

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 10, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Ernest Newton, Co-chair; Scott Burns, Co-chair; Jeannette Herron, Tyler Mack, Matthew McCarthy, Mary McBride-Lee (6:34 p.m.)

OTHERS: Council President A. Nieves, Council Member(s): A. Boyd, F. Hodges, M. Pereira, R. Smith & J. Cruz (6:34); Thomas Gaudett, Deputy Chief of Staff; Ken Flatto, Finance Director; Nestor Nwko, OPM Director

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Newton called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:

March 13, 2023 (Regular Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED THE MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2023 REGULAR MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

41-22 Proposed Amendment to the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Grant for the City of Bridgeport, (Ref. #76-20).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ENTER A SPREADSHEET REPORT TITLED “AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT BUDGETED COMMITMENTS/EXPENDITURES” AS EXHIBIT 04-10-202-A.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Flatto said that last year they had presented a similar report to the Committee. He said that it covers all the information from FY21-22 through March 31st. Mr. Flatto said that all the funding has been received and will be expending it over the next four years. This does not include the funding that the BOE received. He said that the administration had focused on using the funds for programs. He gave a summary of the different types of programs such as the sub-recipients, one time gifts to small businesses, cyber security, the Pleasure Beach Bridge and other miscellaneous projects. Cities and towns are allowed to allocate funding against the revenue losses incurred during the COVID Pandemic. He indicated where the amount that had been expended was listed on the report.

Council Member Newton asked Mr. Gaudett if there was any way to verify the funding that had been disbursed. Mr. Gaudett said that there was a set amount where the recipients have to submit quarterly along with a spreadsheet with receipts. He pointed out that it was hard to gauge impact.

Council Member Cruz and Council Member McBride-Lee joined the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Council Member Burns said that the funding for broadband service was there. Discussion followed about the expense and the various details involved. Mr. Gaudett said that the State was working on infrastructure.

Council Member Herron said that homelessness figures were low in her opinion. Council Member Herron said that there were discussions at CCM about cyber security.

Council Member McCarthy asked how much was allocated for broadband. Mr. Flatto said that he thought it was about \$8 million dollars.

Council Member McCarthy asked how much was allocated for cybersecurity. Mr. Flatto said that the amount was listed on Line 4 on the spreadsheet. Discussion followed about the yearly allocations.

Council Member Hodges asked where the non-profits were listed. Council Member Burns said that they were scattered throughout items 1-9 and 16 & 17.

Council Member Hodges said that he was concerned broadband. He would like the City to become a provider. Mr. Gaudett said that they were working on it and have a meeting scheduled with Google. Mr. Flatto suggested that they ask Curtis, the IT Director, when he is presenting to the Committee.

Council Member Mack said that he would report this resolution. He said that it was important to keep the Council up to date on things like the Airport gate rather than finding out by reading it in the newspaper.

Council Member Burns said that it would be helpful to have a list of the changes. Mr. Gaudett said that one item had been added earlier in the day.

Mr. Gaudett said that if a group spends less than allocated, the surplus would go back into the fund.

Council President Nieves noted that there were some funds allocated to the Police Department. Mr. Flatto said that he had not realized they had other funding. Mr. Gaudett said that they have to update the items that changed since March 31st.

Council Member Pereira said that \$8 million planned for broadband but the sheet only indicates \$1 million. She wished to know where the other \$7 million was. Mr. Flatto said that Any item after #28 was added since last year. Discussion followed about funding for the NRZs.

Council Member Newton said that they would discuss the NRZs later in the schedule. Council Member Newton said that there were certain criteria that some NRZs did not meet. Council Member Pereira said hers had met the criteria and she would let people know about this before the election.

MONTHLY REPORT.

Mr. Flatto said that nothing had changed since last month's report.

Council Member McCarthy said that there was a set threshold of \$500,000 that required Council approval. He wished to lower it to the \$250,000.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 41-2241-22 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE 2021 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT GRANT FOR THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, (REF. #76-20) BY LOWERING THE REQUIRED COUNCIL APPROVAL THRESHOLD FROM \$500,000 TO \$250,000.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 41-22 BY LOWERING THE REQUIRED COUNCIL APPROVAL THRESHOLD FROM \$500,000 TO \$250,000 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 41-22 AS AMENDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services