

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CONTRACTS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 9, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Jeanette Herron, Co-chair; Matthew McCarthy, Co-chair; Jorge Cruz, Rosalina Roman-Christy, Maria Pereira, Ernest Newton

STAFF: Thomas Gaudett, Deputy Chief of Staff

OTHER: Council Member A. Boyd; Kenneth Flatto, Finance Director; Anthony Paoletto, Domenic Costello, Labor Relations; Richard Solazzo; Atty. Skyers; Atty. Garskof; Atty. James Maye; Linda Cronin, Labor Relations; James Meszoros, NAGE President; Kathleen Brickett

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair McCarthy called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M. There was a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES: MARCH 14, 2023 (REGULAR MEETING)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 14, 2023 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

51-22

PROPOSED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CLIFTON LARSON ALLEN, LLC (CLA) FOR AUDITING SERVICES.

Mr. Flatto came forward to discuss this item. There is a slightly revised resolution that was sent to the chair the prior week. The changes were reviewed for those present. They will be giving the State the name of their new auditors in June. He reviewed the current timeline for the project. He reviewed the history of the contract as well. The fees in the contract have been raised by approximately 3%. Further review of the contract followed. An overview of what had been sent to the Council followed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED TO ACCEPT ITEM 51-22 PROPOSED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CLIFTON LARSON ALLEN, LLC (CLA) FOR AUDITING SERVICES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Council Member Pereira asked a question regarding the terms of engagement and the timeframes outlined on page 3 of the document. Discussion followed. Council Member Pereira asked for clarification of the terms and clauses on page 10 which were provided for her.

Council Member Newton asked what the dollar amount that would be charged was. He was told they would be charging \$290,000 a year. Further discussion followed. The question of how the auditing would work with the fees was raised. What was considered ‘in-scope’ and what would incur additional fees. Further discussion followed regarding this to answer the question to satisfaction. They receive a certain percentage of revenue from a certain entity. In that contract they are allowed to audit the numbers. Further discussion followed regarding the finances and auditing.

Council Member Pereira noted that, in appendix B, the amount stated was \$300,000.00 and not the reduced amount that had been stated previously. She was told that the reduced amount would be used and the amount in the appendix was from a prior draft. Further discussion followed regarding the budgeting for the item.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO AMEND ITEM 51-22 PROPOSED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CLIFTON LARSON ALLEN, LLC (CLA) FOR AUDITING SERVICES. WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS:**

- **INCLUDING THE AMENDMENT OF THE RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE.**
- **INCLUDING EXHIBIT B TO DEMONSTRATE THE REDUCTION OF ANNUAL COSTS DURING THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 51-22 PROPOSED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CLIFTON LARSON ALLEN, LLC (CLA) FOR AUDITING SERVICES. AS AMENDED.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

59-22

PROPOSED LEASE AGREEMENT WITH SIKORSKY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION FOR SPACE AT CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE IN BRIDGEPORT.

This item was handled out of order.

A representative came forward to discuss this item. He provided an overview of the contract for those present. The Sikorsky Federal Credit Union is taking over operations of the old Bridgeport Credit Union. He provided an overview of this process for those present. They will be paying the City \$2,500.00 a month for the use of the location for their offices. A review of how the contract was structured followed. It was noted that, within the first year, either party had the right to terminate if they felt the lease wasn’t working out for them. They have an escalation provision that will increase the rent amount by 3% each year. They also reviewed the anticipated usage by non-Bridgeport employees as well. There is an option to extend the lease following the first three-year term. Further review of the details of the lease followed. It was noted that the City Hall Committee had approved this item on May 1st unanimously.

Council Member Herron voiced her approval of City Hall approving this contract. She is glad they are getting rent. She was concerned about information not having been available to the public though. Further discussion followed regarding how available to the public the information had been. Council Member Herron said she was unhappy with the contract being negotiated without telling the City. Council Member Newton said that if the City Hall Committee approved it, they should at least make the City Council aware that they've approved a new credit union coming into City Hall to replace the old one. Further discussion followed regarding the property and facilities provided to the Credit Union and if the amount they were paying was reasonable. Council Member Roman-Christy asked who the City Hall Committee was. It was explained to her satisfaction. Further discussion followed regarding the history of the credit union and their interactions with the City Hall Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 59-22 PROPOSED LEASE AGREEMENT WITH SIKORSKY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION FOR SPACE AT CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE IN BRIDGEPORT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

55-22

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES (NAGE), LOCAL R1-200 FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026 REGARDING THEIR BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACT.

Atty. Skyers came forward to discuss this item. He said that this was the culmination of a long process and he felt they had arrived at a fair and equitable agreement. He felt that this was the largest collective bargaining unit in the City. He reviewed the details of the proposed agreement for those present.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ACCEPT ITEM 55-22 PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES (NAGE), LOCAL R1-200 FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026 REGARDING THEIR BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Council Member Pereira asked who had created the amended version of the document and said it was difficult to see what changes had been made. Atty. Skyers said it had been made by the union attorney. He explained the reasoning behind their choices in design/editing for those present. Council Member Pereira said she felt the way it had been done was problematic. She explained her issues with what had been done and pointed to examples where she had issues. Further discussion followed regarding how the draft had been edited and revised. Council Member Pereira expressed her disapproval of the articles having been shifted about.

Council Member Newton asked to confirm that Atty. Skyers had laid out the major changes in the contract. Atty. Skyers confirmed this. Council Member Newton asked to confirm that they had enough information to understand the contract and the changes made within and what changes benefited the City and what ones benefited the unions. Atty. Skyers confirmed this.

Council Member Newton noted that the Labor Department had broken it down so they would know what was in it.

Council Member Roman-Christy said she had looked through the revised contract and was satisfied with it. She wanted to avoid entering arbitration. She also felt that the longer they waited, the more the contract would cost the City.

Council Member Pereira further voiced her discontent with the process that had happened with the contract.

Mr. Meszoros thanked the people who had worked on the contract. He said they had done an excellent job for both sides and had met several times regarding it.

Mr. Solazzo clarified that the contract had not been prepared by him and was the result of 30+ negotiating sessions. He said all he had done was use a program to compare the old document with the new one. He said that every single provision had been reviewed by both sides and discussed at length.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ACCEPT ITEM 55-22 PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES (NAGE), LOCAL R1-200 FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026 REGARDING THEIR BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (HERRON, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, ROMAN-CHRISTY, NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Ian A. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services