

**CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
JUNE 7, 2010
6:30 pm**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, A. Ayala, Walsh, T. McCarthy, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, dePara, Silva, M. Ayala, Martinez, Baker, Holloway

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:43 pm.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS HAVE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2010, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME	SUBJECT
Irma Esbil 26 Linen Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06604	Excessive Loud Music

Ms. Esbil stated that she lived in the hollow community and she owns a 4-family house. She expressed she had a quality of life issue living near the Vasco de Gama Portuguese Social Club. She recalled that during the 4th of July weekend, there is a three day celebration where they have an outdoor DJ and band. They plan from 9:00 am until 2:00am that is excessive. She expressed that although she loved the holiday, in the last five years she has dreaded it, due to the excessive loud noise and music from the constant playing of the band and DJ and it's not fair. In the past she has called the police and she was told the music would stop at different times, but it never did. She has also spoken to district Council member dePara who said that he enjoyed the celebration, but then he goes home to sleep. She asked Council member dePara to find out about the ordinance.

Council President McCarthy stated that she should stay in contact with the district council members about the issue.

Clyde Nicholson 54 Wallace Street Bridgeport, CT 06606	Schools
--	---------

Mr. Nicholson said he was there to ask the council to intervene in the public school situation. This was in reference to school cuts that will directly affect the student, especially in the poor neighborhoods. He asked the council to look into what they're doing. He noted the \$233 million budget, but over the years, he hasn't seen any changes going into effect.

And now they are planning on cutting (144) teachers and 4,320 students are being moved to already crowded schools. He further spoke about the (450) students from Dunbar School being relocated and the problem of them going to Tisdale School that is already crowded. In addition, there are (550) students being moved from Roosevelt School to another district. He said that although he never used the race card before, he felt this situation involved racism. He stressed that the needs of the children and the parents are being sorely affected. His deepest concern was that as a taxpayer, he would appreciate the courtesy of having the matter addressed and followed up on. He noted that the BOE taking the money and doing what they wanted is against the law. He further stressed that some strings have to be attached to assure fairness. He urged Council President McCarthy to get involved in the BOE process.

Council member McCarthy explained that the point of public session was to listen to the public voice their concerns. He told Mr. Nicholson that he should leave his phone number with Mr. White who would contact him to discuss the matter further. He stated that the law limits the city council in the power they have with the Board of Education. Mr. Nicholson said he thought the law should be changed then. He emphasized the importance of education.

Eula Hill
958 Platt Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Public Safety and the Welfare of
Seniors

Ms. Hill stated that Council members Bonney and Blunt were the council district members. She spoke about the police force in respect to not having proper policing for seniors. She recalled a situation of a parked car in front of her house for two weeks. She called to complain and it was found that it was a stolen car that was parked there for two weeks. She said the police patrol on Platt Street doesn't do anything to observe what's going on and she felt this should correct with more police involvement. She also mentioned other criminal activity that is present at the senior complex. She emphasized that it was unfair that since the citizens pay the police officers salaries, she thought they should provide more service like they do in other municipalities. She ended to say she would like more involvement.

Council President McCarthy stated that she should give Tom White her phone number so that a district council member could get in touch with her.

Helen Jones
143 Valley Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Flooding and Public Safety in the
North End

Ms. Jones stated she has lived in Bridgeport for 40 years. She said there was a very unhealthy smell up and down and around Valley Avenue and the brook smells. She said she has observed pictures of the area, with toilet paper wrapped around trees and other garbage and debris. She noted that the dam is right in the middle of her backyard and it

City of Bridgeport
City Council Meeting
June 7, 2010
Page 2 of 12

smells horribly. She updated that there were six new houses built on Valley Avenue that have cesspools hooked up and that is what's causing the problems. She said she called to complain but no one came out to check the problems. She stressed that the stench was so strong, you have to hold your breath when you come outside. She also mentioned that she was upset about Verna Kearny being removed from the Senior Community Service. She was a caring person and an advocate for seniors in many ways, such as cooking for them etc.

