

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS  
COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 25, 2022**

**ATTENDANCE:** AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Co-chair; Tyler Mack, Co-chair; Aikeem Boyd, Matthew McCarthy, Rolanda Smith, Alfredo Castillo (6:10 p.m.)

**OTHERS:** Council Member(s): J. Cruz, F. Hodges, M. McBride-Lee, M. Pereira & M. Valle; Constance Vickers, Director, Legislative Affairs; Atty. Rich Kascak, Atty. M. Anastasi, Tatiana Urena, Parks Department; Mary Gaits, Lee Grisby, Parks Commissioner, John Hosier, Parks Commissioner, Josue Jorge, Denese Taylor-Moye, Barbara, 203-540-9526

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

**• March 28, 2022 (Regular Meeting)**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 28, 2022 REGULAR MEETING.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

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

**19-21 Appointment of Denese Taylor-Moye (D) to the Parks Commission.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia noted that Ms. Taylor-Moye had served for many years on the Council and the Miscellaneous Matters Committee. She asked Ms. Taylor-Moye why she wanted to serve on Parks Commission.

Ms. Taylor-Moye said that she felt Parks would be a good Committee for her to serve on. She has been in service for over 25 years and would be happy to answer any questions the Committee members had.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 19-21 APPOINTMENT OF DENESE TAYLOR-MOYE (D) TO THE PARKS COMMISSION.**

Council Member Pereira said that on December 2, 2020 that the Mayor had issued a press release about all the Board and Commission vacancies which stated the candidates should “ not currently

hold or have held a public office or a role in an organization with the primary purpose of influencing legislation.” She pointed out that Ms. Taylor-Moye had been on the Council until November 2021. She asked how Ms. Taylor-Moye could be considered for the position.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that a question like this should have been emailed to the Committee chairs in advance so they would have a chance to look into the matter and have an answer ready.

Ms. Vickers said that believed that Council Member Pereira was speaking about the Ethics Commission which has specific requirements like working on a campaign or other conditions.

Council Member Pereira repeated her earlier statement that it was Mayor Ganim’s press release and added that Ms. Taylor-Moye would be the fourth Democratic Town District Leader serving on a Board or Commission, which perpetuates a bad image for the City. She said that the candidate can’t hold public office before being appointed to a Board or Commission.

Atty. Anastasi said that he did not view holding public holding as influencing legislation. Council Members adopt legislation. He said that he did not think there was any prohibition on serving on a Board or Commission after serving on the Council.

Council Member Cruz said that it was unfortunate that a former Council Member that is loved and respected by the community who was willing to step up and serve on the Parks Commission to be disrespected. She has integrity, knowledge and wisdom. He asked the Committee to support his former Co-Council member, Denese Taylor-Moye.

*Council Member Castillo joined the meeting at 6:10 p.m.*

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 19-21 APPOINTMENT OF DENESE TAYLOR-MOYE (D) TO THE PARKS COMMISSION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**39-21 Appointment of Mary F. Gaits (R) to the Zoning Board of Appeals.**

Ms. Gaits greeted the Committee. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would be supporting Ms. Gaits who she has known for many years.

Ms. Gaits said that she had works for the BOE part time and knows the District very well due to her work in every school.

Ms. Gaits said that she was asked to serve by the Republican Town Committee because of her familiarity with the Districts.

Council Member Pereira asked if Ms. Gaits had read the State of Connecticut General Statutes and the City Charter about the Zoning Board of Appeals. She also asked if Ms. Gaits had received any training.

Ms. Gaits said that she had read the CGS and been attending the ZBA meetings and visiting the various locations.

Council Member Pereira asked if Ms. Gaits had run for the BOE. Ms. Gaits said that she had and did not win. She added that she was working part time for the BOE in the Special Education department.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia suggested that Ms. Gaits check into the training offered by the National League of Cities.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 39-21 APPOINTMENT OF MARY F. GAITS (R) TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM AGENDA ITEM 39-21 APPOINTMENT OF MARY F. GAITS (R) TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**62-21 Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Shannon L. Calhoun v. Christopher J. Borona, et al – Docket No. 3:18-cv-1203 (AWT).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS AGENDA ITEM 62-21 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF SHANNON L. CALHOUN V. CHRISTOPHER J. BORONA, ET AL – DOCKET NO. 3:18-CV-1203 (AWT) WITH THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT AND ASSOCIATE CITY ATTORNEY KASCAC.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

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

The Committee Members and Atty. Kascak entered Executive Session at 6:16 p.m. They returned to Public Session at 6:38 p.m. No actions were taken or motions made during Executive Session.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 62-21 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF SHANNON L. CALHOUN V. CHRISTOPHER J. BORONA, ET AL – DOCKET NO. 3:18-cv-1203 (AWT).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH SECONDED.**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services