

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 26, 2007**

ATTENDANCE: AmyMarie Vizzo-Panicca, Richard Paoletto, Ezequiel Santiago,
Daniel Martinez

OTHERS: Council Member Thomas McCarthy; Tom White, Legislative
Director, Council Member Andre Baker; Council Member Richard
Bonney, Atty. Melanie Howlett (6:19 p.m.)

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Vizzo-Pannicca called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**13-07 Amendment to City Council Rules: Rule XIII to allow meetings of Council
Members for informational purposes only**

Council Member McCarthy came forward and explained that in order to have an informational meeting, there was a protocol that had to be followed. Currently, this requires an action number and the Council must approve the items. There are times that the Committee wishes to

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MR. PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA
ITEM 13-07 AMENDMENT TO CITY COUNCIL RULES: RULE XIII TO
ALLOW MEETINGS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR INFORMATIONAL
PURPOSES ONLY**

**** MR. SANTIAGO SECONDED.**

Mr. White said that he would not like this to go to full Council without the language being specific. He then suggested that a new section be created. Mr. Paoletto asked for clarification. Council Member McCarthy suggested that the resolution be passed contingent upon the final language from the City Attorney. Council Member McCarthy said that he would like to see more informational meetings.

Atty. Howlett joined the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO PASS THE RESOLUTION
CONTINUANT UPON APPROVAL OF THE LANGUAGE BY THE CITY
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE PENDING LITIGATION REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS 11-07 AND 12-07**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO SECONDED.**

The Committee members, Atty. Howlett and Council Members McCarthy, Boney and Baker entered into executive session at 6:15 p.m.

Council Member Walsh joined the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

The Committee members, The Committee members, Atty. Howlett and Council Members McCarthy, Boney and Baker returned to public session at 6:29 p.m.

11-07 Settlement of Pending Litigation (L. Vereen v. Board of Education & City of Bridgeport)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 11-07 SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION (L. VEREEN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION & CITY OF BRIDGEPORT)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

12-07 Settlement of Pending Litigation (P. McCullough v. Board of Education & City of Bridgeport)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 12-07 SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION (P. MCCULLOUGH V. BOARD OF EDUCATION & CITY OF BRIDGEPORT)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service

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Miscellaneous Matters Committee
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**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2008**

ATTENDANCE: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Chair; Susan Brannelly, Richard Paoletto, Robert Walsh, Ezequiel Santiago, Daniel Martinez (6:15 p.m.), Warren Blunt (6:25 p.m.)

OTHERS: Richard Bonney, Council Member; Thomas McCarthy, Council President; Mark Anastasia, City Attorney, Michelle Lyons, Council Member (6:27 p.m.); Andrew Fardy, Jeanette Herron, Johanna Dorgan, Rose Christy, Aaron Leo, CT Post

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

24-07 Amendment to City Council Rule XXV - Public Hearing Forum

(to be added as an additional paragraph at the end of Current Rule XXV language)

Speakers at the Public Hearing Forum must respect Council decorum. They shall refrain from mentioning City Council members by name, shall confine themselves to the topic previously submitted to the City Clerk's Office as a part of their request to speak, and shall not use language that is unbecoming , abusive, threatening, vulgar or unparliamentary language, shall avoid personalities and a shall not reference race, creed and/or nationality in a derogator way. The Public Hearing Forum Chair shall have the right to rule on decorum and may cut short, at the Chair's sole discretion, the speakers allotted time to speak if there is a decorum violation.

Council President McCarthy came forward and distributed copies of the Rule Change, which he had submitted. Council President McCarthy said that someone had come forward at a Council meeting and this person used inappropriate language during a public forum. Council President McCarthy explained that a number of the Council members had approached him afterward about this person's tirade.

Council President McCarthy said that the Council has a Rule Book, which the Council Members are obligated to follow. Council President McCarthy explained that he had taken the section of the Council Member's rules that covered this issue. Council President McCarthy said that he was not interested in limiting free speech, however there were words used during the incident, such as the "N-word" which were inappropriate. Council

President McCarthy said that he was willing to fight through to the end on this issue, if that was what the Council wished to do.

Council President McCarthy said that he felt that there should be a discussion and the start of a dialog about this.

Atty. Anastasia said that everything that he had heard from the Council member was that there was no intent to limit the content or substance of any comments. The point was to limit the derogatory or inflammatory language that could trigger a confrontation that no one wants. He repeated that there was no intent to stifle the content of someone's speech. There are already restrictions on the length of time and the number of speakers at a meeting. It will be important to do this in an intelligent and thoughtful manner.

Council Member Walsh said that if it wasn't so serious, it would be humorous. Mr. Walsh said that both Atty. Anastasi and Council President McCarthy were present at meetings when Council Member Walsh's microphone being turned off before he could finish a sentence. During Mayor Gannon's administration, the switch for Council Member Walsh's microphone on the panel in the Chambers was removed. Council Member Walsh said that Mayor Fabrizio had threatened to have Council Member Walsh arrested. Council Member Walsh said that it was ironic that this issue was now being addressed by Atty. Anastasi and Council President McCarthy.

Council Member Blunt joined the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Council Member Walsh then read the First Amendment :

“Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of a religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press or of the right of the people peaceable to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievance.”

and pointed out that requiring the public to submit to the City Clerk on what they wish to address the Council on is chilling. Council Member Walsh said that he planned to open up this process in the future. He pointed out that if there are only two people who sign up during the half hour before the Council and there are four others that wish to speak, he had no object to hearing the speakers who did not sign up.

Council Member Lyons joined the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Council Member Martinez said that he would like to see the rules amended, but that he would like to insure that obscene language or racial slurs were the focus. Council Member Martinez said that the public should be able to speak to the Council members

about the Council business, but not use racial slurs or obscenities. That type of language is unacceptable.

Atty. Anastasi repeated that this was in no way an attempt to stifle public commentary, but he was sure that everyone had seen incidents on television where people have been removed from the Senate or House of Representative's chambers for disruptive behavior. The point of this resolution is to preclude inflammatory behavior. The rules of how the Council conducts itself and debates are different than from the rules for the public.

Council President McCarthy said that the incident regarding the microphone switch that Council Member Walsh was referring to was not appropriate. He also said that he had not cut off Council Member Walsh during any meetings that he chaired. Council President McCarthy said that this issue was before the Committee for a decision as to whether to present the resolution to the full Council.

In terms of what people can speak on, this is a rule from the City Clerk's Office. Atty. Anastasi said that one aspect was in according with FOI laws and also to give the Council an agenda for the public forum portion of the meeting.

Council Member Paoletto said that he agreed with both Council Member Walsh and Council President McCarthy. He said that Council President McCarthy put this resolution together as a starting point. He then pointed out that there was a reason why someone should be able to speak about their council representatives to the Council. However, Council Member Paoletto said that the abusive, threatening language, profanity and slurs was inappropriate. There were children in the chambers that night. Council Member Paoletto said that while he admits to having been profane upon occasion, it would be important to work with this idea and try to work with the Council President, the City Attorney and other members of the Council to create language that everyone is comfortable with.

Council Member Brannelly said that she agreed with Council Member Paoletto, but would like to open up the meeting so that people could speak. She pointed out to Council Member Walsh that the First Amendment included the word "peaceably". Having guidelines would tell the public that this was a place of decorum without in any way limiting speech.

Council Member Paoletto said that he knew that City Attorney had given an explanation about the City Clerk's rule. He said that he did not believe that other municipalities handle the issue this way and pointed out that Stratford does not do it that way, either.

Council Member Bonney said that he concurred with a portion of what everyone said. While he is a member of the group that was targeted by the racial slurs, he said that no one has the right to define him. Council Member Bonney said that he would be the one

that defines himself. He said that it would be important to get a consensus on how the Council members could respond. He then suggested that perhaps the Council Members could get up and walk out as a body if someone got up and became profane or abusive. The Council's response to the public when this happens would be critical. If measures are taken to have proper security and no one in the public gets so worked up, then things will be peaceful. Council Member Bonney said that he had heard this particular racial slur before and it would not be the last time he was called that name.

Atty. Anastasi said that it was a complicated issue and there also was a consideration where the speech may be inflammatory. While some of the Council may be sophisticated enough not to take offense, there may be members of the public who may not be able to deal with the issue. Atty. Anastasi then gave the example of people crying "Fire" in a theater.

Council Member Blunt said that he thought that it would be important to research it more and take it from there. The primary issue is respect, but also allowing people to express themselves.

Council Member Walsh said that it was Abe Fordis who wrote the opinion about "Fire" in a theater. He then said that he was concerned if the Council walked out, because someone became abusive that could affect the quorum, and if the person was the first speaker, it could close the meeting down. Atty. Anastasi said that this was not a public forum, but an opportunity for the public to address the Council. He added that Council Member Walsh had a good point and one that needed to be considered.

Council Member Blunt said that it came down to the discretion of the chair to maintain decorum. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that it needs to be done across the board and that the Council Members need to agree on how to respond to this type of incident.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTA MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM TO ALLOW THE COMMITTEE, THE CITY ATTORNEY, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE TO RESEARCH HOW OTHER MUNICIPALITIES HANDLE THIS TYPE OF SITUATION AND ALSO WHAT CCM RECOMMENDS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

13-07 Amendment to the City Council Rules: Rule XIII to allow meetings of Council Members for Informational purposes only

Council President McCarthy requested that this item be tabled until a future date.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 13-07AMENDMENT TO THE CITY COUNCIL RULES: RULE XIII TO ALLOW MEETINGS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AS REQUESTED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY.
** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Walsh asked if the Chair could get a list of the current list of all the Committees and Board for the Committee.

Council President McCarthy said that Mr. White was working on that and copies could be sent all the Council Members. When he received the VHA list, it was out of date.

Council Member Paoletto said that he would agree with Mr. Walsh about having copies of an updated list since this committee had a duty to approve the candidates on the boards and committees. Mr. Blunt agreed. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that one of the delays was the fact that there had been some recent changes on various committees.

