

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 28, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Co-chair; Tyler Mack, Co-chair; Aikeem Boyd, Matthew McCarthy

OTHERS: Council Member(s): M. Pereira, R. Roman-Christy (6:10 p.m.) & M. McBride-Lee (6:10 p.m.); Constance Vickers, Director, Legislative Affairs; Atty. Rich Kascak, Atty. Lawrence Ouellette; Atty. Mark Anastasi; Tobias Watson, Martha R. Dixon, John Slater, Donald W. Donaldson, Barbara, Doreen's iPhone, Call in User 1; iPhone, iPhone DX3H8EAS0DXT, 203-414-0712

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She said that Council Member Simmons was absent due to illness. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:

• February 28, 2022. (Regular Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 2022 REGULAR MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 2022 REGULAR MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

• March 10, 2022. (Special Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, 2022 SPECIAL MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, 2022 SPECIAL MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

37-21 Appointment of Tobias Watson (D) to the Ethics Commission.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked Mr. Watson to introduce himself to the Committee.

Mr. Watson said that he has lived in Bridgeport since 2006 and would like to help the community in some way. He mentioned reading a CT Post article in the past that had said the Ethics Commission was in need of more members. He was a former teacher.

Council Member Pereira asked how long ago Mr. Watson had submitted an application. Mr. Watson said that he had submitted one in January 2022. He then previously submitted one but had never received a response. He mentioned that he had spoken with Council Member Lyons about this

Council Member Pereira asked where Mr. Watson had taught. He replied that he had taught Social Studies in Westport.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia informed Mr. Watson that she was also one of his Council representatives.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 37-21 APPOINTMENT OF TOBIAS WATSON (D) TO THE ETHICS COMMISSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD SECONDED**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

38-21 Appointment of Martha R. Dixon (R) to the Harbor Commission.

Ms. Dixon said that she lived in Black Rock and was involved in two yacht clubs there along with other volunteer events. Now that she is semi-retired, she has time

Council Member Pereira asked Ms. Dixon about her professional life. Ms. Dixon said that she had been a clothing buyer in New York and now has an on-line retail clothing store.

Council Member Pereira asked why she was interested in the Harbor Commission. Ms. Dixon said that she was a water person and interested in cleaning up the water.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 38-21 APPOINTMENT OF MARTHA R. DIXON (R) TO THE HARBOR COMMISSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD SECONDED**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

40-21 Appointment of John Slater (R) to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mr. Slater greeted the Commission and said that he was part of the Bridgeport Republican Town Committee. He was also part of a number of other organizations, such as the Bridgeport Symphony. He works in the banking industry and has worked in both Bridgeport and the surrounding towns. He was told by the Town Committee that there were vacancies on various boards and subsequently submitted an application.

Council Member Pereira asked when he was made an emergency alternate to the January. Mr. Slater said that it was done in January.

Council Member Pereira said that the ZBA was one of the most important boards in the City because they make critical decisions about variances. She said she was concerned because State statute requires 5 permanent appointments and 3 alternates. Mr. Slater will be the fourth Commissioner from the 130th.

Council Member Pereira said that she was concerned that one District was over-represented. Ms. Vickers said that Mr. Slater was the third member from the 130th, and there was also another application pending that was from the North End. Ms. Vickers said that other Council Member

Council Member Pereira said that Ms. Shepard's term expired in 2015 and Ms. Shepard often did not show up for meetings. She said that 3 of the five Commissioners were from 130th. This means four people from Black Rock are making decisions for the entire City. This is not fair.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked Ms. Vickers to forward Council Member Pereira's questions to the Chairs so they can forward it to the entire Commission.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 40-21 APPOINTMENT OF JOHN SLATER (R) TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD SECONDED**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia noted that Atty. Anastasi joined the meeting at 6:10 p.m. She also noted that Council Member Roman-Christy and McBride-Lee had joined the meeting.

41-21 Reappointment of Donald W. Donaldson (D) to the Commission for People with Disabilities.

Mr. Donaldson said that he had been on the commission for about 8 years and was Co-chair. He is 100% disabled and a Marine Corp veteran. He volunteers for the Boy Scouts and the New Haven Citizen's Academy, the Bridgeport PAL association, Backpacks for Homeless Veterans along with other organizations. He said that he has received a great deal of training over the years.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had known Mr. Donaldson for over 10 years and whenever there is an issue with ADA challenges, she refers it to his Committee.

Council Member Boyd thanked Mr. Donaldson for his service.

