

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MARCH 15, 2021**

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

**ATTENDANCE:** M. Evette Brantley, Co-chair; Maria Valle, Co-chair, Jeanette Herron, Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy

**OTHERS:** Council Member(s): M. Pereira, J. Cruz & S. Suliman; Thomas Gaudett, Mayoral Aide; Atty. M. Anastasi, Anjerice Miller, Community Development Program Specialist; Milta Feliciano, Housing Construction Development Specialist

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-chair Brantley called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. A quorum was present.

**23-20 Proposed Program Year 47 Annual Action Plan:**

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

**Homeless Emergency Solution Grant (HESG)**

**HOME Investment Partnership Program**

**Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 23-20 PROPOSED PROGRAM YEAR 47 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG); HOMELESS EMERGENCY SOLUTION GRANT (HESG); HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM, AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that the process has already been underway and she had spoken to Alana Kabal from HUD. She said that last year's Policies and Procedure Manual had not been followed. Council Member Brantley said that once the process is underway, there were seven Council Members appointed to the Special Committee.

Council Member Pereira said that for the record, the Council Rules had specific rules that had not been followed. There is not a reference to a Special Committee in the Procedures Manual and it is now being investigated by HUD.

Council Member Brantley said that the Committee members had signed the conflict of interest statements in order to be appointed to the Committee.

Ms. Feliciano explained that this information is sent to ECDE Committee and in the past, there were too many Council Members that had conflicts.

Council Member Pereira said that they could not violate Federal Law and she was not aware of this process last year.

Council Member Brantley said that they had previously asked for clarification and were told that there were no issues.

Council Member Roman-Christy asked for Atty. Anastasi for his opinion. Atty. Anastasi stated that he was not the one who had set up the Committee originally. However, in his recollection, this process had previously been done via the Special Committee. He said that he believed that Ms. Kabel was reviewing the process and that the primary concern was that there was citizen input.

Atty. Anastasi added there had been times in the past when the majority or entire Council had conflicts. He said that he did not think that the Federal Government weighs in on the Special Committee but is concerned with making certain whether there will be public input. He said that he had asked Mr. Gill about this and expected an answer soon. Atty. Anastasi said that Council Member Pereira's comments may involve a technicality.

Council Member Brantley asked Ms. Miller if she could address the Council regarding this.

Ms. Miller stated that HUD does not require the City to have a competitive application process that they have.

Because they want to help the community, they created the competitive application process and the Citizen's Participation requirement was recently amended due to the need to hold a virtual meeting.

Council Member Brantley said that it was her understanding that there was nothing wrong based on Ms. Miller's comments.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 23-20 PROPOSED PROGRAM YEAR 47 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG);HOMELESS EMERGENCY SOLUTION GRANT (HESG); HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM, AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA) PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services.