Council Member Martinez asked if the earlier resolution regarding the Public Hearing Forum included opening up the meeting to the public who have not signed up. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that it did not, but that the issue regarding the City Clerk's rule will be researched.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**BRIDGEPORT CITY COUNCIL
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 25TH, 2008**

ATTENDANCE: Committee Members: Warren Blunt, Chair; Sue Brannelly; Richard Paoletto; Amy Marie Vizzo-Paniccia; Maria Valle; Daniel Martinez

STAFF: Mark Anastasi, City Attorney

OTHERS: Councilman Carlos Silva; City Council President Tom McCarthy; Judge Dale Radcliffe; Judge Carmen Lopez; Wilfredo Matos, Friends of Clemente Committee

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Mr. Blunt.

35-07 Request and Call upon Major League Baseball to retire Roberto Clemente's Number 21

Councilman Silva asked Chairman Blunt if some of the people who'd accompanied him to this meeting would be allowed to speak on behalf of this resolution.

Mr. Blunt agreed.

Mr. Silva thanked Mr. Blunt and continued. He explained that item 35-07 was a resolution that he'd put on the table at the request of the Retiring 21 Committee and was regarding the late Major League Baseball player, Roberto Clemente. He said that Clemente was a Puerto Rican baseball player who in 1973 decided to bring supplies to victims of an earthquake in Nicaragua and in doing so, died in a plane crash. Mr. Silva said that it was commonly known that Major League Baseball had taken a tremendous hit to its image because of rampant steroid use among players and needed a role model like Roberto Clemente. He said that Clemente was a good upstanding gentleman and a great baseball player. He reported that he'd recently been quoted in a related newspaper article because Roberto Clemente was an idol of his. He recalled that he'd played in the Christian Brotherhood League and the Park City Little League and his number was always 21. He stated that through stories told to him by his father, uncle and grandparents he learned about the history of Roberto Clemente and felt that Clemente's number 21 should be retired in the manner that Jackie Robinson's number 42 had.

Ms. Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there was any connection between Roberto Clemente and the City of Bridgeport and if there was any estate or family living that would like to see this done.

Mr. Silva said that Roberto Clemente was not from Bridgeport, but the Hispanic community in Bridgeport was very knowledgeable of him. He said that there was a tribute held for Roberto Clemente every December 31st for the past 20 years at Seaside Park in Bridgeport.

Ms. Vizzo-Paniccia asked who would authorize the retiring of the number.

Mr. Silva deferred to Judge Dale Radcliffe to answer.

Judge Radcliffe said that this was part of a national campaign aimed at convincing Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig to retire number 21 in honor of Roberto Clemente. He said that Clemente had been deceased now for almost as many years as he'd lived and that the Friends of Clemente Committee with Willie Matos as a driving force met on December 31 of every year at Seaside Park in Bridgeport to honor him. Judge Radcliffe said that number 21 should be retired not only because how he died in a plane crash, but how he lived and the example that he continued to set. He said that Clemente was the best example that Major League Baseball could have right now. He said that now people could take their children to baseball games and explain that the number 42 that was on the wall was there to commemorate Jackie Robinson as the first African-American to play in Major League Baseball, because there was a time in this country where "separate but equal" was the rule and people couldn't play Major League Baseball because of the color of their skin, and this included not only African-Americans but also dark skinned Latinos and there were many great players that no one had the privilege of seeing for that reason. He went on to say that children should see Roberto Clemente's number 21 up on the wall too, honoring him as the first dark skinned Latino baseball superstar. He stated that Clemente had 3,000 hits in his career, a .317 lifetime batting average, 12 Gold Glove Awards, and was probably the best defensive right fielder of all-time. He said however that this was not why he should be honored but because of the dignity and pride with which he carried himself and the example he set during his life and the fact that at age 38, when most celebrities were willing to bask in the glory that they'd earned, he was in the rear of a cargo plane carrying supplies to Nicaragua to make sure that the supplies actually reached the victims of an earthquake, and were not diverted by corrupt government officials, and he lost his life in a mission of mercy.

Daniel Martinez arrived at 6:20 p.m.

Judge Radcliffe stated that a lot of celebrities could learn a great deal from his example as a player and as a person and so both numbers 42 and 21 should be retired. He said that the fact that Roberto Clemente had as much impact as he did 35 years after his death could be shown by representation at this meeting and the fact that City Councils in Chicago, Philadelphia, New Haven, and Holyoke had passed resolutions urging the Commissioner to do this. He said that the integrity of baseball was currently under attack as it probably hadn't been since the Black Sox betting scandal of 1919 and so it was in the interest of Major League Baseball to present a role model that achieved excellence without cheating. He said that if baseball ever had to send that kind of positive message now was the time and he hoped that this grassroots movement which was begun by

Latino Sports Incorporated, run by Julio Pabon out of the Bronx would convince the Commissioner that this was an idea whose time had come and further hoped that this Council could contribute to that by endorsing this effort

Mr. Paoletto said that he, like Councilman Silva was a baseball coach for 14 years with Park City Little League. He said that during that time he could see Roberto Clemente being a driving force in the Latino community. He said that though he'd never seen Roberto Clemente play but he'd done some research on him and found that he was an honorable person on and off the field. He said that this was a nonbinding resolution and hopefully it would fall on the Baseball Commissioner and he would do the right thing. He said that he supported this without hesitation when Mr. Silva brought it up and thought it was a great idea for the Council to support it. He hoped that other Cities would fall in line with Bridgeport and other cites that were in support of this.

Councilman McCarthy said he thought was a good thing that the City recognize good examples and in fact, Roberto Clemente was not just a good example, but a great example of someone that the City's children of all makes, sizes, colors and creeds could look to, adding that he supported this 100%.

Mr. Matos said that he represented the Friends of Clemente Committee which was responsible for holding the annual vigil at the monument in Seaside Park. He explained that the monument at which the vigil was held was purchased through an effort with a local radio station that had sponsored a marathon to collect the funding for it at least 25 years ago. He stated that two monuments were commissioned and the other monument was in Hartford. He said that Roberto Clemente's life had been honored for the past 20 years on the date of his death, which was December 31 and that his organization had also sponsored in conjunction with the Caribe Youth League an essay writing contest. He explained that members of the Caribe Youth League who participated in this contest were asked to write about how they viewed Roberto Clemente and what his example meant to them. He then distributed an example essay, written by the young Christian Claudio of Caribe Youth League. He said that this essay showed just how important Clemente is to Bridgeport's youth. He went on to say that though Clemente was not from Bridgeport, Mr. Matos felt that he belonged to the whole nation and to Puerto Rico and Latin America. He said that in most countries in Latin America, Roberto Clemente was recognized as a great humanitarian and was held in high esteem as a hero.

Attorney Anastasi and Mr. McCarthy left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Ms. Vizzo-Paniccia explained that the reason she asked if there was any connection between Roberto Clemente and the City of Bridgeport was because the City usually only did things like this when there was a Bridgeport connection. She said however that she was glad to see that an extra step was being taken to recognize a person as a great influence on the youth – past present and future.

Mr. Paoletto said that unless another Councilperson had something that they wanted to ask or add, he was ready to make a motion to approve this item.

Councilman Martinez felt that it was important to include Christian Claudio's essay into the record and read it aloud:

Even though I have learned about the great Roberto Clemente, I didn't really get to appreciate what he stands up for until I joined the Bridgeport Caribe Youth League this passed summer. Roberto Clemente has a good reputation. Not only because of his baseball skills but also because he cared for the people who were poor and less fortunate. I think it is a good thing that people remember both these things about him. I am glad that the Caribe League is remembering him during this time. It is important to teach us young kids that sometimes it isn't just about the game but how a person can make another better. Roberto, your memory will always be in the heart of myself and others. May you rest in peace.

Mr. Martinez said that in reading this it was clear that Roberto Clemente was an important positive influence on children. He said that urging the Baseball Commissioner to retire number 21 was something that needed to be done. He recalled seeing a story on the news about a hockey player's number that had been retired. He said that to his knowledge, the player was still living but had retired and contributed very much to the game. He stated that it seemed much harder to retire a baseball player's number but that Clemente deserved this honor because of his impact as a Latino on people of all ages, his skills as a player and a good nature that should resonate and be focused on within the community.

Mr. Blunt asked how many cities were supporting this resolution.

Judge Radcliffe said that as of the time of this meeting Chicago, Philadelphia, Holyoke, Hartford, New Haven, Providence, Perth Amboy, Springfield and perhaps others had either have passed or were in the process of passing this resolution.

Mr. Blunt asked if number 21 was retired in Pittsburgh.

Judge Radcliffe said that it was retired for the Pittsburgh Pirates, but not throughout the whole league, which would be the ultimate tribute. He explained that many teams had retired individual numbers and joked that if the Yankees retired any more numbers they would have to go into triple digits. He said that to date the only number that had been retired throughout the league was Jackie Robinson's number 42 and though there were still players who wore the number because they'd had it before its retirement, no new players entering the League would wear number 42.

Judge Lopez added that the Bridgeport Bluefish had retired number 21.

**** MR. PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 35-07.
** MR. MARTINEZ SECONDED.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Atty. Anastasi reentered the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

- ** **MS. VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION.**
- ** **MR. MARTINEZ SECONDED.**
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The committee entered executive session at 6:35 p.m.

- ** **MS. VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION.**
- ** **MR. MARTINEZ SECONDED.**
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The committee exited executive session at 7:20 p.m.

37-07 Worker's Compensation Suit Settlement for: Milla Greene

- ** **MR. MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 37-07.**
- ** **MR. PAOLETTO SECONDED.**
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

38-07 Worker's Compensation Suit Settlement for: Barbara Langer

This item was corrected to be a "Liability Suit Settlement" instead of a "Worker's Compensation Suit Settlement" as per a letter submitted by Attorney Anastasi.

