

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: Marcus Brown, Co-chair; Rosalina Roman-Christy, Co-chair;
M. Evette Brantley, Michelle Lyons, Ernest Newtown, Avelino Silva,
Maria Valle

OTHERS: Council President A. Nieves, Council Member(s): S. Burns, D. Taylor-Moye, M. McCarthy, J. Herron, E. Martinez & M. Pereira (6:31 p.m.); Eddie Jamal, Kate Spain, Peter Spain, Call in User 1; 1-774-406-1997; 1-812-968-4579; 1-860-543-3556; 1-860-729-3726; 1-203-361-4010; 1-203-414-0712; 1-203-631-5459; 1-203-673-7218; 1-203-984-5546

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Brown called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES: JANUARY 26, 2021
(REGULAR MEETING)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 26, 2021 REGULAR MEETING.**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 26, 2021 REGULAR MEETING COMMITTEE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

108-19 Proposed resolution requesting the City Attorney to draft amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances to Reduce Auto Theft and Break-Ins.

Council Member Brown said that this item was Council Member Martinez's item and she had requested that the City Attorneys draft the language. The draft of the ordinance had been sent out.

He added that neither Atty. Anastasi nor Council Member Martinez were present on the call.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 108-19 PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REDUCE AUTO THEFT AND BREAK-INS.**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Newton asked Council Member Brown to ensure that a City Attorney was present at the meeting to explain the items to the Committee members.

196-19 Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend to add New Chapter 12.17 – Establishing an Honorary Street Naming Program in the City of Bridgeport.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SAID THAT SHE WOULD AMEND THE ITEM TO ELIMINATE THE FEES FOR THE SIGNAGE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Valle said that she was opposed to removing the fee. Usually the Council Member from that district makes the recommendation. If someone feels so strongly that a street should have an honorary name, then the Council Member should pay for it.

Council Member Lyons asked what conclusion the group had come to about this. Council Member Brown said that the City has to pay for the street sign, but the ordinance does not indicate who should be paying. The petition requirement is still in the ordinance and it requires at least 50% of the homeowners or residents to sign on.

Council Member Newton said that when names are submitted for honorary signage, it should come to the Council Members. He suggested that the Council Members should pay the fee.

Council Member Brantley wanted to clarify that initially, they wanted the families to pay for it. The families were not coming to the Council, but the Council Members were nominating the individuals for honorary street signs.

Council Member Roman-Christy said that the color of the sign should be a different color as well. With three or four signs on a street corner is very confusing. This needs to be included in the amendment.

Council Member Herron said that historically, the residents came to the Council in order to get permission. It should be a different color. She said that she is against the fees. Since there are so many changes to it, she felt the co-sponsors should take it back and re-work it to include these changes.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that the families should not be paying for the signage. She suggested that there be no more than three signs a year. These signs honor, acknowledge and indicates that someone did something to benefit the City. There is a green area where they could put some signs to honor someone. If someone ever honors Council Member Taylor-Moye, she did not want the person suggesting the honor to pay for it.

Council Member Valle said that when the resolution was first introduced, there were concerns about how much it should cost. The Council Members received a packet of information and the families were mentioned. Usually a family member does not come to the Council about naming a street after a relative. The Council Members usually are the ones who nominates the individuals. Stratford Avenue became out of hand with all the honorary street naming's. Council Member

Valle pointed out that Council Member Taylor-Moye mentioned a small park across from 999 Broad Street and suggested that maybe they could have plaques there. No one ever said that the family members should pay for the honorary signage.

The Fire Department, the EOC, the American Red Cross and the Police Department have said that there was confusion about locations. She said that rather than doing honorary street signage, she would like to come up with another solution. The resolution should go back to be re-written.

Council Member Martinez joined the meeting.

Council Member Lyons said that she agreed with Council Member Valle. She said that the Council Members could not use their stipends to pay for the street naming, so that they would have to do some fund raising. Council Member Lyons said that she felt that they should have plaques instead. This issue has been going on and on because it is an emotional item.

Council Member Lyons said that having the plaques all in one place would be better since people could go there to honor their relatives.

Council Member Newton said that the ordinance had been before the Committee for close to a year. He said that they had just put up an amendment to remove the fees. Either they are going to do this or they should scrap the whole thing. At the next meeting, they will be saying the same things.

Council Member Brantley said that she agreed with Council Member Newton. It's time to stop going in circles. The goal was so that the residents would know who was in their communities rather than going downtown to a park.

Council Member Brantley requested the question be moved.

