

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
CITY of BRIDGEPORT
APRIL 18, 2011
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, Walsh, T. McCarthy, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, dePara, M. Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Curwen, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: A. Ayala, Taylor-Moye, Austin, Bonney, Blunt, Silva

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:35 pm.

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

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2011, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT. –

- The speakers signed up the night of the meeting -

NAME

SUBJECT

Ms. Martinez

Various topics

Ms. Martinez stated she wanted to speak about education, state welfare, mental health and Harding High School.

She questioned why the Board of Education would meet during June or July at a school on State Street.

She had a complaint about the state welfare office and she said they never answer the phone. She always receives a message that they will call back within 48-hours.

She said the cost for the meters downtown were too expensive, especially if someone is looking for work.

She stated that the cost for the bus was too expensive.

She spoke about the mental health and she questioned who runs the facility. She mentioned that they need the free lunch program that they used to have. Council President McCarthy let her know that the mental health facility was run by the State of CT. He also

suggested that she talk to State Representative Clemons about the issues she was having with state welfare.

Council President McCarthy encouraged her to contact the Board of Education about her issues.

Cecil Young

Various topics

Mr. Young spoke about his court case regarding the altercation that occurred last year in council chambers. He said his concern was with the council members who allegedly attacked him and he questioned why they weren't told to go back to their seats when it happened. He said he never heard from Council President McCarthy or the Mayor about the incident and he was troubled by this. He said he had back surgery and he has shooting pains in his head.

He spoke about having worked for the city for years and he wanted to be shown some respect for being a former employee. He further mentioned that he hoped he could get truth and justice. He continued to speak and used the "N" word twice. Council President McCarthy requested that he not use that word...but Mr. Young continued speaking until Council President McCarthy let him know his time was up to speak.

Joe Moranti

Various topics

Mr. Moranti spoke about the law regarding the legal driving age. He made reference to past presidents that changed the law. He also mentioned that there should be improvements to the state welfare system.

Hearing none, the public speaking session was closed.

The public speaking session ended at 6:55 pm.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 18, 2011

7:00 p.m.

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

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

ABSENT: Council members: Austin, Blunt, Silva

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

Prayer - the prayer was offered by Council member Curwen.

Pledge of Allegiance - the pledge was led by the City Clerk.

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

Mayor Finch announced that they were keeping tabs on Council member Blunt's well being having been ill and he asked everyone to keep him in their prayers.

Council President McCarthy said he visited Council member Blunt in the hospital with Council members Brantley and Lyons. He said Council member Blunt was sitting up and he was doing better and looked better. He said that they sat and talked and prayed with him. He expressed that Council member Blunt sent his love. He noted that he will be in the hospital for another week.

Mayoral Citation: Jay Rodriguez of Merritt Canteen, 4355 Main Street, in recognition of 69 years in business.

Jay Rodriguez, his father and staff approached the front of council chambers to receive the citation. Mayor Finch, Council President McCarthy and Council members Lyons and Vizzo-Paniccia presented the citation.

Mayor Finch stated if you haven't eaten at the Merritt Canteen, if you're a real Bridgeporter, you need to try it, noting that they have great hot dogs. He further expressed there are a lot of food places in Bridgeport, but none more well known than the Merritt Canteen. He thanked the owners and staff for the wonderful service they give People. *He read the citation for the Merritt Canteen being in service for 69 years – a group picture was taken.*

Mr. Rodriguez thanked everyone for the business they have extended for sixty-nine years. He expressed that all the credit should go to his father who has been in business for fifty years, noting that he has run the business for ten years. He said his father deserved all the credit. He also thanked his staff, noting that he couldn't run the business without them.

Council member Lyons stated that it was an honor and privilege to have the Merritt Canteen on the north end. She thanked them for keeping their business in Bridgeport and she wished them continued success. She expressed that they offered great service and all the orders are memorized without writing anything down.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia thanked them for their great staff and food. She congratulated them on being in business for sixty nine years.

Council President McCarthy congratulated them and good naturedly joked that it was the Merritt Canteen's fault for his extra 15 lbs.

Mayoral Citation: Josip Kustra of Joseph's Steak House, 360 Fairfield Avenue, in recognition of their 10th anniversary.

