

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 28, 2024**

ATTENDANCE: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Co-chair; Aikeem Boyd, Co-chair; Denese Taylor-Moye; Rolanda Smith; Richard Ortiz

OTHERS: Council Member(s): Aidee Nieves, Council President (7:07); Scott Burns, Alfredo Castillo, Maria Pereira & Ernest Newton; Lawrence Ouellette, Associate City Attorney; Deborah Garskof, Associate City Attorney; Tyisha Toms, City Attorney (6:14); Andy Toledo, Mayor's Office; Lance Edwards, Fire Chief; Robert Marrero, Fire Marshall; Tom Errichetti, Library Board Reappointment; Barbara Rogo, Library Board Reappointment; Suzanna Lesao, Parks Commission Appointment; April Conquest, Fair Rent Commission Appointment; Anatoliy Gurevich, Polytronus; Dr. Ashutosh Bhardway, Polytronus.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia 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

- **September 23, 2024 (Regular Meeting)**

****COUNCIL MEMBER ORTIZ MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 (REGULAR MEETING).**

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

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

104-23 Appointment of Mdsufian Ahmed (U) to the Historic District Commission.

****COUNCIL MEMBER ORTIZ MOTIONED TO TABLE ITEM 104-23.**

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

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

160-23 Reappointment of Barbara Rogo (R) to the Library Board.

****COUNCIL MEMBER PERERIA JOINED THE MEETING AT 6:07 PM****

Ms. Rogo greeted the committee members and explained he is a Bridgeport native who has worked in the board of education, served on the city council, and is involved in many community organizations. She is looking to be reappointed to the Library board.

Council member Ortiz shared he is glad she has decided to continue her work with the board.

Council member Taylor-Moye added it was great for her to stay involved in the community.

Council member Pereira shared Ms. Rogo was her homeroom teacher in 8th grade and regardless of their opposing political views, she is a great advocate.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia also shared that it would be great for her to come back to the board.

****COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOTIONED TO APPROVE 160-23.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER ORTIZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

161-23 Reappointment of Tom Errichetti (D) to the Library Board.

Mr. Errichetti shared he has been on the board since 2003 and with his financial background he is able to maximize their savings and monitor their spending efficiently. He oversees all the constructions of the buildings and is proud of all the accomplishments during his time on the board.

****CITY ATTORNEY TYISHA TOMS JOINED THE MEETING AT 6:14 PM****

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia shared she has known Mr. Errichetti for many years and he has done a lot of work for the library board.

Mr. Errichetti added that the Beardsley branch is a different environment compared to the others as it is technology based.

Council member Pereira shared she appreciates how the library board is operated as it is not political at all. She is blessed for the Beardsley brand and will support his reappointment when it reaches the full council.

Council member Newton shared he has had disagreements with Mr. Errichetti but they have always been cordial and never made personal attacks against each other. He would want him in the position as he does a great job.

****COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 163-23.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

163-23 Appointment of Suzanne Lesko (D) to the Parks Board.

Ms. Lesko shared she lives in the 135th district; served in the army, national guard and now works at Bridgeport Hospital. She is on the board for the lake forest association.

Council member Taylor-Moye asked if she would have any conflicts serving both boards as the park board usually holds long meetings.

Ms. Lesko replied no.

Council member Pereira asked what her opinion was on pocket parks and dog parks.

Ms. Lesko replied it is a great idea to increase green spaces and owners should be responsible when using the public spaces.

Council member Burns asked if she had any concerns with the parks.

Ms. Lesko replied after she returned to live as a resident in Bridgeport, she went by Seaside Park and was proud of the conditions.

****COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOTIONED TO APPROVE 163-23.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER ORTIZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

164-23 Appointment of April Conquest (D) to the Fair Rent Commission.

Ms. Conquest shared she has been in Bridgeport for 25 years and has worked in the Bridgeport fair housing office before along with many other housing organizations so would love to carry her knowledge over to the board.

Council member Taylor-Moye asked if she found any differences between all the organizations.

Ms. Conquest replied she is on the Connecticut apartment association and advocates for the tenants.

Council member Pereira shared she believes her experience would offer a unique perspective to the board.

Council member Newton thanked Ms. Conquest for looking to join the board as she would serve as a great asset.

Council member Castillo shared they worked together and she has a great work ethic and understands the community.

Council member Burns asked her what is her understanding of fair rent and what attributes would she bring.

Ms. Conquest replied that in her years of experience she has helped people with house discrimination and regulations.

****COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 164-23.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

166-23 Proposed Resolution Accepting the Donation of a Fire Safety Trailer to the Bridgeport Fire Department.

