

Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department
Lydia N. Martinez, City Clerk
Frances Ortiz, Assistant City Clerk



**Notice and Agendas for Miscellaneous Special Budget & Appropriations
Committee Meetings for FY 2022-2023**

Zoom & Teleconference Information:
Dial-in number for all meetings: (929) 436 2866
Meeting ID for all meetings: 117 676 489
Meeting ID for all Public Hearings: 965-268-353

Date	Time	Agenda Subject / Dept.	Location
Wednesday, April 6	6:00 pm	General Budget Discussion Capital Discussion: Public Facilities	Zoom/Teleconference
Thursday, April 7	6:00 pm	OPED; Capital Discussion: OPED	Zoom/Teleconference
*Saturday , April 9	10:00 am	Capital Discussion: Public Facilities; General Budget Discussion: Public Facilities (Roadway, Garage, Sanitation & Transfer)	Zoom/Teleconference
Monday, April 11	6:00 pm	Public Facilities: (Administration, Parks, Zoo, Engineering)	Zoom/Teleconference
Thursday, April 14	6:00 pm	Civil Service/ Labor Relations/Benefits	Zoom/Teleconference
*Saturday , April 16	10:00 am	Police Department Capital Discussion/General Budget Discussion	Zoom/Teleconference
Tuesday, April 19	6:00 p.m.	Board of Education/Library	Zoom/Teleconference
Wednesday, April 20	5:00 pm 7:00 pm	ITS Public Hearing: Capital Plan	Zoom/Teleconference
Thursday, April 21	6:00 pm	City Attorney /Registrar of Voters /CAO	Zoom/Teleconference
*Saturday , April 23	10:00 am	General Budget Discussion: Fire Dept/EOC Capital Plan Discussion	Zoom/Teleconference
Tuesday, April 26	6:00 pm	Public Hearing: General Fund Budget	Zoom/Teleconference
Wednesday, April 27	6:00 pm	Public Hearing: BOE/Library	(In-person) City Council Chambers
Thursday, April 28	6:00 pm	Health Department (All Divisions) & Finance	Zoom/Teleconference
*Saturday , April 30	10:00 am	OPM Capital Plan Discussion (Vote)	(In-person) Conference Rooms A, B & C

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PAGE 2

Tuesday, May 3	6:00 pm	General Budget Discussion Legislative Department	(In-Person) Conference Rooms A, B & C
Wednesday, May 4	5:30 pm	General Budget Discussion – Possible Committee Vote	(In-Person) Conference Rooms A, B & C
Monday, May 9 (Special Meeting)	6:00 p.m.	Vote on General Fund Budget (Possible Full City Council Vote)	(In-person) City Council Chambers
Tuesday, May 10 (Special Meeting)	6:00 pm	Vote on General Fund Budget (Tentative - if necessary)	(In-person) City Council Chambers

Schedule is subject to adjustments as needed by Committee Co-Chairs: 04/22/2022 - Rev. #3

Locations: **City Council Chambers: City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace 1st fl., Bridgeport, CT 06604.**
**Conference Rooms A, B & C: Margaret E. Morton Government Center, 999 Broad Street,
Bridgeport, CT 06604.**

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 6, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Scott Burns, Co-chair; Ernest Newton, Co-chair; Jeanette Herron, Tyler Mack, Matthew McCarthy, Mary McBride-Lee

OTHERS: Council Member(s): A. Boyd, J. Cruz, M. Pereira, R. Roman-Christy, M. Small & R. Smith; Tom Gaudett, Mayoral Aide; Nestor Nkwo, OPM Director; Ken Flatto, Finance Director; Michelle Muoio, Sikorsky Airport Manager; Paul Catino, Public Facilities; Steve Hladum, Parks; Aaron Curry, Garage; Craig Nadrizny, Acting Director, Public Facilities, 203-209-1058; 203-275-5313; 203-414-0712; 203-860-5666

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Burns called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A quorum was present. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia was not present due to a schedule conflict.

GENERAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Council Member Burns said that the increase was small. He said that they would have to work hard on the Budget.

Council Member Newton said that there were some Council Members who did not like the changes that he and Co-chair Burns had made. However, there are only 7 people on the Committee. Those who have questions should submit them to the Co-chairs.

Council Member Newton said he hoped that the Council Members would not be disrespectful. Those Council Members who are not on the Budget Committee can submit their questions and they will be given the information.

Council Member Burns displayed Mr. Nkwo's spreadsheet on the screen. He said that the Chairs had received this earlier in the afternoon.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ENTER THE SPREADSHEET TITLED OPM FY 23 MAJOR VARIANCES OVER \$20,000 AS EXHIBIT 04-06-2022-1.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member McCarthy asked for this spreadsheet to be sent out to the Committee. Council Member Burns said that he would send it.

Council Member Pereira asked if all the Council would be receiving the documents. Council Member Burns said that he would send it to everyone.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Nkwo then gave a brief overview of the general variances and explained that any variance that was below \$20,000 would not be included. Those will appear in the line items in the main budget.

Mr. Nkwo then gave a line by line explanation of the various departments that displayed significant variances including increases in the conveyance taxes, Seaside Park/Beardsley Park Check Points, Building Permits and the Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course.

After reviewing the revenue decreases and increases, Mr. Nkwo said that there is a net increase of \$7,023,641.

The discussion moved to the details of the Seaside Park Rental for the Sounds Music Concerts. Council Member McCarthy asked if the City would receive 5% on the ticket sales. Council Member Burns said that this was so.

Council Member Pereira said that there was price of ticket for the Sounds Music Concert that was not posted and people have to contact the vendor to find out the cost. She had concerns about the amount that the City was receiving.

Council Member McCarthy said that he was concerned that they were putting \$10 million in the budget from AARPA funding because it will not be available in the coming years.

Mr. Nkwo then reviewed the Expenditure Increases with the Committee Members. This included City Wage increases, The Library mill rate increase based on the Grand List, Police and Fire Overtime Budgets, Social Security, and several accounts for the City Attorney's Office.

Council Member Newton asked about the security during events at the Amphitheater. Council Member Burns said that the Police Department is responsible for security outside of the Amphitheater while the security inside the venue is the responsibility of the event presenters.

Council Member McCarthy had concerns about the Unused Vacation Payouts for Active Employees. Mr. Nkwo said that it was the money that officers would receive if they retire. Council Member McCarthy said that 30 Police Officers could retire and it would be a major payout. Mr. Nkwo reviewed the details with him.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked about the Police Officers who were retiring because of the cost of insurance. Mr. Nkwo said that the officers that were retiring were the older officers who have a closed insurance contract plan. The younger officers are the ones that have issues with the insurance.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked about longevity. Mr. Nkwo gave a brief overview of the details of the longevity agreement with the Committee.

Council Member Herron said that if the City is in contract negotiations, there should not be any discussions about what should be included or excluded since it might hinder the negotiations. Council Member Newton agreed.

Council Member Pereira asked if there was a \$500,000 increase in police security for the amphitheater. Mr. Nkwo said that he believed that was accurate. Council Member Pereira said that the taxpayers should not pay for security for the amphitheater.

Council Member Pereira asked about a potential BOE insurance change. Council Member Burns said that they were not trying to dissect the figures now, but simply get a general overview of the numbers.

Council Member Newton said he thought that moving the landscaping from OPED to Public Facilities was a wise move. He added that the City Attorney's Office has 14 attorneys but the department has their own legal services.

Council Member Pereira asked about the Travel Account, which Mr. Nkwo said he believed was for the Council Members to travel to conferences. She asked if the stipends would remain and pointed out that the Travel Account was for \$40,000 in addition to the stipends. Mr. Nkwo said that this was the Mayor's Proposed Budget and Council could amend it as they wished to.

Mr. Nkwo explained that the Police Narcotics Department had moved from their former location into a City owned property, so the rent on the former location was no longer being paid out.

Mr. Nkwo noted that in 2016, the City bonded for police cars, but had not used those funds yet. Discussion followed regarding the police vehicles and the bonding for the vehicles.

Council Member Pereira stated that she was against bonding for vehicles. Mr. Nkwo said that the bond had been approved by the previous administration during a time when the City did not have any money for police vehicles. Council Member Pereira asked if they could get a copy of the bond approval.

CAPITAL BUDGET DISCUSSION: PUBLIC FACILITIES.

Mr. Catino then presented the Public Facilities Capital Budget. He explained that there were three or four City parking lots that were in desperate need of repaving. In the past, the paving allocation was focused on paving streets. There are parking lots at Seaside Park that need attention, as does the Visitor's Lot across from City Hall.

The discussion moved to the Public Facilities Equipment, some of which is quite expensive. Mr. Nadrizny said that some of the vehicles are from the 1990's.

Mr. Catino said that City Hall had suffered some major damage from Storm Ida on the bottom floor. Both the Morton Center and the Raphola Taylor building need roof repairs. Mr. Flatto said that he had been working on insurance claims. Mr. Catino said that if they do receive funding from the insurance, there are items such as the handicapped ramp, and the façade at Lyon Terrace that are in need of repair.

Council Member Pereira asked about the paving line item being dedicated for street paving rather than culverts or intersections. Mr. Catino said that the first line item was usually viewed as for street paving, which is why they are setting aside a separate line item for parking lots, and other paving issues. He added that paving also includes milling, pot holes, crack sealing and curb cuts.

Council Member Pereira asked if anyone had spoken with the State about getting funding for the Taylor Center roof. Mr. Nkwo said that he had not asked about it.

Council Member Newton said that the Taylor Center is supposed to be managed by the City as per the initial agreement when the facility had been signed over to the City.

Council Member Newton asked whether the funding for the parking lots at the larger Public Facilities building was from the paving line item. Mr. Catino said that he would check but believed that it was part of the construction costs. Council Member Newton said that there were also LOCIP funds that had been designated for street paving.

Mr. Catino said that there was a project for a truck wash that will allow them to remove the salt from the trucks. It had been designed, but then was shelved. The grease pit for the wash has already been constructed.

Ms. Muoio then spoke about the Airport, which might be sold in the coming year. She said that there were some needed repairs to the fire suppression system that were part of a contractual agreement.

Mr. Nkwo said that he would like to put the cost in to the Operating Budget so they don't bond for it and pay for it for years after the airport is sold.

Council Member Newton asked if the City would be able to recoup some of the cost when the airport is sold. Ms. Muoio said that there was a "claw back" clause in the agreement.

Council Member Herron said that the City was working on becoming an entertainment location, but they had lost their hotel. She expressed concerns that there had only been one party who was interested in purchasing the facility. Discussion followed.

There was discussion about the status of the Perry Memorial Arch at Seaside. Mr. Hladun greeted the Committee and explained that the arch was being assessed. It actually is a building and the roof area now is leaking. There are also pests inhabiting the structure and the drains need attention. Once the roof is repaired the pointing can be done.

There is a brick interior with the granite stones attached to it. Some of the stones are showing cracks and are a safety concern.

Council Member McCarthy asked if the work needed to be done this year or could wait until next year. Discussion followed and it was the general consensus that the repointing could wait until next year so outside grant funding could be researched.

Council Member Pereira asked if the arches were on the State Historic Registry or the National Historic Registry. Mr. Hladun said that it was on the National Registry. Council Member Pereira said that being on the National Registry may have more opportunities for grants.

The discussion then moved to the Police Department parking lot that the City rents across the street from the Police Station. Many of the Council Members expressed their concerns that the Police Department needs a new building, so investing money in purchasing the lot only to move the station in a few years would not be a wise financial move.

Council Member Cruz asked why Winfield Park was not on the list for Capital Projects. He was told that funding has been designated for upgrading the park already.

Mr. Nkwo cautioned everyone that sometimes grant funding requires matching funds from the City.

Council Member Burns asked about the Rooster River project. Mr. Flatto said that he could give an overview, but Mr. Urquidi, the City Engineer, would be able to address it in more detail.

Mr. Urquidi said that they were looking for a scoping grant from FEMA in order to study what they planned to do, which is the step before designing the project. This is the kind of funding that the City needs for this type of project. It is important to take the preliminary steps in order to be eligible for larger grant awards. Mr. Urquidi said that they had worked on two other projects, like Ox Brook. Discussion followed.

Council Member Pereira said that they had skipped over the Beardsley Zoo. Council Member Burns said that they had removed the Beardsley Zoo items. Council Member Pereira said that people had been outraged that the Zoo had received funding for the tiger exhibit, but the schools had not gotten more money.

Mr. Nkwo said that the departments ask for funding. He pointed out that the outer years were more like place holders. Also, Mr. Nkwo said that he put the funding requests in for the Committee to review.

Council Member Pereira said that her district has experienced major flooding in 2015, which was seven years ago. Mr. Urquidi said that he could not speak to the funding matters because he had submitted bonding requests. Mr. Nkwo said that the City has been requesting bonding funds, but they have not gone out to bond.

Council Member Pereira said that the Mayor and Atty. Meyer had promised to work on the flood. In the last 24 months, people have lost water heaters, and other utilities. You can't make promises to the people that you don't keep.

The discussion moved to the Old Town Road re-alignment. Mr. Nkwo said that no one seems to really know what it was and he would like to take that project out. Mr. Flatto said that the re-alignment was initiated by Trumbull.

Council Member Newton said for the record that he supports the Zoo and it is the only zoo in Connecticut. Many children visit it, even during COVID. Council Member Burns said that they would be hearing from the Zoo Director.

Council Member Herron said that they have started breeding animals in the Zoo. They are saving wildlife there, so she is also supporting the Zoo because it is an educational facility.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 7, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Ernest Newton, Co-chair; Scott Burns, Co-chair; Jeanette Herron, Tyler Mack, Matthew McCarthy, Mary McBride-Lee (6:32 p.m.)

OTHERS: Council Member(s): J. Cruz, M. Pereira & F. Hodges; T. Gaudett, Mayoral Aide; Ken Flatto, Finance Director; Nestor Nkwo, OPM Director; Tom Gill, OPED Director; Bill Coleman, OPED Deputy Director; Dennis Buckley, Zoning Administrator; Lynn Haig, Planning Director; Arben Kica, Acting Building Official, Barbara; iPhone-DNPH80W00DXT; 203-880-5666; 203-414-0712

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Newton called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

Co-chair Newton said that the focus of the meeting was the budget and that off topic comments would not be allowed. Co-chair Burns said that Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia would be joining the meeting later.

OPED

Mr. Nkwo gave a brief overview of the OPED Capital Plan, which was displayed on the screen. Mr. Gill said that the parking garage addition had been delayed due to changes in the design. He added that they were working on stabilizing the Remington shot tower. The next phase will be to remove the Remington buildings, which are a hazard. The State will be giving the City \$10 million and there were also some Federal grant funding expected.

Council Member Newton asked about some lots that OPED had been responsible for cleaning, but were to be turned over the Public Facilities for maintenance. Mr. Nkwo said that this was so. Mr. Gill said that Mr. Nkwo was speaking of areas that need to be cleaned up or have the lawn mowed. However, the funding in the Capital Budget OPED had would be used soon because they had put out an emergency bid on the abandoned church that had a partial collapse. Mr. Gill said that he really appreciates the fact that the lawn maintenance was transferred.

Council Member Newton asked if the Amphitheater was paid up on their account. Mr. Gill said that they had paid the City \$167,000 last year. The minimum amount due was \$150,000. Discussion followed about how many concerts were held at the Amphitheater.

Council Member Newton said that he had heard that there was other funding State Senator Rosario had mentioned. Mr. Gill said that he had not heard anything about it.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the money that had been bonded last year for the Remington project. Mr. Gill said that they had used that money for the project. He said that if they can get the buildings demolished, DuPont will have to come in and take responsibility for the brownfield.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the bond situation. Mr. Flatto said that they had bonded last year and now the interest rates have climbed due to inflation. Mr. Nkwo updated the Committee on the allocations.

Council Member McCarthy asked if there had been some improvement on the blight since they allocated funding last year. Mr. Gill said that the funding will help the City aggressively go after the blighted properties.

Council Member Pereira asked why the 2020 column was missing from the table. Mr. Nkwo said that when he compiled the information last night he inadvertently omitted that column.

Council Member Pereira said that she did not remember OPED coming to the Council for permission to purchase property since 2019. Mr. Coleman said that there were items presented to the Council that would be similar to the NRZ request on the agenda for April 4th. He gave the details of how the process works. Specific properties will be presented to the Council.

Council Member Pereira asked if any properties had been acquired since she was on the Council in 2019. Mr. Coleman said that the line item also includes demolitions. The line items allows the Department to cover unexpected damage to buildings. Discussion followed.

Council Member McBride-Lee joined the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Council Member Burns said that he was concerned about the fact that they bond money but there is a significant time lag before the funds are used.

Mr. Flatto said that he tends to bond funds in phases and gave examples of how this is done.

Council Member Newton then spoke about the condition of the parking garage across from 999 Broad Street. He said that it was a dangerous situation. Mr. Gill said that they had met with the garage owners repeatedly and the building inspector and the Fire Department have been there. The State Inspectors have issued a letter demanding action, but the owners have hired a lawyer. The Condemnation Board is starting up again and they may be able to facilitate acquiring the garage.

Council Member McCarthy said that he agreed with Council Member Newton on the garage condition. He asked for the same information on Blight that he requested for Land Acquisition.

Council Member McCarthy said that he had an investor looking at a property in downtown. The investor said that they did not have parking in downtown. Council Member McCarthy said that there was a lot of available parking downtown, but people don't know about it.

Council Member Newton said that there was supposed to be a marketing effort and asked for a status update. Mr. Gill said that he agreed with Council Member Newton and that they were looking to work on Economic Development marketing through DSS. Council Member Newton said that he felt that OPED should have their own press staff member. Discussion followed.

Council Member Pereira said that she wished to know about the Gateway to the South End. Mr. Gill said that the area ideally encompassed State Street south to Park Avenue.

Council Member Pereira said that she felt that there were duplicated funding lines and indicated where that was shown on the spreadsheet. She reiterated that the Council has not been presented with a property that OPED wished to acquire. It is not okay to bond for millions of dollars without the Council knowing where the funds were going. Mr. Gill said that there were pending condemnations and he was not able to identify those locations at this time.

Council Member Pereira asked about the parking garage. Mr. Gill said that they realized that there was a need for the parking lot there but there has not been a design done for it yet. Council Member Pereira said that there was no reason to allocate funding when nothing has been done yet. Mr. Gill said that they need to assemble a certain amount of allocated funding before they can move forward.

Council Member Pereira said that there are major parking issues in the 137th District and wished to have that noted on the record.

Council Member Cruz thanked Mr. Gill and Mr. Coleman along with the rest of the staff for their attention to the garage. He has been concerned about this for some time.

OPED BUDGET

Council Member Burns directed everyone to page 309 in the Budget Book. Mr. Nkwo then gave an overview of the revenue section, including the Seaside rental. Mr. Gill gave an estimate based on advanced ticket sales for the Sound on the Sound concerts.

Council Member McCarthy said that he had been told that the City would be receiving a percentage of the sales. Mr. Gill said that they would be receiving a percentage of the ticket sales.

Council Member Pereira said that they were also selling parking passes for City parking. Mr. Gill said that the City percentage was just for the ticket sales.

Council Member Pereira said that there was a 3% tax on ticket sales. She asked if the City would be receiving 3% on the seat tax. Mr. Gill said that the 3% was a seat tax. There will not be 35,000 seats there.

Council Member Pereira said that there was no exemptions in the City Charter and the Charter did not mention seats. She will be looking into this further.

Council Member Burns said that the Amphitheater was expected to pay monthly but there were a number of line items that showed zero. He also asked about the parking. Mr. Gill said that they had contacted the State about the parking and were waiting for a response.

Mr. Gill said that they had paid the back rent and were reconciling their books. They will be paying monthly soon. Discussion followed about the details of the contracts.

Council Member McCarthy asked how many concerts were held in the Amphitheater. Mr. Gill said that he would send that information.

Council Member McCarthy asked how the City knows how many tickets are sold. Mr. Gill said that they were given the figures from Live Nation.

Council Member Pereira then said that there was a flat fee for the ticket tax. She asked for the status of the maintenance fund. Mr. Gill said that due the fact that there was a limited season, there was no excess funding. He said that he will not have an answer until the end of the season.

The Committee then moved to the OPED Personnel Budget. Mr. Nkwo gave the Committee an overview.

Council Member McCarthy expressed concerns about the fact that the Department may need more staff because they are a revenue producing department.

Council Member Burns said that he was pleased to see that Communications had been separated out as an independent department. The positions are being filled.

Council Member Pereira asked about OPED speaking with the Inspector General in Washington D.C. about the \$876,353 that was listed in the CDBG funding. Mr. Gill said that all of the Housing staff were paid 100% with HUD funding. The HOME program specialist receives a small percentage of City funding for that salary. The Deputy Director is paid out of City funds. Discussion followed. Mr. Nkwo said that the HOME program only draws \$44,000 from the City funding. The other positions are paid from grant funds.

Council Member Pereira requested a list of positions and the salaries that were paid by HUD in the Department. She said that the guidelines were strictly governed. Mr. Nkwo said that they could provide that information with the HUD account numbers.

The discussion moved to the Operating Accounts.

Council Member Newton asked why the Department would need to have outside legal counsel when there are 14 City Attorneys. Mr. Gill said that they were fortunate to have Atty. Pacacha who has a long history with the City and is an excellent contract attorney. When there are environmental issues, they need special legal counsel. There are many aspects that require specialize knowledge. Discussion followed.

Council Member Pereira said that there were decreases in Social Security, Medicare because three full time positions were transferred. There is an increase in other costs. Mr. Nkwo said that there were salary increases.

Council Member Pereira asked about the \$2,000 for travel expenses. Mr. Gill said that there were times when the staff needed to attend events.

Council Member Pereira said that she agreed that the City Attorney's Office was the largest in the State and the third highest paid in the State. Their job is to provide legal service and they have an account for outsider services, so the Law Department should be paying for the cost of the outside counsel.

Council Member Burns said that the Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce felt that they were not in the loop in terms of what was happening in the City. Mr. Gill said that there had been meetings with them in the past. Council Member Burns said that he had gotten the feedback from the business owners.

Council Member Newton said that regarding the travel account, it was important to see what other cities are doing and what is going on in other parts of the country.

Mr. Nkwo said he had reviewed the figures for the pensions and other factors to confirm that the numbers were correct.

