

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
EDUCATION AND SOCIAL  
SERVICES COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: Mary McBride-Lee, Co-Chair, Denese Taylor-Moye, Co-Chair; Patricia Swain, Robert Halstead, Milta Feliciano, Thomas McCarthy, Council President, James Holloway

OTHERS: Jeff Cugno, O&G Industries, Scott Ballie, O&G Industries

**CALL TO ORDER**

Councilmember McBride-Lee called the meeting to order at 6:45PM

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2014**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED THE MOTION  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**APPROVAL OF PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES OF AUGUST 13, 2014**

Councilmember Halstead said his remarks were not included in the minutes. Madame, Chair as you may know I requested that the subject of the School Building Committee be on the agenda of our meetings. The matter was on the agenda of our last committee meeting. Unfortunately, the matter was not discussed and individuals that were prepared to address the committee were not allowed to address the committee. As Chair, you ruled that an individual can address our committee only in the setting of a public hearing. I disagree with you, however we are here today, pursuant to a notice that you filed following our last meeting. I asked you for the format that was to be followed tonight, and you refereed me to the rules of procedure of the City Council. Those rules are silent on committee public hearings. The only thing that the rules address is speaking before a regular meeting of the council. I have the following questions regarding the school building committee: Why has the city council given up its role on school construction projects to a private corporation; the school building committee may have three city council members appointed by the President of the Council however, I have been on this Council for eight months and have never received a report from the school building committee or any of these representatives regarding the pending school construction projects; why does O&G, a private company have a suite of offices in the City Hall Annex staffed by O&G Industries employees; I understand that a contract between O&G Industries and the city is in existence; however no one has ever discussed the details of the contract with the City Council members and he details are unknown; Why are the meetings on this committee held during the day; at an annex; where you have to sign in to attend, which is a violation of the Freedom of Information Act, rather that here on Lyon Terrace in the evenings when citizens can attend without missing time from work; How come stakeholders, such as parents, teaches, principals, and community members are not given a role as full voting members of any building committee.

- \*\* COUNCILMEMBER HALSTEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED**
- \*\* COUNCILMEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED THE MOTION**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**INFORMATIONAL SESSION WITH MR. JEFF CUNGO, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICE, O&G INDUSTRIES**

Councilmember McBride-Lee started the meeting by saying that everyone will be respected in this meeting, and she introduced Mr. Cugno and Mr. Ballie. Mr. Cugno said that O&G Industries has been the program operation management for the school consultant program for the City of Bridgeport for a number of years. Councilmember Halstead said that he understands there is contractual relationship between the City of Bridgeport and O&G Industries, and that on August 2, 1999, the City Council approved the contract on an emergency basis, and the contract has been amended several times. He said that he understands that the School Building Committee exists and the employees of O&G Industries acts as Secretary and other capacities in the committee. He said that have reviewed the past resolutions that were approved by the City Council that have created the Building Management Committee for various school projects, and gave an example that on June 11, 2014, the City Council passed a resolution creating a Building Committee for a roof at Bassick High School, and the resolution authorized the Superintendent of Schools to apply for a State Grant to help fund the project, and in addition the resolution created a Building Management Committee for this purpose, and also had authorized the city to proceed with the necessary bonding for this project. He said that we have been recently informed that the School Building Committee has not moved forward on the roof repair at Bassick High School, and are interested in knowing the process that led to the outcome. He also requested that O&G Industries provide information on the number of School Building Committees that are presently in existence, and the number of projects that are currently underway. Mr. Cugno said that the relationship between O&G Industries and the City of Bridgeport is a contractual relationship, and that there is a contract that originated a number of years ago, and that the contract states that the School Building Committee has the authority to move forward and provide additional task orders to whoever the program manager is. He said from a functional standpoint the School Building Committee in conjunction with the Board of Education, and the City Council in decide if they want to make a school application to either renovate or build a school, and at that point the resolutions are approved by the Council. Councilmember McBride-Lee suggested that Councilmember Halstead hold any questions regarding the action that the City Council took to another meeting. Councilmember Halstead said that since one person signs the task orders have been signed by one person and not reviewed by any commission of the council. Mr. Cugno said whatever was authorized by the School Building construction project Councilmember Halstead asked if there was a Building Committee just for that project. Mr. Cugno said he does not know. Councilmember McBride-Lee said that she thought that the money for that project was already allocated to repair the roof at Bassick High School, and that the money is being held up by someone and asked if they would have gotten the contract if the money was allocated. Mr. Cugno said that as far as he knows any money that has come down for school construction has come through the School Building Committee, and is given a task order to them when they want them implanted. She said so the School Building Committee never received the money to fix the roof. Mr. Cugno said that they do now and have a task order that was just approved. Mr. Ballie

said that they had just presented the repair project at Bassick High School and has been approved by the School Building Committee, and is moving forward but there are documents that needs to be approved by the Board of Education so that the grant application can be submitted, and once that is executed will move forward with the project. Councilmember Halstead asked if Mr. Cugno said if there was ever a School Building Committee established just for Bassick High School. Mr. Cugno said that the School Building Committee is created by the City Council and he does not know. Mr. Halstead said that he does not think that O&G Industries was aware that there was a resolution passed that there was a School Building Committee for Bassick High School in 2011. Mr. Holloway said that there is and always has been only one Building Committee and that the first time the city heard about the roof at Bassick High School was at a public hearing a few years ago.

Ms. Taylor-Moye said that she does not think anything can be resolved here unless all parties are present, and this committee has not sat down collectively to put together what we need to put together to get the correct information.

Councilmember Swain said that we may not resolve anything tonight but what we need to understand is what broke down in the procedure. She suggested that for every school project there be a committee that brings together the Council people in that district, parent school staff and all folks involved rather than one School Building Committee. She requested a list of all the sub-committees so we know who is involved in all the active projects. Councilmember Holloway said that O&G Industries does not decide who is on the School Building committee, and they are the contractor who works for the City of Bridgeport on school projects, and that would be a City Council's decision formed by the President of the City Council. Mr. Cugno said that according to the bylaws the School Building Committee has the right to appoint one or more sub-committees to perform functions as directed by the Committee, and that is what they have now and there is a separate project committee for each of the projects. Councilmember McCarthy asked who chooses who is on that. Mr. Cugno said the Chairman of the Building Committee. Councilmember Swain asked how parents would know how to get onto to a sub-committee. Mr. Ballie said that they can attend the school building committee meetings which are held on the third Thursday of every month at 4:00PM, at the City Hall Annex and is open to the public. Committee to sign a task order that was who signed it. Councilmember Halstead asked what the process was that led the committee not moving forward on the repair of the roof at Bassick High School. Mr. Cugno said that there was not an application for funding made to the State of Connecticut for that.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCILMEMBER HALSTEAD MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* COUCILMEMBER. FELICIANO SECONDED THE MOTION  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Dlene Byrd, Telesco Secretarial Services

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Education and Social Services Committee  
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