

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2014
5:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Co-chair Brannelly; Co-chair Marella
Council members: Lyons, Martinez, Taylor-Moye, Vizzo-Paniccia,
Swain

OTHER(s): Council President McCarthy

CITY STAFF: City Attorney Anastasi
A. Kelly Lenz; Tax Assessor
T. Sherwood; OPM

Co-chair Brannelly called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm.

Co-chair Brannelly stated that once this meeting adjourned, there will be a second meeting in regard to the general budget.

83-13 Proposed Resolution concerning the implementation of the Revaluation for the October 2013 Assessment Year.

Ms. Lenz was present to speak about the item. She stated that the matter pertained to the Revaluation for the October 2013 Assessment Year at the local level and she was before the committee to obtain approval for the delay. She relayed that the governor approved legislature for towns and cities to delay revaluations.

Co-chair Brannelly asked Ms. Lenz to address the timing of this matter. Ms. Lenz said the matter goes back to January/February 2013; she spoke in front of the delegate regarding foreclosures and the way the market was going. They asked for a 5-year pass, but initially was told no, so then they made a request for the delay. It's been a while trying to get the state to listen and they have been working on getting towns and cities to adopt the legislature.

Co-chair Brannelly asked if it would happen by July 1 if it's not delayed. Ms. Lenz said yes.

Co-chair Brannelly asked what the detrimental impact would be if it isn't delayed. Ms. Lenz explained that they have businesses that they are trying to attract to the city. She stated that in reference to the tax base, percentages will change for commercial and residential. She added that there are many projects in place for the next two years and if they lose the tax base, it will fall back on the residents; so it's important to keep the tax base stable.

Council member Swain questioned if it's delayed, will there be a bigger impact. Ms. Lenz said she didn't think so, because they will have Bass Pro Shop coming in. She said the city will start to see property values increase and the people coming in will hopefully support the businesses coming to the downtown area.

Council member Swain commented that they would be in good shape, if they followed the Town of Stamford's lead. Ms. Lenz said Stamford didn't get approved for the delay, noting that they have a different infrastructure.

Co-chair Brannelly asked what the impact would be of personal property tax as far as the increase in the mill rate. Ms. Lenz said the assessment on equipment doesn't go down, but it does for a house it does. And for a business and car taxes it will go up by the mill rate due to the depreciation value. The purpose is to try to hold onto businesses and keep the tax rate stable.

Co-chair Marella commented that he didn't want to see taxes go up. He noted that they are at a crossroads with businesses in the city and when Bass Pro Shop comes in, they will bring relief for citizens from a tax perspective.

Council member Martinez asked if it matters if it's done in two years retroactively. Ms. Lenz said no, because it's based on the budget and how they come up with the mill rate. She stated that with so many businesses opening in the next two years, it will allow the mill rate to same the same and then they will do a revaluation over again to determine what other businesses came on line and remained stable. They are looking to hold onto what they have, as well as the anticipation of other businesses coming in.

Ms. Lenz clarified that the matter doesn't pertain to a retroactive issue; it's based on what the budget is relative to the tax base. She repeated that it's important to keep the mill rate stable.

Council member Taylor-Moye asked if they expected everything to remain stable in the next two years. Ms. Lenz said yes, based on the reasons she already mentioned.

**** CO-CHAIR MARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

ADJOURNED

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham

Telesco Secretarial Services