- ** **MR. MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 38-07.**
- ** **MR. PAOLETTO SECONDED.**
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

- ** **MR. MARTINEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** **MS. BRANNELLY SECONDED.**
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Schroder
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE
of the CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2008
6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Vizzo-Paniccia; Co-chair, Brannelly, Martinez, Santiago, Paoletto, Walsh

ABSENT: Council member Blunt

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

41-07 Appointment of Mary M. Donnelly (D) to the Ethics Commission

Ms. Donnelly approached the committee. She stated she resided at 57 Redding Place.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia stated the committee needed to make a decision for approving her to serve on the commission. She asked what her duties would be and why she wanted to serve on the Ethics Commission. Ms. Donnelly said she was a life long resident of the city and her brother served on the commission years ago. She also mentioned that she was the Director of Office on Aging. She said she believed in Bridgeport and wished to be a part of the commission in one way or another. She said she was recently asked to serve on the commission.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia referred to an e-mail from Council President McCarthy. He recommended Ms. Donnelly's appointment to the Ethics Commission.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the other committee members had any questions.

Council member Brannelly spoke in favor of Ms Donnelly's appointment as a long time friend of hers. She also expressed that Ms. Donnelly was one of the most ethical people she knew and that she would be asset to the commission. She also noted that she was Council member Walsh's neighbor. Overall, she highly recommended approval of the appointment.

Council member Walsh stated that the ordinance outlines that the Ethics Commission can initiate an investigation without a complaint being filed. He asked that Ms. Donnelly keep that in mind as one of the responsibilities of serving on the commission. He further noted that there have been findings from the Ethics Commission not made public in the past. Overall, he stated that Ms. Donnelly was an excellent candidate, and that he thought she would serve well on behalf of her brother that served on the commission in the past.

Council member Paoletto stated that it was good to have a person come forward that still wanted to be involved. He wished her luck in her endeavor serving on the commission.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

49-07 Appointment of Robert Filotei (R) to the Ethics Commission

Mr. Filotei approached the committee. He stated that he resided at 365 Sailors Lane, Black Rock. He relayed that he has been resident of Bridgeport for three years. He expressed that he was interested in helping the city. He also mentioned that he has been in the jewelry business for years. He expressed that he would like to volunteer his energy and help out serving on the commission.

Council member Paoletto thanked Mr. Filotei for giving his time to the commission. He echoed what Council member Walsh said about the Ethics Commission having the ability to initiate an investigation without a complaint being filed. He commented that Mr. Filotei should also keep that in mind as one of the responsibilities of serving on the commission.

** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

53-07 Permission for Residence Building Rear of Premises (297 Harral Avenue)
Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 15.40.010

Attorney Rizio approached the committee. He stated that this matter involved an old outdated building code. The issue was in regard to the building being built in the rear of the property. He explained that his client purchased the property and renovated the front part as a 2-family. He noted that there used to be a repair garage on the premises and it was converted ten years ago and found to be legal per the city hall records. And they obtained Zoning Board of Appeals approval to legalize the apartment, but the Building Department said they couldn't get the permit unless they obtained approval from the city council to build behind a building. He said he thought the ordinance meant that pertained to commercial use. He said he was there to receive relief to legalize the existence of the auto body garage into a residence. They were trying to legalize what was done years ago and he noted if it wasn't for the regulation, they wouldn't have had to come before the committee.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there was access for vehicles to get to the rear of the building. Attorney Rizio said they wouldn't be able to get a fire truck in that access area, but you could get a car through there.

Council member Walsh asked if a title search was done prior to purchasing the property. Attorney Rizio said no. he referred to an advertisement that showed a 2-family with a residence in back. He stated the tax record also indicated information related to the permits that were signed off by the city.

Council member Walsh questioned if his client took the advertisement as proof that the building was legal then. Attorney Rizio clarified that the permit recorded by the city identified that it was.

Attorney Rizio emphasized that the approval would eliminate the former nonconforming use. It's a legal apartment now according to the records, but again, they needed approval from the city council.

Council member Walsh said he wouldn't support the request. Attorney Rizio questioned why; he asked if he'd rather see an auto body shop on the premises. Council member Walsh said he wouldn't support it because of the problems with illegal housing in the city, he didn't feel it was right to reward people just because they claim ignorance of the regulations. He felt that if it was approved, it would encourage a continuing pattern of allowing the same thing to happen.

Attorney Rizio clarified that the matter was before the committee merely to get approval to disregard the archaic ordinance that he didn't feel applied in this case. He stressed that it is a legal apartment and they received ZBA approval, but there was still the matter of the archaic regulation. He explained that the situation was different than someone trying to sneak an illegality through and then claims ignorance.

Council member Walsh asked about the document from 2005 that was signed off by the city. Council member Vizzo-Paniccia said the document indicated what was done before they received the permit.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the approval only applied to this matter. She pointed out that in the future, any other matter would be on a case-by case basis.

Council member Paoletto stated that he thought the purpose of the request was to right a wrong and legalize the building due to the old ordinance. He pointed out that the ordinance should be updated at some point. Attorney Rizio agreed that was the case he was before the committee.

Council member Brannelly asked about the safety issue regarding vehicles not being able to access the area and the risk of a potential fire. Attorney Rizio said if the attached garage was by way of the breezeway, they wouldn't be before the committee. He pointed out that if they attached the breezeway, it wouldn't be a separate building. However, if that was done, it would result in more congestion in the rear area of the building. And they would like to avoid any more cars being pushed onto the street.

Attorney Rizio expressed that the facts wouldn't set a precedent for other properties.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION
(COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH)**

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia noted that this matter would go before the full city council for a vote on April 7, 2008.

59-07 Suit Settlement for: Carmelita Torres v. Memoli

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia stated that the city attorney wasn't present to address the item.

Council member Walsh said he would like to see a Board of Education and a Police Department representative present at the next meeting. Council member Paoletto agreed with the request.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia recommended that the item be tabled for the purpose of obtaining the information from the city attorney. And to request that a BOE and Police Department representative attend the next meeting.

** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO TABLE
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 28, 2008**

ATTENDANCE: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Chair; Warren Blunt, Co-chair;
Richard Paoletto, Susan Brannelly, Robert Walsh

OTHERS: City Attorney Mark Anastasi, Police Chief Bryan Norwood

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

59-07 Suit Settlement for: Carmelita Torres v. Memoli

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia said that Chief Norwood was present to address the Committee regarding Agenda Item 59-07.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING LITIGATION REGARDING CARMELITA TORRES V. MEMOLI**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Committee, Atty. Anastasi and Police Chief Norwood entered into Executive Session at 6:07 p.m. The Committee resumed public session at 6:48 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 59-07 SUIT SETTLEMENT FOR: CARMELITA TORRES V. MEMOLI**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, PAOLETTO, AND BLUNT) AND ONE OPPOSED (WALSH).**

81-07 Appointment of Charles Valentino Sr. (R) to the Water Pollution Control Authority

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia asked that this item be tabled because the Committee had not received any information on the candidate and the candidate was not present.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 81-07 APPOINTMENT OF CHARLES VALENTINO SR. (R) TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY.**

Council Member Paoletto asked the co-chairs if they would ask for some clarification on the fact that Mr. Valentino is a Republican who is replacing a seat formerly filled by a Democrat. Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would check into this. Council Member Paoletto said that he was very impressed with Mr. Valentino, who lives in his district, but that he would like the Mayor's Office to be aware of the party affiliations. Atty. Anastasi said that there were minority party requirements, but he said that the numbers need to be verified.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

82-07 Suit Settlement for: Christopher LaMaine

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LITIGATION REGARDING CHRISTOPHER LAMAINE.
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Committee and Atty. Anastasi entered into Executive Session at 6:48 p.m. The Committee resumed public session at 7:10 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 82-07 SUIT SETTLEMENT FOR: CHRISTOPHER LAMAINE.
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia requested that the item be placed on the Consent Calendar.

**Approval of committee meeting minutes: January 28, 2008
Approval of committee meeting minutes: February 25, 2008
Approval of committee meeting minutes: March 24, 2008**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FOR THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS AS SUBMITTED: JANUARY 28, 2008, FEBRUARY 25, 2008 AND MARCH 24, 2008.
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER BLUNT SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, BLUNT, WALSH AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND ONE OPPOSED (PAOLETTO).**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE of the CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2008
5:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Vizzo-Paniccia, Paoletto, Brannelly, McCarthy

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia called the meeting to order at 5:57 p.m.

Approval of Minutes April 28, 2008
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO TABLE
** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

81-07 Appointment of Charles Valentino Sr. (R) to the Water Pollution Control Authority

** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO TABLE
** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

*It was noted that the paperwork wasn't available for this item.

** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE
SESSION
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The committee went into executive session at 5:58 p.m.
The executive session ended at 6:26 pm.

88-07 Suit Settlement for: Lashaya Watson vs. City of Bridgeport

** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

*Consent calendar

89-07 Suit Settlement for: Robert Evans vs. City of Bridgeport

** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

*Consent calendar

It was noted that these items would be added to the agenda for approval at the city council meeting held on June 2, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

** COMMISSIONER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COMMISSIONER McCARTHY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE
of the CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2008
6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Vizzo-Paniccia, Brannelly, Paoletto, Walsh,
*Blunt (6:09p.m.), *Martinez (6:25 p.m.)

* = arrived late

OTHER(s): Council members: Brantley, Baker

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Approval of Special Committee Meeting Minutes: June 2, 2008

** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Council member Blunt arrived at 6:09 p.m.

121-07 Appointment of Reginald Walker (D) to the Planning and Zoning Commission

** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO TABLE
** COUNCIL BLUNT SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

122-07 Reappointment of Philip E. Norgren (D) to the Water Pollution Control Authority
Commission

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia stated that the appointee was not notified of the meeting and the Mayor's office requested that the reappointment be withdrawn at this time.

** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE WITHDRAWAL
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

123-07 Appointment of Harry Weichsel (U) to the Ethics Commission

** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

124-07 Appointment of Thomas Fedele (D) to the Planning and Zoning Commission

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia referred to the paperwork that she said was received on Friday.

