

**CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
CITY of BRIDGEPORT**

**MAY 16, 2011
6:30 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE: Council President McCarthy

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:30 pm.

** There weren't any speakers that previously signed up to address the city council, nor were there any persons present that requested to speak the night of the session.*

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone present to speak. Hearing none, the public speaking session was closed.

The public speaking session was closed at 6:31 pm.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, May 16, 2011

7:00 p.m.

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

ATTENDANCE: Brannelly, A. Ayala, Taylor-Moye, Brantley, Walsh, Austin, Lyons
Vizzo-Paniccia, dePara, M. Ayala, Baker

ABSENT: Council members: M. McCarthy, Bonney, Blunt, Silva, Martinez,
Holloway

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

- Roll Call - the city clerk took the roll and she announced there was a quorum.
- Prayer - the prayer was offered by Council member Lyons.
- Pledge of Allegiance - the pledge was led by the new health director Kristin duBay Horton.

Council President announced Mayor Finch wasn't in attendance tonight, because he was invited by President Obama to the white house to celebrate the championship of the UConn Huskies Team.

He further announced that Council member Blunt was still rehabilitating at home and he is doing well. Council member Martinez wasn't in attendance, because she had a previous engagement and Council member Silva had a work commitment.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: April 18, 2011

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS TO BE
REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

- 81-10** Communication from Public Facilities re Application for Driveway Permit: # 1775 Reservoir Avenue – Wilber Cross School, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.
- 82-10** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re Grant Submission: 2011-2012 Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant for Bridgeport Health and Nutrition Education Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 83-10** Communication from City Attorney re Suit Settlement with Colin Young, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

Council member dePara made a request to remove item 85-10 for immediate consideration. He explained that the immediate consideration wasn't required and the item needed to be referred back to committee.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO REFER THE ITEM TO THE ECONOMIC and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 85-10**
Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re Grant Submission: 2011 DPH Medical Reserve Corps Capability Building Grant
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 84-10** Communication from Mayor re Setting of the Mill Rate for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO APPROVE**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 85-10** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re Grant Submission: 2011 DPH Medical Reserve Corps Capability Building Grant **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.** - *item not taken up, referred back to committee.*

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***75-10** Contracts Committee Report re Parks Master Planning Services: MNB124105 Professional Services Agreement with Sasaki Associates, Inc.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

Council member Walsh asked if there was anyone present to address the item. Council President McCarthy observed that there was no one present.

Council member Walsh stated that if they looked at the RFP, in regard to minority firms, he questioned if any of the twelve firms that responded were minority firms. There wasn't anyone present to answer the question.

Council member Walsh stated they have the ordinance to encourage and develop minority firms. He emphasized that no information was given to the committee to indicate whether or not any minority firms responded to the RFP. He recalled that there was a \$280k contract to help the city develop the master plan for parks. However, he questioned if the city should be investing such a large amount of money into the parks, noting that he didn't want to hear later that there is no way to implement the plan. He further mentioned the project that was planned for the Pequonnock River that never came to fruition. He stated that until he had more information about minority contracting, he would vote against the item.

Council member Baker questioned if the NRZ's were involved in the creation of the master plan. Council President McCarthy responded yes. He said there were discussion with the NRZ's and the neighbors to find out what they wanted for the parks.

Council member Brantley asked if it was possible to table the item, to address the issue Council member Walsh had about why minority firms didn't respond to the RFP.

Council member Taylor-Moye agreed that more information was needed about why there was a lack of minority firms that responded to the RFP. She said she wasn't comfortable voting on the item until there was more information.

Council member Lyons suggested that if further explanation was needed, Steve Laden of the Parks Department had the information. She recalled that Mr. Laden attended the committee meeting and he relayed information about the firm that was selected, who has expertise in the field. She stated that the item was approved in committee based on the information that was provided. However, she felt it would be okay to table the item to obtain more information.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM FOR THE
PURPOSE OF OBTAINING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION 75-10 Contracts
Committee Report re Parks Master Planning Services: MNB124105
Professional Services Agreement with Sasaki Associates, Inc.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

74-10 Contracts Committee Report re Sales and Leasing Agreement with AMS Real Estate, LLC.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED**

Council member Walsh stated there were two other firms that responded to the RFP. He questioned if those firms were minority enterprises. Mr. Lavernoich stated that none of the three firms that responded to the RFP were minority firms.