Mayor Finch, Council President McCarthy and Council members A. Ayala and Taylor-Moye presented the citation.

Mayor Finch stated that it was hard to believe that ten years have gone by for Joseph's Steak House being in business - *he read the citation that outlined much appreciation to the owner Josip Kustra and his excellent staff.* He further expressed that Bridgeport wouldn't be the same without the business. - *a group picture was taken.*

Mr. Kustra stated that he found this city to be most hospitable and gracious compared to some cities he's been to. He further expressed that Mayor Finch's office was great. He said he was pleased and happy for the last ten years to be serving the people in Bridgeport. He repeated that Bridgeport was great - *to applause.*

Mr. Kustra's son expressed his appreciation for the citation.

Council member Ayala congratulated Mr. Kustra and he noted that it was great to have his restaurant as part of downtown. He encouraged everyone to eat there.

Council member Taylor-Moye expressed that the food was wonderful and she was happy that they are a part of Bridgeport. She said she hoped they will stay in Bridgeport and keep serving the people.

Council President McCarthy congratulated Mr. Kustra and he noted that his restaurant was a great addition to downtown Bridgeport.

City Council Citation: University of Bridgeport Student Athletes for their accomplishments.

The University of Bridgeport student athletes that were all women approached the front of council chambers to receive the citation.

Council President McCarthy stated that they were starting a fantastic tradition with honoring phenomenal student athletes. He expressed they were there to honor the gymnasts and swimmers who placed in multiple events. *He requested that the team coach for the swimmers, Coach Tom Stark read the names of the athletes to be recognized.*

Coach Stark recognized that team won two national championships in various events. He called each name on the team to be recognized to come forward and receive their citation.

Council President McCarthy extended his best wishes to the coach and read the citation. – *a group picture was taken.*

Council President McCarthy recognized the three time champions for gymnastics. He recognized Coach Becky as the team's coach. Coach Becky read the team's names that were honored - *a group picture was taken.*

Coach Becky thanked everyone for the recognition. She expressed that they were anxiously awaiting to host the national championship in Bridgeport next year. She further thanked the team for all their hard work. – *all the city council members present cameforward to take a group picture with the team.*

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: March 21, 2011

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

Council President McCarthy called for the council members to caucus at 7:40 pm.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ENTER INTO CAUCUS**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The council members came out of caucus at 7:55 pm.

Mayor Finch reconvened the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Mayor Finch recognized the 24th Anniversary of the L'Ambiance Disaster. *He asked for a moment of silence to acknowledge the victims.* He stated that they held a commemorative celebration in city hall to recognize the anniversary and he expressed his deep concern for all the families involved in the disaster.

Council President announced that the following council members were absent tonight for the following reasons: Council member Silva has a new job and he had to work a different shift; Council member Blunt was still in the hospital and Council member Austin had a family emergency.

Mayor Finch announced that Maxim who was present in the audience tonight, has been working with Congressman Hines office. He stated that Maxim is from Siberia, Russia. He mentioned that he has been working with him and Congressman Hines and he noted that Maxim was running for an office in the bureau. He expressed that the more democracy there was in Russia, the more that countries will get along!

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

64-10 Communication from WPCA re WPCA's Fiscal 2011 – 2012 Proposed Budget, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

65-10 Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re Grant Submission: FY 2011-2012 Dial-A-Ride Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

66-10 Communication from OPED re Disposition of 60 Circular Avenue; Offer to purchase from Brennan's Shebeen Irish Bar and Grill, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee

** **COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE**
** **COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**
** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

67-10 Resolution presented by Council member Baker re Resolution to establish a fee for the preparation of an affidavit by the City of Bridgeport Office of Vital Statistics, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

68-10 Resolution presented by Council member Baker re Resolution to establish a fee for all genealogical searches in the Office of Vital Statistics, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

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

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia requested to remove item ***56-10** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re Ceremonial designation of Wilmot Avenue as Bishop Jonathan Powell Avenue by adding his name above street signage on Wilmot Avenue.

Council member Curwen requested to remove item ***35-10** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Consolidated Plan 2008-2013 for Program Year 37 Annual Action Plan: CDBG, ESG, HOME, HOPWA Programs.

