

CITY of BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
JUNE 20, 2011
6:30 PM

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

**=arrived after roll call*

ABSENT: Council members: M. McCarthy, Silva, M. Ayala, Baker

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:36 pm.

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

Council President McCarthy reminded the speakers that they had 5-minutes to address the city council.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2011, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Mary-Jane Foster
40 Anchorage Drive
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Proposed Baker-Walsh Ordinance on
Adult Entertainment that has been
referred to Ordinance Committee.

Ms. Foster read a statement regarding the issue about the adult entertainment ordinance and the strong support it has received. She expressed that she has been aware of the negative impact and sex related crimes that are associated with adult entertainment establishments that affect businesses, schools and religious institutions. She further expressed that these types of establishments cause parking problems on residential property and she stressed that the ordinance will protect the health, safety and welfare of neighborhoods. She read some information related to the regulations and she emphasized that the residents don't want to see any expansion of this industry in their neighborhoods. She relayed that regarding liquor permit requests, she said she planned to file a complaint

on Tuesday indicating her opposition to issuing permits – *she submitted her statement to the city clerk.*

The following persons signed up to speak prior to the public speaking session on Monday, June 20, 2011:

Larry Robinson

People with Disabilities Update

Mr. Robinson stated that he was there to give an update on the matter concerning people with disabilities. He said he spoke to Linda Gray, who informed him that other names would be submitted pertaining to a proposal for an equal democratic ratio as it applies to people with disabilities.

Mr. Robinson read and presented Tom White with a proclamation recognizing him for his involvement with the “People with Disabilities” program in the Greater Bridgeport area.

Tom White stated that he passed along the information for support of the “People with Disabilities Act”. He expressed that the matter also had the support of the city council.

Camilla Cosme

Police Brutality

Ms. Cosme spoke about police brutality. She recalled an incident that occurred on June 16 or June 17 that involved her nephew and Officer Diaz. She alleged that Officer Diaz harassed her nephew about selling drugs. The police officer came out to investigate the matter and she said he was very rude and made a statement that *“people in the projects should be dealt with like a bunch of animals”*. She requested assistance from the city council to investigate the actions of the police officer and seek justice for her nephew. She expressed that her family has never had any problems with the police throughout the years they’ve lived in Bridgeport.

Council President McCarthy suggested that she complete a Citizen’s Complaint form as the best avenue to submit the complaint to the Office of Internal Affairs.

Ms. Cosme thanked the council members that extended their support in this matter.

Charles Coviello

Education

Mr. Coviello spoke about the city being in an education crisis. He asked the city council to make sure that the education system remains vital, to provide an equal education for the students in Bridgeport. He thanked Council members Holloway, Baker and dePara for showing their interest in the education of the children and he emphasized that they need to show unity and do away with the disparity in the education system. He relayed that the

state is responsible for providing equal education. He encouraged everyone to attend and join in unity night on Tuesday to fight for education for the good of our children.

The public speaking session ended at 6:55 pm.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, June 20, 2011

7:00 p.m.

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

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

ABSENT: Council members: M. McCarthy, Silva, M. Ayala

Council President called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Prayer - the prayer was offered by Prophetess Claytor
Pledge of Allegiance- the pledge was led by Assistant City Attorney Earl Skyers
Roll Call - the city clerk took the roll and announced there was a quorum

Council President McCarthy announced that the following council members were absent: *Council member M. McCarthy was ill; Council member Silva was recovering from surgery issues and Council member M. Ayala is out of the hospital, but still recovering from a serious heart condition.*

He further announced that Council member Blunt was back to serve on the city council after struggling with health issues. He expressed that he was looking better than ever!

He noted that Mayor Finch wasn't in attendance tonight, due to attending a high school graduation.

66-10 Public Hearing regarding the Disposition of 60 Circular Avenue; Offer to purchase from Brennan's Shebeen Irish Bar and Grill.

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone to speak in favor of the item
There were none heard.

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone to speak against the item
There were none heard.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: Special May 9, 2011; May 16, 2011.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER THE COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

96-10 Communication from City Attorney re Twenty day notice to Settle Litigation, pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130: Blanca E. DeJesus, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

97-10 Communication from Mayor re Reappointment of Anne Pappas Phillips (D) to the Planning and Zoning Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

98-10 Communication from City Attorney re Proposed Employment Agreement with Chief of Police Joseph Gaudett, referred to Contracts Committee.

99-10 Communication from City Attorney re Proposed Employment Agreement with Fire Chief Brian Rooney, referred to Contracts Committee.

100-10 Communication from Mayor re Appointment of Michael Andre (U) to the Harbor Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

101-10 Communication from Labor Relations re Tentative Agreement with AFSCME, Local 1522 regarding collective bargaining unit agreement, referred to Contracts Committee.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

Council President asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent calendar.

Council member Curwen requested to remove item ***89-10** Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Municipal Suspense Tax Book.

Council member Baker requested to remove item ***95-10** Ordinance Committee Report re: Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.06, Section 2.06.010 – District for election of Council Members re: Redistricting to establish new City Council district lines in Bridgeport based upon demographic census data 2010, and concerning a certain redistricting plan/map entitled “Initial Draft Plan 3 Census 2010”.