Mr. Fedele approached the committee and stated that he was a lifelong Bridgeport resident. He said he was interested in seeing Bridgeport move forward and he has been looking to get involved for years.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked him if he would have the time to commit to the meetings that are held at night. And if he would also have the dedication to inspect properties as needed. Mr. Fedele said yes. He mentioned that he was retired from Sikorsky, so he was familiar with the city.

Council member Walsh asked who he was replacing. Council member Vizzo-Paniccia said he was replacing Anne Pappas-Phillips.

Council member Walsh commented that the list of appointments was a joke to be presented to the council committee only tonight. He further referred to the old appointees listing to point out that it hadn't been updated recently.

Council member Blunt asked Mr. Fedele if had done any community involvement. Mr. Fedele said he did some night recreation with kids years ago.

Council member Blunt asked Mr. Fedele if he requested to be appointed or if he was approached by someone. Mr. Fedele said he heard there were openings on the commission, and now that he's retired, he has time on his hands.

Council member Baker questioned the June 5, 2006 and June 2008 versions of the appointments lists; he felt there should have been some clarification of who the new appointees were replacing. He emphasized that the lists weren't consistent to identify who now sits on the P&Z Commission. Council member Vizzo-Paniccia responded that the lists were for informational purposes only.

Council member Brannelly added that she though there was some discussion about getting the entire profiles of all appointees. She suggested that the matter be tabled until they get more information.

Council member Paoletto thought that if this matter was tabled, it would unnecessarily hold up all the other appointments. Council member Vizzo-Paniccia also added that holding up the

appointments, might push back P&Z Commission work. Council member Paoletto repeated that he thought it was ridiculous to hold up the other appointments approvals.

Council member Blunt stated there was another issue that he wanted to discuss in executive session.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia stated that since Mr. Fedele was present tonight, they should vote on his appointment, irregardless of any issues they had with the other appointments.

Council member Walsh asked Mr. Fedele when was the last time he attended a P&Z Commission meeting. Mr. Fedele said he attended a few meetings and again, now that he is retired, he said he had the time to commit to the long meeting hours as needed.

Council member Walsh asked if he understood the procedures and what's involved serving on the P&Z Commission. Mr. Fedele acknowledged that he understood this.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE**

There was no second to the motion.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO TABLE FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE APPOINTEES; I.E., TERM EXPIRATIONS**

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia commented that if they had the opportunity to fill a position now, then they should do that.

Council member Brannelly reiterated that additional information was requested about the appointees at the last city council meeting. She said she would like to know other information, such as, who the person was replacing.

Council member Walsh referred to the appointee list dated May 9, 2008; he noted that Ann Pappas-Phillips was still on that list, even though she is now being replaced. He emphasized that the committee had the responsibility to approve appointments that were in the best interest of the city. He further emphasized that he had an issue with the Mayor making the appointments. He said he was also in favor of tabling the matter. He made it clear that the suggestion to table had nothing to do with Mr. Fedele personally.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO TABLE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BLUNT SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BLUNT MADE A MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION THE APPOINTMENTS**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The committee moved into executive session at 6:26 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO END THE EXECUTIVE SESSION
** COUNCIL MEMBER BLUNT SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The executive session ended at 6:46 p.m.

Council member Martinez arrived 6:25 p.m.

81-07 Appointment of Charles Valentino Sr. (R) to the Water Pollution Control Authority

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

125-07 Appointment of Jerome Bost (D) to the Harbor Commission

Council Blunt commented that Mr. Bost was a member of the 125th Town Committee and active in the community and leads by example. He said he was also instrumental in voter registration and he works hard for the Town Committee. He expressed that he would be an asset to serve on the commission.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia noted that Mr. Bost was replacing Daniel Martinez. She added that there weren't any problems with this paperwork.

Mr. Jerome Bost stated that he was familiar with Council members Blunt and Martinez. He expressed that he was aware that at times, some people are appointed to commissions for influence, but that wasn't his intention. He stated that he did a lot community wise, and he was excited about serving on the Harbor Commission because of his interest in the harbor and water related transportation. He felt he would be able to make the commitment to serve on the commission, as well as enjoy serving on it. He further noted that he already set up a meeting with Steve Tilischak to discuss how to move harbor activities forward. He said he expected to be thoroughly committed.

Council member Martinez said he has known Jerome Bost for a while and he felt he would make a good member of the commission.

Council member Walsh questioned whether or not he had a CT license. Mr. Bost said he had one in the past, but he spent some time working for Metro North in New York, so he is in the process of obtaining a current CT license.

Council member Brannelly asked how long he has been living in Bridgeport. Mr. Bost said he has been living here all his life, but he currently doesn't have a CT license.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia thanked Mr. Bost for attending the meeting. She explained that although his appointment would be tabled tonight, she let him know that he wouldn't have to return for another meeting; she said he would be notified of the final decision.

** COUNCIL MEMBER BLUNT MOVED TO TABLE
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

** COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COMMISSIONER BRANNELLY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 28, 2008**

ATTENDANCE: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Chair; Ezequiel Santiago, Suzanne Brannelly, Warren Blunt, Daniel Martinez, Robert Walsh (6:13 p.m.); Richard Paoletto (6:30 p.m.); Daniel Martinez (6:33 p.m.)

OTHERS: City Attorney Mark Anastasi, Council Member Andre Baker, Deputy Police Joseph Guadette, Jr.; Council Member James Holloway, Council Member Marie Valle, Council Member Michelle Lyon, Council Member Richard Bonney; Ralph Jacobs, Director of Personnel; Atty. Lisa Trachtenburg, City Attorney's Office; Mr. Charles Valentino, Sr.; Mr. Tyrone McClain, Mayor's Office; Reginald Walker, Harry Weichsel

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OF JUNE 23, 2008**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2008.
** COUNCIL MEMBER BLUNT SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Walsh joined the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

81-07 - Appointment of Charles Valentino, Sr. (R) to the Water Pollution Control Authority.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO MOVED AGENDA ITEM 81-07 - APPOINTMENT OF CHARLES VALENTINO, SR. (R) TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY.
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

Mr. Valentino came forward and said that he was a Bridgeport resident, a State Marshal and also a former Selectman and owns several small businesses in Bridgeport. He gave a brief overview of his employment history and said that he had lived in Bridgeport for 59 years. Council Member Walsh asked about Mr. Valentino about his job duties. Council

Member Walsh said that he had a problem with this appointment because the WPCA was very aggressive regarding the collection of their back fees. Council Member Walsh said that he felt that there was an inherent conflict regarding Mr. Valentino's job and the attitude of the WPCA. Council Member Walsh said that he felt that the WPCA would start filing liens against the customers because Mr. Valentino would be on the Board. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia pointed out that there were several other sheriffs available to serve papers.

Atty. Anastasi commented that the WPCA operates as an independent entity and has a fiduciary responsibility to collect their fees and bills. He said respectfully that the collection of the payments would not be the provenance of the City Council. Atty. Anastasi also said that it would be an option for Mr. Valentino to abstain from any vote if he wished to do so. The WPCA is content to operate as they do and the policy has been already established. When some one does not pay their bills, those who pay the bills pay more.

Council Member Brannelly asked if Council Member Walsh was concerned about whether Mr. Valentino would get more work from the collection of WPCA bills. Council Member Walsh said that he had concerns about the WPCA policy setting issues and collection practices. Mr. Valentino said that he had plenty of work to do and would not take on WPCA work. Council Member Walsh said that he disagreed with Atty. Anastasi's opinion about the bill collection issues and stated that the Council can amend the ordinance. Atty. Anastasi replied that the City could amend the ordinance but this is how the ordinance reads today. Council Member Walsh had several issues with Atty. Anastasi about this and said that the collections policy needed to be changed.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE IN FAVOR (VIZZO-PANICCIA, BLUNT, SANTIAGO, AND BRANNELLY) AND ONE OPPOSED (WALSH).**

Council Member Paoletto joined the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

121-07 – Appointment of Reginald Walker to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that Mr. Walker was in the Planning and Zoning hearings that were underway in the chambers. She then asked Mr. McClain if he would go and see if Mr. Walker could step out of the hearings to attend Miscellaneous Matters regarding his appointment.

Council Member Martinez joined the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Council Member Walsh said that according to the list that he was given, Mr. Walker appointment was not up until 12/31/07. Council Member Walsh asked that the item be withdrawn. Mr. McClain explained that it was a six month appointment. Council

Member Walsh objected, said that this was not a six month appointment for alternate members because he was currently listed as a permanent member of the Commission. Council Member Holloway said that the name could not be submitted until the temporary appointment expires. Atty. Anastasi said that he would have to look at the motion. Council Member Walsh gave Atty. Anastasi a copy of the resolution.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia explained that because Mr. Walker was in the Planning and Zoning meeting and could not leave, the Committee would moved onto the next agenda item and then return to Mr. Walker's appointment when he was able to leave his other meeting.

123-07 -- Appointment of Harry Weichsel (U) to the Ethics Committee.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that Mr. Weichsel was not present and that the Committee would return to this agenda item if Mr. Weichsel was able to join the meeting before adjournment. If he was not able to attend, the item would be tabled until the next meeting.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 123-07 -- APPOINTMENT OF HARRY WEICHSEL (U) TO THE ETHICS COMMITTEE UNTIL MR. WEICHSEL WAS PRESENT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

124-07 Appointment of Thomas Fedele (D) to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia reminded everyone that Mr. Fedele had spoke to the Committee last month. It was table last month pending questions. She added that she had not received any questions from the Committee members about this appointment.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 124-07 APPOINTMENT OF THOMAS FEDELE (D) TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE IN FAVOR (SANTIAGO, BRANNELLY, BLUNT, PAOLETTO, AND MARTINEZ) AND ONE OPPOSED (WALSH).**

125-07 – Appointment of Jerome Bost (D) to the Harbor Commission.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that that Mr. Bost's vote had been tabled due to concerns expressed by other Council members. Mr. Bost stated that he was a member of the Democratic Town Committee. Council Member Walsh complained that the City's website listing was inaccurate since Council Member Martinez and Mr. Cruz were not

currently on the list. Mr. McClain said that Council Member Martinez had been removed from the listing because Council Member Martinez had resigned.