Council Member McCarthy asked if there was much input from the DSSD. Mr. Gill said that the staff interacts with the DSSD staff.

Council Member Pereira asked for clarification on the marketing staff position. Council Member Newton clarified his earlier explanation.

Council Member Pereira asked if Ms. Haig was interviewing a candidate for a Planner 1 position. Council Member Burns said that it was a recent vacancy. Mr. Nkwo said that the data was compiled at the end of January. It was stated earlier that two of the positions had been filled, but he was just informed that there was a vacancy. Council Member Pereira said that there was no Planner position that was open. Mr. Gill said that the employee that was in that position had left.

Mr. Gill said that they needed to fill two positions, a Special Project Coordinator and the Planner position that was just vacated.

The discussion moved to the contractors who were not paid promptly. The biggest issue with a delayed payment involved work done at the library. Council Member Newton said that the library was now open and that Mr. Coleman had done a great deal of work on that issue.

Council Member Newton said that he had asked about the Civic Block and the need for it to be lit up. Mr. Coleman said that it was in the process of being finished up.

The next department that the Committee reviewed was the Building Department.

Council Member Burns said that the Building Department currently had an Acting Manager. Mr. Nkwo gave a brief overview.

Council Member Newton said that he receives frequent complaints about the Building Department. Mr. Gill said that they have been trying to provide service, but due to the new portal, the number of building permits, and information for planning and the FOIA requirements the work load has increased. They have requested a floater or additional staff. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gaudett explained that they were taking payment after the evaluation review was because the applicant would often undervalue the project and make a payment up front.

The IT Department will be bringing Intergov online and there will be meetings with the Department heads in the coming weeks.

Council Member Pereira said that a constituent had made a payment through Intergov but there was no record of the payment in the Building Department. Mr. Gaudett said that this was the first time he was hearing about a problem like that.

Council Member Pereira asked why the revenue projects for the Building Department was so low despite the fact that there have been increases in the conveyance tax revenues and Building Department fees. Mr. Flatto said that with interest rates rising, he would prefer to be conservative with the projection.

Council Member Burns said that when the re-evaluation was done, the reval staff said that they had never seen so many properties that had been improved without permits. He asked if there was any way to claw back some of that lost revenue. Mr. Gill said that if reval staff had a list of addresses, they could look at it.

Council Member Newton said that they didn't have enough staff to catch people who are renovating without permits.

Council Member Pereira said that they also need more assessors. Discussion followed about the staffing needs for the Department.

Council Member Pereira said that it looks like there are 15 positions with three vacancies. That's a 20% vacancy rate. People start building in the spring. A discussion followed about whether there was a secretarial assistant that was part of NAGE. Mr. Nkwo looked up the current NAGE contract and said it had expired.

The Committee moved to page 322, which shows the Zoning Department budget. Mr. Buckley said that his revenue was down due to the fact that there was a period that they did not have hearings because the Commissions did not have quorums.

Council Member Pereira said that she was frustrated with the department because they have only one Zoning Officer and there are people who are running their businesses from their homes. Her constituents care about their quality of life.

Mr. Buckley said that there would be another Zoning Officer coming on, but he would be working for both the Building Department and Zoning. He said that he understood their frustration because the staff was also frustrated. He said that one person can't cover the entire City. When they go to court, the court is backed up and then tells them they need more evidence. Mr. Gill said that the Zoning Officers can't issue fines. Mr. Buckley said that there are ways to create a process. He said that he had been looking at Stamford and how they handle this. More staff would be helpful.

Council Member Newton asked Mr. Buckley to forward the information he found in Stamford to the Budget and Appropriations Chair along with Council Member Brown. Mr. Buckley said that he would send it tomorrow morning.

Council Member Pereira said that often people don't know the ordinances. She gives them copies of ordinances and many people stop what they are doing. However, there are those who just don't care and continue to do their thing.

Mr. Buckley said that a few years ago, Council Member Newton had helped them get another inspector and that new employee has worked out really well. He thanked Council Member Newton for that.

Mr. Gill said that the Department was frustrated about some of the overnight tractor trailer parking issues.

Council Member McCarthy said that it would be good to have new positions, but that also means that they will have to cut in other areas.

Council Member Pereira said that she had some success with tractor trailers by calling the non-emergency number and reporting them. She said that she did not think that tractor trailers should be able to park on any residential street. They should be on commercial corridors.

Council Member Burns said that there was a new Zoning Plan and a great deal of work had gone into it.

Council Member Newton thanked the OPED staff for their time. Mr. Gill said that it was one of the most informative sessions.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 9, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Scott Burns, Co-chair; Ernest Newton, Co-chair; Jeanette Herron, Matthew McCarthy, Mary McBride-Lee, Tyler Mack

OTHERS: Council Member(s): A. Boyd, J. Cruz, F. Hodges, M. Lyons, M. Pereira, R. Smith, & M. Valle; Tom Gaudett, Mayoral Aide; Ken Flatto, Finance Director; Nestor Nkwo, OPM Director; Craig Nadrizny, Acting Director, Public Facilities; Tonya Turkvan, Public Facilities; Paul Catino, Public Facilities; Steve Hladun, Parks; Jon Urquidi, City Engineer; Barbara, XMan, Louis Burgos, iPhone-DNPH80W00DXT

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Burns called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. A quorum was present.

Co-chair Burns said that they had forgotten to Exhibit the response from the previous meeting.

Co-chair Newton said that the Department Directors were present and reminded everyone to be polite and keep the questions and discussion focused on the budget.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED OPEP RESPONSE TO COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS AND COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON, CHAIRS OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE AS EXHIBIT 04-09-2022-A.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED OPEP ORGANIZATION CHART AS EXHIBIT 04-09-2022-B.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CAPITAL DISCUSSION – PUBLIC FACILITIES – GENERAL

**BUDGET DISCUSSION – PUBLIC FACILITIES
(Roadway, Garage, Sanitation & Transfer)**

Mr. Nkwo reviewed the Public Facilities General Revenue with the Council Members. Mr. Nadrizny said that the fees had been flat for a number of years, and they will be submitting a request to the City Attorney's to increase the fees.

Council Member McCarthy said that at the transfer station, he is still seeing various people who appear to be doing dump runs for others. Mr. Nadrizny said that those who have commercial plates have permits. Council Member McCarthy asked about those who drive trucks with non-commercial plates. Mr. Nadrizny said that he had tried to change the rules in the past with no success.

Council Member Newton said he wished to make the Committee aware that they were thinking about moving the Parking Meters back to Public Facilities, however it requires an officer to accompany the parking meter staff when the collections are brought in. This has caused overtime. Mr. Nkwo agreed and said that it did not appear to be a good use of police man hours.

Council Member Newton said that there were issues with commercial vehicles being parked on lawns and streets. Parking Enforcement is only one person.

Council Member Herron said that she had pulled the State statutes on commercial vehicles because the Parking Enforcement officer leaves at 4 p.m., but the State Statute allows commercial vehicles to park on the street until 6 p.m. She said that the individuals were called Parking Enforcement Officers, but they can only use that title if they are working under the Police Department. She would like to see the ordinance corrected rather than having the department transferred back to Public Facilities.

Council Member Herron also asked why there was overtime being charged when the staff goes home at 4.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked for clarification on how the money is collected. Mr. Nadrizny reviewed the process and said that the coin cannisters were locked, inserted into a lockbox where the coins transfer into the general lock box.

Council Member Pereira then gave a summary of the Charter and State statute for the meter collection that is under the Police Department along with the parking violations. She asked why the commercial vehicles could not be ticketed at 2 a.m. when there was not much happening. Mr. Flatto pointed out that these were two different violations. Discussion followed about the contract requirements. Council Member Herron pointed out that they should be discussing this with Acting Police Chief Garcia.

Council Member Pereira said that she wished the Council had some control over the Police Department, but they are under the direction of the Police Commission. She said that this appears to be a way to collect significant overtime.

The discussion moved to the Personnel Budget on page 199. Mr. Nkwo reviewed the various positions.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the Construction Services Director. Mr. Nadrizny said that the construction projects needed to be overseen and pointed out that in the past, there were

always two Deputy Directors. He reminded everyone that he was only the Acting Director of Public Facilities, and his actual job was as a Deputy Director.

Discussion followed about the larger upcoming projects, such as Steel Point and the Library along with issues with the on-going Canfield Avenue Apartments. Mr. Catino explained that Public Facilities does not have authority over the Building Department.

Council Member Pereira said that there was a second Deputy Director because of arbitration. She said that there had been numerous school projects that overlapped one another and they were overseen by one person.

Council Member Pereira asked about the raise for the accountant's salary which was 13%. Mr. Nkwo said that it was a combination of the steps and a raise. Council Member Pereira asked for copies of the steps for the unions and the raises. Mr. Nkwo said that he would have that information sent.

Council Member Lyons asked about the hiring process for the positions under discussion. She asked how much input the Department Director has over the person hired for the position. Mr. Nadrizny said that every position was different and when a position opens up, if it is a union position, it is posted internally. If it is not a union position, it is posted publicly and then a interview committee from different departments select the candidates.

Council Member Lyons asked if the vacancy was posted publicly. Mr. Nadrizny said that if it was a union position, it was posted internally. If it was a non-union position, it is published on the City website.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the Special Projects Coordinators, which Mr. Nadrizny reviewed with him. Mr. Nadrizny said that the Coordinators work in his office and he does review their work if they are not performing adequately. Discussion followed about the details of the positions.

Council Member Burns said that they had requested Organizational Charts and they did not have one for Public Facilities.

Mr. Urquidi said that one person cannot do the job that they are asking them to do because there are 250 miles of road in Bridgeport and he can't inspect all the roads.

Council Member Pereira said that there were Special Project Coordinators listed three different times on separate lines. She said that this appears to be unethical. Mr. Nkwo said that they were different classifications and the individuals were in different unions. Council Member Pereira said that she had worked in unions and had never seen that done before. Discussion followed.

Council Member Valle said she had been told that there were 60 employees in Public Facilities and wished to know if they were being cross trained in other tasks. Mr. Nadrizny said that they were.

Council Member Lyons said that Mr. Urquidi has mentioned the need for another individual on staff. She said that when they don't have enough staff to handle the work load, the requests get backlogged. They are already backlogged with requests from the City Council Members.

Mr. Urquidi said that they had spoken about cross training earlier and wanted to say that the permit inspectors will help with a variety of tasks, like sidewalk and street evaluation for paving.

Council Member Hodges asked about the class codes and the Project Managers. Mr. Nadrizny gave him an overview. Mr. Flatto asked if the various inspectors could report items such as unpermitted modifications to homes.

Council Member Newton asked for additional information on the Project Managers for the Committee.

Council Member Newton also asked what the sidewalk inspector does when the sidewalks are completed. Mr. Nadrizny said that the Permit Supervisor inspects sidewalks. Mr. Urquidi said that even when the concrete plants are closed, there are excavations that are done and they also check temporary patching, which can easily become potholes.

Council Member Newton said that when it is off season, the staff needs to be handling other tasks.

Council Member Hodges asked about Roberts Rules, which Council Member Burns confirmed for him.

Council Member McCarthy said that it would be good to have one more Special Project Supervisor and having it under Engineering rather than Public Facilities.

Mr. Catino said that the reason that the residents don't see the inspectors out at sites was because there was only one person that was doing inspections. He added that was why they were asking for another position. When employees are asked to work outside of their job classification they have the right to grieve it.

Council Member Burns said that the next topic of review would be the garage.

Council Member Pereira objected that she had not been given the opportunity to ask a question. Council Member Burns asked her to submit her question in writing. He reminded her that she had already asked several questions.

Council Member Burns displayed the Public Facilities Expenses budgets on screen. Mr. Catino said that while the fuel prices had gone up, they only had a contract for part of the year. He said that the State has suspended the taxes for gas, but the City does not pay that tax, so their fuel prices do not decrease as much.

Mr. Flatto said that he had locked in the fuel a year ago, but the contracts were due to expire in June. He requested that the Committee consider increasing those amounts.

Council Member Mack asked about the overtime pay. Mr. Nkwo explained the factors that would be used to calculate the overtime budget.

Council Member Burns asked if the City had been looking into electric vehicles. Mr. Nadrizny said that they were looking at grant opportunities for the smaller fleet vehicles like the street vacs. They may also install solar panels on the garage to help supply the power for the vehicles.

Mr. Nkwo then reviewed the details for a Financial Coordinator position transfer from Parks and Recreation.

The discussion moved to the Property Insurance. Mr. Flatto noted that it was city wide insurance and they don't receive the three quotes until June.

The Committee then reviewed the vehicle requests, which included a small vehicle that can have a plow attached that will be able to plow out small spaces.

Mr. Nkwo said that there was a cost for repaving a police parking lot and listed as building maintenance services for \$414,445.

Council Member Pereira said that the Finance Coordinator on page 212 will be transferring from Parks and Recreation and it reflects a raise.

Council Member Pereira objected to the transfer of a staff member to cover absences. This is not reasonable and is not done in the corporate world.

The Committee then reviewed the Roadway budget on page 220. Mr. Nkwo spoke about a Clerical Assistant that was eliminated but a letter had already been sent to a candidate for the position. He reviewed the details of the issue.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked about the street paving. Mr. Nadrizny said that it was part of the Capital Budget. Mr. Flatto said that they were going to bond for \$4 million next year for paving.

The discussion returned to the details of the eliminated Clerical Assistant position.

Council Member Pereira said that Mr. Nadrizny claims that they are chronically understaffed, but they only pay the seasonal staff \$15.00. Mr. Nadrizny said that they can't pay a seasonal employee more than they pay a full-time employee. Their level 1 pay is \$16.00 and there were not many people interested in working for \$16.00, particularly if they have a CDL license.

Council Member Pereira said that this was her third year hearing the same comment and wished to know what the Council was doing to address it.

Mr. Nadrizny said that he was looking for 4 Maintainer 1 positions. The discussion moved to the seasonal employees that stay for two or three weeks and then leave. The department then has to hire more people.

Council Member McCarthy said that the seasonals don't care for the equipment because they know they are only working for four months. Discussion followed about the policy for seasonals. Mr. Nadrizny said that in the past, a seasonal would be able to work almost a full year, so many of the seasonals were retirees. Once the seasonal position was limited to 120 days, the interest in the job dropped dramatically.

Council Member Newton said that returned citizens have often found jobs in Public Facilities and suggested that they consider extending the seasonals for almost a year. Those who work four months have no reason to return. If returning seasonal staff apply, they are considered first. Mr. Nadrizny said that they often let the seasonals know when full time positions are available.

Council Member Newton thanked Mr. Nadrizny for all the effort his department has made for returning residents.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that sometimes the seasonal employment gives the worker false hope. However, they are people who are happy to work for 4 months.

Council Member Valle said that it was the State that regulates this. Mr. Flatto said that it was a Federal regulation and that if someone works more than 120 days or more than 19 1/2 hours, they need to receive benefits.

Mr. Catino said that when they come in for sanitation, they have open routes and have to pull people from Roadway to cover the routes. This is a chronic condition and needs to be addressed. Council Member Newton said that he could confirm this because the Roadway staff often doesn't know the routes. Discussion followed about the salaries, plus benefits costs.

Council Member Pereira said that she was a big believer of quality over quantity. She said that having four good part time workers was better than having 6 or 7 seasonals.

Council Member Burns asked about where the scrap metal comes from. Mr. Nadrizny said it comes from what the staff picks up on the street and what is taken to the Transfer Station.

Council Member Cruz said that if he had a CDL license, he would not be interested in working for \$15.00 an hour when he could easily get \$20.00.

Council Member Burns asked about the street sweeping. Mr. Nadrizny said that they sweep the streets twice a month during the season and the main streets twice a week. The signs need to be changed. Discussion followed.

Council Member Newton asked for more garbage cans and suggested the garbage cans be emptied when the recycling is done. Mr. Nadrizny agreed.

Council Member Lyons said that they needed to do something about seasonal employees. She said that it would be important to have garbage cans in front of individual stores. Mr. Nadrizny said that the storefronts are supposed to maintain their area. Discussion followed.

Council Member Valle said that East Main Street should be as clean as the downtown area. She has been told that the street sweeper went by. She asked if they could change the schedules for the street sweeper. Mr. Nadrizny said that the street sweeper would be on that street at 4 a.m.

Council Member McCarthy said that they have the same issues in Black Rock as the rest of the City, but he suggested that they contact the store owners about cleaning up in front of their stores. Council Member Burns said that there was an ordinance on the books about this.

The Committee then moved to page 226, which is the appropriations supplement. Mr. Nkwo reviewed the items, such as a Mad Vac and Mad Vac trailer.

Council Member Burns asked about the regular overtime pay, which Mr. Nkwo and Mr. Nadrizny reviewed with him.

Council Member Pereira asked about the Other Services amount. Mr. Nkwo said that it was the parking meters, the poles and the services. Mr. Catino said that service includes some revenue sharing. Council Member Pereira said that she would like to know how much revenue the parking meters were generating.

Council Member McCarthy said that Mr. Nkwo had spoken about one time appropriations from AARPA. He said that he did not like putting a one-time revenue into the Operating fund. He asked how much that amount was.

The Committee moved to the Sanitation on page 230.

Council Member Pereira said that there was a major issue with residents not bringing in their Toters after the recycling or trash is picked up. It is a detriment to the neighborhood. She asked who might be responsible for insuring the Toter is brought back in. Mr. Nadrizny said that it was not an ordinance and they were working on updating the ordinance. The ordinance is for cans and would fall within the Health Department's authority. Discussion followed.

Mr. Nadrizny said that they did not have enough staff to deal with it. Council Member Pereira repeated that this was a major fine.

Council Member McCarthy said that he was a property owner and that he has had to tell his tenants to bring the Toters in.

Mr. Catino said that the Public Facilities run 12 garbage routes and 4 recycling routes every day. This is institutionalizing open routes because they are constantly pulling people from Roadways to cover Sanitation.

Council Member McCarthy asked how long it takes do a route. Mr. Nadrizny said that all the routes were different and that they should try to reorganize the routes in order to do more with less. Mr. Nadrizny said that there were contract issues involved.

Mr. Catino said that the tonnage had increased because people have started to order more online and that has increased the amount of garbage. Council Member McCarthy said that it would be important to compost.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she had requested more maintainers. Mr. Catino indicated where it was located in the budget.

Council Member Pereira asked if they were mapping the garbage routes manually. Mr. Catino said that it was done manually. Council Member Pereira said that the School District had started using software for the route scheduling and had saved thousands of dollars.

Council Member Pereira asked about the number of 32 positions. Mr. Nadrizny said that they were always short 5 people so when streets are missed, it is most likely the Roadway staff driving because they don't know the routes.

Council Member Pereira said that if they ticket Toters for 60 to 90 days, the people would learn that there is a consequence. They need to be held accountable.

Council Member Lyons said that she regularly checks the condo associations and has noticed that there is more garbage to pick up.

Council Member Burns asked if there was any thought about moving towards trucks that have a mechanical arm to pick up the Toters.

Mr. Nadrizny said that he did not think that the mechanical arms would work with the number of cars. Mr. Catino said that they have mechanical trucks, but people often leave things next to the Toter and that needs to be lifted by hand. He also mentioned that there were union contract requirements of 2 people per truck.

Council Member Burns asked how long the staff has to wait at Wheelabrator to unload the garbage trucks. Mr. Nadrizny said that the wait is usually about an hour or two but if it is busy, it can be three or four hours.

Council Member Newton asked if they need Maintainers I's or II's. Mr. Nadrizny said that if the five positions were filled in Sanitation, they won't have to take five people from Roadways. Council Member Newton asked if there were bumping rights. Mr. Nadrizny said that they were not union positions. Discussion followed about the details of the positions.

Council Member McCarthy asked if the Sanitation drivers are sitting in a truck waiting to unload they get overtime. Mr. Nadrizny said that if they don't go over 8 hours, it is regular pay. If it is over 8 hours, they get overtime for the amount past 8 hours.

Council Member McCarthy asked if they could have a special line at Wheelabrator for the City trucks. Mr. Nadrizny said that they had asked in the past with no luck.

Council Member Burns said that Wheelabrator had a competitor in Hartford that was closing down, so there may be more customers at Wheelabrator.

Mr. Catino said that the fee increases weren't the problem, but it was the tonnage that was driving the number. Since the pandemic, the amount of tonnage has increase significantly. He said that Wheelabrator was almost at full capacity.

Council Member Burns said that the private tipping fees have increase substantially. Council Member Pereira said they don't cook much at her home, and since the pandemic restrictions have lifted, she's noticed the restaurants are packed. She thought that this would reduce residential refuse. Mr. Catino said that he wished that she was correct, but the tonnage had remained steady and is increasing.

Council Member Pereira said that the tipping fees were listed on the page. Mr. Catino said that he thought they were catching up with the tonnage growth that occurred. He said that they had budgeted \$2.5 million, but the actual was \$2.8 million. The deficit has been incurred over two years.

Council Member Burns then directed everyone to the Transfer Station. Mr. Nkwo gave a brief overview and said that most people have gone back to work on site and they expect the tonnage to remain at the current amount.

Council Member McCarthy said he had been told that only clean, dry cardboard is recycled. Mr. Catino said that there is a significant amount of items in the recycling that can't be recycled and is shipped back to Wheelabrator. There has been progress, but they are still paying a high amount. The clean cardboard is money for the City. Paper, and plastic generate some revenue. Glass is a cost driver, but there is a new glass recycling plant in Beacon Falls that will drive the cost down.

Mr. Catino pointed out that everyone is required to recycle by the State.

Council Member Pereira spoke about the problem of off hours dumping near Asylum Street. Mr. Nadrizny said that they have cameras on their property but the Police would need to install other cameras off the site. He added that they have been working on catching the illegal dumpers.

Council Member Newton said that the illegal dumping happens all over the City.

Council Member Hodges asked what kind of revenue the recycling generates. Mr. Catino said that they had a five-year period when the City was getting money for recycling, but now they pay for the recycling.

Council Member Hodges said that he would like to know about mattress recycling. Mr. Catino said that they were happy about the mattress recycling company that opened 10 years ago because that has reduced the cost and disposal.

Council Member Hodges asked about the scrap metal recycling. Mr. Catino said that the prices have increased, but people have also started selling their own metal recycling, so the City doesn't get the same amount.

Council Member Lyons suggested that the students are excited about recycling and they should do an awareness program. She said that she would start raising awareness in her area about recycling.

