

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CONTRACTS COMMITTEE
RESCHEDULED MEETING
JUNE 18, 2024**

ATTENDANCE: Jeanette Herron, Co-chair; Ernest Newton, Jorge Cruz, Richard Ortiz, Dasha Spell, Maria Pereira (6:01pm)

OTHERS: Council Member Scott Burns; Ken Flatto, Finance Director; Captain Paul Grech, Police Department; Eroll Skyers, Esq., Director, Labor Relations; Edward Gavin, Esq. BCSA; Meghan McCloat, Deputy Director, Labor Relations; Linda Cronin, Labor Relations

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Herron called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. There was a quorum present at the time of roll call.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

● **March 19, 2024 (REGULAR MEETING)**

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF March 19, 2024 (REGULAR MEETING).**

****COUNCIL MEMBER ORTIZ SECOND THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (HERRON, NEWTON, CRUZ, ORTIZ, AND SPELL).**

● **March 28, 2024 (SPECIAL MEETING)**

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF March 28, 2024 (SPECIAL MEETING).**

****COUNCIL MEMBER SPELL SECOND THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (HERRON, NEWTON, CRUZ, ORTIZ, AND SPELL).**

● **April 09, 2024 (REGULAR MEETING)**

****COUNCIL MEMBER ORTIZ MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 09, 2024 (REGULAR MEETING).**

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECOND THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (HERRON, NEWTON, CRUZ, ORTIZ, AND SPELL).**

****COUNCIL MEMBER MARIA PERIERA JOINED THE MEETING AT 6:01 PM****

****COUNCIL MEMBER ORTIZ MOTIONED TO ADD 105-23 TO THE AGENDA AS IT WAS A TIME SENSITIVE ITEM.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECOND THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR (NEWTON, CRUZ, ORTIZ, AND SPELL) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (HERRON, AND PEREIRA).**

89-23 Proposed Lease Agreement with Mozaic Senior Life (formerly known as the Jewish Home for the Elderly) for a portion of the Skane School Property located at 2977 Madison Avenue in order to provide additional parking for the Senior Care Facility

****COUNCIL MEMBER ORTIZ MOTIONED TO TABLE ITEM 89-23.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER SPELL SECOND THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

38-23 Proposed Lease Agreement/Eminent Domain regarding the Parking Lot located at 205-245 Congress Street for the Police Department.

Captain Grech shared they are not certain on taking their current property in way of eminent domain, they are considering a new location at the end of Main and Congress Street, which would be a more cost effective option as the current location is looking to increase the new lease by \$1,000.

Council Member Burns said he spoke with an attorney that suggested to table the item as lease is still month to month. He agrees with using the lot on Main and Congress Street rather than going through the long process of eminent domain.

Council Member Newton asked how long the repairs would take and what exactly they are.

Captain Grech replied, the lot would require adding a fence, resurfacing the ground, and lighting.

Council Member Newton asked when the current lease would expire.

Captain Grech replied it expired a year ago and they are currently paying \$5,000 month to month.

****COUNCIL MEMBER ORTIZ MOTIONED TO TABLE ITEM 38-23.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECOND THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

66-23 Proposed Mutual Aid Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the Fairfield County Mutual Police Assistance Compact (Fairfield County Blue Plan).

Captain Grech shared there is a state statute that allows police departments to aid other cities and towns in Fairfield county when needed but it must get approved by the city council.

****COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 66-23.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECOND THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (HERRON, NEWTON, CRUZ, ORTIZ, AND SPELL) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

84-23 Proposed Resolution for the Acceptance of Town Road Releases from the Connecticut Department of Transportation regarding Seltsam Road, Capital Avenue, Island Brook Avenue Extension, Indian Place and Sylvan Avenue.

No one was in attendance to present the item 84-23

****COUNCIL MEMBER ORTIZ MOTIONED TO TABLE ITEM 84-23.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECOND THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

105-23 Proposed Tentative Agreement with the Bridgeport City Supervisor's Association (BCSA) regarding their Bargaining Unit Contract.

