

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 14, 2012**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Co-chair; Susan Brannelly, Council President Thomas McCarthy, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia; Lydia Martinez, (6:40 p.m.); Angel dePara (6:43 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Tom Sherwood, OPM Director

**OTHERS:** Ted Graybarz, Public Facilities; Steven Hladun, Parks Department; Fire Chief Brian Rooney; Don Eversley, OPED; Council Member Andre Baker; John Stafstrom, Pullman and Comley; Michael Andreana, Pullman and Comley; John Ricci, Sikorsky Airport; Bobby Kennedy, Public Facilities; Paul Catino, Public Facilities; John Lee Marshal; Police Chief Gaudett, Lt. Cueto, Bridgeport Police

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Approval of Committee Minutes: April 9, 2012; April 11, 2012 (Special Meeting); April 12, 2012; April 13, 2012; April 17, 2012; April 18, 2012; April 19, 2012; April 20, 2012; April 23, 2012; April 25, 2012; April 26, 2012; April 27, 2012; May 1, 2012; May 3, 2012.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:**

**APRIL 9, 2012; APRIL 11, 2012 (SPECIAL MEETING); APRIL 12, 2012;  
APRIL 13, 2012; APRIL 17, 2012; APRIL 18, 2012; APRIL 19, 2012; APRIL  
20, 2012; APRIL 23, 2012; APRIL 25, 2012; APRIL 26, 2012; APRIL 27,  
2012; MAY 1, 2012; AND MAY 3, 2012**

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

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

**83-11 Approval of General Obligations Bonds.**

Mr. Sherwood said that Mr. Carroll was not able to be with the Committee tonight due to illness.

*Council Member Lydia Martinez joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.*

Mr. Sherwood said that in previous meetings, he had spoken about the fact that he and the bond counsel would be asking for re-authorizations of projects that had not been authorized in the last three years, the deauthorization of other projects, which had not been started, and a general update.

Mr. Stafstrom reviewed the upcoming bonding request and explained that there would be some projects that the City Council has approved a number of years ago, but had not authorized.

*Council Member dePara joined the meeting at 6:43 p.m.*

Mr. Stafstrom then distributed a copy of a document that would amend the recently approved Capital Plan.

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADD AN AMENDED VERSION BY SUBSTITUTION AND MARKED AS EXHIBIT A.**

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

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

Mr. Sherwood said that the various department staff members were present in case a Committee member had a question. Mr. Stafstrom said that there was a time in the past when the Council would authorize the entire Capital plan, but it was more prudent to deal with the lapsed projects.

Council Member Brannelly asked for clarification on the fact that the City was asking to bond 60 million dollars, but also understood that not all the projects would be done. Mr. Stafstrom explained that the City should only be borrowing on projects that were slated to start in the next twelve months. These are tax exempt bonds, which have government guidelines.

Council Member Brannelly asked who determined which projects would be on the list. Mr. Sherwood said that the Mayor had a group of people that met to determine which projects to vet through. Projects that were in the Capital Plan but not yet authorized are now ready to go, and are included in the bonding. The Committee was being asked to authorize these projects, so that they can

The discussion moved to the upcoming project for Longfellow School.

Mr. Sherwood then directed everyone's attention to pages 22 and 23 of the attachment to the Capital Plan and the upcoming Parks projects.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked whether the 90 Acres Park had a project. Mr. Graybarz said that he was reviewing the area. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that Sacred Heart had

their graduation ceremonies recently and the DATCO buses were pulling U-Turns on the newly installed curbs and she wanted to send the bill to Sacred Heart.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she was opposed to the esplanade for Lincoln Blvd and wanted to see the money put into Kennedy Stadium. Mr. Sherwood said that the funds were to stabilize the whole environment. He said that now there had been some spray painting of the turf. Mr. Sherwood said that he was aware of the plumbing issues. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia then spoke about the plumbing at Kennedy Stadium.

Council Member Curwen directed everyone to page 6. Mr. Sherwood then gave an overview of one of the projects for the Zoo and another one for the Arena.

Council Member Curwen asked if there were questions about the South End project or the Harbor Yard backstop.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had questions about the cement and the leaking. Mr. Sherwood said that the City had redone the facade at the Arena to repair the leaks. Now, any leaks are part of regular maintenance. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the prolonged leaks would result in mildew and mold.

Council Member Curwen asked about the OPED projects on page 5. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the completion of the Seaview Park project and reviewed the tasks still remaining. The discussion then moved to the Tiger Two match project. Mr. Eversley said that the notice to the bidders had been published last week and the bid closing date announced. Council Member Martinez had a question about some of the streets where there was flooding near a new school. Mr. Sherwood said that Mr. Kennedy would be including those streets in the repaving plan.

Council Member Curwen asked what the interest would be on 65 million. Mr. Stafstrom said that it would depend on what the bond market reflected when the bond was approved. He mentioned that bond insurance would most likely be about 30 basis points, but would only be taken if it would save the City money.

Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the Board of Education request that have to do with the HVAC systems and the fire alarms.

The discussion then moved to the Public Facilities. Mr. Sherwood said that this would allow the City to ask the Governor for the amount that the State had promised. Discussion followed.