Council member Walsh stated that as a city council, they need to get their arms around the issue more; to at least identify the information when an item is referred. He thought that perhaps they should establish a policy that if there aren't any qualifying minority firms that bid, then the project should be put back out to bid. He stressed that there seemed to be enough minority firms in the city to pick up some of the work. He felt that if they didn't encourage minority firms to bid, then the process was futile.

Council member Walsh went on to say that as far as this item goes, he understood the attempt is to move the properties. He stated that although three firms responded, he researched the AMS website and he found eight properties that they are brokering for sale; three in the residential area and three in the industrial area. He said these weren't the kind of properties the city was looking to lease to. Overall, he felt there was a small pool of respondents that bid on the project.

Council member Baker agreed with Council member Walsh. He questioned whether or not the minority firms in the city were being contacted about contracts that are put out. He made a request to find out this information.

Council member Brantley questioned how much the Office of Small Minority Contractors was involved in getting the word out to minority businesses, so they can take part in the bidding. She further stressed that the Office of Small Minority Contractors should get more involved to alert minority businesses.

Mr. Lavernoich said he was aware that they have many minority contractors registered in Ms. Caviness's database, but he wasn't sure why those contractors didn't bid, noting there was an advertisement in the Connecticut Post about the contract.

Council President McCarthy said he reached out to Ms. Caviness to get an update of where the Office of Small Minority Contractors is. He expressed that it's important to get the word out that the office exists to reach more respondents.

Council member Lyons said she also investigated the AMS Real Estate website and she found that they are a well qualified company. However, she felt they could make more of an effort to advertise; by posting in the newspaper a couple of times. She mentioned that she talked to a couple of people about the contract and they indicated that they didn't see the advertisement. She felt that better advertising would help solicit more responses and be more successful. She also thought that realtors could be helpful in this area as well.

Council member Brantley suggested that they place the information with local minority run newspapers that target minority communities, as another means to reach out to prospective respondents.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia stated that due to her previous dealings with AMS Real Estate, LLC and any future business she may conduct with them, she would abstain from the vote.

Council President McCarthy stated he also researched AMS Real Estate, LLC and he found them to be a top notch qualified firm.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ELEVEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION (COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA)**

ADDED:

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

80-10 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re Budget Modification to the Fiscal Year 2010-11 Nutrition Budget: Increase revenue line item 01900902 42617 Federal Breakfast Program to \$963,547 to include Increase appropriation line items 01900902 54595 Food to \$803,000 and 01900902 54600 Food Service Supplies to \$160,547 for funding to complete school year Breakfast Program.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA SECONDED**

Council President McCarthy noted that the purpose of the budget modification was to ensure that kids get milk for the remainder of the school year.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ELEVEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION (COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY)**

OTHER BUSINESS:

- o Council member Brantley updated that there was a beautiful march for hunger at Seaside Park. She acknowledged the participation of several churches, Prophetess Claytor and everyone involved. She expressed that they should continue to support the soup kitchens and food pantries.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM FOR REFERRAL (ITEM # 86-10)**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO REFER RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES IN THE MATTER OF THE BRIDGEPORT GUARDIANS, INC. et al v. Arthur J. Delmonte et al – U.S.D.C. No. 5:78 CV175 (JBA) TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO COMMITTEE (ITEM # 87-10)**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO REFER RE: ORDINANCE CONCERNING ADULT ENTERTAINMENT VENUES OR SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESSES, PER THE PLANNING & ZONING PUBLIC HEARING ON THE REQUEST FOR A MORATORIUM**

Council member Walsh stated he was looking to get an ordinance on the books to monitor these types of businesses.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

Council President McCarthy agreed with the proposed ordinance. He commented that a choice needs to be made by the city and the reality is that an ordinance will help tighten restrictions on these establishments.

- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- o Council member dePara reminded everyone that there was an ECDE Committee meeting scheduled on Tuesday, May 17. He noted that item 85-10 would be addressed during the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services