Council Member Pereira asked about the fees that were collected at Asylum Street listed on page 190. She asked if they could increase the fees. Mr. Nkwo said that the fees were connected to the tonnage. Discussion followed.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 11, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Scott Burns, Co-chair; Ernest Newton, Co-chair; Jeanette Herron, Tyler Mack, Matthew McCarthy, Mary McBride-Lee, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

OTHERS: Council Member(s): A. Boyd, J. Cruz, R. Smith, M. Pereira, R. Roman-Christy & M. Valle; Paul Catino, Public Facilities; Luann Conine, Greg Dancho, Beardsley Zoo; Craig Nadrizny, Acting Public Facilities Director; Ken Flatto, Finance Director; Nestor Nkwo, OPM Director; Luis Burgos, Parks; Steve Hladun, Parks Department; Jon Urquidi, City Engineer; Michelle Muoio, Airport Manager; Barbara, iPhone-DNPH80W00DXT

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Newton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present. He reminded everyone that they had invited a number of guests to speak about their submitted budget. They are not here to be scolded, but answer questions about what they need.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED COMPARISON OF DEPARTMENT FY23 PERSONNEL POSITIONS VS. FY17 AS EXHIBIT 04-11-2022-A.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED OPEP CAPITAL BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES AS EXHIBIT 04-11-2022-B.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED FY23 SPECIAL PROJECT MANAGERS W/UNIONS AS EXHIBIT 04-1-2022-C.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED ENGINEERING PERMIT SUPERVISOR REQUEST AS EXHIBIT 04-11-2022-D.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT FY23 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES INTO GENERAL BUDGET AS EXHIBIT 04-11-2022-E.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC FACILITIES

(Administration, Parks, Zoo, and Engineering)

• **Zoo** – Mr. Nwko asked Mr. Dancho if there were any changes. Mr. Dancho said that there was a change with the State Tourism funding. He said that there was a question about some additional funding that came from a different source. He is looking into this.

Council Member Burns directed everyone to page 254.

Council Member Pereira said that Mr. Dancho had sent her some bylaws about the zoo, but she was looking for the signed document between the City and the Zoo. Mr. Dancho said that there was a copy in the City Attorney's Office, which is a very long document. He will look for his copy and send it to her.

Council Member Pereira said that Mr. Dancho was a professional but he also knows how she feels about the zoo.

Council Member McCarthy asked whether the actual operating expenses exceeded what the Council Members see in the budget. Mr. Dancho said that there were funds from the State and gate receipts.

Council Member Newton thanked Mr. Dancho for the opportunity for the children to go to the zoo for free. He asked if the State does any advertising for the Zoo. Mr. Dancho said that the zoo admission was free on Saturday for Bridgeport residents until June. He said that they were waiting to hear if CT residents would be allowed to visit the zoo for free in the summer. Mr. Dancho then went on to describe a light show for their 100th year anniversary. Another bond has been approved for the tiger exhibit and the bear exhibit. Discussion followed.

Council Member Roman-Christy asked Mr. Dancho about scheduling the visits to the zoo. He explained that the reservations were part of the COVID restrictions. All the visitors had to log in at the gate.

Council Member McCarthy asked where the \$500,000 revenue number came from and if there was a way to increase the funding. Mr. Dancho said that it was AARPA funds and there was no actual figure. When the Zoo was part of DEEP, it was \$500,000, but the amount subsequently dropped. Later it was increased, but has been decreasing over time. He said that they should not be in the Tourism, but in Education.

Council Member McCarthy said that it was the 100th anniversary of the Zoo and felt that the new Communications Director should be advertising this. Mr. Dancho said it is also Frederick

Olmstead's 250th anniversary this year. He said that if they have free admission, they will have to do some planning so that people have a positive experience.

Mr. Flatto said that the reason that last year shows \$380,000 was because it was a catch-up payment for the previous year. He said that the general State funding amount was about \$250,000 and went on to give the details.

Mr. Dancho said that one of the long-time staff members had recently passed away.

• **Parks and Recreation** – Mr. Nwko said that the Recreation Department was on page 260. He said that they had discussed the Seaside Park rental already. He then gave a brief overview of the Personnel transfer, which had already been discussed.

Council Member Burns asked if there were any vacancies. Mr. Nadrizny said that he thought all the positions had been filled. Mr. Catino said that he thought there were no vacancies in that department.

Council Member Newton said that they had asked for a break-down of the number of positions in a department but had not received one yet for this department. Mr. Nadrizny said that it was listed in the budget. Discussion followed about the request for an organization chart. Mr. Nadrizny said that he would send one.

Council Member McCarthy said that they could generate more revenue if they fixed up the bath house and rented it out. He had discussed this last year and would continue to discuss it until the bath house was fixed.

Council Member McCarthy asked for clarification on the seasonal employees. Mr. Catino said that this was not the same group of seasonal employees that they had discussed before. This group includes the lifeguards, camp counsellors and instructors who put on classes for the seniors.

Ms. Conine said that she was grateful for the request for seasonal lifeguards. They are competitive with the surrounding towns. There were a few non-Bridgeport counsellors last year. She summarized the other positions for the Recreation Department.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked for clarification on the Recreation Superintendent. Ms. Conine said that it was her position. Council Member McBride-Lee said that she was pleased to know that it was Ms. Conine.

Council Member Pereira asked if the parents have to pay a fee for enrolling the children in the summer camp. Ms. Conine said that it was a sliding scale fee.

Council Member Pereira asked how many children were in the camps. Ms. Conine said that it was between 130 and 150 children for the 5 weeks. The \$100 fee pays for the Zoo admission, Lake Compounce and other trips.

Council Member Pereira said that the revenue was revenue and it should be recorded in the budget.

Council Member Valle said that there was only 1 swimming pool open. She asked which one it was. Ms. Conine said that Blackham was down and would likely be down for the summer. They use High Verizon right now until Blackham is open again.

Council Member Pereira said that she did not understand why the Seaside Rental was listed in this section when it was for the camp counsellors. Mr. Nwko said that if they move it there will be two-line items called Seaside Rentals.

Council Member Pereira asked about the transfer of the Financial Coordinator. They had transferred that position last year. Mr. Nadrizny said that the Financial Coordinator works out of Public Facilities Maintenance.

Council Member Burns directed everyone to page 266. Mr. Nwko said that there was a decrease of revenue because they have provided vehicles for all the departments. He then gave an overview of the details.

Council Member McCarthy asked for clarification on the purchase of the trucks. Discussion followed about the purchases.

Council Member Pereira said that they were maintaining \$35,000 for two small pick-up trucks. Mr. Nwko said that he would purchase one first. Mr. Catino said that they were given that number and believed that it was outdated.

Council Member Pereira asked if they were trucks that would be used by Recreation or used by other departments. Mr. Catino said that they were for Parks Maintenance and Mr. Nwko had put the line item in Recreation.

Council Member Pereira said that this was not honest, ethical or transparent budgeting. She repeated that the trucks were listed here and it was not honest, ethical or transparent budgeting.

Council Member Newton said that Mr. Nwko had told them that they wanted to have all the budgeting items on the same page and as clear as possible.

Mr. Nadrizny said that they had \$35,000 listed for a Ford Ranger for 2023 and a second one for 2024.

Council Member Burns asked if \$400,000 for seasonals was an accurate number. He noted that the last few years had been light because of COVID. Mr. Nwko said that in 2019, they spent \$375,000. Mr. Catino said that the last two years had been affected by COVID and that they were looking at a robust year as life returns to normal.

- **Parks** Council Member Burns said that the budget was on page 272. Mr. Nwko gave an overview of the revenue, but cautioned everyone that they don't know the exact condition of the Seaside parking lot.

He then mentioned the Park rental and said that the tenant was now paying \$1,000 a month rather than \$400 a month. The tenant will be going before the Parks Board tomorrow for a new contract and is expected to assume the utilities cost.

Council Member Newton asked about the concession stands. He wished to know why the concession stand at Seaside was never open. Mr. Hladun said that the RFP was done in 2016 but was not able to open in 2020. This past year, the Parks Board did an extension for the current lease. The concessioner said that he was only able to open the West Beach, but he was not able to find staffing for the Grove concession. They will be asking for permission to put the RFP back out.

Council Member Newton said that the vendors who do the carts for the ices have carte blanche. Mr. Hladun said that they would be assessing the contract for the designated fee for vending on the Parks property.

Council Member McCarthy said that the \$260,000 should be listed in this section of the budget. Mr. Hladun said that the bandshell had been historically listed here. He gave the details and explained that they report to Public Facilities.

Council Member McCarthy said that they have to put some decent food in the concession. He asked where the \$5,000 came from. Mr. Hladun said that there was an escalator clause and gave the details.

Council Member Herron said that there was an ice cream truck that is the only one that is allowed inside. They need to be fair to everyone. She asked about the vendors who were at the concession at Pleasure Beach. Mr. Hladun said that they had been closed since 2020. The concession stand on Pleasure Beach was done through some limited Parks staffing.

Council Member Pereira said that the City Charter requires a Director of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Nadrizny said that he was filling both roles. Council Member Pereira said that they were the Park City and there were a massive number of parks. She asked how the job could be done well when it did not have a separate Department Director.

Council Member Pereira asked about the WICC lease. Mr. Flatto said that there was a radio tower that the radio company used. Mr. Nwko said that the company went under and they were paying the amount listed in the budget. Council Member Pereira asked why they did not bring this to the Council.

Council Member Valle said that she would like to have the concession stands go out to bid. Other people should be able to sell their food products in the park. She also said that the bath house should be fixed up.

Mr. Hladun said that vending on park land is governed by the Parks Committee. There is a clause for providing other vendors. This will be discussion at the Parks Commission meeting. Council Member Newton suggested the Midway as a prime location for the vending trucks.

Council Member McCarthy asked why they could not create a Parks Department that was run by the Director of Parks. Council Member McCarthy said that the Parks staff were cutting the grass on the street median dividers. Mr. Nadrizny said that they had been responsible for this for over 30 years.

Mr. Nwko said that there had been two separate departments, but then they were combined into the Public Facilities. Mr. Catino said that if they break the Parks and Recreation into a separate department, they will find that there were economies of scale that they will lose.

Council Member Newton said that it was a very large burden to have the Director of Public Facilities to handle all of this.

Council Member Burns said that one of the Deputy CAO was devoting quite a bit of time to the Parks and mentioned that there may be another staff member who would be also working on the Parks but will not have the same title. Discussion followed.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that regarding the golf course restaurant, the rental was in negotiation last year. She said that they had agreed to upgrade the facility, but the cost would not be in the rent.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the combination of the Public Facilities and the Parks had happened a number of years ago due to budgetary issues.

Council Member Pereira asked about the Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course. Council Member Newton said that it was an old lease that had expired. Council Member Pereira said that there were a number of news articles about the person who had been managing the restaurant and the number of fines that had been issued.

Council Member Pereira then read the Charter where it indicates there should be a Director of Parks, but the position would continue to be under Public Facilities.

Council Member Burns said that St. Mary's has a great deal of traffic and he would like to see a booth set up for fees. Other communities mail out Park stickers. Discussion followed about the legalities of this type of situation.

Mr. Hladun asked if Mr. Burgos, the current manager for the Parks and Roadway Management, could address the Committee. Mr. Burgos said that they would continue to work on the biggest challenge, which is the size of the staff.

People go to the parks to relax. The City is responsible for about 1,800 acres of park land and includes 42 parks, not including the pocket parks. He asked the Committee to consider adding

four more full time staff members to the department. The City is growing and in order to keep up with the growth, they need more staff. This will provide the residents with a safe place to enjoy their Park City.

A discussion followed about the details of staff sharing between the two departments.

Council Member McCarthy said that there was a seasonal budget of \$125,000 for Roadway. He said that they could pay 3 staff members. He also asked what they would be doing during the winter months. Mr. Nadrizny said that there was plenty of work to be done in the winter months. Mr. Nwko said benefits and pension costs are \$67,000 a year.

Council Member Pereira asked why it says Manager of Roadways and Parks. Mr. Nadrizny said that it had always been that title. The staff manages Parks but also does Roadways during snow events.

Council Member Pereira said that she gets many complaints about the dog parks and the lack of mutt mitts. Mr. Burgos said that people take them home or kids throw them all over the park. The mitts are costly.

Council Member Pereira asked why they are skipping the dog parks. Mr. Burgos said that it is a result of the lack of staff. They try to do major clean ups and add wood chips, but they can't keep up. Mr. Hladun said that there was a lot of garbage to pick up in the parks. He said that they were trying to find a balance between full time staff and seasonals. Discussion followed.

Council Member Newton said that if the Committee were able to allocate three or four more staff positions, they should not come back to the Committee asking for more seasonals or over budget.

Council Member Burns said that the Parks Administration was the last page.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the number of years between the Maintainer 1, 2 and 3. Mr. Nwko said that he would send that information.

• **Engineering.** Council Member Burns directed everyone to page 292.

Council Member Pereira said that last year, the City Engineer had requested a position and eliminated a Civil Engineer 1. She said that while they had eliminated the position, a job offer had been made before July 1st. Discussion followed about the details of the position and the steps.

Council Member Pereira said that there had been a problem in her district where an individual had created a sidewalk that was too narrow.

Council Member Pereira asked if Mr. Nwko had notified anyone when the job candidate had received a job offer. Mr. Nwko said that he had not notified anyone because he did not know. Council Member Pereira said that this was problematic.

Council Member Newton asked why Mr. Nwko had not known. Mr. Nwko said that the Civil Service had sent the letter and he did not know. Once he signs off on the position, he has no way to know how long it took to fill the position. Discussion followed.

Council Member Newton asked Mr. Nwko to check with Civil Service to keep them informed.

Mr. Urquidi said that there were four engineers in 2021. They had converted one Civil Engineer 1 to a Civil Engineer 2. He said that transferring Permits to the Engineering was not a problem since he was already managing it.

Council Member Pereira said that the budget book reflect only three positions and that they were adding one position. Mr. Urquidi said that there were four employees in his department including himself up until a few months ago. One engineer left and he is waiting to fill that position.

Council Member Pereira said that they should not make the offer to fill the position since they had eliminated it last year.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA
MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 14, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Scott Burns, Co-chair; Ernest Newton, Co-chair; Jeanette Herron, Tyler Mack, Mary McBride-Lee, Matthew McCarthy

OTHERS: Council Member(s): A. Boyd, J. Cruz, F. Hodges, M. Pereira, R. Smith & M. Valle; Ken Flatto, Finance Director; Nestor Nkwo, OPM Director; Eric Amado, Civil Service Director, Monty Miles, Benefits Manager; Sandra Ferreira, Human Resources Manager; Constance Vickers, Director, Legislative Affairs; Barbara, iPhone, 203-880-5666

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Burns called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

Co-chair Newton said that the department staff was present to speak about their budget. He said that discussion and questions about contracts and negotiations would not be allowed. There are negotiations underway. He also reminded everyone to be respectful.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET, FY 2023-2024 FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OFFICE, LABOR RELATIONS, AND BENEFITS AS EXHIBIT 04-13-22-A.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED ANNUAL COST OF MAINTAINERS, I & II AS EXHIBIT 04-13-22-B.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member McCarthy said that Mr. Amado's presentation was always very well presented but respectfully requested that he just hit the key points.

Mr. Nkwo then reviewed the Review Summary on page 92.

Council Member Newton asked what the Personnel Trainee was. Mr. Amado said that it was where an individual with light Human Service skills would be entered. Council Member Newton asked about the salary. Mr. Nkwo said that he would check into this and report back to the Committee.

Council Member Pereira said that this position had a \$16,000 increase and was vacant. Mr. Amado said that it had been filled. He said that the salary increase appears to be a typo and Mr. Nkwo would be checking into this.

The Committee then moved to page 95 including police training and exams. The recommended amount should cover the costs for the Police and Fire exams.

The Committee then reviewed page 98, which has the benefits and the personnel summary. They are requesting two part time clerical assistants.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the fringe benefits for the retirees. Mr. Nkwo reviewed the details of the retirees health insurance. Ms. Miles said that there were three classification for retirees: under 65, 65 and over and Connecticut Partnership. The premium for the over 65 class was \$43,000.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked for clarification on why the amounts went down for the Clerk A classification. Mr. Amado said that the Clerk As were for the Civil Service Department only. He gave the details.

Council Member Pereira said that there are several departments that have their own payroll clerk. She said in the School District they only have one payroll clerk, and this is also true with corporate America. She said that she had never seen anything like this and pointed out that

Mr. Amado said that the Charter Chapter 17 has Civil Service [30:00] The Civil Service Payroll Clerk oversees the other payroll clerks for accuracy and inputting the information. The separate payroll clerks are usually in large departments like Public Works.

Mr. Flatto said that the departments oversee their time management, but the Civil Service oversees all the changes like marital status, etc.

Council Member McCarthy said that the amount of finance positions in the City is very high and he agrees with Council Member Pereira.

Mr. Nkwo said that they were supposed to get a savings from the Medicare Plan, but the costs went up by \$500,000. This should have been offset by the saving from the Medicare Plan.

The Committee then reviewed Labor Relations on page 106.

Council Member McCarthy said that there was one person handling the Labor Relations and Personnel. He asked why one person was able to do one job but now they need two people to do one job.

Mr. Amado said that he was covering two jobs, but it would be difficult to find a candidate as Deputy Director for Labor Relations if they don't have enough staff. There are many employees

and many contracts to negotiate. A Deputy Director would bring the technical expertise to the position. Discussion followed.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked for clarification on the two positions that Mr. Amado was covering, which Mr. Amado provided.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked if Mr. Amado was paid for covering both positions. Mr. Amado said that he was not being paid for both positions.

Council Member Newton said that he agreed with Council Member McBride-Lee about Mr. Amado. He asked if Mr. Amado keeps track of performance reviews. He said that he had heard of City employees who never had a review after years. He said that he knew for a fact that Bridgeport does a poor job in review.

Council Member Pereira asked if Mr. Amado had anything to do with the Board of Education unions. Mr. Amado said that they did not.

Council Member Pereira said that there was a request for an 11% salary increase for the Labor Relations Management position.

Mr. Amado listed the various unions that the City Attorney's Office handles. Mr. Amado said that they were considering reorganizing the Labor Relations and the increased salary was part of that to attract candidates. The job responsibilities for the position was very large.

The Committee then moved to page 109.

Mr. Amado then narrated the information contained in Exhibit 04-14-22-A for the Committee.

Ms. Miles said that there were quite a few anticipated retirements. Some retirees had benefits from other positions and a few retirees passed away, which is why the payout had decreased.

Mr. Amado said that one of the major tasks was to give exams for the Police and Fire. He said that they are now giving more frequent exams for those two departments.

Council Member Burns asked if the Police Accountability Bill had any effect on hiring. He said that there were three times as many applicants for firefighters than police officers.

Council Member Pereira said that the only people who should be concerned about the Police Accountability Bill are the ones that are breaking the law. She mentioned the former Police Chief, who is currently in jail, and the Colorado Avenue incident.

Council Member Pereira said that Acting Police Chief Garcia had said that she was conducting exit interviews, which Council Member Pereira felt was not proper. Mr. Amado said that his department was ready to engage with the Police Department in handling the exit interviews.

Council Member Newton said that Bridgeport was not the only City that had lawsuits against their Police Department. He asked if there were any ideas on how to protect the City. Mr. Amado said that he wants to see how many officers are disqualified during the hiring evaluation and the appeal system. He said that the Habits and Conduct or the Psychological evaluations were a good indication of the success of the officer in the job.

Mr. Amado then gave an overview of the FY 21-22 Accomplishments as outlined in the report.

Council Member McCarthy asked what the status was on the search for the new Police Chief. Mr. Amado said that the Mayor had authorized them to move forward with personnel search. He now has a very short window to give the exam and said that they should be able to start the testing process in June.

Council Member McCarthy asked what the timeframe was for submitted the three names to the Mayor. Mr. Amado outlined the process and explained that it would be hard to put a hard date on it because there was a 30 day review period. He would be pleased with having it done in September.

Council Member Newton said that if they reduce the costs for the Police, the other departments will be asking for the same reduction. Mr. Amado said that all the unions have been requesting some type of relief for the health insurance costs. The negotiations are still to come.

Council Member Pereira asked about the hold on provisional employees. She said that there was about 20 BOE employees that had been Provisionals for year. When the test was given, most of them failed and then the Civil Service Commission created a curve and only 4 of the employees were let go.

Mr. Amado said that he would have to go back to look at the numbers. He said that he did not know how they would create a curve.

Council Member Burns asked what steps were taken to insure the integrity of the Police Chief exam. Mr. Amado said that there had to be a proper job analysis to insure the integrity. There were some community forms, but there was no record of those results being incorporated into the exam process. He added that having a take home exam was not acceptable. Transparency is critical and nothing is secret. This will be done pursuant to the Charter. The exam will be held in a secure venue. Previously, the information was given to the candidates and the assessors were contacted by the candidates.

Council Member McCarthy asked why there was \$19,000 decrease in the Human Resource Manager on page 98. Mr. Amado said that there had been an issue in the past but the current employee was not at that salary because it was a higher step. The previous Human Resource Manager was at that level, but the new manager will have a pay increase because the individual is on a lower step. Discussion followed.

Council Member McCarthy said that he was smelling something fishy because the allocated salary was at \$126,000 but the individual was not making that amount. Mr. Amado said that he did not understand how they budgeted for the first step salary class. He explained that it made no sense to budget Maintainer II & III at Step 1 because they are past that pay grade.

Council Member Newton said that they should have community meetings about the new Police Chief, so there is community input, like New Haven did.

Council Member Newton said that there were employees that were receiving salary increases based on their step level. He asked why they don't have a review.

Mr. Amado said that the first step for the Police Chief process was to have a community meeting in English and Spanish.

Mr. Amado said that every employee must go through a probation period. He said that it sounds like they are asking for a review for the steps. This would be a union issue. He said that they have been working on including an evaluation before an employee moved to the next salary step. However, the reviews will be subject to grievance.

Council Member Newton asked about Mayoral appointees. Mr. Amado said that any Civil Service employees and others had probation reviews. He went on to give the details and said that the department heads have the authority to deny a step increase.

Council Member Burns asked if there was technology to follow up on check ins. Mr. Amado said that they were working on technology abilities for training and other aspects of employment.

