

CITY of BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2012
6:30 PM

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, Taylor-Moye, Olson, T. McCarthy, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, dePara, Silva, Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Curwen, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: Brantley, Bonney, Blunt, Baker

City Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:50 pm.

ROLL CALL: the city clerk took the roll call and she announced there was a quorum.

The following speakers signed up prior to the public speaking session:

Cecil Young - mentioned the proposed youth curfew to ask if it was still in the works. He made a request that police officers go through sensitivity training to avoid any kind of oppression if the curfew becomes an ordinance. He also commented that video recordings should be used for reporting any incidences.

He went on to talk about his past termination, noting that there is suppose to be a pre-trial this month and he noted that the award was being vacated. He said it was important that the matter be heard to see due justice.

He went on to thank the Supreme Court for what they did regarding the Board of Education decision being overturned to remove the board members.

He repeated that he planned to file a lawsuit for the alleged attack on him that occurred in the past.

Clyde Nicholson – spoke about the many citizens that come before the city council to talk about various issues. He thought it was unfair that they never receive a response to their complaint in writing. He made a request that all complaints should receive a written

response within thirty days. He recalled incidents and complaints he spoke about and has never heard any feedback about them.

He further spoke about the Board of Education and he expressed that he didn't think the state had the right to take away the citizen's rights as it pertained to election of the board members.

He mentioned the Mayor and he questioned what his intent was to do something about the killings in Bridgeport. He emphasized that he didn't think he cared about black people at all. He further noted that he has never seen Mayor Finch at a public speaking session.

He closed to say that he has heard people ask him why he continues coming before the city council to speak and he requested once again that all the speakers receive a response after their complaints are heard.

Amos Brown – spoke about coming before the city council and never receiving a response as Mr. Nicholson stated. He talked about the recent drive by shootings and he said the only way to solve the problem is to make a law stiff enough to curb the killings. He stressed that it's devastating when a parent loses a child. He further pointed out that he hasn't heard from the city council or the Mayor about the murders happening. He stated that the incidents are only going on in the urban communities. He felt strongly that a law must be made to stop the killings.

Cecilia Chavez – presented some pictures to Tom White. She was there to speak as the captain of the community garden located at 1034 State Street. She expressed that being involved with the gardens has been the best experience of her life by getting involved in the community. She said she was before the council to make sure that they receive the grant money so the garden can keep functioning. She explained that the funds will be used for tools and to maintain the garden. She said there were at least five families who are waiting to find out if they will have produce this summer for their families. She noted that the garden is completely covered with garbage and it needs to be cleaned up. She repeated that she hoped the grant will be approved so they can get a shed, tools and other materials.

Andrienne Ashley – spoke about the community garden in her neighborhood. She said this was her third year being involved with them. She questioned why there has been a lock on the garden for three years, noting that it was time to get into the garden. She questioned who would be in charge, noting that she is currently the captain of the garden. She relayed that the former captain asked her to take over. She asked again what would be done and how soon. She stressed how critical it is and that it's a lovely community spot. She said it helps provide produce to at least six families.

Brian McInerney – stated that they received \$46k for six gardens during 2011, noting that the funding was sorely needed to improve the gardens. He recalled that he approached the city first about the matter, but they never responded to the environmental request. He said he then approached the Bridgeport Community Land Trust and there was a deadline involved to submit the application. He stated that he would like to see the city continue to partner with them and he hoped the city council would approve the request.

The public hearing session closed at 7:10 pm.

CITY of BRIDGEPORT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2012

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

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

ABSENT: Council member: Austin

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

- Prayer - Council member Brantley offered the prayer.
- Pledge of Allegiance - Council member Curwen led the pledge of allegiance.
- Roll call - the city clerk took the roll call and she announced there was a quorum.

Mayor Finch acknowledged that the city lost two men last week. He recognized Council member Brannelly and Council member Vizzo-Paniccia to say a few words about them:

Council member Brannelly expressed that last week, Rick Porto passed away due to pancreatic cancer. She stated that he loved Bridgeport, his family, his friends and doo wop music. He was active in the Barnum Festival as the former ring master and he volunteered his entire adult life. She further expressed that he was a tremendous person and friend and he had many allies in the Democratic Party.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia expressed that John Arcudi was a Bridgeport resident. She said she met him during 1986 through the Italian organization. She said he had been ill for several years, but he was always dedicated to the city, his family and friends. She said he would be missed. She relayed that when you talked to him, you learned a lot. She further noted that he served with General Patton.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: February 6, 2012

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

62-11 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Agreement with National Development Council regarding Community and Economic Development Advisement, referred to Contracts Committee.

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS 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 items into the record.

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

***46-11** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: (Ref. # 124-04) Resolution for the Sub-Lease of Connecticut Department of Transportation Property to The Mercy Learning Center.

- *24-11 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Elda Blanca.

- *40-11 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Michael Jeffrey Smith (D) to the Stratfield Historic District.

- *41-11 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Robert J. Filotei (R) to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

- *44-11 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Ronald Sheiman.

- *61-11 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Jerilyn Sedelnik.

** **COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE**

** **COUNCL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 38-11** Contracts Committee Report re: Option to Purchase Agreement for 485 Howard Avenue to be used by the Police Department.

** **COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE**

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

Council member Holloway asked someone from the Office of Planning & Economic Development to come forward and explain the details about the item.

Bill Coleman, OPED approached the city council and stated that they had an option to purchase the property located at 485 Howard Avenue. He said the agreement came out of the direction given by the city council – *Tom White distributed information pertaining to the item.*

Council member Holloway requested a 5-minute recess to allow the council members to review the information.

Mayor Finch called for a recess at 7:25 pm.

Mayor Finch reconvened the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Council member T. McCarthy pointed out that the information reviewed was emailed a week ago and the document outlined the substituted language that was being proposed. He clarified that the purchase wouldn't be done nor any action taken until all the taxes are paid – *the document outlined the language pertaining to the matter.*

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION BY SUBSTITUTION**

****It was clarified that the resolution was being amended by substituting the language – submitted to city clerk.***

**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY SECONDED**

Council member Holloway recalled a heated discussion the committee had two weeks ago regarding this item. However, he stated that he thought this case was initially a bad deal. He commended Council member Brannelly for what she did by submitting the new language.

Council member Baker asked what the market value of the property currently was. Mr. Coleman said it was valued at \$783k and debt on the building is over \$2 million.

Council member dePara asked for clarification if the amended document is being used to substitute the original document. He questioned if the wording pertaining to the lease had been eliminated. Mr. Coleman said yes.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO AMEND THE OPTION TO PURCHASE AGREEMENT BY SUBSTITUTION – *submitted to the city clerk's office***

**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

New business:

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO REFER RESOLUTION RE: THE
LEASING OF A NEW FLEET OF GOLF CARTS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT
CONSISTING OF 120 NEW GOLF CARTS, 5 RANGER VEHICLES AND 5
UTILITY VEHICLES TO THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE (ITEM # 63-11)
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services