

AGENDA

SPECIAL
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017

****6:00 P.M.****

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL – 45 LYON TERRACE
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

Prayer

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

- *08-17 (A&B)** Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Budget Modifications to the FY 2017-2018 General Fund Budget: **(A)** Appropriation Increase for the Board of Education Line Item 01899000-56180 (\$25,708,035) and Increase the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Revenue Line Item 01863000-44520 (\$25,708,035) to comply with State Mandated Education (MBR) and **(B)** Motor Vehicle Mill Rate change from 37.00 to 39.00 Mills, Revenue Increase Line Item 01040000-41693 (\$933,131) and Revenue Decrease Line Item 01040000-41346 (\$933,131) to comply with the State Adopted Budget.

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017

6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim requested that one of the local pastors lead those present in prayer.

Council Member McCarthy also requested a moment of silence in memory of former Council Member Howard Austin who had died earlier that day.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim then requested City Clerk Lydia Martinez to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Martinez called the roll.

- 130th District: Peter Spain
- 131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye
- 132nd District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan
- 133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron
- 134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
- 135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy
- 136th District: Maria Zambrano Viggiano, Alfredo Castillo
- 137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
- 138th District: Karen Jackson, Nessah Smith
- 139th District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

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ATTEST
CITY CLERK

A quorum was present. Council President Nieves announced that Council Member Smith had a scheduling conflict and Council Member Banta was absent due to illness.

Council Member Newton said that he recognized that the Council would be voting on issues that were out of their control. The Council does not have control over what the State does or doesn't do. He said that he would be reading a resolution. In serving in the General Assembly for 17 years, Council Member Newton said he had never seen this kind of situation. It is important to let the taxpayers know that the Council Members are always thinking about them. Council Member Newton said that he believed that there was something in the works on the State level

and hoped that the rates would be lowered next year. He then requested that there be a voice roll call vote.

Mayor Ganim said that he would like to have the item read into the record first.

Council Member Spain asked to see the resolution in writing. He was then given the copy of the following text to read over:

Whereas, it may be the case that the State of Connecticut gives the City of Bridgeport a larger tax motor vehicle reimbursement next year, the City Council will look to keep down the motor vehicle mill rate.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***08-17 (A&B) Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Budget Modifications to the FY 2017-2018 General Fund Budget: (A) Appropriation Increase for the Board of Education Line Item 01899000-56180 (\$25,708,035) and Increase the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Revenue Line Item 01863000-44520 (\$25,708,035) to comply with State Mandated Education (MBR) and (B) Motor Vehicle Mill Rate change from 37.00 to 39.00 Mills, Revenue Increase Line Item 01040000-41693 (\$933,131) and Revenue Decrease Line Item 01040000-41346 (\$933,131) to comply with the State Adopted Budget.**

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that as a Budget and Appropriations Committee co-chair, everyone had come up with the right answers.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia pointed out that the whereas would have to be inserted before the Car Taxes paragraph because it had nothing to do with the BOE allocations.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO MOVED AGENDA ITEM 08-17 (A&B) BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: BUDGET MODIFICATIONS TO THE FY 2017-2018 GENERAL FUND BUDGET: (A) APPROPRIATION INCREASE FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION LINE ITEM 01899000-56180 (\$25,708,035) AND INCREASE THE EDUCATION COST SHARING (ECS) REVENUE LINE ITEM 01863000-44520 (\$25,708,035) TO COMPLY WITH STATE MANDATED EDUCATION (MBR) AND (B) MOTOR VEHICLE MILL RATE CHANGE FROM 37.00 TO 39.00 MILLS, REVENUE INCREASE LINE ITEM 01040000-41693 (\$933,131) AND REVENUE DECREASE LINE ITEM 01040000-41346 (\$933,131) TO COMPLY WITH THE STATE ADOPTED BUDGET.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Langan asked what fund it would be coming from and which fund it was going to. Mr. Flatto came forward and said that the State had decided to re-allocate the ECS funding.

