

CITY of BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
JANUARY 3, 2012
6:30 PM

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 8:12 pm.

He announced that there weren't any speakers that signed up to speak for the public speaking session.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER COLON SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The public speaking session closed at 8:15 pm.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

7:00 p.m.

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

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

ABSENT: Council members: Brannelly, Vizzo-Paniccia, Holloway

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 8:19 pm.

Prayer - Council member Blunt offered the prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance - Council member Colon led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call - the city clerk took the roll call and announced there was
a quorum.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: December 5, 2011

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER COLON SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council President McCarthy asked for a moment of silence for: Manuel Perara. He expressed that he was a long time foreman in the City of Bridgeport and that he was a good solid resident, a good friend and man. He passed away on January 2, 2012

Council member Colon asked for a moment of silence for: George Peterson. She expressed that Mr. Peterson ran a business on Noble Avenue; Peterson's Funeral Home.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

32-11 Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re: Proposed Agreement with Aetna Life Insurance to provide a Medicare Advantage Health Plan to Covered Medicare-Eligible Retirees of the City and Board of Education for the period of January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012, referred to Contracts Committee.

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council President McCarthy called for a caucus at 8:20 pm.

The caucus ended at 9:05 pm.

Mayor Finch reconvened the meeting at 9:10 pm.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

Mayor Finch asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent calendar:

Council member Paoletto requested to remove item ***18-11** Ordinance Committee Report re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances Chapter 2.36, amend Section 2.36.010, Officers' and Unaffiliated Employee Salaries.

Council member Baker requested to remove item ***03-11** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Request to Appoint Twenty New Members to the 2012-2014 Citizen Union Membership.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE REMAINING
CONCENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

The city clerk read the remaining consent calendar items into the record.

***05-11** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Acquisition of 115 Virginia Avenue from the State of Connecticut.

***10-11** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Public Health 2011-2014 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant.

***11-11** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State Department of Education 2011-2012 Youth Service Bureau Grant.

***12-11** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Public Health 2011-2012 Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Grant.

***14-11** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: US Conference of Mayors' Childhood Obesity Prevention Grant.

- *03-11 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Request to Appoint Twenty New Members to the 2012-2014 Citizen Union Membership. - *removed*

- *04-11 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with John Gale.

- *17-11 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the Building of Solar Photo-Voltaic Electric Generation Facilities at Blackham School and Central High School.

- *28-11 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Legal Status Report Concerning Bridgeport Harbour Place I, LLC Pending Litigation.

ADDENDUM TO AGENDA

ADDED:

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

- *18-11 Ordinance Committee Report re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances Chapter 2.36, amend Section 2.36.010, Officers' and Unaffiliated Employee Salaries. - *removed*

- *19-11 Ordinance Committee Report re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.38, Code of Ethics.

***30-11** Ordinance Committee Report re: Resolution concerning the Creation of a Charter Revision Commission for the City of Bridgeport.

Item 30-11 “Ordinance Committee Report re: Resolution concerning the Creation of a Charter Revision Commission for the City of Bridgeport” was passed unanimously by the seventeen (*17) members present and voting, thereby constituting adoption by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the Council, in accordance with C.G.S. §7-188(b).”

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Finch returned to item ***03-11** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Request to Appoint Twenty New Members to the 2012-2014 Citizen Union Membership.

Council member Baker stated that the item passed in committee. He stated that he would like to add a name to the request to appoint twenty new members.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MOVED TO AMEND FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING THE NAME OF (CHARLES T. HERBERT JR., 254 THORME STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06606 – 134TH DISTRICT) TO THE REQUEST TO APPOINT TWENTY NEW MEMBERS TO THE 2012-2014 CITIZEN UNION MEMBERSHIP**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Finch returned to item ***18-11** Ordinance Committee Report re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances Chapter 2.36, amend Section 2.36.010, Officers’ and Unaffiliated Employee Salaries.

