

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Angel dePara, Chair; Thomas McCarthy, Council President; Lydia Martinez, Robert Curwen, Susan Brannelly (7:10 p.m.)

**OTHERS:** Michael Feeney, Chief Financial Officer; Council Member Martin McCarthy, Nester Nkwo, Finance Deputy Director, Dawn Norton, Council Member Robert Walsh, Council Member Andre Baker

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member dePara called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. He announced that this meeting was just for informational purposes and that there would be no motions or votes taken.

**Informational Session: Discuss and Review the Quarterly Financial Statements.**

Mr. Feeney said that he did not have an August financial report because the month is not over yet and that during July, there is not much financial activity because the schools are closed. Most of the tax revenue has not started to come in. NAGE recently received lay-off notices and that another union would be receiving notices in the near future.

Council Member Curwen pointed out that the layoffs were occurring two and a half months into the new fiscal year. Mr. Feeney explained that during the budget discussions, it was clearly stated that if the set amounts of cut backs were not met, then the unions would receive layoff notices. The cut back amounts have not been reached and therefore the layoffs have started

Council Member Baker asked about the lay-offs and union layoffs and how much was expected to be saved by this action. Mr. Feeney said that the shortfall was 8 million and that the union layoffs were expected reduce the amount by approximately 6 million dollars.

Council Member Walsh then had several detailed questions about the budget and the union layoffs, Mr. Feeney reviewed the relevant information with him.

Council Member dePara asked if there had been any new information back from the State on new percentages for PILOT payments. Mr. Nkwo said that the most recent figures indicated that the State was going to give the City \$200,000 less than expected. Mr.

Feeney said that the lobbyists and other representatives are working to see that this remains at this level.

Council Member Walsh asked about the amount of money that Remington will cost the City. Mr. Feeney said that the bond was set at 5 million dollars and that Mayor wants to protect the health of the residents. The State and the EPA have stepped in, taken down portions of the building, and are paying for it. He added that there was steel on the site and that the City was trying to take possession of the steel to offset the cost of the demolition. He added that it was too early in the process to know if the \$5 million bonded will go completely to Remington.

Council Member Baker pointed out that the Budget and Appropriations Committee had allocated the funding for the demolition of the building and wanted to know whether the Mayor could take the funding to demolish other buildings. Council President McCarthy reviewed the details around the appropriation and what the process would be.

Council Member Martinez commented that she had been told that the steel in that building would be worth more than the cost of the demolition. A brief discussion followed regarding this.

Council Member Baker asked if there were other revenue streams in the City. Mr. Feeney said that the amount that is received from the Housing Authority is fairly low. Council Member Baker asked about the income from the airport. Mr. Feeney said that it would be in the next budget narrative.

Council Member Walsh asked about early retirement options. Mr. Feeney said that OPM had looked at these options and that none of the options had been worthwhile for Bridgeport.

Council President McCarthy said that he is on the Airport Committee and that in the 1980s a particular building was given something like a 99 year lease. The owner of the building has contacted the City about potentially purchasing the building outright.

Council Member dePara asked about the progress on the Board of Education consolidation efforts. Mr. Feeney said that he did not know and that Mr. Barnes had recently done a report on that subject. Council Member Curwen said that he did not believe that this was feasible within this budget year. Council President McCarthy said that the City would still be obligated to give the same amount of money to the BOE. Mr. Feeney then reviewed the list of City Departments that were moving into the Annex, such as Vital Statistics, and the Housing Authority.

Council Member dePara asked what the expected savings would be for the City by consolidating departments in the Annex. Mr. Feeney said that he did not have the analysis, but the savings would be the dispossession of the buildings.

Council Member dePara asked when the July and August reports would be done. Mr. Nkwo said that generally, during mid October, there is more information available since the quarter has closed and the tax revenue has begun to arrive.

Council Member Curwen asked if the City was on target. Mr. Nkwo said that as far as he could tell, the budget used realistic numbers and that the City seemed to be on target.

Council Member Baker said that FEMA had denied the claim for the tornado. He wished to know how the City was dealing with the overtime. Mr. Feeney said that the Mayor would be filing an appeal regarding this. He said that there are roofs that still need to be replaced and that the City is concerned about this. The City is also looking to see what can be done for the short term. About two million dollars of damage was done to City buildings, but the City does have insurance. Public Facilities is working on a schedule as to what needs to be done in the short term.

*Council Member Brannelly joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.*

Mr. Nkwo pointed out that the funds that the insurance pays out would go to the overtime. He added

Council Member McCarthy asked about a demolition on Congress Street and the fact that there are several palates of bricks being loaded onto trucks. Mr. Feeney said that Mr. Cobel was in charge of that project and would know where the bricks were going.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services