

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 13, 2013**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Finch called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Council Member Blunt led those present in a short prayer.

Council President McCarthy then requested a moment of silence out of respect for the passing of former Council Member Elaine Pivrotto's father and in acknowledgement of Council Member Denese Taylor-Moye sister who is gravely ill.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Finch requested a moment of silence in memory of the victims of gun violence in the City.

**ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130<sup>th</sup> District: Susan Brannelly, Steven Stafstrom, Jr.  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jack Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: John Olson, M. Evette Brantley  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy, Howard Austin  
134<sup>th</sup> District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Richard Bonney, Warren Blunt  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Carlos Silva, Angel dePara  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Lydia Martinez, Manuel Ayala  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Richard Paoletto, Jr.; Michael Marella, Jr.  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Andre Baker, Jr., James Holloway

A quorum was present.

Roll Call Hudson called the roll. A quorum was present.

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON**

**57-12**

**a,b,c,d,e Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 -Votes as follows:**

**General Fund:**

- a. Revenue Increases**
- b. Revenue Decreases**
- c. Appropriation Increases**
- d. Appropriation Decreases**

Mayor Finch thanked the Committee for the time and commitment for their hard work. He said that the economy was still struggling. He then stated that there would be five separate votes taken on the budget.

**General Fund: a. Revenue Increases**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**FY 2013 – 2014 GENERAL FUND BUDGET**  
**CITY COUNCIL BUDGET AMENDMENT RESOLUTION**

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**GENERAL FUND INCREASES**

Pursuant to the City Charter, the City Council shall have the power to increase any item in said budget or add new items to said budget only on a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the entire membership of the council.

**CITY COUNCIL VOTE NUMBER 57-12 (a)**

**Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Revenue Increases**

There are adjustments to the Mayor's Proposed Budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council's Budget & Appropriations Committee.

ORG	APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	BAC ADOPTED	CHANGE
<b>REVENUES</b>					
01010000	41561	Debt Service Principal Reimbursement	115,249	2,400,347	2,285,098
01040000	41694	One Mill Library Tax	6,748,211	6,877,798	129,587
01040000	41703	Penalties Arrears Taxes	1,160,000	1,210,000	50,000
01041000	44687	State Owned Property Pilot		2,411,952	2,411,952
01041000	44357	Muni Video Competition Trust Revenue	8,000	150,000	142,000
01041000	44692	Mashantucket Pequout/ Mohegan Pilot		5,074,938	5,074,938
01300000	45172	CRRA / Recycling Host Community Revenue		95,000	95,000
01355000	41635	Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course Revenue	1,750,000	1,815,000	65,000
01355000	41623	Seaside / Beardsley / Park Stickers	235,000	335,000	100,000
01863000	44515	Public School Transportation		1,257,651	1,257,651
<b>Total Revenue Increases</b>			<b>\$10,016,460</b>	<b>\$21,627,686</b>	<b>\$11,611,226</b>

### LEGISLATIVE INTENT REVENUE INCREASES

01010000 41561 - The legislative intent is to recognize use of the City's Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) funds for debt service reduction. Pending State Action.

01040000 41694 - The legislative intent is to illustrate the increase tax collection that must be appropriated to the Library Department in accordance with the Voter mandated referendum.

01040000 41703 - The legislative intent is to increase fees for obtaining a motor vehicle tax release. Fee will go from \$2 to \$5 dollars.

01041000 44687 - The legislative intent is to restore funding for state owned property per State Appropriation Committee approved plan.

01041000 44357 - The legislative intent is to increase revenue for this revenue in accordance with Public Act 09-07. The state pool is reduced to 1.5 million, whereby Bridgeport receives 10%.

01041000 44692 - The legislative intent is to restore gaming revenue from the state formula per State Appropriation Committee approved plan.

01300000 45172 - The legislative intent is to increase revenue for recyclable items. The City is in the second year of a five year contract on disposal of recycling items.

01355000 41635 - The legislative intent is to increase revenue one dollar (\$1.00) for each round of golf played for residents and two dollars (\$2.00) for each round played for all non-residents. (Requires Park Board Approval).