Council Member Walsh objected to this. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia reminded everyone that this was off topic. Council Member Walsh objected, stating that this was the problem and a shouting match ensued. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that Council Member Walsh was out of order and recognized the next speaker.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 125-07 – APPOINTMENT OF JEROME BOST (D) TO THE HARBOR COMMISSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO SECONDED.**

Council Member Walsh objected, saying that the City Charter requires the Boards and Commission to have minority representation. Atty. Anastasi said that while Council Member Walsh was partial correct, but the actual ordinance requires that majority party does not occupy the majority of seats on a Commission. The “minority” seats can be filled by anyone who is not a member of the majority party.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE IN FAVOR (SANTIAGO, BRANNELLY, BLUNT, PAOLETTO, AND MARTINEZ) AND ONE OPPOSED (WALSH).**

144-07 – Appointment of Jose Ortiz (R) to the WPCA Commission.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that Mr. Ortiz was not present and that the Committee would return to this agenda item if Mr. Ortiz was able to join the meeting before adjournment. If he was not able to attend, the item would be tabled until the next meeting.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 144-07 – APPOINTMENT OF JOSE ORTIZ (R) TO THE WPCA COMMISSION UNTIL MR. ORTIZ WAS PRESENT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

143-07 – Resolution calling for the Termination of the Tax Assessor and Assistant.

Council Member Walsh said that he had submitted the document in the Council. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she did not have the paperwork in the packet. Council Member Walsh said that it had been submitted at the Council meeting. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia agreed, and reminded Council Member Walsh that the original resolution had been submitted by a Bridgeport resident and not by a Council Member. When it

went to the City Clerk's Office, it was changed to reflect the various Council Members' sponsorship. That updated information was not in the packet.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED AGENDA ITEM 143-07 – RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE TERMINATION OF THE TAX ASSESSOR AND ASSISTANT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO SECONDED.**

Atty. Anastasi cited Chapter 8, Sec. 4 states that the Tax Assessor is a classified civil service position and has a term of five years. Removal can be done, but must be done for just cause. Council Member Holloway said that his constituents had complained to him that they had been treated unfairly by the Tax Assessor's Office. He then gave an example of a business of one constituent who had received one assessment of \$2,500 and the next one being assessed at \$250,000 for personal taxes. Council Member Holloway said that this has started with the Fabrizi administration and was done to inflate the grand list. Inflating the grand list was done to increase the amount of funding to the City from the State. Council Member Holloway said that the Tax Assessor was rude to the residents and that if anyone had been as rude, they would lose their job. Council Member Holloway said that he had signed on to the resolution because of this.

Council Member Baker asked Atty. Anastasi for clarification regarding just cause. Atty. Anastasi said that the Mayor was the appointing authority and would be the authority empowered to remove the Assessor. He added that if the grand list goes up, then the mill rate would be affected. If the grand list stays the same or goes down, then the mill rate rises.

Council Member Santiago said that he signed on to the resolution because the Tax Assessor for the City of Bridgeport is rude and that there is a right way and a wrong way to treat people. Council Member Santiago said that he had seen examples of this while at his job in City Hall.

Council Member Walsh said that he had heard a litany of complaints from constituents about this. He then gave several examples of this. He said that the Tax Assessor should come before the Council in order to answer the complaints. Appeals to the courts have gone unanswered. Atty. Anastasi said that there was a safety value called the appeal process.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia then announced that Mr. Walker was on break from the Planning and Zoning meeting that was in session.

**121-07 – Appointment of Reginald Walker to the Planning and Zoning Commission.
CONT'D**

Mr. Walker introduced himself and said that he was a lifelong Bridgeport resident and worked for the City as a staff member in Planning and Zoning Department. He said that he was interested in the planning process.

Council Member Walsh objected because the item was not properly before the Committee because the term expires on December 31, 2008. He then read the ordinance. Mr. McClain replied that the idea was to appoint Mr. Walker temporarily and then make it permanent. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the memo said that Mr. Walker was filling the position vacated by Alan Kennedy, which would expire on December 31, 2008. Council Member Brannelly had suggested that the item be tabled until the questions were answered, but no questions were submitted to Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia. Council Member Walsh objected to this and said that the Committee had no way of knowing which term Mr. Walker was filling and also whether it was a permanent or temporary position.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 121-07 – APPOINTMENT OF REGINALD WALKER TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Baker asked if Mr. Walker was on Redevelopment. Mr. Walker stated that he had resigned from that position.

Council Member Walsh asked if Mr. Walker was the director of Hall House. Mr. Walker said that he was. Council Member Walsh then asked if Mr. Walker had ever received any City Funding. Mr. Walker said no. Council Member Walsh demanded to know whether Mr. Walker would ever apply for City funding or CDBG funding. Mr. Walker said that he would not be applying for City funding personally, but his organization might. Council Member Walsh then asked Mr. Walker to state that Hall House would not apply for any City funding because Council Member Walsh claimed this was a conflict of interest. Mr. Walker refused.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 121-07 – APPOINTMENT OF REGINALD WALKER TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION PASSED WITH FIVE IN FAVOR (SANTIAGO, BRANNELLY, BLUNT, PAOLETTO, AND MARTINEZ) AND ONE OPPOSED (WALSH).**

Following the conclusion of the vote, the Committee then returned to Agenda Item 143-07

**143-07 – Resolution calling for the Termination of the Tax Assessor and Assistant.
CONT'D**

Council Member Martinez said that he did not have the paperwork but he said that he had heard the complaints.

Council Member Paoletto suggested that the matter be tabled in order to insure that everyone has the appropriate paperwork and also to have the Tax Assessor present at the next Committee meeting.

There was a brief discussion about the process involved in bringing the resolution to the Council.

Council Member Brannelly pointed out that Customer Service was a major issue and that it would be important to have due process. She said that this issue would be Mr. Nunn's problem. She asked who the Tax Assessor's boss was. Atty. Anastasi said that it was correct that Mr. Nunn would be the one overseeing this.

Council Member Brannelly said that it would be important to follow the rules. She then said that bringing the issue to Committee to have an employee fired was wrong. If this is a customer service, then it needs to be dealt with. Council Member Holloway said that it was about inflating the grand list. Atty. Anastasi said that there was no proof that there was any concerted or intentional to inflate the mill rate for any reason. In the past administration and current administration is to aggressively assess property. To spread the impression that there is a plot to inflate the mill rate is wrong.

Council Member Lyons came forward and said that it would be a good idea to table this and have the proper people present, including Mr. Nunn. She said that she had heard the complaints and that it would be important to have the individuals attend with the documentation. She said that it would be important to have the evidence of the problem rather than just antidotal stories.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO TABLE 143-07 –
RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE TERMINATION OF THE TAX ASSESSOR
AND ASSISTANT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT MR. NUNN AND THE
TAX ASSESSOR, BILL O'BRIEN, WOULD BE PRESENT AT THE NEXT
MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Atty. Anastasi pointed out that the Committee did not have jurisdiction over the tax documents and that the Committee would be dealing with someone's employment.

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 143-07 – RESOLUTION
CALLING FOR THE TERMINATION OF THE TAX ASSESSOR AND**

ASSISTANT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT MR. NUNN AND THE TAX ASSESSOR, BILL O'BRIEN, WOULD BE PRESENT AT THE NEXT MEETING PASSED WITH FIVE IN FAVOR (SANTIAGO, BRANNELLY, BLUNT, PAOLETTO, AND MARTINEZ) AND ONE OPPOSED (WALSH).

145-07 –Two (2) New Positions – Director of Public Safety Communications and Deputy Director of Public Safety Communications.

Council Member Paoletto left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Ralph Jacobs came forward and gave a brief overview of Section 206(d) of the Bridgeport City Charter. This step is to actually create the positions of Director of Public Safety communication and Deputy Director of Public Safety Communications. The City was fortunate to have the opportunity to create these positions. There was a brief discussion about this issue and how it had been presented to the Council.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 145-07 –TWO (2) NEW POSITIONS – DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (SANTIAGO, BRANNELLY, BLUNT, AND MARTINEZ) AND ONE OPPOSED (WALSH).**

153-07 – Suit Settlement for: Judith Politano vs. the City of Bridgeport.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LITIGATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Miscellaneous Matters Committee entered into Executive Session to discuss a suit settlement at 7:17 p.m.

Council Member Paoletto rejoined the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

The Miscellaneous Matters Committee reconvened into public session at 7:30 p.m.

Atty. Anastasi stated for the record that assuming the matter is confirmed by the Committee, the source of the funding would be from Board of Education accounts. If this is not so then Atty. Anastasi would advise the full Council about this in executive session prior to Council vote on August 4th.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 153-07 – SUIT SETTLEMENT FOR: JUDITH POLITANO VS. THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT WITH THE STIPULATION THAT THE SETTLEMENT COME FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTS AS STATED BY CITY ATTORNEY ANASTASI.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested that this be placed on the consent calendar.

154-07 Request to have timely updates and post of City Boards and Commission information on the City of Bridgeport Web Site.

Council Member Baker gave a brief overview and said that he had been on Misc. Matter last year and that there had been several problems regarding the updating of lists regarding the Boards and Commissions. It is necessary to have some respect and order for the Web Site and the updates are correct. These updates need to be given to the Council, the City Clerk and other pertinent information as the mayor's office. Council Member Baker said that there were a number of people who were serving on multiple Boards and Commissions. The City needs to open up the process to allow others to serve also. He reminded everyone that there would be conflicts of interest and it would be important to be aware of this. It is important to show the City of Bridgeport that the Council members are making this a fair and just process.

Council Member Brannelly asked about whether the Council had the ability to restrict the number of positions that an individual could hold at the same time. Atty. Anastasi said that he believe the state statute was amended 12 years and does allow individuals to have various positions on most of the boards. There are some exceptions by State statute.

