

**CITY of BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION  
JANUARY 17, 2012  
6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, Colon, Olson, T. McCarthy, Austin, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, Blunt, dePara, Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Curwen, Baker, Holloway

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:32 pm.

The city clerk took the roll call and she announced there was a quorum.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

Cecil C. Young  
99 Carroll Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06607

The proposed closing of the Stratford Avenue Post Office and the heating problem at Bullard Havens Technical High School.

Mr. Young congratulated everyone on the new year city council elections and the seats won.

He went on to speak about the classrooms at Bullard Havens High School being cold, noting that his daughter attends the school. He requested that the matter be checked out.

He continued to speak about the closing down the post office on Stratford Avenue. He said he felt it would be an insult to the neighborhood and the community at large. He asked if anything could be done to keep the post office open.

He further spoke about policing the east end post. He said it would be good to have someone in the office to address concerns regarding public safety and other issues related to the community. He mentioned the rising crime rate in the city and he asked if one part of the city could be monitored and documented to find out if the grants that have

been allocated to address crime are really working and making a difference. He emphasized that he would like to see more police presence on the east end.

Ethan Boone

signed up to speak prior to the meeting

Mr. Boone stated that he was a temporary resident of Bridgeport even though he has lived on Vine Street for five plus years. He spoke about being a senate candidate during 2010. He relayed that the city council's purpose was a matter of affirmation and he read a portion of the "Inaugural Address" written by George Washington in 1789 *to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States as it related to public good and the American people.*

James Holloway requested to speak during the council meeting

He subsequently withdrew his request to speak

The public speaking session closed at 6:45 pm.

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

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, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, Blunt, dePara,  
Silva, Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Curwen, Baker, Holloway

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

Council President McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

- Prayer - Council member Olson offered the prayer.
- Pledge of Allegiance - George Estrada led the pledge of allegiance.
- Roll Call - the city clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

Announcements:

Council President McCarthy announced that Mayor Finch was attending a conference in Washington, D.C.

He announced that Council member Taylor-Moye had a death in the family and was attending a funeral.

He expressed that he was glad Bob Curwen was back serving on the council after experiencing some medical issues.

Moment of Silence:

Council member Brantley asked for a moment of silence for Bertha \_\_\_\_\_? who passed away. She stated that she was a former social work for the Department of Children and Families

Council member M. McCarthy asked for a moment of silence for Shirley Manzo \_\_\_\_\_?

Council President McCarthy asked for a moment of silence for Justin Thompson, the 14-year old that was killed.

### **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

Approval of City Council Minutes: December 19, 2011

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**34-11** Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Ashley Jade Wacker (D) to the Planning & Zoning Commission as an alternate, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

**35-11** Communication from Engineering re: Letter of Commitment – Traffic Signal Improvements on Main Street Utilizing Funding from STP-Urban Program and CMAQ Program: State Project No. 15-H0009, referred to Public Safety & Transportation Committee.

**36-11** Communication from Engineering re: Letter of Commitment – Iranistan Avenue, Installation of Sidewalks from State Street to Railroad Avenue Utilizing Funding from the STP-Urban Program: State Project No. 15-358, Federal Aide Project No. 1015(124), referred to Public Safety & Transportation Committee.

**37-11** Communication from OPED re: Proposed Agreement to fix the Assessment at 287 Clinton Avenue in support of the Elias Howe School Elderly Affordable Housing Development, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**38-11** Communication from OPED re: Proposed Lease and Option to Purchase Agreement for 485 Howard Avenue to be used by the Police Department, referred to Contracts Committee.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BLUNT MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BLUNT MOVED TO REFER RE: RESOLUTION TO ENFORCE A CURFEW FOR YOUTH AGES 16-YEARS OLD AND YOUNGER TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE**

Council member Blunt emphasized that although this isn't the entire solution, he felt that the city council plays a role to help provide safety for the City of Bridgeport. He urged support of the resolution - *resolution submitted to the city clerk's office.*

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

Council member Holloway stated that twenty-five years ago, former State Senator Alvin Penn sat on the city council and he addressed the killings that occurred in Father Panik Village and other areas in the city. During that time, he presented an ordinance but he had a question of who would enforce the ordinance. Council member Holloway relayed that once an ordinance is passed by the city or the state; it has to be enforced. He said that although he would like to see it come to fruition, he questioned whether or not the police will pull kids over that they see up and down the street and then call their parents. He further expressed that parents also have to play a role in keeping their kids out of trouble. He stressed that no 14-year old should out late at night and allowed in a bar.

Council member Curwen mentioned that sometime they need a refresher to wake up and uphold the laws, as a response to Council member Holloway's comments. He agreed with Council member Holloway that the incident was a parenting problem and he said he would like to co-sponsor the ordinance.

