

**City of Bridgeport
Public Safety & Transportation Committee
Regular Meeting
January 12, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Michelle Lyons, Co-Chair, Jeanette Herron, Jack O. Banta, Kathryn Bukovsky, Thomas McCarthy, Richard Salter Jr (6:04 p.m.) Mary McBride-Lee, Co-Chair (6:10 p.m.), Eneida Martinez (6:23 p.m.)

OTHERS: Tina Cortello, Frank D’Ausillo, Mike Basso, Richard Dietz, Renu Gupta, Parag Agrawal, Jon Urquidi, Angel DePara

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. A quorum was present.

Councilmember Salter arrived at 6:04 p.m.

20-15 THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING THE DISCONTINUANCE OF A PORTION OF THE PAPER STREET KNOWN AS SUMMIT PLACE

- ** COUNCILMEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO TABLE 20-15 THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING THE DISCONTINUANCE OF A PORTION OF THE PAPER STREET KNOWN AS SUMMIT PLACE**
- ** COUNCILMEMBER HERRON SECONDED THE MOTION**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES: OCTOBER 6, 2015 (REGULAR MEETING), OCTOBER 26, 2015 (SPECIAL MEETING) AND NOVEMBER 2, 2015 (PUBLIC HEARING)

- ** COUNCILMEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 6, 26 AND NOVEMBER 2**
- ** COUNCILMEMBER BANTA SECONDED THE MOTION**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Councilmember McBride-Lee arrived at 6:10 p.m.

33-15 PROPOSED REQUEST THAT THE HONORARY DESIGNATION OF “DEE CORTELLO PLACE” BE CREATED WITH PROPER SIGNAGE ON THE CORNER OF PARALLEL STREET ADJACENT TO SAINT PATRICK’S CHURCH

Frank D’Ausillo, from St. Patrick’s, said the idea came from the St. Patrick’s Morning Prayer group and thanked Councilmember McCarthy for the backup. Councilmember McCarthy said as the maker, he will accept any co-sponsors. He mentioned how Dee was a friend to all a great woman and really dedicated to St. Patrick’s which is why it’s appropriate.

Mike Basso, Ms. Cortello's older brother, thanked everyone at the meeting for putting it forward and mentioned how Dee was a wonderful woman and how the whole family also wanted to thank them as well.

Tina Cortello, Ms. Cortello's daughter, mentioned how her mother spent her life in Bridgeport and that is where they decided to bury her. She explained how her mother loved the city and was dedicated to the church.

Councilmember McCarthy said that there have been some discussions about creating definitive rules in the council of how they would do a street re-naming. He said they honor those who really lived a superior life and made an impact. He wants to put a group together in the future to talk about rules of renaming a street.

- ** COUNCILMEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO ACCEPT ITEM 33-15 PROPOSED REQUEST THAT THE HONORARY DESIGNATION OF "DEE CORTELLO PLACE" BE CREATED WITH PROPER SIGNAGE ON THE CORNER OF PARALLEL STREET ADJACENT TO SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH**
- ** COUNCILMEMBER HERRON SECONDED THE MOTION**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

34-15: GRANT SUBMISSION: RE STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT (OPM) TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) GRANT PROGRAM FOR DOWNTOWN NORTH GRANT

Councilmember Martinez arrived at 6:23 p.m.

Renu Gupta, grants office, said that she had a slightly revised resolution and has a minor change on the second page on the last paragraph number two. The minor change was that they added Office of Policy & Economic Development (OPED) Director. Councilmember Lyons said that it should say planning instead of policy. Ms. Gupta wanted to change it to say Office of Planning & Economic Development (OPED)

- ** COUNCILMEMBER BANTA MOVED TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION TO ADD OFFICE OF PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (OPED) DIRECTOR TO THE RESOLUTION INSTEAD OF OFFICE OF POLICY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (OPED) DIRECTOR.**
- ** COUNCILMEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED THE MOTION**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Gupta stated that the grant was from OPED from the state of Connecticut. What it does is provides funds for responsible growth and transit oriented development throughout the state. The OPED office is planning to apply for the grant of a funded \$2 million and they will be constructing streetscapes in downtown north area.

Parag Agrawal, OPED office, said that his office is working closely with the Downtown Special Services District (DSSD) and the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council (GBRC) to apply for an Office of Policy and Management (OPM) grant that is going to improve the streetscapes in downtown. They are seeking \$2 million from OPM to do two things. Number one is to be able to put together a design guideline for streetscape for downtown. Number two is to improve the streetscapes in downtown north reflected in the map that he brought to the meeting.

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Mr. Agrawal said that there are a six major projects planned already for the area, and they estimate more than \$100 million in public and private investments have been made in the downtown north area. He mentioned how the sidewalks in the area are in very bad condition so they are looking to change all streetscapes, making biking lanes, sidewalk repairs, adding amenities, lighting, landscaping and benches.

Councilmember Lyons wanted clarification on what six major projects were happening and explained how the proposal should have been more in-depth. Mr. Agrawal said the security building, tulip preservation block, Jason Newfield phase one and two, financial services tower, and employment centers. Councilmember Lyons wanted to know if these six projects were going to happen for sure and wants to know if the buildings will be occupied during the renovation. Mr. Agrawal said from what he has been told the buildings are only in the beginning stages and the renovation should start 2017-2018. He said that the buildings should be occupied. Councilmember Lyons asked for Mr. Agrawal to keep them updated because it was a concern.

