

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 28, 2011**

**ATTENDANCE:** Richard Paoletto, Chair; Robert Curwen, Martin McCarthy,  
Howard Austin, Warren Blunt

**STAFF:** Atty. Edward Schmidt; Janet Finch, Atty. Mark Anastasi

**OTHERS:** Atty Steven Mednick, Joseph Ianniello, Council Member Andre Baker;  
Council Member Angel dePara, Council Member Carlos Silva, Thomas  
Sherwood, OPM Director; Council Member Susan Brannelly, Council  
Member John Olsen

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Paoletto called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES: October 25, 2011**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 25, 2011.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES: November 7, 2011**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON NOVEMBER 7, 2011.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**22-11 Proposed Resolution to review the procedures for Council Member's Expense Reimbursements.**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 22-11 PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO REVIEW THE PROCEDURES FOR COUNCIL MEMBER'S EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**31-11 Proposed Resolution concerning the Appointment of Members of the Charter Revision Commission for the City of Bridgeport.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 31-11 PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.**

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

**13-11 - Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Codes of Ordinance, amend Section 15.12.250 Rental Conditions - Certificate of Apartment Occupancy**

Council Member Paoletto handed out copies of the resolution to those present. Discussion about the revisions regarding the requirement for a Certificate of Occupancy for any rental structure with three or more units followed. The revision will remove all exemptions in the current ordinance and allow the Housing Inspectors to review all rental structures. Last year, there was a tragic death of a fire fighter. There are also reports of illegal apartments in basements or store fronts. The proposed ordinance has nothing to do with vacant structures only rental units that are non-owner occupied. This is to protect the residents of the City. Many units are off the radar because of the current requirements.

Council Member Paoletto said that he had spoken to the Fire Marshal and other about this. The life of the certificate only lasts through the time that the tenant is in residence. Once a tenant vacates, then an inspection has to take place again. The discussion then moved to personnel and whether there is enough staff to cover.

Council Member Paoletto said that he has worked on related issues with Ms. Gains from the Lead Prevention Program. With the new amendments the inspectors will have access to the entire building including the attic and basement areas. Overcrowding is also a problem. Council Member Paoletto said that he currently has three vacant staff positions in his department. However, starting up the program will increase the safety for the residents.

Atty. Anastasi pointed out that the current wording would also include single family units and this could place legal liability on the City if the inspections do not occur in a timely manner. Council Member Paoletto said that he had not expected this to pass in one night and that the point was to start the discussion.

Council Member Paoletto said that following a vacancy, the Certificate of Occupancy [C.O.] would be good for 6 months. If the apartment is still vacant after 6 months, then the landlord needs to re-apply for a new C.O. The discussion moved to possibly including a requirement for rodent control contracts.

A question was asked about the policing aspect of this ordinance. Council Member Paoletto said that he was planning to start the program in three or six months. Discussion followed about the details.

It was pointed out that there were numerous homes in the North End where students are living. Often, after the tenants leave, there are major repairs required.

A question was asked about whether this would include Section 8. Council Member Paoletto reviewed the details of Housing Code and how it applies to Section 8 units. Further discussion about this occurred.

The discussion then moved to whether other municipalities charge a fee for the C.O. inspections. Council Member Paoletto said that the usual fee was \$80.00. However, currently the Housing Authority can only inspect when there has been a complaint.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 13-11 - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODES OF ORDINANCE, AMEND SECTION 15.12.250 RENTAL CONDITIONS - CERTIFICATE OF APARTMENT OCCUPANCY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.**

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

**18-11 Proposed amendment to Municipal Codes of Ordinances Chapter 2.36, amend Section 2.36.010, Officers' and Unaffiliated Employee Salaries.**

Mr. Sherwood indicated that the ordinance needed to be updated. The last time it was updated was in 2009. He reviewed the changes and updates in the job titles. Most of these changes are simply the clarification of the position titles, such as changing "Advantage Coordinator" to "Financial Coordinator", since the Advantage computer program is no longer used by the City. The grid reflects the positions with the current pay scales, which follows the unions changes.

Atty. Anastasi reviewed the language changes and the the changes in the salary grid with the Committee members. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the various salary studies that were done by CCM and others. This salary grid affects the unaffiliated workers. By ordinance, the changes mirror any salary changes from the unions. Discussion about the details followed.

Mr. Sherwood pointed out that the positions on the grid are the only ones that the Mayor has the power to fill. Discussion followed about how any raises would be handled within the 15% range. All the salaries are subject to the approval of the City Council through the budget cycle. Further discussion followed about union concessions. Mr. Sherwood pointed out that the unaffiliated positions has been asked to accept the same salary concessions before the unions were approached.

