

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 5, 2021**

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

OTHERS: Council Member(s): R. Roman-Christy, M. McBride-Lee, Council President A. Nieves & E. Newton; Thomas Gaudett, Mayoral Aide; Atty. Mark Anastasi; Constance Vickers, Director, Legislative Affairs; Craig Nadrizny, Acting Public Facilities Director; Bonnie Lambert, Public Facilities; Melissa Oliveira, Central Grants; Terri Williams; Barbara, 203-275-6420

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Valle called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:

• **SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 (Regular Meeting).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2021.
** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira pointed out that the Agenda Item, the motion and the second were not listed for the first discussion. It was decided to table the minutes to check with the secretary regarding this.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS RESCINDED HER MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2021.
** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO TABLE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2021.
** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.
** THE MOTION TO TABLE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

82-20 Appointment of Terri B. Williams (D) to the Police Commission.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ 82-20 APPOINTMENT OF TERRI B. WILLIAMS (D) TO THE POLICE COMMISSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she had reviewed the application which was submitted 8 months ago. At the time, Ms. Williams was a registered Democrat. Since then Ms. Williams has transferred her registration to Unaffiliated. Every Police Commissioner has an expired term. Council Member Pereira said that it appears that Ms. Williams was asked to switch from Democratic Party to Unaffiliated in order to keep the Commissioners on the Board and fill the minority seat. Council Member Pereira said that Ms. Williams did not attain the 90 day State Statute affiliation qualification until seven days ago. Council Member Pereira said that Council Member Valle had tabled the item at the last meeting.

Ms. Vickers said that Ms. Williams did apply as a Democrat and the Council approved her candidacy and later Ms. Williams changed her party affiliation. Ms. Vickers said that the situation was explained to Ms. Williams but she was not asked to change parties. Discussion followed.

Council Member Pereira said that the application lists that the candidate has relatives in the Police Department. Council Member Pereira said that she would like to know what relationship that she has with the Police Officers. Council Member Valle pointed out that the application lists her cousin as a Board of Education member.

Council Member Lyons asked if Ms. Williams was on the call to answer questions because Ms. Williams should be able to speak for herself. Ms. Vickers said that Ms. Williams had been sent an invitation for the meeting and added that she would send Ms. Williams a text.

Council Member Martinez said that she would like the Committee members to support Ms. Williams for the position. She said that Council Member Pereira discriminates against African Americans. Council Member Pereira objected. Council Member Martinez said that Ms. Williams is very experienced in the Connecticut judicial matters.

Council Member Pereira said that Council Member Martinez was accusing her as being a racist.

Council Member Herron said that with the resume being as it is, it was Council Member Herron's feelings that the Committee should be moving forward. She asked Ms. Vickers to make sure that these vacant positions are filled. She said that when the agendas are published, they should have corrected her party affiliation.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked how anyone would know that Ms. Williams was asked to change her affiliation. Anyone can change their affiliation whenever they want. Unless they have

proof that she was asked, it shouldn't be an issue. Council Member McBride-Lee said that she concurred with Council Member Martinez about the type of questions that were being asked of the African American candidates for appointments to Boards and Commissions.

Council Member Pereira said that Council Member McBride-Lee was ignorant and they have copies of the BOE file.

Council Member Taylor-Moye requested that the question be moved.

Council Member Pereira said that she could not think of one time when the candidate wasn't present. On page 5, there is evidence that the candidate was switching parties. Council Member Pereira said that the candidate indicated that Ms. Williams was doing business with the City of Bridgeport through Connecticut Against Violence program. Council Member Pereira said that she would like to know if the candidate was receiving compensation for that work.

Council Member Martinez stated that Ms. Williams was a volunteer. Ms. Vickers said that Ms. Williams works with Career Resources and it was not surprising that she had worked with the City. Council Member Pereira said that she believed that Ms. Williams was compensated by Connecticut Against Violence program. Ms. Vickers said that Ms. Williams works with programs that the City partners in. Council Member Pereira said that the Police Department is a fiduciary for the program. She said that it was a conflict if she serves on the Commission if she is paid by Connecticut Against Violence.

Atty. Anastasi asked Council Member Pereira for clarification. He explained that he advises the Ethics Commission and did not understand where Council Member Pereira was seeing a conflict. Council Member Pereira said that the Police Commission oversees the finances for Connecticut Against Violence program. Atty. Anastasi said that the issue needs to be explored further. Council Member Pereira reiterated her earlier statement that the candidate was not present on the call.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she had been in meetings before where the candidates have not been present. Council Member Taylor-Moye said that Council Member Pereira was acting like she knew for a fact that Ms. Williams was being paid.

Atty. Anastasi said that Council Rule 24 states that a first time candidate should be interviewed by the Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO TABLE THE MATTER PENDING MS. WILLIAMS BEING PRESENT FOR THE INTERVIEW.**

**** THE MOTION FAILED TO PASSED DUE TO LACK OF A SECOND.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO BRING THIS TO THE COUNCIL FLOOR AND ALLOW MS. WILLIAMS TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS VIA EMAIL.**

Council Member Roman-Christy asked Council Member Pereira how she knew or if she had something in writing that proved Ms. Williams was being financially compensated by the Connecticut Against Violence program. Council Member Pereira said that the application states that, but Ms. Williams was also a hired key note speaker for a BOE event.

