

**CITY of BRIDGEPORT**  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
**PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION**  
**SEPTEMBER 6, 2011**  
**6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: A. Ayala, Taylor-Moye, Brantley, T. McCarthy, Vizzo-Paniccia, dePara, M. Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Curwen, Baker, Holloway

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

The public speaking session was closed at 6:45 pm.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 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

Connecticut Labor Board and sewage  
condition in P.T. Barnum Apartments.

Mr. Young stated that he was disappointed that Council members M. McCarthy and Brannelly weren't present since the issue he wanted to talk about was the raw sewage problem in P.T. Barnum Apartments, which is the district they represent. He recalled that no one ever looked into the problem and he said he would like someone to check to make sure that the pump that was installed in the basement is still pumping out the sewage.

He went on to talk about his past employment position as a sheriff, noting that he was shocked and troubled to know that the labor board committed fraud with taxpayer dollars. However, no one ever looked into him being violated, with respect to being awarded his medical benefits; regardless of the circumstances of him being fired. He stated that he still hasn't received benefits after three years. He stated that he is also still dealing with dental problems and he has lost four teeth that could have been saved. But because of the

\$17,000 bill he can't afford it. *He noted that those concerned can check out his website at [www.cecilyoung.com](http://www.cecilyoung.com) for more details.*

Noel Furie

signed up to speak prior to the meeting

She spoke about giving away once again, a valuable resource related to a property for a \$1.00 annual rent. She questioned why the proposal was before them and she further questioned if there was a political award involved. She mentioned Bob Halsted who has been creating and caring for community gardens for twenty years. However, she said the city often gives sweetheart deals to wealthy organizations who reap the financial benefits and don't pay taxes. She felt that this practice should stop and she emphasized that there was now an opportunity to create a community garden on the property that will benefit the people. She made a request that the council not award the property to Green Village Initiative and she urged support of awarding the property to Bob Halsted, who is affiliated with the Bridgeport Community Land Trust.

Carol Ann Curry

signed up to speak prior to the meeting

Ms. Curry stated she was a Westport resident. Council President McCarthy interjected to ask her if she was there to represent a specific organization in Bridgeport. Ms. Curry said she wasn't. Council President McCarthy explained that the public speaking sessions are limited to only Bridgeport residents. Ms. Curry opted not to speak, noting that she would abide by the rules.

Bob Halsted  
55 Sterling Place  
Bridgeport, CT

Bridgeport Community Land Trust  
Community Gardens

Mr. Halsted recalled that they received encouragement in the past from the city to create community gardens. He recalled that the land was given to a developer four years ago. He said knowing this, it was his contention this was the reason the city didn't consider giving the land to his group to create community gardens. He further noted that the community gardens have been in place for fifteen years. He requested that someone on the council step forward and present a resolution to give Bridgeport Community Land Trust the four properties to develop community gardens. He stressed that giving a ten year lease to a developer for \$1.00 for land that could be used for housing isn't fair. Overall, he felt his organization should be recognized.

The public speaking session ended at 7:05 pm.

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

7:00 p.m.

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

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

\*= *arrived late*

ABSENT: Council member: Silva

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

Prayer - Council member Brantley offered the prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance - Council member Bonney led the pledge.

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

City Council Citation: Black Rock Little League Junior Softball Team, 2011 Little League Junior Softball State Champions.

Council President McCarthy expressed that he was excited on behalf of the city council. He recalled that they often like to do something exciting and good. He thanked Council members Brannelly and McCarthy for bringing this matter to the council's attention. He expressed that having the state champions come from the City of Bridgeport promotes such pride and excitement. He extended congratulations to the team – *to applause*.

Council member Brannelly thanked everyone for being present tonight for the team spirit expressed. She relayed that they achieved an awesome accomplishment – *she read the citation that highlighted best wishes to the Black Rock Little League Junior Softball Team*.

*Mayor Finch presented the citation to each team member and their coaches.*

Mayor Finch stated that he was proud of the entire team, noting that he is a huge baseball fan. He recalled a law that was passed a long time ago that dealt with legislation for women to play sports. He commented how crucial it is for girls and women to receive the same recognition as boys and men.

Council President McCarthy expressed his congratulations to the entire team.

*A group picture was taken of the team members and coaches with the Mayor and Council members T. McCarthy, M. McCarthy and Brannelly.*

**92 -10** Public Hearing regarding Lease Agreement with Green Village Initiative, Inc. (GVI) for the contiguous City-owned property located at 1469 Reservoir Avenue and 20 Yaremich Drive.

Mayor Finch asked if there was anyone present to testify for this item

*Esea Thomas* stated that she was the co-captain of the community garden located between State Street and Yale Street. She expressed that to take the gardens away isn't good for the city. She further expressed that it's important to keep the gardens for the people in Bridgeport. She said she hoped the gardens would grow, noting that she had a life changing experience through her involvement with the gardens.

