and running in October. She added that a discussion at the next meeting would provide more detail for the benefit of the public.

b. Post Office Rededication - Councilwoman Parella noted the ceremony held downtown on September 16, when the Bristol Post Office was rededicated in memory of First Sergeant P. Andrew McKenna. Sergeant McKenna was killed in action in Afghanistan on August 7, 2015 while defending his camp and fellow soldiers from insurgents.

5. Stuart

a. Aaron Myers - Councilman Stuart noted the recent Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Troop 6 Eagle Scout Aaron Myers.

b. John Velleca - Councilman Stuart noted the passing of long time Bristol DPW mechanic and volunteer firefighter John Velleca who passed away on September 5, 2018. He extended the Town Council's condolences to Mr. Velleca's family and friends.

N. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AGENDA ITEM(S)

1. Conley Research - Town Administrator Contente thanked Dr. Conley for his research on the Perry family which was an important consideration for the Black Ships Festival's success in Bristol.

2. Flood Plain - Town Administrator Contente noted that the Town is working on several projects to improve flood plain conditions.

3. Golf Course - Town Administrator Contente reminded the Council that the Town owns the golf course and that it is managed by others. He added that there will be improvements made to this property due to a \$300,000 federal grant.

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4. New Engine 3 - Town Administrator Contente reported that the Town will be replacing Engine 3 which is now 25 years old.

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CITIZENS PUBLIC FORUM

**Persons wishing to speak during the Citizens Public Forum must notify the Council Clerk prior to the commencement of the meeting.**

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Consent Agenda Items:

**(CA) AA. SUBMISSION OF MINUTES-Boards and Commissions**

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

1. Historic District Commission - July 2, 2018
2. Bristol Warren Regional School Committee - July 23, 2018
3. Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force - June 27, 2018
4. Historic District Commission - June 7, 2018
5. Historic District Commission - August 2, 2018
6. Harbor Commission - August 6, 2018
7. Post Retirement Benefits Fund Board of Trustees - May 10, 2018
8. North and East Burial Grounds Commission - June 13, 2018

**(CA) BB. BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

**Approval of consent agenda="Motion to approve these adjustments."**

1. Tax Assessor DiMeo re Recommended Abatements & Additions - September 2018

**(CA) CC. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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

1. (Town Treasurer Goucher) re Revenue and Expenditure Statement - September 13, 2018

**(CA) DD. PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS & CITATIONS**

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

1. Commendation - Aaron J. Meyers, Eagle Scout Court of Honor
2. Citation - Marcia Sousa, Bristol Sports Club "Woman of the Year"

**(CA) EE. UTILITY PETITIONS**

**Approval of consent agenda="Motion to approve these petitions."**

**(CA) FF. UPCOMING APPOINTMENTS**

**Approval of consent agenda="Motion to approve advertising these Appointments."**

1. Public Service Appointments-October

**(CA) GG. CITY & TOWN RESOLUTIONS NOT PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED**

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

**(CA) HH. DISTRIBUTIONS/COMMUNICATIONS**

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

1. Michael Tondra, Chief, Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) re Preliminary Grant of \$491,000 from RI Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

**(CA) II. DISTRIBUTIONS/NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

(Office copy only)

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

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1. Bristol Warren Regional School District-Schedule of Meetings, Week of August 26, 2018
2. Bristol Warren Regional School Committee-Budget/Facilities Subcommittee Meeting, August 27, 2018
3. Bristol Warren Regional School Committee-Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting, August 27, 2018
4. Bristol Warren Regional School Committee-Personnel/ Contract Negotiations Subcommittee Meeting, August 27, 2018
5. Bristol Warren Regional School Committee - August 27, 2018
6. Historic District Commission - September 6, 2018
7. Fourth of July Committee - Souvenir Subcommittee Meeting, September 6, 2018
8. Bristol Warren Regional School District-Schedule of Meetings, Week of September 2, 2018
9. Bristol Warren Regional School Committee-Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting, September 4, 2018
10. Conservation Commission - September 4, 2018
11. Bristol Warren Regional School District Joint Finance Committee - September 5, 2018
12. Board of Tax Assessment Review - September 13, 2018
13. North and East Burial Grounds Commission - September 12, 2018
14. Zoning Board of Review - September 27, 2018
15. Christmas Festival - September 20, 2018
16. Zoning Board of Review - October 1, 2018
17. Bristol Warren Regional School District-Schedule of Meetings, Week of September 16, 2018

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18. Bristol Warren Regional School Committee-Budget/  
Facilities Subcommittee Meeting, September 17,  
2018
19. Harbor Commission - September 10, 2018
20. Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees - September  
18, 2018
21. Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force - September  
26, 2018

**(CA) JJ. CLAIMS (REFERRALS)**

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

1. Philip A. Beaulieu, Jr., 17 Primrose Road - Claim  
for Damages
2. Amy S. Benevides, 304 Metacom Avenue - Claim for  
Damages

**(CA) KK. CLAIMS (DENIALS)**

**Approval of consent agenda="Motion to deny these claims and refer same to the Insurance Committee and the Interlocal Trust for response to claimant."**

**(CA) LL. CURB CUT PETITIONS AS APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**Approval of consent agenda="Motion to grant this curb cut per the recommendation of, and any conditions specified by, the Director of Public Works."**

1. Raymond J. Dutelle, 356 High Street - Request for  
Curb Cut
  - a. Recommendation - Town Administrator and  
Director of Public Works (approve)
  - b. Recommendation - Town Administrator and  
Chief of Police (approve)

**(CA) MM. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL**

**Approval of consent agenda="Motion to approve these items."**

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Sweeney/Stuart - Voted unanimously to convene into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(5) concerning agenda items L1 and L2 as found above at 8:08 o'clock PM.

Stuart/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to resume open session and seal the minutes of the Executive Session at 9:20 o'clock PM.

Council Chairman Calouro announced that action was taken in Executive Session.

There being no further business, upon a motion by Councilman Stuart, seconded by Councilman Sweeney and voted unanimously, the Chairman declared this meeting to be adjourned at 9:21 o'clock PM.

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Louis P. Cirillo, CMC, Council Clerk