Council member Paoletto thanked everyone for coming out tonight for the Ordinance Committee public hearing and for presenting their thoughts and comments.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO AMEND ITEM *18-11 FOR THE PURPOSE OF DELETING SPECIFIC WORDING FROM THE ORDINANCE THAT SHALL READ AS FOLLOWS:**

2.36.010 Officer’s and unaffiliated employee salaries

A. The following position salaries shall be established for all listed unaffiliated positions in this subsection. Position annual salaries and annual salaries for those acting in any of the positions set forth in this section shall be adjusted in accordance with the negotiated across-the-board increases granted to other city supervisors. The Labor Relations

Office shall provide the City Clerk with updated ranges set forth in this section, effective as of each July 1st, to reflect such across-the-board increases. Salary ranges for any newly created positions shall be referred to the budget and appropriations committee for review. Salary ranges for acting or appointed positions shall fall within the ranges listed below. The full City Council shall have the power to approve or disapprove the salary ranges recommended by the Mayor and/or budget and appropriations committee. The Mayor may authorize salary increases within the salary ranges established by ordinance. No individual, serving in a position listed below, may receive remuneration from any other city board, commission or authority of the City of Bridgeport, including the Board of Education, in the form of wages, fee or other emoluments, without express prior approval by the City Council. The exception to this section is for a legally awarded pension from the City of Bridgeport or any of the boards, commissions or authorities, including the Board of Education.

The following positions have been deleted from the ordinance under the following category:

MANAGEMENT APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Director of Auditing

MAJOR DEPUTY CLASS

Labor Relations Attorney

TECHNICAL CLASS

Dentist

B. Take Home Vehicles. The City of Bridgeport avails to certain individuals in the class of officers and unaffiliated employees the use of a take home vehicle. The improper use of said vehicle can place extreme financial burdens on the City of Bridgeport. In order to protect itself from unnecessary hardship, the City of Bridgeport requires the following for any individual partaking in this benefit:

- 1. Mandatory random quarterly testing for drugs and alcohol.**

2. **Mandatory on scene reporting to the local law enforcement authorities of any vehicle accident.**
3. **Mandatory testing for drugs and alcohol within twenty-four (24) hours of any motor vehicle accident; mandatory testing within two hours of any motor vehicle accident that involves injuries to an individual.**
4. **Mandatory suspension of the use of a vehicle for failure to abide by the above.**
5. **The City reserves the right to establish a charge for excess mileage at a rate and a mileage limit to be determined.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

Council member T. McCarthy stated that he would recuse himself from voting on item 18-11 due to a conflict of interest.

Council member Baker recalled the questions that were asked during committee. He said that some answers were given and some weren't. He said he thought the matter was rushed through and there weren't enough details presented pertaining to the positions that were added. He went on to say that he felt in order to move the city forward, they needed to change some positions and put qualified people in the job classifications. He emphasized that as council members, they should be kept informed of how they are moving the city forward. He said the item should be tabled for the purpose of having some more questions answered. He further stated that he owned it to his constituents to give them answers. He said he would vote against the item and he requested that it be tabled and brought back to committee.

Council member Lyons stated that they needed to move Bridgeport forward in many ways. However, a lot of the unions have done a lot to move the city forward and they have made concessions. She said she felt that in the future, if they hire additional people; they should conduct a salary analysis to ensure that they are in sync with other municipalities and to maintain a balanced pay scale. She said she thought they should look into the matter more. She stated that she wouldn't vote for the item at this time.

Council member dePara stated that although efforts were achieved with the new language, he felt the decision was best made at budget time to justify the additional duties associated with the positions.

Council member Silva thanked the people that came out tonight to speak on the topic during the Ordinance Committee public hearing. He also thanked his colleagues for listening to the concerns of the people. He said he agreed with Council members dePara and Baker in that the matter should be returned to committee. He stressed that the needed the proper time to look at the ordinance and word it properly, noting that the matter shouldn't be rushed to save face. He emphasized that they were there to move the city forward.

Council member Olson said he objected to the portion of the ordinance asking the city council to give up the authority regarding the 15% pay increase. He noted that that portion of the ordinance has been eliminated. He further agreed that the matter should be taken up during budget time; however; he said he would like to move forward.

Council member Baker asked for City Attorney Anastasi opinion regarding conflict of interest. Attorney Anastasi said it wasn't appropriate for the city attorney to make comments on a person's conflict of interest. He stated that he could be consulted through his office or through the Ethics Commission forum.

Council member Brantley said she thought long and hard about the matter. She expressed that as long as they needed to pick up trash from contractors who come to our city, they need to make a decision of whether or not they will continue to pay a salary to the Public Works Department. She further stated that as long as they can change the 15% pay increase she was satisfied with that. She commended the people that were responsible for striking the 15% out of the ordinance.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH TWELVE VOTES IN FAVOR; FOUR VOTES IN OPPOSITION AND ONE ABSTENTION (COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH TWELVE VOTES IN FAVOR; FOUR VOTES IN OPPOSITION AND ONE ABSTENTION (COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY)**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services