Council Member McCarthy left the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Council Member Viggiano read the following resolutions into the record:

RESOLUTION:

(A) BE IT RESOLVED THAT BOE EXPENDITURE LINE ITEM 01899000-56180 APPROPRIATION WILL INCREASE BY \$25,708,035, AMENDING THE ABOVE FY2017-2018 LINE ITEM APPROPRIATION FROM \$0.00 TO \$25,708,035

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE \$25,708,035 BOE EXPENDITURE APPROPRIATION INCREASE WILL AMEND THE TOTAL FY2017-2018 BOE APPROPRIATION FOR \$202,008,471 TO \$227,716,506 AND WILL AMEND THE TOTAL FY2017-2018 GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION FROM \$541,598,860 TO \$567,308,895.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE \$25,708,035 BOE/ECS REVENUE LINE ITEM 01863000-44520 INCREASE WILL AMEND THE ABOVE FY2017-2018 REVENUE LINE ITEM AMONG FROM \$138,431,495 TO \$164,139,530.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE \$25,708,035 REVENUE INCREASE WILL AMEND THE TOTAL FY2017-2018 GENERAL FUND REVENUE FROM \$541,598,860 TO \$567,308,895.

(B) BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT DUE TO THE UNTIMELY ADOPTION OF THE FY2017-2018 STATE BUDGET, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE LAW AND AUTHORIZATION, THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT MOTOR VEHICLE MILL RATE FOR FY2017-2018 BE AND HERBY IS ADJUSTED AND AMENDED FROM 37.00 TO 39.00 MILLS AND IS SET AT 39.00 MILLS FOR FY2017-2018, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2018.

Council Member McCarthy rejoined the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Council Member Martinez then read the proposed amendment into the record:

Whereas, it may be the case that the State of Connecticut gives the City of Bridgeport a larger tax motor vehicle reimbursement next year, the City Council will look to keep down the motor vehicle mill rate.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that Council Member Newton had said he had spoken with the delegation and that there may be some adjustment in the mill rate. Council Member Newton said that he had spoken with the State Delegation members the previous day. Council Member McBride-Lee said that she was concerned about this and wanted to know whether there will be a Plan B if Hartford doesn't come through with a break next year.

Council Member Newton said that there was a chance for Plan B when the new City budget is done and they make changes where they can.

Council Member Spain asked the B&A Co-chairs what kind of analysis was done before the decision was made to increase the car taxes? Council Member Taylor-Moye said that this increase had been imposed on the City by the State and the issue was to adjust the vehicle mill rate so that the debt would not increase. Council Member Taylor-Moye said that it was very important that people come to the committee meetings and participate. She said that the co-chairs are always willing to review the information with the Council Members who cannot make the meetings.

Council Member Spain asked Council Member Zambrano Viggiano asked if cuts in the budget were suggested. Council Member Zambrano Viggiano said that the gap that State created was a multi-million-dollar gap and far more than \$933,000. She said that the staff had worked to find other savings.

Council Member Spain asked if the only source of information was the Mayor's Office. Council Member Zambrano Viggiano said that she had taken some time to look up the State Budget, which is 866 pages long. She said that her additional research was to find where Bridgeport was specifically impacted. In addition to the information and recommendations from staff, who are hired to provide this information, she found that this information was accurate.

Council Member Langan asked Mr. Flatto and Mr. Nkwo. Mr. Flatto said that the shortfall was about \$15 to \$17 million from State funding. Council Member Langan asked what was the biggest shortfall. Mr. Flatto said that it was the car tax rebate.

Council Member Langan asked how much has been paid down and where the savings were from. Mr. Nkwo said that the City had refinanced some debt and the Mayor had frozen all hiring. Every financial requisition over \$1,000, Mr. Nkwo personally reviews and approves.

Council Member Langan asked if there was any other way to cover the shortfall. Mr. Nkwo said that they were continuing to work on the situation to resolve the shortfall.

Council Member Langan asked how the tax bills would go out. Mr. Flatto reviewed the process with him.

Council Member Martinez moved the question.

