

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Co-Chair; Milta Feliciano, Susan Brannelly, Robert Halstead, Council President Thomas McCarthy, Jack Banta (6:06 p.m.), Denese Taylor-Moye (6:06 p.m.), Patricia Swain, Co-Chair (6:20 p.m.)

STAFF: City Attorney Mark Anastasi, Atty. Art Laske, Atty. John Mitola,

OTHERS: Maria Alves, Erin McDonough, Mayor's Office, Atty. Christine Yeoman.

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia called the meeting to order. 6:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 27, 2014.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 27, 2014.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

183-13 Appointment of Maria Alves (D) to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Ms. Alves came forward and said that she had a BA degree in Business and Finance and a Master's in Business. She explained that she has worked with groups in determining the amounts of grant funding to be awarded to applicants.

Council Member Denese Taylor-Moye and Council Member Jack Banta joined the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Ms. Alves said that she was serving as a temporary member of the ZBA and admired the Board members for their work on the various issues.

Council President McCarthy said that he would like to express his support of Ms. Alves.

Council Member Brannelly asked if someone had explained the role of the ZBA to her.

Atty. Laske joined the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Ms. Alves said that she has attended almost every ZBA meeting since she was appointed to the temporary position and had a fairly accurate idea of the duties involved.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 183-13 APPOINTMENT OF MARIA ALVES(D) TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE IN FAVOR (MCCARTHY, FELICIANO, BRANNELLY, BANTA AND TAYLOR-MOYE) AND ONE OPPOSED (HALSTEAD).**

Council Member Halstead said that he did not know enough about the process to approve the candidate.

190-13 - Proposed Workers Compensation with Steve Isaac for the total sum of \$25,000.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS 190-13 - PROPOSED WORKERS COMPENSATION WITH STEVE ISAAC FOR THE TOTAL SUM OF \$25,000.
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Council Members, Atty. Anastasi, Atty. Laske, Atty. Mitola and Atty. Yeoman entered into Executive Session to discuss a legal settlement at 6:12 p.m.

Council Member Swain joined the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

The Committee members and attorneys returned to public session at 6:26 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE 190-13 - PROPOSED WORKERS COMPENSATION WITH STEVE ISAAC FOR THE TOTAL SUM OF \$25,000.
** COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

188-13 - Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Mary Pooser.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS 188-13 - PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH MARY POOSER.
** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Council Members, Atty. Anastasi, Atty. Laske, Atty. Mitola entered into Executive Session to discuss a legal settlement at 6:27 p.m. The Committee members and attorneys returned to public session at 6:55 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN MOVED TO APPROVE 188-13 - PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH MARY POOSER.
** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

An Informational session with City Attorney, Mark Anastasi giving us a brief update on rules regarding the discussion and procedures of legal matters. Also the various types of cases pending and if we can arrange for the committee members to sit in back of court rooms when cases go before a judge.

Atty. Anastasi and Atty. Laske came forward to give an overview of the various issues with litigation. Atty. Anastasi said that Atty. Laske, the Deputy City Attorney would be informing the Committee about the calendar of upcoming legal issues. Atty. Laske also is responsible for supervising outside legal counsel. Atty. Laske will be setting up a mechanism to advise the Council Members on upcoming court cases. Atty. Anastasi said that the Deputy CAO has also been invited to this meeting, but could not attend due to a conflict. He said that it would be important to make the Council Members aware of the various legal cases.

Atty. Anastasi explained that the City Attorney's Office has both external and internal clients. The external clients would be the courts.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if any of the Council Members had specific questions.

Council Member Swain asked what the City Attorney's Office could do to keep the Council Members informed on the pending cases so they have some time to think about the issues before the vote. Atty. Laske said that he would be willing to brief the Council Members on the various cases but cautioned everyone that the information is confidential. Atty. Mitola pointed out that frequently, a settlement is reached just before the case goes to court. He suggested that perhaps the Attorney's Office could give periodic updates on the various cases.

Council Member Taylor-Moye asked if it would be possible to have a list of the various litigations underway. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the Council Members could have a one on one meeting with the attorneys in their offices. Atty. Laske said that the settlements that are under \$10,000 are done by the office, settlements over that are brought before the Committee. Atty. Laske said that their office covers police defense, falls, and various types of claim. He explained that he keeps a list of the various cases that are going to trial and would be willing to let any Council Member know about when the various types of cases are on the docket.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she wanted the Committee members to know that the cases are being monitored. Atty. Anastasi said that the office keeps a list and it can be sorted by settlement amounts, type of claim, or final judgment. He said that there was not a week that goes by when the department does not receive a summary judgment from the court.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she wanted to know how the department balances the cases and provide the material for the Council. She said that every time the attorneys came for a presentation on a claim, that they were willing to provide as much information as the Council Members needed. Atty. Anastasi said that there was a routine staff meeting on Friday mornings to review the upcoming cases and any new developments. He said that if anyone wished to sit in on a court case, they would need to double check with the office since things change.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the City Attorney's Office was open for the Council Members to call about various court cases. Atty. Anastasi suggested that the Committee consider having a quarterly meeting about the different types of cases. The Committee hears about the litigation cases on a regular basis.

Council Member Swain asked if someone keeps track of the amount that the City spends on issues like sidewalk repairs.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR MOYE MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A NEW LEGAL ISSUE AND OTHER PENDING LITIGATION.
** COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Committee and the three City Attorneys entered into Executive Session to discuss a new legal issue and answer questions about other pending litigation at 7:14 p.m. The Committee returned to public session at 9:06 p.m. No action was taken in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S.L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services