Ms. Miles then gave an overview of the Benefits Department. She said that they have been working on the Medicare Advantage Plan, which will save the City \$3 million dollars over the next three years. She said that they were looking at ways to reduce the costs of insurance.

Council Member Burns asked about a CT State Comptroller retirement and how this affected the health insurance. Ms. Miles said that the plan was still being worked on.

Council Member Pereira asked why the BOE have a significantly larger amount in the CT Partnership Plan. Ms. Miles said that this was about the retired employees and they are not in Anthem.

Ms. Miles then reviewed the benefits that the retirees receive in the City benefits and on Medicare.

Council Member Burns asked how the retention was working. Mr. Amado said that they do not receive complaints about the health care, but receive complaints about the cost of the insurance. He added that they were working on adding more benefits such as taking classes at the local colleges.

Ms. Miles said that Connecticut Partnership Plan requires routines physicals and other evaluations. There is a \$100 per month charge for non-compliance. Ms. Miles said that there were a number of City employees that were currently non-compliant.

Council Member Pereira asked how the tracking was done. She said that they were fining people who do not get cholesterol screens or other medical tests. Council Member Pereira said that she was terrible about technology and felt it was unfair to expect employees to manage their own health care through technology.

Mr. Flatto said that the State actually send letters through the mail. He said that an ounce of prevention to head off a serious illness would be important.

Mr. Amado said that he has been receiving the letters as he has not had his physical yet. These are preventative measures that reduces the cost of insurance.

Council Member Pereira said that this was micromanagement. She said that she did not agree with this. Ms. Miles said that there are waivers for certain circumstances. Council Member Newton said that people had no problems signing up for their stimulus checks. Discussion followed.

Ms. Miles then displayed a slide showing the Worker's Compensation and Risk Control summary.

Council Member Burns asked if the Worker's Comp claims were down. Mr. Nkwo said that the Worker's Comp numbers increased minimally.

Ms. Ferreira said that she was the Human Resources Manager. She displayed a slide listing the accomplishment that the Department has attained. She said that there had been a high number of employees leave and they were able to create an exit interview. It is important to have someone outside of the Department head conduct these interviews.

Council Member Newton said that last year, the Budget Committee had eliminated a position not knowing that someone had been hired. He said Mr. Nkwo told them that they had to go forward with the hire because they would be sued. He added that there were too many people that have to sign off on a hire.

Ms. Ferreira said that the position that was filled happened before she moved into her position. She then spoke about how the work flow happens. The communication happens before it comes to Human Resources. Council Member Newton said that the Committee would have never have eliminated the position if they had known the position had been filled. Discussion followed.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked if the Police Officers had received the exit survey. Ms. Ferreira said that they have not done this yet, but was willing to do so. However, she said that having a high number of officers retire after April 1st but before June 30th was typical. Officers want to take advantage of their pensions and work elsewhere.

Council Member Pereira asked if the Human Resources was familiar with the Maryland Governor removing the requirement for a college degree for City employment. Mr. Amado said that they were working on doing deep dives into skills and recognizing when a college degree is not relevant. He outlined the steps for changing minimum requirements. They are reviewing job qualifications regularly. Discussion followed.

Council Member Pereira said that she was open to it, but felt that they should still be tested for positions so someone does not get a job based on who they know.

Council Member Pereira asked if they were doing exit interviews at the Police Department. Ms. Ferreira said that they were not. Council Member Pereira said that if there was a 10% departure rate, it was a red flag. Ms. Ferreira said that they were working on retention and perks. She said that working with universities to provide tuition discounts will be a good incentive. Discussion followed about competitive and non-competitive classifications.

Council Member Burns said that what the Committee was hearing that the Department was moving in the right direction for retaining employees.

Council Member Pereira asked administration assistant salary increase listed on page 106. Mr. Amado said that the position was a union and there is the ability to increase the hours from 35 to 40. The amount of time and effort that the individual is putting is justified. Council Member Pereira asked why it was not noted in the bullets on the bottom of the page.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that as long as Mr. Amado has worked both jobs, he deserves whatever he asks for.

Council Member Newton thanked Mr. Amado and his staff for the excellent presentation. He said that he hoped they would be able to get a permanent Labor Relations Administration Assistant because it is not fair to have him filling two positions. Since Mr. Amado has taken over the department, they can see the results since he is including the Council in some of the jobs.

Council Member Lyons said that she agreed with Council Member Newton and thanked Mr. Amado for his hard work. She congratulated Ms. Ferreira also.

Council Member Burns asked about the Labor Relations Director position and displayed a page showing the department head salaries. He said that the position would be the fifth highest in the City. This position has been difficult to fill.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 16, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Scott Burns, Co-chair; Ernest Newton, Co-chair; Jeanette Herron, Matthew McCarthy, Tyler Mack, Mary McBride-Lee

OTHERS: Council Member(s): A. Boyd & M. Pereira; T. Gaudett, Mayoral Aide; Ken Flatto, Finance Director; Nestor Nkwo, OPM Director; Lt. M. Cotto, Police Department

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Newton called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. A quorum was present.

Council Member Newton said that they would be discussing the Police Department. He said that they had set the schedule and they had been informed that Acting Police Chief was not available. He added that there will not be any discussion about settlements.

Co-chair Burns said that Lt. Cotto has submitted a presentation. Council Member Burns said that Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia would not be in attendance due to religious observance.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Flatto said that the budget had been fairly stable for the Police Department. Lt. Cotto said that Acting Chief Garcia had made a prior commitment that she could not break. Lt. Cotto said that they had requested to change the date. He said that there had been a rumor that Acting Chief Garcia does not work on week-ends, and that is untrue. Lt. Cotto explained that he was calling in while driving, and was not prepared to make a presentation.

Discussion followed about rescheduling the Police Department review.

Council Member Burns said that for the last two years, the Police Department had come in under budget. He reminded everyone that the Police staff was very low. Council Member Burns said that Mr. Amado had shared some of the staffing reports for Police and Fire.

Mr. Flatto said that there were two factors that were driving the PD budget. The vacancies have offset the overtime. He then gave an overview of the Police pension plans.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that they should be more responsible and someone should be present to represent the Police Department but since there wasn't, the Committee should move forward on the budget issues. Discussion followed.

Council Member McCarthy said that they had scheduled this and the Police Department knew that this had not been rescheduled. It is just another poor reflection on the leadership.

Council Member Herron said that she agreed with her colleagues because the Council Members were all volunteers and they were present.

Council Member Pereira said that the budget book shows 85 vacancies, but the later amount was over 110 when Lt. Cotto and Acting Chief Garcia met with the Public Safety Committee. Council Member Burns displayed a spreadsheet from Labor Relations.

Mr. Nkwo said that there were 423 officers budgeted. Council Member Pereira asked if that was just officers or included the administration and non-sworn staff. She said that the previous year, there were 69 vacancies. Mr. Nkwo explained that the PD does not consider candidates in the Academy as officers as they were not sworn in.

Council Member Pereira said at the Public Safety meeting, there were 110 vacancies, but there were no Academy recruits added on.

Lt. Cotto said that there was a Community Police engagement that the Acting Police Chief was at and she is tied up in a religious ceremony. He said that he was directing traffic and did not have any of the paperwork available.

Council Member McCarthy said that he was present at the previous Public Safety meeting and recalled the 110 vacancies. He said that they should notify the Mayor that the Chief was at a Police Community meeting that was more important than the budget.

Mr. Nkwo said that Civil Service had verified that there were 335 active positions as of March 1st. He reviewed the other figures. Council Member Newton said that they have heard that they need 450 officers for years, but they had never been able to be fully staffed.

Mr. Flatto left the meeting due to a fire alarm at 10:36 a.m.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that they should just proceed with the budget and move forward.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT REGARDING THE POLICE MANPOWER 2022 AS EXHIBIT 04-06-2022-A.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT SUBMITTED BY LT. COTTO THAT WAS TITLED BPT POLICE BUDGET PRESENTATION AS EXHIBIT 04-06-2022-B.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Nkwo displayed a spreadsheet that showed the cost for 10 police cars. He explained that they had mentioned in the past that a police car cost \$75,000, but this spreadsheet showed it costs about \$44,000.

Council Member McCarthy asked about attrition in the Police Department. Mr. Nkwo reviewed the figures with him.

Mr. Flatto rejoined the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Council Member McCarthy asked when they could start unfunding those vacant positions. Mr. Nkwo said that when the City takes a grant from the DOJ, the headcount cannot go under the minimum staffing for two years after the end of the grant.

Council Member Pereira asked for the DOJ grant paperwork. She added that they are not supposed to use the money unless they had all the positions filled. She said that there were 43 patrol officer vacancies last year, but now there are 48 vacancies. That means they lost 5 more officers. She said that she did not believe anything that was being said today because the COPS grant was supposed to provide extra officers. This budget is very problematic.

Council Member Newton said that when he was on the Council in 1981 they did not have a full complement back then.

Mr. Nkwo said that the Civil Service Department had certified a number of officers, and there were 12 recruits in training.

Council Member Pereira said that she would pull the minutes from that Public Safety meeting and there were 110 vacancies but now they were claiming that there were 85. She reiterated that last year, there were 69 vacancies that would never be filled. There was a lot of savings in the budget because they were never going to hire 69 or 85 or 110 officers.

Council Member Burns noted that the latest report showed that there was 17 officers on leave.

Mr. Nkwo then reviewed the Police Revenues in the Budget book.

Council Member Pereira asked about the revenue that came in during the pandemic compared to the current revenue. She asked if they make revenue on the outside officer work. Mr. Flatto said that it was usually \$2,000 to \$3,000 in revenue. Discussion followed.

Council Member Pereira said that there was a 2015 Ordinance to fine dirt bike riders. She said that she was shocked to see that there were no fines collected from dirt bike riders. Mr. Nkwo said that there were liabilities involved. Discussion followed.

Council Member Burns said that he had been in touch with the Acting Chief and she was just finishing up at the Community event and recovering from a medical procedure. She is willing to meet with them at another time.

Council Member McCarthy said that the Council should be able to charge the outside companies whatever they want to cover the cost. He also wished to know what happened in 2020. Mr. Flatto said that the last three months of 2020 were in the pandemic and there was no work going on. This also caused a lag in billing and payment, so a job in January or February might not be paid until June or July. Discussion followed about the outside surcharge.

CAPITAL DISCUSSION/GENERAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Council Member Burns displayed a document titled 2022 OPED BOND FUNDING.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT AS OPED BOND FUNDING 2022 AS EXHIBIT 04-16-2022-C.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Burns said there had been concerns about the funding for the gateway to the South End that had not been touched yet. He then reviewed the other figures with the Committee members.

Council Member Newton said that they need to know what projects were underway like the Civic Block. Mr. Flatto suggested that they contact OPED and ask for documentation.

Council Member McCarthy said that it was disturbing that they had money sitting there that the City was paying interest on. He said that they were requesting more funding this year.

Council Member Pereira said that they had asked for \$1 million for acquiring properties, but they had not purchased any properties. Discussion followed about the amounts that were bonded and the amounts that had not been spent.

Council Member Pereira said that this was problematic and the Council has the right through the Charter to redirect funding to pay down debt. Taxpayers are paying interest on that money.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked about the current status of the Capital Request for OPED, which Mr. Nkwo reviewed with her. She said OPED had been good in her area.

Council Member Newton said that they should have OPED come back to give an explanation.

Council Member McCarthy said that he would like to see every project other than Remington Arms and the Lafayette Circle moved out at least a year.

Council Member Newton said that he does not know what was on the drawing board and what wasn't, so they should have OPED explain it. Discussion followed.

Council Member Burns asked about the negative amount in Land Management. Mr. Nkwo reviewed the details.

Council Member Pereira said that she was not opposed to Capital Funding for major projects. She said that she felt that this was a slush fund. She would rather have OPED come to the Council and they can justify it. She said that she wanted to be responsible for taxpayers.

The discussion then moved to the Capital Budget.

Council Member McCarthy suggested that they look at establishing a Friends of Seaside Park group that could look into the Perry Memorial Arch and research possible grants. He said that the project could wait for a year. Council Member Newton replied that he had been told that the arch was in such poor condition, they did not want to wait. Council Member McCarthy said that he wanted to see the safety report on the Arch.

Mr. Flatto said that because the State had not come through with some of the funding for Bassick, they would have to cut this list. Council Member Newton said that Mr. Flatto should sit down with OPED and discuss this issue.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked about the Trumbull Garden Improvement Project. Mr. Nkwo said that this was in a prior year.

Council Member Pereira said that there were a number of projects listed in the Capital Funding that were questionable. She said street paving was in the bonding. She asked why the LOCIP funding was not being used for paving as they have in the past. She also had concerns about the ITS replacements for telephones and computers because she did not remember any discussions on this. She asked if anyone would be presenting on the WPCA budget.

Mr. Nkwo said he could present information about the ITS request. He said that this was an indication of needs and not necessarily a request for bonding.

Council Member Pereira said that they had funding from AARPA money. Mr. Flatto said that they only can use the money for cyber security.

Council Member Newton pointed out that many of the reasons that the roads are so bad was because the utilities come in and rip them up after they have been paved. It will be important to hold the utilities accountable for this.

Council Member Pereira said that they had torn up her streets and then they patch it with asphalt and it needs to be paved completely. She had been told by Mr. Urquidi that they will be going on a tour to look at the streets and what needs to be done.

Council Member McCarthy said that they were working on the ordinance requiring the companies to go curb to curb rather than just the area they dig up.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the \$8 million that the City had to bond for Bassick. He suggested that they consider doing a TANS to cover the money. Mr. Flatto said that he was not sure when the State would release the funding. The discussion moved to the details of bonding \$8 million followed by an additional \$16 million for the construction.

Council Member Pereira asked about the Federal Major Infrastructure Bill. Mr. Flatto said that they have been recommending projects, but he did not see any paving on the proposed list. Council Member Pereira said that they had received \$110 million and pointed out that there was \$75 million that had not been assigned yet. Mr. Flatto said that it was for a three year period. Mr. Gaudett said that it was actually about \$34 million over the three year period. They have allocated \$8 million for the WPCA project. He then continued to give a brief overview. Mr. Flatto said that he was planning on giving the Committee an update on this after the budget had been completed.

Council Member McCarthy asked how the Committee was planning to fit the Police Department into the schedule. Council Member Newton said that they were trying to figure it out. Council Member McCarthy said that they should be there at the April 30th meeting and they could present at 4 p.m.

Council Member Herron said that they should not do anything but deliberate and move forward. She said that they had conflicting stories about why Chief Garcia could not be there.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that if Chief Garcia couldn't come, she should have sent someone to represent the department. She agreed about the conflicting stories about why Chief Garcia could not be there.

Council Member Newton said that he agreed and they should move on.

Council Member Pereira said that it was frustrating with the Police but a very productive meeting to review the Capital Plan. She said that she had asked for a number of documents that she had not received, such as the CDBG breakout.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 19, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Scott Burns, Co-chair; Ernest Newton, Co-chair; Jeanette Herron, Matthew McCarthy, Mary McBride Lee; AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

OTHERS: Council Member(s): Maria Valle & Maria Pereira; OPM Director Nestor Nkwo; Finance Director Ken Flatto; School Superintendent Mike Testani; BOE Finance Director Marlene Siegel; City Librarian, Bridgeport Libraries, Elaine Braithwaite; Library Board member Tom Errichetti.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Burns called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

Board of Education/Library

Superintendent Michael Testani was asked to review his budget and requests for the committee for the fiscal year 2023. Superintendent Testani spoke to many issues regarding the Bridgeport Public Schools. He asked for an additional \$8.5 million dollars for pending salary increases and other citywide school-related expenses. He noted that Bridgeport provides 27% of the district's budget with only New Haven paying a lower percentage.

Superintendent Testani addressed a drop-off in student enrolment and its potential impact on revenue from the state according to the ECS (Educational Cost Sharing) formula. He referred to past position cuts, including the loss of kindergarten paraprofessionals. Superintendent Testani also explained how the board uses stipends to pay teachers and other building officials to coordinate athletic events and schedules.

Superintendent Testani also commented that the Council approved the contract with the operators of the Amphitheater and how the police department publicly noted that overtime for the coming season would exceed \$500,000 while the schools pay over \$5 million a year in school security.

OPM Director Nkwo addressed the revenues for the schools and submitted a document showing recent history of the city providing cash support for the BOE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ENTER THE DOCUMENT SHOWING RECENT HISTORY OF THE CITY PROVIDING CASH SUPPORT FOR THE BOE AS EXHIBIT 04-19-2022-A.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Nkwo reviewed some of the document details. He also noted that the Alliance Grant from the state to the city was projected about \$1.5 million higher for fiscal year 2023.

Co-chair Burns asked about the inclusion for State Fiscal Stabilization Fund on the BOE budget page when the funds are intended for the general fund. Mr. Nkwo noted these funds come from the MRSA account, which is based on state sales tax revenue, and agreed the revenue line could be moved to a more appropriate page. Co-chair Burns also noted that for several years the state had flat-funded the Bridgeport schools.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked about the Aid to Non-public Schools revenue line. Mr. Nkwo explained that the state reimburses the city for busing for non-public school students in the city.

Co-chair Newton asked about ‘rainy day’ funds of about \$6 million that the BOE set aside at the end of fiscal year 2021. Finance Director Flatto explained that the BOE had put \$3-6 million a year into the fund the last few years after a few years of losses. He also explained that the fund is co-monitored with BOE Finance Director Siegel and is used to pay for health care and similar expenses.

Council Member McBride-Lee also asked about substitute teachers and whether there were funds for them based on what she has seen where she teaches. Superintendent Testani responded that there were funds, but that it has also been hard to hire substitutes.

Co-chair Burns asked about the bi-monthly Financial Reports were to be sent to the Budget and Appropriations committee and that the reports on the BOE website were password locked. Superintendent Testani responded that he would look into it.

Council Member Herron noted that certain BOE members had asked for \$8.5 million, but she wanted to know what the superintendent really needed to keep the district functioning. Superintendent Testani responded that he really needed \$5 million. Council Member Herron expressed her appreciation for his honesty.

Co-chair Burns asked about how ESSER funds from the federal government were being used in the school system. Superintendent Testani explained that the BOE’s ESSER plan was on its website. He went on discuss how social workers, support staff, and restorative practices were among the uses. He also expressed concerns about what will happen when the ESSER monies run out.

Council Member Pereira asked about whether the funds could be used for asbestos treatment of the school buildings. Superintendent Testani affirmed that these funds could be used for this kind of work and other air quality projects in the schools.

Council Member McCarthy asked about Special Education costs, reminding the superintendent that he asked about this area a year ago as well. Superintendent Testani explained that he and Ms. Siegel had looked closely at out-of-town placements to ensure that they were happening and had found some significant savings. He also noted that the BOE was planning to bid out a

review of Special Education practices in the near future and that the impact should be seen in fiscal year 2024. He also noted that the district has 37 buildings and over 5,000 English Language Learners.

Council Member Valle referred to a building the BOE rents on Connecticut Ave and asked if savings could be found in a review of buildings that the BOE rents.

With no further questions, the committee thanked Superintendent Testani for speaking on the district's needs.

The discussion shifted to the Bridgeport Public Library. Co-chair Burns welcomed Librarian Braithwaite to review her department.

OPM Director Nkwo explained that on the revenue side, the BOE receives revenue equivalent to 1.3 mills based on the grand list. That total for FY2023 would be \$9,716,613. Director Errichetti further explained that the library receives some funding from the library endowment of approximately \$60,000 this year. The endowment is about \$400,000 and is invested in US Treasuries.

Ms. Braithwaite discussed some of the changes the library has experienced as a result of COVID. She noted both staff and the public have shifted to using more mobile devices and fewer devices. She also explained the availability of 'hot spots' for patrons to use to access WiFi.

Co-chair Newton raised concerns about a recent report about a dispute between the library and Ashlar Construction, the company involved in restoring the Newfield Library. Director Errichetti explained that they hoped to resolve the issue.

Co-chair Burns asked about cyber security for the library and what role the city ITS department provided. Ms. Braithwaite explained that the library belongs to a consortium of libraries for security and that ITS also provides firewalls for the library.

Council Member Pereira questioned how the 1.3 mill determination was based, whether on the full grand list or the modified grand list. Director Errichetti said the Board agreed to disagree with the city as to the determination. Finance Director Flatto explained that it is the practice of municipalities to use the modified grand list for determining mill rate values.

Co-chair Burns asked about employment levels and vacancies at the library as only one new and one vacant position were listed in the budget book. Ms. Braithwaite said the one vacancy was a Librarian III, which is a branch manager position. She also noted that 22 PRFs (personnel request forms) had been filed recently to fill new and vacant positions. Co-chair Burns asked further about specifics as to vacancies as they did not seem to fit with the positions noted. Ms. Braithwaite explained that the library was looking to fill these positions.

Ms. Braithwaite reviewed the current and future library building projects. The Newfield Library is up and running. Newton complimented the completion of the library. The Lower East Side branch library will be renovated with new technology, including contactless lockers for patrons to access materials.

Ms. Braithwaite noted that the Reservoir Avenue Library is also a long-term goal. Council Member McBride-Lee noted that she was glad to finally see this project in the budget but would like to see it started sooner. Director Errichetti explained that the library can only use two construction grants from the state at a time, and that Newfield and the Upper East Side projects are the current ones. Ms. Braithwaite noted that the Upper East Side project should start in the fall of 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 20, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Scott Burns, Co-chair; Ernest Newton, Co-chair; Tyler Mack, Mary McBride-Lee, Matthew McCarthy, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

OTHERS: Council Member(s): A. Boyd, J. Cruz, F. Hodges, M. Pereira, R. Smith & M. Valle; Ken Flatto, Finance Director; Nestor Nkwo, OPM Director; Curtis Denton, ITS Director; Barbara, Tamara Root, 203-209-1058; 203-880-5666

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Burns called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

ITS

Council Member Burns said that the ITS budget was on page 138 in the book. Mr. Nkwo said that the ITS world is more competitive than what the City is offering.

Mr. Denton said that in the last six months, the ITS staff has changed because former staff have taken positions in surrounding towns for more money. This makes filling the positions challenging and the City is losing the legacy knowledge to neighboring towns. He hopes to have the vacant positions in the next few months.

Mr. Denton then narrated a PowerPoint Presentation.

