

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2013
6:00 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Co-chair Lyons; Council members: Paoletto, dePara, Olson, Stafstrom, *Bonney, Co-Chair

OTHERS: M. Nidoh, Director of Planning; P. Carleton, Central Grants

*= arrived at 6:15 pm.

Co-chair Lyons called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

Approval of Committee Minutes: March 5, 2013 (Regular Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Co-chair Lyons stated that two items would be tabled tonight as follows:

32-12 Resolution to schedule an information session to dialogue on Anti-Violence

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO TABLE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

52-12 Appointment of William Marshall (D) to the Fire Commission

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO TABLE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER STAFSTROM SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

46-12 Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Judicial Branch Court Support Service Division (CSSD) – Youth Violence Prevention Legislation

Patrick Carleton, Central Grants gave some background information regarding the item. He said the State of Connecticut is looking to fund the City of Bridgeport in the amount of \$42,500 for FY 13 and \$500,000 for FY 14 to implement a Youth Violence Prevention Initiative that will focus on a comprehensive gang intervention model. Funding will also be used to implement “StreetSafe Bridgeport”, a program that will place 3-5 community outreach workers in “hotspot” neighborhoods where crime is prevalent.

He stated that the funding sources will include matching/in-kind funds as follow:

State: FY 2013: \$42,500.00

FY 2014: \$500,000.00

City: FY 2013: \$10,625 (\$4,350 will be In-Kind)

FY 2014: \$125,000 (\$50,000 will be In-Kind)

Council member Stafstrom questioned the effect that the governor’s proposal will have on the funding. Mr. Carleton replied that for year-1 they were allocated \$250k and for year-2 it has been reduced to \$33k.

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER OLSON SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

47-12 Proposed Request for the Discontinuance of a Portion of Bank Street between Main Street and the Easement known as Middle Street

Co-chair Lyons stated that the location is in the downtown area that is the district of Council members Banta and Taylor-Moye.

Mike Nidoh and Michael Marciniak, Architect from Fletcher Thompson was present to discuss the item.

Co-chair Lyons asked if they spoke to the council members for the district. Mr. Nidoh said they haven't spoken to them yet. He explained that until they receive the 8-24 referral, the item won't come before the city council until May; so they have time to speak to the district council members - *he distributed copies of the map and resolution.*

Mr. Nidoh pointed out the area in question was located between Main Street and Middle Street and it will be converted to small retail and residential units. He noted that the City of Bridgeport doesn't own the land that abuts the street. There will be utility easements required and the property will be divided to the abutting property owners that will be an enhancement to the downtown area.

Mr. Marciniak, the architect stated that they plan to maintain the sidewalks on both sides of the building with street pavers for emergency vehicles. He pointed out the area that is in proximity to Main Street and the old Mechanics & Farmer and the old Board of Education office. There will be a public walkway and access one way down. He said currently it's an under utilized street, so that's why they are looking to discontinue the portion. There is a 40 foot right of way, but it's a substandard street and not heavily used. He pointed out the area that between John Street and State Street it's not a city street.

Mr. Marciniak stated that construction will begin after staging of the old Mechanics & Farmer Bank during May and then there will be major construction to get done.

Mr. Nidoh said by discontinuing the street, they will have ownership and be able to secure it for staging.

Council member Stafstrom asked if the street had previously been used for a staging area. Mr. Nidoh said it was used for staging approximately five or six years ago during the filming of a movie.

Council member Stafstrom asked what the time frame will be for pedestrian use. Mr. Marciniak said it would be during the spring of 2014.

Mr. Nidoh said the project will be a continuation of McLevy Green and it will be developed as a natural flow to the train station.

Mr. Marciniak said they will also improve the lighting in the area and it will be very secure.

Mr. Nidoh suggested that the committee could approve the item conditionally, contingent upon approval of the 8-24 referral.

Council member dePara asked who paved the area. Mr. Nidoh said the City of Bridgeport did. Council member dePara asked if there was any thought or discussion to reimbursing the city for that. Mr. Nidoh responded that reimbursement was never considered for any other discontinued street(s) in Bridgeport.

*Co-chair Lyons recommended that a motion could be made to approve conditionally upon approval of the 8-24 referral and a discussion with the district council members.

Council member Paoletto explained that they couldn't make that motion until they receive approval of the 8-24 referral. He said they needed to table the item without prejudice until the next committee meeting. Mr. Nidoh said they would try to get on the April 28 Planning & Zoning agenda to obtain the 8-24 referral approval and have it for the next scheduled committee meeting and then to go before the city council meeting scheduled on May 20.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO TABLE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ADJOURNED

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was recessed at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services