Mr. Sherwood explained that the Ordinance requires that this grid be submitted. Many of the adjustments were simply housekeeping tasks. When asked how much this would cost, Mr. Sherwood said that currently, it would cost nothing, but the new budget would see the grid change. However, the projected 2012-2013 budget has not been compiled at this time. The ordinance required the grid to be adjusted for July 1, 2012. Mr. Sherwood then reviewed the notification process for the Council and the steps that the Mayor would have to follow for hiring someone for an unaffiliated position.

Discussion then followed about the three take home vehicles that are currently in the Charter. Atty. Anastasi said that further changes regarding the take home vehicles would have to be discussed with Labor Relations and the Mayor.

More concerns about the 15% salary increase ceiling that the Mayor could authorize were expressed. Mr. Sherwood reminded everyone that last year, the staff salaries were not changed. He said that this proposal was simply to update the grid that is in the Ordinance, which is currently out of date.

Council Member Silva stated that he could not support this resolution because it gives the Mayor the ability to increase salaries. Additional concerns were expressed about the amendments, but with the caveat that the Council should have the final approval on this type of increase.

Mr. Sherwood was asked to review additional positions that were added, which Mr. Sherwood did. He then reviewed the positions that were listed on the grid, but were unfilled, such as dentist for the clinic. One position, "Unix Data Coordinator", was simply adjusted to "Data Coordinator" since the City no longer uses Unix. Other positions have been unfunded.

Attorney Anastasi reviewed the details of salary increases for elected officials. Part time hourly positions are not part of the range. The difference between unfunding a position and eliminating a position was then explained.

Mr. Sherwood was then asked why he had not gone before the Council first to discuss the potential of adding positions, such as Audit Coordinator. Mr. Sherwood replied that he could have, but still would have to go to Ordinance. Further discussion followed.

The discussion then moved to whether Council Members who were City employees would have to abstain from voting on these items. Atty. Anastasi then reviewed the situations and pointed out that most of the Council Members were covered by collective bargaining units.

The question of eliminating the various vacant positions was then asked. Mr. Sherwood stated that many of the positions were covered by collective bargaining and without approved funding, the positions could not be filled. Concerns about potential abuse were expressed. Atty. Anastasi reminded everyone that the Mayor's authority was temporary because when the budget came up

the following year, the Council could simply unfund the positions. The ultimate control of the finances lies with the Council.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 18-11 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO MUNICIPAL CODES OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 2.36, AMEND SECTION 2.36.010, OFFICERS' AND UNAFFILIATED EMPLOYEE SALARIES .**

Mr. Sherwood requested that the Committee consider approving an updated list due to two clerical errors in the original copy. Mr. Sherwood explained that he inadvertently eliminated one position when cutting and pasting the list into the document and another position was overlooked.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CORRECTED LIST FOR AGENDA ITEM AGENDA ITEM 18-11 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO AMEND EXHIBIT #1 - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BPT CODE OF ORDINANCE SECTION 2.36.010, PARAGRAPH 1, LINE 10 FROM:**

**THE MAYOR MAY AUTHORIZE SALARY INCREASES WITHIN THE SALARY RANGES ESTABLISHED BY ORDINANCE, OR NOT MORE THAN FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) OUTSIDE OF SUCH SALARY RANGES AS THE MAYOR DEEMS WARRANTED BASED UPON THE PARTICULAR DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITIONS AND/OR THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE INDIVIDUALS SERVING IN, OR TO SERVE IN, THE POSTIONS, PROVIDED APPROPRIATED FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE. THIRTY (30) DAYS, PRIOR WRITTEN NOTIFICATION MUST BE GIVEN TO THE CITY COUNCIL BEFORE THE MAYOR AUTHORIZES ANY SALARY INCREASE [IS GIVEN] OUTSIDE OF THE SALARY RANGES ESTABLISHED BY ORDINANCE. [WITHIN THE SALARY RANGES ESTABLISHED IN THIS ORDINANCE.]**

**TO:**

**THE MAYOR MAY AUTHORIZE SALARY INCREASES WITHIN THE SALARY RANGES ESTABLISHED BY ORDINANCE. THE MAYOR MAY AUTHORIZE SALARY INCREASES OF NOT MORE THAN FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) OUTSIDE OF SUCH SALARY RANGES AS THE MAYOR DEEMS WARRANTED BASED UPON THE PARTICULAR DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE**

**POSITIONS AND/OR THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE INDIVIDUALS SERVING IN, OR TO SERVE IN, THE POSTIONS, PROVIDED APPROPRIATED FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE, WITH PRIOR CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 18-11 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO MUNICIPAL CODES OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 2.36, AMEND SECTION 2.36.010, OFFICERS' AND UNAFFILIATED EMPLOYEE SALARIES AS AMENDED.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Paoletto requested this be placed on the consent calendar.