Council President McCarthy said that he loved the idea. Mr. Graybarz displayed some project drawings that would reduce the amount of rainwater sheeting across the large expanse of asphalt.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the discussions with the DEP about bio-swales. The more that the City moves forward on this type of project, the more likely it is that the State will provide funding.

Council Member Curwen said that the concern that he had centered on the conceptual scheme might become skewed, such as the proposed clock up on Huntington Turnpike gateway that was never installed. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the clock was installed on Boston Avenue.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the City couldn't even maintain the current esplanades and added that the neighbors could literally not drive across the road to their neighbors. She said that this would be a waste of 2 million dollars, not 1.1 million. The esplanades would not help with the flooding issues. Therefore, she would not be voting in favor of this project.

Mr. Graybarz indicated where the pedestrian crosswalks were and explained that the esplanades would actually be bio-swales where the rainwater would be collected.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia repeated the fact that the City could not keep up with the esplanade maintenance now and listed some of the problems such as mowing. Mr. Graybarz said that the City was looking to work with some groups to maintain the esplanade. Mr. Sherwood said that last year, the City had looked at having an outside group maintenance doing the maintenance. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the new esplanade should not have an irrigation system because it leaks and cost money. She also had difficulty with the proposal for a round about and expressed concerns about having the police and fire departments work on this. She added that this was a waste of taxpayers' money.

Council Member Martinez said that she thought the Lincoln Boulevard project would enhance Central High School.

Council President McCarthy said that at the meeting with the neighbors, the neighbors said that they wanted to have their streets blocked off to reduce the speeding.

The discussion then moved to tennis courts. Mr. Hladun said that Glenwood Park project had been completed and the courts have been resurfaced, and repainted. Some of the run off has been redirected to improve the drainage in that area. There has been a good response since the work was completed by the contractor, who is a tennis court installer.

Council Member Baker said that when the courts at Newfield Park had been installed, they were done with asphalt. Council Member Curwen said that the reason the City had installed the correct type of courts was because the contractor was a specialist in the area.

Council Member Curwen asked Mr. Kennedy if he had reviewed the list. Mr. Kennedy said that he had and that replacing the vehicles would reduce the amount of time and expense of repairing

the various vehicles that are 18 to 20 years old. Mr. Graybarz indicated that the new software program was helping the department analyze how much it costs to maintain these older vehicles.

Council Member dePara asked for a walk through of the security and general repairs. Mr. Graybarz said that over the years, there had been very little funding spent on the City buildings where most of the money has been sent towards the BOE buildings repairs. Now the City is working to catch up. Mr. Sherwood said that with the energy conservation and the repairs, there had been serious savings. Mr. Graybarz gave a brief history about moving the Public Facilities to a single site so that the work being done on the various vehicles could be done at the same location.

Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the upcoming repairs to City Hall, the Police Headquarters, Fire Headquarters, the Eisenhower Senior Center, Kennedy Stadium, Wonderland of Ice and others. Many of these projects are code mandated items.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the City Hall roof had been completed. Mr. Sherwood said that the roof work had been completed.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the repairs to Fire House 12 and 16. Mr. Sherwood gave her a timeline as to when those repairs would be done. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked who determined the schedule. Mr. Graybarz said that he does along with Mr. Tristian.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked Mr. Kennedy to review the potholes at Kennedy Stadium. Mr. Kennedy made a note of it.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked what the Construction Management line item contained. Mr. Sherwood then gave a break out of how the staff salaries are handled through this line item.

The discussion moved to Pleasure Beach project, which is located on pages 19 and 20. This outlines Phases 1 and 2 for the project. The first stage was on the pier and the floating dock where the water taxi will ferry passengers. A consultant was retained to make sure the piping plovers were not disturbed by the construction. The information depot is currently being designed by Silver Petricelli. That will be Phase 2. Phase 3 will focus on restoring the old sports fields. This is all being done with concerns for the piping plover and several others rare plants. Stantec completed the Master Plan for this project and the actual project is starting.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there would be a grounds keeper on site. Mr. Graybarz said that there had been numerous meetings with both the police and fire departments about appropriate patrols. During the off season periods, the buildings will be closed down. The life guards and others will be there while the park is open.

Council Member Baker asked about security. Discussion followed.

Mr. Hladun then distributed copies of the Parks Master Plan to the Committee members.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA MOVED TO ENTER THE PARKS MASTER PLAN INTO THE RECORD**

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

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

The discussion then moved to the request for a Rescue Truck. Chief Rooney said that the current vehicle has gone through two engines and numerous repairs. The replacement would insure the safety of the firefighters who are assigned to that vehicle.

Lt. Cueto and Chief Gaudett came forward and spoke about the need for the replacement police vehicles. Chief Gaudett said that there had been a few serious crashes that totaled a few cruisers, however most of the replaced vehicles are still on the road and in good condition. The City is self insured. If there is a possibility of going after an insurance company, the City does.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked how the officers were that were involved in the crash. Chief Gaudett said that they had bumps and bruises.