Mr. Denton spoke about the upgrades to the system, particularly during the COVID outbreak which allowed staff to work from home. The City has migrated to First Net Public Safety, which brings some savings to the City. Cyber security improvements have also been made to the system. Hardware delivery times now exceed 180 days.

He also reviewed the long term ITS goals with the Committee.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the Computer Services line item, which Mr. Denton reviewed with him.

Council Member Burns asked about the UPS. Mr. Denton explained that it was an Uninterrupted Power Supply, which is a unit that is similar to a battery back-up and gives the users time to save and shut down their computers in the event of a power failure. Discussion about the details followed.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the increases from 2020 to 2021. Mr. Denton said that the software licensing increase each year.

Council Member Mack asked about the revenue line for Freedom of Information. He also wished to know about the contracted salaries and the actuals.

Mr. Denton said that he does not collect revenue. Mr. Nkwo explained that in the past they had collected fees, but the law has since changed.

Council Member Newton said that the software licensing costs increase every year. He asked if there were other software products out there that were less costly. Mr. Denton said that the financial software was one of the top three packages in the nation. Changing over would cost more than any savings at this point.

Council Member Newton asked if the City has software contracts. Mr. Denton said that the City was under contract.

Council Member Valle asked how the Department could save on utilities. Mr. Denton said that if they were talking about the telecommunication lines, they are already reduced. He reviewed the details. Council Member Valle said that while it was helpful, but not enough.

Council Member Burns suggested that the computers be turned off when the staff is leaving. Mr. Denton said that it is during the night when the software updates are done along with running the anti-viral programs.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked if the BOE has their own separate department. Mr. Denton said that the City maintains the financial system, but the BOE has their own ITS department. Council Member McBride-Lee said that if they shut down the computers, the iPads won't charge for the students.

Council Member Pereira asked how many City buildings including all the fire stations along with all the City devices including desktops, iPads and tablets the department manages. Mr. Denton said that he believed that there were 35 buildings with the ITS infrastructure. He said that he believed there were about 7,000 devices.

Council Member Pereira said that the fire stations have seven or eight firefighters on site. She went on to say that the BOE has 40 school buildings including Connecticut Avenue and other non-school use buildings. They have well over 30,000 devices including Chromebooks, tablets, iPads and desktops. Council Member Pereira said that it blows her mind to see this department, which is double the size of the BOE ITS. She said that the City ITS manages 7,000 devices while the BOE manages well over 30,000, especially during COVID when every single child needed some type of remote learning device. She said that she did not understand the disparity since the City ITS has almost double the size of the BOE budget, yet the BOE manages so many more devices and school buildings. She added that Central High has over 200 employees alone. She

repeated that there was a major disparity between the number of personnel in the City ITS and the number of personnel in the BOE ITS.

Mr. Denton said that the City ITS department runs 24/7/365 days a year and they also manage NextGen, Intergov, and the financial system. They also manage network applications and the servers. If the system goes down, they have one hour to get it back up and running.

Council Member Pereira replied that the BOE was 24/7 because the students take standardized computerized tests and have a number of platforms that they must handle for those tests. She restated that there was a major disparity here and every school was at capacity 181 days a year. Many of the school buildings host summer programs or the Lighthouse Program. She repeated that there was a major disparity there.

Mr. Denton said that the BOE receives a different access rate and Federal funding particularly in the area of software costs. The City pays a different amount for software contracts and there are also costs for the telecommunication software. Many of the BOE applications are handled off site, for which the BOE pays a fee, which is not possible for the City to do.

Council Member Pereira said that that there had been discussions about using AARPA funds for free City-wide access for internet and wi-fi for the entire City. She asked Mr. Denton if there was anything in the budget about that.

Mr. Denton said that the RFP will be released for that. He reviewed the details.

Mr. Nkwo pointed out that the City ITS acts as an internet hub for not only the City, but also for the BOE.

Council Member McCarthy said that he believes that the Infrastructure Bill has funding for free wi-fi for residences.

Council Member McCarthy asked how many City employees are issued cellphones. He also wished to know how many people don't use it. Mr. Denton said that they deactivate phones that are not being used and they will be returned to AT&T.

Council Member Newton said that it is not right to compare the BOE to the City. The City picks up many of the services for the BOE. They are two different entities. The City has many more responsibilities for the residents.

Council Member Burns asked about the mitigation of risk in terms of cyber security. Mr. Denton then reviewed the security measures that the City is taking.

Council Member Pereira asked about the Shot Spotter and what the ITS role was in maintaining it. Mr. Denton said that he does not have a direct connection to that program. Mr. Flatto said that some funding had been allocated for the Shot Spotter expansion.

Council Member Pereira asked about the costs associated with the Shot Spotter hardware. Mr. Nkwo said that it would be best to speak to Acting Chief Garcia about it.

Council Member Pereira asked about page 148 and the debt service. Mr. Flatto said that some of the money was used for Intergov. Mr. Denton said that he does not allow bonding for software and it did not happen during his watch. He explained that the City had bonded five years ago for NextGen and other servers, which run 24/7 because they were at the end of life. RFPs were done and the hardware went through the purchasing process. Hardware only lasts about five years, so taking out a 10-year note is not practical.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she was pleased to see the new North End Library budget line. Mr. Nkwo said that they had included it to make her happy.

Council Member Burns asked about the Emergency Operations budget line. Mr. Denton spoke about how the programs would need to be upgraded and will assist the leadership in decision making.

Council Member McCarthy said that they should not fund any Capital Budget items with AARPA funds because that revenue will not be long term.

Mr. Nkwo commended Mr. Denton for carrying the City successfully through the COVID pandemic.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Telesco Secretarial Services

Special Note:

No minutes available due to no Stenographer coverage for the public hearing held on April 20, 2022 @ 7 p.m.

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 21, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Scott Burns, Co-chair; Ernest Newton, Co-chair; Jeanette Herron, Mary McBride-Lee, Matthew McCarthy, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

OTHERS: Council Member(s): A. Boyd, J. Cruz, F. Hodges, M. Pereira & M. Valle; T. Gaudett, Mayoral Aide; Ken Flatto, Finance Director; Nestor Nkwo, OPM Director; Steve Auerbach, Atty. Mark Anastasi, Marilla Giacobbe, John Gomes, Assistant CAO; Linda Grace, Registrar of Voters; Janene Hawkins, CAO; Patricia Howard, Registrar of Voters; City Attorney Chris Meyer; Tamara Root, CAO's Office; Atty. Tyisha Toms; Barbara, iPhone-DNPH80W00DXT; iPhone-F17H820U0DXT; Call in User-1; 203-209-1058;203-257-2139,203-676-3501; 203-880-5666

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Newton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

Co-chair Newton reminded everyone that this discussion was about the budget. Other Departmental matters should be discussed directly with the Department Heads.

REGISTER OF VOTERS

Mr. Nkwo said that there were six employees in the department and next year, there were no additional positions requested. Mr. Nkwo then reviewed the Appropriations Supplement.

Council Member Burns asked about the increase in ballot fees. Ms. Howard said that the only thing that they were in control of was the number of ballots they can order and they have reduced it to 80%.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about Operational Expenses for poll workers. Mr. Flatto indicated where the line item for those workers was listed.

Council Member Pereira that her constituents had issues with registering and the office was not open on time. It happened with the previous Registrar of Voters and it is wrong to disenfranchise voters by delaying voters from receiving their absentee ballots.

Council Member Newton said that for reasons unknown, the Department of Motor Vehicles switched a large number of Democrats to Independents. It caused many problems across the City.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that if there is a problem in a Department, it would be important to discuss it with the Department heads rather than making a broad statement in the Budget meeting. She added that there were some of her constituents who discovered that they were not registered as Democrats.

Ms. Howard said that nine times out of ten, voters will come into the office and when they look at the card, the individual filled out the card at the Motor Vehicles. If someone is registered to vote with a party, they should not fill out the Motor Vehicles voter registration card.

If there is a problem about the Department's work, they should contact the Department head about the issue in the office so that they can make the changes.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she was concerned that this was a Budget and Appropriations Committee meeting for the budget. There should not be other concerns discussed. Those issues can be addressed at another informational meeting or discussed directly with the Department heads during an appointment. Discussions are getting out of hand. The office does their job. If they need more help, they should ask.

Council Member Pereira said that her issue was about the budget. She said that she had started raising this issue about the DMV in 2018 and again in 2019. Council Member Newton said that if the issue has to do with the budget, then they can discuss it.

Council Member Pereira said that this department needs additional training to address problems. Mr. Nkwo indicated where the line item was for training on the spreadsheet. Discussion followed about the details about the grant funding was allocated.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that in the last election, if it wasn't for the Registrar of Voters Office, she would have dropped out of the race. They kept encouraging her and she wished to thank them. Ms. Howard said that Ms. Grace had helped those who needed it and having the temporary workers available was also a big help.

Council Member McCarthy asked everyone to stick to the budget.

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Council Member Burns directed everyone to page 80 of the budget book. Mr. Nkwo gave a brief overview of the spreadsheet.

Council Member Newton asked where the outside attorney line item was. NN indicated where it was in the Budget.

Council Member McCarthy asked if only the paralegals handle the FOIA requests. Atty. Bohannon said that there was an Associate City Attorney that is responsible for the FOIA compliance. They are looking for a paralegal to assist with this.

Council Member McCarthy asked if there was a breakdown of what the various attorneys handled. Atty. Bohannon said that Atty. Meyer is the City Attorney and oversees the entire office. Atty. Ouellette handles personal injury. Atty Bohannon said he himself was responsible for administrative duties, civil rights defense and labor matters along with occasional significant personal injury matters.

Council Member McCarthy said that he would like a listing of all the attorneys including the three outside contract attorneys. He said that he believed that this was 14 attorneys.

Atty. Bohannon said that at the end of the previous administration, they had 13 attorneys but were now down two attorneys from December 2105.

Council Member McCarthy said that every year, the Legal Services Line item and the Litigation Line item have large numbers. He said that people were wondering why that line item was so high. He asked if they could do as much in house legal work as possible to keep the amount down.

Atty. Bohannon explained that the City has developed trusted long-term relationships with competent outside trial attorneys. The City is receiving top level legal representation at a reduced rate because of the long-standing relationships.

Atty. Bohannon said that Council Member Pereira was correct in her statement at another meeting where she noted the City is being subjected to more and more civil rights lawsuits and have to pay out. It is a national trend. The City Attorney's Office is dealing with this by handling the conflicts early on. Discussion followed.

Council Member McCarthy said that there was a line item transfer from the Attorney's Office to OPED. Mr. Nkwo said that it had to do with a capital project legal service. Mr. Flatto said that there are times when OPED needs specialized legal counsel.

Council Member Newton asked about having an attorney to deal with environmental issues. Atty. Bohannon said that it depends on the case. Atty. Bohannon said that Atty. Pacacha had negotiated a number of environmental cases, but there are still times when outside specialized counsel are needed.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that people sue the City when something happens. Atty. Bohannon said that the State requires the City to defend employees in the performance of their jobs. However, they do not defend those who have engaged in willful misconduct. Atty. Bohannon then gave an overview of how this is handled.

Council Member Newton said that the Attorney's Office had originally represented the former Police Chief and former Personnel Director. When it was discovered they had violated the law, the City required them to return the cost of defense. That money was received and placed in the General Fund.

Council Member Pereira said that Atty. Bohannon had introduced himself as a Deputy City Attorney but there was no listing for this in the budget. Council Member Newton said that she had brought this issue up before. Council Member Pereira said that the position was not listed in the budget in the Personnel Summary. The Charter does not allow the City Attorney, the Deputy City Attorney or Assistants to be members of a bargaining unit. Atty. Bohannon is a member of a bargaining unit and this is a problem. Discussion followed.

Council Member Pereira said that she wished to be clear on her comments from the other night. Council Member Pereira said that she does not care about the national trend, she cares about the massive settlements including another one on the horizon that are related to Civil Rights violations. The taxpayers are paying 100% of those costs and settlements.

She said that she was totally opposed to any additional staff since it is the largest City Attorney's Office in the State. The only City Attorney's Office that is paid more is in Greenwich. The FOI issue has been created by the City Attorney's Office. There is no requirement under the Act to submit requests through the portal. She said that she refuses to submit requests through the portal because the statute says that an individual can walk into the office during normal business hours and any readily available records such as signed contracts, minutes, agendas or invoices should be available.

Council Member Pereira said that she had a copy of a memorandum that stated that the staff should not give anything directly to a City Council Member or the public. They have to contact one individual about the request. Council Member Pereira said that this contradicts the statute. She said that creating this portal was both bizarre and offensive to her. She said that she had been waiting for information on matters pertaining to the former Chief of Police and those had been deleted. She never received the documents. She stated she continues to file a number of FOI complaints and has a hearing scheduled for next week.

Council Member Pereira repeated that the portal issue is not required and they should just hand the individuals the records they request. She said that the records for a public agency must be kept in that public agency's office. It is all unlawful.

Council Member Pereira said that she could not wait until 2023 when the office issues will be addressed.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the personal property claims attorney and the personal property budget line as listed on page 85. Atty. Bohannon gave an overview of the two lines to the Committee.

CAO

Council Member Burns directed everyone to page 128. Ms. Hawkins gave a brief overview of the organization chart. Ms. Hawkins then narrated a Power Point Presentation. She said that they were trying to fill the vacant positions. A number of employees have left for other positions and still others have retired.

Council Member Burns then asked about the Police/Health Department partnership, which Ms. Hawkins reviewed with him. Council Member Burns said that he had wished they had been included in the discussions. Ms. Hawkins then said she would forward him the report from the group that they were using as a model for the program.

Council Member Newton asked for confirmation that the funding was allocated for the vacant positions. Mr. Nkwo said that they had funding allocated.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the vacancies and the reasons for some of the positions. Ms. Hawkins said that she would prefer to discuss this offline.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked about the arrangement with Mr. DeCarlo. Council Member Burns said that Mr. DeCarlo was working with him and that there would be very minimal cost.

Council Member Pereira said that the documentation says that they hired a Deputy Director of Health, but there is no listing for a Deputy Director of Health in the current year's budget. This is unlawful. There never was an approval or appropriation of money for a Deputy Director of Health. Hiring for that position is problematic.

Council Member Pereira added that all the Special Project Coordinators need to be eliminated. She stated that the Democratic Town Committee Chair's niece had been hired for one of the positions. Council Member Newton said that the question was not appropriate. Council Member Pereira said that she could not wait until 2024 when there is a new Mayor.

Council Member McCarthy asked if there was a plan to handle the mass exodus from the Police Department. Ms. Hawkins said that they were working hard to recruit and train officers. Presently, they do not have a good Police Department image. There are many factors including the benefits and qualifications.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the performance reviews for the staff. Ms. Hawkins said that it was up to the individual directors to evaluate their employees along with Personnel. Council Member McCarthy asked if the employee reviews should be mandatory. Ms. Hawkins said that she felt that it may be necessary because growth is important. However, it is important to remember the employees are union members and there are contracts in place.

Council Member Newton said that when he was first on the Council with Mayor Paoletta, the question was asked about the number of 480 officer to fully staff the Police Department. That question has never been answered. He added that they also have to consider what is going on across the country with police officers. He also noted that under the previous administration, there had not been any new police officers hired.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that there had been several police training classes during the previous administration. She said that the staffing number was not part of the national number, but she asked at the National League of Cities and was told that no one knows where that staffing number came from.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that having the reviews could be included in the union contracts, but it has to be done when a new contract is being negotiated.

Council Member Cruz spoke about his frustration regarding the efforts that they made to fund the Police and Social Services partnership program. He spoke about the homeless population that are now in the street. It is time to get serious about this issue.

Council Member McBride-Lee said she would like to see the Deputy Director of Health position filled. She said that she would like more information on the move into the new building. Ms. Hawkins confirmed that the Deputy Director position had been filled.

Council Member Burns said that as a former teacher and a union member, if the union wanted to let a problematic member go, they found a way.

Council Member Burns said that they had spoken with the ITS Director at the previous meeting. He asked if they were moving to measurable outcomes. Ms. Hawkins said that they were and spoke about the key indicators and the use of a dashboard. It is critical to move forward with the technology.

Council Member Burns said that this was wonderful to hear. He added that when there is measurable data, it can be used to deal with problematic employees.

Council Member Newton asked if the vacant positions were ones that were tested. Council Member Newton said that it would be good to know which positions were tested or which ones were appointed.

Council Member McCarthy said that he was still hearing about issues with the Building Department permits. Ms. Hawkins said that they had scheduled a meeting about this with the Acting Director, OPED and others.

Council Member McCarthy said that the BOE had done an RFP for a company to come in to evaluate how they are doing with Special Education. He wished to know if they would be doing something like this in the Building Department. Ms. Hawkins said that they were actually in the process of working on this.

Council Member Cruz thanked Council Member Newton for attending CCAR (Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery) because it encourages everyone.

Council Member Newton thanked Ms. Hawkins for her time and attention

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED UNION STEPS AS EXHIBIT 04-21-2022-A.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED REGISTRAR OF VOTERS PRESENTATION AS EXHIBIT 04-21-2022-B.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED CAO'S PRESENTATION AS EXHIBIT 04-21-2022-C.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED CAO VACANCIES/FILLED POSITIONS REPORT AS EXHIBIT 04-21-2022-D.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

Council Member McCarthy asked if the document would be forwarded to the other members. Council Member Burns said that he thought he had already sent it.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED ITS PRESENTATION AS EXHIBIT 04-21-2022-E.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 26, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Scott Burns, Co-chair; Ernest Newton, Co-chair; Matthew McCarthy, Mary McBride-Lee, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

OTHERS: Council Member(s): A. Boyd, M. Lyons, M. Pereira, R. Roman-Christy & R. Smith; Callie Heilmann, Chinedum Nnodum, Willie Smith, Barbara, Call in User-1; 203-374-2611, 203-913-1984

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Burns called the public hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present. He gave a brief review of the rules, including the request that the speakers limit themselves to 3 minutes.

Co-chair Newton said that the Committee was present to listen to the residents and not engage in back-and-forth dialog.

Council Member Burns then opened the Public Hearing on the General Fund Budget.

The following is a summary of the comments made by the public at the meeting.

Ms. Callie Heilmann came forward and said she lives at Grover's Avenue. She is a co-director of Bridgeport Now. She thanked them for last year's budget when the Council transferred money from the Police Department and funded money to the Social Services unit. Mayor Ganim proposed to flat fund the schools, but the Council allocated an additional \$2.5 million toward education and \$765,000 towards the Social Services unit.

She said that the school immediately used the additional money towards the health care, transportation costs and other shortages. The money that was sent to the Social Service was not utilized. The budgetary powers are only as strong as the administration. The Ganim administration has proven incapable of administering even a pilot social services unit for mobile crisis units. She said that she hoped that they would keep the funding in place.

Ms. Heilmann asked how many things that funding was allocated was not used. She said that when the Mayor releases his budget, it should include an analysis of how the funds were spent in order for the Council Members to make a clear, informed decision. This is about capacity.

She then asked about the six positions for the Legislative Office and her organization strongly supports the positions and the funding to pay for them. She said that it would be good to permanently staff a fiscal analyst to help analyze the cost of proposed ordinances and to get

timely updates on revenue and performance. Anything they can do to improve the capacity is a win for everyone.

Mr. Brandon Clark came forward and said that he was present to speak about the Board of Education. They need to do better by their children. He spoke about how he had been studying teaching and ended up in Bridgeport and worked with a teacher who he described as a rock star. Now he is the father of three young children and knows how the school falls short financially year after year.

The District cannot depend on ARPA money. Since 2014, the City has been flat funding the District and the City contributes less than a neighboring town. Today's youth will be tomorrow's leaders and they need to provide an additional \$8.5 million to the District.

Council Member Burns asked if anyone else would like to address the Committee on the General Budget. There was no response. He repeated the call two more times with no response. Hearing none, Council Member Burns closed the public hearing on the General Fund Budget at 6:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 23, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Scott Burns, Co-chair; Ernest Newton, Co-chair;
Mary McBride-Lee, Matthew McCarthy, Tyler Mack,
AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia (10:40 a.m.)

OTHERS: Council President A. Nieves; Council Member(s): M. Lyons & M. Pereira;
Ken Flatto, Finance Director; Nestor Nkwo, OPM Director; Acting Fire
Chief L. Edwards; Acting Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Cronin; Deputy Fire
Chief J. Buck; Scott Appleby, EOC Director; iPhone-DNPH80W00DXT;
203-209-1058; 203-880-5666

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Newton called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. A quorum was present. He noted that Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia and Herron had excused absences.

Council Member Newton said that this was a budget meeting and they were going to keep the discussion focused on the budget. Any issues about the department management should be done offline.

EOC

Council Member Burns directed everyone's attention to page 192. Mr. Nkwo then reviewed the details of the Personnel Summary.

Council Member McCarthy asked about a State certification that would increase the State allocations to the EOC. Mr. Nkwo said that they had looked into it and cautioned the Council that the requirements were expensive. He said that he had the analysis and would send it to the Committee.

Council Member Pereira said that if there was a new Mayor in 2024, she would recommend that Mr. Appleby be the only staff member retained because she found him competent.

Council Member Pereira asked about the \$19,000 increase for the Director of Emergency Services and wished to know the justification for this because it is over a 17% increase in salary.

Mr. Nkwo said that the current staff member had been in an "Acting" position for a long time and was not properly compensated. The staff member was in the union.

Mr. Appleby said that he was the Director of Public Safety and Communications. Mr. Nkwo said that the Director of Emergency Services was filled with an “Acting” staff member with the responsibilities of the position.

Council Member Burns said that the Communications position had not been funded for a number of years.

Council Member Pereira said that there was no Public Safety Director position listed in the budget. Mr. Nkwo said that the Director of Emergency Services had been filling the position of Public Safety Director. Discussion followed.

Council Member Pereira said that Mr. Amado was doing two jobs that were listed in the Charter, but was only being paid one salary.

Council Member Newton noted that the Charter was old and it is important to change with the times. He agreed with Council Member Pereira about Mr. Amado’s position. Mr. Nkwo reviewed the details.

Council Member Burns said that there were three vacancies in the Department. Mr. Appleby said that the three positions had been filled. There are six vacancies for the TCOs but they were looking to fill them in the next month or so.

