

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: Maria Valle, Co-chair; Jeanette Herron, Michelle Lyons, Eneida Martinez

OTHERS: Council Member(s): M. McCarthy & R. Roman-Christy; Thomas Gaudett, Mayoral Aide; Isolina DeJesus, Director, Central Grants; Joseph Katz, Police Lt. Paul Grech; Jon Urquidi, City Engineer

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Valle called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:

• **August 3, 2021 (Regular Meeting) and August 17, 2021 (Special Meeting)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE AUGUST 3, 2021 (REGULAR MEETING) AND AUGUST 17, 2021 (SPECIAL MEETING),
** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. DeJesus reviewed the details and explained that there was a matching fund requirement. Council Member Valle asked what the time frame would be.

Mr. Urquidi said that they would be using the RFP that was done a year ago. The design will take about a year including permits and then they will start construction. The City will be responsible for 50% of the costs.

Council Member Herron asked if they had checked with Finance for confirmation of funding availability. Ms. DeJesus said that Mr. Nkwo reviews the applications and signs off on each application.

Council Member Lyons asked if they could present a break out of the costs. Ms. DeJesus said that the cost is for the entire project and as the project progresses, Mr. Urquidi submits funding request for design, construction and inspection. Then the State reimburses the City.

Council Member McCarthy asked for clarification on the location and the details of the span length. Mr. Urquidi said that the span was less than 20 feet, but the condition has been determined by the State to be in serious condition.

Council Member McCarthy asked if they had a total amount for the project. Ms. DeJesus said that it was \$900,000.

Council Member McCarthy asked about previous request for bridge repairs. Mr. Urquidi reviewed the details with him.

Council Member Roman-Christy said that she had been in the area of the bridge and it was crumbling. It is clogged with debris and fallen trees. This is part of the problem of the flooding in the area. She recommended that they request for more Capital funding for the project.

Mr. Urquidi said that they would be looking at major Capital funding for the bridges and he was planning to come before the Budget and Appropriations Committee to ask for funding for the bridges to reduce flooding.

Council Member McCarthy then pointed out that this was a small street and he wished to know if they would have to have a police officer on site during construction or they would close the road. Mr. Urquidi said that if they close the road, it will affect the local residents, but it would speed up the construction. However, this had not been decided.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

101-20 Grant Submission: U. S. Department of Justice FY 2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program (#22312)

Ms. DeJesus said that this was the yearly JAG grant and they would be applying for editing software that would allow them to edit cell phone information.

Council Member Lyons said that she felt that this was a good grant and had been reviewing the JAG grants during the past few years. This item was the subject of a debate a few years ago.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 101-20 GRANT SUBMISSION: U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FY 2021 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM (#22312)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

99-20 Grant Submission: Department of Justice – BJA FY21 Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center Integration Initiative. (#22338).

Ms. DeJesus reviewed the details and explained that they wished to expand the Shot Spotter technology and add in some additional surveillance. This will be a one year competitive grant and will be including training. Ms. DeJesus said that Lt. Grech was present to answer questions.

Council Member Valle noted that the application had been submitted and it is expected that the program will start on October 1st, if the grant is awarded to Bridgeport.

Council Member Valle said that she had some concerns about the number of times the shot spotters report shots fired and the fact that it is often accurate only 1 time out of 10.

Ms. DeJesus said that she had previously felt the same way, but after three years, she supports the program. Lt. Grech said that he had also felt the same, but the Department had done a test where they fired off 25 shots in various districts in the early evening. Only one person called 9-1-1 to report the shots.

If a resident calls in from 123 Main about shots fired, the police go to 123 Main, but the actual shots may have been fired at 500 Main. Bridgeport is recording more shootings than Hartford or New Haven. He said that with the technology they now have at the Fusion Center they are locating shell casings due to Shot Spotter and now able to retrieve fingerprints off the casings. This has resulted in more stolen firearms being retrieved.

Council Member Herron said that when Shot Spotter was first used, they were told it would expand. She has called in shots and the officers now tell her that they already heard it on Shot Spotter and were on their way. Lt. Grech said that because of Shot Spotter, they have made numerous arrests.

Council Member McCarthy asked what the total amount of the grant. Ms. DeJesus said that it was \$700,000. Council Member McCarthy said that he would support this item.

Council Member McCarthy added that Edward Byrne was a rookie police officer that was killed in the line of duty and there was an excellent book about this.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 99-20 GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – BJA FY21 LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CRIME GUN INTELLIGENCE CENTER INTEGRATION INITIATIVE. (#22338).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services