

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: Susan Brannelly, Co-Chair; Patricia Swain, Lydia Martinez,
Denese Taylor-Moye

OTHERS: Andy Nunn, CAO; Ann Kelly-Lenz, Finance Director

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Brannelly called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:
JULY 14, 2014 (REGULAR MEETING)**

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:
AUGUST 11, 2014 (REGULAR MEETING)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN MOVED THE MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2014 AND AUGUST 11, 2014.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2014 AND AUGUST 11, 2014 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**GENERAL DISCUSSION RE: REVIEW OF THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL
REPORT**

Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that she had sent the July financial figures out to the Council Members. She said that she had given the soft close to the month, because until the hard close for the month, the crystal reports can't be run. She explained about the 60 day look back for outstanding invoices at the end of the year. Then the full report will be issued. The August report will be done in the normal manner.

Council Member Swain had some questions about the formatting of the report. She also asked about the percentages listed in one of the columns. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that because it was the first month of the fiscal year, it was too early to project a trend. She directed everyone's attention to the actuals column.

Council Member Brannelly asked if there was a push toward direct deposit. Mr. Nunn said that there was a very strong effort to have all the unions require the direct deposit. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that it cut down on paper work and is more efficient.

Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that her department will be doing the close on September 25th and 26th. Following this, the crystal report will be generated. The first month of the year has

too much money moving about and GASBY payments to accurately project figures. Council Member Taylor-Moye asked if this was normal. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that it was. Council Member Martinez asked if the August report would be done in the regular format. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that next month, they would have two reports, July and August.

GENERAL DISCUSSION RE: BUDGET UPDATES FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS

Council Member Brannelly said that the City Council had approved Resolution 137-13 Budget & Appropriations Committee Report re: Resolution to establish Regular Budget Updates from City Departments as a standing agenda item for the regular monthly meetings of the City Council's Budget and Appropriations Committee at the meeting the previous evening. This will allow the Committee to have a standing item on the agenda. She said that the Committee wanted to have regular updates from the various departments and also work on various initiatives that had been discussed during the budget process. Council Member Brannelly then gave a brief overview of the various initiatives that the Committee had discussed. (See attached)

Council Member Brannelly asked the Committee which department should be the first to be interviewed.

She also said that she would also like more information on the Land Based Tax Structure. Mr. Nunn said that there were State employees who were working on policies right now as the fall is beginning. He suggested that the City's lobbyists in Hartford. This coming year will be a long legislative sessions. There will be a host of new representatives, possibly a new Governor. Mr. Nunn said that it would be good to have the City's requests ready to present to the City's delegates. Now would be a good time to get the ground work for this done.

Council Member Brannelly asked if there were other items that come to mind that were on the Mayor's priority list. Mr. Nunn said that the PILOT issue would be major. He said that the Land Based Tax Structure would be a long term thing because it will be a State wide change.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the research that was being done on this. Mr. Nunn said that he would check with Bridgeport's lobbyist on this. He said that he believed that other states have it and mentioned some of pros and cons of the system. Mr. Nunn said that in Connecticut, no municipality can do anything without permission. It is called "enabling legislation". He then spoke about the 'Local option' for an item of this and went on to explain the details of this.

Mr. Nunn went on to say that he felt that the Budget Committee's initiative to have the various departments coming in during the year was good.

Council Member Martinez said that she felt that the OPED was one of the most important departments of the year. Mr. Nunn said that he thought that they would come to a

meeting so they could give an overview of the various projects and the impact on the City budget. These types of meetings would also allow the various departments to talk about their new initiatives.

Council Member Brannelly asked how the members felt about having Kevin Reynolds, Bridgeport Lobbyist come to the next meeting. Mr. Nunn said that he would contact Council Member Brannelly to arrange this. Adam Wood will also be working on the Hartford efforts.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO SCHEDULE A MEETING WITH THE BRIDGEPORT LOBBYISTS FOR THE NEXT MONTH.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services