

**CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION**  
**CITY of BRIDGEPORT**  
**APRIL 4, 2011**  
**6:30 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, \*A. Ayala, Taylor-Moye, \*Brantley, \*Walsh, T. McCarthy, Austin, \*Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, dePara, M. Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, \*Curwen, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: Bonney, Blunt, Silva  
\*= *arrived late*

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:45 pm.

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

Council President McCarthy announced that Council member Silva had a work obligation and wasn't able to attend the meeting tonight.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2011, 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

Bullard Havens Technical School  
CGA Bill # 6385

Mr. Young spoke about keeping Bullard Havens School safe. He commented that this was important to assure that 99% of the students graduate.

He once again recalled the night he was attacked and his right to speak out about local government. He further referred to some documents that pertained to past claims, noting that he never received a response to any of them. He stated that as a taxpayer, he was upset about that. He mentioned the sewage problem at P.T. Barnum Apartments and he suggested that some type of container be installed to contain the sewage.

He recalled another incident regarding a tax issue and said he was exonerated on that matter. He noted that on April 21, he will be attending a hearing about losing his medical benefits after losing his sheriff's job. He mentioned other matters that he said would be addressed in court.

Joe Moranti signed up to speak prior to the session

Mr. Moranti stated that he had questions about the city's rainy day fund. He also questioned why there aren't any pay phones at the bus station or train station.

Council President McCarthy suggested that he submit his list of complaints to Tom White to be addressed.

Mr. Moranti further mentioned the problem with the Main Street/Congress Street sidewalks.

Hearing none, the public speaking session was closed.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The public speaking session ended at 6:50 pm.

# CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 4, 2011

7:00 p.m.

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

*\*Council President McCarthy called for a caucus prior to the meeting at 6:55 pm.  
The caucus ended at 7:30 pm.*

ATTENDANCE: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, A. Ayala, Taylor-Moye, Brantley, Walsh,  
T. McCarthy, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, dePara,  
M. Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Curwen, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: Blunt. Silva

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Pray - the prayer was offered by Council member A. Ayala.

Pledge of Allegiance- the pledge was led by Council member Brannelly.

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

## MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: March 7, 2011

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO COMMITTEE (ITEM # 62-  
10)  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO REFER THE 2011-2012  
BUDGET TO THE BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Finch stated that the budget will be officially transferred to the city clerk's office. He noted that the budget binder was completely recyclable. He commended Tom Sherwood, OPM and his staff for all their hard work putting the budget together.

*Mayor Finch read a statement regarding the 2011-2012 budget – see page 7*

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY MOVED TO REFER  
COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**57-10** Communication from Tax Collector re State Reimbursement of Low and Moderate Income Housing Tax, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

**58-10** Communication from Police Department re Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10.20 Towing, amend Section 10.20.080 Qualified Towers – Storage Space, add new Subsection C, referred to Ordinance Committee.

**59-10** Communication from City Attorney re Twenty day notice to Settle Litigation pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130: Scott Foss, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

**60-10** Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re Proposed Agreement with Vision Service Plan Insurance Company to provide administrative services only for a group vision care plan to employees of the City and Board of Education for the period of January 1, 2011 thru December 31, 2014, referred to Contracts Committee.

**61-10** Communication from WPCA re Financial Report/Annual Audit pursuant to Ordinance Section 13.04.420, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MATTER TO BE LAID OVER UNDER THE RULES:**

**17-10** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re Amendment to City Council Rules of Order – New Rule XIII – EXPENDITURE OF CITY FUNDS. **LAI D OVER - No vote until April 18, 2011 pursuant to City Council Rule XXII.**

Council President McCarthy stated no action was required for this item, due to the city council rule that it must be laid over. The item will be taken up for a vote on April 18, 2011.

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY MOVED TO REFER ITEM 63-10 RE:  
RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT SUPPORTING THE  
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS OF WORKERS IN THE STATE OF  
WISCONSIN *the appropriate committee to be determined*  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY 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 assistant city clerk read the items into the record:

**\*41-10** Contracts Committee Report re Agreement with International Association of Firefighters AFL-CIO, Local 834 regarding the Firefighters Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement for the period of July 1, 2009 thru June 30, 2014.

**\*23-10** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re Refund of Excess Payments.

**\*52-10** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re Suit Settlement with Sherry Johnson.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO APPROVE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

*\*Council President McCarthy recognized the fire union president in the audience. The Mayor and the city council members acknowledged his presence through applause.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport  
City Council Meeting  
April 4, 2011  
Page 5 of 11



**- Mayor's Proposed 2011-2011 Budget for the City of Bridgeport -**

April 4, 2011

Honorable Council members:

In accordance with the City Charter, I am hereby presenting the Mayor's proposed 2011-2012 budget for the City of Bridgeport. The ongoing financial problems affecting the international national and state economies continue to impact our own city's finances. Despite all the issues we are facing, the budget I am proposing:

- Contains no tax increase
- After reducing the workforce by nearly 200 positions over the past two years it contains no additional layoffs; and,
- For the third straight budget year it reduces spending. Spending is reduced in this year s budget by \$1.3 million dollars

Once again, in the 2011- 2012 budget, I have reduced spending - by \$1.3 million dollars. We have reduced spending by reducing department budgets, reining in police overtime, and by working collaboratively with nearly every labor union in the City to gain concessions, which will save the City millions of dollars this year, and in the years to come.

