

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Michelle Lyons, Co-Chair; Richard Salter, Alfredo Castillo, Melanie Jackson, Council President Thomas McCarthy; Jack O. Banta (7:55 p.m.)

OTHERS: David Kooris, OPED Director, Bill Coleman, OPED

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. A quorum was present.

192-14 Street Discontinuance of Portions of Hancock Avenue, Railroad Avenue and Howard Avenue.

Mr. Kooris came forward and thanked the Committee for scheduling the special meeting during a busy time of the year.

Mr. Kooris gave a brief description of the local of the property. He explained that there had been many attempts to develop the property but due to the fact that one owner had control of the “U” shaped building and a different owner had control of the boiler building in the center of the “U” made it difficult to do anything with the property. That issue has now been resolved.

However, the financing agency for the project has made a last minute requirement for the developer to own the on street parking along Cherry Street. This means that the property will be maintained by the owners and have exclusive use of that area.

Mr. Kooris said that he was asking for a discontinuance of the public right of way. The sidewalks and the lanes of traffic will not change, but the area where there is on street parking will be owned and maintained by the developer.

Mr. Coleman then came forward to answer questions. He was asked how many parking spots this would involve. Mr. Coleman said that he would leave it up to the developer to determine that. The road will remain a two way street and reviewed the details with the Committee members.

Mr. Coleman then displayed a map showing the area and indicated where the various components of the project would be located, including the charter school. Discussion about the details of the project followed.

Council Member Salter had several questions about the charter school and whether they would be paying rent to the City. Mr. Coleman stated that this had already been approved by Planning and Zoning and that a tax deal had been approved already. Council Member Salter expressed concerns about the fact that the charter school might take revenue away from the public schools.

Council President McCarthy joined the meeting.

Council Member Jackson asked if the buildings would be re-furbished. Mr. Coleman said that they would. He briefly mentioned that there were tax credits involved and had already been approved. The issue before the Committee has to do with parking. CHAFA has announced that developer must have control of a certain number of parking spaces. In order to do this, the developer must have control of the on street parking.

Council Member Jackson asked if the developer would be paying for the additional land. Mr. Coleman said that the parking would be considered part of the deal and was not considered as a separate parcel. He explained that the roadway was owned by the private entity to the mid-point of the road and reviewed the details of the right of way with the Council Members.

Mr. Coleman then spoke about fact that the building was blighted and can be seen from I-95. Discussion followed.

Council President McCarthy cautioned the Council Members against re-arguing the previous agreements and reminded everyone that the matter before them had to do with the on-street parking. Those passing by on 95 see this and the vacant Steel Point area as their impression of Bridgeport. Approving this will allow this blighted area to be rehabilitated and bring in tax revenue.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 192-14 STREET DISCONTINUANCE OF PORTIONS OF HANCOCK AVENUE, RAILROAD AVENUE AND HOWARD AVENUE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

RECONVENED

Council Member Lyons reconvened the meeting at 7:55 p.m. She said that the Committee needed to schedule a public hearing for Agenda Item 192-14.

192-14 Street Discontinuance of Portions of Hancock Avenue, Railroad Avenue and Howard Avenue.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING ON AGENDA ITEM 192-14 STREET DISCONTINUANCE OF PORTIONS OF HANCOCK AVENUE, RAILROAD AVENUE AND HOWARD AVENUE.
** COUNCIL MEMBER SALTER SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services.