01355000 41623 - The legislative intent is to increase revenue five dollars (\$5.00) for each Park sticker. Includes resident, out-of-town, and out-of-state passes. (Requires Park Board Approval).

01863000 44515 - The legislative intent is to restore funding for Public School Transportation based upon conversation with State Appropriation Committee Leadership. Pending State Action.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA SECONDED.  
 \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**General Fund: b. Revenue Decreases**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**GENERAL FUND DECREASES**

Pursuant to the City Charter, the City Council Budget & Appropriations Committee reports its changes to the Council as a whole in the form of budget amendment resolution. The City Council has the power to reduce or delete any item in the budget recommended by the Mayor by a majority vote of the council members present and voting.

**CITY COUNCIL VOTE NUMBER – 57-12 (b)**

**Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Revenue Decreases**

There are adjustments to the Mayor's Recommended Budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council's Budget & Appropriations Committee.

ORG	APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	BAC ADOPTED	CHANGE
<b>REVENUES</b>					
01040000	41693	Current Taxes: Real Estate	291,660,679	280,993,776	-10,666,903
01040000	44689	Miscellaneous Pilots	755,603	10,000	-745,603
01041000	44686	Tax Exempt College / Hospitals	7,501,142	6,788,275	-712,867
01863000	44516	Non-Public School Transportation	403,523	80,705	-322,818
01863000	44350	ECS Property Tax Relief	2,834,257	835,847	-1,998,410
<b>Total Revenue Decreases</b>			<b>\$303,155,204</b>	<b>\$288,708,603</b>	<b>-\$14,446,601</b>

01040000 41693 – The legislative intent is to reduce the proposed tax growth by \$10,666,903 to reflect the spending cuts and revenue growth adopted based on the actions of the Council.

01040000 44689 - The legislative intent is to decrease revenue proposed as a hold harmless grant by the Governor, but eliminated in the approved State Appropriation Committee plan.

01041000 44686 - The legislative intent is to decrease revenue for the Payment in lieu of taxes ("PILOT") for Colleges & Hospitals as approved in the State Appropriation Committee Plan.

01863000 44516 - The legislative intent is to decrease revenue for Non-Public Transportation as approved in the State Appropriation Committee Plan.

01863000 44350 – The legislative intent is to decrease revenue proposed by the Governor as Education Cost Sharing ("ECS") Property Tax Relief and restore State owned property Payment in Lieu of Taxes ("PILOT"). This is per the approved State Appropriation Committee plan.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 57-12(B) GENERAL FUND: REVENUE DECREASES PASSED WITH NINETEEN IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, STAFSTROM, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, OLSON, BRANTLEY, MCCARTHY, AUSTIN, VIZZO-PANICCIA, BONNEY, BLUNT, DEPARA, SILVA, AYALA, MARTINEZ, MARELLA, PAOLETTO, BAKER, AND HOLLOWAY) AND ONE AGAINST (LYONS).**

#### **General Fund: c. Appropriation Increases**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

##### GENERAL FUND INCREASES

Pursuant to the City Charter, the City Council shall have the power to increase any item in said budget or add new items to said budget only on a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the entire membership of the council.

##### CITY COUNCIL VOTE NUMBER – 57-12 (c)

##### Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Appropriation Increases

There are adjustments to the Mayor's Recommended Budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council Budget & Appropriations Committee.

ORG	APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	BAC ADOPTED	CHANGE
01060000	6060SS	CITY ATTORNEY SPEC SVCS	0	200,000	-200,000
01700000	4700EX	LIBRARY OPER EXP	700,000	829,587	-129,587
<b>Total Appropriation Increases</b>			<b>700,000</b>	<b>1,029,587</b>	<b>-329,587</b>

**LEGISLATIVE INTENT APPROPRIATION INCREASES**

01060000 6060SS - The legislative intent is to Reduce the Mayor's proposed budget value for legal services by \$400,000, transferring \$200,000 to this newly established legal services line to account for court costs, expert witnesses, depositions, etc. There is no total appropriation growth as a result of this accounting change.