The budget I am presenting to you reflects, in large part, the budget proposals sent to the Connecticut General Assembly by Governor Dannel Malloy. As the former Mayor of Stamford, Governor Malloy realizes the extreme challenges municipal governments are facing. For that reason, he has presented a budget plan where the City of Bridgeport suffers only a small cut in State of Connecticut funding levels. As Mayor I am supportive of the Governor's proposed budget and hope it receives legislative approval.

I further stand by Governor Malloy in his efforts to achieve concessions from the men and women who make up the State of Connecticut's various unions. He is attempting as we have in Bridgeport for the past three years, to work hand-in-hand with unions to gain concessions.

The budget I am presenting to you is based upon the assumption the City Council will give final approval to the contract negotiated between the City and Bridgeport Firefighters Union Local 834. This contract contains major concessions from the firefighters union that were vigorously pursued by my administration. The new contract will result in \$1.3 million in savings for the current year's (2010-2011) budget. Those savings will result from two

years of zero percent pay increases, overtime cost avoidance, a hiring freeze, and a change in healthcare cost sharing payments. The healthcare premium cost share payments over the life of the contract will save the city more than \$1 million dollars.

During the past year we have worked very closely with our department heads to ensure we are delivering the best service possible at the lowest possible cost to our taxpayers. The CitiStat program has proven to be an invaluable tool in helping us achieve this goal. It clearly measures departmental productivity, as well as how our employees are meeting the needs, suggestions and complaints of our fellow residents.

Providing excellent municipal service levels while keeping a check on taxes remains one of the cornerstones of my administration. Unfortunately, the short-term outlook for any increased federal or state funding to assist us in achieving this goal remains bleak. In fact, we are struggling to keep present funding levels coming to Bridgeport from both Washington and Hartford. For that reason, my administration has re doubled its efforts to provide the core services our citizens have every right to expect while remaining mindful of the increasing difficulty many are facing to pay their taxes.

As we have done in prior budgets we are again including individual department goals. We believe providing this detailed information will assist the City Council and all Bridgeport citizens to fully appreciate the objectives, methods and service indicators of our various departments. Another cornerstone of my administration has been my desire for transparency in government, doing whatever we can to make government more open, understandable and accessible to the general public. We are continuing to modernize the appearance of the individual departmental budgets to make them easily understandable and adhere to commonly accepted accounting practices. Our diligence in this area has been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada as they have awarded my administration the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for a third consecutive year. We will continue to strive for excellence in this area.

We will continue to operate as a lean, well-focused team; manpower remains at 20:1 levels.

Highlights of the proposed 2011- 2012 budget include:

- **A balanced budget.** This achievement comes as a result of our never-ending efforts to cut government spending which has resulted in recurring savings.
- **Reduced spending.** This proposed budget reflects a fourth year of reduced spending, an accomplishment shared by no other city in our state. This year's budget calls for a spending reduction of .03%, or approximately \$1.2 million.
- **Overtime reductions.** I propose the reduction of police overtime of \$2million dollars. This is made possible in part, because a new class of police officers will be coming online this year thanks to the federal COPS Program instituted by President Obama.
- **No one time revenues.** Once again we are presenting you with a budget which contains no gimmicks or reliance upon one time revenues.