Chief Gaudett then reviewed the current classic RMS and said that it was a classic because it was more than 25 years old. The new system will allow for shorter turn around time when generating reports.

Council Member Curwen asked for an update on Howard Avenue. Chief Gaudett updated the Committee.

Council Member dePara asked about the new vehicles and whether they would have four wheel drive. Chief Gaudett explained that the fleet had rear wheel drive and for consistency sake they wished to keep the same wheel drive. He added that the department had purchased special winter tires that would be cost saving over the all weather tires.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ENTER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS:**

**RADIO CAR REPLACEMENT PHASE III AS POLICE 5-14-12 EXHIBIT #1;  
AND RECORD MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AS POLICE 5-14-12 EXHIBIT #2**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA SECONDED.**

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

A brief discussion regarding the IT department followed.

The last item on the agenda concerned the WPCA. Mr. Sherwood said that he had no information or back up. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that since the WPCA had not come to the Committee and there was no back up on projects, it should not be on the agenda. Mr. Stafstrom said that the sewer separation project was mandated by the DEP. He added that the portion that was before the Committee most likely would cover the funding that was not covered by Federal funding.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia told Mr. Sherwood that the WPCA should have been present during the budget cycle. Council Member dePara said that he had contacted them. Council President McCarthy reminded everyone that the WPCA had gone through projects with the Committee at an earlier time. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had never received any supporting documents from the chairs that would have been given out at that meeting.

Council Member Curwen asked Mr. Stafstrom about any Charter issues about shelf life of a project. Mr. Stafstrom said that it was an ordinance. Discussion followed about bonding that was done in 1989.

Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the Brownfield Monitoring, which are all Federal matching funds.

The Traffic Light Upgrades involves replacing the current traffic signal bulbs with LEDs. It was pointed out that changing the figure would require changing the Capital Plan.

Citywide Lighting Program is for replacing the deco light bulbs with LEDs.

Mr. Sherwood said that he could not remember what the MBE Construction Participation covered. Council Member Curwen said that he believed it was to help the smaller construction companies obtain projects because the smaller companies can not get bond insurance on their own. Discussion followed.

Council Member Martinez said that she was aware that the MBE office was working hard to keep the minority businesses working in Bridgeport and that the funds will be used appropriately. Council Member dePara asked Mr. Sherwood to provide documentation on the funds that were expended.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia stated that there were many projects in the packets that needed to be completed. However, she would be voting against it because some projects were a waste of the taxpayers funding and the fact that other explanations about certain projects were insufficient.

Council Member dePara asked Mr. Sherwood for further documentation from the WPCA. Mr. Sherwood said that he would ask the Interim Finance Director about this.

Council Member Curwen said that he had been contacted by Council Member Silva and that there had been a death in the family.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 83-11 APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATIONS BONDS.**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE IN FAVOR (CURWEN, DEPARA, BRANNELLY, MARTINEZ AND MCCARTHY AND ONE AGAINST ( VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

Council Member dePara stated that this item should not be on consent.

#### **84-11 Approval of the De-Authorization of Projects Previously Approved for Bonding Authority.**

Mr. Stafstrom then distributed a document to the Committee. Mr. Stafstrom said that the attached list contained projects that did not go forward or projects that were completed under budget. He said that the Lincoln Avenue project was not on the list. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia replied that she did not think that the Lincoln Avenue Esplanade was a joke, like everyone else.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked what Congress Plaza II was. Mr. Sherwood described where it was located. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she wanted to know why Baldwin Plaza was still leaking. Mr. Sherwood said that the City had fixed the problem but now it was leaking again. The State was now pulling up all the planting to repair the deck again. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that this was spending double money.

Council Member dePara asked if this was the entire list of projects. Council Member Brannelly said that there had been a request for a complete listing of projects. Mr. Sherwood said that there was about 9 million dollars worth of projects. The Capital Project accountant does the work on these items.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked which theater didn't get the repairs. Mr. Sherwood said that it was the Holly Majestic.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 84-11 APPROVAL OF THE DE-AUTHORIZATION OF PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED FOR BONDING AUTHORITY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

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

Council Member dePara stated that this item should be on consent.

## **General discussion regarding the review of the Monthly Financial Report.**

Mr. Sherwood said that the monthly report had not been turned in yet. Mr. Sherwood said that it should be available sometime within the next week. Council Member dePara said that the report should be have been issued. Discussion followed about the co-chairs not making a statement about the monthly report not being issued.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the timing of the monthly reports. Mr. Sherwood said that previously, the journal entries needed to be manually entered. He said that now, he believed that the report should be able to be issued 15 days after the close of the month. Council Member Brannelly said that it should be the Finance Director presenting the report. Discussion followed.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked for copies of the police reports. Council Member Curwen gave her copies from the folder. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that when there were extra copies of the report they should go to the Council Members rather than members of the general public. Council Member Brannelly suggested that perhaps that scanning the various documents and emailing them to the Council Members. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she wanted hard copies in her Council mailbox.

Council Member Baker then distributed copies of requests for information from the various departments. Council Member Curwen said that he believed all the information had been provided and placed in the Council Members mailboxes upstairs.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services