

# **Corporation Counsel Permanent and Long Term Retention Files March 31, 2011**

## **The Office of the Corporation Counsel**

The office of the Corporation Counsel was established by the City Ordinances and By-Laws adopted at a meeting of the City Council, held Friday December 15, 1911.

“The corporation counsel shall prosecute and defend all suits brought against the city, after October 1, 1911. The mayor may at any time designate assistant counsel whenever the importance of the case or the disability of the counsel shall demand.

The corporation counsel shall keep a docket of all cases in which the city is a party, which docket shall be the property of the city and shall be surrendered to the city clerk by the corporation counsel at the expiration of his term.”

This project has focused on the files of the Corporation Counsel located in the basement storage area. The files were stored in trans-file type boxes, record center boxes, and file cabinets. The files date from the inception of the office and cover a variety of law related activities beyond litigation, including amendment of the City Charter, legal opinions, ordinances, land acquisition and sale, easements, bonding, personal injury and property damage claims, as well as other categories. The files were arranged in several different and unrelated number series. The different series do not appear to have any common or distinguishing characteristics other than an alphabetical sequence that may reflect the culling of old files. It may simply be that at some point a new number series was begun for reasons that we will never be able to determine. Much of the material evaluated was discovered to be routine and, having no legal, administrative, or historical value, was ultimately discarded. However, the materials from the earliest period of the office were examined with increased care because of their age, condition, and the certainty that some portion of the materials would have continuing historical and administrative value to the City of Bristol, even if it was not immediately apparent.

A disposal authorization was prepared for the Corporation Counsel files and submitted to and approved by the Public Records Administrator for the State of Connecticut and the State Archivist, but no files were discarded until the Corporation Counsel’s office had given their final approval as well. Initially, an effort was made to avoid disturbing the original file arrangement of the earliest files, but as work continued it became clear that the file sequence had been disordered at some time (and possibly more than once) in the past. After initial review, these early files were reordered using the number sequence as best as it could be determined and the file inventory list was created. The list was reviewed with staff of the Corporation Counsel’s office. All records relating to the City Charter; ordinances; legal opinions; acquisition of real property; records of fatalities; records of city owned structures; and historically valuable documents were designated as

categories of materials that would be preserved. These categories include some record series such as opinion letters and records of fatalities, which are also designated as permanent records by the office of the Public Records Administrator. Other materials, such as documents relating to the development of the Memorial Boulevard, have been preserved because of their historical value to the City of Bristol. When considering whether to preserve or discard documents, great care has been taken to err on the side of caution.

As a result of this project, the documents have been organized into specific categories. The arrangement of the documents in those categories was necessary to give the body of records a useable structure. It is important for any researcher to recognize that several of these groups are interrelated. Amendments to the City Charter, ordinances, and opinion letters are often very closely linked and any investigation in any one of these categories should be supplemented by a review of the others for the same time period. It is also important for researchers to note that the minutes of the City Council will be an invaluable tool that will provide a greater understanding of this group of documents.

The evaluation and organization of files was further complicated by the condition of the files themselves. The folders are acidic and have become embrittled over time, so that in many cases portions of the file tab, or even the entire tab, have broken away, depriving us of useful information regarding the file, including the number. It would appear that some of the earliest files were unnumbered, but we may not be able to establish that as a fact. Fortunately, while the confusion over the file numbering had a negative impact on the creation of the inventory, decisions regarding preservation of materials were a direct result of examination and evaluation of the documents themselves. In reviewing these files historically or administratively significant materials were identified and separated. The documents were then organized, foldered, and stored using archival quality materials.

It should be noted that the files relating to claims were generally represented by the name of the claimant versus the City of Bristol. In most cases, these claims were relatively modern and do not appear to have resulted in litigation and only represent an effort on the part of the claimant to receive compensation for some damage or injury. In a number of cases the sole document in the file is a letter acknowledging receipt of a complaint and nothing or little else. These materials were not retained.

Among the documents in the files additional materials have been found that have no direct relationship to the file subject. These include old ballots, partisan political flyers, and theater handbills that were used as "scrap" paper for taking notes. These and other materials have independent value as documents of social history and have been preserved in a miscellaneous items folder.

A small number of photographs have also been discovered in these files and they have been preserved. They will be incorporated into a much larger group of photographs that were discovered in an earlier phase of this project. The photographs make an important

contribution to the visual record of Bristol's past and they have already proved valuable to researchers.

## **General Condition of the Records**

The files that constitute the permanent and long term retention materials of the Corporation Counsel's Office are the inactive files of that office covering the years from 1889 through approximately 1965. It was not possible to establish an exact end date because of the nature of the work of the office and the manner in which files were removed for storage. Certain files, such as the records of fatalities, extend beyond 1965, while some earlier files are certainly contained in files that remain to be reviewed.

The body of material described here had, until the initiation of this project, been stored in a lower level records storage area, in some cases for decades. At the beginning of the Twentieth Century, the municipal offices of the Town of Bristol were located on lower Main Street. During the period of time covered by this body of documents, the offices of government for the Town of Bristol and the City of Bristol moved from an old town hall on Main Street to a new City Hall on North Main Street in 1906, and finally to the current City Hall at 111 North Main Street in 1963. Some of the records examined during the course of this project were certainly moved directly to storage when City Hall was moved to its current location and documents have been periodically removed from the active files of the Corporation Counsel and transferred to the lower level storage area. The environmental conditions of the lower level storage area are far from ideal and have contributed to the physical degrading of the records. In the course of this project, the records being preserved have been transferred to a vault with temperature and humidity controls.

