

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS
RECONVENED MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2012
SEPTEMBER 17, 2012**

ATTENDANCE: Angel dePara Co-Chair; Robert Curwen, Co-Chair; Council President Thomas McCarthy; S. Brannelly; AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia; Lydia Martinez;

STAFF: Tom Sherwood; T. Grabarz; A. McGoldrick; J. Riccio; J. Urquidi; C. Jones; M. Anastasi; C. Carroll; Atty. J. Stafstrom

CALL TO ORDER

Council member dePara reconvened the meeting from September 10, 2012 at 5:35 PM.

131-11 Proposed Modifications to the FY 2013-3017 Five Year Capital Plan concerning City Projects.

Mr. Sherwood stated he has asked the people knowledgeable with the proposed projects to attend this meeting and they are present. He then asked Mr. Grabarz and Mr. Urquidi to address the first two projects on the list.

Mr. Grabarz presented two bridge improvement projects – Arctic Street and Capitol Avenue. He said the State of CT Local Bridge Program will contribute approximately 40% of the total rehab costs. The City will be responsible for the rest.

Mr. Urquidi then spoke and said that the State has approved us for 33% of the total costs. The City will be responsible for \$1,200,000 for the Arctic St. Bridge and \$700,000 for the Capitol Avenue Bridge.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MADE A MOTION TO ENTER THE STATE OF CT LETTER DATED 7/12/12 –CAPITOL AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT – INTO THE RECORD AS EXHIBIT #1 09-17-12.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MADE A MOTION TO ENTER THE STATE OF CT LETTER DATED 7/12/12 –ARCTIC STREET BRIDGE PROJECT – INTO THE RECORD AS EXHIBIT #2 09-17-12.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Urquidi added that if the project goes over budget they can go back to the state and apply for additional funds. They are looking for additional sources of funding but have none at this time. The Capitol Avenue Bridge is in serious condition. The Arctic Street Bridge is in poor condition at this time. This requests Mayoral approval for funding, then they proceed to the RFQ process.

Mr. Urquidi said both bridges have serious deterioration and need replacing.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MADE A MOTION TO REMOVE G. ESTRADA’S NAME AND REPLACE WITH C. CARROLL ON PAGE 2 OF BOTH EXHIBIT #1 09-17-12 AND EXHIBIT #2 09-17-12.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Curwen asked for and received clarification of location of Arctic Street Bridge. Council member Brannelly asked for clarification of costs associated with each bridge. Mr. Urquidi confirmed \$1,200,000 for the Arctic St. and \$700,000 for Capitol Avenue.

Mr. Sherwood asked the committee to hear Alex McGoldrick out of turn as she is required at the ECDE Committee meeting.

Alex McGoldrick, Acting Director of Central Grants came forward to present the Dept. of Transportation CMAQ program. The City partnered with the GBRC and Health Dept. in an application to the State of CT DOT.

The money will be used to install bike routes between downtown and Beardsley Park and operate a bike-share program within the city. The total cost is approximately \$2 Million; \$1.6 Million from the Federal Government and \$400,000 matched from the city.

Mr. Sherwood confirmed the numbers were outlined in the document provided the committee last week. Ms. McGoldrick offered more specific details of what the money would be used for.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said another organization approached the Council to establish a bike share program a number of years ago and the Council agreed. Now that the city is getting involved what about liability and other similar issues.

Ms. McGoldrick stated that all of the details have not been worked out yet. Some of it may be contracted out. Mr. Jones for the City health Department said they are exploring best practices from other cities that operate these programs.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MADE A MOTION TO ENTER THE 5 PAGE CMAQ DOCUMENT FROM CENTRAL GRANTS DEPT. DATED 8/29/12 INTO THE RECORD AS EXHIBIT #3 09-17-12.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Grabarz stated that the City did not want to miss this opportunity for funding and in this case a business plan has not been developed as of yet. Mr. Sherwood added the intention that this will be a self-sustaining program.

Council Member dePara strongly stated that before any program goes live all details need to be reviewed not only with the City Attorney's office but the City Council as well. There was additional discussion on bike routes incorporating other areas of the City as well.

Council Member Martinez and Council President McCarthy left to join the ECDE meeting. (6 PM)

J. Ricci, Airport Manager came forward to present the Airport Runway Safety project. He provided 2 handouts to the Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MADE A MOTION TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED GOOGLE MAP OF SIKORSKY AIRPORT RUNWAY INTO THE RECORD AS EXHIBIT #4 09-17-12.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MADE A MOTION TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED URS DESIGN SCHEMATIC OF SIKORSKY AIRPORT RUNWAY INTO THE RECORD AS EXHIBIT #5 09-17-12.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The city is redesigning the runway at Sikorsky Airport to include Safety Measures as required by the FAA. The City has met with Conn DOT and DEEP to prepare an application for permits to do the required work.

The application for a \$2.4 Million grant from the FAA is for data collection, design and permits. Mr. Ricci got a preliminary approval from the FAA for the scope of work to be performed.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked for the status of the negotiations with the Town of Stratford.

City Attorney Anastasi said progress has been made as of late with the help of the Federal Government and State of Connecticut. Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked that the council be notified of any resolution as soon as it is known.