Councilmember Herron mentioned that they were going to renovate the buildings in the area and asked if this is going to happen within the same time frame as the streetscapes. Mr. Agrawal said that it would have to be coordinated and that some projects include the streetscapes already.

Councilmember Salter asked if the grants that they applied for were strictly for downtown. Mr. Agrawal said the grant requirements are is that it focuses on Transit Oriented Developments (TOD) and explained that it was the reason why they had the circles on the map. They are looking for the areas near train stations. They look for a quarter mile to a half a mile radius of the station. The blue circle represented the quarter mile radius and the brown circle represented the half mile radius. Councilmember Salter asked if the of the train station on Barnum Avenue fell under the plan. Mr. Agrawal said that while they were looking for projects for the grant, they were wondering if it should be the Barnum station or the downtown station. Ms. Gupta said by having the bus station and the ferry terminal, it made the downtown area stronger for the application.

Councilmember Martinez said she had issues with people coming forward with grants and not having a lot of information listed on the sheets provided. She mentioned that Mr. Agrawal said there is a radius between the downtown areas, but asked where it was documented on the sheet. She said downtown Bridgeport doesn't need an uplift serious enough to cost \$2 million.

Councilmember Lyons stated that next time if they have something major that David Kooris, OPED director, should be present to speak.

Councilmember Lyons asked when a decision had to be made on it. Ms. Gupta said they needed to submit application and a certified resolution by February 4. Councilmember McCarthy explained that they have the possibility of pushing it back one more meeting, but it needs a special meeting to happen by February 1st. Mrs. Gupta asked if it needs to go to the full council for 10 days to get a resolution. Councilmember McCarthy explains that on February 1st there will be a full council meeting, but they do need a period of time for the mayor's signature

Councilmember Banta said that the grant is not going to cost the city any money, and that they have a shot at one of the most blighted and dilapidated sections of the city, which is his district. He mentioned

that the information which they all would like to have is not there, so next time they must get better with it. He explained that he will be totally behind them and will not be in favor of tabling anything.

Councilmember McCarthy wanted to suggest an alternative would be to pass it out of the meeting with the contingency that Mr. Agrawal and Ms. Gupta provide more information and get it to them immediately. After that, there is the ability to table it at the full council meeting on the 19 of January.

Ms. Gupta said the information can be sent out tomorrow. Councilmember Lyons said for everyone to go on their computer tomorrow and if they have specific questions to send them to either Mrs. Gupta or Mr. Agrawal so that by the time the council meeting is held, the council people could get the questions answered.

**** COUNCILMEMBER BANTA MOVED TO ACCEPT ITEM 34-15: GRANT SUBMISSION: RE STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT (OPM) TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) GRANT PROGRAM FOR DOWNTOWN NORTH GRANT AND ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY WILL GET ALL THE INFORMATION TO THE COUNCIL CHAIRS BEFORE THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

**** COUNCILMEMBER HERRON SECONDED THE MOTION**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

02 – 15 PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING SAFETY AND TRAFFIC OPERATIONS IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF MAIN STREET AND CAPITOL AVE

Mr. Urquidi said this is a signal project that came before public safety two years ago. Councils have approved this project and it is a federally funded project and more than \$8 million dollars of federal aid money will go into it with no city cash matched.

He said he reviewed traffic counts on each intersection and the Capital Avenue location determined that there was a high number of sideswipes and rear-ended collisions. This is due to the fact that there is only one travel lane southbound on Main Street. He mentioned that the resolution is for an espinod removal and a median removal on Main Street from Capitol Avenue which is approximately 150 feet north towards Garfield. By doing this, it will allow for a dedicated left turn lane with a left turn arrow onto Capitol Avenue where there is a heavy traffic demand. It will create a left turn lane and a through lane so the southbound traffic on Main Street can bypass that left turn lane and there will be less collisions.

Councilmember Herron said the area is highly populated and mentioned how the area is not walkable. Mr. Urquidi said that part of the project will include pedestrian improvements so the signal will be completely revamped including new signal timing and equipment along with pedestrian traffic signal heads with audible sound for the hearing impaired.

Councilmember Banta asked what the width of the median is and the amount of space needed for the left hand lane. Mr. Urquidi said it's about four feet and they need a minimum of 10 or 11 feet per lane based on the width of Main Street. They need a 10 or 11 foot turning lane and a 10 or 11 foot through lane and to accommodate the parking and bus stop location. Councilmember Banta mentioned that they

would have to take the parking out, but Mr. Urquidi said it has been designed so that it will be accommodated and discussed the widening of the street.

Councilmember Herron asked how long the project will take to do and asked if she would have time to notify the surrounding stores. Mr. Urquidi said he will notify the stores and that they were not going to do all of Main Street at once.

**** COUNCILMEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ACCEPT ITEM 02 – 15 PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING SAFETY AND TRAFFIC OPERATIONS IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF MAIN STREET AND CAPITOL AVE**

**** COUNCILMEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED THE MOTION**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCILMEMBER BUKOVSKY MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** COUNCILMEMBER HERRON SECONDED THE MOTION**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting closed at 7:05 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Sugden

Telesco Secretarial Services