Some of the documents reviewed were produced on a high quality paper and are very well preserved, while others, particularly carbon copies of letters, drafts and research notes, were prepared on very poor quality, highly acidic paper and have become discolored and brittle over time. These materials are in very poor condition and are in danger of being lost because of their degraded condition. In certain extreme cases, photocopies have been made and the poor quality document has been replaced in the files. This has only been done in the case of carbon copies. All originally signed documents have been retained. The carbon copies are valuable for the information they contain but, because they are only the carbon copy of the original letter or other document, they have no intrinsic value and replacing them with a photocopy does not diminish the informational value of the documents. Another important consideration is the potential for these acidic documents to damage the other better preserved materials. The acid in the poor quality paper has and will continue to migrate and cause damage to the better preserved records. It is beyond the scope of this project to photocopy and replace the large number of acidic documents in these files, but these items must be copied and replaced in the relatively near future to insure the preservation of the larger collection. A small quantity of newspaper clippings was also found in the files. If the

clippings were relevant, they were either photocopied or enclosed in alkaline paper to buffer them.

Paper clips and staples pose a hazard to the documents most have rusted over time and in many cases have stained the documents. They also present a continuing risk that documents could be torn when being handled by researchers. Nearly all of the paper clips and a great many staples were removed in the course of organizing the materials. However, many more staples remain and should be removed when a more thorough processing of the documents can be conducted.

## **City Charter and Amendments**

The City Charter files contain a copy of the original Charter of the City of Bristol, which was passed by the Connecticut General Assembly and approved by the voters of the City of Bristol in 1911 and all subsequent materials related to the charter found in the files of the Corporation Counsel's office. These files do not represent a complete record of all charter changes, but rather the working files of the counsel's office as they were found. Many of the documents are reports of the Charter Committee of the City Council, reports of charter study committees, proposals, draft provisions, correspondence, and even proposed bills introduced during sessions of the state legislature, that were never enacted. In several cases, the correspondence provides valuable background information with regard to the intended purpose of the revision or the nature of the problem it is intended to correct. In addition, sample charter provisions from other towns are also found in the files. Other marginal items such as legislation of general interest to municipalities will also be found in the files. As will be true of the other sections of this collection of documents, the reports, drafts, and sample materials have all been retained because they indicate trends in the thinking of the city officials with regard to the operation of government generally and specifically in the city itself. An example would be the amendments proposed or enacted during the period of the two world wars.

Where information regarding the approval of specific charter amendments was available, or could be easily obtained, it was added to the document description. At some point in the future a complete listing of those amendments to the charter that were passed by the legislature and approved by the voters should be prepared. That document will enhance the value of the materials contained in these files and increase their value as research tools.

It should be noted by researchers that from 1887 until 1970 the Connecticut General Assembly met in biennial sessions. The sessions were held in the odd numbered years. Sessions held in even numbered years would have been special sessions convened for specific and limited purposes. In addition, the Constitution of the State of Connecticut adopted by state wide referendum on December 14, 1965, under Article Tenth, Of Home Rule, altered the manner in which the General Assembly could enact or amend town charters and local laws.

## **City Charter and Amendments Folder List:**

### **Charter 1911-1912**

Proposed City Charter Bristol, Connecticut, to be referred to a Town meeting on August 14, 1911

### **Charter 1913**

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol by creating a Park Commission. Approved June 6, 1913.

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning Curbs, Sidewalks, and Highways, Approved June 5, 1913.

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning Elections, Approved May 20, 1913.

### **Charter 1914**

Proposed Amendment

### **Charter 1915**

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning Water Assessments

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning City Council Meetings

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning Finances

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning the Cutting and Sale of Ice

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning Elections

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning the Election of Registrars

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning Increases if Salaries

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning the Election of Town Clerk and Registrars of Voters

An Act authorizing the Town of Bristol to Nominate Town Clerk by Primary Election and Fixing the Time for Biennial Election of Registrars of Voters

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning City Officers

An Act concerning the Use and Opening of Voting Machines in the City of Bristol

**Charter 1916-1917**

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning the City Court

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning the Removal of Appointees

**Charter 1918-1919**

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning the City Plan Commission

An Act authorizing the City of Bristol to Increase its Water Supply

**Charter 1920-1921**

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning Elections

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning Voting Machines

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning Highways and Streets

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning the Admission of Electors

**Charter 1922**

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol Creating a Medical Bureau

**Charter 1924-1925**

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning Assessments

**Charter 1926**

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol Creating a Board of Finance

**Charter 1927**

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning the Police Benefit Fund

**Charter 1931**

An Act Establishing a Retirement System for the city of Bristol

### **Charter 1933**

An Act Creating a Permanent Board of Finance of the City of Bristol

### **Charter 1936-1938**

An Act Authorizing the City of Bristol to Issue Water Funding Bonds

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol to Provide a Salary of \$3,000.00 for the Mayor

An Act amending the Charter of the City of Bristol concerning the Establishment and Creation of Special Water Districts for Special Services Rendered

### **Charter 1939**

An Act Codifying and Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol, Approved June 16, 1939

### **Charter 1940**

A Report Regarding the Establishment of a Department of Engineering

### **Charter 1941**

Report of the Charter Revision Committee, January 14, 1941

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol, Concerning City Officers and Liens for Sewer Assessments and Other Improvements

### **Charter 1942**

Draft Proposed Report of the Charter Revision Commission, December 4, 1942

### **Charter 1943**

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol, Substitute for House Bill No. 333

An Act Amending an Act Establishing a Retirement System for the City of Bristol, House Bill No. 512

An Act Concerning Conferring of Civil Jurisdiction on the City Court of Bristol

Report of the Committee Named to Study the City Charter

## **Charter 1945**

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol, House Bill No. 504

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol, Concerning Appointments to Boards and Commissions, House Bill No. 897

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol, Concerning the City Planning Commission, House Bill No. 898

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol, Concerning the Board of Finance, House Bill No. 956