Council member Baker requested to remove item ***44-10** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re Letter of Commitment – Pavement Rehabilitation and Resurfacing of John Street, Lafayette Boulevard, Water Street and North Frontage Road Utilizing Funding from the STP – Urban Program; State Project No. 15-352.

The city clerk read the remaining items into the record:

- *44-10** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re Letter of Commitment – Pavement Rehabilitation and Resurfacing of John Street, Lafayette Boulevard, Water Street and North Frontage Road Utilizing Funding from the STP – Urban Program; State Project No. 15-352. - *removed*
- *48-10** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re Agreement with Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency, on behalf of the City of Bridgeport, for federal assistance under the Surface Transportation Program (STPB) Bridgeport – Stamford Urban Area re: Planning Study for Pedestrian Bridge and Walkway over Ash Creek.
- *49-10** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re Agreement with Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency, on behalf of the City of Bridgeport, for federal assistance under the Surface Transportation Program (STPB) Bridgeport – Stamford Urban Area re: Planning Study for Realignment of Lafayette Circle.
- *53-10** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re Application for Driveway Permit: #680 Park Avenue – Roosevelt School.
- *56-10** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re Ceremonial designation of Wilmot Avenue as Bishop Jonathan Powell Avenue by adding his name above street signage on Wilmot Avenue. - *removed*
- *51-10** Contracts Committee Report re Assignment of Tax Liens for fiscal year 2011.

- *54-10 Contracts Committee Report re Agreement with the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), Local 200 regarding a collective bargaining unit agreement.

- *60-10 Contracts Committee Report re 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.

- *35-10 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Consolidated Plan 2008-2013 for Program Year 37 Annual Action Plan: CDBG, ESG, HOME, HOPWA Programs. - *removed*

- *17-10 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re Amendment to City Council Rules of Order – New Rule XIII – EXPENDITURE OF CITY FUNDS.

** **COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE**
 ** **COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**
 ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Finch returned to the items that were removed from the consent calendar:

- *44-10 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re Letter of Commitment – Pavement Rehabilitation and Resurfacing of John Street, Lafayette Boulevard, Water Street and North Frontage Road Utilizing Funding from the STP – Urban Program; State Project No. 15-352. - *removed*

- ** **COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA MOVED TO APPROVE**
 ** **COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

Council member Baker stated that he had some questions regarding exactly where the matching money was coming from, in the amount of \$555,000. Mike Nidoh explained that the matching funds were coming from the capital plan and the funds are available.

Council member Baker asked what line item it was. Mr. Nidoh stated it was from FY10-Public Facilities – Account No. OP625 the Roadway Paving Account. He said the funds were coming out of the \$2.7 million fund allocation account. He noted that if Council member Baker required additional information he could e-mail it to him.

Council member Brannelly stated that the committee also requested the detailed line item information for items: 44-10; 48-10 and 49-10. She updated that she received an e-mail from Tom Sherwood today regarding the information and she forwarded it to the committee today.

** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***56-10** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re Ceremonial designation of Wilmot Avenue as Bishop Jonathan Powell Avenue by adding his name above street signage on Wilmot Avenue. - *removed*

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**

Mayor Finch recognized Council member Brantley to speak.

Council member Brantley yielded to Council member Vizzo-Paniccia to speak on this item first.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia stated as with all the past requests for this type of resolution that began in 2004; she would vote against the item until the city adopts the proper rules and procedures. She felt that it seems this type of item comes up every two months and they're becoming excessive. She clarified that she it's nothing personal, but she will vote no until a procedure is adopted.

Council member Baker stated that he understood Council member Vizzo-Paniccia's concerns. He recalled that he sat down with Council member Lyons to discuss how to do something different to honor specific people worthy of naming a street after them. He requested input from the other council members as to how they can do something different to honor people in Bridgeport. He further updated that the committee approved the signage for this item and he expressed that he felt Bishop Powell deserved to be honored.

Council member Brantley echoed Council member Baker's sentiments regarding Bishop Powell. She commented that as a representative of the east end, she watched Bishop Powell build a church and launch marches to save the children. She emphasized that he and his wife sacrificed and put in long hours to serve that side of the city.