01700000 4700EX – This is a mandatory budget increase to the Library appropriation, in order to comply with the Voter Mandated referendum regarding Library level of support through current taxation. Change in value of a mil has been appropriated.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 57-12(C) GENERAL FUND: APPROPRIATION INCREASES PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, STAFSTROM, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, OLSON, BRANTLEY, MCCARTHY, AUSTIN, VIZZO-PANICCIA, BONNEY, BLUNT, DEPARA, SILVA, AYALA, MARTINEZ, MARELLA, PAOLETTO AND HOLLOWAY) AND TWO AGAINST (BAKER & LYONS).**

**General Fund: d. Appropriation Decreases**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**CITY COUNCIL VOTE NUMBER - 57-12 (d)**

**Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Appropriation Decreases**

There are adjustments to the Mayor's Recommended Budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council Budget & Appropriations Committee.

ORG	APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	BAC ADOPTED	CHANGE
01030000	1030PS	PRINT SHOP PERSONAL SVCS	386,615	328,615	58,000
01030000	3030FB	PRINT SHOP FRINGE BENEFITS	60,063	48,086	11,977
01040000	1040PS	TAX COLLECTOR PERSONAL SVCS	833,389	750,034	83,355
01040000	3040FB	TAX COLLECTOR FRINGE BENEFIT	131,351	114,138	17,213
01045000	1045PS	TREASURER PERSONAL SVCS	211,512	175,977	35,535
01045000	3045FB	TREASURER FRINGE BENEFITS	29,955	22,617	7,338
01055000	1055PS	CITY CLERK PERSONAL SVCS	264,471	231,587	32,884
01055000	3055FB	CITY CLERK FRINGE BENEFITS	40,578	33,788	6,790
01060000	1060PS	CITY ATTORNEY PERONAL SVCS	1,670,609	1,628,388	42,221
01060000	3060FB	CITY ATTORNEY FRINGE BENEFIT	224,156	215,437	8,719
01060000	6060SS	CITY ATTORNEY SPEC SVCS	975,000	575,000	400,000
01075000	3075FB	BENEFITS FRINGE BENEFITS	240,500	0	240,500
01250000	4250EX	POLICE OPER EXP	1,869,678	1,681,133	188,545
01250000	6250SS	POLICE SPEC SVCS	151,438	132,438	19,000
01251000	1250PS	POLICE PERSONAL SVCS	17,281,079	17,139,587	141,492
01251000	3250FB	POLICE FRINGE BENEFITS	4,697,822	4,669,858	27,964
01252000	1250PS	POLICE PERSONAL SVCS	3,658,146	3,584,963	73,183
01252000	3250FB	POLICE FRINGE BENEFITS	908,684	894,820	13,864
01258000	1250PS	POLICE PERSONAL SVCS	2,859,466	2,804,893	54,573
01258000	3250FB	POLICE FRINGE BENEFITS	161,542	148,035	13,507
01269000	1260PS	FIRE DEPT PERSONAL SVCS	1,048,836	920,245	128,591
01269000	3260FB	FIRE DEPT FRINGE BENEFITS	29,390	24,862	4,528
01272000	1260PS	FIRE DEPT PERSONAL SVCS	1,329,240	1,260,459	68,781
01272000	3260FB	FIRE DEPT FRINGE BENEFITS	35,480	33,620	1,860
01274000	1260PS	FIRE DEPT PERSONAL SVCS	868,653	799,872	68,781
01274000	3260FB	FIRE DEPT FRINGE BENEFITS	23,202	21,342	1,860
01310000	4310EX	MAINTENANCE OPER EXP	5,791,375	5,386,084	405,291
01320000	1320PS	ROADWAY PERSONAL SVCS	1,739,879	1,511,026	228,853
01325000	4325EX	SANITATION OPER EXP	2,927,500	2,813,628	113,872
01330000	6330SS	TRANSFER STATION SPEC SVCS	1,946,342	1,803,515	142,827
01331000	4331EX	FAIRCHILD WHEELER OPER EXP	404,646	386,146	18,500
01341000	4341EX	ZOO OPER EXP	278,000	219,000	59,000
01356000	4356EX	PARKS MAINTENANCE OPER EXP	289,703	254,143	35,560
01356000	6356SS	PARKS MAINTENANCE SPEC SVCS	225,846	215,846	10,000
01610000	1610PS	FIN SOURCE PERSONAL SVCS	-1,600,000	-2,000,000	400,000
<b>Total Appropriation Decreases</b>			<b>51,994,145</b>	<b>48,829,183</b>	<b>3,164,962</b>

