

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Richard J. Salter, Co-Chair; Anthony Paoletto; Milta Feliciano;
Denese Taylor-Moye; Nessah Smith; Rev. John Olson

STAFF: Mark Anastasi; Angel DePara

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Salter called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. A quorum was present.

Atty. Anastasi stated, in regards to item #07-15, that the CAO's office has requested it be tabled until such time as they are prepared to make a recommendation.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2016

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2016 MEETING.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED THE MOTION.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

30-15

APPOINTMENT OF CRUZ MANUEL COTTO (D) TO THE PARKS COMMISSION

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO TABLE ITEM 30-15 RE: APPOINTMENT OF CRUZ MANUEL COTTO (D) TO THE PARKS COMMISSION.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED THE MOTION.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

39-15

APPOINTMENT OF PEARL BROOKS (U) TO THE COMMISSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO TABLE ITEM #39-15 RE: APPOINTMENT OF PEARL BROOKS (U) TO THE COMMISSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

40-15

APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH ALMEIDA (D) TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO TABLE ITEM #40-15 RE: APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH ALMEIDA (D) TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

42-15

APPOINTMENT OF CHARLES COVIELLO (D) TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO TABLE ITEM #42-15 RE: APPOINTMENT OF CHARLES COVIELLO (D) TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

It was announced that the Ethics Commission did not have a quorum, however the committee members were welcome to interview the candidates who were still present.

07-15

PROPOSED APPROVAL OF A NEW JOB CLASSIFICATION WITH NAGE LOCAL RI-200 FOR SENIOR HOUSING CODE INSPECTOR/ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO TABLE ITEM #07-15 RE: PROPOSED APPROVAL OF A NEW JOB CLASSIFICATION WITH NAGE LOCAL RI-200 FOR SENIOR HOUSING CODE INSPECTOR/ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The committee entered executive session at 6:15 PM.

The committee exited executive session at 6:33 PM.

49-15

PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH RAMON SIERRA

- ** CO-CHAIR VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO GRANT ITEM #49-15 RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH RAMON SIERRA.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

50-15

PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH MICHAEL REARDEN

- ** CO-CHAIR VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO GRANT ITEM #50-15 RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH MICHAEL REARDEN.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

59-15

PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH NERISSA WHITTINGHAM

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO GRANT ITEM #59-15 RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH NERISSA WHITTINGHAM.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO WITHDRAW HER MOTION TO TABLE ITEM #39-15 RE: APPOINTMENT OF PEARL BROOKS (U) TO THE COMMISSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

39-15

**APPOINTMENT OF PEARL BROOKS (U) TO THE COMMISSION OF PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Co-Chair Salter asked that Ms. Brooks elaborate about herself. Ms. Brooks highlighted her extensive work in working with persons with disabilities, her advanced degrees, and touched on her own family, stating that one of her children is disabled.

Council Member Olson asked what Ms. Brooks anticipates her responsibilities to be, and what she hopes to accomplish on the committee. Ms. Brooks stated that she hopes to influence policy at the local and state level to allow disabled veterans to gain access to the care they need.

Council Member Olson asked Atty. Anastasi about the function of the commission. Atty. Anastasi stated that the commission serves as an umbrella organization to represent disadvantaged people with disabilities. He further stated that they have an exceedingly high attendance rate, and that they bring their own experiences and history to the table. Atty. Anastasi stated that they work closely with the Health Department, help organize community events and provide great resources, as well as outreach.

Ms. Brooks stated that she also served under two (2) Connecticut Governors on their Rehabilitative Service Councils.

Council Member Taylor-Moye stated that Ms. Brooks' resume is outstanding, and noted her experience with seniors and the disabled. Council Member Taylor-Moye then asked if Ms. Brooks believes she can help with issues of accessibility. Ms. Brooks stated that she received her professional certificate in home modification, and thus she has an in-depth knowledge of what people need to feel safe in their homes. Council Member Taylor-Moye asked if there is anything that would prevent Ms. Brooks from attending meetings, and Ms. Brooks stated that she didn't anticipate any problems with attendance, as the meetings take place after 5 PM.

41-15

**APPOINTMENT OF OBIORA NKWO (D) TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT
APPEALS**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO ADD TO THE AGENDA ITEM (#-16) RE: APPOINTMENT OF OYIBOKA BENSON (D) TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Co-Chair Salter asked that Mr. Nkwo elaborate on himself. Mr. Nkwo stated that he is a real estate broker for residential and commercial properties who has been active in Bridgeport and the greater Fairfield County area for 30 years. Mr. Nkwo stated that he is a former banker, and that he was in charge of a \$150 million real estate portfolio. Mr. Nkwo further stated that he holds two Bachelor's Degrees in Business Administration and Finance.

Council Member Taylor-Moye asked Mr. Nkwo his current profession, and he stated that he is active in real estate brokerage. Council Member Taylor-Moye asked if there was anything that may impact his ability to sit on the board, and Mr. Nkwo answered in the negative, barring the event that a client he has worked with comes before the board, but in that event, he will inform the Board. Council Member Taylor-Moye asked if Mr. Nkwo is married, and Mr. Nkwo answered in the affirmative, stating that he has a wife and five children, including one set of triplets.

Council Member Olson asked what he expects to do on the Board. Mr. Nkwo stated that he understands the duties to be helping people who come to appeal their property assessment and evaluation, and help those people by clarifying aspects of the process, and at times procuring additional comparative marketing analysis to support their amount.

Council Member asked Mr. Nkwo for the correct pronunciation of his surname, and Mr. Nkwo stated that it is pronounced (n'KWAH).

APPOINTMENT OF OYIBOKA BENSON (D) TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Co-Chair Salter asked Mr. Benson's political affiliation, and Mr. Benson stated that he is a confirmed, unrepentant Democrat.

Co-Chair Salter asked why Mr. Benson wants to serve on the commission. Mr. Benson stated that he wants to serve and that he lives in Bridgeport and is a member of Gideon's International. He stated that his educational background contains a Bachelor's in Accounting, Doctorate in Educational Leadership with a focus Government and Business, and a Master's in Business Administration. Mr. Benson stated that he is involved in real estate, and runs his own properties as a landlord as a private enterprise. Mr. Benson further stated that he is married with 2 living children, and that his third child passed away 4 years ago, at the age of 21, from cancer.

Council Member Olson asked how Mr. Benson is involved with the current real estate market. Mr. Benson stated that he rents 2 of his 3 properties, and that he is up to date with the topsy-turvy real estate market, further stating that the economy is picking up. Council Member Olson asked, with the recent drop in prices, if he anticipates a lot of business with the board. Mr.

Benson stated that he expects it to pick up significantly, though perhaps not as quickly as larger metropolitan areas like New York City. Council Member Olson asked how Mr. Benson would contend with complaints. Mr. Benson stated that he would break down the assessment for the complainant, explaining the dynamics of the real estate market's turnaround.

Council Member Taylor-Moye asked if Mr. Benson anticipated any conflict of interest regarding his position, as he is a landlord himself. Mr. Benson stated that his first allegiance is to God and his values, and thus he will behave honestly and accordingly.

Co-Chair Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there were any documents to be given to the City Clerk regarding Mr. Benson's application. Atty. Anastasi stated that the information is covered in the stenography account, but he will send documents to the Clerk via email.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION.
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED THE MOTION.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The committee entered executive session at 6:55 PM.

The committee exited executive session at 7:10 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED THE MOTION.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Ramos
Telesco Secretarial Services