

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2016

6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim then asked Rev. Olson to lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim requested that Council Member Salter lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Kathryn Bukovsky, Scott Burns
131st District: Jack O. Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: John Olson, M. Evette Brantley
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter
136th District: José Casco, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Milta Feliciano
138th District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith
139th District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

ITEM FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

134-15 Communication from Mayor re: Establishing of Mill Rates for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that before she made the motion, another Council member had requested a caucus. After a brief discussion, the consensus of the Council was that a caucus was not needed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED THAT THE FY 2016-2017 MILL RATE BE AND HEREBY ARE SET AS 54.37 MILLS FOR REAL PROPERTY AND 37.00 MILLS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Atty. Anastasi pointed out that the motion as written did not include the phrase “and personal property”.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO AMEND HER MOTION FROM:**

THE FY 2016-2017 MILL RATE BE AND HEREBY ARE SET AS 54.37 MILLS FOR REAL PROPERTY AND 37.00 MILLS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES.

TO:

THE FY 2016-2017 MILL RATE BE AND HEREBY ARE, SET AS 54.37 MILLS FOR REAL PROPERTY AND PERSONAL PROPERTY AND 37.00 MILLS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Holloway asked why the additional phrase was needed. Mayor Ganim replied that it was for clarification purposes.

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER OLSON MOVED TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE MILL RATE BY ONE MILL FROM 54.73 MILLS TO 55.37 IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE ALLOCATION FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**

Atty. Anastasi explained that according to the resolution, the budget had been already been adopted and the Council was just approving setting the mill rate to match the final budget figures in accordance with the Charter, Chapter 9, Section 5f. The Council did not have the authority to change the mill rate at this time. A brief discussion followed about the legality of the amendment and what actions the Mayor could take regarding this motion.

Council Member Olson said that he was very concerned about the education budget and the deficit had happened repeatedly.

Council Member Bukovsky pointed out that during the process the Council had the chance to cut the budget or add to it. She said that the goal was to keep the taxes low and it was unfair to change the amount at this time.

Council Member Holloway agreed and said that raising the taxes even higher would have a negative effect on the City and hurt the residents.

Council President McCarthy said that the Committee had worked very hard to craft the budget and that while he appreciated Council Member Olson's concern, he said that the bigger question was what Hartford was doing regarding its obligation to the City of Bridgeport.

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND THE MILL RATE BY INCREASING IT TO 55.37 FAILED TO PASS WITH THREE IN FAVOR (BANTA, OLSEN, AND MCBRIDE-LEE) AND SEVENTEEN AGAINST (BUKOVSKY, BURNS, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, MCCARTHY, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, FELICIANO, PAOLETTO, SMITH, MARTINEZ, AND HOLLOWAY).**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY 2016-2017 MILL RATE BE AND HEREBY ARE, SET AS 54.37 MILLS FOR REAL PROPERTY AND PERSONAL PROPERTY AND 37.00 MILLS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES AS AMENDED PASSED WITH THIRTEEN IN FAVOR (BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, OLSON, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASCO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, FELICIANO, PAOLETTO, SMITH, MARTINEZ, AND HOLLOWAY) AND SEVEN AGAINST (BUKOVSKY, BURNS, BRANTLEY, MCCARTHY, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, AND SALTER).**

COMMUNICATION TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE:

135-15 Communication from OPM re: Budget Transfer to FY 2016-2017 From: State Contingency B Account 01610000-57017 (\$905,000) To: Board of Education Account 01800000-51000 (\$905,000), referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO REFER AGENDA ITEM 135-15 COMMUNICATION FROM OPM RE: BUDGET TRANSFER TO FY 2016-2017 FROM: STATE CONTINGENCY B ACCOUNT 01610000-57017 (\$905,000) TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNT 01800000-51000 (\$905,000), REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

Council Member Martinez said that she had a concern and there was an issue when the Council gave the Lighthouse program funding and the BOE cut it. She said she did not know why they were given funding for the program but they cut the program for the students.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she appreciated everyone who worked so very hard and particularly thanked her co-chair Scott Burns who was on the phone with the Committee when he couldn't be there due to family obligations.

Council Member Burns said that he wanted to reiterate what his Co-chair said and to thank everyone who worked so hard during the budget process. He said that the Council had earmarked some funding for the Board of Education and some of the actions that the BOE had taken will be addressed. He thanked the City's delegation for working so hard for the City in Hartford despite the fact that they had not succeeded in having the legislature restore Bridgeport's funding.

Mayor Ganim said that he would like to thank everyone for their hard work. Council Member Olson agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services