

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 7, 2021**

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

OTHERS: Council Member(s): M. E. Brantley, E. Newton, M. McCarthy, M. McBride-Lee, R. Roman-Christy & S. Suliman (6:14 p.m.); Acting Fire Chief Lance Edwards; Atty. M Anastasi, City Attorney's Office; Constance Vickers, Legislative Aide; Rev. Glenn I. Pettway
Barbara, Car 1; 203-275-6420; 203-673-7218; 929-436-2866

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Taylor-Moye called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia had an excused absence.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:

• **June 1, 2021 (Regular Meeting).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 1, 2021 REGULAR MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 1, 2021 REGULAR MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:

• **June 14, 2021 (Special Meeting).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED THE JUNE 14, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING COMMITTEE MINUTES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 14, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING COMMITTEE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED WITH TWO (2) IN FAVOR (HERRON, MARTINEZ) AND TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (LYONS, PEREIRA)**

83-20 Appointment of Glenn I. Pettway to the Fire Commission.

Mr. Pettway thanked everyone for their support and said he was privileged and honored to be nominated as a Fire Commissioner.

Council Member Suliman joined the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Council Member Herron said that this was one of the best choices for the Fire Commission.

Council Member Pereira asked if Mr. Pettway's convictions were part of the Clean Slate bill and if they would be removed from the record. Mr. Pettway said that he was working on this issue and the incident happened a long time ago.

Council Member Pereira asked if he was appearing before the Pardons Board. Mr. Pettway said he had submitted an application for this.

Council Member Pereira said that he lived at 494 Atlantic and she wished to know who owned the property. Mr. Pettway said that the property had just been sold and he had not yet met the new landlord.

Council Member Martinez said that Mr. Pettway has been very involved in Bridgeport and this was the type of individual that should be involved in the Commission.

Council Member Martinez said that she was taken back by Council Member Pereira's questions because it does not matter what he did as a young man. She added that there was no reason to know who owns the property where Mr. Pettway lives.

Council Member Newton said that he had grown up with Rev. Pettway who came from P.T. He said that Rev. Pettway would be a great asset to the Fire Commission.

Council Member Newton asked Rev. Pettway if he was approved as a Commissioner, whether he do more to get more minorities and women on the force.

Rev. Pettway said that he would do whatever was in his power to encourage minorities and young women to join the department. They can bring change to the department, which would help reach a goal.

Council Member Newton said that he would echo Council Member Martinez's earlier comments and who owns the property where Rev. Pettway lives is irrelevant. He offered his condolences to Rev. Pettway in the recent loss of his family member.

Council Member McBride-Lee greeted Rev. Pettway and stated she had known Rev. Pettway for a long time. They have served in the church together and done community work together. She said she had served on the Fire Commission before she became a Council Member and felt Rev. Pettway was a wonderful candidate.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she felt that the Committee members do not need to know who the landlord is.

Council Member Brantley said that she was asking her colleagues to support Rev. Pettway. She said that she had known Rev. Pettway for more than 50 years since their parents were friends.

She said that she knew he chose to live near his parents and he would be an excellent Fire Commissioner. She pointed out that individuals' past does not define them.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she knew him for a long time and on behalf of her co-Council Member, they feel Rev. Pettway is an honorable man and had served a long time. They will be supporting Rev. Pettway all the way.

Council Member Pereira said that the documents arrived very late and said that residency is part of the application process, which she chose to ask about.

Council Member Pereira asked if Rev. Pettway had experience with first responders. He said that he had been on the Emergency Response team and is also on the Emergency Response team at his work.

Council Member Pereira asked if there were any immediate family members employed by the Fire Department. Rev. Pettway said that he did have a family member on the Department.

Council Member Pereira asked if he would abstain in any matters involving that individual. Rev. Pettway said that he would do what is right.

Atty. Anastasi said it was not clear if the individual was an immediate family member, but urged Rev. Pettway to read the Ethics Ordinance and if there were any questions, Rev. Pettway should speak to the City Attorney's office. Rev. Pettway said that it was not an immediate family member. Atty. Anastasi said that the City Attorney's Office would be willing to offer advice if the situation arose.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that Rev. Pettway knows what right is right and wrong is wrong, and he will do the right thing, including abstaining. Atty. Anastasi said that he was not impugning Rev. Pettway in anyway.

Council Member Taylor-Moye noted that this was not the first board that Rev. Pettway had been on. She thanked Atty. Anastasi for his concern.

Council Member Martinez said that she wished to move the questions. She said that the questions that were being asked were actually statements that appeared to be more in the area of attacks. Rev. Pettway comes from a large family and Council Member Martinez said that she has cousins that are members of the Pettway family. She noted that Rev. Pettway did not have to answer any questions he did not wish to answer.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED THE QUESTION**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) IN FAVOR (HERRON, LYONS, MARTINEZ) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

Council Member Pereira said that she was opposed to moving the question because there were Council Members who had their hands raised.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 83-20 APPOINTMENT OF GLENN I. PETTWAY TO THE FIRE COMMISSION.**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 83-20 APPOINTMENT OF GLENN I. PETTWAY TO THE FIRE COMMISSION PASSED WITH THREE (3) IN FAVOR (HERRON, LYONS, MARTINEZ) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services.