Chief Edwards thanks council member Burns for finding the trailer. He shared the trailer is 27 feet long with a rooftop air conditioning, there is no cost to obtain the trailer but the only requirement set is to leave the Hartford Insurance logo on it. It will be used to teach children about fire safety.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia shared this is a full circle moment as she remembers attending fire safety training while in elementary school.

Chief Edwards added that will be hosting community events, going to school, and senior centers as well.

Fire Marshall, Robert Marrero shared he wanted to do this before the pandemic s this will bring a greater experience then just talking to people in a classroom.

Council member Taylor-Moye suggested they host a learning session at Crescent Crossing.

Council member Ortiz thanked council member Burns for his work in finding the trailer and suggested they also host a session at Trumbull gardens.

Council member Pereira asked why they were offering the trailer for free.

Chief Edwards replied he wasn't sure.

Council member Burns added that it was great working with Chief Edwards but he credits his wife for finding the trailer. He carried on to say the Hartford Fire department got a new trailer and decided to pass this one.

****COUNCIL MEMBER ORTIZ MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 166-23.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

137-23 Proposed Resolution for a Pilot Program with Polytron Lubricants, LLC for Cost Savings Fleet and Construction Vehicles.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia shared they usually do not have discussions with the public during committee meetings so only council members can present the item.

Council member Castillo shared he has been communicating with Dr. Anatoliy regarding a # month pilot program to test two trucks with their oil products to measure the performance and longevity compared to the products they currently use. This would allow the city to get savings and they will be covering all the liability costs to the truck they test.

Atty. Toms shared this needs a contracts agreement so they may need to schedule another meeting.

Council member Castillo added they have been working with city attorney James May on this.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia said they should be demonstrating the proposal in front of the full council and since there is no contract or legal information to review they shouldn't move the item forward.

Council member Boyd said they should allow them a chance to demonstrate their product to see if it is worth their time to organize a full council demonstration or look at a contract.

****COUNCIL MEMBER ORTIZ MOTIONED TO ALLOW MR. GUREVICH AND DR. BHARDWAY, REPRESENTING POLYTRON TO DEMONSTRATE HOW PROPOSAL WOULD WORK.**

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

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Dr. Bhardway demonstrated their oil product running inside of the test engine. He explained the product has rich properties that allows for the engines to run for a longer time in between oil changes, it reduces gas usage, and wear and tear on the engine. The product is in the public market, they also have contracts with car makes, and the American army. They are looking to work with the city of Bridgeport because the trucks carry heavy loads and they are in the community.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia asked if they have done testing on smaller motor vehicles.

Dr. Bhardway replied that their products can be used on passenger cars to ship engines. They have done testing on all the engines before and after and the oil protects the engine. He added they have been in the market for 30 years now and looking to work with municipalities.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia asked what would be the cost to the pilot.

Dr. Bhardway replied it would cost the city nothing at all, they will supply the oil, the testing, and there will be insurance on the operation to cover the trucks. The product itself does has a lower cost for government contracts or bulk buys.

****COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES JOINED THE MEETING AT 7:07 PM****

Council member Taylor-Moye added she would like to see what the contract would entail.

Dr. Bhardway replied when he reaches out to governments it usually follows the protocol of presentation, free trial, contract, and then they will compare the cost to what they use.

Council member Burns asked if there were any concerns for disposal.

Dr. Bhardway replied the oil is disposed as any other but their product allows the vehicles to run an extra 15,000 miles so it reduces the amount of changes.

Council member Pereira asked what towns or states they were working with.

Dr. Bhardway replied they have contracts with Volvo, trucking companies, the federal army, and they are looking for Bridgeport to be the first municipality.

Atty. Toms added this process would avoid going through procurement and the general purchasing process of comparing all bids.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia suggested they set up another meeting.

Council President Nieves added if this was an information session, they should have invited public facilities to be at the meeting.

Council member Castillo replied they did meet with public facilities.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia added they should go through the purchasing process.

****COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOTIONED TO DENY 137-23.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) IN FAVOR (BOYD, TAYLOR-MOYE, AND SMITH) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (ORTIZ).**

*****EXECUTIVE SESSION *****

****COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOTIONED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:28 PM WITH CITY ATTORNEY LAWRENCE OUELLETTE JR. AND THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE MEMBERS REGARDING ITEMS 151-23 AND 159-23.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER ORTIZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

****THE EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDED AT 7:52****

151-23 Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the matter of Ema Rosario v. City of Bridgeport, et al Docket No: FBT-CV23-6124774-S.

****COUNCIL MEMBER ORTIZ MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 151-23.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

159-23 Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the matter of Ashley Mercado v. City of Bridgeport, et al Docket No: FBT-CV22-6117441-S.

****COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 159-23.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER ORTIZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

****COUNCIL MEMBER ORTIZ MOTIONED TO ADJOURN AT 7:53 PM.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Vianca Rivera
Telesco Secretarial Services