

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 9, 2012**

**ATTENDANCE:** Angel dePara, Co-chair; Carlos Silva, Susan Brannelly, Lydia Martinez, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

**OTHERS:** Thomas Sherwood, OPM; Dawn Norton, Acting Financial Director; Council Member Martin McCarthy; Rev. John Olson, Council Member Michelle Lyons

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member dePara called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. He said that Council Member Curwen would not be able to attend due to a medical issue.

**64-11 Proposed Five Year Capital Plan (CP) for Fiscal Years 2013-2017.**

Mr. Sherwood said that on Thursday, a budget had been submitted and appeared on the agenda, but nothing was planned as a presentation. There are two Capital discussions scheduled in the future.

Regarding the Capital budget, this is a unique opportunity in that the market is very favorable for borrowing. He said that the work on Harding was close to completion, which may allow the City to take advantage of the favorable borrowing terms. He said that he believe there would be an aggressive Capital plan.

Council Member dePara asked when the Committee could have a more substantive discussion. Mr. Sherwood said that he believed it would be within the next two weeks because there was cleansing of capital bonding that was obsolete or never got off the ground. The information should be coming in during the next week to a week and a half. Council Member dePara said that he would like the Committee members to be notified when the information arrives.

*Council President McCarthy joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.*

Council Member dePara said that he would like to have known about this earlier. Mr. Sherwood said that he had not received the phone call with the information about this until 1:30 p.m. in the afternoon.

Council Member Martinez asked about using some of the funding for reducing the tax burden. Mr. Sherwood said that it was not allowed to use Capital funding for debt service. However, the restructuring of the bonds would help reduce the debt.

Council Member Silva asked what Capital funding was out there other than Steele Point. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the details. Council Member Silva asked what the figure was. TS said that he didn't know the figure but would contact OPED for the amount.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 64-11 PROPOSED FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PLAN (CP) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2013-2017.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**69-11 Proposed Budget Modification to the FY 2011-2012 General Fund Budget: Increase Line Item 01827000 55540 BOE Tuition (\$1,522,873) and Increase the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Revenue Line Item 01863000 44520 (\$1,522,873).**

Mr. Sherwood said that the last two pages focused on compliance with the MBR. The ARRA funding was not included, so those funds will come through the City from the State and pass through to the schools.

Council Member Silva asked for back up material. Mr. Sherwood said that this was just housekeeping so that the City does not get penalized and have the ECS funding cut next year.

Rev. Olson asked for some details, which Mr. Sherwood provided.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 69-11 PROPOSED BUDGET MODIFICATION TO THE FY 2011-2012 GENERAL FUND BUDGET: INCREASE LINE ITEM 01827000 55540 BOE TUITION (\$1,522,873) AND INCREASE THE EDUCATION COST SHARING (ECS) REVENUE LINE ITEM 01863000 44520 (\$1,522,873).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**70-11 Proposed General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.**

Mr. Sherwood said that the budget had been turned in to the City Clerk last week and the copies had been distributed to the Council Members. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked why this was on the agenda. Mr. Sherwood said that when the budget is submitted, a schedule is created and an agenda item number is assigned. That number will be used again when the Council votes on the entire budget.

Council Member Silva said that if one of the Committee members know they will not be able to attend the meeting, they should contact the co-chairs. Council Member dePara said that he and Council Member Curwen would be getting copies of the materials from the departments or presenters to have copies made for those who are absent.

Council Member Martinez informed everyone that she will be away from the 13th through the 27th.

Council Member Lyons asked why this was being tabled. Council Member dePara said that it was placed on the agenda by the City Clerk's as a consistent and clear item.

Council Member Martinez asked if the Council Members could get a schedule with all the dates of the meetings. Council Member dePara said that he had copies which he will get to the Council members as soon as possible.

**\*\* Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia moved to table Agenda Item 70-11 Proposed General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS**

Mr. Sherwood said that the OPM Director does not do the monthly financial report. The monthly report is done by the Finance Director. OPM works with the Financial Director. Mr. Sherwood said that the report has not changed in the last month. The items that have the most volatile items are noted, such as police overtime. For the police overages the storm related issues, homicide related issues, and crime issues are the items that may not be part of the forecast. The best data available is provided on the biggest items.

Rev. Olson asked whether FEMA included the damage at Seaside Park. Mr. Sherwood said that there were many items on the reimbursement list. He said that a ball park figure for the reimbursements would be between 400 and 500 million dollars. Mr. Sherwood said that the repairs to the sidewalk at the park were underway and a redesign of the sea wall was being done. The FEMA money will be charged back against the accounts for the repairs that have been done.

Council Member Lyons asked what is done with the funds for items that were not necessarily used, such as snow removal. Mr. Sherwood said that some of those funds are used for spring clean up. The fact that the vehicles used less gas this past winter will be used to offset the increase in gas prices. Gas prices are the number one worry since it goes across all the departments.

Mr. Sherwood said that figures had been distributed and each item has a write up for the various figures. If anyone has any questions on any particular item, he would be happy to review it. One example is that people are now putting coins in the parking meters because they have seen the boots. So, the amount of income from the boot program has decreased.

Council Member Martinez asked about the traffic tickets for moving violations. Mr. Sherwood explained that the State gets the money and the City only gets a small fraction of the fine. Council Member dePara said that the issue of red light cameras is something that should be discussed in Public Safety. He added that this was really a public safety issue, not a revenue generator.

Council Member Lyons asked about the changes in the anti-blight department dealing with landlords who are violators. Mr. Sherwood said that an estimate is put in to the budget. Now, there is a hearing officer appointed for these issues. Also the WPCA now is responsible for collecting their own delinquent bills. This will allow the attorneys to focus on blight issues.

Council Member dePara then asked whether the attorney who was doing the WPCA collections was being reimbursed by the WPCA for the work. Mr. Sherwood said that the WPCA did pay for the time and gave an overview of how it was handled.

Council Member dePara then asked how the budget areas of concern were monitored. Mr. Sherwood suggested that the narratives with the various departments. He said that if something like the building department has a large permit that would not be pulled before the end of the year that needed to be factored in. Council Member dePara said he was concerned about the expenditures. Mr. Sherwood said that he had already mentioned the police overtime and how it was influenced by crime, storms and homicide.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services