An Act Concerning Pensions for Employees of the City of Bristol

## **Charter 1947**

Amendment to Charter of City of Bristol Regarding Liens for Sewer Assessments

An Act Creating a Zoning Commission in the City of Bristol, Special Act No. 101, Approved May 21, 1947

An Act Concerning Pension for Employees of the City of Bristol

An Act Amending Section 44 of the Charter of the City of Bristol (Firemen's Benefit Fund)

An Act Amending Section 48 of the Charter of the City of Bristol (Police Benefit Fund)

## **Charter 1949**

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol Concerning the Auditors of the City of Bristol

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol Concerning the Superintendent of Charities of the City of Bristol

An Act Concerning the Completion Date for Assessors' Duty in the City of Bristol for the List of October 1, 1948

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol Concerning Assessors of the City of Bristol

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol Concerning Tax Lists

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol Concerning Meetings of the Board of Tax Review

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol Pertaining to the Duties of the Tax Collector

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol Pertaining to the Planning Commission of the City of Bristol

### **Charter Revision Commission 1950-1955**

#### **Charter, 1951**

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol Concerning the Superintendent of Parks

An Act Concerning the Election, Duties and Compensation of Registrars of Voters. Senate Bill No. 87

An Act Concerning the Election, Duties and Compensation of Registrars of Voters, House Bill No. 1364

\*The bills relating to the Registrars of Voters applied to all towns with a population of twenty-five thousand or more.

#### **Charter 1953**

An Act Concerning Retirement of Policemen and Firemen in the City of Bristol, Senate Bill No. 743

An Act Concerning Retirement of Policemen and Firemen in the City of Bristol, Senate Bill No. 746

An Act Providing for the Elimination of a Curve on a Road in Bristol, House Bill No. 549 (This bill number may be incorrect.)

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol, Concerning the Superintendent of Parks, House Bill No. 1022

An Act Correcting an Omission in Special Act No. 304 of the 1947 Session of the Legislature, House Bill No. 1035

An Act Concerning an Assistant Comptroller of the City of Bristol, House Bill no. 1041

An Act Concerning Registrars of Voters in the City of Bristol, House Bill No. 1042

An Act Concerning the Fire Department of the City of Bristol, House Bill No. 1044

An Act Concerning the Park Department of the City of Bristol, House Bill No. 1048

An Act Validating a Tax Deed from the Tax Collector of Bristol to Richard Burke, House Bill No. 1144

An Act Including a Highway in the Towns of Bristol and Burlington in the Trunk Line System, House Bill No. 1487

**Charter 1955** (The items listed for 1955 may all be proposals that were not enacted)

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol Providing for Primary Elections

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol in Reference to the Police Department

An Act Concerning Initiative in the City of Bristol

An Act Amending the Procedure for Filing Tax Lists in the City of Bristol

Amendment to Act Creating a Zoning Commission in the City of Bristol

Proposed Amendment to City Charter of the City of Bristol, Connecticut

An Act Concerning the Comptroller of the City of Bristol

An Act Concerning the Bristol Parking Authority, Substitute for House Bill No. 827, Special Act No. 247

An Act Amending the Pension Plan for Employees of the City of Bristol

**Charter 1957**

[An Act Concerning] the Election of Justices of the Peace in the City of Bristol (Draft of a legislative proposal from the Registrars of Voters intended for the 1957 legislative session)

An Act Concerning Social Security coverage of Municipal Employees, House Bill No. 836 (Act has general application rather than specific application to Bristol and was maintained in the charter files)

An Act Concerning Pensions for the Employees of the City of Bristol, Senate Bill No. 883

An Act Concerning Pensions for Employees for the City of Bristol, Senate Bill No., 889

An Act Concerning the Board of Tax Review of the City of Bristol, House Bill No. 246

An Act Concerning the Bristol Board of Education, House Bill No. 849

An Act Concerning the Fiscal Year of the Bristol Parking Authority, House Bill No. 1256

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol Concerning the Water Department, House Bill No. 1257

An Act Concerning the Pension Rights of Patrick Fanelli in the Bristol Retirement System, House Bill No. 1258

An Act Amending the Pension Plan for the Employees of the City of Bristol, Substitute for House Bill No. 1259, Special Act 127

An Act Amending the City Charter of the City of Bristol Concerning the Water Department, Substitute for House Bill No. 1277

An Act Establishing a Merit System in the Police Department of the City of Bristol, Substitute House Bill 1880

An Act Regulating Promotions on the Bristol Fire Department, House Bill No. 1941

An Act Concerning the Powers of the Superintendent of Public Works of the City of Bristol, House Bill No. 2136

### **Charter 1959**

An Act to Amend the Pension Plan for Employees of the City of Bristol, Bill No. 2787

An Act Concerning Elimination of Refunds by the Water Department of the City of Bristol, Bill No. 2831

An Act Concerning the Expansion of the Water Supply of the City of Bristol in the Towns of New Hartford and Harwinton

An Act Concerning the Amending of the Pension Plan for Employees of the City of Bristol, House Bill 2951

An Act Concerning Mandatory Retirement in the Police Department in the City of Bristol, Bill No. 2954

An Act Concerning Mandatory Retirement in the Fire Department of the City of Bristol, Bill No. 2958

An Act Concerning the Regulating of Promotions in the Bristol Police Department in the City of Bristol, Bill No. 2963

An Act Concerning the Regulating on Promotions in the Bristol Fire Department in the City of Bristol

### **Charter 1961**

An Act Concerning Repeal of Bristol Charter Provisions Relating to a Zoning Commission

An Act Concerning Ordinances and the Publication Thereof in the City of Bristol

An Act Concerning Mandatory Retirement in the Police Department in the City of Bristol

An Act Concerning Retirement Pensions in the city of Bristol

An Act Concerning Reducing the Residence Requirements of Candidates for Public Office in the City of Bristol