***89-10** Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Municipal Suspense Tax Book. - *removed*

***95-10** Ordinance Committee Report re: Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.06, Section 2.06.010 – District for election of Council Members re: Redistricting to establish new City Council district lines in Bridgeport based upon demographic census data 2010, and concerning a certain redistricting plan/map entitled “Initial Draft Plan 3 Census 2010”. - *removed*

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED**

***88-10** Contracts Committee Report re: Agreement with School Crossing Guards regarding a collective bargaining unit agreement.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council President McCarthy returned to the items removed from the consent calendar:

***89-10** Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Municipal Suspense Tax Book.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO AMEND THE
** TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR DATE WHERE IT READ 2010. THE
** DOCUMENT SHOULD READ 2011
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED
** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***95-10** Ordinance Committee Report re: Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.06, Section 2.06.010 – District for election of Council Members re: Redistricting to establish new City Council district lines in Bridgeport based upon demographic census data 2010, and concerning a certain redistricting plan/map entitled “Initial Draft Plan 3 Census 2010”.

Council member Baker stated that this item was approved in the Ordinance Committee and it was referred to the Redistricting Committee. He made a request to make three (3) amendments to the ordinance as follows:

1) Census Data Report Summary – includes the completed census track data

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MOVED TO ADD THE CENSUS DATA REPORT SUMMARY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

***Council President McCarthy commented that the report contained numerous pages of census block numbers.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

2) Council member Baker stated the second item pertained to the explanation key for reading the data that will be added to the summary report.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON #95-1 AMENDING CHAPTER 2.06, SEC. 2.06.010 BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING NOTES TO THE TEXT OF THE CENSUS BLOCK LIST-AS SUBMITTED**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3) Council member Baker stated the third item needed to be approved by July 1. He explained that map won't actually become official until the year 2012. The document reads that the effective date of the redistricting isn't applicable until January 1, 2012; however, it won't affect any elections that occur during the 2011 year. And it will be in accordance with the charter.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON #95-1 AMENDING CHAPTER 2.06, SEC. 2.06.010 WITH RESPECT TO EFFECTIVE DATE: PURSUANT TO BRIDGEPORT CHARTER, CHAPTER 5, SECTION 2, THE TEN DISTRICTS ESTABLISHED**

**THEREIN SHALL BE EFFECTIVE ON THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY NEXT
SUCCEEDING (JANUARY 2012)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

Council member Walsh stated his concern that the State of Connecticut was remiss doing their work; per the charter that outlines that the city will take into consideration, the state lines set forth. His concern was that there are a significant number of voters that get bumped from one place to another based on the election. He recalled past incidences of people getting sent to the wrong school to vote and the problem of insufficient ballots. He stressed that the city should question if there is any method to amend the ordinance should anything go wrong in the future.

Council President McCarthy said he wasn't sure about what Council member Walsh asked. He explained that they tried to change the policy by hiring the same expert the state uses, Kim Brace of Election Data Services to coordinate what was being done with the state lines. He further noted that a second round will come up in the near future, to try to coordinate the polling sites, which will alleviate some of the problems.

City Attorney Anastasi added that Chapter 5, Section 2-C of the charter – *as read*; doesn't allow what Council member Walsh requested. He stated that it suggests a ten year proposition as it's outlined in the charter. And that it should follow the state, rather than precede the state.

Council member Walsh said he felt that the state gets a lot more picky when they are drawing the district lines. City Attorney Anastasi said although it's a year late, they never conceded, both parties approved the same plan and they came together at the end.

Council member Holloway stated that the state representative for this district represents a portion of the district. He relayed that there needed to be a clear measure of where a person votes on all levels.

Council member Brantley stated that she would like to see more cooperation between the Registrar of Voters and the council district representatives.

Council President agreed with Council member Brantley. He said he was told that the Registrar of Voters was looking to work cooperatively with the council district representatives.

Council member Martinez also agreed that they needed to send a clear message to the constituents about where a person is supposed to go to vote.

Council member McCarthy stated that the entire redistricting process wasn't easy, but it was done effectively and thoroughly by holding multiple public hearings and meetings.

He thanked Council members Martinez and Holloway for chairing the Redistricting Committee meetings and Council members Baker and Paoletto for chairing the Ordinance

Committee meetings. He expressed that he was proud of all the work that was done to make the drastic changes effective.

City Attorney Anastasi mentioned Chapter-5, Section 2-D that outlined "*The City Council shall provide suitable polling places and define the boundaries for each polling place*". He stated that with respect to the language outlined, the city council does have the authority.

Other business:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO REFER RE: PROPOSED WORKERS' COMPENSATION FULL AND FINAL STIPULATION BETWEEN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT AND CLAIMANT THOMAS LOMBARD (ITEM # 102-10)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council member Walsh questioned the 750,000 gallons of raw sewage that resulted from the sewage line break and who's responsible for the cleanup. He stated that the contract of the State of Connecticut caused the sewage line to break, so he felt it was their responsibility for the person they contracted. City Attorney Anastasi stated that he followed the article in the newspaper and he found there was little doubt that the contractor is responsible. The issue is who is taking control of the clean up between Bridgeport and Trumbull. However, the WPCA will pursue appropriate compensation from whoever was at fault. He said he would follow up with a report on the matter at the next scheduled meeting per Council President McCarthy's request.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services