



Mayor's Office | Phone: 860.584.6250 | Fax: 860-584-3835

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (Bristol CT) June 16, 2020

CITY HALL ANNOUNCES RE-OPEN PLAN

(BRISTOL, CT) – Bristol City Hall will re-open for on a by appointment basis starting Monday, June 22, 2020, with a full re-opening to the public on Monday, July 6th. “We are putting protocols in place to ensure that both city employees and our citizens are protected when visiting City Hall,” said Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu. “We have been at 100% work capacity with the doors closed for the last 3 months and have been able to service all customer needs over the phone, via the internet, and by meeting people at the door when necessary. We encourage people to continue to call into City Hall and transact business using the city website when able to, to cut down on traffic in the building.”

Starting July 6th, the building will be open to the public with some modifications. “Recognizing that many people like to pay their taxes in person and receive receipts, we have repaired the Tax Drive Thru window and that will be open for use,” said the Mayor. “We also want to remind everyone that the City chose to defer payment of July 1 taxes until October 1, 2020 without interest or penalties, so this will hopefully reduce the lines. You may also pay your taxes online, or mail them. There is also a drop box in the wall at the North Side Lobby where people may deposit their payments.”

“Due to the small vestibule areas in many of the offices, there will also be social distancing circles to denote where the lines should form. Plexiglas barriers have been installed on all of the counters and citizens will be asked to wear masks and there will be sanitizing stations,” said Councilman Peter Kelley who chairs the city Building Committee. He also noted that the first floor bathrooms will be available for public use, while the remaining bathrooms on other floors will be for employee use only.

Harley Graime, the city's emergency management director, has been accumulating Personal Protective Equipment for employee use, including gloves, which will need to be changed frequently by those offices handling paperwork and cash money. “It's also important for people to stay home if they are feeling sick,” Graime said. “We will be cleaning the building, contact points, public computers and ensuring there are masks and other supplies, we need to stop the spread of this community transmitted virus.”

The Public Works Department has also converted all of its services and programs to online payments and reservations. Members of the public may access all of these forms and information by visiting the Public Works Department section of the City website. “We have an organized and secure way for all citizens to access our services without visiting City Hall,” said Lindsey Rivers, Public Works Analyst.

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The Town Clerk's office will provide services at City Hall by appointment only. Services are also available by mail, e-mail, and electronically. Customers can call 860-584-6200 ext. 0 or e-mail the office at townclerk@bristolct.gov to determine the best way to obtain the service. For residents renewing their dog's license, please mail the renewal to the office. In 2020 dog owners have until July 31 to renew the dog license without penalty. Land record indexes and other forms or services are available on the town clerk web page at www.bristolct.gov for the public's convenience.

"Bristol Building Department will continue providing services to our residents and contractors," said Chief Building Inspector Thomas Lozier. "We encourage applicants to applying online for all building related permits. Please visit our online permitting system at www.bristolct.viewpointcloud.com for all building and zoning permits or visit the City Of Bristol website www.bristolct.gov for building and zoning related questions." At this time all inspections are being evaluated before the inspector goes out to the property. The department offers in person inspections (case by case) as well as zoom style inspections depending on the situation. If you need to schedule an inspection or you have a general question for an inspector, please call the main number (860-584-6215).

Bristol parks have re-opened for public use and registration is available for select programs including Summer Cares, aquatics classes, arts and youth sports. Athletic fields and park pavilions are also available for rental for group gatherings under 50 people. Registration and reservations for all parks, recreation, youth and community services can be completed online at www.bristolrec.com. For any questions please call the main office at 860-584-6160.

Members of the public wishing to access City Hall after the opening on July 6th should use the North Lobby entrance (closest to the Police Dept.). Parking is available on the street, and in the Laurel Street parking lot. There are handicapped parking spaces to the rear of the building near the handicapped ramp, accessible from Meadow Street.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TAX DEFERRAL

IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXECUTIVE ORDER 7S

What does the Deferment Program mean?

This is an extended grace period program for upcoming Real Estate, Personal Property, and Motor Vehicle tax bills due on July 1, 2020, with the exceptions of escrows and landlords. It defers the payment deadline until three months from the tax due date, instead of the usual 30 days. Interest will not be charged during those three months.

