

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 26, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Co-chair; Scott Burns, Co-Chair; M. Evette Brantley, Matthew McCarthy, Denese Taylor-Moye (6:05 p.m.); Samia Suliman (6:14 p.m.); Alfredo Castillo (6:14 p.m.)

OTHERS: Council Member(s): J. Herron, E. Martinez, M. McBride-Lee, E. Newton, M. Pereira, R. Roman-Christy & M. Valle; M. Anastasi, Esquire; T. Gaudett, Aide to the Mayor; Constance Vickers, Director of Legislative Affairs; Elaine Braithwaite, City Librarian; Barbara, Marcie J. Patton, Rachel Rockwell, LaShea Hall, 203-275-6420

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:

March 24, 2021. (Regular Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 24, 2021 REGULAR MEETING.
** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS SECONDED.
** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 24, 2021 REGULAR MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Taylor-Moye joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

49-20 Appointment of Marcie J. Patton, Ph.D. to the Board of Directors of the Bridgeport Public Library and Reading Room.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the Committee had received the information and reviewed it. Dr. Patton said that she was a recently retired Professor of Political Science from Fairfield University and had been attending the Library Board meeting since February.

Council Member Brantley asked Dr. Patton why she had been attending the meetings since February. Dr. Patton said that Mr. O'Donnell had suggested that she attend the meetings to become familiar with the issues. Council Member Brantley thanked her for taking the time to attend those meetings.

Council Member Burns said that Dr. Patton was well known and well respected. He noted that Mr. Greenberg was also a retired Fairfield University professor.

Council Member Roman-Christy said that she was the liaison for the Library Board. She asked why Dr. Patton's political affiliation was not listed. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that it was on one of the documents.

Council Member Valle said that she was on the East Side and that she was concerned about the name of the library which was "Free Library". There have been some community members who felt it was source of free books. She asked Dr. Patton to bring some information to the Board and encourage them to reconsider the name.

Dr. Patton said that she would mention it to Mr. O'Donnell. Council Member Valle said that her daughter was a librarian and concerned about the name.

Council Member Pereira said that Dr. Patton was a Democrat. She asked which seat Dr. Patton was filling. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that Ms. Vickers would be able to check on that information. Dr. Patton said that she had applied for the vacancy last June.

Council Member Pereira said that the question had not been answered but she would wait for the information.

Council Member Newton thanked Dr. Patton for her willingness to serve.

Council Member Suliman joined the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 49-20 APPOINTMENT OF MARCIE J. PATTON, PH.D. TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY AND READING ROOM.
** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested that this item be placed on Consent Calendar.

55-20 Appointment of Rachel Rockwell (D) to the Historic District Commission as an alternate.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia greeted Ms. Rockwell. Ms. Rockwell said that she had lived in Bridgeport between 25 to 30 years and was an architect. She also taught for a short period of time. She was interested in contributing to the City and was referred to the Board by Mr. Horvath.

Council Member Burns asked if Ms. Rockwell had done any Board work like this. Ms. Rockwell said that she had served on a Committee at Dunbar School.

Council Member Burns asked if Ms. Rockwell was aware of the changes in the Historic Districts. Ms. Rockwell said that she had been told about it, but did not know what it would encompass.

Council Member Brantley moved the question.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 55-20 APPOINTMENT OF RACHEL ROCKWELL (D) TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION AS AN ALTERNATE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested that this item be placed on Consent Calendar.

56-20 Appointment of LaShea Hall (D) to the Civil Service Commission.

Ms. Hall said that she was a Bridgeport resident for the last 16 years and had served with several boards. She wants to do more for the City and see the bigger picture. She said that she has a background on affirmative action.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she was pleased to see that her application was very thorough.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she had worked on the same boards as Ms. Hall and was concerned that Ms. Hall said that she had three Board meetings earlier in the day.

Council Member Brantley thanked Ms. Hall and said that she was sure that Ms. Hall would bring a good perspective in terms of fairness and social justice.

Council Member Burns said that Ms. Hall had noted that she was available to serve on any board as needed. He asked if she had any concerns about being on a board that was slightly more political.

Ms. Hall said that she was not concerned. She did not have any concerns about conflicts with the unions.

Council Member Pereira stated that the former Civil Service Director had been arrested, tried and found guilty. She wondered if the Civil Service Commission was exercising their responsibility correctly. She said that Commission needs to be in charge, not the other way around.

Ms. Hall said that she could not address that statement because she was not familiar with the situation.

Council Member Pereira asked if Ms. Hall had read the requirements in the City Charter regarding the Civil Service Department.

Ms. Hall said that she had met with a staff member who had explained it and she also had read the section.

Council Member Pereira reiterated her earlier question about the former Civil Service Director.

Council Member Newton said that Ms. Hall looked like a very articulate and smart person who would be an asset to the City.

Council Member Herron said that it was refreshing to see someone who had a fresh eye and had done the research on the documents sent to her. She encouraged Ms. Hall to take her time and do the best she could.

Council Member Brantley said that she was confident that Ms. Hall would do the best she could since she works at DSS. She said that it is important to keep her integrity first and encouraged her fellow Council Members to support Ms. Hall.

Council Member McCarthy asked Ms. Hall to confirm that she was not aware of the situation with the Police Chief and the Personnel Director.

Ms. Hall said that she was aware of the issues surrounding the former Police Chief but did not realize the Personnel Director was involved.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she was very happy to know that there was a fresh face on the Commission and Ms. Hall would be a breath of fresh air.

Council Member Burns suggested that Ms. Hall read up on the case because he thought that having that information would be advisable.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 56-20 APPOINTMENT OF LASHEA HALL (D) TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services