

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2015

7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim then requested Council Member McBride-Lee to lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim then requested Council Member Casco to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Martinez called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Kathryn Bukovsky
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: M. Evette Brantley, John Olson
133rd District: Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter
136th District: Jose Casco, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Milta Feliciano
138th District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith
139th District: Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

32-15 Communication from Mayor re: (Ref. #185-14) Proposed Revised Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Bridgeport City Supervisor's Association (BCSA) entered into on November 20, 2015 (including the document dated October 14, 2015), referred to Committee of the Whole.

Mayor Ganim suggested that a caucus for the Council Members might be in order.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO ENTER INTO CAUCUS TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED REVISED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE BRIDGEPORT CITY SUPERVISOR'S ASSOCIATION (BCSA).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BUKOVSKY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Council Members entered into caucus to discuss the proposed bargaining agreement at 7:07 p.m. They returned to public session at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Ganim then announced that he would be asking the Council if they wished to refer the item to the Committee as a whole. After the Council members discussed the issue, the Committee member could vote it out of the Committee if that is what the Committee desired. The item would then be presented to the Council as a whole for discussion and possible vote. The Council has the right to review this agreement and either accept or reject the item.

Mayor Ganim then read the following letter into the record:

December 29, 2015

Dear Honorable Members,

As Mayor of the City of Bridgeport and pursuant to the provisions of the Bridgeport City Charter, Chapter 5, Sec. 5(a), I hereby provide written notice that I will be convening a Special Meeting of the Bridgeport City Council on Wednesday, December 30, 2015 at 7:00 PM to afford the City Council an opportunity to timely act upon the proposed Revised Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and the BPT City Supervisor's Association (CBA).

In accordance with the Connecticut State General Statutes, Sec. 7-474(b), the Council is advised to either accept or reject such CBA within 30 days from the expiration of the 14 days from the date the parties reaches such agreement. The CBA is subject to legislative body approval of necessary funds and provisions in conflict with the City Charter or ordinances, etc.

In this instance the CBA was reached by the negotiating parties on November 20, 2015 (including the document date October 14, 2015), so the 44 days for the City Council action would appear to expire on Sunday, January 3, 2016. Therefore it would be untimely for the City Council to wait until its Regular Meeting on Monday, January 4, 2016 to act upon the CBA.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Ganim
Mayor

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Special Meeting
December 30, 2015

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO REFER AGENDA ITEM 32-15 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: (REF. #185-14) PROPOSED REVISED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE BRIDGEPORT CITY SUPERVISOR'S ASSOCIATION (BCSA) ENTERED INTO ON NOVEMBER 20, 2015 (INCLUDING THE DOCUMENT DATED OCTOBER 14, 2015), REFERRED TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Ganim stated for clarification purposes that the Council would be acting as the Committee as a whole.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO OPEN THE ITEM FOR DISCUSSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Ganim thanked everyone for the opportunity to address the Council and public. He said that the letter was self-explanatory regarding the timeliness of the matter. He then explained that there were two sections of the contract that he had brought to the Council's attention and indicated where the language was located in the contract. In Exhibit L – Clerical Errors Agreement, the date of December 31, 2015 was entered instead of October 31, 2015. This is a substantive change and would create a major impact on the City's finances. With an impending 20 million dollar budget deficit, Mayor Ganim said that he felt that the Council needed to be informed of this issue. He said that it would be important for the administration to reach a new agreement with the Supervisor's Union in order to move the matter forward.

He added that he was willing to meet with the Supervisor's Union and any interested Council Members first thing the next morning to begin discussions to resolve the issue.

Council Member Brantley said that she was very perplexed over what happened during the past few days. On behalf of her colleagues, she said that she was a proud member of ASMCE. She added that her former Council Member colleagues were not provided with appropriate and accurate information during the negotiations. Council Member Brantley said that she would not be voting on this issue, because she was standing with her fellow union members. She said that it would be important to put a moratorium on hiring and separating out the union members from the unaffiliated members.

Council Member Brantley said that going forward, she would like to have accurate information given to the Council Members. Transparency is critical. It is not fair for this new Council to end up working on this issue because the previous Council Members did not receive accurate information. Now the Supervisors are left with uncertainty about their contract despite the fact that they previously worked hard on this contract.

Council Member Lyons said that the Council needs to change the ordinance to separate the Supervisors from the unaffiliated. This will allow the unions to make appropriate decisions. She also expressed concerns about the salaries that were involved with the unaffiliated positions. The

City is in a poor financial position. The best the Council can do is try to negotiate and make sure this type of situation does not happen again.

