

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Patricia Swain, Co-Chair; AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Co-Chair; Jack O. Banta, Milta Feliciano, Robert Halstead (6:37 p.m.), Council President Thomas McCarthy (6:41 p.m.)

OTHERS: Council Member Melanie Jackson, Atty. E. Skyler, Atty. R. Liskov, David Dunn, Civil Service Director; Philip White, Labor Relations

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Swain called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2015.

The following correction was noted:

Page 2, under **Agenda Item 105-14**, paragraph 3, line 3: Please change the following from: "Council Member Swain said that the Committee needed to include the fact that social security numbers, or medical information would be included."

To: "Council Member Swain said that if the Committee needed to not include social security numbers, or medical information would be included."

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO AMEND THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2015.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2015 MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

11-14 Proposed Amendment to City Council Rules of Order- New Rule XXXI Council Liaisons to Boards and Commissions to generally define the position, roles, duties and responsibilities of the various appointed City Council Liaisons.

Council Member Halstead joined the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Council Member Swain said that this item would require a rule change and the Council would not have the time to do this before the end of the session.

Council Member Feliciano asked if the new Council would have access to the comments and thoughts that the current committee has done. Discussion followed. Council Member Swain said that at this point, the resolution would die in Committee. She said that it had been on the agenda every month and there were very good conversations about the amendment.

Council Member Halstead said that he was disappointed that this item had not been moved forward more quickly. Discussion followed

Council Member Halstead said that he was very disappointed that this was not going anywhere. He said that he had gone to the Historic Commission and the Commissioners said that he could not speak.

Council President McCarthy joined the meeting at 6:41p.m.

Council President McCarthy said that he had realized the issue with the timing requirements involved with a rule change. He would bring it up during the next Council session.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 11-14 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CITY COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER- NEW RULE XXXI COUNCIL LIAISONS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS TO GENERALLY DEFINE THE POSITION, ROLES, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VARIOUS APPOINTED CITY COUNCIL LIAISONS.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

152-14 Proposed Approval of a new Job Classification with NAGE Local RI-200 for Senior Housing Code Inspector/Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Philip White came forward to speak about a new Job Classification position. The Health Department wants to reorganize the various Health Department departments, Housing Code, Environmental and Lead. In order to do this, she needs the position and needs someone with extensive field experience.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the job requirements and whether the employee would be able to testify in court.

Council Member Feliciano asked about Joint Inspection Group. Mr. White explained that it was a number of City employees who met together to discuss inspections because the issues often involve a variety of department such as the Fire Department, Health Department and Housing Authority.

Council Member Feliciano expressed concerns regarding whether the employee would be representing the Health Director. Mr. White replied that the employee would be representing the department. Council President McCarthy said that because there were so many departments that were involved in blight, they now do it as a committee.

Council Member Banta said that he has worked in the trades for a long time. The staff member is going to have a wealth of knowledge to perform this job. Mr. White said that this is why they want a minimum of 15 years of experience.

Council Member Halstead said that he was also concerned about this job description and felt it was being rushed through. Mr. White said that this work had started back in June, but because of the amount of discussion involved and the number of committees involved, it takes time. It doesn't come to the Committee until after it is approved by the union and Civil Service.

Council Member Jackson asked about the details of the position and job requirements, which Mr. White reviewed with her. Mr. Dunn gave an overview of how this position came forward. He added that they expected a current inspector would be elevated to this position. Discussion followed.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that for the record that this item has been underway for a long time and was not being rushed through because this was on September's agenda. She added that having this position would be good for the City because it would help deal with blight.

Council Member Jackson left meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Council Member Halstead repeated his earlier comment that this item was being rushed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 152-14 PROPOSED APPROVAL OF A NEW JOB CLASSIFICATION WITH NAGE LOCAL RI-200 FOR SENIOR HOUSING CODE INSPECTOR/ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED.**

**** THE VOTE WAS TIED WITH THREE IN FAVOR (BANTA, FELICIANO, AND HALSTEAD); AND THREE AGAINST (MCCARTHY, VIZZO-PANICCIA, AND TAYLOR-MOYE).**

Council Member Swain moved to take the item off the table

Council Member Feliciano said that she was aware of the backlog of work the department had. Council President McCarthy said that only certain people are authorized to go on a parcel and this person would coordinate the inspections. Council Member Feliciano said that she wanted someone who could answer the question of how much of a backlog there was in the department. She wished to know if this was being done now to clear up the backlog. Council President McCarthy answered her question by confirming it was being done to clear up the backlog.

Council Member Halstead said that he had experience with Housing Code and had questions about the way they perform. Council Member Taylor-Moye said that in her district, there are numerous things that need to be addressed, particularly with winter coming. However, this is what is needed in the City. This isn't about the upcoming election, but what the City needs. Mr. White said that this Health Director wants to make her department more efficient and address the issues. Council President McCarthy said that he appreciated the fact that the health department was responding to the Council's concerns about the delays in inspections.

Council Member Halstead said that the new administration should have the latitude to make the decision and this was being rushed through.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that Ms. Kelly-Lenz had combined duties for the tax payers and other departments like the Fire Marshal's and Building working together. She said that there was a paper trail of all the steps that had been taken. Mr. White said that this resolution only addresses the position, and does not determine who will fill it.

Council Member Feliciano said that while the new administration should have the right to appoint as they want to but she pointed out that winter is coming and in her district there are many housing issues such as heating.

Council Member Feliciano then asked how long it would take to fill the position. Mr. Dunn said from Committee, it goes to the full Council and once approved, it is posted. There are posting requirements. The new administration will handle the filling of the position. Mr. Dunn said that the new Mayor would not be involved in filling the position and the hiring would be handled through the normal process.

Council Member Feliciano said for the record that it would be nice if the Health Department Director had been present to answer questions.

Council Member Halstead said that he was wary of making changes in the Health Department and felt this was being rushed through.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM.
** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (MCCARTHY, VIZZO-PANICCIA, TAYLOR-MOYE AND FELICIANO) AND TWO OPPOSED (BANTA AND HALSTEAD)**

Council Member Banta left the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

**173-14 Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Mark Anthony Febres.
188-14 Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Eleen Shepherd.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LEGAL ISSUES.
** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Committee, Atty. Liskov, and Atty. Skyler entered into Executive Session to discuss legal issues at 7:15 p.m. They returned to public session at 7:43 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM
173-14 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH MARK ANTHONY FEBRES.
** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 188-14 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH ELEN SHEPHERD.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (VIZZO-PANICCIA, TAYLOR-MOYE, FELICIANO, AND HALSTEAD) AND ONE ABSTENTION (MCCARTHY).**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services