An Act Providing for Regulation of Promotions in the Bristol Police Department (Not Passed)

An Act Concerning the Powers of Towns Having Charters (Act has general application rather than specific application to Bristol and was maintained in the charter files)

### **Charter Revision Commission 1961**

Proposed Revised Charter of the City of Bristol, May 1961, Rejected at Referendum, June 28, 1961 (3097 Yes & 3789 No)

### **Charter 1963**

[An Act Concerning the] Creation of an Independent Zoning Commission for the City of Bristol

An Act Concerning Pensions for Employees of the City of Bristol

[An Act Concerning] Changing the Date of the Bristol Municipal Election

[An Act Concerning] the Repeal of Special Acts Relating to Bristol Parking Authorities

[An Act Concerning] Bonds for Further State Aid to Flood Control Work in the Pequabuck River Valley at Bristol

## **Charter 1965**

An Act Concerning the Charter of the City of Bristol, Bill No. 2271

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol, Bill No. 2276

An Act Providing Credit for the Retirement System of the City of Bristol for George E. Gillette, Bill No. 2277

An Act Providing Credit for the Retirement System of the City of Bristol for Dorothy Lanzarotta, Bill No. 2278

An Act Concerning the Comptroller of the City of Bristol, Bill No. 2416

An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Bristol Concerning the Superintendent of Parks, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 763, File No. 548

An Act Concerning a Park Superintendent for the City of Bristol, Bill No. 2753

An Act Amending the Pension Plan for Employees of the City of Bristol, Bill No. 3510

An Act Concerning Retirement Benefits for Raymond Bezanson, Bill No. 4084

## **Ordinances**

This group of materials consists of those documents related to the promulgation and adoption of ordinances. It represents all ordinance related materials found in the files of the Corporation Counsel's office, but is not a complete record of all ordinances of the City of Bristol. The materials contained in this section are arranged chronologically and include the text of ordinances, published copies of adopted ordinances, drafts of proposed ordinances, and related correspondence. Any correspondence found with the ordinance documents has been retained as an aid to understanding the reasoning for the enacting of ordinances.

In the early files, the years 1914 through 1921, it is common to find draft ordinances or, in some cases, only correspondence referencing proposals for ordinances. It is quite possible that in some case an ordinance may never have been drafted. This material was retained because it demonstrates issues of importance during those years. In a few cases, the correspondence includes copies of ordinances from other towns provided as examples of how certain issues were handled in other communities. Once again, these copies have been retained because they may have served as models for local ordinances. Some of the ordinance documents may not have been adopted and only survive as drafts of proposed ordinances, or simply as correspondence in which the merits of potential ordinances are described or discussed. The titles of ordinances have been recorded as they appear on the documents themselves.

**Ordinances Folder List:**

**Ordinances 1914**

An Ordinance of the City of Bristol Relating to Trolley Poles

**Ordinances 1915**

Opening and Closing of Fire Hydrants

Motion Picture Censorship Board

Underground Conduits

**Ordinances 1916**

Speed Limit at the Intersection of West and Divinity Streets

Burning Rubbish

Street Vendors

**Ordinances 1917**

Garbage Collection and Disposal

Soliciting and Sale of Goods in Streets and Public Places by Persons with Disabilities

Parking Automobiles on Main Street, North Main Street, and Riverside Avenue

**Ordinances 1918**

An Ordinance Prohibiting the Discharge of any Firearm, Cartridge, Blank Cartridge, Gun Powder, or Other Explosive during the Continuance of the War between the United States and Germany

Regulation of the Speed of Automobiles

Keeping of Pigs

**Ordinances 1919**

Regulating the Fares of Jitneys

Collection of Ashes within City Limits

Regulation of Parking on Main Street between Prospect and School Streets and on the Southerly Side of North Main Street from Main to Laurel Street

**Ordinances 1920**

Right-of-Way for Fire Apparatus

**Ordinances 1921**

Remuneration of Public Officials

Building or Other Projects in Excess of \$2,500

Fares of Public Service Vehicles

Parking Ordinance

Ordinance Prohibiting Laying of Pipeline or Other Obstruction on Highway, Tabled September 22, 1921

Milk and Food Inspector, Registration of Dealers and Regulations, Adopted October 18, 1921

**Ordinances 1922**

Parking Ordinance, Adopted January 17, 1922

Milk and Herd Inspector and Regulating the Sale of Milk, Cream, and Ice Cream, Adopted July 22, 1922

**Ordinances 1924**

Amendment of Ordinance Adopted December 15, 1911 Concerning Meetings of the City Council, Adopted November 18, 1924

Ordinance "Itinerant Vendors" approved January 18, 1916, Repealed November 18, 1924

**Ordinances 1927**

An Ordinance Establishing a Commission on Playgrounds, Approved March 15, 1927, Subject to the Approval of the Park Board

Public Service Vehicles, Accepted April 5, 1927

Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Discharge of Refuse into the Pequabuck River or the North Creek, Presented June 7, 1927

### **Ordinances 1928**

Ordinance Prohibiting Certain Commercial Vehicles on Laurel Street, Accepted July 17, 1928

An Ordinance Regulating Parking on School Street, Accepted September 4, 1928

An Ordinance Regulating the Keeping of Chickens within the Limits of the 1<sup>st</sup> Taxing District, Reported on September 4, 1928

An Ordinance Concerning the Superintendent of Parks, Adopted December 18, 1928

### **Ordinances 1929**

Letters Regarding Restricting Traffic on High School Grounds

### **Ordinances 1930**

Building Code of the City of Bristol, Adopted August 3, 1926, with Revisions to February, 1930

Building Zone Ordinance, September 15, 1930

### **Ordinances 1931**

Proposed Ordinance for Making Goodwin Street a Stop Street at the Intersection of Goodwin Street and Queen Street

