

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018**

**5:30 PM**

Council President Nieves called the Council Special Meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Council Member Taylor-Moye was then asked to lead those present in prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council President Nieves asked Council Member Spain to lead those present in reciting the Pledge.

**ROLL CALL**

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130: Christina Smith, Pete Spain.  
131: Jack Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye  
132: Kyle Langan  
133: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron  
134: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia  
135: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy  
136: Alfredo Castillo, Maria Zambrano Viggiano  
137: Aidee Nieves  
138: Nessah Smith, Karen Jackson  
139: Ernie Newton, Eneida Martinez

The City Clerk announced that a quorum was present.

Council President Nieves announced that Council Member Brown was unable to attend due to work commitments and Council Member Valle was out of town.

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):**

**\*62-17 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Five-Year Capital Plan for Fiscal Years 2019-2023.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO MAKE AN AMENDMENT TO ADD \$250,000 TO PARKS MAINTENANCE EQUIP FOR A TOTAL OF \$450,000.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Spain asked why there was an increase. Council Member Newton said that the funds would be used to repair one of the oldest parks in the City. It has not been maintained in a long time. The grass has not been cut and it is dark. Council Member Newton said that he went over and had seen all the things that needed to be done. He said that he wanted to earmark the money for Newfield Park.

Council Member Spain asked why this was coming up now. Council Member Newton said that he had been told to let it go to committee. He said that the only place that he would have a voice was on the Council floor. Council Member Spain said that he was going to vote against the bonding and appreciated the discussion.

Council Member Viggiano said that while the additional money was going to Newfield, the line item was for all the parks.

Council Member Herron said that when earmarks are used for individual projects, she becomes concerned. Some of the districts don't have parks and other parks also need repairs. Council Member Viggiano said that one of the reasons that there was no line item for Newfield Park, the money can be used for all the parks. Council Member Newton said that perhaps the Council should make up a list of the various parks that need attention.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that when the Council Members are not on committees, they can easily go to the Committee meeting and let the chairman know that they have a concern. Saying that the Council Members don't have a voice is incorrect.

Council Member Lyons said that she had some concerns about the bonding outside of the parks department. She's said that she would be voting accordingly on the item.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that Council Member Viggiano had said that whatever funding was left over from Newfield would be used for the other parks. She moved the question.

Council President Nieves pointed out that this vote is only to the amend the agenda item.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO AGENDA ITEM 62-17 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2019-2023 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 62-17 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2019-2023 AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Viggiano said that she had been concerned that there was no information from the BOE about their projects. She said that she was concerned about the \$800,000 for the HVAC system for High Horizons. She said that when the BOE was present, she neglected to ask them about that.

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER VIGGIANO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 62-17 - THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2018--2023 AS AMENDED ON APRIL 25, 2018.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Langan said that he had learned a lot during this budget process. He said that he was concerned about the practice of bonding for items less than \$50,000. He said that he would like to discuss this with the Committee after the budget process is concluded.

Council Member Herron said that they still have the opportunity to request more information from the BOE. Council Member Herron said that they have requested a list of project priorities. The City is in a fiscal crisis and while the Council Members would like to give the BOE more money, the budget is tight.

Council Member Spain said that he would be voting no on the Capital Budget and that he was concerned about the issues with the WPCA. Council Member Newton said that the WPCA had a long-term contract with a management company. Council Member Viggiano said that there had been a discussion about the line item and that the City is acting as a fiduciary for the WPCA.

Council President Nieves said that there was a request for a roll call vote.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 62-17 – AS AMENDED PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, LANGAN, MCCARTHY, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, JACKSON, N. SMITH, MARTINEZ, AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (SPAIN AND VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

**\*68-17 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects (Series 2018B).**

Council Member Viggiano said that the item would have to be amended to update the numbers.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO AMEND THE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS (SERIES 2018B).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO AMEND PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, LANGAN, MCCARTHY, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, JACKSON, N. SMITH, MARTINEZ, AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (SPAIN AND VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIGGIANO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 68-17 APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATIONS BONDS THE TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS (SERIES 2018B) AS AMENDED ON APRIL 25, 2018.**

Council Member Lyons said that on April 21st, there had been a question about the school projects and Mr. Flatto had called the Superintendent, but not received any information back. She suggested that the BOE bonding be separated out from the City's general projects.

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, LANGAN, MCCARTHY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, JACKSON, N. SMITH, MARTINEZ, AND NEWTON) AND THREE (3) OPPOSED (SPAIN, LYONS, AND VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services