

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 4, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: Denese Taylor-Moye, Co-chair; Maria Valle, Co-chair; Jeanette Herron, Michelle Lyons, Eneida Martinez, Maria Pereira, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

OTHERS: Council Member(s): M. E. Brantley, R. Roman-Christy, M. McCarthy, E. Newton (6:25 p.m.); T. Gaudett, Mayoral Aide; Melissa Oliveira, Central Grants; Deputy Fire Chief Lance Edwards; Steve Auerbach; Barbara, Call-in User 1; 203-275-6420; 203-209-1058

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Taylor-Moye called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye explained that she was calling in on the phone and Co-chair Valle would be recognizing those who raised their hand in order to speak.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:

March 30, 2021 (Joint Committee on Public Safety & ECD&E Special Meetings).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 30, 2021 (JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & ECD&E SPECIAL MEETINGS).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira objected to the call for a vote and requested discussion.

Council Member Taylor-Moye reminded everyone that she was Chairing the meeting.

Council Member Pereira said that they had been told by Atty. Anastasi that only the Joint Committees could approve the Joint Meeting minutes. She said that she did not understand why this item was on the agenda.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON WITHDREW HER MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 30, 2021 (JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & ECD&E SPECIAL MEETINGS).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS WITHDREW HER SECOND.**

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:

April 6, 2021 (Regular Meeting).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 6, 2021 REGULAR MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira objected with a point of order and stated that there was debate following the first and second on a main motion. They cannot move directly to a vote.

Council Member Pereira made the following statement regarding Page 6 under Agenda Item 36-20 paragraph 2 which reads:

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 Pereira stated that she had wanted to make it clear for the record that she was opposing the application not because of the substance of the application but because there is language in every one of these resolutions, it allows the Mayor and/or any of his designees to sign any contract or agreement without coming to the Contracts Committee. She said that she had put this on the record for a reason and wants the minutes to reflect that.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO AMEND THE APRIL 6, 2021 MINUTES AS INDICATED.**

Council Member Valle respectfully asked people to raise their hands to be recognized by the Chair and refrain from shouting out. Council Member Valle explained that Council Member Taylor-Moye is chairing the meeting and Council Member Valle said that she would be assisting Council Member Taylor-Moye by indicating those who had their hands raised. She requested that the changes requested by Council Member Pereira be submitted to the City Clerk's Office.

Council Member Pereira said that requesting a point of order does not require Council Members to raise their hands or be recognized. Points of orders are allowed to interrupt all proceedings because something is procedurally incorrect. It's not about raising one's hand because it is allowed.

Council Member Pereira repeated her earlier statement that she had wanted to make it clear for the record that she was opposing the application not because of the substance of the application but because there is language in every one of these resolutions, it allows the Mayor and/or any of his designees to sign any contract or agreement without coming to the Contracts Committee. She said that she had put this on the record for a reason and wants the minutes to reflect that.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that at these meetings they had sometimes had to do some housekeeping. As the Chair of this meeting, she understands that there are people who want to have some clarity, but also reminded everyone that she was the Chair of the meeting and

therefore the person who was running it. She said that she would be the one to recognize the Council Members who could make a statement. She just wants that perfectly clear to everyone who is responsible for running the meeting. She called for a second to the request for amending the minutes.

Council Member Martinez said that she could not second because she was not part of the meeting.

Council Member Brantley asked if Council Member Pereira was amending the minutes or correcting the minutes. Council Member Pereira said that it was the practice to amend the minutes.

Council Member Pereira asked Council Member Taylor-Moye if she could see the raised hands. Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she could not.

Council Member Pereira asked Council Member Taylor-Moye how the Committee members would be recognized. Council Member Taylor-Moye said Council Member Valle would be the one to recognize the Council Members who could make a statement.

Council Member Pereira said that it was the practice of the Council to address any corrections or omissions by making a motion to amend. She said that she was trying to correct the April 6th minutes to include what she stated on the record.

Council Member Pereira said that Council Member Martinez had been present at the meeting and a member of the Committee on April 6th. She reiterated that she wanted the minutes corrected.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND THE MINUTES OF APRIL 6, 2021 AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Martinez thanked Council Member Taylor-Moye that Council Member Martinez was present at the April 6th meeting.

Council Member Martinez stated that as a Council Member and as Majority Leader, she felt that the level of disrespect had increased. When the Council Members work collaboratively together, they should modify their tones when speaking to one another. Disrespecting any other elected is uncalled for. Their terms are just about ending and enough is enough. They are not present to be educated on Council procedures. That's why they were elected. At every single Council meeting and Committee meeting, they are being educated on Roberts Rules. They should not have to be educated on Roberts Rules of Order and have to waste five or ten minutes of their time being educated on Roberts Rules of Orders regarding points of personal privilege or whatever the case may be. She said that she was tired of hearing this at every meeting. Every Co-chair and every Council Member has been disrespected by one or two. Let it go. Enough is enough. No one's position as an elected official is any better than anybody else. All the Council Members are elected by their constituents who live in their districts that they serve. Thank you.

42-20 Grant Submission: re Resolution – Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program (#21210 & #21483).

Ms. Oliveira gave a brief overview of the grant. The grant runs from 2021 to 2023. There are matching required. It is 90% grant funding and 10% funded.

Council Member Pereira said that she knew the Grants Department was understaffed. She pointed out that the application had a number of errors and asked who had written the document. Ms. Oliveira said that she had written the resolution.

Council Member Pereira then listed a number of grammatical and typographical errors in the resolution. Ms. Oliveira noted these corrections and said that the document would be corrected before it was presented to the Council.

Council Member Pereira asked where the matching funding would be coming from. Ms. Oliveira said that it would be from the General Fund.

Council Member Pereira asked why the money was coming from the salary line item. Deputy Fire Chief Edwards said that they had spoken with Mr. Nkwo to ensure that the funding would be available.

Ms. Oliveira explained that the grant funding would be spread out over a two year period.

Council Member Brantley said that this grant funding requires matching funding. She will be supporting this.

Council Member Herron said that the grant would be over a two year period and the matching funding was 90% to 10%. If Mr. Nkwo said that the funding was there, it would be there.

Council Member Newton joined the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Council Member Newton said that this grant was needed for the Fire Department and they should always support their police and Fire when it comes time to do their job a little bit better. It is worth it. This is important to support this grant and the Fire Department.

Council Member McCarthy said that he wanted to reiterate both what Council Member Newton and Council Member Herron said. If it is spread out over two years, it is between \$48,000 and \$49,000 to backfill positions. Council Member Lyons agreed.

Council Member Pereira asked if it was a competitive grant. Deputy Chief Edwards said that it was a highly competitive grant and there was no guarantee Bridgeport would be awarded funding. Ms. Oliveira said that the AFG had supported Bridgeport in the past.

Council Member Pereira stated that she had wanted to make it clear for the record that she was opposing the application not because of the substance of the application but because in every one

of these resolutions, it allows the Mayor and/or any of his designees to sign any contract or agreement without coming to the Contracts Committee.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she supports anything that has do with Homeland Security. When she has conversations with people about Public Safety, Bridgeport is often used as an example of how things should be done.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 42-20 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE RESOLUTION – DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) PROGRAM (#21210 & #21483).**

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

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 42-20 PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (VALLE, HERRON, LYONS, MARTINEZ AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services