

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Co-chair; Aikeem Boyd, Co-chair; Alfredo Castillo, Matthew McCarthy, Rolanda Smith, Samia Suliman (6:03 p.m.)

OTHERS: Council Member M. Pereira; E. Amado, Personnel Director; D. Costello, Deputy Director, Labor Relations; V. Jones, Tax Collector; Atty. R. Kascak, Jr, Associate City Attorney; Lt. Palazzo; Police Chief R. Porter, Atty. E. Skyers, Director, Labor Relations; A. Toledo, Director, Community Relations

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:

• **August 28, 2023 (Regular Meeting).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 28, 2023 MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 28, 2023 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

101-22 Refund of Excess Payments – MTG Realty LLC Savings Bank of Danbury.

Ms. Jones came forward and presented the documentation. She explained at the last meeting, all the documentation had not been received. She explained that the both the owner and the bank had paid the property taxes.

Council Member Suliman joined the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Council Member Pereira asked if Ms. Jones had sent out the missing documentation. Ms. Jones said that she had sent the documents. Council Member Pereira requested that a copy of the documentation be forwarded to her.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 101-22 REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – MTG REALTY LLC SAVINGS BANK OF DANBURY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

123-22 Proposed Approval of a New Job Classification and specifications of the Certified Police Officer Position pursuant to Municipal Charter Chapter 17 Section 206(d).

Mr. Amado came forward and greeted the Committee Members. Mr. Amado said that Bridgeport does not have the ability to recruit lateral transfers because of the competitive hiring rule. Mr. Amado said that there was a new job description for a Certified Police Officer. This will allow a police officer to enter as a non-competitive position. He explained that this would allow the Chief to hire and retain police officers from other departments. The job description has been updated and modernized. The qualifications are important because it differentiates the certified officer from the competitive police officer. This will help identify problem officers from other municipalities.

Lt. Palazzo said that other towns are able to recruit Bridgeport officers, but sometimes the officers want to come back to Bridgeport, but can't.

Chief Porter said that it puts them at a disadvantage. He said that his first month in office, the Department had lost 8 officers via lateral transfers. Bridgeport is the only one that only allows an entry level position.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked what level the lateral transfers would be coming back in at. Mr. Amado explained that only the time served in Bridgeport would be counted for promotional exams. A former Bridgeport officer who had left and wished to return after the expiration period, would have a background check and other issues. Discussion addressing concerns about taking on other department's problem officers followed.

Council Member Pereira asked whether a lateral candidate would take precedent over a police candidate who is a resident. Mr. Amado said that he did not see any shortage of positions, so both would be hired.

Council Member Pereira said that she did not like the idea of someone from the suburbs coming into the department and knocking out a Bridgeport resident. Chief Porter said that he would prefer a candidate that was a Bridgeport resident and Bridgeport trained. She suggested that they should change the length of time period that an officer would have to rescind their resignation. Mr. Amado explained that expanding the time period was a Charter issue. He went on to explain how the separate non-competitive position. Discussion followed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 123-22 PROPOSED APPROVAL OF A NEW JOB CLASSIFICATION AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICER POSITION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CHARTER CHAPTER 17 SECTION 206(D).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member McCarthy asked about preference points for Bridgeport residents, which Mr. Amado said was already being done.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

117-22 Appointment of Charles G. Breland (D) to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mr. Toledo said that Mr. Breland was not able to attend the meeting.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 117-22 APPOINTMENT OF CHARLES G. BRELAND (D) TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

114-22 Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the matter of Jeygar Vargas Docket No. 3:23-cv-00265-KAD.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF JEYGAR VARGAS DOCKET NO. 3:23-CV-00265-KAD WITH ATTY. KASCAK.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Committee and Atty. Kascak entered into Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. They returned to Public Session at 6:45 p.m. No actions were taken or motions made during Executive Session.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOVED TO approve AGENDA ITEM 114-22 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF JEYGAR VARGAS DOCKET NO. 3:23-CV-00265-KAD.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services.