Council Member Walsh said that he was in favor of this resolution. He said that someone could not serve on the Council and a Board of Commission at the same time. He said that he believe that there was an unwritten rule that someone could not be on two boards at the same time, like Mr. Walker who was on Planning and Zoning and Redevelopment at the same time. Atty. Anastasi said that the U.S. Constitution guaranteed that right.

Council Member Martinez said that he was somewhat uncomfortable with a resolution that demands the Administration to update the lists, and restricts the membership of the Commissions. He added that there have been instances where Boards and Commission have had vacancies that were difficult to fill. At the end of the day, every single appointment comes through Misc. Matters and every resident has the right to be on a Board or a Commission.

Council Member Holloway said that he believe it was important to have the vacant positions filled. However, there is a potential conflict of issues when someone is on a Town Committee and on a Commission.

Council Member Lyons said that she did not have a problem with the timely updating of the website. She then asked if Council Member Baker had checked with the Mayor about the Town Committee members and others are chosen for the vacancies on Boards. Council Member Baker said that he had spoken to the Mayor about this and that it appeared that the same people were serving in multiple positions. Council Member Lyons said that everyone in Bridgeport is encouraged to be involved in the community. She pointed out that some people enter into the political arena by being on the Town Committee and have earned the right to being appointed to a Commission or Board.

Atty. Anastasi suggested that the motion be tabled until he can get copies of his previous opinion to the Committee members.

Council Member Paoletto said that he was a City Council member and also a City employee. He pointed out that he had spoken to State official about this. He said that he believe in 100% in the updating of the Website because this has been going on for years. He said that he gives Council Member Baker credit for bringing this to light.

Council Member Blunt said that he believe that Council Member Baker expressed the core of the proposal which is involving the public. There is a perception of only a certain group being involved. He said that he believe that everyone was in agreement about the updating of the Web Site. He reminded everyone that all the appointment do come through this Committee. He said that he believed that the committee may have the authority to enact an local ordinance.

Council Member Walsh said that he was at the point where he would not object to tabling it tonight. The City has 140 thousand residents. If the City wishes to go out and allow residents to apply for vacancies on the Boards and Commission, they should.

Mr. McClain said that an ad was planned for publication in the newspapers by the Mayor's Office about the vacancies on Commissions and Boards. Atty. Anastasi said that this would be a second good reason to table the issue.

Council Member Walsh said that life was a matter of choices and that members need to chose between which committee they want to serve on. Council Member Baker thanked everyone for their comments and that all the resolutions that are put forth receive good input from everyone. He hoped that it would end up being the best resolution for the City.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 154-07 REQUEST TO HAVE TIMELY UPDATES AND POST OF CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSION INFORMATION ON THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT WEB SITE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia noted that Mr. Weichsel had arrived at the meeting.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO WITHDRAW HIS EARLIER MOTION TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 123-07 -- APPOINTMENT OF HARRY WEICHSEL (U) TO THE ETHICS COMMITTEE BECAUSE MR. WEICHSEL WAS NOW PRESENT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Weichsel said that he lives in Bridgeport and has family in business in Bridgeport. Presently he is a commercial broker. He then listed a number of projects that he was involved in. He said that the Mayor has asked him if he wished to be involved on a Commission. Mr. Weichsel gave a very brief overview of his involvement in some of the various programs, including the tennis program, in the City. He then read the definition of "Ethics" as listed in Webster's Dictionary.

Council Member Paoletto said that he had a comment and went on to say that his background stands for itself.

Council Member Lyons said that she had known Mr. Weichsel for years and that he was not on the Town Committee. Mr. Weichsel said that he had decided to become unaffiliated because he was involved in the Grass Roots Tennis program and did not wish it to become a political issue.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM AGENDA ITEM 123-07 -- APPOINTMENT OF HARRY WEICHSEL (U) TO THE ETHICS COMMITTEE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 121-07 – 123-07 --**

APPOINTMENT OF HARRY WEICHSEL (U) TO THE ETHICS COMMITTEE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 25, 2008**

ATTENDANCE: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Chair; Susan Brannelly, Warren Blunt, Daniel Martinez, Ezequiel Santiago (5:37 p.m.)

OTHERS: Marie Valle, Council Member, James Holloway, Council Member Andrew Nunn, Chief Administrative Office; Michael Feeney, Finance Department Director; Tyrone McClain, Mayor's Office, Jose Ortiz, Michelle Lyon, Mark Anastasi, City Attorney; Leticia Colon, Council Member, M. Evette Brantley, Council Member; Richard Bonney, Council Member

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 28, 2008

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia announced the date of the minutes on the agenda was incorrect and that she was going to have this corrected before the minutes were approved.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE THE COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR JULY 28, 2008.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

154-07 Resolution to request timely updating and posting of City Boards and Commission information on the City of Bridgeport Web Site.

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia said that Council Member Baker had called and informed her that he would be out of town and requested that the item be tabled.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE 154-07 RESOLUTION TO REQUEST TIMELY UPDATING AND POSTING OF CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSION INFORMATION ON THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT WEB SITE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

144-07 Appointment of Jose Ortiz (R) to WPCA Commission.

Mr. Ortiz came forward and explained that he was a resident of Bridgeport for the last fifty year. He gave a brief overview of his work and He said that he is committed to the City of Bridgeport and felt it was time to contribute to the City.

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia said that Mr. Ortiz was filling a vacancy and that there were not problems with the Tax Assessor or any other outstanding bills.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BLUNT MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 144-07 APPOINTMENT OF JOSE ORTIZ (R) TO WPCA COMMISSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

143-07 Resolution Called for Termination of the Tax Assessor and Assistant

Attorney Anastasi came forward and distributed a copy of his opinion regarding this issue dated August 25, 2008 to the Committee members. Council Member Martinez said that it was quite clear that there were issues in the City Tax Assessor's office and asked how the administration planned to deal with this problem. Atty. Anastasi said that it would be important to have clarification of the word "issues". Council Member Martinez said that the issue was customer service and that he thought the issue should be tabled until the Tax Assessor was present. Atty. Anastasi said for the record, that the residents were coming into the office with problems and that the handling of this matter should be directed to the administration.

Council Member Martinez stated that there is a customer service issue and that he wanted it fixed. Mr. Nunn said that many of the issues have been brought to the administration's attention and that it would be important to establish whether it is an issue of late payments or customer service. The Mayor's office would like to do some general education about how to appeal the personal property taxes. Mr. Feeney also agreed.

Atty. Anastasi pointed out that if someone misses a deadline, the Tax Assessor must level fines by law. Council Member Brannelly agreed that there was a need to improve the customer service in the Tax Assessor's. She then asked if CityStat would help to improve this. Mr. Nunn said that he believed that the dates and deadlines were the biggest problems. Knowing when to file an appeal is very important and more outreach should be done.

Council Member Holloway said that the Tax Assessor works for Mr. Feeney. Council Member Holloway said that he felt that the Tax Assessor should have been present because the only person who could speak for the Tax Assessor was the Tax Assessor. Council Member Holloway pointed out that the problem had started long before Mr. Feeney had taken on his position.

Council Member Holloway said that the residents were the taxpayers of the City and that their taxes pay the salaries for all the City employees. Council Member Holloway said that the residents need to be treated with respect. Atty. Anastasi agreed.

Council Member Holloway then went on to give one example when someone had been treated poorly and that the Tax Assessor's Assistant was acting very unprofessional.

Council Member Santiago arrived at 5:37 p.m.

Council Member Holloway then gave another example where the increase in the taxes between one year and the next was incredible, even though the physical production was done in China now, and not in Bridgeport.

Council Member Holloway said that he believe that the tax base was over inflated. Council Member Holloway said that if he spoke to the residents in the same manner that the Tax Assessor does, he'd be fired.

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had requested that the Tax Assessor to attend the meeting. Atty. Anastasi said that everyone was in agreement that it was important to treat all the residents respectfully. However, he said that he pointed out that the comment regarding the grand list being over-inflated needed to be looked at more closely. Atty. Anastasi said that there was no insidious plan to over-inflate.

Mr. Feeney said that someone went out to the property that Council Member Holloway referred to and it had been reassessed.

Council Member Brantley said that there had been a suggestion to table the item until the Tax Assessor was present and that she would like to hold the questions until that time.

Council Member Brantley asked if Mr. McClain was in charge of the Constituent Concerns. Council Member Brantley asked when Mr. O'Brien's contract was up. Mr. Nunn said that his contact would be up in February of 2009. Council Member Brantley then gave an example of one problem.

Council Member Brantley then asked about the re-evaluation process. Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia said that the re-evaluation was noticed in the newspaper. She also asked if the lists of deadlines for tax payments be sent to the Council Members.

Council Member Brannelly said that the various examples were individual examples and needed to be handled on a case-by-case basis. Council Member Brannelly said that she disagreed about having Mr. O'Brien present at a meeting. She said that this was micro managing and that it was Mr. Feeney's and Mr. Nunn's job to see that the situation was corrected.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO DENY THE RESOLUTION 143-07.**

**** THE MOTION FAILED DUE TO LACK OF SECOND.**

Council Member Blunt said that he was disappointed that the Tax Assessor was not present. He then asked if there has been any type of work evaluation over the last year. Mr. Feeney said that he did not know, because he was only in the position for the last six months.

Mr. Feeney said that one of the major issues was personal property and that assessment is handled by a third party.

Council Member Martinez said that while he understood Council Member Brannelly's reason for moving to deny the motion, it was not his intent to badger Mr. O'Brien. If Council Member Martinez Had known that Mr. O'Brien was not going to be present, he would have gone down to speak with him at his office.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE RESOLUTION 143-07.**

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia then reviewed the fact that the Council did not have the authority to demand Mr. O'Brien and reminded everyone that a motion to table was non-debatable.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE IN FAVOR (BLUNT, MARTINEZ AND SANTIAGO) AND ONE OPPOSED (BRANNELLY).**

Mr. Nunn said that he appreciated all the comments and would be addressing this issue.

