

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 22, 2015**

**ATTENDANCE:** Patricia Swain, Co-Chair; Jack Banta; Milta Feliciano; Bob Halstead; Thomas McCarthy; Denese Taylor-Moye; AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Co-Chair (6:10); Susan Brannelly (6:15)

**STAFF:** Mark Anastasi, City Attorney (6:13); Veronica Jones; Maureen Driscoll

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Swain called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2015**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2015.
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED THE MOTION.
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**11-14**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CITY COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER- NEW RULE XXX1  
COUNCIL LIAISONS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS TO GENERALLY DEFINE THE  
POSITION, ROLES, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VARIOUS APPOINTED  
CITY COUNCIL LIAISONS.**

Council President McCarthy stated that he had asked Atty. Anastasi to come up with definition for the term liaison, and the result was as follows: *a person whose job is to make sure there is a good relationship between two groups or organizations* (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary) and *an individual whose duty and responsibility is to engage in communication for establishing and maintaining mutual understanding* (Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary). Council President McCarthy stated that there is significant legal issue with the liaison amendment, as there is a desire to empower them as a whole, but the authority to do so rests within the separate commissions, and that this committee many times does not have the power to influence them. Generally speaking, the ability to talk for liaisons during their assigned meetings is extended as a courtesy rather than a right. He stated that they can request to talk, but the commission in question is under no obligation to permit this, much like the general public at a meeting sans a public hearing. Council President McCarthy stated that they are inclined to treat members of the council differently than the general public, but that the law does not back this up.

Council Member Halstead asked if the authority being held by the separate commissions is codified in law or possibly in the original charter. Council President McCarthy stated that they all had their own rules based on how they were created.

Council Member Feliciano made a request to table the matter as there was no opportunity to read the literature on it in advance.

Council Member Taylor-Moye stated that, serving as liaison for the Harbor Commission, she was given the opportunity to speak or ask questions during meetings. In addition, she was given the opportunity to engage with the subject matter of the commission, and was shown how the subject matter pertained to how procedures were conducted. She stated that it may be difficult to weigh the role of a liaison when all committees do things differently.

Council Member Feliciano asked why the matter was being discussed as the Committee appeared to lack the authority to effect change. Council President McCarthy stated that, while it may be tabled, it was an opportunity to discuss the matter as it was being voted on the next meeting.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HALSTEAD MOVED TO TABLE ITEM 11-14 RE:  
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CITY COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER- NEW RULE  
XXX1 COUNCIL LIAISONS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS TO GENERALLY  
DEFINE THE POSITION, ROLES, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE  
VARIOUS APPOINTED CITY COUNCIL LIAISONS.**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia stated that they may want to put off tabling the matter until all the questions surrounding the conversation were addressed.

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY RESCINDED HIS SECOND.**

Council President McCarthy stated that liaison is a very vague term, and that the discussion was started when the term itself was question. He stated that after researching the matter, the term was essentially what the committee had first thought in terms of definition. He stated that liaisons are assigned to keep tabs on the committees or commissions in question and report back to the Council when there is pertinent information. He stated that the liaisons in the past have not done this, and hoped this amendment would encourage them to do so.

Co-Chair Swain asked which group the liaison would report to, and under what circumstances this would occur. Council President McCarthy stated that they could report during a full council meeting, and they could potentially work with the city clerk to create a space on the agenda for liaison reports.

Council Member Halstead handed a letter to Co-Chair Swain, to be referred to in future as Exhibit Item #1-6222015: Memorandum October 23, 2014 from Robert Halstead to Thomas McCarthy (Historic District Commission). Co-Chair Swain read the letter to the Committee, in which Council Member Halstead expressed his concern over lack of equal partisan representation in the Stratfield Historic District Commission's members.

Council Member Feliciano stated her concern that as liaison for the Police Commission, the scheduling often overlaps and renders her unable to attend their meetings and do her job as the liaison.