### LEGISLATIVE INTENT APPROPRIATION DECREASES

01030000 1030PS - The legislative intent is to unfund the value of a vacant Pressman position in the Print Shop budget.

01030000 3030FB - The legislative intent is to unfund values for fringe benefits related to the vacant Print Shop position.

01040000 1040PS - The legislative intent is to unfund the value for (2) vacant Tax Collector Clerks in the Tax Collector's Office.

01040000 3040FB - The legislative intent is to unfund values for fringe benefits related to the vacant Tax Collector's positions.

01045000 1045PS - The legislative intent is to unfund the value for the vacant Accounting Clerk I position in the Treasury department.

01045000 3045FB - The legislative intent is to unfund values for fringe benefits related to the vacant Treasury position.

01055000 1055PS - The legislative intent is to unfund the value for a vacant Typist II position in the City Clerk's Office.

01055000 3055FB - The legislative intent is to unfund the value for fringe benefits related to the vacant City Clerk position.

01060000 1060PS - The legislative intent is to unfund the value for a vacant Collection Aide position in the City Attorney's Office.

01060000 3060FB - The legislative intent is to unfund values for fringe benefits related to the vacant City Attorney position.

01060000 6060SS - The legislative intent is to reduce the Mayors proposed budget value for legal service by \$400,000, transferring \$200,000 to a newly established Litigation Services account for court costs, expert witnesses, depositions, etc. The result of this change represents a net decrease of \$200,000.

01075000 3075FB - The legislative intent is to unfund proposed funds for life insurance and disability insurance. This is incorporated into other health benefit line items.

01250000 4250EX - The legislative intent is to reduce proposed values for various police department appropriations. Based upon a reduction plan submitted by the Police Department, the overall operating expense budget has been reduced by \$188,545.

01250000 6250SS - The legislative intent is to reduce the values for various special police department appropriations. Based upon a reduction plan submitted by the Police Department, the overall special services budget has been reduced by \$19,000.

01251000 1250PS - The legislative intent is to reduce the value for (6) vacant Police Officer positions due to the time needed to finalize recruitment and hiring. (This represents six months of funding).

01251000 3250FB - The legislative intent is to unfund values for fringe benefits related to the vacant (6) Police Officer positions. (This represents six months of funding).

01252000 1250PS - The legislative intent is to reduce the value for a vacant Police Sergeant and Lieutenant position due to the time needed to finalize recruitment and hiring. (This represents six months of funding)..

01252000 3250FB - The legislative intent is to unfund values for fringe benefits related to the vacant Police Sergeant and Lieutenant positions. (This represents six months of funding)..

01258000 1250PS - The legislative intent is to reduce the value for (2) vacant Police Officer positions due to the time needed to finalize recruitment and hiring. (This represents six months of funding).

01258000 3250FB - The legislative intent is to unfund values for fringe benefits related to the (2) vacant Police Officer positions. (This represents six months of funding).

01269000 1260PS - The legislative intent is to unfund the value for a Pumper Engineer and Fire Lieutenant positions.

01269000 3260FB - The legislative intent is to unfund values for fringe benefits related to the vacant Pumper Engineer and Fire Lieutenant positions.

01272000 1260PS - The legislative intent is to unfund the value for the vacant Fire Lieutenant position.

01272000 3260FB - The legislative intent is to unfund values for fringe benefits related to the vacant Fire Lieutenant position.

01274000 1260PS - The legislative intent is to unfund the value for the vacant Fire Lieutenant position.

01274000 3260FB - The legislative intent is to unfund values for fringe benefits related to the vacant Fire Lieutenant position.

01310000 4310EX - The legislative intent is to reduce proposed values for various Facilities Maintenance division appropriations. Based upon a reduction plan submitted by the Public Facilities Department, the overall operating expense budget has been reduced by \$405,291.

01320000 1320PS - The legislative intent is to unfund the value for (7) vacant Roadway Maintenance positions.

01325000 4325EX - The legislative intent is to reduce proposed values for various Sanitation / Recycling division appropriations. Based upon a reduction plan submitted by the Public Facilities Department, the overall operating expense budget has been reduced by \$113,872.

01330000 6330SS - The legislative intent is to reduce proposed values for various Transfer Station division appropriations. Based upon a reduction plan submitted by the Public Facilities Department, the overall special service budget has been reduced by \$142,827.

01331000 4331EX - The legislative intent is to reduce proposed values for various Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course appropriations. Based upon a reduction plan submitted by the Public Facilities Department, the overall operating expense budget has been reduced by \$18,500.

01341000 4341EX - The legislative intent is to reduce proposed values for various Beardsley Zoo appropriations. Based upon a reduction plan submitted by the Public Facilities Department, the overall operating expense budget has been reduced by \$59,000.

01356000 4356EX - The legislative intent is to reduce proposed values for various Parks Maintenance appropriations. Based upon a reduction plan submitted by the Public Facilities Department, the overall operating expense budget has been reduced by \$35,560.

01356000 6356SS - The legislative intent is to reduce proposed values for various Parks Maintenance appropriations. Based upon a reduction plan submitted by the Public Facilities Department, the overall special services budget has been reduced by \$10,000.

01610000 1610PS - The legislative intent is to increase the attrition / concession value by \$400,000. In review of the Mayor's proposed budget for employees, the Council decided to increase the concession value leaving to the administration the responsibility to obtain this value through attrition, union concessions, furloughs, and/or position elimination. Of this value, the Council's intent is to have \$95,313 recaptured for adjustments made to unaffiliated positions in the FY 2012-2013 fiscal year.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

Council Member Baker expressed concerns about why there was a decrease in the City Clerk's office for the Typist II position. Council Member Brannelly explained that the Committee had eliminated all the vacancies. However, while the Committee acknowledged the difficulty that the City Clerk's office was experiencing, the Committee felt that it would be self-serving since the Council Members would benefit while other departments took a cut.

Council Member Holloway pointed out that the office was closed to the public already on one day a week. He said that this was not the time to cut the position. Council Member Baker said that the City Attorney had made reference to the fact that there was a backlog on the processing the legal matters. He said that this was important to keep up with the work.

Council Member Brannelly said that the past weeks were difficult for all the departments. She said that the public had spoken loud and clear about this. All the vacant positions were eliminated.

Council Member Baker said that there was \$93,000 allocation to the Legislative Department. He said that he did not see any cuts in the Legislative office. Council Member Brannelly replied that

the funds were there for the Council to have outside counsel. The Committee discussed this and decided not to cut it since there were several issues coming up where the Council Members may need outside counsel.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 57-12(D) GENERAL FUND: APPROPRIATION DECREASES PASSED WITH FIFTEEN IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, STAFSTROM, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, OLSON, BRANTLEY, MCCARTHY, AUSTIN, VIZZO-PANICCIA, BONNEY, BLUNT, AYALA, MARTINEZ, PAOLETTO AND HOLLOWAY) AND FIVE AGAINST (DEPARA, SILVA, MARELLA, BAKER & LYONS).**

**e. General Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2013-2014 as amended.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**CITY COUNCIL VOTE NUMBER – 57-12 (e)**

**Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Budget**

**OVERALL TOTAL**

DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	BAC PROPOSED INCREASES	BAC PROPOSED DECREASES	BAC ADOPTED BUDGET
<b>REVENUES</b>				
ALL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	\$519,941,205	\$11,611,226	-\$14,446,601	\$517,105,830
<b>TOTAL COUNCIL ADOPTED REVENUES</b>	<b>\$519,941,205</b>	<b>\$11,611,226</b>	<b>-\$14,446,601</b>	<b>\$517,105,830</b>
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>				
ALL OTHER GENERAL FUND	\$519,941,205	-\$329,587	\$3,164,962	\$517,105,830
<b>TOTAL COUNCIL ADOPTED APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>\$519,941,205</b>	<b>-\$329,587</b>	<b>\$3,164,962</b>	<b>\$517,105,830</b>
<b>NET BUDGET SURPLUS / (SHORTAGE)</b>		<b>11,281,639</b>	<b>-11,281,639</b>	

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA SECONDED.**

Council Member Baker asked if this was the entire budget. The Mayor then said that it was the vote on the entire budget. Council Member Baker then thanked everyone for the amount of time that they had put in on the budget. He said that he wanted to apologize to the taxpayers of Bridgeport for the increase. It is a very hard thing to do without an independent financial advisory or receiving the information in a timely manner. He said that it was hard when the Committee meetings were cancelled for lack of quorum or when the department heads could not answer information when asked. He then went on to speak about the fact that his district has many seniors who are struggling due to the fact that there will be a WPCA increase.

Council Member Brannelly cautioned everyone that if the budget failed to pass, the budget would revert back to the Mayor's Proposed Budget. She reminded everyone that the .75% increase would be at risk.

Council Member Brantley said that she had originally planned not to vote for this budget. However, this is a choice between a rock and a hard place.

Council Member Lyons said that she attended a major portion of budget meetings and would be voting no.

Council Member Olson said that when he was elected to the Council two years ago, he had to adjust his viewpoint. He said that he was convinced that everyone on the Committee did their best.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 57-12(E) GENERAL FUND BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 AS AMENDED PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, STAFSTROM, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, OLSON, BRANTLEY, MCCARTHY, AUSTIN, VIZZO-PANICCIA, BONNEY, BLUNT, DEPARA, SILVA, AYALA, MARTINEZ, MARELLA, PAOLETTO AND HOLLOWAY) AND TWO AGAINST (BAKER & LYONS).**

Council Member Brannelly said that this was her first budget committee as chair and that the Committee was more committed than she had ever seen. There was healthy debate. There were three public hearings. The goal was to have a zero tax cut. However, there are many amounts that can not be reduced. She then said that the Committee looked at this in a new way. The budget committee will be starting with initiatives to hold people accountable that will yield savings. She went on to list a number of projects that the Committee will be looking at. There have been discussions about raising fees and cooperation of the departments. It is critical that the State legislation be aware of all the services Bridgeport provides for the region.

The Committee has not followed up in the past but will be doing so in the coming year. Next year, at this time, the focus on the committee will be on the initiatives rather than dealing with

the shortfalls. Council Member Brannelly said that she was very sorry that there was increase and the Committee was not able to hold the taxes to zero. She spoke about her home and said that while her taxes would increase, she would be able to handle it. She was pleased that the Committee was able to come as close as they have.

Council Member dePara then spoke about how he was pleased that the budget was completed. However, there is much more to do. Council Member dePara said that he was aware of the additional burden that the Taxpayers will be taking on. There have been areas and issues that have been identified and the Committee will be dealing with them in order to

Council Member Martinez said that when she was getting ready to vote and she was thinking about voting no, but she had to be responsible. She went on to list numerous non-profits in her district such as churches, homeless shelters and various other groups that service the entire area. She came to be a responsible Council member and that was what she was doing.

Council President McCarthy said that he would be brief. He thanked the Budget Committee and that the City is the host for the hospitals, universities and other groups for the area. He reminded everyone that the Trumbull Mall is in Trumbull and pays its taxes to Trumbull. But Trumbull has a volunteer fire department. If there is ever a fire at the mall, Bridgeport will have to put the fire out. However, Bridgeport has found a way to keep things moving forward. He then referred to a document was distributed to the Council Members (See Attached).

Mayor Finch said that Governor Malloy's office announced that there would be 1 million dollars to clean the site for Heroes Village Urban Agriculture site and 1 million dollars to clean up the security building site in order to build 40 units of housing.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services