When is a deferred tax bill due?

Deferred tax bills are still due July 1, 2020, but the interest-free grace period is now extended until October 1, 2020, instead of the deadline being August 3, 2020.

Whose tax bills are covered under this deferment?

Any resident or business owner who will have unescrowed real estate, motor vehicle, or personal property tax bills due July 1, 2020 (with the exception of landlords, unless they qualify). Landlords must submit an application with documentation by July 1st, 2020, and be deemed eligible for the deferment per the requirements in section 6 (c) of the Governor's Executive Order 7S.

What do landlords need to do in order to qualify?

Per the Governor's Executive Order 7S, all landlords must submit an application with supporting documentation to the Tax Collector's office by July 1st, 2020 in order to qualify for the deferment. The documentation must provide proof of a significant decline in income or that commensurate forbearance was offered to their tenants or lessees. If a landlord does not apply or does not qualify for the deferment, the tax bills will still be delinquent after August 3, 2020 and interest will be charged based off of the original July 1, 2020 due date. Applications will be available to download from the Tax Collector's website starting on May 12th, 2020, and can be submitted electronically to taxoffice@bristolct.gov

What is the penalty to pay a deferred tax bill on October 2nd, 2020?

Interest is based off of the original July 1, 2020 due date, so an October 2, 2020 late payment would be charged 6% interest. Per state statute Sec 12-146, even one day late generates the month's interest charge, so it would be 1.5% for each month (July, August, September, and October) that the bill has existed.

Do delinquent bills get an extension of time?

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No. This pertains only to new tax bills for July 1, 2020.

How is my escrowed real estate tax bill affected?

If your real estate taxes are escrowed, the bill is not deferred per the Governor's Executive Order. The bank or mortgage company is still required to pay by Monday, August 3, 2020. If they are paid after August 3, 2020, they will be charged interest of 1.5% per month based off of the original July 1, 2020 due date.

How do I pay my bill?

Mail tax payments to: Tax Collector, City of Bristol, PO Box 1040, Bristol, CT 06011-1040

By Mail: Mailed payments that are delivered after October 1, 2020 must have an official USPS postmark of October 1, 2020 or prior, or they will be considered delinquent and charged interest.

Pay Online: bristolct.gov under the Citizen Help Center

City Hall Dropbox: wall of North Side Lobby beginning July 6th

Drive-Thru: regular business hours July 1st – October 1st

ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

All assessment related questions and concerns can be answered by visiting www.bristolct.gov/assessor or calling City assessment staff at 860-584-6240. Here are answers to assessment application filings:

When are Renters relief applications due?

All applications must be submitted to assessment staff by October 1st 2020. Program guidelines are published online at <http://www.bristolct.gov/115/Elderly-Disabled-Renters-Rebate-Program>. On Line application filing is also available at <https://bristolct.seamlessdocs.com/f/2fonjhkpy6ls>

When are Homeowners tax relief applications due?

If you are an existing tax relief recipient then you do not have to reapply for the program this year. All other property owners must apply by August 15th 2020 per the governor's executive order to qualify. Program guidelines are published online at <http://www.bristolct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/21087/HOMEOWNERS-TAX-RELIEF-INFO-2018>. Online application filing is also available at <https://bristolct.seamlessdocs.com/f/homeowner>

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How do I receive Veteran assessment benefits?

Applications and honorable discharge (DD-214) must be filed by October 1st 2020. Contact assessment staff or visit published online information at <http://www.bristolct.gov/128/Veteran-Exemption>

When are Senior Volunteer and Senior Local tax relief applications due?

All applications are due to assessment staff by August 15th 2020 per the Governor's executive order. Contact the Senior Center (860-584-7895) for application information regarding the Senior Volunteer tax relief program. Senior Local tax relief program guidelines and application are available online at <https://bristolct.seamlessdocs.com/f/w42lp96wqt46>.

If I am getting billed for a car I no longer own, how can I adjust that assessment?

If the vehicle registration has not been transferred to a replacement vehicle and that registration is canceled with the State Department of Motor Vehicles then contact assessment staff or visit <http://www.bristolct.gov/391/Motor-Vehicles> for instructions on submitting proof of sale, junk or trade in of the old vehicle. Leased vehicles must be adjusted by the leasing company.