**RECESS**

Council Member Paoletto announced a recess at 8:04 p.m. He reconvened the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

**19-11 Proposed amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.38, Code Ethics.**

Atty. Anastasi then introduce Mr. Ianniello, the Chairman of the Ethics Committee. Council Member Paoletto thanked Mr. Ianniello for his hard work last session. Mr. Ianniello then distributed an updated draft of the proposed amendment. He said that this project had begun in 2008, and eight drafts have been created. The purpose is to clarify the ordinance for the residents and employees. Best practices have been incorporated. Mr. Ianniello reviewed these points, along with what was added to the Ordinance and what was eliminated with the Committee.

A question was asked about whether a City employee could run a seminar on a week-end would be a conflict of interest. Atty. Anastasi said that he could not give an opinion without specifics, but by writing a letter to the Ethics Commission, the employee could obtain an advisory opinion.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 19-11 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 2.38, CODE ETHICS.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**29-11 City Council Provision of suitable polling places in Council Districts and definition of boundaries pursuant to Bridgeport City Charter, Ch. 5 Sec. 2 (d)**

Atty. Anastasi explained that there was an effort to mesh the State lines with the City lines in terms of the voting pollings districts. He added that there was nothing that the City could have done to avoid this tight time line since the State delayed releasing the information.

Ms. Grace handed out three documents: a colored map showing the Ballot Grouping Areas and a two page grid showing the Preliminary Precincts for 2012 (pg. 1) and Polling Place Locations (pg. 2)

Mr. Kim Brace of Election Data Services, came forward and said that his company had been working on doing an overlay on the State Senate district boundaries. It has been assumed that Bridgeport will remain in the same Federal Congressional District. Mr. Brace reviewed the various polling districts for local elections, State elections, and Federal elections. Items such as the size of the voting location, the size of parking lots, the number of residents in a voting district have been considered. He indicated there are four areas that were on the map which actually have no residents, but are designated by the State. The list of polling places was compiled earlier in the day and still needs additional work. The local election locations will remain the same.

Atty. Anastasi suggested that the meeting be recessed to allow the Committee members to review the changes and also to allow the Registrars of Voters and Mr. Brace to finalize the districts. Discussion then followed about recessing the meeting to January 3rd, 2011 at 5:45 p.m.

Ms. Ayala said that it was very important that the Committee members know that the Council Districts lines were the same. However the way that the State drew their lines, it will have an affect on the residents since they will be voting at different locations in the 10 Council districts.

**RECESS**

Council Member Paoletto announced a recess at 8:52 p.m. He reconvened the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

**30-11 Proposed resolution concerning the Creation of a Charter Revision Commission for the City of Bridgeport**

Council Member dePara stated that there had been an effort in 1999 to update the Charter. Atty. Anastasi agreed but pointed out that it was not a comprehensive change. Council Member Paoletto reminded everyone that this was vote to create the Commission.

Atty. Anastasi then reviewed the language amendments to the Resolution.

Atty. Mednick came forward and said that he hoped the resolution would be approved at the next Council meeting on Tuesday. He reviewed the timeline and encouraged the Committee to appoint the Commission as soon as possible.

Atty. Mednick was asked if the Council Members would be able to add their own concerns to the Charter. Atty. Mednick said that the intent was very broad and the Commission has a broad scope. He said that there would be ample opportunities to give input to the Charter Commission. Discussion about this followed.

Concerns about the last Charter Revision efforts and the fact that there were issues that were not addressed were then discussed. It was stated that it will be important to have Council input. Atty. Anastasi pointed out that the Council have the ultimate authority for final approval. Atty. Anastasi presented a revised copy of the resolution that included the proper legal citations to the Committee.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 30-11 PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT TO INCORPORATE TECHNICAL CHANGES AS PRESENTED BY THE CITY ATTORNEY.**

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 30-11 PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT AS AMENDED TO INCORPORATE TECHNICAL CHANGES AS PRESENTED BY THE CITY ATTORNEY.**

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

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

Council Member Paoletto requested a clean, typed copy for all the Council Members for Tuesday night.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS:**

**18-11 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO MUNICIPAL CODES OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 2.36, AMEND SECTION 2.36.010, OFFICERS' AND UNAFFILIATED EMPLOYEE SALARIES;**

**19-11 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 2.38, CODE ETHICS, AND**

**29-11 CITY COUNCIL PROVISION OF SUITABLE POLLING PLACES  
IN COUNCIL DISTRICTS AND DEFINITION OF BOUNDARIES  
PURSUANT TO BRIDGEPORT CITY CHARTER, CH. 5 SEC. 2 (D)**

**BEFORE THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING ON JANUARY 3, 2012.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**RECESS**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO RECESS THE MEETING UNTIL 5:45  
PM. ON JANUARY 3, 2012  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting recessed at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services