

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 27, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Co-chair; Tyler Mack, Co-chair; Aikeem Boyd, Matthew McCarthy, Wanda Simmons, Alfredo Castillo (6:04)

OTHERS: Council President Nieves, Council Member(s): J. Cruz, J. Herron, E. Newton & R. Roman-Christy; T. Gaudett, Mayor's Office; Veronica Jones, Tax Collector; Eneida Martinez, Barbara, iPhone, Call-In User 1, 203-576-7272

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. A quorum was present

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:

October 25, 2021. (Regular Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2021 REGULAR MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she was not present at that meeting due to medical leave. It was noted that the only person present at the October 25th meeting was Council Member McCarthy.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY RESCINDED HIS MOTION**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK RESCINDED HIS SECOND.**

Council Member Castillo joined the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

03-21 Refund of Excess Payments – 2012 ESA Project Company LLC regarding 522 Fairfield Avenue.

Ms. Jones said that when there was an overpayment of over \$10,000, she has to report it to the Council for approval for the refund. The company went before a judge to reduce their personal property taxes and the company received a favorable judgement involving the last four years. The Assessor has to reduce their assessment. This is a reduction on the 2019 taxes. The refund is for \$14,169.52, which was ordered by the court.

Council Member McCarthy asked if the fuel cells were deemed tax exempt. Ms. Jones said that she did not have access to that information because she was not in court.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would check with Atty. Liskov for the details because he would have the information.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia reminded everyone that this was a court judgement. She added that it might have been over assessed and this was an adjustment to the bill. She said that she would look into this and get the information for Council Member McCarthy before the Council vote.

Council Member McCarthy suggested that perhaps the Tax Assessor should be attending the meetings because the Tax Collector often does not have the information that the Council Members wish to know. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would mention this to the Tax Assessor for the next time.

Council Member Castillo said that he wished to know where the property was located. Ms. Jones said that the business was on Fairfield Avenue and the tax was on personal property. Discussion followed about the amount of the total tax bill.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia explained that the total amount owed does not pertain to this as the tax payer has overpaid. She sent out an email earlier in the day to remind people to send her their questions, but did not receive any. The money belongs to the taxpayer. This is the same process that the Committee has followed for years. She reminded everyone that this refund was dictated by the court.

Council Member Castillo said that he would like to know the assessment amount prior to the reduction. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked Council Member Castillo to send her an email requesting the information before the next Council meeting.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK MOVED AGENDA ITEM 03-21 REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – 2012 ESA PROJECT COMPANY LLC REGARDING 522 FAIRFIELD AVENUE.**

Council Member Simmons said that she had received a document with all the information including the explanation.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SIMMONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 03-21 REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – 2012 ESA PROJECT COMPANY LLC REGARDING 522 FAIRFIELD AVENUE PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR (MACK, SIMMONS, CASTILLO, BOYD) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (MCCARTHY).**

04-21 Refund of Excess Payments – DRS Naval Power System, INC. regarding 196 Island Brook Avenue.

Ms. Jones said that this was a duplicate payment and the company was entitled to the refund.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the duplicate payments. Ms. Jones said that there was a copy of the check on the other side of the page in the information packet.

Council Member McCarthy said that there were two tax bills but he was not sure where the extra payment was. Council Member Simmons pointed out that it was an overpayment, not a double payment. Ms. Jones agreed. One of the payments was made online and another one was paid via lockbox.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SIMMONS MOVED AGENDA ITEM 04-21 REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – DRS NAVAL POWER SYSTEM, INC. REGARDING 196 ISLAND BROOK AVENUE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 04-21 REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – DRS NAVAL POWER SYSTEM, INC. REGARDING 196 ISLAND BROOK AVENUE PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR (MACK, SIMMONS, CASTILLO, BOYD) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (MCCARTHY).**

Council Member Mack asked for the information from the online payments. He said that they would need that information when it is presented to the full Council.

Council Member McCarthy asked for clarification on the application for the rebatement/refund. Council Member Simmons indicated where the information was located in the packet.

05-21 Refund of Excess Payments – DRS Naval Power Systems, INC. Regarding 141 North Avenue.

Ms. Jones said that it was the same situation as the previous agenda item. The company paid online and via the lockbox.

Council Member McCarthy said that in the future that when excess payments are made, they need to have clear explanations. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested that Council Member McCarthy put this into an email and she will have it looked into. Council Member McCarthy said that he would like someone to explain this more in depth.

Ms. Jones said that these were overpayments and this was not the City's money. She asked how the Council Members would like the information presented. Discussion followed.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would have the questions reviewed by the Tax Collector, the Tax Assessor and the City Attorney's Office.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SIMMONS MOVED AGENDA ITEM 05-21 REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – DRS NAVAL POWER SYSTEMS, INC. REGARDING 141 NORTH AVENUE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 05-21 REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – DRS NAVAL POWER SYSTEMS, INC. REGARDING 141 NORTH**

AVENUE PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR (MACK, SIMMONS, CASTILLO, BOYD) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (MCCARTHY).

Council Member Mack asked if the minutes from the Emergency meeting should be considered for approval. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that they were not on the agenda and could not be considered due to FOI regulations. She said the Emergency meeting minutes would be on the next agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Telesco Secretarial Services