Jeff Kohut
30 Wickliffe Circle
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Public Safety and the Welfare of
Seniors

Mr. Kohut read from a statement he prepared. The highlights of the statement outlined quality of life issues regarding public safety concerns and senior issues. He said this was a problem affecting many along different income lines and public safety is inadequate in certain areas in the city; such as on Old Town Road. There is also a traffic congestion problem in the area. He requested that there be more police presence in the areas that need it. He further spoke about seniors with disabilities and senior wellness programs that are needed. He spoke about the flooding conditions in the north end that causes serious damage in may north end neighborhoods, thus affecting the resale value of homes. He went on to address domestic violence issues in view of recent situations that have occurred in the news.

Cecil Young

Signed up to speak tonight

Mr. Young had a video showing the raw sewage problem in P.T. Barnum - *it was noted that the video would be submitted to Tom White for the record.* Mr. Young explained the problems that the raw sewage creates; such as slush, water and damage to the pipes. He added that the sewage causes a lot of problems. He also had a video that he said showed dozens of mouse dropping that resulted from the raw sewage problem.

He expressed that he came in peace tonight and he mentioned that what happened last month during the city council meeting should have never happened. He asked the council to address the raw sewage problem.

The public speaking session ended at 7:19 pm.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, June 7, 2010

7:00 pm.

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, Silva, M. Ayala, Martinez, Curwen, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: Paoletto

Council President McCarthy called for a caucus at 7:20 pm.
The caucus ended at 8:10 pm.

Council President McCarthy called the meeting to order at 8:14 pm.

Prayer - the prayer was offered by Council member M. McCarthy.
Pledge of Allegiance - the pledge was led by Council member Martinez.
Roll Call - the city clerk took the roll call and announced there was
a quorum.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: April 19, 2010; May 3, 2010 Revised;
May 10, 2010 Special

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES
** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO APPROVE THE
COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
** COIUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA SECONDED**

- 97-09** Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re Proposed Workers' Compensation Stipulation between the City and Charles Ferreira, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

- 98-09** Communication from Tax Collector re Municipal Suspense Tax Book, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

- 99-09** Communication from OPM re Budget Transfer to Comply with Minimum Budget Requirements (MBR) From: Board of Education Dedicated Use (\$123,109) To: Classroom Teacher Salaries (\$123,109), referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

- 100-09(A)** Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re Proposed Administrative Services Only Agreement with Connecticut General Life Insurance Company for Group Medical Benefits, referred to Contracts Committee.

- 100-09(B)** Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re Proposed Performance Guarantee Agreement with Connecticut Life Insurance Company for Group Medical Benefits, referred to Contracts Committee.

** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

City Attorney Anastasi stated that they needed to state the nature of the emergency for Items for Immediate Consideration.

It was stated that the emergency was in regard to the charter time line adopted by the mill rate.

- 101-09** Communication from Mayor re Setting of the Mill Rate for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

Council member Curwen stated the item concerned the calculation of the budget deliberations that were voted on for the year; that resulted in a 39.64 mill rate.

** **COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MADE A MOTION NOT TO REFER THE
ITEM TO COMMITTEE**
 ** **COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY SECONDED**
 ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

102-09 Communication from Airport Manager re Proposed Agreement with the State regarding State Project No.: DOT00150347PE for final design and permitting for the realignment of Main Street (Route 113) at Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MADE A MOTION NOT TO REFER THE ITEM TO COMMITTEE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

It was stated that the nature of the emergency was in regard to a current lawsuit pending and a court time line issue.

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

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

Council member Walsh requested to remove item ***74-09** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Section 108 Seaview Plaza Project: Substantial Amendment to the City's Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO APPROVE THE REMAINING ITEMS**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED**

***89-09** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re Grant Submission: FY 2009 FEMA Port Security Grant.

***90-09** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re Grant Submission: FY 2010 FEMA Port Security Grant.

***91-09** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re Grant Submission: FY 2008 FEMA Port Security Grant.

***47-09** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Disposition of City Owned Property to Habitat for Humanity.