Council member Colon shared that as a parent and a grandparent, she felt that kids also need to take responsibility. She said she also felt that everyone needs to speak up and take a positive part in a child's life. She stated that she was in support of the ordinance.

Council member Baker said he recognized the problem with parenting issues, however, he said they also needed to look at the city's obligation to a degree. He mentioned that funds have been cut for certain youth programs and he thought they had to look for funds that are available for youth recreation and provide activities for them. He stressed that they need to consider where funds are allocated in the future.

Council member Brantley expressed her support for the proposed ordinance. She said she felt the discussion should be brought to committee meetings. She thanked Council member Blunt for his foresight in proposing the ordinance.

Council member Martinez also thanked Council member Blunt for proposing the ordinance. She stated that it was important to remember what is good for the children. She recalled Alvin Penn's proposal and she recalled how hard it was to mandate a curfew. She stressed that they needed more police presence in the community and she agreed that there aren't enough youth programs and recreational places for youth.

Council member Lyons stated that she had the opportunity to attend the rally for Justin Thompson where she heard some interesting situations being discussed. She said that Council member Holloway's points were well taken and she was in support of Council member Blunt's proposed ordinance. She relayed that it might be a good idea to meet with the head of each police district to put their heads together on how to address the crime issue. Overall, she thought the proposed ordinance could help put the issue into perspective.

Council member Olson stated that it's an intensely complex issue. He further mentioned that even if they come up with one thing to do, such as Council member Blunt's proposed ordinance, it will be an accomplishment.

Council member Blunt expressed that they shouldn't get caught up in the blame game. He emphasized that the issue relates more to accountability and everyone focusing on the issue to address the matter. He further felt they should focus on collaborative energy and positive solutions that will work.

Council President McCarthy said he appreciated Council member Blunt for taking the reins to bring the ordinance forth.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO RECESS FOR 10-MINUTES FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECONVENING THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

*The meeting recessed at 7:32 pm to reconvene the Ordinance Committee Meeting – see the minutes of January 17, 2012 at 7:33 pm.*

*The City Council Meeting reconvened at 7:47 pm.*

**RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:**

**33-11** Resolution presented by Council Member Curwen re Proposed Resolution to designate newly acquired property at 115 Virginia Avenue as 'Anna Migliore Park, referred to Board of Park Commissioners.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):**

Council President McCarthy asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent calendar:

Council member Paoletto requested to remove item 29-11 Ordinance Committee Report re: City Council Provision of Suitable Polling Places in City Council Districts and Definition of Boundaries to be served by each such Polling Place pursuant to Bridgeport Charter, Ch. 5, Sec. 2(d).

The city clerk read the remaining items into the record.

**\*29-11** Ordinance Committee Report re: City Council Provision of Suitable Polling Places in City Council Districts and Definition of Boundaries to be served by each such Polling Place pursuant to Bridgeport Charter, Ch. 5, Sec. 2(d).

- \*25-11        Contracts Committee Report re: Pilot Program Agreement with United Illuminating regarding the Installation of an Electric Vehicle Car Charging Station at City Hall.
- \*26-11        Contracts Committee Report re: Resolution to enter into a Site Lease with GP Renewables & Trading, LLC regarding the Implementation of Renewable Energy Facilities at the Webster Bank Arena.
- \*32-11        Contracts Committee Report re: 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.

\*\*        **COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE**  
 \*\*        **COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**  
 \*\*        **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council President McCarthy returned to item \*29-11        Ordinance Committee Report re: City Council Provision of Suitable Polling Places in City Council Districts and Definition of Boundaries to be served by each such Polling Place pursuant to Bridgeport Charter, Ch. 5, Sec. 2(d).

Council member Paoletto stated that the item was removed from the consent calendar as a matter of housekeeping related to adding the (2) maps attached to the document. He noted this was the only change to be made.

\*\*        **COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO AMEND BY SUBSTITUTION TO INCLUDE THE NEW DOCUMENT CONTAINING (2) MAPS; SUBMITTED TO THE CITY CLERK**

\*\*        **COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED**

\*\*        **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

\*\*        **COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 29-11 AS AMENDED**

\*\*        **COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED**

\*\*        **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

*\*Let it be noted - effective immediately upon publication.*

New business:

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADD ITEM 31-11 RE: CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF A CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**

Council member Paoletto stated that the committee met tonight and they unanimously approved the seven (7) candidates to serve on the Charter Revision Commission.

Council President McCarthy commented that he was impressed with the quality of the candidates that were chosen.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## ADJOURNMENT

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services