Council Member Lyons requested a roll call vote on the amendment proposed by Council Member Newton.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO ADD THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE TO THE RESOLUTION:**

WHEREAS, IT MAY BE THE CASE THAT THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT GIVES THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT A LARGER TAX MOTOR VEHICLE REIMBURSEMENT NEXT YEAR, THE CITY COUNCIL WILL LOOK TO KEEP DOWN THE MOTOR VEHICLE MILL RATE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Langan said that it was extremely important to understand there was a history to this. The administration knew about this back in February or March, but they were still called to a Special Meeting. It is also important to understand that this came out of an agreement from 2015, which made the state more equitable. Bridgeport is over taxed while the surrounding communities are only taxed at rates between 15 to 25 mills. The State set up a cap for the car taxes and now Republicans and suburban driven policy has allowed this to raise taxes on Bridgeport citizens in order to make up the difference in the funding. This is a move away from equity. Instead of coming to a resolution where the sales tax is increased by a quarter percent across the entire State, which would impact everyone in the State, including those who live in the suburbs, the increase in the car mill tax only impacts city residents. Because of the State's decision, the burden of this debt has been shifted onto the black and brown cities. The City of Bridgeport does not have to go along with what the State is telling the city to do. The City can choose to go along with it and let others dictate the City's decisions or the City can make a decision as a community.

Council Member Langan encouraged everyone to vote against this increase. While he could not attend the special Budget and Appropriations meeting, he said that he would be doing so in the future. There doesn't seem to have been any attempt to resolve this other than taking the money off the backs of the City residents. During the campaign, Council Member Langan heard over and over again about the tax burden from the City residents. Now he was being asked as one of his first actions to increase the taxes and he will not do so.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ITEM AS AMENDED PASSED WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (TAYLOR-MOYE, MCCARTHY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, N. SMITH, MARTINEZ, AND NEWTON) AND SIX (6) OPPOSED (SPAIN, BROWN, LANGAN, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, AND JACKSON).**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Service

Item# *08-17 (A & B) Consent Calendar

FY2017-2018 MID YEAR BUDGET MODIFICATIONS (A)
Appropriation Increase for the Board of Education Line Item
01899000-56180 (\$25,708,035) and Increase the
Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Revenue Line Item
01863000-44520 (\$25,708,035) to comply with State
Mandated Education (MBR) and (B) Motor Vehicle Mill Rate
change from 37.00 to 39.00 Mills, effective July 1, 2017
through June 30, 2018.



**Report
of
Committee
on
Budget & Appropriations**

City Council Meeting Date: December 12, 2017
(Special Meeting)

Attest: Lydia N. Martinez
Lydia N. Martinez, City Clerk

Approved by: Joseph P. Ganim
Joseph P. Ganim, Mayor

Date Signed: 12/15/17

RECEIVED
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17 DEC 15 PM 2:58
ATTEST
CITY CLERK



City of Bridgeport, Connecticut

Office of the City Clerk

To the City Council of the City of Bridgeport:

The Committee on Budget and Appropriations begs leave to report; and recommends for adoption the following resolution:

Item No. *08-17 (A) Consent Calendar

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT FY2017-2018 MID YEAR BUDGET AMENDMENTS

BE IT RESOLVED, that BOE expenditure line item 01899000-56180 appropriations will increase by \$25,708,035, amending the above FY2017-2018 line item appropriations from \$0.00 to \$25,708,035; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the \$25,708,035 BOE expenditure appropriations increase will amend the total FY2017-2018 BOE appropriations from \$202,008,471 to \$227,716,506 and will amend the total FY2017-2018 General Fund appropriations from \$541,598,860 to \$567,308,895; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the \$25,708,035 BOE/ECS revenue line item 01863000-44520 increase will amend the above FY2017-2018 revenue line amount from \$138,431,495 to \$164,139,530; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the \$25,708,035 revenue increase will amend the total FY2017-2018 General Fund revenue from \$541,598,860 to \$567,308,895.