Council Member Lyons said that she and her Contracts Co-chair Milta Feliciano had been told that the funding was available in the budget. She said that it was important that the transparency would be there so that the current and future City employees would be protected. Changing the ordinance by separating out the unaffiliated employees from the Supervisor's Unions should prevent this from happening again.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that this was very upsetting. She was afraid that if the Council voted to accept this contract as it stands, people would lose their jobs. She said that she would want to accept the agreement and didn't like giving people and taking it back, but the situation requires her to vote against the contract. She encouraged the Union representatives to go into negotiations with the Mayor to come up with something that works.

Council Member Olson said that he had no doubt that the Mayor's position was corrected based on his legal counsel. He said that the City will continue on and this will be corrected. He said that with all due respect, he still has many questions and will be voting to maintain the contract with all due respect to the Mayor.

Council Member Martinez said that it was sad that the Council had to sit in the meeting on this issue. She said that the Council Members were denied information from Labor Relations. The Council Members were told that there was funding set aside for this. The Council Members do not have their own legal counsel.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she was happy that there would be negotiations tomorrow about this contract. She said that she had some very good friends involved in this. Not only has the union been had, but the Council Members have been had, also. It was good that the Mayor decided to sit down and speak with the Council Members and give them all the information. She said that she would be present during the negotiating the contract terms.

Mayor Ganim said that he would prefer a roll call vote by the Council to accept or reject the proposed Supervisor's Contract. Council Member Lyons noted that the Council would be working on changing the ordinances to separate the Supervisor's Union from the unaffiliated employees. Mayor Ganim was asked what time the meeting with the Supervisor's Union would be. He replied that there had not been any kind of agreement with the Union representatives about a meeting but that his door was open for them.

Council Member Martinez stated that the funeral for a 14 year old boy who was killed by gunfire on Christmas Eve was scheduled for the following day and gave the time of the services. Mayor Ganim said that he would touch base with the Council Members in the first thing in the morning.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED FOR THE COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE PROPOSED REVISED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE BRIDGEPORT CITY SUPERVISOR'S ASSOCIATION (BCSA) ENTERED INTO ON NOVEMBER 20, 2015 (INCLUDING THE DOCUMENT DATED OCTOBER 14, 2015).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

A roll call vote was taken.

**** THE COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE VOTED TO REJECT THE PROPOSED REVISED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE BRIDGEPORT CITY SUPERVISOR'S ASSOCIATION (BCSA) ENTERED INTO ON NOVEMBER 20, 2015 (INCLUDING THE DOCUMENT DATED OCTOBER 14, 2015) WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR OF REJECTING THE CONTRACT (BUKOVSKY, TAYLOR-MOYE, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, FELICIANO, PAOLETTO, SMITH AND MARTINEZ); THREE IN FAVOR OF ACCEPTING THE CONTRACT (OLSON, VIZZO-PANICCIA AND NIEVES) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (BRANTLEY).**

Mayor Ganim then explained that the item had moved out of Committee as and was now before the Council. The next vote would be for the Council to vote on accepting or rejecting the contract. A discussion clarifying the procedure followed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED FOR THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE PROPOSED REVISED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE BRIDGEPORT CITY SUPERVISOR'S ASSOCIATION (BCSA) ENTERED INTO ON NOVEMBER 20, 2015 (INCLUDING THE DOCUMENT DATED OCTOBER 14, 2015).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

A roll call vote was taken.

**** THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE VOTED TO REJECT THE PROPOSED REVISED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE BRIDGEPORT CITY SUPERVISOR'S ASSOCIATION (BCSA) ENTERED INTO ON NOVEMBER 20, 2015 (INCLUDING THE DOCUMENT DATED OCTOBER 14, 2015) WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR OF REJECTING THE CONTRACT (BUKOVSKY, TAYLOR-MOYE, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, FELICIANO, PAOLETTO, SMITH AND MARTINEZ); THREE IN FAVOR OF ACCEPTING THE CONTRACT (OLSON, VIZZO-PANICCIA AND NIEVES) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (BRANTLEY).**

Council Member Olson requested a moment of personal privilege to remind everyone about Luis Colon, a 14 year old Bridgeport resident who died on Christmas Eve as a result of a shooting.

City Clerk Martinez also requested that everyone remember a Public Works staff member who recently passed away.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services.