Proposed Ordinance for Making Tulip Street a Stop Street at the Intersection of Tulip Street and Park Street

### **Ordinances 1934**

Ordinance Regulating Trade in the City of Bristol, Adopted April 3, 1934, Rescinded May 5, 1936

An Ordinance Entitled "Misfeasance in Office," Adopted May 1, 1934

Regulation Governing Land Development, Adopted June 5, 1934, Effective June 22, 1934

Sealer of Weights and Measures, Adopted June 5, 1934, Effective June 22, 1934

A Change of Ordinances Corporation Counsel, Adopted June 5, 1934, Effective June 22, 1934

Addition to the Zoning Act, Adopted June 5, 1934, Effective June 22, 1934

An Ordinance Relative to the Sale, Discharge, or Use of Fire-Crackers, Rockets, Torpedoes, Roman Candles, Fire Balloons, Fire-Works, Pistols, Canes, Cannons, etc., Published June 21, 1934, Effective July 5, 1934

Parking Ordinances, Adopted August 7, 1934, Effective August 23, 1934

Ordinance Requiring Examination of Food Handlers and Liquid Dispensers, Adopted August 7, 1934, Effective August 23, 1934

Parking Ordinance Riverside Avenue Parking, Adopted October 2, 1934, Effective October 18, 1934

Police Rules and Regulations, Adopted December 4, 1934, Effective December 21, 1934

### **Ordinances 1935**

Garbage Ordinance, Adopted January 2, 1935, Effective January 18, 1935

Building Zone Ordinance, Adopted March 17, 1931, as amended May 1, 1935

West Street Speed Limit, Adopted May 7, 1935, Effective May 23, 1935

### **Ordinances 1936**

City Council Votes to Rescind “An Ordinance Regulating Trade in the City of Bristol”

Ordinance Prohibiting Fires in Highways, Adopted September 1, 1936, Effective September 17, 1936

### **Ordinances 1937**

An Ordinance Prohibiting Unnecessary Noise, Adopted February 2, 1937, Effective February 18, 1937

Proposed Master Plumber Code 1937

An Ordinance Prohibiting Undressing in Parks, etc., Adopted August 3, 1937, Effective August 20, 1937

Amendment to the Building Code, Adopted November 2, 1937, Effective January 1, 1938

### **Ordinances 1939**

Addition to Building Zone Ordinance, 1939

Changes in the Building Zone Ordinance, Use Regulations Controlling Residence Zones, 1939

### **Ordinances 1940**

Meat, Milk, and Herd Inspector

An Ordinance Limiting the Number of Outlets Selling Alcoholic Liquor

Construction of Garages

### **Ordinances 1942**

An Ordinance Concerning Blackouts and Air Raid Protection, (Emergency Ordinance) Adopted January 6, 1942, Repealed February 5, 1946

Proposed Automobile Trailer Camp Ordinance

### **Ordinances 1944**

Amendment Requiring Corporation Counsel to Keep City Council and Finance Board Informed of Legislative Action, Adopted April 4, 1944

Regulations Concerning the Erection, Alteration and Use of Building or Structures for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages (Not Approved)

Amendment Rescinding Ordinance Entitled "Playground Commission," Adopted May 2, 1944

Planning Commission Powers, Adopted September 5, 1944

### **Ordinances 1945**

An Ordinance Authorizing City Employees to Form Associations

Ordinance Providing for Vacancy in Office of Superintendent of Charities

### **Ordinances 1946**

An Ordinance Concerning Blackouts and Air Raid Protection, Repealed February 5, 1946

Ordinance Creating a Board of Public Welfare, Adopted March 5, 1946

Request for an Ordinance Prohibiting Kennels in Certain Areas

Ordinance Creating a Municipal Reserve Fund, Adopted May 7, 1946

An Ordinance Setting up Employees Compensation Procedure, Adopted June 4, 1946

Ordinance Pertaining to Carnivals, Adopted August 6, 1946

Ordinance Making Laurel Street, South Elm Street, Orchard Street, and Newell Street, One-way Streets

### **Ordinances 1947**

Ordinance Requiring Pasteurization of Milk, Adopted March 4, 1947

Ordinance Amending Zoning Ordinances as to Liquor Use, Adopted May 6, 1947

Ordinance Relative to Found Goods, Adopted July 1, 1947

### **Ordinances 1948**

An Ordinance Regulating and Taxing Peddlers, Solicitors, and Itinerant Merchants, Declaring Certain Conduct a Nuisance, and Prescribing a Penalty for Violation (Proposed)

An Ordinance Providing for the Licensing and Regulating of Cigarette Vending Machines, Juke Boxes and Mechanical Amusement Devices, Prohibiting the Operation of Gambling Machines and Games of Chance, Providing for the Revocation of Such License and Providing Penalties for the Violation Thereof (Proposed)

Suggested Amendment to the “L” Zone Ordinance

Ordinance Pertaining to Carnivals, Adopted June 1, 1948

An Ordinance Requiring the Licensing of Restaurants and Other Food Handling Establishments in the City of Bristol, Adopted September 7, 1948

Ordinance Extending Voting Hours, Adopted October 5, 1948

An Ordinance Amending Chapter One, Section One “Meetings of the City Council” of the General Ordinance of the City of Bristol, Adopted October 5, 1948

An Ordinance Amending Section 9 of the City Ordinances of Bristol Pertaining to the Serving of Notices, Adopted November 10, 1948

## **Ordinances 1949**

Sewage Disposal Ordinance (Proposed)

Amendment to Health Ordinance Reducing License Fee, Adopted April 5, 1949

An Ordinance Extending Voting Hours, Adopted September 6, 1949

An Ordinance Creating a City Planning Commission as Provided in Chapter 45 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut Revision of 1949, Adopted September 6, 1949

