

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2012**

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

STAFF: Thomas Sherwood, OPM Director

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member dePara called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. He introduced the Council Members present.

131-11 Proposed Modification to the FY 2013-2017 Five Year Capital Plan concerning City Project.

Mr. Sherwood said that there were six Capital projects that were up for consideration. He distributed a packet of information to the Council Members present.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO ENTER THE INFORMATION PACKET DISTRIBUTED BY THOMAS SHERWOOD INTO THE RECORD AS EXHIBIT #1 09-10-12.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Sherwood said that the City had received approval from the State of Connecticut for two bridge repair projects at the Rooster River and Pembroke Lakes. The details of the project were contained in the additional information hand out.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Mr. Sherwood directed everyone's attention to a large, interior photograph of the Arena and listed a number of changes that had been made at the Webster Bank Arena. Council Member Brannelly asked if this was the only documentation on the Arena scoreboard and technology update project. Mr. Sherwood replied that the photograph was all he had been given. The City's portion of the project is one million dollars.

The next document covered the details of the Stratford Airport Mitigation project. Mr. Sherwood said that Atty. Trachtenberg had been involved in drafting the agreement. The City's expense is three million dollars for this project.

Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the documents concerning the CMAQ Bicycle Route and Share Program.

The final project involves the Barnum museum and the City's match will be 20% or 1.5 million.

At this time, these requests are being submitted for approval for the application process.

Council Member Brannelly had several questions about where the Rooster River was located. Mr. Sherwood said that Cleveland Avenue had been done, but the sidewalk nearby was collapsing. He then reviewed the estimated figures. Final figures would not be available until the designs are complete. The discussion then moved to the Pembroke Lakes. The State will provide up to a third of the costs on these types of programs.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the additional information. Mr. Sherwood said that he had gone to the departments for the additional support information documents. Council Member dePara said that while he understood that all the documents may not be available by the filing deadline for the agenda, all the documents should be emailed to the Council Members. Mr. Sherwood said that he had tried and was told that he could not submit anything once the deadline for filing the agenda had happened. He then offered to notify Council President McCarthy about this. The documentation could be emailed to Council President McCarthy who could forward it to the Committee members in advance so the documents could be brought off the floor.

Council Member Brannelly asked about the new scoreboard at Webster Bank. The full technology plan has not been completed. The City will be doing a supportive project of one million for the scoreboard. Mr. Sherwood said that he most likely could get a full scope on the project. Council Member Brannelly pointed out that this project involves engineering, but Engineering Department was not present at the meeting.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had concerns about the policies and procedures since all the new material was being presented to the Council Members tonight. She said that she was not prepared to vote on these items. She then asked if the appropriate departments would be present at the next meeting. Mr. Sherwood said that he had notified the appropriate staff, as indicated in the cover letter dated August 29, 2012 for Agenda Item #131-11.

Council Member Curwen asked how the City classifies the priorities on projects. Mr. Sherwood said that the State determines what bridge projects should be done next.

Council Member dePara asked if there was any warning that these items might need for Capital funding. Mr. Sherwood said that there is a Capital meeting every Tuesday. The approvals from the State were just announced recently. Council Member dePara noted that the cover letter for the Bicycle Route was dated March 13, 2012. Mr. Sherwood explained that the cover letter was

the application cover letter. Council Member dePara expressed concerns about the fact that the Capital Plan had just been approved in June and has already been modified.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the information could be submitted to the Budget & Appropriations Committee so that they had more time to consider the application. Mr. Sherwood said that the projects had been brought before the Council before the grant applications were submitted. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the City was assuming the responsibility in the CMAQ project if someone should be injured on the bike path. She went on to say that two individuals had come before the Council with a similar type project and had claimed they would be responsible for the project. She wished to know how that fit into the project. Mr. Sherwood explained that the CMAQ project was a State project.

Council Member Brannelly reiterated her previous point that the individuals that were involved with the project should be present. Mr. Sherwood agreed and said that he had expected the various staff members to be present. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested that the signed receipts for expenses be presented. Mr. Sherwood explained that the request was for authorization for design and engineering phase for the projects. Discussion followed about what additional information would be required.

It was agreed that the Committee would recess and reconvene on Monday, September 17th.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 131-11 PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO THE FY 2013-2017 FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PLAN CONCERNING CITY PROJECT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

132-11 Approval of Additional Capital project Authorization to the 2013-2017 Capital Plan

Mr. Sherwood said that this item was the formal language for the resolution.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 132-11 APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL CAPITAL PROJECT AUTHORIZATION TO THE 2013-2017 CAPITAL PLAN**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

133-11 Approval of General Obligation Bonds - To Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects

Council Member dePara asked if there had been any bonding done yet. Mr. Sherwood said that a bond was done in late June, just before the close of the year. Council Member dePara asked about 10% fee mentioned in the document and wished to know if it could be reduced. Mr.

Sherwood reviewed the figures and explained that the 10% was standard language in case the project was done as a stand alone. However, the City usually bundles a number of projects together before a bonding request is made.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 133-11 APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS - TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

General Discussion regarding the review of the Monthly Financial Report.

Mr. Sherwood reported that the auditors are in house and have started their review of the 2011-2012 books. It is going well and looking good.

Council Member Brannelly said that it was her understanding that the Council would be receiving the monthly report regardless of the time of budget year. She said that it should be given like clockwork. That document should be sent to the Council Members before the reconvening of the meeting. Council President McCarthy reiterated Council Member Brannelly's concerns. When asked why Ms. Kelly-Lenz was not present at the meeting, Mr. Sherwood replied that Ms. Kelly-Lenz was with the auditors.

Council Member Curwen said that the form needs to change because the Committee could not table a standing item. Discussion followed about possible methods to address this issue.

RECESS

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO RECESS THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2012 AT 5:30 P.M.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting recessed at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

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