Mr. Skyers shared he was negotiating on behalf of the City of Bridgeport while Mr. Gavin was negotiating on behalf of the other party, BCSA. They have made a few changes regarding seniority, lunch being unpaid for 40-hour work weeks, employees being entitled to overtime pay after a 40 hour work week. In the previous contract year, they received a wage increase of 1.25%, and they have settled on a 3% increase for each year of the contract. In regards to insurance, the cap will be at 25% with a 1% yearly increase. They will provide retirement counseling, holidays will include June 19, and vacation requests will permit day requests for time off. They have added another personal day for employees and have capped the leave of absence at 12 months.

Mr. Skyers noted on exhibit K there is an error in regards to the long term-short time insurance, and he would submit an amendment letter if needed.

Council member Newton said he remembers approving a few contracts that included the supervisors getting a 3% increase while other employees received a 2% raise. He also saw from the tentative agreement that many employees listed were no longer working with the City of Bridgeport, that is something he cannot approve.

Mr. Skyers replied he agrees with council member Newton that the contract should have been corrected before submitting to the council and that is why he made a note in regard to the amendment. Those listed on the page who do not work with the city anymore will not receive any payment or increase. Exhibit K has to do with who would qualify with long term- short time insurance, not the wage increase. The names on Exhibit K should only have 6 names, which would be amended.

Ms. McCloat added she would take responsibility to the clerical error due to being the admin and new deputy as the page to exhibit k did not copy over and replace the existing page. Ms. McCloat confirmed exhibit K has to do with insurance while article I and J refer to those on the payroll and receiving benefits from the union.

Council Member Newton asked if appointees could take advantage of the 3% increase.

Mr. Skyers replied while that is accurate he did not negotiate on behalf of any mayoral employees.

Council Member Newton asked if unaffiliated members of the BCSA follow the terms of the contract.

Mr. Skyers said to his understanding yes.

Mr. Flatto added those who are vetted to get the increases or insurance benefits are reviewed by the civil service and they need to be actively working with the city for the benefits. With the increases they would be at the average wage and they have worked this the budget already.

****COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ LEFT THE MEETING AT 6:31 PM****

Council Member Burns added he is surprised this item was discussed between the committee tonight since it was submitted to the council the day before. It has a lot of information to digest between 24 hours and there are many errors within the agreement.

Co-chair Herron added within the tentative agreement there are signatures without dates, which is something she cannot approve due to it being rushed and holding errors.

Mr. Skyers replied that if her concerns are in regard to exhibit M not having signatures and dates, he has an amendment indicating when it was signed.

Co-chair Herron asked why it wasn't attached to the contract.

Mr. Skyer replied the tentative agreement was signed on June 11th, and all parties to the agreement agreed it was signed on June 11th and submitted to the city clerk on June 12th.

Council Member Newton explained this was something that needed to be thoroughly submitted as the committee would have to endorse or deny the proposal. The committee would be responsible if something isn't correct.

Mr. Skyer added the tentative agreement has signatures and dates that make changes go into effect, the actual contract will not take effect until the mayor approves and signs.

Mr. Gavin added the City of Bridgeport Supervisors Association is in unanimous support of the tentative agreement and they do have amendments for the contract to be accurate.

Ms. Cronin added the last page of the contract isn't signed until the Mayor signs.

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOTIONED TO EXHIBIT AMENDMENT WITH SIGNATURE AND DATES AS 06-18-2024-A**

****COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARD ORTIZ SECOND THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 105-23 AS AMENDED WITH THE EXHIBIT 06-18-2024-A INCLUDED.**

A second was not made.

Council Member Burns added this contract expired a year ago so what's the rush and it was submitted to the council last night.

Co-chair Herron said she supports the city employees and unions, she approves the raises but the tentative agreement isn't accurate in detail.

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON WITHDREW HIS MOTION.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEM AS.**

A second was not made.

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON WITHDREW HIS MOTION.**

Co-chair Herron shared since this was not approved by the committee it will go back to the council to get voted on before it reaches the Mayor.

ADJOURNMENT

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOTIONED TO ADJOURN**

****COUNCIL MEMBER ORTIZ SECOND THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vianca Rivera

Telesco Secretarial Service