***74-09** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Section 108 Seaview Plaza Project: Substantial Amendment to the City's Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development. - *removed from the agenda – see discussion below*

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The agenda returned to item *74-09 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Section 108 Seaview Plaza Project: Substantial Amendment to the City's Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development.

Council member dePara stated that the item came of committee with a unanimous vote as amended.

** **COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO APPROVE**
** **COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED**

Council member Walsh commended the committee for the work they did on the resolution and the changes that were made to it, in regard to the concern about borrowing against block grant money. He said it was amended to require that paperwork come back to the committee before the final approval. There was also a concern about the Section 108 loan and the potential for losing money. He said he was looking forward to reviewing the loan documents and LDA before the final approval.

Council member Holloway stated that each year they lose 20% from block grant money. He recalled that he tried to explain this to his constituents who thought he was against the resolution. However, he was assured that the block grant money would be secured per Alanna Kabel and the money will be paid back by the developer. He expressed that this was the first time something like this had been done.

Council member dePara expressed that Council member Holloway's wisdom was appreciated by the way his concern was conveyed to the committee and constituents. He felt that him bringing the matter forward, resulted in the drafting of a better resolution. There are two stop gaps to assure that the money is paid back and that is will be secured. In addition, it will come back to the city council before it's finalized.

Council member Baker stated that he was glad they would be able to review the document before the final approval. And although he was glad the district was moving forward, it was good that they will be able to review the document before its finalized.

** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

78-09 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re Appointment of Thomas A. Lyons (D) to the Board of Police Commissioners.

Council member Brannelly stated that the committee voted unanimously with one abstention. She expressed that Mr. Lyons was a man of great integrity and he would serve the board well.

** **COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE**
** **COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED**
** **MOTION PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION**
(COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS)

73-09 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re Appointment of Anne Pappas Phillips (D) to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Council member T. McCarthy deferred to Council member Vizzo-Paniccia to present the item on his behalf since he chaired the committee meeting.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia stated that the item passed in committee with two members in opposition .

**
**
COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE
COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTELY SECONDED

Council member Walsh stated that he was one of the two people that were opposed to approving the item in committee. He explained it was because some of the facts about the appointment were found to be troublesome, due to alternate members assuming full powers of a regular committee member. He recalled that in the ordinance, there must be a written opinion from the city attorney and there is a policy of alternates waiting 180-days to serve. In this case, there were serious concerns about the decision. He stated that some items in the appointee's background were problematic. The appointee was asked if they were aware of the ordinance and then they were asked about a prior article in the CT Post dated May 16, 2009 that was six months before the lawsuit and where the appointee was quoted in the article. He stressed that the appointee's claim of being unaware of the article was insulting. At any rate, there is a charter discrepancy, as to what the council was previously told. He said he wouldn't have a problem with the appointee serving on another committee, but not the land use committee.

Council member Holloway felt there was a problem of a failure to communicate. He thought the Ethics Commission was responsible for screening problems for prospective appointees. He stated that it seemed the Ethics Commission came out in flying colors for Ms. Pappas; so he felt they should vote what the Ethics Board decided upon. And in view of that, they are only approving what the Ethics Board decided. Council member Brantley stated that she understood where Council member Walsh was coming from. She thought they needed to look at who should be really held responsible and not hold the citizen responsible that offers to serve the city. She said she would vote in support of the appointment.

Council member Brannelly stated that she also understood Council member Walsh's concern, however, she felt that it was important to move forward within the committee to be more aware of what is happening in the city.

Council member Baker questioned if the blame should be on the administration or the committee. He felt that since the matter went through the Ethics Commission, he emphasized that it may be important to step back and research the issue further. He said he would vote to approve the appointment, because there were too many concerns at hand. He urged his colleagues to reconsider their before approving the item.

