



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT  
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BILL FINCH  
Mayor

March 16, 2015

**TO THE CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

There will be a Public Hearing of the City of Bridgeport's **CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, to be held on **Monday, March 23, 2015, at 6:30 PM** and a **Special Meeting of the Committee to be held following the public hearing, at Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict School, 840 Old Town Road, Bridgeport, Connecticut in the Black Box Theatre,**

**PUBLIC HEARING OF CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MARCH 23, 2015**

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to elicit opinion of Bridgeport residents regarding (1) the Resolution of the City Council regarding Bridgeport Harbor Station and the "phase-out" of coal-fired electricity generation at the Bridgeport Harbor Station at the earliest possible date" and (2) the terms and provisions of a community environmental benefit agreement as anticipated by C.G.S. §22a-20a(c). Such agreements address the issue of mitigation of the impact of the construction of a new combined cycle power plant. The Public Hearing will consider ideas pertaining to "...on-site and off-site improvements, activities and programs, including, but not limited to: Funding for activities, such as environmental education, diesel pollution reduction, construction of biking and walking trails, staffing for parks, urban forestry, support for community gardens or any other negotiated benefits for the environment in the environmental justice community".

**AGENDA- CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - MARCH 23, 2015**

1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
2. Discussion of Issues Raised at Public Hearing
3. New Business
4. Adjourn

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth Torres  
Secretary  
Citizen Advisory Committee

cc: A. Nunn, CAO  
A. Wood, Chief of Staff  
R. Felipe, Deputy Chief of Staff  
L. Daniels, Director Neighborhood Initiatives  
Members of the Citizen Advisory Committee

*"Together we are making Bridgeport the cleanest, greenest, safest, most affordable city, with schools and neighborhoods that improve each year"*

**PUBLIC HEARING CALLED TO ORDER:**

The public hearing was called to order at 6:45 P.M. by Adrienne Houel, Committee Chair. A quorum was not present and the meeting operated as an information session until 7:00 when a quorum was acquired:

**Present (8)**

Hon. Jack Banta, 131 <sup>st</sup> District	Onte Johnson	Hon. Denese Taylor-Moye, 131 <sup>st</sup> District
George Estrada, Vice Chair	Rev. Carl McCluster	Elizabeth Torres, Secretary
Adrienne Houel, Chair	Chris Phelps	

**Absent (7)**

Rep. Jack Hennessey	Bill Malone	Kathleen Simpson
Sharon Lewis	Eduardo Rivera	

**Also Present:**

Adam Wood, Chief of Staff    Steven G. Mednick, Counsel

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

**Note:** I was determined that PSEG would be allow to open with a 10-15 presentation in order to set the context for the public hearing. The presentation was prolonged due to the low attendance at the hearing.

- **Presentation by Kate Gerlach of PSEG (Supported by Neil R. Brown and Jay Levin)**
  - Proposed Bridgeport Harbor Station Combined Cycle Project consists of a combustion turbine, a heat recovery generator and a steam turbine
  - The capacity of the station is approximately 475 megawatts
  - The primary fuel is natural gas with ultra-low sulfur distillate fuel oil as the back up fuel
  - The projected start date for the plant is now June 2019, a year later than originally projected due to the failure to prevail at the Independent System Operator – New England (“ISO-NE”) Forward Supply Auction (“FSA”).
  - The plant represents a \$550 million investment, the creation of 350 short-term jobs over the over two years of construction) and a net gain of 20 long-term jobs at the plant
  - Projected revenues for the City of Bridgeport in new taxes is in excess of \$5 million.
  - The facility will replace four fuel tanks currently on the property. The presence of air cooled condensers is designed to eliminate the use of the harbor for cooling purposes.
  - The plant will meet all local, state and federal environmental standards.
  - The hope and expectation is that the more efficient gas fueled plant will displace other less efficient plants. While PSEG will, presumably, rely more heavily on gas fuels, it is also cognizant of fluctuations in availability of fuel and, thus, PSEG believes in a policy of “fuel diversity”.
  - In response to a question from **the Chair** PSEG indicated that it had no intention of shutting down in the short term. On the other hand, it was suggested that the “run-time” will be curtailed at the coal plant.

