

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Denese Taylor-Moye, Co-Chair; Scott Burns, Co-Chair; Anthony Paoletto, Aidee Nieves, M. Evette Brantley (6:17 p.m.)

OTHERS: Ken Flatto, Finance Director; Nestor Nkwo, OPM Director; Tom Gaudett, Mayor's Office; Janine Hawkins, Labor Relations Director; Angel dePara, CAO's Department; John Marshal Lee

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 11, 2016 (Regular Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NIEVES MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 2016 REGULAR MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 2016 REGULAR MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

GENERAL DISCUSSION RE: REVIEW OF THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT.

Mr. Flatto distributed copies of the June 2016 Monthly Financial Report. He said that last year, the June financial report had never been distributed to the Committee. He said that he had also created a report from the information from June 2015 with the final numbers from the audit. The June 2016 financial numbers are not the final numbers. The final numbers will be released after the audit.

Council Member Brantley joined the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Mr. Flatto said that one type of change to the June report will be the various purchase orders that had not been closed out at the end of the financial year. There are also some bills that may not arrive until August but the services were rendered in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. In September, most of the open purchases should be closed out and the outstanding 2015-2016 bills should have been received and paid. Mr. Flatto said that the final 2015-2016 numbers for June will not be finalized until December after the annual audit is completed.

All the pending land sales have closed, including the Sacred Heart property and the easement for UI. The City was also able to close on Phase B of Steel Point. That project had been approved by the Council in 2009. Bass Pro was part of Phase A.

Mr. Flatto said that closing on Phase B took place during the last week of June and Atty. Pacacha and Mr. Nkwo worked hard to see that the sale was completed.

There were savings due to personnel vacancies and the administration restructuring. The operating freeze was successful, along with savings that were realized due to the mild winter. There were also savings in other areas, which Mr. Nkwo and Mr. Flatto listed.

Council Member Burns asked about the overall \$6 million total for City land sales. Mr. Flatto said that there were some details about the UI easement that were still being worked out. He said that he was hopeful that the remaining amount from UI will be entered under 2015-2016. Once that happens, the total should be around \$6.6 million. Discussion followed regarding the details of that sale and how it would be accounted for in the budget.

Council Member Burns asked whether any shortage would be taken from the fund balance if there was a deficit. Mr. Flatto said that once the final numbers are in, the fund balance would be adjusted. He then reviewed the details with Council Member Burns.

Council Member Burns said that the Police appears to have an overage in overtime would be about \$7 million. Mr. Nkwo reviewed the details. Mr. Flatto said that he thought most of the overtime was due to the number of parades and other events. He pointed out that it was not a steady monthly amount, but one month may be very light, while the following month could have several events.

Council Member Burns asked if there was a steady rate of income other than real estate taxes. Mr. Nkwo said that the City was up on conveyance taxes, but there was a decrease in the arrears tax revenue. A discussion followed about the details.

Council Member Brantley asked if the third party vendors had been billed for police overtime. Mr. Flatto said that his staff was working on this and his predecessor had begun working on the backlog of overtime billing. He said that the staff had discovered some uncollected bills from six or seven years ago and they will attempt to collect.

Council Member Taylor-Moye asked about Captain's Cove. Mr. Flatto said that they had contacted Captain's Cove about this and found out that Captain's Cove had a misunderstanding about the WPCA using part of their property. Mr. Nkwo contacted both the WPCA and the Cove management about this and an agreement has been worked out.

Council Member Taylor-Moye asked if there was a difference between the captains and another level in the Police Department. Mr. Flatto said that it would be best if that question was answered by Police Chief Perez.

There were no additional questions or comments at this time. Council Member Taylor-Moye thanked Mr. Flatto and Mr. Nkwo for the information.

Discussion with Director of Labor Relations re: changes in staffing levels and contract negotiations.

Ms. Hawkins came forward and distributed two handouts. One was the new hires and the second one was employee separations. No names were included on listing.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ENTER THE DOCUMENT TITLED EMPLOYEE SEPARATIONS AS EXHIBIT #08.08.16.1**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ENTER THE DOCUMENT TITLED NEW HIRES AS EXHIBIT #08.08.16.2**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Hawkins then announced that the employee separations were broken out by reason of separation such as deaths (4), lay-offs (51), resignations (20), retirements (87) and terminations (4). This accounts for 166 separations for the City, which accounts for \$11,820,233.98.

There were 55 Full Time hires outside of the Police Department for a total of \$3,693,732.00. There were 29 Full Time Police hires in the Police Department, which comes to a total of \$1,509,769.00. The total Full Time Salary was \$5,203,501.00. She went on to give the details related to the figures.

Council Member Brantley asked about recent new hire for the CAO, who will be working on Human Services and Social Services oversight. She said that the new employee was being given a large array of tasks. Mr. Gaudett pointed out that the job titles often are not very descriptive, so someone with a Special Projects Manager, which could cover a number of projects in various departments. Discussion followed about the details of positions. Ms. Hawkins said that the City had lost some grants because of the challenges in the Social Services Department.

Council Member Taylor-Moye pointed out that the Second Chances program was about homelessness and that the City should be addressing the prevention of homelessness. Ms. Hawkins and Mr. Nkwo agreed. Ms. Hawkins said that she would request that Ms. Staley contact Council Member Taylor-Moye about the details of her job. Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she would appreciate that. Council Member Brantley said that she wanted whatever Ms. Staley to be successful in the tasks that she was brought in to address.

Council Member Nieves pointed out that there was a vacancy for a Health Director. Ms. Hawkins said that the former Deputy Health Director was currently the acting Health Director and that there was a CT State deadline for the filling of the position.

Council Member Burns asked about the savings of \$6.6 million. Ms. Hawkins said that was her math. Council Member Burns asked if this would be actualized in this fiscal year. Mr. Nkwo gave an overview and pointed out that some of those that retired had left with more than their annual salary because of accrued vacation, sick time and early retirement incentive. Ms. Hawkins

said that her numbers deal strictly with the salary, not the benefits. Mr. Nkwo said that there would be about a seven month lag time before the savings were realized if the positions were not filled. The positions that are not filled will result in savings in 2018.

Council Member Burns asked about the 87 who took early retirement. Mr. Nkwo pointed out that some of the retirements were from the Library.

Council Member Burns said that in April there was a list of 23 new hires. However, the Civil Service number lists 29 positions. Ms. Hawkins said that she would follow up with the details regarding that information with the Committee tomorrow.

The discussion moved to the various union contracts. Ms. Hawkins reported that a meeting has been scheduled on the 16th to set the ground rules for the police contract negotiations. Council Member Burns said that this was a significant contract. Ms. Hawkins agreed. She said that the City was able to come to an agreement with NAGE and BCSA with a zero increase. That is the goal for all the unions.

Council Member Brantley asked about the fact that the police retirements include their overtime. Ms. Hawkins said that the overtime as part of retirement was something that had been negotiated in the past. Mr. Nkwo said that they would not give that up. Council Member Brantley asked if this could be part of the record that this was discussed in the negotiations. Ms. Hawkins said she would do that. Discussion followed.

The City is negotiation with AFSCME Local 1303 - Public Facilities, the crossing guards and the printer's union at this time.

There were no additional questions or comments at this time. Council Member Taylor-Moye thanked Ms. Hawkins for the information.

Discussion re: City's long term pension and OPEB obligations.

There was nothing to discuss at this time as information is still being compiled.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
Budget and Appropriations
Regular Meeting
August 8, 2016