## **Ordinances 1950**

Amendment to Milk Ordinance Rescinding Requirement of Producers of Milk to be Sold in Bristol to Obtain a Milk License, Adopted January 27, 1950

Ordinance Creating Department of Sewage Disposal, Adopted February 7, 1950

Garbage and Rubbish Disposal Ordinance, Adopted May 2, 1950

Salary Payroll – Schedule of Working Hours – Vacations – Sick Privileges, Adopted June 6, 1950

Ordinance Regulating Oil Burning Equipment and Fuel Oil Storage (Proposed)

## **Ordinances 1951**

Ordinance Concerning the Right of City Employees to Associate Themselves into Organizations of their Own Choosing for their Mutual Benefit and Advancement, Adopted April 3, 1951

Ordinance Adopted Pertaining to the Following of Fire Apparatus, Adopted May 1, 1951

Ordinance Requiring Registration of Inboard and Outboard Motor Boats, Adopted May 1, 1951

Ordinance Extending Voting Hours at Forthcoming City Election, Adopted August 7, 1951

Proposed Ordinance Pertaining to Itinerant Vendors, Peddlers, Solicitors, Canvassers, Going-Out-of-Business Sales and Auction Sales.

## **Ordinances 1952**

Ordinance Creating Sewer Department Rescinded, April 1, 1952

Fox Bounty, Adopted November 12, 1952

## **Ordinances 1953**

Ordinance Establishing Personnel Appeals Board and Grievance Procedure

Ordinance Concerning Parking Meters and Off-Street Parking Lots

## **Ordinances 1954**

Ordinance Concerning Package Store Hours (Materials relating to the ordinance, but no copy of the ordinance itself)

Ordinance Concerning Parking Meters and Off-Street Parking (See Ordinances 1953)

## **Ordinances 1960**

Ordinance Adopting the “State of Connecticut Basic Building Code”

Ordinance Prescribing the Powers and Duties of the School Building Committee

## **Ordinances 1965**

Economic Development Commission

## **Legal Opinions**

The files of opinions of the Corporation Counsel constitute the largest volume of the historical materials of that office and cover a longer period of time than any other portion of the files. Although the office was not created until the adoption of the City Charter, which took effect in 1911, legal opinions were provided by private attorneys prior to that time and have been preserved with the opinions of the Corporation Counsel’s office.

The opinion files provide insight into the operation of city government in the Twentieth Century and demonstrate the evolution of legal issues facing both government and society. The files are divided into two groups, a chronological series and a subject based series. This arrangement reflects the manner in which the files were maintained by the office. It presents some difficulty for purposes of arranging the documents but appeared to be a reasonable method because it was least disruptive to the arrangement maintained by the office. As a consequence, there is some degree of overlap between the two groups. It cannot be assumed that because there is a folder for “Legal Opinions,

Assessor” that all opinions dealing with the Assessor will be found in that folder. It is virtually certain that other opinions concerning the Assessor will also be found in the chronological series. After further study it may be determined that an alternative arrangement would be more appropriate.

Even a cursory examination of this finding aid demonstrates that there are gaps in the record of legal opinions. It was determined that at least two separate numbering series existed for legal opinions, prior to the numbering system currently in use by the Corporation Counsel’s office, and interruptions in the numbering sequence clearly indicate that some opinions are missing. It is possible that additional documents may be found in the future, but at this time it must be assumed that some of the opinions have been lost.

**Legal Opinions, Chronological File Folder Listing:**

Legal Opinions, 1905-1920

Legal Opinions, 1921

Legal Opinions, 1922

Legal Opinions, 1923-1925

Legal Opinions, 1926-1932

Legal Opinions, 1936

Legal Opinions, 1937

Legal Opinions, 1938

Legal Opinions, 1939

Legal Opinions, 1940

Legal Opinions, 1941

Legal Opinions, 1942

Legal Opinions, 1943

Legal Opinions, 1944

Legal Opinions, 1945-1946

Legal Opinions, 1947-1949

Legal Opinions, 1952

**Legal Opinions, Subject File Folder Listing:**

Legal Opinions, Assessor

Legal Opinions, Comptroller

Legal Opinions, Education

Legal Opinions, Elections 1 & 2

Legal Opinions, Mayor

Legal Opinions, Police Department

Legal Opinions, Public Charities

Legal Opinions, Public Works

Legal Opinions, Salary Committee

Legal Opinions, Taxation

Legal Opinions, Town & City Clerk

Legal Opinions, Voting Machines

**Land Acquisitions**

Over time, the City of Bristol has acquired real property for a variety of reasons including parks, public buildings, and reservoirs. In addition, the city has also acquired much smaller parcels to establish or expand roadways or for general road improvements. Rights of way have also been acquired for sewers, water lines, and drainage projects.

The documents listed below are records related to the acquisition of larger parcels and are arranged by address. The first group of files is followed by a smaller group of acquisitions for which no address could be determined. The land appears to be parcels without frontage on an established street.

While there are additional materials related to rights of way, these documents are almost all in unsigned or draft form and rights of way actually acquired by the city are recorded in the land records. The more significant acquisitions listed below are also recorded in

the land records, but these files also contain additional information found in correspondence, notes, and property descriptions, relevant to the acquisition process and the documents are considered to have greater historical significance. The property acquired through the transactions listed below play a significant role in the development of the water supply system for the city, the development of the Memorial Boulevard, and other important aspects of the city's history.

