

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CONTRACTS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 11, 2021**

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

OTHERS: Council Member(s): M. E. Brantley, M. Lyons, R. Roman-Christy,
A. Vizzo-Paniccia, M. Pereira & A. Silva; Atty. M. Anastasi, Craig
Nadrizny, Acting Public Facilities Director; Capt. Kevin Gilleran, Frank
Callahan, Atty. Michael Jankovsky, City Attorney's Office Barbara, Call
in User 1; iPhone, James' iPad, 203-253-2947; 203-396-8181

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Herron called at 6:11 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:

April 13, 2021 (Regular Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE
APRIL 13, 2021 REGULAR MEETING.
** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 13, 2021 REGULAR
MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**33-20 Proposed Professional Services Agreement with Marshall K. Robinson regarding a
Ballistics Expert for the Police Department.**

Capt. Gilleran said that this had been presented to the Committee previously. He explained that the firearms recovered at a crime scene are fired and the ballistics are compared with other shell casings.

Council Member Herron asked about the funding. Capt. Gilleran said that he believed it was already included in the budget.

Council Member Pereira said the item was required to go out to bid because it was over \$25,000 and the payment would be retroactive. She said that Mr. Robinson would make \$46,000 for two days a week. She asked what the justification for this salary was along with the 11% increase this year.

Capt. Gilleran said that Mr. Robinson's skill set was unique. Another officer spoke about this and said that Mr. Robinson was the best in the field. They have enough work to employ a full-time officer, which would cost much more.

Council Member Pereira said that Mr. Robinson was not the only ballistics expert in Fairfield County. The officer said that he did not agree with Council Member Pereira's statement.

Council Member Cruz said that it sounds like an important issue. He said that they should go ahead and approve the item. Bridgeport responds to a lot of calls from the Shot Spotter. If they need this and it's already in the budget, the Council should support it.

Capt. Gilleran said that Mr. Robinson compares the actual bullet, not just the shell casing. The State Lab does not compare the bullets.

Council Member Newton said that they have been using Mr. Robinson for years and felt that they should support this item.

Council Member McCarthy asked if there were any statistics on how many murders they have solved. Capt. Gilleran said that Mr. Robinson had reviewed every single murder that was committed by a firearm. Sending the shell casings to the lab would take several months.

Council Member McCarthy said that he would like Mr. Robinson to train someone in his methodology. Council Member Herron said that Bridgeport was the largest police Department in the state and they need to train more than one ballistics analyst.

Council Member Pereira repeated that there was a request submitted on September 2020 saying that there were no other ballistics available. She wished to know which provision in the Purchasing Ordinance addressed this.

Capt. Fitzgerald was stating that they did not have anyone who analyzes the shell casings or the bullets like Mr. Robinson. When the shell case is sent to the State lab, it can take months before the results are available.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 33-20 PROPOSED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MARSHALL K. ROBINSON REGARDING A BALLISTICS EXPERT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 33-20 PROPOSED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MARSHALL K. ROBINSON REGARDING A BALLISTICS EXPERT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

60-20 (Ref. #119-13) Proposed First Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and License Agreement with Sacred Heart University, Inc. from August 2014.

Atty. Anastasi said that he submitted it jointly on behalf of the Parks Commission and Mr. Nadrizny. He said that Mr. Valentine and Mr. Dodd were present from Sacred Heart. Atty. Anastasi said that he submitted an executive summary back in August 2014 and reviewed the

details with the Committee regarding the use of Diamond 1 at a baseball field. Atty. Anastasi said that they were proposing the installation of a score board that SHU could use and other teams could use when SHU was not using it.

Atty. Anastasi explained that the Parks Commission approved two additions to the existing agreement. There were no deletions or amendments, but a new sentence was added at the conclusion of the agreement. This change was also included in the submission that was distributed previously.

He then read the following into the record:

“SHU is authorized and permitted to construct and/or install at its sole cost and expense, a scoreboard on or at the diamond and the diamond is Diamond 1 as defined in the agreement, of a design and form consistent with the site and as approved by the City’s Director of Public Facilities in the exercise of his business judgment and reasonable discretion. Any other provisions of this agreement as amended notwithstanding, SHU shall be responsible for any or all costs and expenses associated with the operation, maintenance and repair of such scoreboard included but not limited to the provision and consumption of electricity and other services which shall be billed directly to and paid by SHU.

