

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 6, 2021**

**ATTENDANCE:** Maria Valle, Co-chair; Denese Taylor-Moye, Co-chair; Jeanette Herron, Maria Pereira, Eneida Martinez (6:05 p.m.), AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia (6:05 p.m.), Michelle Lyons (6:07 p.m.)

**OTHERS:** Council President A Nieves; Council Member(s): J. Cruz, M. McBride-Lee, E. Newton, R. Roman-Christy & M. McCarthy (6:05 p.m.); T. Gaudett, Mayoral Aide; Michelle Muoio, Airport Manager; Craig Nadrizny, Acting Public Facilities Director; Atty. Mark Anastasi, Police Lt. Paul Grech, Isolina DeJesus, Central Grants Director; Melissa Oliveira, Central Grants; Barbara, Call-in User 1

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

There were several disconnections and issues with Zoom experienced by the Council Members during the meeting.

*Council Member Martinez and Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m.*

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

**March 2, 2021 (Regular Meeting)**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2021 REGULAR MEETING.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

*Council Member Lyons joined the meeting at 6:07 p.m.*

Council Member Pereira stated that the minutes were not posted on the City website. She added that the agenda was also not posted for the March 2nd meeting, which made the meeting illegal.

Council Member Newton said that the budget would be introduced at the upcoming Council meeting and went on to give a brief overview of the process.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2021 REGULAR MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (HERRON, LYONS, MARTINEZ, TAYLOR-MOYE AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA)**

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she was bringing forward Agenda Item 44-20 Communication from the Sikorsky Memorial Airport re: The Sikorsky Memorial Airport Environmental Assessment Acceptance of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grants, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee for Immediate Consideration. This application to secure funding was due by the end of the month.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ADD AGENDA ITEM 44-20 COMMUNICATION FROM SIKORSKY MEMORIAL AIRPORT RE: THE SIKORSKY MEMORIAL AIRPORT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACCEPTANCE OF FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) GRANTS, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Lyons said that she was having difficulty hearing what people were saying.

Council Member Valle read the Agenda item into the record as follows:

Agenda Item 44-20 Communication from Sikorsky Memorial Airport re: The Sikorsky Memorial Airport Environmental Assessment Acceptance of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grants, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO ADD AGENDA ITEM 44-20 COMMUNICATION FROM SIKORSKY MEMORIAL AIRPORT RE: THE SIKORSKY MEMORIAL AIRPORT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACCEPTANCE OF FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) GRANTS, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President Nieves explained that they need the approval so the documents can be signed for the funding. Ms. Muoio said that the environmental grant was due soon.

Council Member Martinez said that she wished to know if there were matching funds required. Ms. Muoio said that there were matching funding share would be \$21,500, but there is a potential that the City's share may be reduced to \$0 by the FAA.

Council Member McCarthy stated for the record that he joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m. and would like to speak in favor of the airport improvements. As the airport goes, so will Bridgeport.

Council Member Pereira said that the cover letter was turned in on time. She asked about the timeline for the grant deadline being changed. Ms. Muoio said that the quickest they could get this to the Council was last night's meeting. There will also have to be conversations with the FAA following this meeting. The deadline for the application is at the end of the month.

Council Member Pereira said that she was not opposed to the resolution, but was opposed to the language in the resolution contract that allows the Mayor or his designee to sign the documents without Council approval.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED AGENDA ITEM 44-20 COMMUNICATION FROM SIKORSKY MEMORIAL AIRPORT RE: THE SIKORSKY MEMORIAL AIRPORT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACCEPTANCE OF FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) GRANTS, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 44-20 COMMUNICATION FROM SIKORSKY MEMORIAL AIRPORT RE: THE SIKORSKY MEMORIAL AIRPORT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACCEPTANCE OF FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) GRANTS, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (HERRON, LYONS, MARTINEZ, TAYLOR-MOYE AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

### **138-19 Resolution regarding Commitments by the City Council to Reform Policing in the City of Bridgeport.**

Council President Nieves said that the Task Force had a meeting on April 1st. She gave a brief summary of the discussions and mentioned the possibly having a mobile crisis unit, which is being used nationally now. There will be a report generated at the end. There have been discussions about police accountability along with the State bill which addresses overtime and discipline.

