

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, December 19, 2011

7:00 p.m.

**City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, Connecticut**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, Colon, Olson, Brantley
T. McCarthy, Lyons, Bonney, Blunt, dePara, Silva, M. Ayala, Martinez,
Paoletto, Curwen, Baker

ABSENT: Council members: Taylor-Moye, Austin, Vizzo-Paniccia, Holloway

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

- Prayer - Council member Baker offered the prayer.
- Pledge of Allegiance - Kiante a member of the Bridgeport Chargers Football Team led the pledge of allegiance.
- Roll Call - The City Clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.
- Moment of Silence - Council President asked everyone to join in a moment of silence for a former city employee, Alba Rodriguez.

Mayoral Proclamation: Bridgeport Chargers Football Team for winning the American Youth Football National Championship.

City Council Citation: Bridgeport Chargers Football Team Members and Staff in recognition of their winning the American Youth Football National Championship.

The Bridgeport Chargers Football Team Members, Coaches and Staff came to the front of council chambers to accept the city council citation.

Mayor Finch and Council President McCarthy approached the front of council chambers to present the Mayoral Proclamation and City Council Citation.

Council President McCarthy stated that at the beginning of a city council meeting, they recognize great things that are happening in Bridgeport. He expressed that when he looked at the kids on the team; they not only won games locally and regionally, they then traveled to Florida to win. He coined the phrase that "*No One is Better than Bridgeport!*" and he added that no one is better than the Bridgeport Chargers. He expressed that there was pride to have them there and he stated to the team that they should never let anyone talk about the City of Bridgeport – *to a round of applause!*

Council President McCarthy read the citation. He acknowledged that the team are Champions in the 7th grade division. He wished them all well wishes on this memorable occasion and continued success on behalf of him and the entire City Council.

Council member Martinez congratulated everyone on the team. She expressed that she was happy with the team's accomplishment and continued success.

Mayor Finch stated that it was a great day. He expressed that they should all be proud from the city they come from. He further mentioned adoption day in Bridgeport and he recognized the parents of one of the team members, who have adopted five children. He stated that great parents make good student athletes.

Mayor Finch read and individually acknowledged all the coaches and team members – *to thunderous applause!* He thanked everyone for coming out tonight to honor the team. – *a group picture was taken with the team, Mayor Finch and Council President McCarthy.*

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: November 7, 2011

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council President McCarthy announced the following council members absent for the reasons indicated:

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia hurt her back; Council member Curwen had a family matter to attend to; Council member Taylor-Moye had a prior commitment at a Bridgeport Housing meeting and Council member Austin had a family issue.

Mayor Finch announced once again that the former Assistant Town Clerk, Alba Rodriguez served the city for twenty plus years; he expressed that she would be sincerely missed.

Council President McCarthy stated that there would be a caucus following the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

- 24-11** Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Elda Blanca, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 25-11** Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Pilot Program Agreement with United Illuminating regarding the Installation of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station at City Hall, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 26-11** Communication from Public Facilities re: Proposed Resolution to enter into a Site Lease with GP Renewables & Trading, LLC regarding the Implementation of Renewable Energy Facilities at the Webster Bank Arena referred to Contracts Committee.
- 27-11** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut DEEP - Community Gardens Grant Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

Mayor Finch asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent calendar. There were none heard. The city clerk read the consent calendar items into the record.

- *20-11** Contracts Committee Report re: Employment Contract with Chief of Police, Joseph Gaudett.
- *21-11** Contracts Committee Report re: Employment Contract with Fire Chief, Brian Rooney.

- *02-11 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Resolution Affirming and Approving Financing in the amount of \$44,000,000 for the Design, Rehabilitation, Upgrading and Construction of Various Improvements to the Combined Sewer Overflow Facilities.
- *06-11 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of Additional Capital Project Authorization to the 2012-2016 Capital Plan – Columbus & Longfellow School Projects (2,700,000).
- *07-11 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds - To Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects (2,700,000).

** **COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO APPROVE**

** **COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

Council member Olson stated he didn't see the paperwork related to the consent calendar items. He said he thought there should be some background information submitted before they vote on the items.

Council President McCarthy explained that when items are called on the consent calendar, generally there is no discussion. He further explained that this meant the items have gone through committee and they have been approved. He clarified that when it's asked if there are any items to be removed, it can be pulled off the agenda for discussion at that time. He said all the items on the calendar went through committee and have been discussed. He added this is where the real detailed work gets done and if a council member should happen to abstain from the vote during committee; then it can be removed from the calendar and discussed.

Council member dePara stated that all the items were included in the first packet and distributed to the council members by the city clerk. He urged Council member Olson to read all the information he receives for future council meetings.

Mayor Finch spoke to the item. He clarified that if they decide to sell assets, the debt is carried by the city; he said he would rather have a regional authority carry it, but the reality is that Bridgeport has to carry it.

** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council President McCarthy acknowledged Dwayne Harrison, who was present in the audience as the President of NAGE.

He also acknowledged the President of the Fire Union; the Police Chief and the Fire Chief who were all present in the audience.

New business:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO COMMITTEE
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO REFER RE: CREATION OF A CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED (Item #30-11)
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO COMMITTEE
** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO REFER RE: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE (Item #31-11)
** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO COMMITTEE
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO REFER RE: CITY COUNCIL PROVISION OF SUITABLE POLLING PLACES IN THE CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS AND DEFINITION OF BOUNDARIES TO BE SERVED BY EACH SUCH POLLING PLACE PURSUANT TO BRIDGEPORT CHARTER, CH.5, SEC. 2(d) TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE (Item #29-11)
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council member Martinez requested that a listing of all the polling places be provided to the city council members when it's compiled. Council President McCarthy noted that the polling places were attached to the submission that was distributed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO COMMITTEE
** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO REFER RE: BRIDGEPORT HARBOR PLACE LLC TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED (Item #28-11)

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council President McCarthy reminded everyone that there would be a caucus held following the meeting.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and a Happy Kwanza...he expressed that he hoped everyone had a great holiday!

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services