

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CONTRACTS COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JUNE 20, 2023**

**ATTENDANCE:** Jeanette Herron, Co-chair; Matthew McCarthy, Co-chair; Ernest Newton, Maria Pereira, Rosalina Roman-Christy; Council President Aidee Nieves

**OTHERS:** Council Member(s): A. Castillo, T. Mack & M. Valle; Thomas Gaudett, Deputy Director of Staff; City Attorney M. Anastasi, Anthony Paoletto, John Marshall Lee, Christina Lanye Onnerd, Cadenza Innovation CEO, Brian Chan, Cadenza Innovation CFO; Pankay Sharma, Cadenza Innovation Manager; Molly Seal, Cadenza Innovation, Christy Duffy Acevedo, Bridgeport Labs, Jed Ferrante, Bridgeport Public Facilities; State Representative Joe Gresko

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-chair Herron called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. A quorum was present.

**69-22 Subject: Proposed Resolution for the donation of a Connecticut sourced Energy Storage Battery to the City at no cost from CT Innovations/Cadenza Innovations, Inc.**

Ms. Lanye Onnerd, the CEO of Cadenza Innovation came forward and greeted the Council Members. She explained that her company had received funding from the State of Connecticut four 20 kW battery storage that will be provide back-up power. Cadenza was extending this offer to the City of Bridgeport for one battery storage unit. The system is so small that it can be placed in a private home. It reduces the external power use and can generate income.

Mr. Gaudett said that he had received a number of phone calls from Council Members. He said that the administration would like to support this initiative if this offer has no strings attached.

Council Member Pereira asked what the cost of the units were. Ms. Lanye Onnerd said that it would be \$45,000 for the system that is being donated, a single unit would be \$25,000. Ms. Lanye Onnerd said that if they expect a few hot days, then the building would turn on the battery to store the energy.

Council Member McCarthy said that the Tesla batteries are not safe. Ms. Lanye Onnerd replied that she was aware of this and felt that there was no need to have these types of electrical fires. She spoke about the data that she had compiled and also mentioned that battery arrangement that was different from the Tesla batteries.

Council Member McCarthy asked what kind of upgrades the Bridgeport buildings would need. Ms. Lanye Onnerd said that they have arranged for it to talk to the other batteries over the existing WiFi system with a cell phone back up.

Council Member Herron asked about the amount of maintenance. Ms. Lanye Onnerd said that there was no maintenance. The unit is anchored to the ceiling and the batteries are not resting on the floor.

Council Member Newton asked what the catch was. Ms. Lanye Onnerd said that the State was giving her a grant and she had decided to place one unit in Bridgeport so they can experience how the system works.

Council Member Newton asked if there would be jobs for Bridgeport residents. Council Member Castillo said that Bridgeport Labs is filing an application with Cadenza for this. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the possible conflict of interest with Council Member Castillo.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 69-22 SUBJECT: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR THE DONATION OF A CONNECTICUT SOURCED ENERGY STORAGE BATTERY TO THE CITY AT NO COST FROM CT INNOVATIONS/CADENZA INNOVATIONS, INC.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member McCarthy said that the Council President had pushed this and Council President Nieves was not present. He also noted there was a Council Member who was financially involved. Council Member Roman-Christy said that the Council Member from the 136th District had a great deal more information than the Committee, who had only received one print out about the product.

Council Member Castillo said that he was not involved in the company. Council Member McCarthy said that once Council Member Castillo said that his non-profit involved, that was a stop. Council Member Castillo said that Bridgeport Labs was trying to bring some jobs to Bridgeport.

Atty. Anastasi said that Council Member Castillo was not affiliated with the organization. Council Member Castillo agreed and said that he had removed himself from the Board.

Council President Nieves said that when the Council Members advocates for their passionate interests, they often use the pronoun "we". she reminded everyone that there were Council Members who recused themselves when their passionate issues come up.

Ms. Lanye Onnerd said that they had been given opportunity to allocate a battery system to the City.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO REOPEN THE TABLE FOR AGENDA ITEM 69-22 SUBJECT: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR THE DONATION OF A CONNECTICUT SOURCED ENERGY STORAGE BATTERY TO THE CITY AT NO COST FROM CT INNOVATIONS/CADENZA INNOVATIONS, INC.**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Newton said that Council Member Castillo was a member of the body and Council Member Castillo should be very careful to clarify that he was not connected to the company. He said that he had been involved in conflicts of interests before and they needed to be careful.

Council Member Pereira said that it might be helpful if the Council Members could be given copies of the State Grant. She said that there were Council Members who have relatives in the unions and they vote on the contracts.

Council Member McCarthy said that Ms. Lanye Onnerd had said that Bridgeport labs would be providing the training at a cost. Council Member Castillo said that he had taken himself off the Board. Council President Nieves said that Council Member Castillo had done this before with the Housing Authority and MESA. She said that if there is an opportunity for the City to get this gift. There are Council Member who are part of Boards that receive money from the City.

Council Member Herron asked if Mr. Duffy was present to represent Bridgeport Labs. Mr. Duffy said that he was.

Council Member Newton said that there were State Representatives who sit on Boards and vote on Block Grants.

Council Member Pereira stated for the record that she doesn't not work for the FBI because she doesn't get paid.

Council Member McCarthy asked how long the grant was for. He was told it was for 18 months. The batteries last 10 years. The cost of the software is \$25.00/month per battery.

Council Member McCarthy asked if the company was looking to relocate. Ms. Lanye Onnerd said that when the company expands and grows, they will be looking for more space.

Council Member Roman-Christy asked how many batteries were being used right now. Ms. Lanye Onnerd said that they were in the process of launching the company. Bridgeport would be one of the first installations.

State Representative Joe Gresko said that from an energy point of view he felt this would be a good diversification of energy, along with solar and geo-thermal. He said that they had tried to set one of the batteries on fire and could not.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 69-22  
SUBJECT: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR THE DONATION OF A CONNECTICUT  
SOURCED ENERGY STORAGE BATTERY TO THE CITY AT NO COST FROM CT  
INNOVATIONS/CADENZA INNOVATIONS, INC. CONTINGENT ON RECEIVING**

**COPIES OF THE GRANT APPLICATION AND HAVING THE SOFTWARE CHECKED FOR COMPATIBILITY BY IT.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services