Council Member Pereira said that this was the third consecutive years when they had six vacancies. She pointed out that there was the same number of positions vacant from year to year and wished to know if this was an indication that they did not need those positions. Mr. Appleby said that there were two factors, burn out and retirements. He said that right now, there were some TCOs that had been there for 20 or 25 years and the senior employees will be retiring. He said that he hoped to hire new staff that will stay as long.

Council Member Pereira said Mr. Appleby had proven that he runs a good department. She said she felt they could function without those six positions and they could reinvest the money elsewhere. She added that the US Constitution and the State Constitution were also old but they have to abide by them.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she objects to the idea that people could “do more with less” because that ends up with people going beyond the call of duty and that is unfair. She noted that Mr. Appleby had been filling two positions but only paid for one and this was not right.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that Mr. Appleby had done a very good job and she was very proud of him. She asked for clarification on one of the positions. Mr. Appleby said that it was for a 9-1-1 operator. Council Member McBride-Lee asked if it would be posted. Mr. Appleby said that it would.

Council Member Newton asked about the burn out rate. Mr. Appleby said that during COVID, the staff members ended up dealing with family members who were ill. People will step up to help out, but there comes a point when they say, “I can’t do this anymore.”

Council Member Newton said that they had expanded their roles because of the Police Accountability program that add social workers to the mix. He said that they should definitely consider keeping and filling those positions.

Council Member McCarthy asked about increases in the Operational Accounts on page 196. Mr. Nkwo reviewed the details with him. Mr. Nkwo said that with all due respect, Mr. Appleby was not a computer programmer and there had been a meeting the previous day about transferring the software line item to ITS.

Discussion followed about how the budget was set up. Mr. Nkwo explained that in the past the Committee wanted to know exactly what the cost was for each department, including general utilities. Mr. Nkwo said that he could run a special report on the cost break outs.

Council Member Newton said that he prefers the way that this is handled because transferring all the utilities to Public Facilities would overwhelm the staff member who would have to process all this.

Council Member Pereira asked about page 196 and mentioned that by eliminating the six vacancies, they could see significant savings.

Council Member Pereira said there were so many people that were tenured and noted that the longevity pay had increased sharply. Council Member Pereira said that she had a great deal of respect for the Director, but that it was clear to her there were savings that could be had by eliminating the positions.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she did not want to ever be in the position where someone calls 9-1-1 and there is no answer. There are lives on the line. It is very important to fill those positions.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS BUDGET REVIEW AS EXHIBIT 04-23-22-A.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Appleby then narrated his PowerPoint Presentation. He commented that he agreed with Mr. Nkwo about doing a return-on-investment analysis on the State certification. Bridgeport and Meriden are the two municipalities that do not have this certification and the State is really promoting this program.

Council Member Burns asked about the overtime. Mr. Appleby said that once they filled the vacancies, the overtime decreased.

Council Member Newton thanked Mr. Appleby and his staff for their hard work.

Council Member Lyons asked if the EOC records all the 9-1-1 calls. Mr. Appleby said that they are required to record the calls and store the recording for 18 months. He said that they do review problematic call recordings and work on improving the service.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that this is one of the departments like Police and Fire that should not be decreased. She said that the department is a great department. When she travels for NRC, this department is one that is highlighted.

Council Member Pereira asked if non-emergency calls are also archived for 18 months. Mr. Appleby said that all the lines that come into the Emergency Center are recorded. There have been incidents when emergency calls come into the non-emergency number.

Council Member Pereira said that she appreciated Mr. Appleby because he will always tell her that he will look into issues that he may not have information on.

Council Member Burns asked for an update on the Social Service unit. Mr. Appleby said that they were working with the Health Department on this project. The training is going forward. He added that Ms. Jackson-Shaheed already had the line item in her budget. Now it just a matter of working with the Fire, Police and Health Departments.

Council Member Burns said that he felt that Mr. Appleby had done an excellent job with handling the FEMA storm applications.

The discussion moved to the Capital Plan Requests. Mr. Nkwo pointed out that the Fusion Center was not hooked up to the emergency center and this was listed in the project. Discussion followed about how the request would be handled.

Council Member Pereira said that she does not feel that technology or vehicles should be part of a bonding package. She noted that there were some blind and/or mute residents and wished to know if the technology accommodates for this. Mr. Appleby said that each of the residents should have been provided with equipment and they would contact the service providers who would then contact the Emergency Center and coordinate through them.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED BRIDGEPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT FY2023 BUDGET PRESENTATION AS EXHIBIT 04-23-22-B.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Acting Fire Chief Edwards then narrated his PowerPoint presentation.

Council Member McCarthy thanked Acting Chief Edwards for showing up for the presentation. He said that he had a medical emergency recently and the Fire Department had responded. He thanked them for their assistance.

Council Member McCarthy asked that Mr. Nkwo include a total at the bottom of the page.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked what they would need to be fully staffed. Acting Chief Edwards reviewed the vacancies and said that they could use two more Fire Inspectors, but realized that he did not expect to be able to hire two more. Discussion followed about egress inspections.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked about the upcoming exams. Acting Chief Lance said that there was an upcoming lieutenant's exam scheduled.

Council Member McCarthy asked if there had been any consideration regarding a vacant lot next to one of the fire houses. He felt that they should be working on this to keep the station open.

Council Member Pereira asked Acting Chief Edwards how long he had been an Acting Fire Chief. Acting Chief Edwards said it had been since June 2020. Council Member Pereira said that this was "unacceptable".

Council Member Pereira asked about the expected retirements and the 18 current vacancies. She said that they were trying to add another Fire Captain after adding a Fire Lieutenant last year. Council Member Pereira wished to know how many vacancies they would have.

Acting Chief Edwards said that if they lose 20, it will take the staffing down from 248 to 220. If this happens, they will be at the absolute minimum required staffing level.

Council Member Burns said that the Budget and Appropriations Committee receives quarterly reports from the Fire Department and the Police Department. He then brought up the recent Fire Department Vacancies list on screen. It includes those who have recently left, employees that had 25 years of service and those who were on leave.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED CURRENT STAFFING VACANCIES AS EXHIBIT 04-23-2022-C.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Acting Chief Edwards said that they immediate create a vacancy any time the staff level drops below 62. When they are below 62, it increases the overtime budget.

Council Member Pereira said that for the purposes of the budget book, a vacancy is a position that is not filled but is budgeted for. She said that there were 18 vacancies in the book, three of

which were listed at the administrative level. She said that she was trying to determine whether the City would be looking at over 40 vacancies. Acting Chief Edwards reviewed the various positions with her. He said that there could be close to 40 vacancies.

Council Member Pereira said that on page 181, there should be significant decreases in MERF and Medicare because they would be filling high salary step positions with new staff at a lower salary step. This will affect the benefits also. However, the budget reflects a significant increase in MERF and benefits. There should be savings on the fringe and salaries.

In the 2020 budget, the City Council appropriated \$5,725,000 for overtime, but the Department only spent \$23,626. Council Member Pereira wished to know where the \$5 million dollars went.

Mr. Nkwo directed her to page 183 and reviewed where the line items were.

Council Member Lyons asked about the number of fire inspectors the Department needs. Fire Chief Edwards said that there was no municipality in the State that has enough Inspectors to meet the State mandates.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia reminded everyone that the budget book was created in January and the Council Members receive the books in April.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the City Attorney's Office was present for the meetings. Deputy Chief Buck explained that the City Attorneys do not attend the Committee meetings, but the minutes were forwarded to both the City Attorney's Office and the State Fire Marshal for legal review.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked about the salary differential for the staff who were in "Acting" positions.

Council Member Newton said that he takes exception when people imply that there were hidden agendas or conspiracies in the budget. He said that both he and Council Member Burns review the budget and understand it. That is also the reason why Mr. Flatto and Mr. Nkwo are present to explain the details. While the Council Members may not like the format, it does not mean there is a hidden agendas or conspiracy underway.

Council Member Burns requested that they focus on budget questions.

Council Member Pereira said that the new Zoning regulations will allow basement apartments that don't have extra entrances and egress.

Mr. Nkwo then reviewed the Capital Budget Requests. Acting Chief Edwards said that they cannot continue to use equipment that was over 25 years old.

The discussion then moved to a parcel that was near one of the fire stations.

Council Member Burns asked if there was any possible way to combine the services. He was told that there had been some municipalities that had done this and it had worked out very well.

Council Member Pereira asked about the \$1,650,000 for fire equipment. She said that the CDBG funding ended up with excess funding in the Public Facilities Grant. She suggested that they consider that funding and noted that if there were funds that were not expended, it goes back to the CDBG for reallocation. Discussion followed about the details.

At 12:49 p.m., the Zoom call disconnected. Council Member Burns later stated that the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 27, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Ernest Newton, Co-chair; Scott Burns, Co-chair; Jeanette Herron, Matthew McCarthy, Mary McBride-Lee, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

OTHERS: Council Member A. Boyd

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Newton called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. A quorum was present. He asked everyone to limit their comments to 3 minutes each.

Co-chair Burns then introduced the Council Members present.

Ms. Emily Rodriguez of Beach Street came forward and said that she was present from Barnum with others holding signs in Spanish. Ms. Rodriguez read a statement that was muffled through a mask. She urged the Committee to invest in education.

Ms. Tracey Garcia of Hallett Street came forward and read a statement to the Committee through her mask. She said that Bridgeport allocates a lower amount of funding for their schools than neighboring towns. She supports the budget request for \$8.5 million by the BOE.

Ms. Camilla Mercado of Ocean Avenue – Ms. Rodriguez came forward to speak on behalf of Ms. Mercado who is at Bassick. She said that the students need to have the same resources as the other nearby towns.

Ms. Yedni Ocott of King Street came forward and addressed the Committee in Spanish. Another student came forward and read the statement in English about how Ms. Ocott had lived in Bridgeport five years. The schools need to be fully funded because she has seen how the lack of resources have impacted the students. The Children deserve better.

Ms. Karen Paredes of Porter Street came forward and addressed the Committee in Spanish. A translator said that she has two daughters, age 5 and 9. She said that she was present to ask for the \$8.5 million that the schools need for the education for the staff and for the children.

Ms. Glorivet Mateo of Seaview Avenue came forward and addressed the Committee members in Spanish. A translator then then read the statement which said that Ms. Mateo had been living in Bridgeport for six months. She said that she had encountered the scarcity in schools in her native country. She said that she was present to ask that the Committee give the schools the money they need.

Mr. Jason Bollesero of Stillman Street and who is an elementary student came forward and said that he has been living in Bridgeport for five years. He asked that they give more money to the schools.

Mr. Michael Testani, Superintendent of Schools came forward and greeted the Committee members. Several members of the BOE also come forward.

Mr. Testani said that he was present to ask the Council to continue working with the BOE and the District. He noted that in the past week, two Connecticut students had been caught in the schools with loaded guns. The students have been struggling. Since 2016, the BOE has lost over 200 positions. It is important to invest in the children now. He added that Stratford had asked for over \$5 million and the Board will be allocating over \$2 million. Surely Bridgeport can do better.

Mr. John Weldon, BOE Chairman came forward and said that he was speaking on behalf of his fellow Board Members. He said that it was a misnomer that the ARPA funds would help, but those funds will be gone and the District will crash and burn. They are asking for \$8 million dollars for the children.

Mr. Joe Sokolovic, a BOE member, came forward and said that he was Chairman of the Finance Committee. He said that he had been before the Council before. He went on to list a number of facts about the financing and how the BOE needs the money they are requesting.

Mr. Albert Benejan, a BOE member, came forward and said that his son graduated from Bassick. He asked why they have to keep coming to the Committee to ask for more money. The Board knows that the school wants and they shouldn't have to keep coming to ask for it. He then repeated his remarks in Spanish for those present who were not fluent in English

Ms. Bobbi Brown, BOE Vice Chair came forward and said that she was with the Board Members to request more funding. She has been doing this for years. Every dollar that is shorted adds to the burden. Money is running out, and every time they decrease the budget, it cuts the ground out from underneath the students. As the world has shifted this year with the pandemic, she is calling on community partners to help to do what they can't so she is asking for \$8.5 million.

Ms. Christine Perez, a BOE member, came forward to speak to the Committee. She said that since 2014, the BOE has not kept up with inflation. She asked how far behind that they have to fall behind before the Committee allocates the funding. The \$8.5 million will barely make the deficit. The \$2 million will not cut it. Bridgeport 2014 had more teachers and more resources.

Ms. Ana Batista, of Main Street came forward and said she was President of the Bridgeport Teachers Union. She was present in support of the funding for the Bridgeport Public Schools. The social emotional well-being of the students is critical. Bridgeport has one of the lowest per student spending and also below the DRG Average. The Students need more and deserve better.

Ms. Batista then read off a number of towns that were part of Bridgeport DURGs and noted that Bridgeport is in the 22% range each year. The emotional toll on the educators has been great. There have been many teachers that need time away from the classroom or leaving the profession completely. They routinely lose educators to neighboring communities, states and other professions that can pay more. The District needs more to meet its contractual obligations and to function. A great school district should not be forced to make do. Together they can make Bridgeport strong.

Ms. Gemeen Davis of Cottage Place came forward and said that over the past seven years, the budget tells a sad story. She spoke about how Bridgeport had kept the budget flat since 2014. This was due to poor leadership. year after year, Bridgeport now has been asking for more financial support.

Ms. Davis said that after George Floyd died, the community then stated that Black Lives Matters. The Committee then responded by allocating funding for social services. However, the administration has been working on the sale of the airport to fill the revenue hole. The lack of funding to the schools has resulted in the loss of several positions.

The City needs transformative leaders like the Committee so that everyone can enjoy a big \$8.5 million dollars increase.

Ms. Callie Heilmann of Grovers Avenue came forward. She said that she was a parent and also a member of Bridgeport Now. She said that she holds a Master's Degree. She thanked them for recognizing the additional education funding last year. The extra funding was used to provide needed resources for the students. She repeated that Bridgeport was the lowest funded District in the State. She said that she had been coming to these meeting since 2015. Since then, she said that since then, they had lost countless teachers and seen the resources become fewer and fewer. If they don't make Education the priority, they cannot be a moral and just community, Funding the Board with \$8.5 million dollars will show that they stand with the Bridgeport students.

Pastor McCullough came forward and greeted the Committee. He said that he was a local pastor and the founder of FaithActs. They represent many churches and are requesting the Committee fund the District with \$8.5 million. Pastor McCullough said that he went back to school to get his Masters. The Mayor's budget is allocating an additional \$2 million for the District but \$3 million for the Police Department. The City is assisting the school to prison pipeline by increasing the Police Department by 18% and just allocating \$2 million to the District. He then quoted Lips that speak knowledge are jewels. Charity starts at home. He urged the Committee to allocate the funding to the District.

Mr. James Mesaros of Gregory Street. He thanked the various individuals who spoke earlier who had not previously spoken anyone before. He spoke about how the right hand shows power and the politicians should be present to help these young men and women. He would like to ask the politicians to answer.

Ms. Shayna Taylor who works for the BOE came forward. She said that she was tired. She said that she gets offers from other school districts that know she is not appreciated here. She said that last week, one of the students took their life. The kids should not feel that they have nowhere to turn. The kids deserve the money. She then led a chant of "Give us that money."

A resident came forward and said that she remembers going to Dunbar and now was an adult. They are still having the same conversations. They are doing the same thing but expecting different results. She said that she had recently heard that the City was picking up a half million dollar tab for policing. the youngest citizens should not have to beg the adults in the room for an education. She asked the Committee to find it in their hearts for additional funding. Do the right thing. These are their constituents.

Mr. Rob Trager of Yale Terrace came forward and said that the first time he spoke about the need for more school funding was 25 years ago. Connecticut is a racist school. In this City, most of the students are black and brown. He said that if this was important, they will find out a way to do the job. He asked when they would decide to take control and make the decision to do the right thing.

Council Member Newton asked if there was anyone else who wished to speak.

An ESL teacher came forward and She said that she was passionate and stands with the BOE for more funding. She understands the struggle and sees the need There are 100 plus children and one counsellor. When it comes to the ELL learning and Special Education, there is a State mandate that they receive an equal Education. Teachers look for outside donors because they don't have the supplies like copy paper. She does not want her students to feel that they do not matter to her. She then translated her remarks into Spanish and led a chant about funding.

Mr. Jerry Sullivan came forward and said that the kids deserve a good education. He said that they should get as good of an education as possible.

Council Member Newton asked if there was anyone else who wished to speak. He repeated the question two more time. Hearing no response, Council Member Newton closed the public hearing at 7:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

** Council Member McBride-Lee moved to adjourn.

** Council Member Herron seconded.

** The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
Budget & Appropriations
Public Hearing
April 27, 2022

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 28, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Scott Burns, Co-chair; Ernest Newton, Co-chair; Jeanette Herron, Tyler Mack, Matthew McCarthy, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

OTHERS: Council Member(s): J. Cruz, J. Herron, M. Pereira & R. Roman-Christy; Ken Flatto, Finance Director; Nestor Nkwo, OPM Director; Lisa Farlow, Assistant Purchasing Agent; Marie Heller, Department on Aging Director; Ebony Jackson-Shaheed, Health and Social Services Director; Veronica Jones, Tax Collector; Amy Lehaney, Deputy Director of Health, Tammy Papa, Youth Services Director, Larry Robinson, Veteran Affairs Director; Patty Ulatowski, Archives & Records Director; Call in User-1; iPad-GG7F9Q19C0R6Q19C; iPhone-DNPH80W00DXT; iPhone- F17H820U0DXT

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Burns called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

Co-chair Newton thanked everyone for attending. He reminded everyone that the discussions should be respectful and focused on the budget.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Ms. Jackson-Shaheed greeted the Council Members and then narrated a PowerPoint presentation.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES 2022-2023 AS EXHIBIT 04-28-2022-A.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Jackson-Shaheed reviewed the Health Department 2021-2026 Five Year Service Indicators including completing the accreditation, community education, vaccinations, and a department re-organization.

She then displayed a slide listing the various departments which are: the Communicable Disease Clinic, Environmental (Housing Code/Anti-blight, Lead, Weights and Measures) Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Social Services (Youth Services, Aging, Disabilities, Veterans) and Vital Records. She reminded everyone that the Health Department is a regulatory agency.

Ms. Jackson-Shaheed then listed the 2021-2022 Major Accomplishments including grants received, the addition of social work positions, establishment of a research division and vaccine program.

The next topic presented was the 2021-2022 Increased Revenue. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that the department had received just over \$400,000 in vaccine reimbursement and this money is going directly into the General Fund. They expect there will be a total of \$900,000 in vaccine reimbursements.

Council Member McCarthy asked for clarification on the blight fines. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that the Hearing Officer can determine the actual fine but they do not have a fixed percentage amount of that fine which is returned to the City.

Council Member McCarthy said that if the City is expending funds to clean up a property, the City should be putting a lien on the property for the cost of the clean-up. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that the process was complicated and suggested Council Member McCarthy come in and speak with Ms. Gains about this.

Council Member McCarthy said that he felt that the blight fines being included in the revenue should be removed. Discussion followed.

Council Member McCarthy asked if there was data that shows what the Housing Officers do on a daily basis. Council Member Burns suggested that they wait until the portion of the presentation on the Housing Code comes up.

Council Member Newton asked if they should consider an ordinance that would set a guaranteed 50% cost recovery on blight fines. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that the Department does put liens on properties and said that she would send the information to Council Member Newton.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that in the past, the City had placed liens on properties after several notifications had been sent. Some of the fine money went into the General Fund, but another portion of the funds remained in the Blight account. Council Member Herron said that it had taken several attempts to have a blighted property taken care of in her District.

Ms. Jackson-Shaheed then spoke about the request for the Public Health nurse, because it became evident during the pandemic that the Department needed the position. She said that they had to pull several school nurses in to help with the vaccines.

The discussion then moved to the Youth Services. Ms. Papa said that she was coming up on 29 years of service with the City and that it would be important to have a Deputy Lighthouse Director position ready to go.

Council Member McCarthy said that he did not see these positions in the budget. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed explained that it was her first year doing this and they had listed the requests in another section that was not reflected in the budget. Discussion followed.

Council Member McCarthy asked Ms. Jackson-Shaheed if she will be doing job reviews with the staff. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that she had a schedule for job reviews for her staff.

Council Member McCarthy said that he had been told that there were political appointments in Public Facilities and was also told that there were political appointments in the Health Department. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that she was not aware of any political appointments in her department.

Council Member Roman-Christy asked if the social workers would be placed with the Police Department or the Health Department. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that they would have the Task Force duties as well as other social work duties like case management. Details are still under discussion.

Council Member Roman-Christy asked if the funding for the positions had been allocated already or if they were requesting funding for those positions. Mr. Nkwo said that the positions were listed under Health and Social Services on page 402 and were funded.

Council Member Cruz said that there were two candidates for the position and he wished to know why the Hispanic candidate was not selected. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that she had chosen the candidate that she felt was the best qualified.

Council Member Cruz said that he was disappointed that the Hispanic candidate was not chosen. He stated that Ms. Jackson-Shaheed was not making an effort to hire diverse staff. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that they do have several staff members who speak multiple languages and they do pay attention to diversity.

Council Member Pereira asked about the first position and the details of the salary. Mr. Nkwo reviewed the details with her and he noted that part of the salary is from grant funding.

Council Member Pereira said that there was a Deputy Director of Health being spoken about and she did not see it in the budget. Mr. Nkwo said that he had reached an agreement with the Supervisor's Union regarding this position. It is listed on page 353 under Environmental.

Council Member Pereira said that this was not the job title and wished to know why it does not match the budget listing job title. She said that if there was a specific title in a Union MOU, that was the title that needed to be in the budget. Mr. Nkwo said that the previous employee that had filled the position was a certified sanitarian and that was why they were listed in the Environmental Health Department.

Council Member Pereira said that she felt that they were shifting titles and not being clear. Mr. Nkwo said that the administration had decided to fill the position after the budget had been assembled. Council Member Burns asked that the job title be changed. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that she would like to see the position moved to the Administration section of the budget.

Council Member McCarthy asked why they had so many different departments with one or two employees. Mr. Nkwo explained that in the past it created confusion with the Department of Aging, Weights and Measures and Veterans all listed in the same Department.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the division of the Departments was needed because the State and Federal government require that level of record keeping for grant funding.

Council Member Burns asked about the surveillance software and the costs associated with it. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that one package was statistical software for data and the other software program was for communicable diseases.

