

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2012**

ATTENDANCE: Robert Curwen, Chair; Angel dePara, Susan Brannelly, Lydia Martinez, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia (6:35 p.m.)

OTHERS: David Dunn, Personnel Director, Dawn Norton, Interim Finance Director; Michael Andreana, Pullman and Comley, Thomas Sherwood, OPM Director

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Curwen called the meeting to order 6:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 9, 2012

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2012.
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2012 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined meeting at 6:35 p.m.

47-11 Approval of General Obligation Bonds - To Refund Certain General Obligation Bonds.

Ms. Norton explained that this proposal was to spread out the General Obligations Bond refunds over a period of time.

Mr. Andreana, of Pullman & Comley, explained that there was no way to lock in the current rate for the bonds. He reviewed the savings that could be generated if the bonds were refunded at this time. However, there are certain tax laws that prevent the City from refunding the bonds before May.

If the Committee approves this item, it will be presented to the Council for approval. Following that approval a document will be prepared to allow the refunding to begin. There is no guarantee as to what the rates would be in six or seven weeks. The request is for authorization so that the Finance Department can move ahead quickly if the market conditions remain as favorable as they are currently.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 47-11 APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS - TO REFUND CERTAIN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Curwen requested this be placed on the Consent Calendar.

48-11 Approval of Tax Anticipation Notes to Pay Current Expenses and Obligation of the City (\$110,000,000).

Ms. Norton said that these Tax Anticipation Notes (TANS) typically requested to cover the cash flow between tax periods and the end of the fiscal year. This is the same amount that the Finance Department requested last year. Council Member Curwen asked if the amount had been higher in the past. Mr. Andreana noted that the amount had been higher two years earlier. The short term money is usually paid back within 90 days and is used to cover the cash flow. He also added that last year, the City did not use all the money that had been authorized. Discussion followed about the details of the TAN and the Fund Balance.

Council Member dePara asked what interest rate would be used and whether this was an area of concern. Mr. Andreana said that because it was only 90 days, there was no need to be concerned. Council Member dePara asked how much the TAN cost the City last year. Ms. Norton said that she didn't know, but that she would get the figure to Council Member dePara. Mr. Sherwood said that there is a budget line for the TAN cost. He went on to explain that when there is savings on the TANs it is used for debt reduction.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 48-11 APPROVAL OF TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES TO PAY CURRENT EXPENSES AND OBLIGATION OF THE CITY (\$110,000,000).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Curwen requested this be placed on the Consent Calendar.

50-11 Proposed Budget Modification for FY 2011-2012 Civil Service Budget

From: Advertising Budget Line 01070000-53705 (\$25,000)

To: Management Service Line 01070000-56165 (\$25,000).

Mr. Sherwood explained the Department heads must come before the Committees for approval when transferring significant funds from one account to another. With all the recent testing for Fire and Police, Mr. Dunn has requested to transfer funds from one account to another. Mr.

Dunn explained that the Police Lie Detector tests and Psychological testing were expensive. There were some consulting bills that were higher than expected. Currently, the advertising budget has a surplus.

Mr. Dunn gave a brief overview of the Fire Department examination status and listed the various examinations that are being created. A recruitment test was given in December and the recruit oral exam is scheduled for April. He reviewed the remaining steps for putting a class together.

The testing for the EOC and the Police Department has been moving forward.

Council Member dePara thanked Mr. Dunn and said that it was important to have the best candidates for the Bridgeport Fire and Police Department.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 50-11 PROPOSED BUDGET MODIFICATION FOR FY 2011-2012 CIVIL SERVICE BUDGET**

FROM: ADVERTISING BUDGET LINE 01070000-53705 (\$25,000)

TO: MANAGEMENT SERVICE LINE 01070000-56165 (\$25,000).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Curwen requested this be placed on the Consent Calendar.

Council Member Brannelly left the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

GENERAL DISCUSSION REGARDING THE REVIEW OF THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Council Member Curwen said that the current Finance statement shows a surplus. Mr. Sherwood said that a few of the unions have settled their contracts. He said that the budget appeared to be on target. BOE is still vetting through their action plan.

Council Member Curwen said that he had seen an article in the CT Post that the City was giving the BOE more money. Mr. Sherwood explained that there had been some changes, such as moving the school crossing guards back into the City budget. There are also some savings in other line items, such as the snow removal.

One of the buildings the BOE currently occupies will be vacated and sold The BOE will move back to the 3rd floor of City Hall. Some of the departments in City Hall will be moving to the Annex. Discussion followed about the details that are involved with these types of moves.

Council Member Curwen reminded everyone that the Council does not interfere with the day to day operations in City Hall.

Council Member dePara said that it would be nice if the Council and Committees were given a heads up, since this will be affecting the budget. He asked Mr. Sherwood to convey this back to the administration.

AMVP asked about 948 and a previous bonding that had been approved. Mr. Sherwood said that the BOE had not moved forward with the borrowing. He said that in meeting with the new Commissioner and Superintendent, there have been many changes and different proposals considered.

Council Member dePara said that he would like to see a break down on the current capital projects. Mr. Sherwood said that there had been some work on this and updating the list. Council Member dePara asked if this could be updated before the budget process. Mr. Sherwood said he did not think so but since no borrowing had taken place with these projects, it will not hurt the City. The Superintendent will have an extra week to prepare his budget and clarify the situation with the BOE.

Council Member dePara asked about possible additions to the monthly financial report and an update on the previously discussed issues on the budget. Mr. Sherwood said that he may have a computer program that will help formulate an Executive Summary. It will be his goal to have this program for the last quarter of the fiscal year. Discussion followed about having the full report available via email.

Council Member dePara asked where the Internal Service Fund would be located in the Financial report. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed where the information was located and how the rate is formulated with the Committee members. This figure has nothing to do with the General Fund. This is merely an avenue to budget the risk. It is smoothing the risk over a number of years. This is also based on the amount that the staff members pay into their plans for cost sharing.

Council Member Martinez left the meeting at 7:30 p.m. There was no longer a quorum present.

Additional discussion followed about the details of the General Fund.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Curwen adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

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