### **Land Acquisition Folder Listing:**

Property of Donald and Florence Day bounded in part by **Brewster Road and Bradley Street**, January 31, 1966

Property of Edward A. D'Amato and George K. Winters bounded in part by **Brook Street and Stafford Avenue**, acquired for roadway construction purposes, January 31, 1966

Property of E. Lulu Brown Douglas bounded in part by **Church Avenue** acquired for construction of a school?, 1948

Property of the Bristol Boys' Club located southerly of **Circle Street**, July 27, 1967

Property of Anthony Ege bounded in part by **Cross Street**, 1938

Property of Frederick R. Downs, Jr. and Mary Treadway Downs westerly of **Dewitt Drive** acquired for Page Park, 1957

Property of Mary J. Cote and the Estate of Appellinaire H. Cote on **Ellen Court (Chippanee Hill Shore Lot #36)**, a proposed Street, acquired for water supply purposes, 1953

Property of Harry s. and Ethel S. Beals on **Fall Mountain Road**, acquired for school purposes, July 3, 1956

Property of David F. McGowan bounded in part by land of Frederick A. Chamberlain and **Highway #117 in the Town of Harwinton**, Litchfield County acquired for water supply purposes, 1938

Property of John Hayden et al. on **Jerome Avenue** acquired for elementary school purposes, 1956

Property of Esso Standard Oil Company near **King Street** possibly acquired for highway purposes, August 3, 1955

Property of Gustav Ammerman, on **King Street**, acquired for Page Park, April 1965

Property of Giuseppe Vasile bound in part by **Lake Avenue and Middle Street**, 1945

Property of the Bradley Estate bounded in part by **Louisiana Avenue** acquired for construction of a school?, 1949

Property of Carl W. and Mary M. Erickson, situated on the northerly side of **Marsh Road** acquired for water supply purposes, 1957

Property of Ordine Figli D'Italia in America (Sons of Italy) bounded in part by **Meadow Street** for purposes of street development, 1939

Property of James L. Wilcox bounded in part by the **Memorial Boulevard** acquired for park purposes, 1922

Property of Leonard P. Hayden bounded in part by **Middle Street** adjacent to Mary A. Callan School, 1949

Property of Spartacus Cartpenter between **Middle Street and Lake Avenue** acquired for construction purposes, September 1955

Property of Herman and Mary M. Dickau in **Mine Brook Area**, acquired for Bristol Water Company purposes, May 6, 1957

Property of Carl S. and Florence H. Lackman adjacent to **Mine Brook**, May 18, 1957

Property of Robert Dallman, Sr. **Morris Avenue**, acquired for purposes of roadway construction, 1957

Property of Bruno Gaultieri and Frank H. Saxton for the extension of **Norton Street**, 1943

Property of the Estate of Constance Pikiell bound in part by **Oak Street**, 1945

Property of Amadeo Covert, on **Park Street**, acquired for expansion of O'Connell Elementary School, July 2, 1959

Property of Francis L. Lombardi, on **Park Street**, acquired for expansion of O'Connell Elementary School, July 2, 1959

Property of the Beach Lumber Company bounded in part by **Pine Street**, 1946

Property of Settimo Mengali bounded in part by **Pine Street and Mitchell Street** adjacent to Mary A. Callan School, 1951

Property of Anna Czertak off **Pine Street** Acquired for the expansion of Green Hills School, April 13, 1953

Property of James E. and Rose A. Sorensen on **Pine Street**, acquired for school purposes, 1953

Property of Wallace F. and Madolyn B. Dunn on **Preston Road, Plymouth**, land exchange recommended by Bristol Water Department, May 17, 1966

Property of Louis Lukeso, on **South Road, Harwinton**, acquired for Bristol Water Department use, December 17, 1965

Property of Edward Ingraham bounded in part by **Woodland Street Extension** acquired for park purposes, 1935

### **Properties without Street Address**

Terryville Water Company Acquisition, reservoir and land on **Poland Brook Road, Plymouth**, 1917

Property of Anna Pader consisting of six parcels located one mile north of the Village of **Terryville** for water supply purposes, 1939

Property of the Andrew Terry Company known as **Old Marsh Pond** acquired for water supply purposes, 1944

Property of Raymond G. and Jessie G. Hutchinson adjacent to **Reservoir No. 7** acquired for water supply purposes, 1949

Property of William C. and Louise F. Riley, located in the Town of Burlington, property of the estate of Frederick B. Michael, and property of Leroy E. and Helen G. Downs located in the Town of Plymouth acquired for the expansion of **Reservoir No. 7**

Property of Asa Curtiss, located in the towns of **Harwinton and Plymouth**, acquired for the Bristol Water Department, 1949-1953

Summary of Owners of **Reservoir on South Mountain**, 1850-1868

### **Fatalities**

The documents contained in this section are the records of the Corporation Counsel's office related to any incident involving a fatality. The files are arranged in Chronological order. It must be assumed that additional fatalities have occurred in the City of Bristol and that the records of those fatalities will be found in the files of the Police and Fire Departments. Records of fatalities are permanent records of the city and this group of files extends beyond the date range of the other materials in this body of records. It was

felt that as a narrow and relatively small group of documents that it would be better to include all fatalities for which records were available.

**Fatalities Folder Listing:**

**McNabolia, James (Alternate spelling McNabola McNabalo Nabola)**, a street cleaner for the City of Bristol, struck by an automobile on Main Street on September 15, 1917, resulting in death on September 20, 1917.

**O'Hara, Arthur P.**, a construction worker employed in the construction of the Bristol High School, died on October 27, 1921 while erecting a steel derrick to be used in the construction.

**Paton, ? (aka Murphy)**, a construction worker employed in the construction of the Bristol High School, died on October 27, 1921 while erecting a steel derrick to be used in the construction.

**Lieggio, Cosimo (aka Cosmo Lyggio)**, a street cleaner for the City of Bristol, struck by an automobile on Main Street on March 27, 1924, resulting in death on June 1, 1924.

**Conlon, H. Edward**, a fireman with the Bristol Fire Department. "On June 9, 1935 decedent sustained personal injuries by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment resulting in death"

**Virengo, Lorenzo**, employed by the city to trim storm damaged trees, he fell from a tree on July 31, 1937 when a branch gave way under him and he died from injuries sustained in the fall on September 30, 1937.

