

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE:** Co-chair Mary McBride-Lee, Co-chair Maria Valle; Eneida Martinez; Jeanette Herron; Scott Burns; Jorge Cruz, Sr.

**OTHERS:** Council Member(s): Alfredo Castillo & Maria Pereira; Anjelica Ojeda, Central Grants; Director of Health Dr. Elizabeth Rodriguez

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-chair McBride-Lee called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. There was a quorum present at the meeting,

**Approval of Committee Minutes: August 21, 2024 (Regular Meeting)**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 21, 2024.**

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

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

Co-chair Valle noted that there was an item to be added to the agenda and read item 147-23 as follows:

147-23 Grant Submission: re Subrecipient Agreement between the City of Bridgeport and Ledge Light Health District regarding the Connecticut Department of Public Health – Public Health Emergency Preparedness (FY25 -FY 29) Grant.

A discussion ensued on the process and what was involved in this matter. Council Member Burns outlined that there was nothing in the agenda packet to provide background information or supporting documentation.

Council Member (non-committee member) Periera added that the item was on the Council packet and could be added to the agenda with 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s vote. There was further discussion on the process.

Co-chair McBride-Lee called for a point of order and asked that only Committee members be a part of agenda items and non-Committee members would be recognized to speak following deliberation and discussion by the Committee.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND AMEND THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING TO ADD THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**147-23 Grant Submission: re Subrecipient Agreement between the City of Bridgeport and Ledge Light Health District regarding the Connecticut Department of Public Health – Public Health Emergency Preparedness (FY25 -FY 29) Grant.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**138-23 Proposed Resolution to ensure that Federal and State Funding for Bridgeport under the Inflation Reduction Act is coordinated through the Mayor and City Council.**

Council Member Castillo presented the item, read the resolution, and noted that Council Member Cruz is to be added as co-sponsor of the item. There was discussion on the item and Chair McBride-Lee explained that her district rarely benefits from grants and while this resolution may be proper for the City, it needs to specifically outline the districts that are most impacted by high inflation and defined as at risk of poverty.

Council Member Cruz explained that he was in full agreement of the item and explained the definition of stakeholder and this was a program introduced by the Obama administration. Council Member Castillo further explained that University of Bridgeport is considered an institution partner for project funding allocation for municipal direct management funding working with the City not the state.

Council Member Periera provided the definition of inflation reduction act that was part of the Biden administration for environmental clean energy and grant based.

Co-chair McBride-Lee called for a point of order and asked that only Committee members be a part of agenda items and non-Committee members would be recognized to speak following deliberation and discussion by the Committee. She explained that it was a disgrace at a previous meeting that grant presenters were questioned and treated poorly, where everyone deserves to be treated with respect.

Council Member Burns explained that it was a competitive grant tax credit comprehensive bill, and he is in agreement with approval.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM FOLLOWING CITY ATTORNEY INPUT.**

**There was no second to the motion.**

There was discussion on the timing of when the item was submitted and legal purview to be done in 60 days. Council Member Cruz explained that the City can't pick and choose which grants to approve or not support, as that poses a risk to state grants that will not come back to Bridgeport.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 138-23:**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO ENSURE THAT FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING FOR BRIDGEPORT UNDER THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT IS COORDINATED THROUGH THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY,**

**139-23 Grant Submission: re State of Connecticut Department of Public Health FY25 Per Capita Funding Allocation (25220).**

Ms. Ojeda presented the item, reviewed the supporting documentation and fielded questions on the funding allocation as outlined.

Council Member Burns questioned the funding allocation and the amounts of the funds that will not be matched by part of the City budget.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 139-23**

**GRANT SUBMISSION: RE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FY25 PER CAPITA FUNDING ALLOCATION (25220).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**147-23 Grant Submission: re Subrecipient Agreement between the City of Bridgeport and Ledge Light Health District regarding the Connecticut Department of Public Health – Public Health Emergency Preparedness (FY25 -FY 29) Grant.**

Ms. Ojeda presented the item, reviewed the supporting documentation, and fielded questions on the funding allocation as outlined.

Council Member Periera questioned the funding allocation and the percentage of salary funded that will not be part of the City budget.

Council Member Martinez stated that the amount is not enough as the Health Department is the most underfunded City Department with the largest amount of work and greatest importance to the citizens of the City. She added that she fully supports this item, and would want more grant support for the Health Department.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM 147-23 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT AND LEDGE LIGHT HEALTH DISTRICT REGARDING THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH – PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (FY25 -FY 29) GRANT.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Telesco Secretarial Services