Mr. Flatto said that it took a lot of work to set up the data for the Federal Government for the vaccine reimbursements.

Council Member Newton said that they had asked Mr. Nkwo to make the budget simpler and reduce the page flipping. Mr. Nkwo said that the Committee was going out of sequence and the budget was laid out sequentially.

Council Member Pereira asked about the personnel on page 338. Council Member Pereira asked about the part time designation for the Vital Records Clerk. Mr. Nkwo explained that the staff member works as the Vital Records Clerk and as the Archivist. Ms. Ulatowski said that they were already up to 94% for revenue for this year.

Ms. Ulatowski said that there had been an increase in marriage licenses because New York State has made it difficult to get a marriage license so people are taking the train into Bridgeport to get the licenses and get married in Bridgeport.

A question was asked about the storage of the archives. She said that there was a facility in Stratford where the records could be stored. There was a recent flood on the lower level that barely missed the archives. She said that she was the only archivist and was the only one that had training, so they had requested her to create a succession plan.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the cost of the transferal project. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that there had been a grant for digitizing the land records.

Council Member Pereira said that the documents in the Archives must be preserved and the area has light bulbs dangling from wires. She asked if there was money for preserving the records. Mr. Nkwo indicated where the funds were available.

Council Member Pereira said that currently, they make appointments to view the documentation. She wished to know how someone would have access to the material if they were moved to Stratford. Ms. Ulatowski said that they would use the same type of appointment process.

The discussion then moved to the reimbursements for the vaccines.

Council Member Pereira asked about the increase in the salary for the Nurse Practitioner. Mr. Nkwo said that the nurses' contract was approved after three years and this was the accumulated increase.

The Committee then reviewed the appropriations and Environmental Health on page 252.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the location of a catering hall and the poultry license. Mr. Nkwo said that there were three levels of licenses. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that she would get back to Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia with that information.

Council Member McCarthy asked if the revenue from the cannabis sales would be place in this category. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that if it was a food item that was edible, it would go in this category. Mr. Nkwo said that he had no problem with the revenue being included in this category.

Council Member Pereira asked about the poultry licenses. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed asked if these were at residential properties. She said that she was not issuing poultry licenses. Council Member Burns said that the previous administration had made it possible for individuals to have up to four chickens.

Council Member Pereira asked why the sanitarian was broken out into two budget lines. Mr. Nkwo said that there were different classifications. Council Member Pereira said that she had worked with unions before and that she had never seen the same position being listed in multiple bargaining units.

The discussion moved to the Housing Code Department. Mr. Nkwo noted that the Special Project Manager had been transferred to the Public Facilities.

Council Member McCarthy said that they were looking for places where they could save money. He asked if there were any positions that they could eliminate without harming the department. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that she did not think they could eliminate any of the positions. She explained that they have employees that were filling three jobs. They are trying to cross train the staff so that an employee who was a lead inspector, could also be qualified to do anti-blight inspections or housing code inspections in the same trip.

Council Member McCarthy asked if they have data on what the individuals were doing. He said that he sees Toters left on the street, or blight as he drives around the City. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed explained that the residents have 24 hours to remove the Toters from the street and Council Member McCarthy may be seeing the Toter in that 24 hour period. Right now they only have one person handling Toters for the entire City. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that they are trying to be more efficient with their resources.

Discussion followed about sending letters to those who put items in the Toters that were not allowed and this letter would be followed by fines.

Council Member Newton said that there were probably hundreds of houses with additions done without permits. He said that the Housing Code Department could generate more revenue.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the Housing Code inspectors were authorized to go to court if there was an issue. She also asked if there were staggered hours. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that they do not have staggered hours. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested they look into this.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the Department still had the authority to enter residences. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that they need to have the permission of the landlord.

Council Member Herron said that in her previous renting experience, she felt that the Health Department was a bare bones department. They need more housing code inspectors.

Council Member Pereira said that in the 2020-2021 budget, they had increased the budget by 100% but there was very little increase in the revenue. She said that she did not believe the Health Department was responsible for illegal renovations because it should be under the Building Department.

Council Member Pereira said that the Toters inspector should be under Sanitation. She said that there were areas where the Toters were left out all week. It makes the area look terrible. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed agreed and said that she was willing to speak with Public Facilities.

Council Member Pereira said that when they have to send staff to clean up a property, that cost should be charged back to the Public Facilities. She asked whether an appeal officer could reduce or waive the fines. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that this was so. Council Member Pereira said that she felt that they should be able to get back the cost of the man power that it took to clean up the property.

Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that basically the Health Department is the administrative arm and the Public Facilities staff actually does the labor.

Council Member Pereira said that if the lien is waived, it is the Public Facilities Department that loses the income.

Council Member Burns cautioned everyone to be careful because he was aware of a situation where an abusive blight call had been made.

Council Member McCarthy said that he did not see a line item for housing code violations or blight violation fines. Mr. Nkwo said that there was a revolving fund in Blight where the fines went so that they would have funds to clean up the next property.

Council Member McCarthy asked Ms. Jackson-Shaheed if she was happy with the output for this department. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that she would prefer to evaluate each employee on an individual basis.

Council Member Newton said that Public Facilities and the Health Department work together and there is a very specific process that has to be followed in order to allow the Blight crew to go onto private property.

Council Member Pereira said that she had not gotten an answer to her earlier question about how much revenue was being generated through the Housing Code Inspections and in Blight. She said that they have to account for the revenue. Mr. Nkwo indicated the line item where the funds were.

Council Member Pereira said that there was someone in the Health Department that has over 30 units of rental properties. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed replied that if there was an issue, they would follow the same process that they would do for anyone else. Council Member Pereira said that the tenant was afraid of retaliation. It is highly inappropriate to have to report their landlord.

The discussion moved to lead prevention. Mr. Nkwo then gave an overview of the department.

Council Member Newton pointed out that there were staff in Public Works along with other City employees that own properties in the City.

Council Member Burns said that the consensus was that this was a well-run department.

The discussion moved to Persons with Disabilities. Council Member Burns asked if the staff member reports to Ms. Jackson-Shaheed. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that the staff member report to Veteran's Affairs.

Council Member Pereira asked what the Human Services position did. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that they would like to dissolve the position and move the employee over into the Social Services department. Discussion followed.

Council Member Pereira said that Bridgeport has a massive number of elderly and disabled residents and the department is only a part time position. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that this was one of the positions that they were looking to reorganize.

The Committee then reviewed the Department of Aging and the Department of Veteran Affairs.

Council Member Pereira asked why they did not merge the Department of Aging, Persons with Disabilities and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Nkwo stated that the separation was established to fulfill grant requirements. Council Member Pereira said that they never did this at the Board of Education.

The next Department that was reviewed was the Lighthouse Program. Mr. Nkwo then gave a brief overview of the program. Ms. Papa said that there were no new positions in the department. She said that the Youth Service Bureau (YSB) position would move over to the Social Service Department. She said that she does not have the social service expertise to help with the calls from families about youth at risk that have been referred to the department. Many times, the families or the youth have multiple issues.

Council Member Pereira said that Ms. Papa was asking to have the Special Project Manager moved from the grant funding to the regular Social Service department. Council Member Pereira then went on to say she had an issue with the fact that the Lighthouse Program had taken in over \$1 million in parent fees but she never saw it in the revenue lines.

Council Member Pereira said that she wished to know why the Lighthouse Program was getting referrals. She said that she was on the BOE for eight years and had never heard about this before. Ms. Papa said that the YSB was supposed to be the hub for referrals. The schools don't refer the students to her until they have exhausted their own resources. Often Ms. Papa said that she has to refer students to the Juvenile Review Board (JRB) or other resources.

Council Member Pereira said that the national average was over 200 students per social worker, but Ms. Papa mentioned that she has 30 students and is requesting a social worker to assist handling this.

Council Member Newton said that he felt that Ms. Papa was moving in the right direction and it was important to have people who could identify trauma and things like substance abuse for the police officers.

Ms. Jackson-Shaheed then gave an overview of the Social Work Department that would include specialties like trauma, domestic abuse, incarceration and a variety of other skills. She said that the social workers will be working on follow up and case management. As the social workers become more skilled in their role, they will accompany the police officers on calls. Discussion followed.

Council Member Newton said that there had been a situation where an individual had accompanied an officer on a call. Council Member Burns said that the individual was a State employee, not a City employee.

Council Member Pereira said that she was told the program was going to be based on the Colorado model where the social worker was dispatched instead of a police officer. Ms. Jackson-Shaheed then reviewed the models that a consultant had produced for the Police Department. The consultants gave the City a listing of four or five models with a recommendation of which one would work best for the City. She said that the model will eventually result in the social workers going out on their assigned calls without the police, but not in the beginning.

Council Member Pereira asked for clarification on last year's budget where there were five positions, but it appears that there are now seven positions. Discussion followed.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Council Member Burns directed everyone to page 32. Mr. Flatto said that he had a short presentation.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED CITY OF BRIDGEPORT FINANCE 2022-2023 AS EXHIBIT 04-28-2022-B.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Flatto then narrated his presentation. He introduced his staff members and gave a brief run down on the various departments as outlined in his PowerPoint presentation. He said that it was appalling to him how often Bridgeport is short-changed when Federal funds or State aid is appropriated.

Mr. Bill Gaffney addressed the Committee regarding the Grand List. He said that there were many people who were moving to the City. However, they are losing an appraiser by the end of the week. He said that he needs at least 3 full time people, but the work is getting done. He noted that there were a number of towns and cities that were looking for a Tax Assessor.

Mr. Flatto said that when the reassessment was done, the assessors had picked up on a number of residences that had work done without permits. They have photos and they are working on dealing with these problems.

Council Member Burns said that the Committee had heard from the public about the school budget and the information showing how Bridgeport was short changed. He also highlighted why Bridgeport does not have the money to give to the schools.

Mr. Flatto said that he had heard that the formula that the State was using for the Free Lunch program was not correct and that there may be more funding coming to the program.

Council Member Burns said that sports betting was coming to Connecticut and the Tribes will be operating those venues. Mr. Flatto said that he thought there would be a website operated by the Tribes but he would try to find out more definitive information on it.

Council Member Burns asked about the Port Jefferson Ferry revenue. Mr. Nkwo indicated where it should be in the budget. Mr. Flatto explained that this was the result of a recent court settlement.

A discussion followed about a historical position in the Treasurer's Department that may be swapped out for one in Accounting.

Council Member Pereira asked about the Debt Service Line. Mr. Flatto said that the State had changed the way that the payments were made for school construction. Now the figures in that line was the interest on the debt from Steel Point.

There was a brief discussion about the Print Shop. Council Member Pereira asked if there was another city that had a staffed print shop. Mr. Flatto said that the Print Shop also handles all of the BOE materials, which takes up about 60% of their work.

Council Member Pereira asked if the Council Members wanted flyers, could they have the Print Shop do the work. Mr. Flatto said that copies could be charged to their stipend cards.

The discussion then moved to the Purchasing Department. Mr. Flatto said that there would be some minor changes in the Ordinance for the Purchasing Department for greater efficiency and clarity.

Council Member Pereira said that changing the contracts from a three year term to a seven year term is not a minor change. Mr. Flatto said that the City Attorney had made that recommendation.

The discussion then moved to the PILOT programs. Council Member Pereira asked for a break out of the amounts of the tax breaks, including the Read's Arcade.

Council Member Burns asked about filling the Tax Assessor's position. Discussion followed.

Council Member Pereira said that the 3% cannabis rate sounded like a tax and should be included in this category. Mr. Nkwo said that he had read the law very carefully and placed it according to the State legislation.

Council Member Pereira asked about the clerical assistant position, which was allocated two years ago. She said that the position had never been filled. If the assistant had been filled, the assessor could have been out in the field.

Mr. Flatto said that there was no changes in the Treasurer's Department other than the potential move of a position to Accounting, which was previously mentioned.

Council Member Pereira asked where the Personal Property Tax revenue was. Mr. Flatto said that it was part of the Grand List this year. Mr. Flatto said that they were trying to be aggressive with chain stores and big box stores.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 30, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Ernest Newton, Co-chair; Scott Burns, Co-chair; Jeanette Herron, Matthew McCarthy, Tyler Mack, Mary McBride-Lee (10:20 a.m.)
AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia (10:40 a.m.)

OTHERS: Council President A. Nieves; Council Member(s): A. Boyd, J. Cruz, F. Hodges & R. Smith; Ken Flatto, Finance Director; Nestor Nkwo, OPM Director; Acting Police Chief Garcia, Police Lt. M. Cotto, Kathleen

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Newton called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. A quorum was present.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED CAPITAL PLAN FY 2022-2023 AS EXHIBIT #04-30-2022-A.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED OPM BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS PROPOSED FY-23-27CAPITAL BUDGET PLAN AS EXHIBIT #04-30-2022-B.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED PARKING METERS -- 01320000-56180 AS EXHIBIT #04-30-2022-C.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED PUBLIC FACILITIES ADMINISTRATION AS EXHIBIT #04-30-2022-D.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ENTER AN ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT TITLED "CCM ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT" AS EXHIBIT #04-30-2022-E.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council Member Burns said he would email Exhibit #04-30-2022-E to all of the Committee members.

Mr. Nkwo said that he would like to commend Mr. Testani for his willingness to work with the City. He said that he had met with Mr. Testani about the paving at the schools. Mr. Nkwo said that he had suggested that they reprogram some of the money that had already been bonded for replacing the boilers towards paving and use Federal grant funding for the boilers.

Council Member McCarthy asked if the previous error that had been made with the Nutrition Center had been corrected. Mr. Nkwo said that they had corrected the issue.

Council Member Newton said that it was important to note that the BOE was working together with the City.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about the increase for the playground. Council Member Burns said that the cost of the materials had increased.

Council Member Mack asked if there was a list of which school sidewalks were going to be replaced. Mr. Nkwo said that the BOE would be determining the priority of which ones needed replacement.

Council Member Herron said that the prices had increased dramatically and pointed out that something like air conditioning a school could be very, very expensive.

Council Member McBride-Lee joined the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Council Member McCarthy asked if they had received a breakout of the cost per square foot for paving the parking lots. Mr. Nkwo said that he did not ask. A discussion followed about the details of the paving.

Council Member Newton noted that when the BOE had proposed this, he was sure that they had checked with the Public Facilities about the costs. Council Member Burns said he had checked with Mr. Nadrizny about the costs. He was told that the cost would depend on the quality of the paving materials used.

Council Member Newton said that Mr. Nkwo had been very good about identifying items that should not be paid with bonding funds. He said that a fork lift would not last for 30 years.

Council Member Boyd joined the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked about the BOE money that is saved when an absent teacher's class is split into two and sent to other classes rather than hiring a substitute teacher. Council Member Newton reminded everyone that they can only talk about the Capital Projects.

The discussion moved to Exhibit #04-30-2022-B, OPM Budget and Appropriations Proposed FY-23-27 Capital Budget Plan. It was discovered that half the Committee had received an outdated version of the Capital Plan.

Council Member Hodges joined the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Mr. Nkwo said that Land Acquisition and Blight had requested an increase. He said that they should spend down their current budget before allocating new funding. One project had been on the list for 10 years and this should not be allowed to happen.

The discussion moved to the Remington Arms building demolition. Mr. Nkwo suggested that the Committee consider having OPED present a regularly scheduled update report to the B&A Committee on the status of the capital projects.

Council Member McBride-Lee pointed out that the Council Members have allocated the funding, but the projects have never been done. This is not fair to the taxpayers.

Council Member McCarthy said that they have to tell the departments to inform the Council if they have funds allocated to a project but the projects have been delayed.

Council Member Newton said that there were areas that are lit at night downtown, but other areas that were not lit at all.

Council Member Newton said that the Wonderland of Ice building was owned by the City. The front two doors have to be fixed. The City allocated funds for the Amphitheater and other locations, but they need to fix the front entrance doors. He asked the Council Members to support that repair.

Council Member Burns said that he was in favor of the repair and noted that Council President Nieves was also in favor of the repair.

The discussion moved to the paving issues involving the utilities digging up the freshly paved streets. Council Member Herron said that they were choosing the lowest bidder who is using the lowest quality materials. Her District had all the streets paved and six years later, they need more work.

Council Member Burns & Council Member McCarthy left the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Mr. Nkwo noted that over the last six years, there had been 35 bodies added to Public Facilities.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that it was not working out just paving two streets a year.

Council Member Burns rejoined that meeting at 11:08 a.m. Council Member Cruz joined the meeting at 11:09 a.m. Council Member McCarthy rejoined the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Council Member Burns said that they had a contractor who would be giving them a conditional ranking as A,B,C, etc. Council Member Newton said that it would be important to keep a log of the streets that have been paved for the future Council members.

Mr. Nkwo said that there was some money allocated to paving parking lots. Council Member McCarthy said that he was concerned that they would paying for the lots across from the Amphitheater. Discussion followed about the number of parking lots that the City owns. It was suggested that the City start selling some of these vacant lots.

Mr. Nkwo said that they need to consider the Perry Arches. He said that he had spoken with Ms. DeJesus about this and there was grant funding available. He said that the repairs will cost about \$3 million. Discussion followed.

Council Member Newton said he had spoken with Mr. Hladun and that the interior rooms had been cleaned and they are working on stabilizing it.

Council Member Mack left the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

The discussion moved to the Arena and the fact that \$15 million had been allocated towards repairs.

Council Member Mack rejoined the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Council Member Herron left the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked about the Island Brook Design. Mr. Nkwo explained that the design cost does not include the Federal and State funding.

Council Member Herron rejoined the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she wanted to make sure that the funding for Island Brook was not re-directed. Mr. Nkwo said that there was a two folded answer. The first part is for securing the project and the second was the actual allocation of funding. Council Member Burns said that it would be important to make sure that the flood control projects are noted by the State. Council Member Herron said that the State had reallocated some funds for a flood project to a different project and now the area that she lives in has started to flood where it never did before.

A discussion followed about the Police parking lot. The Committee discussed the fact that the Police Department needs a new police station. Council Member Newton said that the B&A Committee needs to have this discussion at another meeting.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ALLOCATE \$2.5 MILLION TO START A PROJECT FOR A NEW POLICE STATION IN THE FY 2024-2025 CAPITAL BUDGET PLAN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Cruz said that he wanted a full budget from OPED. Mr. Nkwo said that he would get that report to him.

Lt. Manuel Cotto said that the parking lot owner was currently open to selling the lot or increasing the rent. He cautioned the Committee that there were prospective investors interested if the lot goes on the market. If the City does not purchase the property, the Station will start looking like New Haven with cars parked all along the streets.

Council Member Newton said that they would reprogram funds from OPED to purchase the lot.

Acting Chief Garcia then said that they had moved two Departments out of a rental property into a City owned building. She requested that the building be renovated to accommodate their needs.

Council Member Burns said that he felt that reprogramming bonded funds for Land Acquisition was not a good idea. Discussion followed. Council Member Herron pointed out that it would be a short term fix for a major problem.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the Co-chairs should include the information about the Police Station in their comments to the public. The Police Department are Public Safety.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that the Police Department should have a central place to park. She said that it was important to work with what they have.

Mr. Nkwo said that they have to put the item into the Capital Plan first before deciding where the funding was coming from.

Mr. Nkwo explained that CDBG funding had been allocated for fire equipment but the lead time on a fire truck was 16 to 18 months. The allocation is only open for a short window. Mr. Nkwo said that he would coordinate this with the Fire Chief and Police Chief.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia left the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Council Member Burns then reviewed the ITS and WPCA allocations.

Council Member Mack left the meeting at 12:22 p.m. and returned at 12:23 p.m.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia returned to the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO AMEND ADD \$700,000 FOR OPED LAND MANAGEMENT ACQUISITION (FOR POLICE PARKING LOT PURCHASE)
** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (NEWTON, HERRON, MACK, MCBRIDE-LEE AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (BURNS AND MCCARTHY).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE THE CAPITAL PLAN AS AMENDED TO INCLUDE \$700,000 FOR OPED LAND MANAGEMENT ACQUISITION (FOR POLICE PARKING LOT PURCHASE) IN FY 2023.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (NEWTON, HERRON, MACK, MCBRIDE-LEE AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (BURNS AND MCCARTHY).**

Acting Chief Garcia said that when they moved the departments to a City building there were certain modifications that needed to be made to the building. She added that also the rent that was formerly paid for the previous location has stopped so there are savings there.

The discussion moved to the details involving renovating a City building to accommodate two Police departments, which was estimated to cost \$200,000.

Council President Nieves joined the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO INCREASE CITY WIDE BUILDING MAINTENANCE BY \$200,000 FOR NEEDED POLICE RENOVATIONS OF A CITY OWNED BUILDING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RECESS

Council Member Newton announced a recess at 12:40 p.m. He called the meeting back to order at 1:06 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO AMEND BY SUBSTITUTE OPM BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS PROPOSED FY-23-27CAPITAL BUDGET PLAN WITH OPM BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS PROPOSED FY-23-27CAPITAL BUDGET PLAN DATED APRIL 30,2022 AS EXHIBIT #04-20-2022-B**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE THE CAPITAL PLAN AS AMENDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

Council Member McCarthy asked about the re-appropriation of the OPED funding. Council Member Newton said that he would be speaking with OPED about the dormant funds first.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OPM

Mr. Nkwo directed everyone to Page 120 of the Budget Book.

Mr. Nkwo then distributed copies of a document regarding a budget award that the department had recently received.

Mr. Nkwo said that in the past his department had 8 or 9 staff but it has been cut down to 6. Mr. Nkwo said that he would be converting one position into a Project Manager. He said that the funding was already there. He said that his administrative assistant, who has 30 years of history with OPM, was retiring.

Mr. Nkwo noted that when the previous administration left, the budget documentation was no longer available to him. He had to re-create the information from old back-ups.

Council Member Burns then reviewed the Exhibits. Exhibit C was about the Parking Meter revenue. He noted that more people will be coming downtown, there will be an increase in the credit card charges. Mr. Nkwo explained that during COVID, they did not enforce the parking fees. During the pandemic, the downtown area was refitted.

The discussion moved to the relocation of the Parking to the Police because of a situation that had happened in Public Facilities. Council Member Newton said that he was concerned about the fact that the Police Department was so under staffed, they were going to transfer Parking back to Public Facilities.