Council Member Brown said that there were a few people who had addressed some of the issues like the color of the signage or the cost. However, every time the resolution come to the Committee, there are more amendments. He said that he would accept any friendly amendments.

Council Member Brantley said that she would be willing to withdraw her motion if it would move the item forward.

Council Member Valle said that she felt that the fees were \$500 and after it was discussed, it was lowered to \$350 and later it was lowered to \$175. The signage does cost about \$400. She said that it should be kept at \$175. If someone feels strongly about someone's work in the community, then they will find the money. She also added that Council Member Taylor-Moye's suggestion of only three signs a year was good.

Council Member Valle said she had suggested doing a fund raiser for a scholarship but people said that there would not be any donations. However, Senator Gomes now has a scholarship with over \$25,000 in his name.

Council Member Pereira stated that she arrived late and wished the record to reflect she joined the call at 6:31 p.m.

Council Member Pereira asked if they had decided on whether the sign should be a different color or shape.

Council Member Martinez said this had been a long journey. To some it may mean nothing, to others it means a great deal. To some it creates confusion, to others it has deep meaning. She spoke about Firefighter Jimmy Jones and said that the street has an honorary sign where he died.

When families come to the Council Members, they come to the Council Members in an emotional state. She said that she would be supporting it on the Council. This is about the people and the history that they left behind. Many people don't know the history.

Council Member Brown said that he would be willing to compromise [inaudible]

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 196-19 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 12.17 – ESTABLISHING AN HONORARY STREET NAMING PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT BY ELIMINATING THE FEES FAILED TO PASS WITH TWO (2) IN FAVOR (BRANTLEY AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4) AGAINST (LYONS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA AND VALLE).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 196-19 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 12.17 – ESTABLISHING AN HONORARY STREET NAMING PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT SUBSECTION A WITH LANGUAGE INDICATING THE SIGNS SHOULD BE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR, SHAPE AND SIZE THAN THE STANDARD BRIDGEPORT STREET SIGNAGE.**

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

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 196-19 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 12.17 – ESTABLISHING AN HONORARY STREET NAMING PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 12.17 – ESTABLISHING AN HONORARY STREET NAMING PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT SUBSECTION A WITH LANGUAGE INDICATING THE SIGNS SHOULD BE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR, SHAPE AND SIZE THAN THE STANDARD BRIDGEPORT STREET SIGNAGE PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR (LYONS, NEWTON, ROMAN-CHRISTY AND SILVA) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (BRANTLEY AND VALLE).**

Council Member McCarthy suggested that the Council Members pay for the signage. He was told that the issue had already been discussed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 196-19 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 12.17 – ESTABLISHING AN HONORARY STREET NAMING PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT TO ADD NEW**

CHAPTER 12.17 – ESTABLISHING AN HONORARY STREET NAMING PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT SUBSECTION A WITH LANGUAGE INDICATING THE SIGNS SHOULD BE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR, SHAPE AND SIZE THAN THE STANDARD BRIDGEPORT STREET SIGNAGE.

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

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 196-19 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 12.17 – ESTABLISHING AN HONORARY STREET NAMING PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 12.17 – ESTABLISHING AN HONORARY STREET NAMING PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT SUBSECTION A WITH LANGUAGE INDICATING THE SIGNS SHOULD BE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR, SHAPE AND SIZE THAN THE STANDARD BRIDGEPORT STREET SIGNAGE PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR (LYONS, NEWTON, ROMAN-CHRISTY AND SILVA) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (BRANTLEY AND VALLE).**

21-20 Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 8.90 – Regulation of the Sales and Marketing of Tobacco Products.

Council Member Brown said that Council President Nieves introduced this item. Council Member Brown said that he would like to have a public hearing scheduled for March 1, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR MONDAY MARCH 1, 2021 AT 5:30 P.M.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she was in favor of this but asked why they were doing it since it was coming from Hartford. Council Member Brown said that they wanted to hear from everyone: the community, the health advocates and the City Attorneys.

Council Member Lyons said that they had received a lot of phone calls about this issue from both sides. She asked if it was really a State issue. It will be important to hear what the State is doing since the State already has something in the works.

Council Member Pereira said that the amended language has large sections of strike outs rather than being bracketed. The City Charter says that the brackets should be used instead of strike outs.

Council President Nieves said that the City Clerk's Office was helping her with this and the strike outs can be changed. She said that she had heard that the gas station owners would hike up gas by .45¢ a gallon.

**** THE MOTION TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR MONDAY MARCH 1, 2021 AT 5:30 P.M. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 21-20 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 8.90 – REGULATION OF THE SALES AND MARKETING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services