Co-Chair Vizzo-Paniccia stated that Council Member Feliciano could request the information summary of what was discussed publicly in the meeting from Sergeant Hernandez. She further stated that certain information cannot be brought to the Council publicly until the matters in question are settled in the case of executive sessions, and that the role of liaison would depend largely on the nature of the committee/commission. She further stated that some information in the meetings was such that the liaison could not be privy to it.

Council Member Feliciano stated re: Co-Chair Vizzo-Paniccia's point, that the liaison should be able to request the full meeting minutes should they be unable to attend, and then be able to come to the full council with concerns should they arise. She further stated that she was in favor of the idea of a liaison section on the full council agenda, and that they should look to further solutions to bridge the information gap.

Council Member Taylor-Moye stated that some of the committees have websites and that their meeting minutes are also available as a matter of public records. She stated that the portion that is not readily available is the public speaking piece, which must come back to the board, be reviewed, and only then be made available. She stated that she was fully in favor of refining and deciding how to do things differently with liaison issues.

Council President McCarthy stated that timing is often an issue, but that it is the responsibility of the liaison to create a relationship with the committee/commission they are responsible for and get the information they have missed. He reiterated that agendas and meeting minutes are readily available, and that they are open to whatever suggestions the Committee may have.

Co-Chair Vizzo-Paniccia stated that another component of improving liaison relations is harnessing different personalities in the interest of organizing and instigating more effective communication amongst the committee/commission and the larger bodies. She stated that it would be advantageous to have certain guidelines so that everything would be uniform.

Council Member Halstead stated that in regards to constituent concerns related to commissions/committees liaisons serve on, the liaison should be empowered to bring up concerns in this area to the Council.

Council Member McCarthy posed the question if they were unable to find someone who wants to sit for the committee with the appropriate partisanship, would the committee then cease to exist. Co-Chair Swain stated this was another concern to be addressed.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO TABLE ITEM 11-14 RE:  
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CITY COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER- NEW RULE XXX1  
COUNCIL LIAISONS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS TO GENERALLY DEFINE THE**

**POSITION, ROLES, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VARIOUS APPOINTED CITY COUNCIL LIAISONS.**

Council Member Halstead requested all information be delivered to the Committee no less than 3 days before the next meeting.

Council President McCarthy stated that, should there be need for any more documents, to let him know.

Co-Chair Swain confirmed that there were two changes made to the document to be distributed to the full council, information regarding an agenda item specifically for liaisons on the full Council agenda, and adding the liaison to the distribution list for pertinent information regarding the committee/commission in question.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HALSTEAD SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**93-14**  
**REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS.**

Ms. Jones came forward and asked the Committee to approve the refund for Munger, Brooks & Associates (1629 Main Street), as it was a simple matter of an accidental double payment on the part of the business.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO GRANT ITEM 93-14 RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**102-14**  
**PROPOSED WORKERS COMPENSATION STIPULATION WITH MICHAEL MEADE.**

**\*\* CO-CHAIR VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO CLOSE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED WORKERS' COMPENSATION STIPULATION WITH MICHAEL MEADE.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**105-14**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT CITY COUNCIL MEMBER'S WRITTEN AND ELECTRONIC REQUEST FOR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION OF ANY KIND BE PROVIDED EXPEDITIOUSLY.**

- \*\* CO-CHAIR VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO PLACE ITEM 105-14 RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT CITY COUNCIL MEMBER'S WRITTEN AND ELECTRONIC REQUEST FOR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION OF ANY KIND BE PROVIDED EXPEDITIOUSLY ON THE NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA MOVED TO TABLE ITEM 105-14 RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT CITY COUNCIL MEMBER'S WRITTEN AND ELECTRONIC REQUEST FOR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION OF ANY KIND BE PROVIDED EXPEDITIOUSLY ON THE NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA.**
- \*\* CO-CHAIR VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Ramos  
Telesco Secretarial Service