Council Member Herron said that the staff can't be called "Parking Enforcement" if they are not under the supervision of the Police Department. They also stop working at 4 p.m. If the staff are transferred back to Public Facilities, they can be Meter Maids. Mr. Nkwo said that most of the transactions were now done with credit cards so there was not much coinage involved.

Acting Chief Garcia said that the officer that accompanies the Parking Enforcement staff were there for transparency and also is there for the safety of the Parking Enforcement officer.

Council Member McCarthy asked if they would still need a police officer accompany the Parking Enforcement Officer. He was told that they would.

Council Member Burns said that he had done some calculations regarding seasonals vs. part time employees.

Council Member Burns added that Public Facilities had submitted a multi-page organizational chart, which is Exhibit 04-30-2022-D.

Council Member Newton asked if there had been a study done regarding department management. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that they had done a study a number of years ago.

Council Member Newton said that they will be sending a message to the department heads that if they don't use the allocated funds, it will be re-programmed.

Council Member Burns said that Council Rule 28 says that the City Council would be responsible for investigating the administrative salaries. Council Member Newton said that Bridgeport was not the highest taxed City in the State.

Mr. Nkwo said that elective officials are entitled to tuition reimbursement for a degree. No official has ever applied to go back to school for a degree.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 3, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Scott Burns, Co-chair; Ernest Newton, Co-chair; Jeanette Herron, Matthew McCarthy, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Mary McBride-Lee (6:30 p.m.), Tyler Mack (6:56 p.m.)

OTHERS: Council Member(s): A. Boyd, M. Brown, M. Pereira, R Smith, M. Lyons (6:36 p.m.), R. Roman-Christy (6:36 p.m.) & M. Valle; Council President A. Nieves (6:52 p.m.); T. Gaudett, Mayoral Aide; Ken Flatto, Finance Director; Nestor Nkwo, OPM Director; Constance Vickers, Legislative Affairs

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Burns called the meeting to order at 6:26 p.m. He introduced those present and said that they would be working on the Operating Budget.

Co-chair Newton said that this was one of the toughest budgets. There are many people who were upset about what the State did to the City.

Council Member McBride-Lee joined the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Council Member Burns said that the State Legislature had just confirmed the State's budget. Mr. Nkwo said that they had planned to reduce the mill rate from 45 to 32, based on anticipated State reimbursements. He said that the City will receive \$1.6 million in Pilot payments, but the shortfall of \$5.3 million remains. There had been a proposed \$1.8 million for a manufacturing Pilot, but that was not approved.

Council Member Lyons, Council Member Valle, and Council Member Roman-Christy joined the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Mr. Flatto said that three years ago, they reduced the mill rate from 54 to 45 for the car tax. When the calculation was made by the State, it was based on the 45-mill rate, which created a deficit. Due to this, there is a \$5.2 million dollar shortfall as of earlier in the day.

Mr. Nkwo distributed a spreadsheet that showed the changes.

Council Member Pereira asked if all the cities will be impacted by this motor vehicles tax change. Ms. Vickers then announced the mill rates and the reimbursements for both Hartford and

New Haven. She added that Representative Rosario will be meeting with the legislature soon about this.

Council Member Newton said that there were only two options, cut the budget or tap into the Contingency Fund.

Council Member Lyons said that she found this unfortunate because year after year, they keep cutting the budget. Constituents come to their Council Members asking for services but the Council finds out that they don't have enough money because they have to cut to reduce a deficit.

Council President Nieves joined the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Council Member Newton said that the City has to fight back against all these cuts.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked about the electronic document they had received from CCM. Council Member Burns explained that they had distributed that document for informational purposes.

Council Member Mack joined the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she felt the representatives in Hartford should be fighting harder for the Bridgeport School District.

Council Member McCarthy said that he agrees with what everyone just said, but they need to find \$5.2 million. He said that while they need to present a balanced budget, it is only on paper. The administration usually is able to work things out financially.

Council Member Herron said that she would like to plan for the worse and hope for the best.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED "CITY OF BRIDGEPORT OFFICE OF POLICY MANAGEMENT FY 2022-2023 PROPOSED MILL RATE INCLUDES \$400K FY23 NEW ELDERLY RATE" AS EXHIBIT 05-03-202-A.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT TITLED AS "REVENUE DECREASES - PROPOSED - BAC PROPOSED CHANGE – RATIONAL" AS EXHIBIT # 05-03-2022-B.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ENTER A DOCUMENT " MAYOR PROPOSED CHANGES - RANGE - PROPOSED BAC RECOMMENDED" AS EXHIBIT #05-03-2022-C.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIOUSLY.**

Council Member Burns explained that Mr. Roach had been working to put external cameras on school buses in order to track the vehicles that illegally pass the buses when students are being discharged. Then the drivers will be fined.

The discussion moved to the new Nip Bottle revenue. The State has enacted a .05¢ charge on purchased nip bottles that will increase to .10¢ soon.

Council Member Pereira pointed out that the school buses were privately owned. Council Member Burns said that he really didn't know the details about that agreement.

Council Member Pereira said that she sees the nip bottles all over the place and asked about redemption. Council Member Burns explained that the .05¢ was collected when the nip is purchased.

Council Member Valle left the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

The discussion moved to the CCM membership and registration on page 133 in the budget book. The Hartford legislation lobbyist service cost \$60,000.

Regarding the Tax Assessor, Mr. Flatto explained that they have a part-time assessor that they are paying as a consultant until the test can be administered.

Mr. Nkwo reviewed the line item for binding arbitration and the issues with the Police and Fire contracts.

Council Member Brown said that the State will be reimbursing the City at a higher rate for Bassick High School. He said that he wished to know how much they have already bonded. Mr. Flatto said that it won't save anything in this budget cycle because the bonding won't happen until the summer.

Council Member Pereira said that the State had announced that they would not allocate more than \$129 million for a school and Bassick was located in a flood zone.

The discussion moved to the requested Permit Supervisor. There were several questions about the utilities ripping up the roads and doing a poor job of patching the road afterwards. Council Member Newton said that they have to change the ordinance to require the utilities to pave curb to curb.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the building permits for Steel Point. Council Member Burns said that they had not reviewed every single line.

Council Member Pereira said that the City Engineer had said he would give up the Civil Engineer II for a Civil Engineer I. However, a candidate was notified that he had a job. Later, he filled both positions. It's not fair to other departments who gave up positions and did not fill them. Council Member Burns said the Budget Committee had agreed to cut a position that was already filled. He added that the CAO had given the Budget chairs an updated list of continued vacancies and vacancies that had been filled since the book had been printed.

Council Member Burns said that it appeared there was a consensus that they would be filling the Permit inspector.

The discussion then moved to the City Attorney's Office. Council Member Newton said that they were aware that there will be two attorney vacancies, along with the City Attorney retiring. Council Member Newton pointed out that when a senior attorney retires, the City loses the legacy knowledge. The attorneys retired and then they come back as consultants.

Council Member Herron said that the City Attorney's Office needs to recruit some newly graduated lawyers for training. Council Member Lyons said that both the City and the State does this.

Council Member Pereira said that the City Attorney's Office was doing a great disservice to the City because many residents hate them.

She stated for the record that the City Attorney's Office is paid more than any other city in the State other than Greenwich.

The discussion then moved to the Town Clerk's request for an additional Typist 1. Mr. Nkwo then provided the details.

Council Member Burns said that there had been a problem last year when they had talked about the Construction Manager. Council Member Newton said that there was an individual who was a construction manager and she was doing a very good job.

Council Member Pereira said that the Director of Public Facilities and the Construction Manager should have a degree in Engineering.

RECESS

Council Member Burns declared a recess at 8:18 p.m. Due to illness, the secretary left the meeting at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
Budget & Appropriations
Special Meeting
May 3, 2022

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 4, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Scott Burns, Co-chair; Ernest Newton, Co-chair; Jeanette Herron, Matthew McCarthy, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Mary McBride-Lee (via conference call)

OTHERS: Council President A. Nieves, Council Member(s): A. Boyd, M. Brown, F. Hodges, M. Pereira & R. Smith; T. Gaudett, Mayoral Aide; Ken Flatto, Finance Director; Nestor Nkwo, OPM Director; Constance Vickers, Legislative Affairs

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Newton called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. A quorum was present.

Council Member Newton asked Mr. Flatto to describe the latest information regarding the state budget legislative session.

Mr. Flatto described that today state legislators were able at the last minute to secure new state aid in a total amount of \$5.3 million to replace the loss of \$5.3 million of state aid expected. The loss of state aid was due to a shortfall in car tax revenue reimbursements from the state that the city was not aware of until May 3rd receipt of state municipal aid runs as described the evening before by Mr. Nkwo. Mr. Flatto said the replacement state aid of \$5.3 million comprised two components: ARPA aid of \$2.2 million and municipal revenue sharing aid of \$3.1 million.

Council Member Newton asked Ms. Vickers to confirm this aid would be coming and Ms. Vickers said that state legislators had secured this commitment from the Speaker and Senate and a bill for \$2.2 million was passed today and a new state municipal run for the \$3.1 million was prepared.

Council Member Newton turned the meeting over to Mr. Nkwo who distributed two documents, which were then exhibited by the Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE DOCUMENT ENTITLED ‘FY23 BUILDING PERMIT FEE VALUES AND PROJECTIONS’ AS EXHIBIT 5-4-2022-A**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MADE A SECOND MOTION TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE DOCUMENT ENTITLED ‘EXHIBIT 542022B- FY2023 BAC**

GENERAL FUND BUDGET CHANGES TO THE MAYORS FY2023 PROPOSED BUDGET WITH LEGISLATIVE INTENTS' AS EXHIBIT 5-4-2022-B.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Nkwo first described FY23 Building Permit Fee Values And Projections (Document 5-4-2022-A) which he said summarized the amount of fees expected from major FY23 building projects, such as Bond St, Steel Point, and Downtown North, as expected by the Building department and OPED.

The document listed a low total of \$476,000 and a high of \$2.7 million. Council Member Pereira and Council Member McCarthy and Council Member Brown asked about why other projects they knew of were not listed and whether this amount would be in addition to amounts listed in the proposed budget. Mr. Nkwo said he felt the budget already included some of these projects. Council Member Burns agreed other projects would evolve during the year. Mr. Flatto suggested the budget book total was about \$150,000 less than the mid-point of the listed projects. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said members should not second guess the department and Council Member Herron worried about a slowing housing market next year. Council Member Newton suggested adding \$200,000 to that item.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ADD \$200,000 TO THE BUILDING FEE BUDGET LINE TOTAL PROPOSED IN 'FY2023 BAC GENERAL FUND BUDGET CHANGES TO THE MAYOR'S FY2023 PROPOSED BUDGET WITH LEGISLATIVE INTENTS' (EXHIBIT 5-4-2022-B).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (BURNS, HODGES, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE AND MCCARTHY) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

Mr. Nkwo then explained further that the 'FY2023 BAC General Fund Budget Changes to the Mayor's FY2023 Proposed Budget With Legislative Intents' document # 5-4-2022-B was a compilation of all the budget line by budget line amendment changes to the Mayor's proposed FY2023 Budget that had been suggested by members on the previous evening, along with some additional small modifications to budget lines proposed by OPM and Finance. He recommended that members go through these proposals, section by section entitled Revenue Increases, Revenue Decreases, Expenditure Increases, and Expenditure Decreases and make their decisions.

Co-chair Burns and Newton said there would be final votes on each section at the end of the meeting, as in prior years. Mr. Gaudett offered to keep a running tally of the changes as each budget line decision and amendment was made by the Committee.

Mr. Nkwo started with the Revenue section and further individually summarized the reasons for the items listed.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia recommended elimination of item for Police Department ticket violation revenue from passing a school bus ticket fee. Council Member Herron stated it was

disappointing to read this item given the Council had not seen any contract for the proposed cameras for school buses. Council Member Pereira stated the BOE must approve.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO CUT THIS PROPOSED \$150,000 REVENUE LINE INCREASE FROM THE REVENUE SECTION.**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Newton stated he didn't realize the vote intent.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO RE-CONSIDER AND RESTORE THE \$150,000 BUDGET LINE.**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION TO RECONSIDER PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) OPPOSED.**

The item was left as listed in Exhibit #5-4-2022B.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOTIONED TO INCREASE LINE 41246 – INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS BY \$50,000.**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Mr. Flatto indicated with rates rising that this is a reasonable projection.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOTIONED TO ADD \$150,000 TO LINE 41544 – SALE OF CITY PROPERTIES.**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

The Committee felt enough sites would be sold to generate this revenue. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said she was opposed out of concern for the sale of the airport.

**** THE MOTION TO RECONSIDER PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (BURNS, NEWTON, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, AND MCCARTHY) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS THEN PROPOSED TO ADD A NEW REVENUE BUDGET LINE FOR \$125,000 FOR THE 'NIP BOTTLE MUNICIPAL SALES TAX' LAW RECENTLY PASSED BY THE STATE.**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Committee discussed and agreed that all votes recorded during the meeting will be compiled by Mr. Gaudett and OPM and furnished with full recalculations on the spreadsheet Exhibit # 5-4-

2022-B before the Committee for the Committee to take final votes later tonight and that final further amendments could be made at that time. Mr. Gaudett said motions so far total \$525,000 in additional revenue and Council Member McCarthy concurred.

Mr. Nkwo then went through the Expenditure sections of the Exhibit and further explained the items listed with the legislative intent proposed for each indicated on the Exhibit. Discussion ensued on each expenditure budget line by line.

Council Member Pereira asked about why the Council legislative supply line was needed when she had been told at earlier meeting that existing supplies would be used. Mr. Nkwo said some basic items were necessary in addition to City Clerk office supplies.

Council Member Newton and Council Member McBride-Lee stated that they fully support the amounts of increased expenditures proposed for MIRA. Council Member Pereira stated that other ARPA grants were funding re-entry programs. Mr. Hodges stated that there were differing types of programs and he has seen firsthand what MIRA is accomplishing for the City. No changes were made to those budget lines.

Small increase changes were made to the proposed fuel and gas account increases per OPM. The Committee decided to transfer the License and Permits division to Engineering with one additional inspector to be added, with dollar amount determined by OPM.

The Committee approved of the transfer of Deputy Director of Health from Social Services to Health Administration.

Council Member Newton asked for discussion on the proposal in the Exhibit for the Council to add \$500,000 to City's total annual contribution to the Board of Education budget, bringing the total proposed annual increase for the BOE to \$2.5 million. Council Member Burns stated this increase will go a long way toward meeting the needs and goals indicated by the Superintendent and that the Committee was cognizant of BOE needs and grant resources available this coming year.

Ms. Vickers indicated the State had figured out that a very large adjustment was due to the BOE due to the state determining that the district was undercounting free lunch students in annual submissions and that the state approved funding for an audit of this program to ensure the BOE gets proper funding in the future, which could amount to millions of dollars more per year. In addition, Mr. Nkwo stated the BOE will be receiving up to \$2 million in additional federal school lunch funds this coming year.

Council Member Pereira stated that ESSER funding would be used more for capital projects and supplemental programs and that nutrition funding couldn't be used for regular budget and she urged more funding be approved.

Council Member Hodges suggested the BOE do more recycling to generate fee income.

Council Member Newton thanked the Superintendent for working so well with the City and the Council and indicated that his efforts were very helpful. Council Member McBride-Lee indicated she felt more substitutes were needed.

The Committee unanimously agreed to approve the \$500,000 increase as listed in the Exhibit to total \$2.5 million for the BOE budget.

RECESS

The Committee took a five-minute recess.

Mr. Nkwo and Council Member Burns moved onto other expenditure decreases and stated that a number of the changes were simply transfers from one department to another.

The Committee left intact the listed defunding of one vacant City Attorney.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOTIONED TO REDUCE THE CITY ATTORNEY CLAIMS AND JUDGMENTS ACCOUNT BY ANOTHER \$175,000 TO REDUCE THE BUDGET LINE TOTAL DOWN TO \$1,050,000.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Mr. Flatto mentioned that the reserve is ample but future unknown claims could impact this account and require a replenishment in future budget years.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (BURNS, NEWTON, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, AND MCCARTHY) AND ONE (1) ABSTENSION (VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

The Committee reviewed the budget line decreases required to fund the expense increases for the Council's new staffing needs.

Council Member Pereira said that the proposed \$40,000 increase in Council travel expenditure funds should be eliminated and that not all members go to conferences. Council Member Herron stated that conference learning and knowledge was essential to Council Member duties and Council Member Newton stated the funds should remain as proposed. No motion was made to reduce this \$40,000 budget line proposal.

Council Member Newton questioned the rationale behind the proposed OPM decrease of \$50,000 in the Small and Minority Business office budget line for a disparity study. Mr. Nkwo explained the funds were budgeted and meant to be expended in FY2022 but he left \$100,000 for FY2023 since the study was not completed. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she felt this would be adequate.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO REDUCE THIS BUDGET LINE FROM \$150,000 TO \$100,000**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION CARRIED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR AND TWO (2) OPPOSED.**

Mr. Gaudett and Mr. Nkwo indicated that based on the adjustments as discussed and approved so far, the total proposed BAC amended Budget for FY2023 was \$723,210 short from being balanced. This total includes the elimination of the Mayor's \$2.1 million proposed line for more state aid or administrative reduction actions since there was no expectation for further state aid beyond the \$5.3 million discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

Council Member Burns proposed to add one Public Health Nurse and the Committee agreed this should be added with OPM to calculate the exact amount. The position would be added under Communicable Disease Clinic department.

Council Member Burns proposed elimination of the proposed new position for a Labor Relations Deputy (which was proposed in addition to the new Labor Relations Director to be hired) and the Committee approved this change and requested OPM calculate the expenditure reduction amounts.

Mr. Nkwo was asked and explained that OPED HOME Programs Specialist position would be now fully funded by CDBG grants. Council Member Burns asked to reduce that salary line from the budget. Council Member Burns also asked to increase the OPED Executive Assistant salary from by \$7,000 in light of increased duties.

The Communications Marketing budget was reviewed. Council Member McCarthy proposed to reduce the \$50,000 overall increase given that \$50,000 was left in OPED budget. The Committee unanimously agreed to reduce Communications marketing by \$50,000.

Council Member Brown suggested that the personnel handling meter collection should be moved from the Police Department. Council Member Herron and Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia explained why they felt the Police Department had to supervise this office. Mr. Hodges said that Police Department outside overtime should be civilianized. Council President Nieves said more officers should be patrolling our streets and fewer handling administrative functions. No motions were made regarding this division.

Council Member Newton then proposed to add one Maintainer III for Sanitation and one Maintainer I for Parks Maintenance. The Committee adopted this proposal and asked Mr. Nkwo to calculate the amounts for the final votes.

Council Member McCarthy proposed five further motions regarding the Public Facilities Budgets and CAO.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO REDUCE AND UNFUND ONE (1) DATA ANALYST.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES SECOND.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY HERRON AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (NEWTON AND MCBRIDE-LEE).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO REDUCE AND UNFUND ONE (1) SPECIAL PROJECT COORDINATOR AND ONE (1) SPECIAL PROJECT MANAGER - BOTH IN THE FACILITIES ADMIN DIVISION.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO REDUCE AND UNFUND ONE (1) HOUSING CODE SPECIAL PROJECT COORDINATOR.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO REDUCE AND UNFUND ONE (1) HOUSING CODE SPECIAL PROJECT COORDINATOR.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO REDUCE AND UNFUND ONE (1) ASSISTANT CAO POSITION.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY HERRON AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (NEWTON AND MCBRIDE-LEE).**

Mr. Gaudett explained that in net all changes as proposed so far would relatively balance the budget.

Council President Nieves made one further motion to add an expenditure budget line for the purchase of a City-wide Parks department event stage trailer vehicle for \$150,000. After discussion, the Committee agreed to make this amendment.

Mr. Nkwo was asked to calculate all changes and make any final small adjustment, if needed to the expenditure vacancy reserve budget.

RECESS

The Committee took a 10-minute recess to allow OPM to produce a final amended Exhibit #5-4-2022-B document for final review by the Committee.

Mr. Nkwo returned with the final As Amended Exhibit #5-4-2022-B – “FY2023 BAC General Fund Budget Changes to the Mayor’s FY2023 Proposed Budget with Legislative Intentions.”

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE EXHIBIT 542022B THE FIRST SECTION ENTITLED ‘BAC REVENUE INCREASES (A)’ AS AMENDED BY THE BAC IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$13,537,928 IN REVENUE INCREASE CHANGES TO THE MAYOR’S PROPOSED FY2023 BUDGET.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY HERRON, NEWTON AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (MCBRIDE-LEE).**

Council Member McBride-Lee indicated her vote was due to disappointment about certain positions including the reduction to an Assistant CAO.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOTIONED TO APPROVE EXHIBIT # 5-4-2022-B SECOND SECTION ENTITLED ‘BAC REVENUE DECREASES (B)’ AS AMENDED BY THE BAC IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$12,142,949 IN REVENUE DECREASE CHANGES TO THE MAYOR’S PROPOSED FY2023 BUDGET.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY HERRON, NEWTON AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (MCBRIDE-LEE).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOTIONED TO APPROVE EXHIBIT # 5-4-2022-B THIRD SECTION ENTITLED “BAC APPROPRIATIONS/EXPENDITURE INCREASES (C)’ AS AMENDED BY THE BAC IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$4,136,496 IN APPROPRIATIONS/EXPENDITURE INCREASE CHANGES FROM MAYORS PROPOSED FY2023 BUDGET OF \$4,136,496.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR (BURNS, HERRON, NEWTON AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (MCCARTHYAND MCBRIDE-LEE).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOTIONED TO APPROVE EXHIBIT # 5-4-2022-B APPROPRIATIONS/EXPENDITURE DECREASES (D) AS AMENDED BY THE BAC IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$2,741,517 IN APPROPRIATIONS/EXPENDITURE DECREASE CHANGES FROM THE MAYOR’S PROPOSED FY2023 BUDGET.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR (BURNS, HERRON, NEWTON AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (MCCARTHYAND MCBRIDE-LEE).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ENTIRE EXHIBIT # 5-4-2022-B AS AMENDED BY THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE IN A TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHANGES TO NET REVENUES OF \$1,394,979 AND A TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHANGES TO NET APPROPRIATIONS/EXPENDITURES OF \$1,394,979.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AS AMENDED PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY HERRON, NEWTON AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (MCBRIDE-LEE).**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services