157-07 Suit Settlement for: Paul Lenihan

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ORDER TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION.**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Committee and Attorney Anastasi entered into executive session at 5:59 p.m. Council Member Walsh joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m. The Committee returned to public session at 6:10 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BLUNT MOVED TO APPROVE THE SUIT SETTLEMENT FOR: PAUL LENIHAN.**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2008**

ATTENDANCE: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Chairwoman; Richard Paoletto, Ezequiel Santiago, Council President McCarthy; Robert Walsh (6:15 p.m.); Susan Brannelly (6:15 p.m.); Daniel Martinez (6:22 p.m.)

OTHERS: Joseph Ianniello, Atty. Mark Anastasi, Council Member Michelle Lyons, Council Member Maria Valle, Police Chief Brian Norwood, Ralph Jacobs, Civil Service Commission Director; William O'Brien, Tax Assessor; Michael Feeney, Finance Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

163-07 Appointment of Joseph W. Ianniello (R) to the Ethics Committee.

Mr. Ianniello came forward and greeted the Committee. Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia apologized to the Committee and said that she had forgotten the paperwork for Mr. Ianniello at home.

Mr. Ianniello said that he lived on Palmforth Street. And has been a resident almost all of his life. He is retired now and has served on a number of Commissions, including the Police Commission and various others. He explained that he was up for reappointment to the Ethics Commission due to a glitch in the paperwork.

Council Member Paoletto said that he did not know Mr. Ianniello personally, but that he was a friend of Council Member Paoletto's family. Pending any other questions from the other members, he would make a motion to approve.

Council Member Walsh joined the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Council Member Brannelly said that Mr. Ianniello was a neighbor and has made tremendous contributions to the community.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH W. IANNIELLO (R) TO THE ETHICS COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

154-07 Resolution to request timely updating and posting of City Boards and Commission information on the City of Bridgeport Web Site.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 154-07 RESOLUTION TO REQUEST TIMELY UPDATING AND POSTING OF CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSION INFORMATION ON THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT WEB SITE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chief Norwood joined the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

166-07 - New Position: Police Department – Assistant Chief of Police

Mr. Jacobs, the Personnel Director, distributed copies of a letter dated October 1, 2008, regarding the creation of an Assistant Chief of Police.

Council Member Martinez joined the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Atty. Anastasi reminded the Committee that the City Attorney interprets the Charter not the Personnel Director.

Mr. Jacobs said that on August 13, 2008, he had sent a letter to the Council about the creation of a position for the Assistant Chief of Police. He said that he is in charge of applying the Charter as it pertains to the Personnel. There were conditions that were later attached to the job description by the City Attorney. He explained that he had recommended that the position should be non-competitive. However, the Mayor contacted the Council members and the item was sent back to the Committee.

Council President McCarthy asked Mr. Jacobs about his concerns about the non-competitive status. Mr. Jacobs said that there are municipalities that do test for the position.

Atty. Anastasi said that the referral was from the Civil Service Commission, not from the Personnel Director. He said that he felt that Mr. Jacobs was undermining the Commission's decision. Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia cautioned everyone to refer to others by their respectful titles. Mr. Jacobs then said that he was responsible to the Commission. Atty. Anastasi said that it was the job of the Personnel Director to act as a secretary to the Commission.

Council Member Walsh asked for clarification about the phrase “not practicable to determine the relative merit and fitness of applicant by competitive examination.” Mr. Jacobs said the Chief’s position was competitively determined, as are the others, so that a non-competitive position would be sandwiched between two competitive positions. Atty. Anastasi repeated that it was up to the Commission to decide, not the Personnel Director.

Council Member Walsh asked if there were examples where there were positions that did not have a testing requirement. Mr. Jacobs then gave an example of a position in the print shop that did not have a testing requirement. He said that there had been a number of positions moved from competitive to non-competitive status. He also commented that he had advised the Commission not to make the position non-competitive, but that they had voted to do this anyway.

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia then said that she did not have a copy of the statement with her. Mr. Jacobs then gave Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia a copy of the document.

Atty. Anastasi said that there was a host of positions in the City that are non-competitive positions. He said that the key point was not what Mr. Jacobs thinks, but that he was directly undermining what the Commission had decided to do.

Council Member Brannelly asked for clarification of “not practicable”. It was explained to her that it was a legal term used in the Charter.

Council President McCarthy asked Atty. Anastasi about the Personnel Director’s statement that it was “illegal”. Atty. Anastasi then pointed out that the Chief would need a right hand man, someone that he could rely on. Council President McCarthy asked Atty. Anastasi whether he believed the action to be illegal. Atty. Anastasi said that he did not think it was illegal. Council President McCarthy said that the Commission had determined by unanimous vote that this position should be non-competitive. Council President McCarthy said that he believes that while it could be feasible to have a test, he felt that he would that it was not wise to do so.

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia expressed concerns about the creation of the job and finding the funding for this. Council President McCarthy then reviewed the details of the process.

Council Member Brannelly asked for clarification as to what the Committee was being asked to do. Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia said that the Committee was being asked to create the position, not to fill it.

Council Member Paoletto said that he agreed with Council President McCarthy and that the Committee needed to rein themselves in and focus on why they were present. They have been asked about the position and only the position. The Civil Service Commission has voted on a course of action. The Committee was being asked to verify the

Commission's vote, not the funding of the positions, or who the applicant will be. He stated that he would be voting yes for the resolution.

Mr. Jacobs said that he had never seen a request come to the Council with strings attached to it or where it was decided in advance that the positions would be non-competitive.

The Committee then asked Chief Norwood to come forward and speak to them about this issue. Chief Norwood asked if the Committee could go into Executive Session to discuss an issue related to public safety.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS ISSUES REGARDING PUBLIC SAFETY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Committee entered into Executive Session with Chief Norwood, Mr. Jacobs, and Atty. Anastasi present at 6:58 p.m.

The Committee returned to Public Session at 7:05 p.m.

Council Member Walsh asked about the earlier phrase and Council President McCarthy's interpretation of it. Council President McCarthy then reviewed the phrase. Council Member Walsh objected to this and said that the job description would be driving the determination of whether a position should be competitive or not. Council Member Walsh then asked what would stop the Civil Service Commission from creating another position answering to the Assistant Chief who answers to the Chief.

Atty. Anastasi explained that this was the only position that was removed from the bargaining unit. He added that the Chief had requested a partner in his work. Atty. Anastasi pointed out that the Council was creating a position, but that the details of the job were for others to decide.

Chief Norwood said that over the last two and half years he had demonstrated his level of trustworthiness. He said that it is important to have some positions outside of the bargaining unit to manage the department.

Council Member Brannelly said that the Civil Service was the one that was making the recommendation with the additional conditions. She then asked if this would undermine the Civil Service Department. Mr. Jacobs explained that the Civil Service Commission had decided something that would ultimately undermine the Civil Service.

Council Member Valle said that she felt that the Chief needed help, particularly in light of the discovery of a firearm at Harding.

Council Member Lyons then asked about the fact that this was position was not part of the bargaining unit. Atty. Anastasi said that it would provide two levels of independence, one freedom from the bargaining unit and the second being someone who not only has the necessary qualifications but also with the same vision.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 166-07 - NEW POSITION: POLICE DEPARTMENT – ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (PAOLETTO, SANTIAGO, MARTINEZ, AND BRANNELLY) AND ONE OPPOSED (WALSH).**

Council President McCarthy and Council Member Brannelly left the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

143-07 Resolution calling for termination of the Tax Assessor and Assistant.

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia asked Council Member Walsh if he was the author of the resolution. She reminded everyone that Mr. O'Brien is an appointee. Because of this, the Committee does not have jurisdiction. Council Member Walsh said the resolution has come from constituents but that he had put his name to it. He added that the Committee could send a recommendation to the Mayor to remove the Tax Assessor and suggested that perhaps this should be done.

Council Member Paoletto said that he did not believe that the item should be before the Committee. The input should be passed along, but hiring and firing of individuals have no place before the Committee. He said that he understood that the Council is elected to representing their constituents. However, there are other ways and means for dealing with this issue.

Council Member Martinez thanked Mr. O'Brien for attending. He said that there were issues for various Council Members regarding complaints from constituents who had difficulty getting corrections in terms of tax assessment. Council Member Martinez went on to say that he believe there may be some customer service issues, aside from the actual tax issues.

Mr. O'Brien came forward and said that he had prepared copies of documents for the Committee. The memo was dated September 30, 2008 from Mr. O'Brien to Whom It May Concern. Mr. O'Brien then gave a brief overview of situation of the grand list in assessor's office when he arrived. He pointed out that there are still major compliance issues in Bridgeport.

The Statutes require that the Assessor place a value on the property when he has not received a response to inquires. Mr. O'Brien added that he does have set hours on Wednesdays for those residents who have documentation to come to his office to discuss the matter. Approximately 137 taxpayers came to the office after July 1st to discuss their tax bills. Resolutions were then reached in all of those cases. He then reviewed the process, but also informed the Committee that the Office frequently has had to call the police to remove someone from the office.

Mr. O'Brien then passed around a listing of 2007 Personal Property Certificates of Corrections to the Committee.

One of the comments that had been made at a previous time was that after the Board of Assessment Appeals makes a decision that is later changed by Mr. O'Brien's office. Mr. O'Brien said that this never happens. Whatever the Board decides stands. After July 1st, the Assessor is not obligated to do anything for the taxpayer.

Council Member Santiago asked about the motor vehicles assessment. Mr. O'Brien explained that after twenty-seven months, due to State statutes, the assessor can not make adjustments to a tax bill when a resident has disposed of a vehicle.

Mr. O'Brien then passed out copies of Personal Property Court Stipulations for 2006 Grand List, and copies of 2007 Board of Assessment Appeals for the March Hearings. He added that when he arrived there were 100 court cases left over from 2002. An additional 400 cases have been handled since then and now the number of remaining cases is down to 30. He said that he aggressively pursued the court cases because there was a 40% ruling against the City. Now that percentage is down to 7%.