Atty. Anastasi said that the other language that was added was a new Section 9 regarding liability and insurance coverage which was not included in the prior agreement.

Atty. Anastasi said that he could answer legal questions but operational questions would have to go to Mr. Nadrizny.

Council Member McCarthy asked if SHU was playing at Seaside Park. He said that they were playing by 90 acres. Mr. Dowd said that they were playing at Vets Park and wanted to enhance the baseball diamond.

Council Member McCarthy said that anyone that uses the diamond could use the scoreboard. Atty. Anastasi said that it was an enhancement and said that it would be available during a non-SHU priority time.

Mr. Valentine said that the one issue is that the scoreboard uses a portable generator. SHU has their own generator and the City will receive their own generator from SHU. MA asked Mr. Nadrizny if that was his understanding. If there are any electric bills, SHU will pay them. Mr. Dowd said that the use of the generator was chosen to avoid electricity bills.

Council Member Lyons said that SHU should have spoken to her and Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia before and she was disappointed about this.

Council Member Lyons said that she had not heard anyone from the neighborhood objecting. She asked about the maintenance and repair of the generators. She was told that it was included in the agreement.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that there was an agreement with UB for Seaside Park. She said that regarding the agreement at 90 Acres. She was opposed to it because SHU uses the park as they need. She said that originally, they were going to supply a scoreboard and they would be paying for this rather than the taxpayers.

The location was supposed to be at a certain angle and she was not sure that the neighbors were aware of this. She said that she believed it would be a liability issue. She will be voting against this as she did with the Parks Commission.

Atty. Anastasi said that the agreement requires SHU to indemnify the City, and SHU would be responsible for the installation of the scoreboard.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the contract should be sent back to the Parks Board particularly if there was an amendment. She said that they should not be pushing this forward until there was update on the agreement and amendments.

Atty. Anastasi said that they were not aware that SHU would be providing the generator for the City, but it is addressed in the contract.

Council Member Pereira said that Atty. Anastasi had submitted an Executive Summary on file on April 20th. She asked if this was an agreement from 2014. Atty. Anastasi said that it was MOU that was a non-exclusive licensing agreement filed in 2014 and there were two sentences that were being added.

Council Member Pereira said that the Council would require a 2/3rd vote by the Council in Chapter 12, section 13. He said that it was a non-exclusive licensing agreement to utilize the park on a part time basis.

Council Member Pereira asked if SHU would be advertising on the scoreboard. Atty. Anastasi said that the scoreboard would be of a design which was approved by the Public Facilities Director.

Mr. Dowd said that every change they made was in response to the requests of the Parks Board. He said that the value of advertising at that site would not be much.

Council Member Brantley encouraged the Committee to support this and felt it was a good faith effort on the part of SHU. Mr. Nadrizny was on the call and could address the concerns about advertisements. She thanked SHU and looked forward to continuing their relationship.

Council Member Cruz said that he was supporting this because he was a sports player and fan. He said that SHU would be providing generators at their own expense. It doesn't need to go back to the Parks Board because they already approved this. it will help the youth and the City.

Council Member Lyons said that she was concerned about the advertisement. She asked if the City's name would be on the scoreboard. She was told this was so.

Council Member Lyons said that she had checked with the Parks Board about this to see they had all the information they needed. She spoke with the City Attorney's Office about the agreement. Scoreboards are very exciting for young people.

Council Member Herron said that the youth have very little to do in the City. UB locks the gate at Seaside and no one can use it. The Parks Board has stated that others can use the field and provided a generator. She is in agreement with this and if the Parks Board approved this, she was all for it.

Council Member Newton said that he would hope the day would come when they were more supportive of their universities. SHU has been good to Bridgeport students. They will enhance Bridgeport. The Council will always want UB and SHU to do more, but they need to cherish what they have in the City. If the universities left this area, it would be devastating for the City.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED AGENDA ITEM 60-20 (REF. #119-13) PROPOSED FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) AND LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY, INC. FROM AUGUST 2014.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Mr. Nadrizny said that this has been tabled twice two other and the Parks Board has done their due diligence and SHU has complied with all that they asked

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 60-20 (REF. #119-13) PROPOSED FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) AND LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY, INC. FROM AUGUST 2014 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services