- **Lowered health care costs through collaborative union negotiations.** In recent years the City's healthcare costs have risen annually by about \$4 million. For fiscal year 2011-2012, we anticipate the increase will dramatically shrink to \$375, 000. My administration has successfully negotiated cost saving healthcare concessions with eight of our 11 unions. Working together with our unions, we have been able to double the amount union members contribute towards their individual healthcare premiums - increasing the amount from 12 percent to 25 percent in just two years. This is a recurring savings which will help the City of Bridgeport save money for many years to come.
- **Debt services reduction.** We have a \$900,000 reduction in debt services. This has been accomplished by our diligent review of ways to minimize our debts. We have also been very frugal as it pertains to bonding, going to the bond market (for short term borrowing) as little as possible.
- **Tax collection rate increase.** We have also continued to grow our tax collection rates despite the challenging financial environment. My administration anticipates we will have a tax collection rate of 97.3% at the conclusion of the present fiscal year. Our consistently high tax collection rate has allowed the City to retain its positive bond rating.
- **Fund balance increase.** The City of Bridgeport's fund balance also continues to increase. Each year my administration is applying the modest surplus into the fund. We have also adopted a new fund balance policy to help re-build the fund balance by mandating all future one-time revenues be deposited into the fund.
- **Sustainable projects move forward.** The city's BGreen 2020 plan is moving forward on many fronts: municipal consolidation efforts continue - Probate and Vital statistics office construction continues, environmental health and building code have moved into their new offices in first floor of City Hall Annex; solar leasing program will move forward; City is expanding its Energy Improvement district, which will include lower utility rates for businesses and homeowners; building out Library energy improvements; developing a green energy park at Seaside landfill; and selecting a developer for City Hall Annex sale/leaseback proposal. In addition, the city will expand its recycling efforts by adopting single stream recycling by Fall 2011, which will represent a significant cost savings once the entire city is online.
- **Comprehensive capital improvement program.** Last year, I presented a comprehensive capital improvement. This plan is targeted at neighborhood revitalization projects that will have a substantial impact on our City's neighborhoods. All of these projects will begin in the Spring/Summer of 2011. Some of the highlights of the plan include:
  - o Creating more access to the waterfront throughout the City including, the reopening of Pleasure Beach and a new riverfront park on Knowlton Street
  - o Improving Parks and Green spaces
  - o Creating a more Sustainable and walkable City (Bike Paths walking lanes connecting downtown to the South End and Black Rock including Seaside Park and St. Mary's by the Sea; Streetscape improvements in the Hollow, South End)

- o Citywide Paving Program (Comprehensive paving program throughout all city neighborhoods from the North End to Downtown)
  - o Anti Blight (Demolition of an additional 25 condemned properties as well as the continued aggressive targeting of blighted properties throughout the City)
  - o Downtown Improvements (Beautification and infrastructure improvements throughout downtown including paving, planting, signage and sidewalks)
  - o Citywide Beautification and Quality of Life Improvements (renovation of public pavilions and fountains, a new soccer field, new multipurpose field at Longfellow School, Citywide streetlight improvements, additional street sweeping and distribution of trash receptacles)
  - o Conduct new Parks Master Plan
- **Increasing green spaces.** Our Parks Master Plan will move forward in the coming months, as the firm chosen to develop the plan meets with constituents and stakeholders to formulate the plan which will guide our Parks planning for the next 20 years.
  - **Safe Asleep Program nears 30,000 installations.** The Fire Department, together with RYASAP and AmeriCorps continues to lead the nation in smoke detector installations through the City's Safe Asleep Program. Funding is secure through Sept 2011; grants are being pursued to continue this extremely public safety initiative.
  - **Public Safety Initiatives and Anti Crime Efforts.** A nationwide search culminated in the appointment of Joseph L. Gaudett Jr. as permanent Chief of Police. During his tenure as Acting Chief, Gaudett significantly reduced the police overtime budget. Chief Gaudett also has formulated a number of initiatives to increase public safety including, a new manpower allocation plan which will put police officers and command staff where they are most needed; expansion of the "Take Back Our Neighborhood" program, including increasing the number of Neighborhood Watch groups in the city and finding sponsors for a second round of a gun buyback program.
  - **Promote diversity at all levels and support minority business enterprise.** In 2010, prime contractors in the City were awarded \$17,720, 851 for physical development projects and of that amount \$2,277,123 or 12.85% of these contracts were awarded to minority or women owned businesses. In 2010, of the subcontracts that were awarded \$4,621,075 or 74.19% was awarded to minority or women owned businesses. Through aggressive monitoring efforts, the City of Bridgeport has placed five companies under review for violating the Minority Business Enterprise Ordinance; of those five, two companies (Connecticut Masons and Waterbury Masonry) have already been fined. Additionally, as a result of the City's prevailing wage investigation, Seakco Construction has paid more than \$47,000 in restitution to project employees for violating the Prevailing Laws and is at risk of being debarred their actions.

My administration and I are committed to making Bridgeport the cleanest, greenest, safest, most affordable city, with schools and neighborhoods that improve each year. In light of this, I am proposing a fiscally responsible budget that reflects regulatory requirements,

core operations, and those services essential to meeting the goals of my administration. A thorough examination of the existing programs and services the city provides has allowed us to evaluate those priorities that matter most to the health and well being of Bridgeport's residents. Core operations such as Police & Fire Services, Education Funding, and Public Health & Sanitation will always receive first priority in budgeting decisions because maintaining and securing the health & safety of our residents is central to the prosperity of our city.

We have once again ranked our priorities in order to make rational decisions about what services we provide and what services are necessary to ensure that Bridgeport remains a vibrant and diverse community. In lean years we work to fund mandated & core operations first, then fund departments and services essential to core operations. Services that contribute to quality of life are considered, and finally non-essential services are reviewed. To clarify what departments fall where, we have produced Table I (on the next page). Funding priority is weighted heavily towards the left side of this chart, order is alphabetical. Total personnel for each department appear in parentheses within each section.

Sincerely,

Bill Finch, Mayor

*Mayor Finch thanked everyone for their help during the past year and for preparing the budget. He expressed that he looked forward to working with them this year.*