Council Member Santiago had another question about those who have vehicles that are not registered in the City. Mr. O'Brien reviewed the details of the situation with the Committee.

The discussion then moved to antique automobiles and how they are assessed. Mr. O'Brien explained that previously, vehicles were reduced to \$500 regardless of whether they are antiques or not. Antique plates are obtained simply by application. When the vehicles are modified in any way, they are then assessed at the market value. If the vehicle meets the requirement and has the plates, it can only be assessed at \$500.

Atty. Anastasi commented that the Tax Assessor is aware of the fact that there are numerous State Statutes that mandate actions. Mr. O'Brien said that when the City goes to Court, the adherence to the Statutes serves the City well. Atty. Anastasi explained that the law is crafted to prevent forgiveness to one resident and not another. Part of the statutory obligation is to insure a fair and equitable assessment across the board.

Council Member Martinez thanked Mr. O'Brien for bringing forward the information. He then asked if there were inefficiencies in the area of Customer Service, and what the plans were to improve this. Mr. O'Brien said that there had been some significant changes in the staff since his arrival. He also encourages continued education in Customer Service. The current staff, Mr. O'Brien believes the staff is professional and patient. He added that there was an incident where the Fire Department had to be called in to extract a resident who had tried to grab a staff member from underneath the glass and became stuck.

Council Member Martinez said that many people are unaware of how to handle the issues and that there are instances where people blow things out of proportion. He said that he appreciated Mr. O'Brien clarifying the issues.

Council Member Walsh then asked for explanation of one of the documents. Mr. O'Brien reviewed the figures with the Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 143-07 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR TERMINATION OF THE TAX ASSESSOR AND ASSISTANT.**

**** THE MOTION FAILED DUE TO LACK OF A SECOND.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO DENY AGENDA ITEM 143-07 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR TERMINATION OF THE TAX ASSESSOR AND ASSISTANT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE IN FAVOR (PAOLETTO, SANTIAGO, AND MARTINEZ) AND ONE OPPOSED (WALSH).**

Approval of the Special Committee Minutes of August 25, 2008

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE THE APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES OF AUGUST 25, 2008.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

170-07 – Worker's Compensation Stipulation between City of Bridgeport and Mr. Mark Fabrizi.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Committee entered into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation at 8:15 p.m. with Attorney Anastasi and returned to public session at 8:50 p.m.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 170-07 – WORKER’S COMPENSATION STIPULATION BETWEEN CITY OF BRIDGEPORT AND MR. MARK FABRIZI PENDING MORE INFORMATION.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**MINUTES
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 27, 2008**

ATTENDANCE: Amy Marie Vizzo-Paniccia, Chair; Rich Paoletto; E. Santiago; S.T. Brannelly; Warren Blunt (6:20), Robert Walsh (6:50).

OTHERS: Gail Solis; Tyrone McClain, Mayor's Office; Councilmember Brantley; Mark Anastasi, City Attorney; Ralph Jacobs, Director, Civil Service Commission; Tom Coble, OPED/Anti Blight Office; Mr. Eversley.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by the Chair.

**APPROVAL OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: OCTOBER 1,
2008**

- ** MR. PAOLETTO MOVED TO TABLE.
- ** MR. SANTIAGO SECONDED.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**APPOINTMENT OF GAIL SOLIS (D) TO THE PLANNING & ZONING
COMMISSION**

Ms. Solis said she was born and raised in Bridgeport. She offered her services to the Mayor and Planning & Zoning was an area in which she believed she could make progress. She was concerned about how³ the Eckert's Street project was handled.

Mr. Paoletto said he has known Ms. Solis for many years. She brings a lot to the table and will be a good fit and a tremendous asset to the City. He looks forward to working with her. She is trustworthy and ethical.

Mr. Santiago asked Ms. Solis if she knows that the P&Z Commission is very into guidelines and regulations. What experiences does she bring or would she be learning on the job? Ms. Solis said she would be learning on the job. She has many years of banking experience, so she has experience with guidelines and regulations.

Ms. Brannelly asked if Ms. Solis would be representing the business community or the citizens, and if there was a potential conflict. Ms. Solis said that the Ethics Committee had asked that question. She is a citizen first and foremost. Re the Business Council, Ms. Solis said she had explained to the Ethics Committee that they have businesses from Greenwich to Danbury and New London, and not all are concentrated in Bridgeport. She can be objective enough to make decisions based on the facts.

Attorney Anastasi said that the Ethics Committee, which he had attended, had concern that the business community offering support would be a conflict to Ms. Solis, and the answer was a clear no. Ms. Solis is not responsive to any one customer or entity filing a petition. The Ethics Commission was satisfied that Ms. Solis has the qualifications.

- ** MR. PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPOINT GAIL SOLIS TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.
- ** MR. SANTIAGO SECONDED.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

At 6:20 p.m., Mr. Blunt arrived at the meeting.

**RESOLUTION TO REQUEST TIMELY UPDATING AND POSTING OF CITY
BOARDS AND COMMISSION INFORMATION ON THE CITY OF
BRIDGEPORT WEB SITE**

The Chair noted that the maker of this resolution was not present.

Mr. Paoletto said they have heard this issue previously. Administration has done their due diligence and will continue to keep it updated. To keep this going on and on is ridiculous.

Mr. Santiago said he agreed. The initial intent has been achieved. Another part was added, which many Councilmembers were against, but it has not been moved forward. They should vote this down.

Mr. Blunt said there is nothing wrong with the basic resolution and they should consider it.

Mr. Paoletto said he had no issue with the resolution. It did its job, but they should not keep this going.

Mr. Santiago said that Mr. Blunt made a point and there was no harm in moving the resolution forward.

The Chair said she did not have documentation of the amendment. Andre has not contacted her in for the last two meetings.

Attorney Anastasi said something is moot when it is no longer relevant and should be withdrawn. Pushing it forward puts them in an adversarial position with administration.

Mr. McClain said this is the third time he has come to this committee. They have been cooperative. This is a moot point. He passed out a memo on the process of updating the web site along with the letter from Mr. Walsh and the response, as well as a listing of board and commission lists. He said that there were problems initially but now this is a process.

Attorney Anastasi said there is no disagreement that the intent and substance of the resolution is agreed to by everyone. This committee would deny this resolution now because it is no longer necessary.

Mr. Blunt said this is nothing personal but insures for the future that it is updated.

Attorney Anastasi said it is important to note that while the Council is concerned about getting appropriate information from the administration, this should not become a turf battle.

**** MR. PAOLETTO MOVED TO DENY THE RESOLUTION.
** MS. BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

Mr. Blunt asked if it would be reasonable to allow Andre to withdraw this resolution. The Chair said he has been contact for the last two meetings. Attorney Anastasi said he can withdraw the resolution after the committee votes.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION (MR. BLUNT).**

**NEW POSITION: OPED/OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION –
CONDEMNATION/ANTI-BLIGHT SPECIALIST**

Mr. Jacobs said that the Civil Service Commission had voted to create this position on September 9th.

Mr. Eversley said this position is critical to a stepped-up effort in Anti-Blight, which is a priority. This provides a dedicated person to do the original intake on a blighted property. They will be able to respond to requests from OPED, Council members, the Mayor's Office, etc. Armed with new mobile technology, this person would be able to start a file immediately on the site, take photos and electronically send that information to colleagues, who can then follow up. It will move blight citations to more speedy resolution.

Ms. Brannelly asked the salary range. Mr. Coble said the request was based on the salary of \$41,000. Mr. Jacobs said that was a reasonable expectation.

Mr. Santiago told Mr. Coble that the salary sounds reasonable and asked what he can expect to be different other than the turnaround time. Mr. Coble said there will be more technology. The inspectors will be out all morning and in the office using the technology all afternoon. Anyone who calls in a complaint will see it within the system in 48 hours. If this system is put into play, they will hopefully clear up all backlogs. Mr. Jacobs said this is part of an effort to get the City departments off of pen and paper and onto technology.

Mr. Blunt said he is familiar with the blight program and the job that is being done in a quality way. He definitely appreciates technology. He asked the personnel breakdown.

Miscellaneous Matters Committee

October 27, 2008

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Mr. Coble said he has a neighborhood specialist, an admin, a part time temporary person handling condemnation and blight. There are three people plus interns. Mr. Blunt asked if this would be a grant position; the answer was negative. Mr. Blunt said they want quality people in this position and asked if \$41,000 was enough. Mr. Eversley said compensation would have to be negotiated with the union.

The Chair said that, through the budget process, they will be laying off people. This is creating another position with added benefits. She said that they want to grow but they will hear it from their constituents. Creating another position will be difficult.

Attorney Anastasi said while this program is not intended as a revenue-generating process, it is intended to cover expenses; creating a higher quality of life through fines that would go into the general fund. The enforcement effort, the appeals process and the collection effort is now up to speed.

The Chair asked Mr. Coble for documentation as to collection. Mr. Coble said they are doing better. The Chair asked for a breakdown to go to the full Council. Attorney Anastasi said he would also ask Mr. Liskov for a projection as to future collections.

At 6:50 p.m., Mr. Walsh arrived at the meeting.

Ms. Brannelly inquired about the other positions in this office.

Ms. Brantley asked the committee to support this request. They have done a lot in her district.

- ** MR. SANTIAGO MOVED TO APPROVE THE NEW POSITION OF CONDEMNATION/ANTI BLIGHT SPECIALIST.
- ** MS. BRANNELLY SECONDED.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

WORKER'S COMPENSATION STIPULATION BETWEEN CITY OF BRIDGEPORT AND MR. MARK FABRIZI

Attorney Anastasi asked that this be tabled as he had not received all of the information.

- ** MR. PAOLETTO MOVED TO TABLE.
- ** MS. BRANNELLY SECONDED.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- ** MR. PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN.
- ** MR. SANTIAGO SECONDED.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Telesco
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2008**

ATTENDANCE: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Chair; Richard Paoletto, Robert Walsh.

OTHERS: Andre Baker, T. McClain, Mayor's Office.

At 6:15 p.m. the Chair announced that the meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services