

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 30, 2012
6:00 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Co-chair; Vizzo-Paniccia, Co-chair; Ayala, Baker, Colon, Brannelly

OTHER(s): Council President McCarthy

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2012

**** COUNCIL MEMBER COLON MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**** COUNCIL BRANNELLY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

78-11 Appointment of Richard G. Chokas (D) to the Ethics Commission.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia stated that the appointee's wife left her a message that Mr. Chokas still wasn't feeling well and he requested that the matter be tabled.

Council member Baker recalled that this was the fourth time that the appointee canceled. He questioned whether or not there would be an issue with him attending the meetings, noting that he may not be reliable.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MOVED TO DENY**

Council President McCarthy stated that he understood Council member Baker's concern. He said he asked if the situation was serious and he was told that Mr. Chokas was working with his doctor to find the right treatment plan. However, his wife felt confident that the issue would be resolved soon.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia asked the committee members if they wanted to review the paperwork again.

Council member Baker asked if the appointment wasn't denied, would it be possible to appoint a temporary acting commissioner in the interim. Erin said yes.

Council member Brannelly asked if there were other seats open on the commission. Erin said another seat would open up soon and she could take recommendations for an appointee.

Council member Colon said she concurred with Council member Baker regarding the fact that Mr. Chokas may not be able to attend meetings regularly. She agreed that maybe they should appoint an acting commissioner in the interim.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER COLON SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH THREE VOTES IN FAVOR TO DENY AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY)**

108-11 Appointment of Bobby Gillon (R) to the Planning & Zoning Commission as an alternate.

The appointee initially wasn't present at the meeting *and*;

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO TABLE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER COLON SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

-see remainder of the notes below-

109-11 Reappointment of Michael Piccirillo (D) to the Zoning Board of Appeals Commission.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia stated that Mr. Piccirillo wasn't able to attend the meeting tonight due to a business meeting.

She suggested recessing this meeting and scheduling it prior to the next city council meeting. Council President McCarthy agreed that recessing would also give Mr. Chokas an opportunity to attend the meeting one last time.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER COLON MOVED TO TABLE
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

110-11 Appointment of Edgar Rodriguez (D) to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia asked Mr. Rodriguez to tell the committee about himself.

Mr. Rodriguez said he would be filling Gail Solis's position on the commission. He relayed that he was born and raised on the south end of Bridgeport. He lived on the south end for twenty-one years and on the north end for seven years. He said he owns a funeral home located on East Washington Avenue and he has been in business for fifteen years. He said he was approached to serve on the commission and he was interested, because he feels that good things are coming into the city and he thought it would be good to work with them to make things happen.

Council member Colon stated that she has known Mr. Rodriguez for years. She said he is dedicated to Bridgeport and he has given a lot to the city. She urged approval of the appointment.

Council member Baker asked Mr. Rodriguez if he was still serving on the Fire Commission. Mr. Rodriguez replied yes and noted that they meet on Wednesday evening. Erin clarified that he will be taken off the Fire Commission in order to serve on the P&Z Commission.

Mr. Rodriguez said he was surprised that he would need to stop serving on the Fire Commission. However, he said if his service would better serve the P&Z Commission, then he didn't have a problem with it.

Council member Baker stated he also knows Mr. Rodriguez and he felt he would be an asset serving on the P&Z Commission.

Council member Brannelly asked if he had a sense of what goes on serving the P&Z Commission. Mr. Rodriguez said he had some awareness.

Council member Brannelly questioned whether or not the committee should give him an opportunity to decide which commission he really wanted to serve. She mentioned that he should take into consideration the grueling meeting agenda and the hours one needs to dedicate to the generally long meetings. Mr. Rodriguez responded that considering

he was willing to take both commissions on, he didn't see a problem serving on the P&Z Commission.

Mr. Rodriguez said his only concern was that he would feel like he was abandoning the Fire Commission. However, he said he would explain to them that he thought he could better serve the P&Z Commission.

Council President McCarthy clarified that he would have until August 6 before the city council meeting to entirely decide where he wishes to serve. He added that Mr. Rodriguez was a great small business owner who helps out people when they are short of funds for funeral services.

Council member Colon asked how long he has served on the Fire Commission. Mr. Rodriguez said he has dedicated approximately two to three hours per month attending meetings.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER COLON SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

Mr. Gillon arrived to the meeting at 6.25 pm.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia recalled the item.

108-11 Appointment of Bobby Gillon (R) to the Planning & Zoning Commission as an alternate.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER COLON RESCINDED THE MOTION TO TABLE
** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Gillon stated that he grew up in Greenwich. He mentioned that he has done a lot of volunteer work in the city. He said he worked in Boston for ten years and then he came to Bridgeport 3 ½ years ago. He relayed that his family has a small real estate business. He said he became familiar with the city through Chris Russo at a time when he was looking to get involved and he thought his background in finance could be utilized serving on the commission.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia asked Mr. Gillon if he saw any conflict serving on the commission due to the nature of his family's business. Mr. Gillon said they don't conduct business in the Bridgeport area.

Council member Brannelly asked Mr. Gillon if he would be able to fulfill the time commitment required to serve on the commission. Mr. Gillon recalled that he was approved to serve for a 180-day interim. He said that he was familiar with the hours and commitment required. Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia added that all alternates are required to attend all meetings so that they are available to fill in if they are needed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER COLON MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

RECESSED

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO RECESS UNTIL AUGUST 6,
2012 AT 6:00 PM
** COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was recessed at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services