Council President Nieves said that Council Member Cruz was working with Captain Blackwell on community policing issues. The recommendations will be presented to the Council with some budgetary figures. They will be taking a break for the month of April. The report will most likely be presented at the next Council meeting.

Council Member Pereira said that she wanted to state that it was nine months since the resolution regarding this had been introduced following George Floyd's murder and that the City has done nothing. Every major urban city did something months ago, even if it was just transferring money from the Police Department budgets, but Bridgeport had done nothing.

Council President Nieves said that other cities have more legislative fluidity and there was more community engagement. She said that they don't want to have a fast swoop rather than a long term impact. This type of discussion needs to be held. There are some things that the Police have changed internally to proactively address the issues.

Council Member Valle stated that Atty. Anastasi was present on the call, but due to connectivity issues, he had to switch to his phone.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that the Council were there trying to do their very best and it was important that people were working on things that needed to be right for Bridgeport.

Council Member Valle said Acting Police Chief Garcia had taken steps in the Police Department along with the State changes.

Council Member Martinez said that many of the things in the resolution may not have been what everyone wants, but they have to start somewhere. If they don't have a relationship with the Police Department, they won't be able to advocate for their constituents or fill in the gap. She said that she would like to make a motion to approve this item after Council Member Newton speaks.

Council Member Newton said that the group that Council President Nieves and Council Member Burns were able to pull together started with an adversarial tone. Now they are pulling together and this is the first time, two sides have been brought together to work on the issue. They had to build some level of trust. Now they feel they are a part of the process. The Budget Committee will be reviewing the Police Budget and the recommendations from the Public Safety Committee.

Council Member Valle said that it was good how Council President Nieves was able to bring these people together to work on the issue.

\*\* Council Member Martinez moved to table Agenda Item 138-19 Resolution regarding Commitments by the City Council to Reform Policing in the City of Bridgeport for further discussion during the Budget meetings.

\*\* Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia seconded.

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (HERRON, MARTINEZ, PEREIRA, TAYLOR-MOYE AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (LYONS).**

**34-20 Proposed Resolution for Honorary Naming of paper street traversing the parking lot of the House of God Community Church on Stratford Avenue as "Bishop Ronnie Brayboy Way".**

Council Member Valle reminded everyone that there was a process in place and it had not been followed.

Council Member Newton said that he and Council Member Martinez submitted this item. Council Member Newton then gave a brief history of how this had been done in a parking area for another pastor. He said that this would not be in the realm of really changing a street name.

Council Member Pereira said that the photos were showing a long driveway between two buildings. She pointed out that if it was a street, there had been new ordinance for street renaming. This appears to be a paper road and privately owned. Because of this, she did not believe the City Council had any authority over. She asked if they had checked with the City Engineer to see if the City had any purview over the space.

Council Member Valle said that she had checked with Acting Chief Garcia about this and Acting Chief Garcia chose not to make a recommendation in regard to this item.

Council Member Lyons said that they should check with the City Engineer and Bill Coleman's Office. She said that paper streets have been offered to homeowners in the past.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked Council Member Newton for clarification on whether it was a paper street and whether there might be a right of way for a City sewer or water there.

Council Member Newton said that the building's address was Stratford Avenue, but once the person turns into the lot, they would be on the Bishop Brayboy Way. He recounted how they had changed Messiah Baptist Church parking lot to an honorary way for Rev. Williams. They are willing to pay the fees.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that as far as the church and Rev. Brayboy were concerned, it was not a legal paper street. She said that the sign would be located in the parking lot.

Mr. Nadrizny said that this was a private parking lot and did not need to be approved. Council Member Valle said that she would like to see this in writing so it did not come back at them. An ordinance was put into place and they need to follow the procedure. Mr. Nadrizny said that it was private property and he would put that in writing for her.

