

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CONTRACTS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Matthew McCarthy, Co-chair; Jeanette Herron, Co-chair; Rosalina Roman-Christy; Ernest Newton; Rolanda Smith (6:27 p.m.)

STAFF: Thomas Gaudett, Mayor's Office; Mark Anastasi, Acting City Attorney; Atty. Ronald Pacacha

OTHER: Kevin Reynolds, Reynolds Strategy Group, LLC; Brenda Sisco; Monquencelo Miles, Benefits Manager; Andy Toledo; Hillary Glass; Craig Nadrizny, Acting Public Facilities Director

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair McCarthy called the meeting to order at 6:06 P.M. There was a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 6, 2022 AND JUNE 14, 2022

**** CO-CHAIR HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 6, 2022 AND JUNE 14, 2022 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** CO-CHAIR MCCARTHY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

102-21

PROPOSED LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH CREATIVE OUTDOOR ADVERTISING OF AMERICA, INC. FOR TRASH RECEPTABLE ADVERTISING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES.

Mr. Craig Nadrizny, the Acting Public Facilities Director, came forward to discuss this item. Advertisements have been placed throughout the City already. He highlighted how the advertisements make money and their relationship with the trash receptacle cans. A list for new locations has been submitted.

Ms. Roman-Christy asked if there could be a 10-year renewal plan and asked about the project cost. Discussion followed regarding the project cost and financial aspects of the contract. The possibility of having the contract last for 5 years instead of 10 years to lower costs was raised as well. The City Attorney has mentioned previously that a 10-year contract was preferable. There has been out-reach to other companies, but no better deal has been offered. Atty. Anastasi informed the Committee that the limit had been raised to five years from its previous option of two years with a one-year option. Further discussion followed regarding the timeframe and financial arrangements of the contract.

Ms. Smith joined the meeting at 6:27 P.M.

- ** CO-CHAIR HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 102-21 PROPOSED LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH CREATIVE OUTDOOR ADVERTISING OF AMERICA, INC. FOR TRASH RECEPTABLE ADVERTISING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES.**
- ** MS. SMITH SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (HERRON, SMITH, NEWTON) IN FAVOR AND ONE OPPOSED (ROMAN-CHRISTY).**

106-21
PROPOSED STATE LOBBYIST SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE REYNOLDS STRATEGY GROUP, LLC.

Atty. Anastasi came forward to discuss this item. He provided a summary from June 30, 2022 for everyone which he reviewed. The money for the contract was budgeted in the 2022-2023 operating budget. Atty. Anastasi felt it was very important to have a lobbyist in place. Bridgeport is the only municipality that the group represents so there will not be a conflict of interests. The Council has also placed language into the contract requiring a vote from them. Section 3.08.141 says that no fees shall be paid by the City for lobbying unless funds have been expressly appropriated and identified for such a purpose within the adopted budget. They wished to make this section clearer as well as have the council also authorize and empower the mayor to execute a one-year extension contract and to direct the finance director to pay the \$45,000 for the fiscal year that ends on June 30, 2022. Further discussion followed regarding the budget and payments. It was noted that there were some issues with funding due to the State not providing a large enough budget for the City and that they needed to meet with their lobbyist regarding the budget shortfall. It was strongly suggested that the Committee and Budget Co-Chairs converse with the Council leadership.

- ** CO-CHAIR HERRON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE AND EMPOWER THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY THE PROPOSED STATE LOBBYIST SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH REYNOLDS STRATEGY GROUP LLC, FOR THE TERM COVERING FISCAL YEARS 2023 AND 2024.**
- ** CO-CHAIR MCCARTHY SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- ** CO-CHAIR HERRON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE AND EMPOWER THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE PRIOR LOBBYING SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR DISCAL YEAR 2022 AND THE FINANCE DIRECTOR IS AUTHORIZED AND EMPOWERED TO PAY TO THE REYNOLDS STRATEGY GROUP LLC, FOR SERVICES RENDERED FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE \$45,000 THAT THE COUNCIL PREVIOUSLY APPROVED.**
- ** MS. ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

109-21
PROPOSED PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF
EDUCATION AND OPTUMRX.

The bid for this item went out in July 2021 and the bid opened on April 10th. They have received three contract proposals from Express Scripts, OptumRx, and UniCare/Anthem. OptumRx was decided upon after interviews. The projected savings are 30.29% to the City and Board of Education, which is 7.1 million over the three-year contract. The contracts have been reviewed by the City Attorney and approved by the Purchasing Board and Board of Education.

Ms. Roman-Christy asked for further details regarding the savings. She was informed that they would mainly be in rebates, subsidies, and in the second year of the contract, based on the premiums paid for the individual plans. It was pointed out that the currently proposed savings were already factored into the City budget.

**** CO-CHAIR HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 109-21 PROPOSED PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION AND OPTUMRX.**

**** MS. ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

110-21
PROPOSED 2022 RENEWAL ADDENDUM AND AMENDMENT TO THE ANTHEM
MEDICARE PREFERRED (PPO) GROUP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF
BRIDGEPORT, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ANTHEM INSURANCE
COMPANIES, INC.

Ms. Miles came forward to discuss this item. She provided an overview of the item and its renewal history for the Committee. They have received two proposals from Anthem and Aetna. Anthem was able to provide savings of \$3.7 million per year based on premiums. 56% of enrollment will be with the City and 46% with the Board of Education. This is a closed group of retirees so membership is declining.

Mr. Newton asked how the savings were already allocated to the budget when the item had not been approved yet. Especially since the Committee could vote against the contract. Discussion followed regarding the budgetary process. Mr. Newton voiced his displeasure at the process and said he felt it was forcing them to accept the contract.

**** CO-CHAIR HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 110-21 PROPOSED 2022 RENEWAL ADDENDUM AND AMENDMENT TO THE ANTHEM MEDICARE PREFERRED (PPO) GROUP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ANTHEM INSURANCE COMPANIES, INC.**

**** MS. ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

- ** CO-CHAIR HERRON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MS. ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ian A. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services