*Bob Halsted* stated that they applied to the state to receive more grant money. He recalled four years they were awarded \$150k. He stated that although they didn't receive the city's blessing, they applied on their own for the grant and they received money to create ten gardens. He recalled that the Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee previously supported the gardens. He mentioned that the gardens were recognized as a model for the community. He commented that the developer acquiring the land for ten years isn't reasonable or fair. He urged support of the gardens.

Hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

Approval of City Council Minutes: July 5, 2011

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

- 123-10** Communication from Mayor re Appointment of Jeffrey Burr (R) to the Harbor Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
  
- 124-10** Communication from OPED re Disposition of City Owned Property to Habitat for Humanity and Ordering a Public Hearing relative to the same, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
  
- 125-10** Communication from Planning Department re Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend to add new Chapter 12.70 Procedure for Laying Out, Acquiring, Altering, Discontinuing or Abandoning Public Improvements, including Roads, referred to Ordinance Committee.
  
- 126-10(A)** Communication from Public Facilities re Proposed Agreement with Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, Inc. to create a Youth Development Park, referred to Contracts Committee.
  
- 126-10(B)** Communication from Public Facilities re Proposed Management and Operations Agreement with Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation and Wakeman Boys and Girls Club, referred to Contracts Committee.
  
- 127-10** Communication from Public Facilities re Application for Driveway Permit: # 2101 Commerce Drive (State Street Extension), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee
  
- 130-10** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re Grant Submission: 2011 Funding for Medical Reserve Corps Grant, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee
  
- 131-10** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re Grant Submission: State Department of Public Health for FY2011-2012 Per-Capita Grant, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee
  
  
- 132-10** Communication from OPED re Disposition of City Owned Property located at 2836 Fairfield Avenue; Black Rock Bank & Trust Company, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER  
COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ITEM FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:**

**129-10** Communication from Mayor re Consideration and Vote on Resolution regarding Inter-district Magnet High School at Fairchild Wheeler Memorial Park releasing restrictions for school construction **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

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

Mayor Finch stated that the item must pass by a two-thirds vote to be considered.

Council member Walsh asked why the item was on the agenda for immediate consideration. Council member Vizzo-Pannica addressed the question and she relayed that the matter pertained to: *the third whereas in the resolution, in reference to the 35 -acres.*

Council President McCarthy suggested that a brief caucus be held to discuss the item.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY MOVED TO RECESS TO HOLD A  
CAUCUS TO DISCUSS THE ITEM FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The council members entered into caucus at 7:30 pm.

The council members ended the caucus at 7:40 pm and the meeting reconvened.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE 129-10  
Communication from Mayor re Consideration and Vote on Resolution regarding Inter-district Magnet High School at Fairchild Wheeler Memorial Park releasing restrictions for school construction **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.****

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Finch expressed his thanks to everyone for working together as a team on this project. He stated it was a true testament of what can be accomplished!

Council President McCarthy also thanked everyone involved and the city council. He commented that it was a great accomplishment for the city. He also noted his thanks for making the project a reality.

Attorney Robert Bercham, the representative for the project expressed that it was a privilege and a pleasure to represent Bridgeport on the project. He commented that it was probably the finest project that he ever worked on.

Mayor Finch relayed that the concept to make the Inter-district Magnet High School was a coordinated effort by the different entities involved.

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

**128-10** Resolution presented by Council member Taylor-Moye re Request for a streetlight on utility pole (unnumbered) in front of 128 Milne Street, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

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

**\*104-10** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Reappointment of Richard Cruz (D) to the Harbor Commission.

**\*130-09** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Workers Compensation Full and Final Stipulation between the City and Michael Bauco.

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

**Other business:**

Council member Bonney expressed his personal comments to acknowledge the aftermath of the storm. He said he found out about a pocket of residents in his district that were without power. So he went to the Mayor who notified the residents that relief was coming. Then he called on the two junior council members who stepped up and went door to door to over (270) residents homes to deliver the information. The endeavor was recognized by the Mayor and the city council. Mayor Finch expressed that both of the junior council members have a bright future in public service.

Council President McCarthy expressed that William Durne also helped out during the storm by helping students get back to school.

- o *Moment of silence for Detective Warren DelMonte who passed away at 25 years old. It was noted that he leaves a wife and two sons.*

Council member Curwen stated that communication with the state department is always a little cloudy during emergencies; however, the city was well prepared during the recent hurricane. He acknowledged Scott Appleby who did a great job with communications. He thanked everyone for their help during a very intense time.

Mayor Finch thanked everyone for their well organized efforts during the hurricane. He commented that it was the largest evacuation that was ever undertaken. He further noted that the shelters were set up at Bassick, Central and Harding high schools. He expressed that it was astounding to see such cooperative efforts by everyone. He thanked everyone again who helped go out to evacuate people

Council member Brantley recognized the Red Cross and the Bridgeport Transit System who provided transportation to individuals and families back and forth to school.

*Council member A. Ayala wished Council member Brantley Happy Birthday!*

*Mayor Finch shared that Reverend Stalwart lost a granddaughter in an accident in Mississippi.*

Council member Martinez urged everyone to get involved and acquire more information on how they can assist during an emergency.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services