Council Member Brannelly asked Mr. Ricci if the runways are currently in compliance. Mr. Ricci said they are barely in compliance mostly because there are no airlines currently using them. The pavement was last redone in 1986.

Council Member dePara asked if this request has anything to do with the proposed sale of a parcel of property. Mr. Ricci replied no.

Mr. Sherwood presented a copy of the contract details for the purchase of a new video/large screen scoreboard for the Arena at Harbor Yard. This information was requested by the committee at the last meeting.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MADE A MOTION TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED DAKTRONICS/SONY ARENA SCOREBOARD DATED 9/17/12 INTO THE RECORD AS EXHIBIT #6 09-17-12.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Sherwood said the dollar total for the entire project is approximately \$2.2 Million. The cities portion is \$1,000,000. Council member dePara asked what the city is getting for this money. Mr. Sherwood said we will get an improvement to our building, increased attendance, improved events, and we retain the asset.

Council Member dePara added his wish that the City would receive more for the money. Mr. Sherwood added that there may be opportunities for in-kind advertising on the scoreboard.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if this is the full contract legal wise and do we have all information needed to make sure the City's asset is protected. Mr. Sherwood said that the City is making a contribution to the purchase of the scoreboard and the contract for the purchase is between Harbor Yard management and the vendors.

She asked if the City will be named first insured. He indicated that the City Attorney had to answer that question. She then asked if the City is liable if preventive maintenance is not maintained. City Attorney Anastasi noted he has not seen the contract or reviewed any of the details. He believes that this would not be treated any differently than any other improvements made to the ballpark or arena.

She restated her concern that the City looks further down the road to make sure our investment in these improvements is protected. City Attorney Anastasi said this is part of a bigger picture in that the City wants to protect its asset in its entirety, not just the new scoreboard.

Council Member Brannelly asked for clarification on the handout. Mr. Sherwood said the handout contains 2 contracts – 1 for SONY for the actual scoreboard, and the other for Daktronics for installation. She noted that one page says installation is not included and another page indicated installation is included. Also, there is an allowance for Change Orders if needed.

Mr. Sherwood indicated it is his understanding that Daktronics is responsible for all installation costs. Discussion held on interpretations of coverage/responsibility of costs and question if they return to the City for more money. Council Member Brannelly stated her concern that city has no legal agreement with the Arena Management concerning the amount of money that will be required from the City.

Council Member Martinez and Council President McCarthy rejoined the meeting. (6:30 PM)

Council President McCarthy clarified that the City is only giving them \$1M dollars towards a \$2.2M project and asked where the risk lies. Atty. John Stafstrom said an agreement between the City and the Arena Management will be drawn up and suggested language be added to limit the contribution to \$1 Million dollars and only \$ 1 Million dollars, along with other conditions of the contribution.

He added that this committee tonight is voting on whether to include the contribution as part of the Proposed Modification to the 5 year Capital Plan. Approval can be with the understanding the proposed language will be part of the discussion/agreement negotiated with the Arena management.

Council Vizzo-Paniccia questioned a number of other parts of the contracts. Council President McCarthy said that is why our liability is capped at \$1 Million. She asked if a city employee will be trained on the operation of the scoreboard and if the City Attorney's office has reviewed the contract.

Atty. Anastasi said that since the City is not part of the contract it has not been reviewed. The opportunity to protect the City is crafting the appropriate language, as discussed/proposed by Council member Brannelly, when the agreement between the City and the Arena operator is written.

Council Member Brannelly said, given all that was discussed tonight, she is comfortable approving this knowing that we have further steps that can be taken at the time of allocation.

Mr. Sherwood said the last item on the list is the \$2 Million for Barnum Museum to show the Federal Government that we will put our money up – money must be in the approval stage for the Feds to consider us for the additional money for rehabilitation. Because this is a national Historic Building we need to show our commitment to the work.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 131-11 PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO THE FY 2012-2017 FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PLAN CONCERNING CITY PROJECTS.
** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member dePara asked Mr. Sherwood how much of the \$ 8,450,000 may come from reclassification of funds. Mr. Sherwood replied if all of the projects move forward all of the money will come from reclassification since they do not anticipate doing a bond sale. Council Member dePara restated the directive of this committee limiting the liability of the city for the contribution to the new Arena scoreboard.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MADE A MOTION TO AMMEND EXHIBIT A OF RESOLUTION #132-11 TO CORRECT THE SPELLING FROM CAPITAL AVENUE TO CAPITOL AVENUE
** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AS AMENDED ITEM# 132-11 APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL CAPITAL PROJECT AUTHORIZATION TO THE 2012-2017 CAPITAL PLAN**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MADE A MOTION TO AMMEND EXHIBIT A OF RESOLUTION #133-11 TO CORRECT THE SPELLING FROM CAPITAL AVENUE TO CAPITOL AVENUE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AS AMENDED ITEM #133-11 APPROVALS OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Council members then went in to City Council meeting scheduled to start at 7 PM.

Co-Chair dePara asked stenographer to stay until after the City Council meeting to review all motions made during the meeting.

Stenographer stayed for review and left at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Kuzmich
Telesco Secretarial Services