- PSEG indicated intent to bid at the next ISO-NE auction. According to PSEG, energy plants operate off of two revenue streams: (a) payments for megawatts; and (b) capacity payments. ISO-NE looks out three years to determine how much energy is required. The hope is that the circumstances are such that PSEG will prevail in the next bid process. The capacity payments take into account factors including the full-time workforce needs, including during periods that would be considered “downtime”. For example, there are currently 90 employees in Bridgeport and 40 in New Haven who work full-time even when the capacity is down at the plant. **Note: The capacity payments are designed to ensure sufficient supply. ISO-NE holds an annual “supply auction” to secure sufficient generation resources three years in advance. At the time of the 2015 bid ISO-NE had indicated that new generation capacity was needed in our region.**
- In response to a question from **Mr. Phelps** PSEG indicated that the decision to move forward **with negotiations on the terms of a Community Benefit Agreement for Bridgeport** is based upon the determination to proceed with the 2016 auction.
- The **Vice Chair** raised the issue of the odds of success in 2016. PSEG responded that it may be more difficult. PSEG indicated that since the CPV Towantic, Inc. has qualified for the ISO-NE FSA in February it might depress the bids to a point that would be difficult: “2016 will be harder than 2015.”
- A discussion regarding level of ammonia at the plant **ensued**. Dr. Mitchell had raised the issue at the prior meeting. Concern was raised by committee members. Rev. McCluster asked PSEG if there had been any incidents regarding ammonia at the plant and PSEG responded: “No.” PSEG further indicated that the amounts were not significant and would provide information in response to questions from the Committee.
  - **Committee Follow-Up I: Please send all questions to the Chair and Counsel so that they may be sent to PSEG.**
  - **Committee Follow-Up II: PSEG offered a field trip/site visit to the New Haven plant. Request was also made for a visit to the Bridgeport plant.**
- **Elaine Thompson Ward, Bridgeport**
  - Coal plants are the worst polluters
  - She suffers from breathing issues and believes that the “toxic air pollution” generated by coal plants are the largest source of such pollution. Moreover, coal plants impact urban areas and “people of color.”
  - Ms. Ward followed up on the earlier discussion on “ammonia” by asking “what are the adverse impacts” associated with ammonia?
  - She thought there were a number of issues that the Committee should be looking at with regard to community benefits: (a) bike trails; (b) improvement of parks; (c) planting of more trees; (d) clean-up Johnson Creek; and (e) refurbish Johnson Park
  - **Rev. McCluster** asked Ms. Ward whether a doctor has told her that her breathing problem was related to the plant. Ms. Ward indicated that she had not yet seen a specialist.
  - **A discussion ensued regarding the impact of coal in Connecticut.** Connecticut is a downwind state and receives pollutants from neighboring states. On its own, CT generates 5% daily PM2.5 and ozone emissions, based on modeling for individual monitoring sites near Bridgeport, CT.
- **Diane Lentakis, Sierra Club**
  - Raised a concern regarding incumbent worker retraining for the gas plant.

- PSEG indicated that they were retraining as a matter of course and that it would not be necessary to apply funds for this purpose in the agreement

Public Hearing adjourned at 7:45 PM.

**PUBLIC MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 P.M. by Adrienne Houel, Committee Chair. A quorum was present:

<b><u>Present (9)</u></b>		
Hon. Jack Banta 131 <sup>st</sup> District	Onte Johnson	Hon. Denese Taylor-Moye 131 <sup>st</sup> District
George Estrada, Vice Chair	Rev. Carl McCluster	Elizabeth Torres, Secretary
Adrienne Houel, Chair	Chris Phelps	Adam Wood
<b><u>Absent (6)</u></b>		
Hon. Howard Austin, Sr., 131 <sup>st</sup> District	Sharon Lewis	Bill Malone
Rep. Jack Hennessey	Hon. Mike Marella 138 <sup>th</sup> District	Kathleen Simpson
<b><u>Also Present:</u></b>		
	Steven G. Mednick, Counsel	

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS:**

Counsel announced some changes in membership for purposes of complying with the Council resolution. Two additional Council members were appointed: Howard Austin, Sr. and Mike Marella. In addition, the Mayor replaced Eduardo Rivera with Adam Wood, his Chief of Staff.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

The minutes of the meetings of March 4<sup>th</sup> (Motion by the Secretary and seconded by Rev. McCluster) and 16<sup>th</sup> 2015 (Motion by the Vice Chair and seconded by Mr. Phelps) were approved.

**DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC HEARING ISSUES:**

- Discussion focused on the need to more engagement and outreach for the next public hearing; including the NRZ Leadership Council, Parent organizations, Health clinics, social service agencies, etc.
- Discussion regarding the role of CAC members to reach out to their Bridgeport constituents
  - Need for Flyers
  - Need for centrally located venue

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Agenda for Next Meeting

- **Presentation on SE NRZ Plan** (Parag Agawal and Greg Breland) and Health Department Participation (Kristin duBay Horton ).
  
- **Mr. Johnson** asked **Mr. Wood** if the Mayor could help publicize the Committee as planned in early February; although interrupted by weather conditions. **Mr. Wood** indicated that he would take care of that issue.
  
- **The issue of meeting with foundations based in New Haven and Waterbury was raised for a future meeting.**
  
- The Committee decided to set a date for a public hearing and chose either May 11<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> depending on the availability of a public facility. The **Vice Chair** and **Rev. McCluster** volunteered to find an accessible facility designed to maximize access for the public.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

DRAFT SUBJECT TO APPROVAL