

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CONTRACTS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2020**

ATTENDANCE: Matthew McCarthy, Co-chair; Jeanette Herron, Co-chair;
Jorge Cruz; Ernest Newton, Samia Suliman

OTHERS: Council Member(s): Maria Pereira & Avelino Silva, Atty. Lisa Trachtenburg, John Urquidi, City Engineer, Thomas Gaudett, Mayor's Office; Barbara, 203-673-6738 (6:21 p.m.); Johanna (6:28 p.m.)

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.
The public was able to listen to this meeting by calling a conference line.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair McCarthy called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:

• October 14, 2020 (Regular Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 2020.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she was present at the October 14, 2020 meeting but was not listed in the Attendance. She also noted that Council Member McBride-Lee joined the meeting at 7:01 p.m. and the time that Council Member Brown joined the meeting was incorrect. Council Member Brown arrived at 6:10 p.m. She stated that she did not know why this Attendance issue continued to be a problem.

Council Member Herron said that she would support these corrections this time, but it should be up to the individual Council Members to correct issues as previously discussed. She added that Council Members who were not on the Committee were not required to attend all Committee meetings.

Council Member Cruz said that if there were corrections, they should be written down and submitted to the Chairs in advance. Council Member Newton said that this should be included in the revisions of the Council Rules.

****COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 2020 AS AMENDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) IN FAVOR (CRUZ, HERRON AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MCCARTHY AND SULIMAN).**

198-19 Proposed On-call Bridge Inspection and Structural Engineering Professional Services Agreement with RHS Consulting Design, LLC; A. DiCesare Associates, P.C. and Wengell McDonnell & Costello, Inc.

Mr. Urquidi presented the item and said that the RFQ followed the procurement process and explained there were three finalists.

Council Member Newton asked for clarification. Mr. Urquidi gave an overview of the process.

Atty. Trachtenburg added that three firms will be allowed to competitively bid for the specific task. Discussion followed.

203-673-6738 joined the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

Council Member Pereira pointed out that there were no figures provided in the resolution. She wanted to know what the funding source was.

Mr. Urquidi explained that they do not know how to project costs for repairs that will be done in three years' time.

Council Member Cruz asked for an update on the Congress Street Bridge. Mr. Urquidi said it was in the design phase. They expect to be starting construction in the middle of next year.

Council Member Newton asked how many bridges were in Bridgeport and wanted to know who makes the determination on which bridge is worked on. Mr. Urquidi gave him the number and said based on the inspections, those that are in poor condition will be moved to the front of the line.

Council Member Newton asked for a list of the bridges. A discussion followed about the different types of bridges.

Johanna joined the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Council Member Pereira asked if they were submitting their proposals in sealed envelopes. Atty. Trachtenburg stated they will be following the sealed envelope bid protocol. Council Member Pereira stated she had directed her question to Mr. Urquidi.

Council Member Pereira said that the contract indicates there would be a minimum of 70 or more task orders that would occur without City Council approval.

Atty. Trachtenburg replied that the task orders would be amendments to the contract.

Council Member Pereira repeated that there were no figures or statements given. She said that these amendments should be approved by the Contracts Committee. Council Member McCarthy commented that some of the bridges were tiny bridges over tiny streams and those would most likely be grouped together.

Council Member Newton said that the Council had allocated funding and that they were not allowed to spend over the cap that was allocated. Some work has already been done on some bridges in the past. They cannot exceed the amount that has been allocated.

Atty. Trachtenburg said that every voucher goes through Mr. Nkwo and he ensures that the funding is there for the project.

Council Member McCarthy said that he believed the funding was in the Capital Budget this year.

Council Member Herron said that Council Member McCarthy was correct that an amount was set during Budget and both Mr. Nkwo and Mr. Flatto comes to the Budget & Appropriations with updated reports. Council Member Herron was in favor of this item.

Council Member Newton pointed out that unless the City submits the information, the State funding will go elsewhere. He asked for a list of the bridge repairs.

Council Member Cruz said that he supports the item and would also like to receive a list of the bridges. He has complete trust in Mr. Urquidi.

Council Member Pereira said that the Council Members are saying that the OPM Director does not sign the authorization unless there is funding available. However, the Police Department and Fire Department constantly overspend their budgets. She said that once upon a time, she had faith in the City Engineer, but no longer does. She added that Council Member Herron has a relative that works for the City Engineer and it was inappropriate for her to be voting on this issue.

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 198-19 PROPOSED ON-CALL BRIDGE INSPECTION AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH RHS CONSULTING DESIGN, LLC; A. DICESARE ASSOCIATES, P.C. AND WENGELL MCDONNELL & COSTELLO, INC.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Atty. Trachtenburg said for the record that she had worked with Mr. Urquidi for 18 years and that he was an outstanding employee.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
Contracts Committee
Regular Meeting
December 8, 2020