Council member Walsh stated that the appointment had been the Ethics Commission for four years. City Attorney Anastasi addressed Council member Walsh's comment to say that it was known there was a vacant position that was filled for an unexpired portion of the term that ends 12/31/2010.

Council member Silva stated that during the committee meeting, he wasn't in favor of the appointment. This was due to the process of the appointment that was put forth. He felt the decision of the appointment will hold a lot of power and he thought the process in this case was broken and it needs to be fixed. He stressed that the council should show that they have some power when it comes to appointments or reappointments, because the people in the city rely on them to assure what's done is in their best interest. He stated that he was not in support of approving the item and with the legal matters still in process; he thought the appointment should be delayed.

Council member Martinez stated that she would vote in favor of the appointment for varied reasons; such as the shortage of commissioners to serve on that board.

Council member Taylor-Moye stated that she would vote in favor of the appointment. She didn't feel they should delay the vote in favor, because of an oversight by the administration or process. She strongly felt that since the appointee has sat on the commission for four years, she shouldn't be penalized because of an oversight.

Council member Lyons asked about the six-months expiration term on 12/31/2010; she wanted to know if a person that serves on a committee would be up for reappointment at that time. City Attorney Anastasi said the charter does state that an appointee serves until a successor qualifies. He said he expects they will be able to get appointees in a timely manner.

Council member T. McCarthy stated that the appointee was a good hard working, decent person. He didn't feel that they should make her responsible for any mistake made by the administration. He strongly recommended approval of the appointment.

A roll call vote was taken:

**** MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND FIVE VOTES IN OPPOSITON (COUNCIL MEMBERS: WALSH, LYONS, dePARA, CURWEN and BAKER)**

Other business:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was some discussion regarding procedure to waive referral to committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MOVED TO WAIVE REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE**

Council member Holloway stated that they never voted to waive referral to committee in the past. He questioned why they were doing it tonight. Council member Curwen stated that the added item already went through committee anyway.

City Attorney Anastasi disagreed that they never waived referral to committee. He said it had been done before on occasion. He noted that there is a charter requirement to make a second vote for the waiver, unless they elected not to by a two-thirds vote to add it to the agenda.

Council member Baker stated that item **Proposed amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend to add new Chapter 8.97 South End Neighborhood Revitalization Zone (80-09)** went through committee, but it didn't make the agenda in time.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MOVED TO APPROVE**

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

Council member Brannelly updated that a previous request was made to submit paperwork for items to all council members beforehand, so that they can make an informed vote. Council member T. McCarthy acknowledged the comment and responded that the item already went through committee.

Council member Curwen asked if the item was time sensitive. Council member Baker said no, it was just a matter of not being added to the agenda in time.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Proposed amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances amend Chapter 15.44 Flood Damage Prevention (65-09) Council member Baker stated that the item went before the committee, but no one was in attendance to speak on it, so it was tabled. The item pertained to an amendment for flood damage prevention and the FEMA requirement requested. There was a special committee meeting and a public hearing. He noted that it was a time sensitive item.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA**

Council member Brannelly asked if there were any details related to the commitment to be in compliance.

John Urquidi stated the FEMA decides where the flood zone is. And the lending institution requires that they obtain insurance. He clarified that if the item didn't pass they may forfeit the funding.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council member Baker stated that the document should be submitted in the proper form to the city attorney.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA (64-09)**

He explained that the item pertained to general obligation bonds. He said it passed in committee, but it missed the deadline to be added to the agenda.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED WITH NINETEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH)**

Council member dePara stated that refinancing of the general obligation bonds was at a lower rate that will save the city approximately \$3 million.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED WITH NINETEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH)**

Announcement(s):

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia announced that her daughter received an academic achievement award in the amount of \$5,000.00 that was signed by President Obama.

Council President McCarthy announced that Council member Paoletto was not in attendance tonight because of an injury.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services