

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 14, 2011**

**ATTENDANCE:** Robert Curwen, Chair; AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Susan Brannelly, Thomas McCarthy, Council President Thomas McCarthy; Angel dePara, Co-chair (6:36 p.m.); Lydia Martinez (6:42 p.m.)

**OTHERS:** Council Member Andre Baker, Council Member Robert Walsh, Dawn Norton, Acting Finance Director Nestor Nkwo, Deputy Director, Finance

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Curwen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Approval of Committee Minutes: January 10, 2011**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2011.**

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

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2011 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**22-10 Request concerning independent auditor's review of City of Bridgeport Monthly Financial Reports on a Quarterly Basis.**

Council Member Walsh said that he and Council Member Baker were trying to figure out a way to verify the figures in the budget for the constituents. Council Member Walsh said that he felt that it was important to have the City's CPA firm check the budget figures to make sure that the City has the financing it needs to operate. He said that having a meeting about this on a quarterly basis would be good.

*Council Member dePara joined the meeting at 6:36 p.m.*

Council Member Walsh said that he had concerns about the union concessions and that the numbers would result in massive layoffs. He reminded everyone that the snow removal has been costly and that everyone has been complaining about the snow removal.

Council Member Baker said that he was also concerned about the budget and the lack of meetings. He said that he had to email the co-chairs for updates for his constituents. Often, the articles in the newspapers report things incorrectly and many times, the Council Members hear

about things through the newspapers. He said that this administration was not as transparent as it could be.

Council Member Curwen said that he and Council Member dePara have met at least once every two months. He said that Council Members can call the OPM or Finance Department if there are questions.

Council Member Curwen said that he has met with the CPAs that audit the City finances on a regular basis to insure that the figures that the Budget shows are realistic.

*Council Member Lydia Martinez joined the meeting at 6:42 p.m.*

At the last monthly Committee meeting, there was a discussion about the format for the monthly report. Ms. Norton then reviewed the upcoming changes for the report to those present. She added if a department was over budget, the department heads can be called in to address the Committee. Council Member Walsh said that OPM has consistently ignored the 10 day limit after the closing of the monthly budget period. He added that OPM is playing games. Ms. Norton said that she couldn't speak to what OPM does. Council Member dePara said that Mr. Sherwood would be the one to answer these questions.

Council President McCarthy said that he did not think that this request was so unusual. Ms. Norton pointed out that unless the budget was broken down into monthly segments, the numbers would not reflect any overages until the end of the year. Council Member Walsh said that the City was facing a 8 million dollar deficit. He expressed concerns about OPM's habit of assuring the Council that they could fix it. Council President McCarthy reminded everyone that there had been an independent auditor who had come in some time ago to audit the budget process. Council Member Curwen said that it cost around \$7,000 for that audit and a list of recommendations were given. Discussion followed.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia commented that the auditor had not stayed for all the meetings, and that the RFP had been requested too close to the start of the budget meetings. She said that if someone was going to come in, it would be important to stick to an agenda. Council President McCarthy said that he felt that the report was more valuable than having the auditor present at the budget meetings. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia suggested that the key departments or areas be highlighted for the auditors to review.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 22-10  
REQUEST CONCERNING INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW OF CITY OF  
BRIDGEPORT MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS ON A QUARTERLY BASIS  
PENDING FURTHER INFORMATION ON VERIFYICATION OF FUNDING.  
\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services