Council Member Pereira said that the photos looks like a private driveway and it is gated as well. She said that the City Engineer could tell them definitely. If it was a City Street, the Ordinance process should be followed.

Council Member Newton said this would make it much easier. He said that it would be appropriate to start with the Council, but they will also check with the City Engineer.

Mr. Nadrizny said that Mr. Urquidi had joined the meeting. Mr. Urquidi said that if it was basically a City street, it would have to go through the process. He said that he would like to review this to verify it was private property with no rights of way.

Atty. Anastasi said that he concurred with Mr. Nadrizny and Mr. Urquidi said that the Council has no control over private property once the City Engineer verifies this.

Council Member Martinez said that the property may be owned by a business owner who might not be in favor of this. She said that they should also look into that.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 34-20 PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR HONORARY NAMING OF PAPER STREET TRAVERSING THE PARKING LOT OF THE HOUSE OF GOD COMMUNITY CHURCH ON STRATFORD AVENUE AS "BISHOP RONNIE BRAYBOY WAY".**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

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

**36-20 Grant Submission re: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program (ACRGP).**

Ms. Muoio said that the FAA was offering some funding through the Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program (ACRGP) and there was no local match required. She gave a brief overview of the program's scope.

Council Member Pereira said that she did not have an issue with the grant but had an issue with the resolution contract language about the Mayor being able to sign documents without Council approval.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 36-20 GRANT SUBMISSION RE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) – AIRPORT CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM (ACRGP).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 36-20 GRANT SUBMISSION RE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) – AIRPORT CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM (ACRGP) PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (HERRON, LYONS, MARTINEZ, TAYLOR-MOYE AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

**37-20 Grant Submission re: The Justice Center Project Safe Neighborhoods (#21485).**

Ms. Melissa Oliveira said that the Chief was involved with the Federal Attorney's Office and was told about this grant. This will allow local, state and federal funding for addressing in crime. She said that there were no matching City funding.

Lt. Grech said that they had an interview with the Federal government committee. They have been approved for \$65,000. \$60,000 will go to technology, particularly for quick response technology. \$5,000 will be for Task Force overtime. The technology will be for trailer technology. The trailer has been used frequently in the parks and at parades.

Council Member Herron said that this was money coming to the city so they could utilize this. They need more cameras. She would like to make the motion when they are done.

Council Member Pereira said that she did not understand what kind of trailer this was. Lt. Grech said that it was like a speed trailer. Council Member Pereira asked if it was collecting data. Lt. Grech said that they could elevate the arm and be able to view a crowd from about 25 feet above ground. It can be located on the street, in a park or wherever it is needed.

Council Member Martinez said she was confused about the trailer. She asked if they had identified a location where there was an increase in crime. She wished to know how it would be communicated to the residents.

Lt. Grech said that there were locations where there was illegal dumping going on. While this is not a violent crime, it is a crime against the residents. He listed two or three locations where has been a spike in gun shots reports. They can move a trailer into the areas where it is happening. This is another tool in the toolbox.

Council Member Cruz said he was in complete support of this. He spoke about the dumping problem in the South End.

Council Member Roman-Christy asked where the cameras would be hooked up. Lt. Grech said that the ultimate goal was to have monitoring done from 999 Broad Street.

Council Member Roman-Christy asked about the \$5,000 for overtime for State and Federal investigations. Lt Grech gave a brief explanation.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 37-20 GRANT SUBMISSION RE: THE JUSTICE CENTER PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS (#21485).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that when they are talking about this equipment, they should have photos of similar items. She said that she did not understand how these could be put right in the street to keep people from dumping. She said that she was opposed to the resolution due to the language in the contract about the Mayor being able to sign documents without council approval.

Council Member Valle said that they should put the photos of those who illegally dump on Channel 12 and on Facebook.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 37-20 GRANT SUBMISSION RE: THE JUSTICE CENTER PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS (#21485) PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (HERRON, LYONS, MARTINEZ, TAYLOR-MOYE AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

**ADJOURNMENT.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services