Council Member Pereira asked how long Mr. Donaldson had served on the Commission. Council Member Pereira said that this was a reappointment.

Council Member Pereira said that she had worked on a project where there were concerns there were too many handicapped spots. When they looked into this, it was discovered there were not enough handicapped spots. She also mentioned that Mr. Donaldson was serving on the CDBG Citizens

Mr. Donaldson said that he had a number of backpacks for Homeless veterans available and suggested that the Council Members refer homeless veterans who might be in need of one to him.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 41-21 REAPPOINTMENT OF DONALD W. DONALDSON (D) TO THE COMMISSION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Roman-Christy asked Mr. Donaldson for his contact information, which he provided for her.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

45-21 Proposed Settlement of Claim #836987 in the matter of Lexi Black.

46-21 Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the matter of Ryan Collins v. Bouchard, et al – Case #3:19-cv-01646 (JAM).

53-21 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Debra Giannattasio – Docket No. FBT-CV-19-6084321-S.

55-21 Proposed Update and Needed Action concerning outside counsel retention agreement and settlement authority in Marinelis Sena Administratrix of the Estate of Tyrone O. Tillman, et al v. AMR, Inc., et al, Docket No. FST-CV-15-6044815-S.

55-21 Proposed Update and Needed Action concerning outside counsel retention agreement and settlement authority in Marinelis Sena Administratrix of the Estate of Tyrone O. Tillman, et al v. AMR, Inc., et al, Docket No. FST-CV-15-6044815-S.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia announced that Attorney Anastasi, Attorney Ouellette and Attorney Kascak would be joining the Committee members in Executive Session.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH ATTORNEY ANASTASI, ATTORNEY OUELLETTE AND ATTORNEY KASCAK TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING PENDING LITIGATION:**

45-21 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM #836987 IN THE MATTER OF LEXI BLACK.

46-21 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF RYAN COLLINS V. BOUCHARD, ET AL – CASE #3:19-CV-01646 (JAM).

53-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF DEBRA GIANNATTASSIO – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-19-6084321-S.

55-21 PROPOSED UPDATE AND NEEDED ACTION CONCERNING OUTSIDE COUNSEL RETENTION AGREEMENT AND SETTLEMENT AUTHORITY IN

MARINELIS SENA ADMINISTRATRIX OF THE ESTATE OF TYRONE O. TILLMAN, ET AL V. AMR, INC., ET AL, DOCKET NO. FST-CV-15-6044815-S.

55-21 PROPOSED UPDATE AND NEEDED ACTION CONCERNING OUTSIDE COUNSEL RETENTION AGREEMENT AND SETTLEMENT AUTHORITY IN MARINELIS SENA ADMINISTRATRIX OF THE ESTATE OF TYRONE O. TILLMAN, ET AL V. AMR, INC., ET AL, DOCKET NO. FST-CV-15-6044815-S.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira pointed out that not all three attorneys can be in Executive Session unless they were involved in the case. Discussion followed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY WITHDREW HIS MOTION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD WITHDREW HIS SECOND.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH ATTORNEY OUELLETTE AND ATTORNEY KASCAK TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING PENDING LITIGATION:**

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**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia, Council Member McCarthy, Council Member Boyd, Council Member Mack, Atty. Ouellette and Atty. Kascak at 6:30 p.m. They returned to public session at 7:24 p.m. No actions were taken or motions made during Executive Session.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 45-21 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM #836987 IN THE MATTER OF LEXI BLACK.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 46-21 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF RYAN COLLINS V. BOUCHARD, ET AL – CASE #3:19-CV-01646 (JAM).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 53-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF DEBRA GIANNATTASSIO – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-19-6084321-S.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 54-21 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF AARON KEARNEY VS. CRISTINA ARROYO, ET AL DOCKET NO. 3:19CV00651 (AWT).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) IN FAVOR (BOYD AND MACK) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (MCCARTHY).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 55-21 PROPOSED UPDATE AND NEEDED ACTION CONCERNING OUTSIDE COUNSEL RETENTION AGREEMENT AND SETTLEMENT AUTHORITY IN MARINELIS SENA ADMINISTRATRIX OF THE ESTATE OF TYRONE O. TILLMAN, ET AL V. AMR, INC., ET AL, DOCKET NO. FST-CV-15-6044815-S.**

*** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) IN FAVOR (BOYD AND MACK) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (MCCARTHY).**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJORN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
Miscellaneous Matters
Regular Meeting
March 28, 2022