Atty. Anastasi said that the Council Rule 24 indicates that the candidate should be interviewed in person. An email response would not be acceptable. He said that for better or worse, the Committee needs to have the candidate on the phone or table the matter to a time when she could be present.

**** THE MOTION TO BRING THIS TO THE COUNCIL FLOOR AND ALLOW MS. WILLIAMS TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS VIA EMAIL FAILED TO PASSED DUE TO LACK OF A SECOND.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 82-20 APPOINTMENT OF TERRI B. WILLIAMS (D) TO THE POLICE COMMISSION PENDING A COUNCIL INTERVIEW WITH MS. WILLIAMS.**

Council Member Valle said that she would like the Committee to consider recessing the meeting to just before the next Council meeting. Atty. Anastasi suggested that this item be tabled until the end of the meeting. If Ms. Williams is still not available, they can recess the meeting at that time.

Council Member Herron asked if Ms. Vickers had gotten in touch with Ms. Williams. She said that she was recommending that the Council no longer handle Commissioners or Board Members appointments because of the way that the Council Members were treated these candidates. The tones in people's voices is very disheartening.

The Committee moved to the next item.

94-20 Proposed resolution requesting to move the Honorary Naming of the Paper Street (Ref. #34-20) of "Bishop Ronnie Brayboy Way" to the new location of Baldwin Street.

Council Member Valle said that there had been a change in the application process.

Council Member Martinez said Council Member Newton had requested that the driveway that goes to the church be named in honor of Bishop Brayboy. She said that the family has signed the petition, the community is in favor of it and the family will cover the cost.

Council Member Valle said that she did not receive the final paperwork. Council Member Martinez said that the Bishop's daughter had been gathering the signatures. Council Member Valle repeated that she did not receive the application. Council Member Martinez said that she would check with the Bishop's family member. Council Member Valle said that the forms have to be sent to Public Facilities. Council Member Valle suggested that this matter be tabled until

the paperwork has been filed. Council Member Martinez said that she had just spoken to the family member. The family member explained she received an email from Mr. Boyer saying that she did not have to submit the paperwork right away.

Atty. Anastasi suggested that the Committee make a favorable recommendation to the full Council ending the receipt of the documentation before the Council Meeting regarding this matter.

Mr. Nadrizny said that once the documentation was submitted, he would see that it was given to the appropriate departments.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO MAKE A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 94-20 PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING TO MOVE THE HONORARY NAMING OF THE PAPER STREET(REF. #34-20) OF “BISHOP RONNIE BRAYBOY WAY” TO THE NEW LOCATION OF BALDWIN STREE PENDING THE RECEIPT OF THE DOCUMENTATION BEFORE THE COUNCIL MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that under the City Ordinance this item would be handled by the City Engineer and the payment should be made in full. She said that she did not know why Mr. Boyer was involved in this.

Council Member Valle said that Mr. Boyer simply made sure that the Committee members received the documentation. Council Member Pereira asked who was verifying the signatures. Council Member Valle said that once the documentation is submitted, the application will be reviewed.

Council Member Martinez reminded everyone that Mr. Nadrizny, the Acting Public Facilities Director, had said earlier that once the application is submitted, he will see that it is given to the appropriate departments.

Council Member Pereira said that she opposes the item because there was no documentation.

**** THE MOTION TO MAKE A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 94-20 PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING TO MOVE THE HONORARY NAMING OF THE PAPER STREET (REF. #34-20) OF “BISHOP RONNIE BRAYBOY WAY” TO THE NEW LOCATION OF BALDWIN STREE PENDING THE RECEIPT OF THE DOCUMENTATION BEFORE THE COUNCIL MEETING PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR (TAYLOR-MOYE, HERRON, LYONS AND MARTINEZ) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED.**

111-20 Proposed resolution seeking information on recent outages from the United Illuminating Company.

Council Member Herron said that they have experienced outages almost every week and there has not been any response by UI. She said that Mr. Appleby had reached out to UI and did not receive a response. He suggested to Council Member Herron that they have the UI representatives attend a meeting to give an explanation of these frequent outages.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 111-20 PROPOSED RESOLUTION SEEKING INFORMATION ON RECENT OUTAGES FROM THE UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Pereira asked for clarification on this. Council Member Herron said that Mr. Appleby would reach out to UI about this.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 111-20 PROPOSED RESOLUTION SEEKING INFORMATION ON RECENT OUTAGES FROM THE UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

112-20 Proposed resolution regarding 2021 Second Round of Sidewalk Repair Pilot Program List.

Ms. Lambert said that the list was the second round of property owners that want to have sidewalk repairs.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 112-20 PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING 2021 SECOND ROUND OF SIDEWALK REPAIR PILOT PROGRAM LIST.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira asked what date they would stop pouring concrete. Ms. Lambert said that as long as it is above 40 degrees, they can pour concrete.

