

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2014
6:00 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Co-chair Martinez; Co-chair Banta
Council member: DeJesus; *Council President McCarthy
**=sat in to make a quorum*

OTHER(s): Max Perez, Sr. Economic Development Associate,
P. Carleton, Grants Writer, Central Grants Office
B. Coleman, Director, Neighborhood Development, OPED
Iris Molina, Dept. of Social Services

Co-chair Martinez called the meeting to order at 6:42 pm.

Approval of Committee Minutes of March 26, 2014 (Special Meeting).

Approval of Public Hearing Minutes April 2, 2014

**** CO-CHAIR MEMBER BANTA MOVED TO ACCEPT BOTH SETS OF MINUTES**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

47-13 A Resolution regarding the Coal Burning PSEG Plant in Bridgeport Harbor.

Co-chair Martinez stated that there was a request to table this item.

**** CO-CHAIR BANTA MOVED TO TABLE**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***It was noted that the item would die in committee.*

53-13 Grant Submission: re State Department of Social Services for Social Services Block Grant (SSBG).

Iris Molina stated that this item pertained to Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) and it's the seventh year running the program. There are currently five (5) contracts as they were outlined in the information to provide case management for high risk children, families and for persons with disabilities.

Co-chair Banta asked the number of people served. Ms. Molina stated that 1,200 persons were served: Veterans = 500; Disabled persons = 300 and Child Guidance =42. She explained that they sub-contract to experts and visit sites to determine what's best for the individual.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** CO-CHAIR BANTA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

54-13 Grant Submission: re State Department of Economic & Community Development for a Municipal Brownfield Assessment and Inventory Grant Program.

Patrick Carleton stated that the grant was for \$200,000 that will be used to conduct an environmental assessment of contaminated sites. The sites will be accessed to eventually be put back to use. He noted that there are two sites: 1) 60 Main Street that consist of 12.2 acres; he noted that phase-I will include housing and ground floor retail. 2) 337 Knowlton Street will include expansion of Knowlton Park and waterfront access.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** CO-CHAIR BANTA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

55-13 Proposed Resolution concerning disposition of city-owned property located at 143 Fifth Street, to abutter process and ordering a public hearing relative to the same.

Max Perez distributed copies of the resolution. He explained that the parcel consisted of a sliver of property located at 143 Fifth Street at the corner of Connecticut Avenue and Fifth Street– Block/Lot 738-15A. The appraisal was done during February 2014 in the amount of \$750.00 and the owner of the property Eddie Kean, is the abutter and he

owns a lot located at 435 Connecticut Avenue. He is looking to purchase the lot for additional landscaping and parking and he agreed to pay the appraised value of \$750.00. *It was clarified that the property is only a sliver piece of parcel and not large enough to build upon.*

Council member DeJesus asked how long the property has been empty. Mr. Perez said it's been empty at least twenty years and there's nothing on it.

Council member DeJesus commented that if the purchaser is going to pay taxes on the property and maintain it, it's a good thing.

Mr. Perez stated that the purchaser plans to put up a building. Mr. Coleman added that any plans to build on the property will have to go through zoning. It was noted that all three abutters were notified per Council member DeJesus concern.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DeJESUS MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** CO-CHAIR BANTA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING**

**** CO-CHAIR BANTA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

56-13 Proposed Resolution concerning disposition of city-owned properties to Habitat for Humanity and ordering a public hearing relative to the same.

Mr. Perez distributed information related to the item. He made a request to amend the item for the purpose of adding another property to the list; 63 Waldorf Avenue-Lot #65 – *he read the other (9) parcels outlined in the information* that he said are going to Habitat for Humanity. He noted that the additional parcel will go before the City Hall Committee for approval and for an 8-24 Referral. Council President McCarthy clarified that the parcel addition couldn't be added to the list until it was approved by the City Hall Committee. Mr. Perez said he would wait and request the parcel added to the list at the next meeting.

Council member DeJesus recalled that they have come forward in the past to get people in the community involved to do the work, similar to what Habitat for Humanity is doing.

Co-chair Martinez recalled that the proposed putting something together to acquire the houses to give to people in the community to build, provided they have the means to do it. She gave an example that if someone has \$60k or \$70k; they can build the house themselves, rather than giving the houses to Habitat for Humanity.

Council member DeJesus reiterated that community involvement should be supported.

Mr. Perez mentioned that they will be bringing new ideas to the table to address Council member DeJesus and Co-chair Martinez comments and concerns. Mr. Coleman agreed that it will take more communication and resources to make the community connection and efforts will be made to address the matter. Mr. Perez added that it will also be important that the person will need to have the resources to begin building and to complete it, noting that they don't want to create a potential blight situation. He said he would reach out to Council member DeJesus to discuss the matter further.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DeJESUS SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING**

**** CO-CHAIR BANTA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

60-13 Grant Submission: re National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) for the FY2013-2014 Medical Reserves Corps Capacity Building Award (CBA).

Mr. Carleton stated that this grant will provide the city with \$3,500 to be used for training and volunteer recruitment. There is no city match. The purpose of the grant is to recruit and train city high school students to recruit other students to volunteer. They will build on the existing work that has been done in the past. There is an existing medical corps currently and this grant will help expand the number of students that are involved, noting that the three Bridgeport high schools (Bassick, Central and Harding) are involved and there are a limited number of students. He further stated that when the students are recruited, they will be trained and certified in: CPR; fire safety and emergency preparedness. They will help alert the community about shelters and other information.

Council member DeJesus asked if school credits will be offered for the volunteer work. Mr. Carleton said no, because the work isn't done during school hours. Co-chair Martinez asked him to find out about school credits. Mr. Carleton noted the request.

- ** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE**
- ** CO-CHAIR BANTA SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ADJOURNED

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER DeJESUS MOVED TO ADJOURN**
- ** CO-CHAIR BANTA SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services