

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2024**

ATTENDANCE: Eneida Martinez, Co-chair; Aikeem Boyd, Co-chair;
Ernest Newton; Jeanette Herron

OTHER: Council Member(s): Scott Burns & Maria Pereira; James Maye, Associate
City Attorney; Lauren Coakley-Vincent, DSSD; John Marshall Lee,
Public

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Martinez called the meeting at 6:10 p.m. There was a quorum present at the time of the roll call.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

- July 30, 2024 (Special Meeting)

****COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 30, 2024 (SPECIAL MEETING).**

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- August 5, 2024 (Public Hearing)

****COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 5, 2024 (PUBLIC HEARING).**

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

40-23 Proposed Resolution concerning the Initiation of a Charter Revision
Process for the City of Bridgeport.

Co-Chair Martinez stated the council president recommended they pass this item and it will be discussed at the council level as they have enough candidates to proceed.

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 40-23.**

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

Attorney Maye added once the item is passed, they will have 30 days for the appointment process to begin.

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

****COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD WITHDREW HIS SECONDED.**

Council member Newton suggested they move it to the floor as time is of the essence and allow the council president to explain what will occur.

****COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOTIONED TO TABLE ITEM 40-23 FOR FURTHER CLARITY.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

54-23 Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend to Add New Chapter 2.127 – Civic Engagement Commission.

Co-chair Martinez shared they would not be proceeding with the commission.

****COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOTIONED TO DENY ITEM 54-23.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

55-23 Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12.28 – Park Use Regulations, amend Section 12.28.040 – Parking Restricted within Public Parks.

Attorney Maye explained this is an amendment to the park permit requirement.

Co-chair Martinez added senior citizens don't pay so she isn't sure what the amendment is about.

Council member Pereira shared there is only a \$15 parking pass that allows people into the closed parks. The amendment is looking to include an alternative proof of residency using the tax bill receipt.

Council member Herron added if they take the registration of motor vehicles it would be unnecessary to accept someone's tax bill.

Council member Newton said this would open a can of worms and believes it is better to leave the protocols how they are.

Council member Burns added seniors get a lifetime pass for free so he believes they should just change the language from annually to lifetime.

From the public, John Marshall Lee interrupted stating something about having to go to Quarry Road for park permits.

Co-Chair Martinez reminded everyone this is a committee meeting and the public does not have the right to speak. She continued to share that during the season it is already busy for the park attendants and they should have discussed this with the park commission and public facilities before moving forward with it.

****COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOTIONED TO DENY ITEM 55-23.**

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

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

145-23 Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 3.36 –Municipal Special Services District.

Ms. Coakley-Vincent requested changes to the composition of the board to increase the amount of board with four new seats and allow leaseholders of any type to be included on the board. They are looking to diversify and be more inclusive of the population of downtown.

Council member Boyd asked when they would be voted in.

Ms. Coakley-Vincent replied in May they have elections and every member holds a seat for 3 years which is all staggered.

Council member Newton asked why.

Ms. Coakley-Vincent replied they felt like they were missing the opportunity to connect with everyone downtown as many people involved in the area would join the meetings to listen in.

Council member Newton asked if everyone on the board had paid their fees.

Ms. Coakley-Vincent replied everyone on the board is at a zero balance, they have a few delinquent accounts.

Council member Pereira shared she didn't agree with provision D regarding the attendance of board members as it says they have to automatically vacate the seat. They should have a notice and hearing to dispute.

Ms. Coakley-Vincent replied in the bylaws it explains more to what Ms. Pereira explained. The members are allowed to join the meetings in person, zoom, or dial in, and vote over email.

Council member Pereira suggested the provision read as:

D. Attendance Requirement: The seat of any commissioner who fails to attend 50% of the regular meetings of the board of commissioners within any 12-month period upon a 14 day notice and hearing may be deemed vacant and shall be filled by the board of commissioners for the unexpired term of the vacant position.

Council member Burns asked if there are any requirements for people who just moved into the area and are looking to join.

Ms. Coakley-Vincent replied it is a once a year opportunity and looking for people to be invested in the area.

Council member Herron said this is a good idea but if members are communicating with the board, then there shouldn't be an issue with language.

Council member Martinez asked how they would advertise the information.

Ms. Coakley-Vincent replied they have a committee creating an engagement plan to advertise. Along with having the property owners share with their tenants.

****COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOTIONED TO AMEND CHAPTER 3.36 - MUNICIPAL SPECIAL SERVICES DISTRICT SECTION D TO READ AS:**

Attendance Requirement: The seat of any commissioner who fails to attend 50% of the regular meetings of the board of commissioners within any 12-month period upon a 14 day notice and hearing may be deemed vacant and shall be filled by the board of commissioners for the unexpired term of the vacant position.

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED.**

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

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOTIONED TO ADJOURN AT 6:51 PM.**

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

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vianca Rivera
Telesco Secretarial Services.