

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2012

6:00 PM

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Vizzo-Paniccia; Co-chair, Brannelly, Ayala

NON-COMMITTEE: Council President McCarthy (*sat in to make a quorum*)

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes of December 27, 2011

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia stated that the agenda would be taken out of order.

34-11 Appointment of Ashley Jade Wacker (D) to the Planning & Zoning Commission as an alternate

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia asked Ms. Wacker to give the committee some background information about herself.

Ms. Wacker stated that she was 26 years old. She has lived in Bridgeport for on and off for the last ten years. She mentioned that she's an active environmentalist. She said she loved Bridgeport and she has seen amazing things happen in the city when she moved here. She was looking to become active in the community and she has served

as an alternate on the P&Z Commission since June 2011. She relayed that she asks a lot of questions that pertain to the environment when she serves on the commission. She said she really enjoys serving on the commission and she felt she brings a different interest to the table and she would like to continue to serve.

Council member Brannelly asked for details about serving as an interim or alternate commissioner. Ms. Wacker said she was an alternate.

Council member Brannelly asked if she had any training or guidance from the commission. Ms. Wacker explained that she sat in on a meeting for seven hours to get a feel of what goes on. She then asked Mr. Buckley if there was a program or class she could take to learn more. He said there currently weren't any classes, so she listened to CD's to gain more knowledge. She repeated that she always asks questions.

Council member Brannelly asked about the status of an alternate or temporary commissioner serving on the Commission. Council President McCarthy explained that if someone is serving as an alternate, if there is a full commission the night of the meeting, the alternate doesn't sit in. However, an alternate needs to listen to the tapes from that meeting and if needed; they can fill in for a permanent commissioner to make a quorum. He clarified that a quorum is required for each different agenda item. He further clarified that if they eliminated alternates, it will be more difficult to have a quorum for each meeting.

Ms. Wacker stated that since she was sworn in as an alternate, she has been an active voting member of the commission. She said she was told if she was needed at a meeting to make a quorum, they would call her. She noted that she generally sits in on meetings anyway to learn more.

Council member Brannelly questioned how the alternate position worked. Council President McCarthy stated that an alternate plays the same role as a permanent commissioner and they sit in to make a quorum when necessary.

Council member Brannelly asked what the temporary status entails. Council President McCarthy explained that a temporary commissioner would pertain to one particular agenda item where they need a full contingent on the P&Z Commission.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia asked again if any training was offered at all. Ms. Wacker reiterated that she listened to CD's to gain more knowledge and she asked a lot of questions.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia recalled that some classes were supposed to be scheduled at some point. Council President McCarthy said that classes were planned, but they haven't been scheduled to date.

Council member Brannelly suggested inviting a representative from the zoning department attend a future meeting to speak to the process of the commissioners that serve.

Council member Taylor-Moye expressed that due to Ms. Wacker's enthusiasm; she gave a thumbs up for her wanting to get involved and learn about the zoning process. She said she was in support of the appointment.

Council member Colon expressed that she has known Ms. Wacker for a while. She said she knows her to be a committee person and although she's young, she's eager to learn. Overall, she felt it would be good to have young blood serve on the commission to give their input.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia stated that Ms. Wacker's involvement was commendable and she thanked her for being committed to the city.

Council President McCarthy stated that he was in full support of the appointment.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
*** Consent calendar**

08-11 Refund of Excess Payments

Kelly Lenz, Tax Collector reviewed the amounts of the refunds as follows:

- A mortgage company overpaid on a large property – amount to be refunded \$12k
- Kora-Logic Mortgage Company – amount to be refunded \$14k
- Foundation Realty – overpaid \$16k – *noted that Stratford residents still pay at People's Bank and they aren't suppose to, they will reimburse the entity.*
- Kenwood Bridgeport LLC – amount to be refunded \$91k – *noted that the assessments were reduced, but the tax bill was paid before the judgment was done.*
- North Main Bridge – amount to be refunded \$39k

Ms. Lenz stated that she would e-mail the committee members a detailed breakdown of all the refunds per Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia's request.

Ms. Lenz explained that when an account goes into the overpayment process, refunds show up as a balance sheet transaction item as a liability. Then it's taken out of the revenue transaction at the end of the month to reduce the liability.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
***Consent calendar**

24-11 Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Elda Blanca

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia stated that the city attorney wasn't present to discuss the item.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO TABLE**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services