

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 13, 2011**

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

OTHERS: Council Member Andre Baker, Anne Kelly-Lenz, Tax Collector

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

67-10 Request to establish a fee for the preparation of an affidavit by the City of Bridgeport Office of Vital Statistics

68-10 Request to establish a fee for all genealogical searches in the Office of Vital Statistics.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO FORMALLY WITHDRAW COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER'S TWO PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS:**

67-10 REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A FEE FOR THE PREPARATION OF AN AFFIDAVIT BY THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

68-10 REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A FEE FOR ALL GENEALOGICAL SEARCHES IN THE OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

Council Member Curwen said that he had talked with Council Member Baker about this and the two items should be submitted to the Ordinance Committee.

****COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

89-10 Municipal Suspense Tax Book.

Ms. Kelly Lenz came forward and said that when there are outstanding tax amounts from bankruptcy or due to death, the amount is removed from the collectables because it is no longer a taxable item. Ms. Kelly Lenz said that while the Suspense Tax book items are still considered

collectables, but they will never be able to be collected. Ms. Kelly Lenz said that she only removes these items that there are actual dissolutions or where there is death documentation. This year it would be approximately \$406,000. She then reviewed the process that is used to remove an item from current receivables to the suspended receivables. There are court orders where the outstanding amount is declared uncollectible. Leaving them on the books would inflate the amount of actual collectables.

Council Member dePara asked about Rossi Law Office line items. Ms. Kelly Lenz explained that when the group went bankrupt, the bill collectors were called in. They collected a portion of the bill, but that is all that the City will get. Frequently, these businesses are LLCs, so once they are dissolved, they are gone. She said that most of the time, the most the collectors get is 15%, most of which goes to the tax collectors. Discussion followed.

There were numerous questions about how funds could be recovered if a business moves. Ms. Kelly Lenz said that if they wanted to have a deep level of research, it would take a full time staff member and that there were legal limits as to what the City could recover.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there was a way to collect on some of the businesses. Ms. Kelly Lenz said that she could bring the name of the business to the attention

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 89-10 MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Curwen requested the item be placed on the consent calendar.

22-10 Request concerning independent auditor's review of City of Bridgeport Monthly Financial Reports on a Quarterly Basis.

There was no one present at the meeting to discuss this item.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 22-10 REQUEST CONCERNING INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW OF CITY OF BRIDGEPORT MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS ON A QUARTERLY BASIS.
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES: APRIL 11, 2011

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 11, 2011 COMMITTEE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services