She further mentioned Sergeant Avery who lost her life in the war, noting that she was a former resident of the east end.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia recalled that she tried to adopt a policy in the past, however, the item was voted down. She suggested that a mentoring program be created for kids as a way to honor people. She emphasized that would be more effective than naming a street sign. She clarified once again that her opposition was strictly due to the reasons she previously stated.

Council member Lyons echoed Council member Baker's comments. She concurred that they discussed alternatives to honoring men and women in Bridgeport; such as taking the lead to put up a plaque, create a scholarship etc.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH SIXTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN
OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA)**

Mayor Finch mentioned that Governor Malloy signed a bill to change the city boundaries. He said the matter still requires zoning board approval, but it's an exciting venture of what will be the second largest school in Bridgeport.

***35-10** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Consolidated Plan 2008-2013 for Program Year 37 Annual Action Plan: CDBG, ESG, HOME, HOPWA Programs. - *removed*

Council member Curwen stated that they needed to do independent votes for each category:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE CDBG FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,246,011.00**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE REPROGRAM FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,255,923.00**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$130,971.00**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND THREE ABSTENTIONS (COUNCIL MEMBERS: BRANTLEY, BRANNELLY and MARTINEZ)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE HOME PROGRAM FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,370,571.00**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE HOPWA PROGRAM FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$761,597.00**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council member Curwen returned to the first item CDBG Program Funding.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO AMEND CDBG PROGRAM FUNDING TO \$2,524,675.00**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED WITH THIRTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND FOUR ABSTENTIONS (COUNCIL MEMBERS: dePARA, MARTINEZ, PAOLETTO and TAYLOR-MOYE)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ENTIRE PROGRAM FUNDING CATEGORIES AS SUBMITTED**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO AMEND THE DRAFT RESOLUTION TO INCORPORATE THE LANGUAGE REVISIONS, DUE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DECREASE IN FUNDS**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**

Note: Council member Curwen read the revisions that were made to the following paragraphs of the resolution and the new paragraph that was added – refer to the city clerk’s file for the entire resolution.

WHEREAS, the City of Bridgeport has also developed a proposed *PY37 Annual Action Plan* and anticipates the following allocations of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development for FY 2010-2011:

Community Development Block Grant Program	\$2,524,675
Reprogrammed Community Development Funds	\$1,255,923
Emergency Shelter Grant Program	\$130,971
HOME Program	\$1,378,726
HOPWA Program	\$761,597

New paragraph

WHERAS, if the City of Bridgeport receives additional funding from HUD for the *PY37 Annual Action Plan*, such increase will be allocated to a Contingency Account for future City Council action based upon the applications previously received and considered during the PY37 process and...

RESOLVED, that the Mayor of the City of Bridgeport and Chief Administrative Officer and the Senior Manager of Central Grants and Community Development are hereby authorized and empowered to sign the required certifications and any necessary documents and/or agreements required by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to accept and execute the Community Development Block Grant Program, Emergency Shelter Grant Program, HOME Program, Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids Program and to present to HUD for approval.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

- 55-10** Contracts Committee Report re Agreement with Bridgeport City Supervisors Association (BCSA) regarding a collective bargaining unit agreement.
- ** **COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE**
- ** **COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY SECONDED**
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Other Business:

- Council member dePara reminded everyone about the ECDE meeting scheduled on Tuesday, April 19, 2011.
- Council member Brantley stated on behalf of the V.I.P. Program and Ms. Wilson, she thanked everyone for their support, noting that they will sponsor students as they go on tour.

Council member Curwen made a point of clarification for item **64-10** Communication from WPCA re WPCA's Fiscal 2011 – 2012 Proposed Budget, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

He questioned if it meant they have to accept the increase that WPCA recommends or if they can vote to deny it. Mayor Finch said he understood that it meant they were just accepting the report tonight.

City Attorney Anastasi stated that he checked the submittal. He said he spoke to the chairperson of WPCA and they haven't adopted the proposed budget for the next fiscal year. The fees for WPCA were adopted and set by the board. This communication is to put it on the record for what the initial proposal will be.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services