

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCE AND ECD&E
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 24, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Jack O. Banta, Co-Chair; Michelle Lyons, Thomas McCarthy, Rev. Mary McBride-Lee; Eneida Martinez, Co-Chair, Enrique Torres

OTHERS: Council Member Milta Feliciano, Deborah Thomas-Sims, NRZ Office Director; Audrey Barr, Reservoir Ave NRZ President; Linda Christie, Reservoir Ave NRZ Vice President, Stephen Nelson, 135 District Leader; Doris Nelson, Izeta Maleoso, Doris Ebron, Mattie Fleming, Joyce Hooks, Deborah Dennis, Richard Barr, Steven Ferreira, Council Member Melanie Jackson (6:12 p.m.)

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Banta called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. A quorum was present.

185-13(A&B)

(A) Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend to add new Chapter 8.99 Reservoir Neighborhood Revitalization Zone.

(B) Proposed New Resolution re: Reservoir Neighborhood Revitalization Zone Plan

Ms. Deborah Thomas-Sims, NRZ Office Director introduced Ms. Audrey Barr, the NRZ President. The members present then introduced themselves. Rev. Lee stated for the record that she was also a member of the NRZ.

Ms. Barr then distributed a handout on the Reservoir Avenue NRZ.

Council Member Jackson joined the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Ms. Barr said that there had been a fire at the Farm on Reservoir and that there would be some opportunities for the young people during the summer.

Council Member E. Martinez asked Ms. Barr to go into more detail on what the NRZ's projects and the plans were.

Ms. Barr said that the NRZ would like more lighting around where the stores are and to work with the police around Trumbull Gardens. There has been some discussion with the police about block watches. One of the officers is willing to do a safety assessment because the residents are concerned about this.

Rev. Lee said that it is difficult to make progress when one is not formally recognized by the City. The senior citizens and the youth need help. The group has been working hard, but has been constrained by the lack of funding.

One of the residents said that the biggest issue in the area is crime. Originally, the neighbors were not happy about the Farm but since then the Farm has become part of the community. Ms. Barr said that now that there has been a fire, it is time for a new beginning.

Council Member Banta asked where the NRZ members were meeting. Ms. Barr said that there was a large community house that they were being allowed to use on Sylvan Avenue. She said that she had been working on having the residents of the Housing Authority being involved in the NRZ. It is difficult to get the seniors living in the Terrace.

Council President McCarthy said that he was very pleased with all the progress that has been made in this area.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER E MARTINEZ MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING ON THIS ISSUE.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** REV. LEE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 185-13(A&B).**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member E. Martinez said that the NRZ would be notified about the date of the public hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services