

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2024**

ATTENDANCE: Maria Valle, Co-chair; Mary McBride-Lee, Co-chair;
Scott Burns; Jorge Cruz, Sr.

OTHERS: Council Member(s): Aidee Nieves, Council President &
Dasha Spell, (7:42); Obiora Nkwo, OPED; Melissa Oliveira,
Housing and Community Development; David Reyes, Deputy
CAO; Anjerice Miller, Sr. HCD manager; Joseph Katz, Central
grants; Chadwick Schroeder, Office of Sustainability;
Maria Heller, Dept. on Aging; Catalina Acevedo, Dept.
on Aging.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Valle called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. There was a quorum present at the time of roll call.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

● **July 17, 2024 (REGULAR MEETING)**

****COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 17, 2024 (REGULAR MEETING).**

****COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOTIONED TO ENTERTAIN INFORMATION SESSION LAST.**

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

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

110-23 Grant Submission: re Department of Energy Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE) - Clean Energy Training Academy (#25454).

Mr. Katz shared that the training program is in collaboration with The WorkPlace to train and certify 270 students. The city match will be covered by The WorkPlace and the Bridgeport Regional Business Council. It will be a four year grant totaling \$3.3 million dollars.

****COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOTIONED TO EXHIBIT ITEM 110-23 C-SITE GRANT APPLICATION LETTER AS EXHIBIT 08-21-2024-A**

****COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Schroeder added this will be exclusive to residents in Bridgeport and those in the re-entry population will be prioritized. They will have a pathway of employment after completing the training.

Council member McBride-Lee asked how they would promote the program.

Mr. Schroeder replied they would be working with the city channels, the mayor's re-entry program, and the city council.

Council President Nieves raised concerns regarding training to employment, she believes all this information should be tracked and suggest they get into the street to advertise for the program.

Mr. Schroeder added they will be providing transportation, childcare, and food for the trainees. He said they can build community engagement to connect with the residents in their local areas further than by calling them to informational meetings.

Council member Burns said there are many organizations in support of the program and businesses want to set up in the city but we need to help supply the workforce.

Council member Ortiz added he approved the item at the last meeting but has changed his mind due to the list of members they shared and with her personal experience with training, he couldn't find a job because the need wasn't in the city at the time.

Mr. Schroeder replied there is an urgency to work on climate change and being a greener city. The certificates are owned by the trainee and can find work anymore they please. The program will be creating a pathway to employment so after they graduate there will be jobs lined up for them.

Council member McBride-Lee suggested they should extend the start back just in case people fail to show up they can substitute their space.

Mr. Katz replied they can request budget revisions.

Council President Nieves asked if the residents need to native born or can people apply with work authorizations.

Mr. Katz replied that the goal is to include everyone.

****COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 110-23.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

125-23 Grant Submission: re Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging (SWCAA) - Title III Funding Older Americans Act Grant Program - Elderly Hispanic Outreach Program (#25270).

Mr. Katz shared this grant funding is to provide bilingual information to the elderly, pay the wages to the coordinator, and food, beverages, and marketing material. They are funded every year and provide assistance to the elderly on services available on a one on one and group basis.

Ms. Acevedo shared she is the Elderly Hispanic Outreach Coordinator and helps people over 60-year-olds with application and appointments for social services.

Council President Nieves said the senior population is growing and asked why the grant was reduced.

Ms. Acevedo replied she goes to all of the senior centers in Bridgeport along with home visits.

Mr. Katz added SWCAA sent them a correspondence on how to better their application for next year.

Council President Nieves said they should record data to justify why they need the money especially as the biggest city in the state.

****COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 125-23.**

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

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

126-23 Grant Submission: re Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging (SWCAA)- Title III Funding Older Americans Act Grant Program - Bridgeport Senior Center Recreation Activities (#25533).

Mr. Katz shared the grant is to provide recreational program activities to the senior. They applied for an amount of funding and got less with recommendations for next year's application.

Ms. Helen shared the salary wage is for vendors; employees get paid hourly. The money will be used to provide physical activities to three locations as the East Side has their own funding.

Council member Burns asked what programs do they provide and will be coming in.

Ms. Helen replied they offer tai chi, chair exercises, ceramics, and painting. She added seniors can go to any location even throughout the day. They are also looking to add yoga to the list.

Council member Nieves asked what is the maximum someone can apply for.

Mr. Katz replied it is capped at \$50,000 dollars.

Council member Cruz asked if there is transportation available to the seniors.

Ms. Helen replied yes.

****COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 126-23.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Informational Session with Anjerice Miller, CDBG Program Manager and Obiora Nkwo, Home Specialist for Housing and Community Development regarding CDBG and Home Fund Programs.

****COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOTIONED TO EXHIBIT CITY OF BRIDGEPORT OFFICE OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION AS EXHIBIT 08-21-2024-B.**

****COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

****DASHA SPELL JOINED THE MEETING AT 7:42 P.M.****

****COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOTIONED TO EXHIBIT HOMEOWNER REHAB LIST AS EXHIBIT 08-21-2024-C.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOTIONED TO EXHIBIT CLOSED DPA -LOANS YEARS 2014-2016 AS EXHIBIT 08-21-2024-D.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOTIONED TO EXHIBIT CITY OF BRIDGEPORT FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER DOWN PAYMENT AND CLOSING COST ASSISTANT PROGRAM 2024 APPLICATION AS EXHIBIT 08-21-2024-E.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

****COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE MOTIONED TO ADJOURN AT 8:51 P.M.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS SECOND THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vianca Rivera
Telesco Secretarial Service

City of Bridgeport
ECD & Environment
Regular Meeting
August 21, 2024