

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2013**

ATTENDANCE: Susan Brannelly, Co-chair; Angel dePara, Co-chair; Denese Taylor-Moye, Council President Thomas McCarthy, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia (6:18 p.m.)

STAFF: Thomas Sherwood, OPM Director

OTHERS: Council Member Steve Stafstrom, Rev. John Olson

CALL TO ORDER.

Council Member Brannelly called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of Committee Minutes: June 10, 2013 (Regular Meeting)

Approval of Committee Minutes: June 25, 2013 (Special Meeting)

Approval of Committee Minutes: July 8, 2013 (Regular Meeting)

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES: JUNE 10, 2013 (REGULAR MEETING)

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES: JUNE 25, 2013 (SPECIAL MEETING)

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES: JULY 8, 2013 (REGULAR MEETING)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 10, 2013 REGULAR MEETING, THE JUNE 25, 2013 SPECIAL MEETING AND THE JULY 8, 2013 REGULAR MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

164-11 Proposed Amendment to the Funding Agreement with the Bridgeport Port Authority.

Council Member Brannelly announced that City Attorney Anastasi had contacted her with a request to table the item at this time.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 164-11 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE BRIDGEPORT PORT AUTHORITY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 164-11 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

General discussion regarding the review of the Monthly Financial Report.

Mr. Sherwood explained that Ms. Kelly Lenz is on vacation, so he was present in her place. Council Member Brannelly distributed copies of the draft Monthly Financial Report to the Committee members.

Mr. Sherwood said that it was a draft copy of the budget and that the City was about 20 days away from handing the books over to the auditors. At this stage, the final adjustments and receipts are being made. Federal money is still being received for the School Lunch program and is expected to continue until the end of the month. He said that there is also work going on in presenting the reports and condensing information. Police and Fire overtime is being closely monitored.

Atty. Anastasi has been working on any outstanding legal cases. The accrual accounts are still being worked on. Mr. Sherwood said that the attorneys have been very good at estimating when various cases will go to court.

Mr. Sherwood said that there were other accrual accounts such as the time that a union member may accumulate. This includes sick time and health care projections. He then gave an overview of the various details involved in the different groups.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined the group at 6:18 p.m.

Council Member Taylor-Moye asked if any of the funds pertained to the access road. Mr. Sherwood explained that the funds came out of a Capital project and there was no exposure to

Council Member Taylor-Moye asked if there were any funds being allocated for Superintendent Vallas's court case. Mr. Sherwood said that the City is funding it, but the BOE will be repaying the fund.

Council Member Olson asked about the access road and whether the funds for that would affect the City share of the project. Mr. Sherwood then explained how the project funding works and that the only portion of the program that was underway was the design planning. The money for the access road was separate from any current FAA funding. Mr. Sherwood pointed out that although he was not a project manager, the city needed to have the access road to have access to the airport project. Discussion followed.

Council Member Stafstrom pointed out that it appears that many of the departments finished the year with surpluses. However, the Police, Fire and EOC were the major deficits. Mr. Sherwood agreed and reminded everyone one that EOC has some labor contract changes. He added that the employee turn over for the EOC was very high. A discussion about the fire and police overtime followed.

Council Member Stafstrom said that it looks like there will be a 200 million dollar surplus. He asked how accurate that projection was. Mr. Sherwood said that last year, the projection was for a 198 million surplus and the final number was 197 million.

Council Member Stafstrom asked where the Committee's budget assumptions were in the scheme of things. Mr. Sherwood said that the City was still waiting for information on the LoCIP funds.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the expense report on page 15 and pointed out that there were no actuals for Police Administration. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the process and offered to compile a net view of the expenses. Council Member Brannelly asked that this be done for both police and fire.

Council President McCarthy asked about the billing for outside police hours. Mr. Sherwood explained that it was the billable hours for officers working on a construction job. Discussion followed.

Council Member Stafstrom asked what the collection rate was. Mr. Sherwood replied that it was over 100% because of the surcharge. The billing structure will be changed to reflect the new pension rate on new hires.

Council Member Brannelly said that she would like to discuss the on-going follow up on the budget items from the budget process. Council Member Brannelly said that the Committee wanted to speak to the various department heads for an updated report. Council Member Brannelly then distributed a document and said that a suggestion had been made to have each department present their goals as state in the budget document.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT WITH A LIST OF BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS PROJECTS AND A TIMELINE INTO THE RECORD AS EXHIBIT 08/12/13-#1.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Brannelly reviewed the various items on the timeline. Mr. Sherwood pointed out that the financial issues with Police, Fire and the BOE were already under consideration.

The discussion then moved the possibility of soliciting voluntary donations from existing non-profits. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had relevant documentation on this item. Council President McCarthy said that he also had some documentation on this subject. Council Member Taylor-Moye also suggested that the various non-profit organizations also consider helping other non-profits via in-kind services, such as esplanade maintenance. Council Member Brannelly said that the Committee will be doing some research on this.

The discussion moved to the topic of fee enhancement. Mr. Sherwood suggested that the Committee members formally request a fee study for the transfer station.

Council Member Brannelly said that the Committee was monitoring the police overtime, but suggested that the fire department also be included. Council Member dePara said that knowing

which Fire Department divisions were generating the most overtime and why. Mr. Sherwood said that the Finance Department and OPED were tracking these variations. Discussion followed.

The next item on the list was the proposal to facilitate some coordination between the Library and the BOE. Rev. Olson said that there were disagreements between the Library and the City about the one mill allocations.

Having a quarterly departmental review was the next topic discussed. Council Member Brannelly referred the figures on page 2 of the handout. Council Member dePara said that the Council should be receiving at least a quarterly update on the health care costs. Council Member Brannelly reminded everyone that the more that the Committee knows about the monthly operational challenges for the various departments, the easier it will be for the Committee when the budget process starts. Mr. Sherwood pointed out that at the monthly department meetings, the Finance Department becomes aware of changes such as unexpected events.

The next item on the list was a Capital Plan Expenditure Update. Mr. Sherwood stated that after the audit, the department will be reviewing the various project accounts to scrub unused funding and close out the non-active accounts.

Regarding the Community Development Block Grant Expenditure Updates, Mr. Sherwood pointed out that the CDBG funding was much more difficult because the Federal Government often does not inform the City of the amount until late in the year. Council President McCarthy pointed out that this area might be more appropriate for the ECDCE Committee.

Rev. Olson pointed out that the Social Service and Education Committee might be able to help out with the BOE. Mr. Sherwood commented that the District has changed structures and is now running the administration in a much more efficient manner. Discussion followed.

Council Member Brannelly said that the Co-chairs would be drafting a letter to Mr. Nunn about meeting with the department heads and would like to start with the meetings in September.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
Budget and Appropriations
Regular Meeting
August 12, 2013