**Scott, Shirley Rachel**, drowned while swimming at Rockwell Park lagoon on August 22, 1939.

**Burns, James W.**, a Police Officer, died of gunshot wounds, May 28, 1941.

**Schilke, Ernest Walter**, a Police Officer, fatally injured in an explosion at the Wallace Barnes Rolling Mill, while on duty, May 13, 1944.

**Lessard, Jerry Armand**, drowned in Birge's Pond after falling off a raft, May 10, 1948.

**Piredda, Frank**, a worker sealing joints in sewer tile on West Washington Street near King Street, trapped and crushed when an excavated "ditch" collapsed and the worker was buried by gravel, July 31, 1949, copy of Police Report of Sergeant Gordon L. Page and Detective William Malvetz.

**Bryce, Ruth**, struck and killed on Warner Court by Water Department truck operated by Raymond Cunningham, on October 10, 1956, copy of Coroner's Report.

**Alos, Joseph J.**, died as a result of injuries sustain in an automobile accident “when his automobile was caused to strike the northeast corner of the concrete abutment and iron railing of the bridge” located on Stevens Street, November 16, 1963.

**Salesio, Biago aka Biagio Salese**, died as a result of injuries sustained in a fall on West Street on December 18, 1963.

**Kenrick, Rachel Ellen**, was injured in a fall on Prospect Street on January 27, 1966 and died as a result of the injuries on February 8, 1966.

**Kennedy, Gerald**, was shot by Ronald Madore, Sr., an officer of the Bristol Police Department and died on June 17, 1969.

**Lapierre, Michael**, drowned while swimming in the Rockwell Park lagoon of July 26, 1970.

**McMillan, James E.**, was shot by Bristol Police Officer Thur L. Hewitt while fleeing arrest on May 3, 1971.

**Staskiewicz, John J.**, died while in custody of Bristol Police Department following a fall while intoxicated resulting in a head injury, September 5, 1972.

**Keeler, Richard P.**, while sledding on Seymour Street on March 3, 1976, sustaining injuries after hitting metal rods projecting from a catch basin, he died from injuries on March 4, 1976.

**Small, Richard R.**, drowned after diving from the lifeguard’s chair at the Rockwell Park lagoon, July 20, 1976.

## **Town Owned Structures**

This group of materials includes documents related to structures owned by the City of Bristol. The files have been separated into records related to school buildings, the Bristol Public Library (the main building and the branch library), and other city owned structures. Within each group, the files are arranged chronologically.

### **Town Owned Structures Folder Listing:**

#### **Schools**

Bristol High School, Centre Street, 1889

Bristol High School, Memorial Boulevard, Deed Restrictions, 1920, 1921, 1953

Bristol Industrial High School, Riverside Avenue, 1939

Mary A. Callen School, 1949-1951

Bristol Eastern High School, Property Acquisition and Bonding, 1953-1958

Bristol High School, Memorial Boulevard, Expansion, 1956-1961

Bristol Eastern High School, Lyons & Mather Architects, 1957-1958

School Building Committee, 1958-1965

Bristol Eastern High School, Expansion, 1964-1965

### **Bristol Public Library**

Bristol Public Library, Property Acquisition, Washington Street, Forestville, 1940-1957

Bristol Public Library, Library Fund, 1941-1953

Bristol Public Library, Manross Branch, 1947-1960

Bristol Public Library, Property Acquisition for Expansion, 282 & 288 Main Street, 1957-1959

Bristol Public Library, Children's Library, 1960-1962

Bristol Public Library Heating System, 1963

Bristol Public Library, Library Expansion, 1964-1965

### **Other Structures**

Bristol City Hall, Construction, 1961-1963

Bristol Central Firehouse, Construction, 1962-1965

Middle Street Firehouse, 1963-1965

### **Historical Materials**

The materials in this section relate to significant or interesting events in the history of Bristol. They consist of a broad range of documents, including correspondence, reports, petitions, and other materials. Of particular interest are documents related to Rockwell Park and the Memorial Boulevard.

### **Historical Materials Folder Listing:**

Mayor, and Other Public Officials, Speeches, Proclamations, Statements, 1912, 1942, 1943, 1947, 1958 & undated

Forest Fire Warden, 1912, 1915, 1928

Rockwell Park, 1914-1928

Memorial Boulevard, 1919-1950

Local Survey and City Planning Proposals for Bristol, Connecticut, by John Nolan, City Planner, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1920

Page Park and Page Park Fund, 1933, 1945-1954

Veterans, Lists of Men Who Died in Service, World War I, List of "Ex-Service Men" 12/1/1935, List of Recipients of Memorial Certificates, 1943-1945

Brackett Playground, aka Roots Playground, 1917 (Transcription), 1938  
Establishment of the Bristol Housing Authority, 1942

Forestville Cemetery Association, 1927-1953

Establishment of Bristol Housing Authority, 1942

Trolley Rails, Sale of for War Materials, 1942

Laurel Hall, 1943-1950

Rules & Regulations of the Fire Department Bristol CT, June 5, 1945 and April 4, 1961

Fluoridation of Water Supply, Bristol, 1949-1950

Municipal Redevelopment (This is a very limited group of documents, a much more complete record of municipal redevelopment in Bristol is found in the minutes and files of the Bristol Development Authority.), 1949-1951

Rockwell, Nettie E., Will, 1949-1953

Forestville Fishing Club, Granniss Pond, 1950-1951

Wilson Playground, 1951

Rules & Regulations of the Police Department, 1952-1956 and undated materials

Flood Damage, Roads & Bridges, 1956-1960

Flood and Erosion Control, 1957-1958

Teachers' Collective Bargaining Rights Pursuant to Public Act #298, 1965

Miscellaneous Items