City of Bridgeport, Connecticut Office of the City Clerk

Item No. *08-17 (B) Consent Calendar

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CITY OF BRIDGEPORT FY2017-2018 MID YEAR BUDGET AMENDMENTS

WHEREAS, it may be the case that the State of Connecticut gives the City of Bridgeport a larger tax motor vehicle reimbursement next year, the City Council will look to keep down the motor vehicle mill rate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that due to the untimely adoption of the FY 2017-2018 State budget, and in accordance with State law and authorization, the City of Bridgeport motor vehicle mill rate for FY2017-2018 be and hereby is adjusted and amended from 37.00 mills to 39.00 mills and is set at 39.00 mills for FY2017-2018, effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

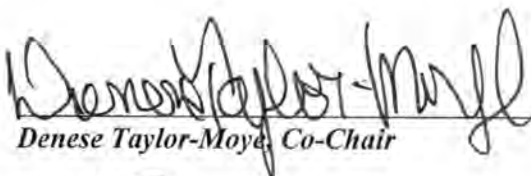


City of Bridgeport, Connecticut Office of the City Clerk

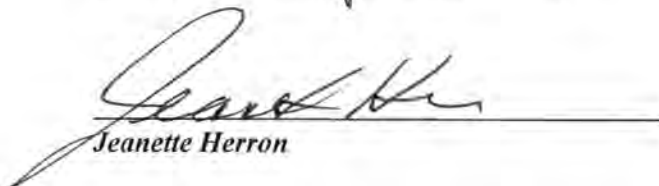
Report of Committee on Budget and Appropriations
Item No. *08-17 (A & B) Consent Calendar

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RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
THE COMMITTEE ON
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS


Denese Taylor-Moye, Co-Chair

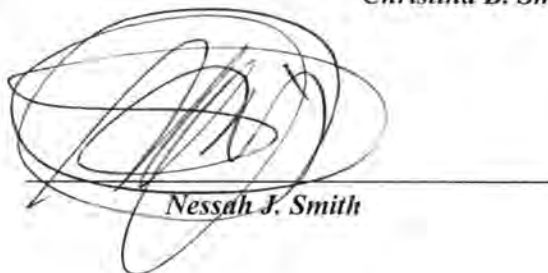

Maria Zambrano Viggiano, Co-Chair


Jeanette Herron


Mary A. McBride-Lee


Thomas C. McCarthy

Christina B. Smith


Nessah J. Smith

City Council Date: December 12, 2017 (Special Meeting) as Amended From the Floor.

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
Office of Policy & Management
JUSTIFICATION DOCUMENT
JD #

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Common Council of the City of Bridgeport finds that the unencumbered balance of the "transferred from" appropriation(s) listed below equals or exceeds the estimated expenditures of the City required for such purpose during the remainder of the current fiscal year. The Council finding that the remaining amount after transfer is sufficient for all expenditures of the City for the purpose thereof during the budget year is justified by the following determination of facts and actions taken:

The FY2017-18 budget modification will increase the Education Cost Sharing Revenue budget & equally increase Board of Education appropriations in accordance to the State of Connecticut FY2018 adopted budget. The increase in B.O.E appropriations is necessary for compliance with the State Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR).

The modification of current taxes (motor vehicles) will offset the shortfall in the Municipal Motor Vehicles Revenue Share taxes that the State FY2018 adopted budget will not reimburse the City.

Appropriation Account Number	Allocated To	Current Budget	Amount of Modification	Budget as Modified
EDUCATION:				
01899000-56180	Appropriation Increase	0	25,708,035	25,708,035
01863000-44520	Revenue Increase	138,431,495	25,708,035	164,139,530
CITY DEPARTMENT:				
01040000-41693	Revenue Increase	297,738,262	933,131	298,671,393
01040000-41346	Revenue Decrease	4,722,047	(933,131)	3,788,916

REVENUES:

A. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The \$25,708,035 ECS Revenue increase will modify the FY2018 Council adopted ECS revenue line item budget from \$138,431,495 to \$164,139,530.

The \$25,708,035 additional B.O.E Appropriations increase will modify the total FY2018 Council adopted BOE appropriations from \$202,008,471 to \$227,716,506.

The \$25,708,035 revenue increase will modify the total FY2018 City Council adopted General Fund revenues from \$541,598,860 to \$567,308,895.

The \$25,708,035 additional B.O.E Appropriations increase will modify the total FY2018 Council adopted General Fund appropriations from \$541,598,860 to \$567,308,895.

The \$933,131 revenue increase in account #01040000-41693 will modify the FY2018 City Council adopted Motor Vehicles mill rate from 37.00 mills to 39.00 mills, in compliance with the FY2018 State adopted budget.

COMMENTS:

Chairman Budget/Appropriations Committee:

Date of action: