

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 26, 2023**

**Note: December 26, 2023 was RECESSED  
and RECONVENED ON JANUARY 2, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE:** AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Co-chair; Aikeem G. Boyd, Co-chair;  
Maria Pereira, Tyler Mack, Aidee Nieves, Council President

**OTHERS:** Council Members: Jazmarie Melendez; Mary McBride-Lee; Ernest  
Newton, Michelle Lyons, Frederick Hodges & Eneida Martinez;  
Eric Amado, Personnel Director, Civil Service; T. Gaudett, Deputy Chief  
of Staff;

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**Agenda Item 24-23**

Proposed Approval to update the job description of the classification of Purchasing Agent pursuant to Civil Service Rule IX, Sec3

Mr. Amado presented the revised job description and reviewed the tracked edits as redlined. Council Member Pereira asked why '40 Hours' was removed and suggested that 'Full-time' be added next to the job title. Mr. Amado explained that it is a salaried position as noted in the union contract attendance at meetings is required, so the (Full-time 40 hours) is not relevant to the title.

There was further discussion on the changes in wording, and Mr. Amado explained that words such as 'some' to 'working' was a clearer term to clarify the knowledge of CT General Statutes. It was agreed that the proposed update was complete and no further amendments were required.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 24-23 AS AMENDED-  
UPDATED JOB DESCRIPTION OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF PURCHASE AGENT  
PURSUANT TO CIIL SERVICE RULE IX,SEC.3.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

Council Member Pereira reported that there was an email to the Committee requesting to add a resolution to the agenda, and she noted that it required a 2/3rds vote according to charter procedure. She added that the resolution is beyond the purview of the Committee, and it was totally inappropriate to bring this to the attention of this Committee to forward on to the City

Council with no advanced notice. She spoke of the nature of this resolution that was drafted by religious leaders that was not the way things are to be done, and to consider this is a deviation of procedure and sets a very dangerous precedent.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOVED TO ADD THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO THE AGENDA:**

**Item 20-23 Resolution calling for an immediate de-escalation and permanent ceasefire in Israel, Gaza and the Occupied West Bank.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH THREE VOTES IN FAVOR, (MACK, BOYD, NIEVES) AND ONE OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

Mr. Gaudett introduced the item and prefaced that this was not an item recommended by the staff, but it was proposed by Council Member Melendez in response to the religious leaders that had approached the City Council at the December meeting to respond to this humanitarian crisis.

Council Member Pereira noted that it is not within the scope of this Committee or of a municipal governing board to bring an item of federal and international matter such as this cease fire. She objected to the wording of the resolution of ‘innocent lives in Palestine and spoke of the Hamas terrorist’s actions that caused the loss of lives of those that attended a concert and the mutilation of innocent women and children. She added that it was inappropriate for religious leaders to write a resolution and it is not City of Bridgeport business to propose action on this matter of federal legislation and international affairs.

Mr. Gaudett explained that the wording represented the input from religious and faith leaders in the Bridgeport community that met to create the resolution, and it could be amended to clarify accuracy of the numbers.

Co-Chair Vizzo-Paniccia asked Council Members in attendance that wished to comment to speak as acknowledged.

Council Member McBride-Lee spoke on the importance to call for a cease fire on all sides and to support the Bridgeport community.

Council Member Newton said that murder is wrong on both sides and while this resolution may not have the clout to impact a resolution, this is something that has been done before during a crisis to support the City residents that are calling for action.

Council Member Melendez said that this resolution is in response to a call for peace and amidst death of innocent lives that continues to accelerate, it is essential to send this on to the City Council for all to have a voice of support of the religious community to send this to the federal government a call for action of a cease fire.

Council President Nieves spoke on this as an effort to call for peace, and while it is not part of municipal business, there is no harm to bring this to the full Council. She added that we have an obligation to the community at large and this resolution of support sends a message to the White House that this is what all cities should do to appeal to the federal legislators to call for a cease fire.

Council Member Pereira noted that she feels strongly that it is not within the scope of this Committee or of a municipal governing board to bring an item of federal and international matter such as this cease fire. She noted again that she objects to the inaccuracy of the wording of the resolution of ‘innocent lives in Palestine and spoke of the Hamas terrorists’ actions that caused the loss of lives of those that attended a concert and the mutilation of innocent women and children. She added that it was inappropriate for religious leaders to write a resolution and it is not City of Bridgeport business to propose action on this matter of federal legislation and international affairs.

Mr. Gaudett explained again that the wording was the result of the group of religious and faith leaders in the Bridgeport community that met to write the resolution. He noted the importance of this being added to the agenda for tonight’s meeting. He noted that modifications could be made to amend as seen fit to more clearly represent the crisis and to clarify accuracy of the numbers.

There was further discussion on the appropriateness of the item that is being brought to the City Council.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia stated that this resolution does not follow procedure and that it is not within the scope of this Committee or of a municipal governing board to bring an item of federal and international matter such as this cease fire to the City Council.

Council Member Newton asked to restate his position that first of all, this has been done in the past when a matter of humanitarian crisis is involved, and the Council has a responsibility to have a voice.

Council Member Pereira reiterated her position that this could be done as a letter rather than a resolution.

Council Member Newton added that murder is wrong on both sides and while this resolution may not have the clout to impact federal action by the President and the United Nations, this is something that has been done before during a crisis to support the City residents that are calling for action. He added that it is a matter of world peace, and we must allow the City of Bridgeport to have a voice.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked to be allowed to speak and for those to listen to the importance of the world crisis and the urgent response needed to call for a ceasefire on all sides and to support the Bridgeport community.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND FORWARD ON TO THE CITY COUNCIL:**

**Item 20-23 Resolution calling for an immediate de-escalation and permanent ceasefire in Israel, Gaza and the Occupied West Bank.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH THREE VOTES IN FAVOR, (MACK, BOYD, NIEVES) AND ONE OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

Co-Chair Vizzo-Paniccia noted that the motion passed, and the item would be forwarded on to tonight's agenda for the City Council meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Telesco Secretarial Services