

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 8, 2023**

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 6:07 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member Smith to lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member Newton to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: *Jorge Cruz*, Tyler Mack
132nd District: Rolanda Smith
133rd District: Aikeem Boyd, Jeanette Herron
134th District: *Michelle Lyons*, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: *Mary McBride-Lee*, Rosalina Roman-Christy
136th District: *Frederick Hodges*, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: *Maria Pereira*, Samia Suliman
139th District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. Names shown in italics did not respond when the roll was called. There were 13 members of the Council present.

Let it be noted that Council Member M. Pereira was in attendance at the meeting as a member of the public. She did not respond to the roll call.

Council Member Cruz joined the meeting at 6:12 p.m. There were now 14 members of the Council present.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

47-22 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: General Fund Budget a,b,c,d,e for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 – Votes as follows:

Council Member Burns said that the Committee had reviewed the budget carefully. Council Member Newton gave a brief overview of the process.

General Fund:

a. Revenue Increases

A 2/3rd majority was required.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2023-2024 GENERAL FUND REVENUE INCREASES FROM \$4,788,00 TO \$7,560,000.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED AND NONE ABSTAINING.**

b. Revenue Decreases

A simple majority vote was required.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2023-2024 GENERAL FUND REVENUE DECREASES FROM \$8,200,250 TO \$5,062,760.**

Council Member Herron spoke briefly about the move of the Department of Aging from the Health Department to Public Facilities.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED AND NONE ABSTAINING.**

Council Member Hodges joined the meeting at 6:21 p.m. There were now 15 Council Members present.

c. Appropriation Increases

A 2/3rd majority was required.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2023-2024 GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS INCREASES FROM \$252,861,370 TO \$256,281,354.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED AND NONE ABSTAINING.**

d. Appropriation Decreases

A simple majority vote was required.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2023-2024 GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS DECREASES FROM \$45,577,838 TO \$41,792,364.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED AND NONE ABSTAINING.**

e. General Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2023-2024 as amended.

Council Member McBride-Lee joined the meeting at 6:23 p.m. There were now 16 Council Members present.

A simple majority vote was required.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2023-2024 GENERAL FUND FOR:**

- A. REVENUE INCREASES**
- B. REVENUE DECREASES**
- C. APPROPRIATION INCREASES**
- D. APPROPRIATION DECREASES**

AS AMENDED WITH TOTAL REVENUES OF \$627,848,343 AND TOTAL EXPENSES OF \$627,848,343.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Newton thanked the Council Members for their cooperation. He then expressed his support for moving the Department of Aging back to the Public Facilities Department. He also said that the education of the children was being short changed.

Council Member Hodges agreed with Council Member Newton regarding the allocation for the Board of Education and the Bridgeport School District.

Council Member McBride-Lee reminded everyone that the BOE has control over their own finances. The Committee did the best that they could as far as the budget is concerned. She felt that this was a good budget. Everyone wants to give the BOE more money.

Council Member Herron said that the BOE deserves more money. During the last two years of COVID, many children arrived in this country that do not speak English. The number of SPED students has doubled. Everyone should be in contact with their State Representatives and

Senator. She said that there were 200 students in one school that did not speak English at all. One teacher cannot address all these needs.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2023-2024 GENERAL FUND FOR:**

- A. REVENUE INCREASES**
- B. REVENUE DECREASES**
- C. APPROPRIATION INCREASES**
- D. APPROPRIATION DECREASES**

AS AMENDED WITH TOTAL REVENUES OF \$627,848,343 AND TOTAL EXPENSES OF \$627,848,343 PASSED WITH ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED AND NONE ABSTAINING.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER SULIMAN SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Telesco Secretarial Services