Council Member Herron said that she understood that it was contingent on the weather, she wished to know when they could pour. Ms. Lambert said that last year, they were able to pour almost to the end of December. However, she reminded everyone that they had a Halloween blizzard one year.

Council Member Pereira said that she was impressed with the work that the contractors had done. She said that this was one of the best things that the Mayor had done and the residents were pleased with the program.

Council President Nieves said that she would like to make sure that they track the repairs and would like to start collecting the data on the costs of the sidewalks in order to allocate the appropriate cost of these sidewalks. Council President Nieves asked Ms. Lambert to report back to the Committee about how many sidewalks were completed.

Council Member Martinez said she was in favor of the 2021 second edition of the list. However, she was not in favor of consolidating the second phase with potential liens. She said that she thought that the liens were a legal issue and should not be included in the Council. Ms. Lambert explained that the liens function as a low interest loan and protects the City's investment. The City Attorney would be the one who would file the lien. Ms. Lambert said that she tracks every payment that comes in and once a project is paid off, she notifies the City Attorney's Office and sends the lien papers to the home owners.

Council Member Pereira said that she would like a list of any sidewalks that would not be done due to the weather situation. Ms. Lambert said that she doesn't receive any notification when the permits are completed.

Atty. Anastasi said that he wanted to confirm what Ms. Lambert was saying about the lien placing. He said that they only have a limited time to place the lien after the work is completed. Unless it is done in a timely matter, the City loses the ability to re-coop the amount.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 112-20 PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING 2021 SECOND ROUND OF SIDEWALK REPAIR PILOT PROGRAM LIST PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Martinez said that Ms. Williams was joining the call and that she has a regularly scheduled meeting with juveniles from 6 to 7 on Tuesday nights.

117-20 Grant Submission: re Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Public Assistance Disaster Relief for Tropical storm Isaias.

Ms. Oliveria from the Central Grants then gave an overview of the grant. This was for Tropical Storm Isaias damages to public structures such City structures and buildings. Council Member Pereira said that there were homes that were significantly damaged during the last storm. Mr. Appleby explained that they have to meet thresholds to seek funding for residential reimbursement, which is under a different grant. The more residents that submit damage costs, the more that the City can apply for funding.

Council Member Newton asked if there was any indication about how many people who have filed with the City from the previous storms. Mr. Appleby said that with Isaias they had some reports. He said that Ida had involved more flash flooding while Isaias was property damage from trees. More residents need to register their property damage with Mr. Appleby. They are

dealing with the first storm, however, they still need to gather data on the second storm. There are about 82 or 83 residents who have registered so far.

Council Member Pereira asked for clarification on the Public Assistance Act. Ms. Oliveria said that they would only qualify for 25%, which would be about \$144,000.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 117-20 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION (FEMA) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DISASTER RELIEF FOR TROPICAL STORM ISAIAS**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 117-20 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION (FEMA) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DISASTER RELIEF FOR TROPICAL STORM ISAIAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

82-20 Appointment of Terri B. Williams (D) to the Police Commission. CONT'D

Council Member Pereira asked Ms. Williams about page 5 where it indicates that she was doing business with the City of Bridgeport. She asked if Ms. Williams was compensated by any of the organizations.

Ms. Williams apologized for arriving late at the meeting. She explained that she conducts a Bible Study on Tuesday night for juvenile boys.

Ms. Williams said that Connecticut Against Violence program was registered entity with the City and she had not been compensated by Connecticut Against Violence program since 2019.

Council Member Pereira asked Ms. Williams if she would participate if Connecticut Against Violence program returned to the schools. Ms. Williams said that she had no problem separating herself from the Connecticut Against Violence program if it might be a conflict of interest.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 82-20 APPOINTMENT OF TERRI B. WILLIAMS (D) TO THE POLICE COMMISSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that Ms. Williams was listed as a Democrat on the application but later changed her party affiliation. Ms. Williams said that she had always been unaffiliated, but because her son was involved with the BOE, she filed as a Democrat in order to vote. Since her son is no longer involved with the BOE, she changed her party affiliation.

Council Member Pereira asked Ms. Williams if she was aware that the Police Department was a fiduciary for Connecticut Against Violence program. Ms. Williams said that she had no problem with not participating with the Connecticut Against Violence program if it might be a conflict.

She stated that she makes her own choices and she has worked for the Department of Corrections for more than 20 years.

Council Member Pereira said that Ms. Williams' experience with the Department of Corrections was excellent and she would be supporting this appointment since Ms. Williams answered her questions.

Council Member Herron said that she felt that the way the Council Members treat the Commissioners and Board Members was wrong.

Council Member Martinez said that Ms. Williams was more than qualified to be part of the of the Police Commission. Council Member Martinez said that she appreciated Ms. Williams's willingness

****THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 82-20 APPOINTMENT OF TERRI B. WILLIAMS (D) TO THE POLICE COMMISSION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services