

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2013
6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, Banta, Brantley,
T. McCarthy, dePara, Silva, Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, *Baker
*Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: M. McCarthy, Taylor-Moye, Olson, Austin, Lyons,
Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, Blunt, Curwen

*=arrived late

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:40 pm.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2013 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Helen Olga Losak
304 Bradley Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Status of Council Seat in the 138th
District.

Ms. Losak stated her concern about the 138th District being without representation, due to Council member Curwen's resignation. She stated that to date, he hasn't submitted an official resignation and he has moved to Virginia. She requested an immediate replacement for his council seat; for the benefit of the residents. She emphasized that the 138th District needs and should have representation on the council.

Ethan Book
144 Vine Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

The nature of our governmental
systems.

Mr. Book stated he has temporarily resided at 144 Vine Street in Bridgeport for eight years. He said that he operated a small limousine service business in Fairfield. He spoke about matters related to some long-term unaddressed issues with state public works, noting that he was a candidate for the U.S. Senate during 2010. He explained that the focus of his active candidacy is a federal court challenge regarding portion of the 2010 statewide election process. He went on to say that during the late 1980's, he appeared before the city council regarding issues of activities of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority(CRRA) ; specifically the program by which the City of Bridgeport hosts the \$300 million Greater Bridgeport Resource Recovery Project that is located on Howard Avenue next to Long Island Sound. He emphasized that without those issues being resolved, more than two years ago, he began to appear before the city council to speak about matters which appeared to be curious state and local government reactions to his role in seeking to have resolved the unaddressed issues of the CRRA activities. And upon his review of these government matters he came to some important conclusions. He continued to speak about the American governmental system that was wisely and carefully established by our Founding Fathers to be a limited democracy, that is a republic where there is the rule of law and no matter what the issue the majority rules. He continued to relay some information regarding municipal government.

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Sewage in P.T. Basements and the investigation request regarding the denial of his medical benefits.

Mr. Young stated that as a taxpayer, he was unjustly fired. He said he had documents pertaining to the unjust termination that has been going on for seven years. He requested once again that his allegations be looked into. He further emphasized that when he was fired, he had a right for his grievance to be honored. He relayed his issue with the council members stance being for the people related to the Black and Latino Caucus. He questioned who this group of people was supposed to represent. He asked again for his allegations to be looked into, noting that if it was found that anything he claimed wasn't true, then it should be addressed. Overall, he said he was dissatisfied with his allegations being ignored.

The following person signed up prior to the public speaking session to address the city council:

John Marshall Lee – *his statement follows below:*

City Council Comments: March 18, 2013

Council President McCarthy, Council members, neighbors and members of the public present, and those viewing on television. My concern this evening is the coming financial storm and the City response to it. You have a Council Committee, Budget and Appropriations, that has a rigorous period of Special Hearings before they come to you to vote on the budget in early May. That hearing schedule is not yet posted as of this morning. Why not? They only have one month to do their work, a point that was made at Charter hearings last year, that was lost in the Charter defeat, but that the Mayor could have adjusted to give you more deliberative time to be a genuine check and balance mechanism. Post the schedule I predict people will come. They have learned with the February storm that they need to do their own shoveling when it is not being done for them.

Along the same lines let me indicate that I am disappointed to recognize that your body assumes, depends, or expects good investigation and research to be done at the Committee level so that recommendations from each Committee are ready for the Consent calendar. (The Consent calendar allows you to pass actions at this Council meeting without further dialogue, discussion or debate.)

Last meeting you voted to authorize the \$110 Million Tax Anticipation Note request from Finance Department. For the second year in a row I sat in at the B&A hearing where your Council members asked questions that were not answered that evening, because there was no prepared statement with basic info for them to review. They were told that the info would be secured and provided. And it was apparently. Info on interest rates, marketing expense, legal costs and other info I assume. But it was not provided to you before you

made your vote. Why not? And it was in a form that will not show up with your B&A minutes as an exhibit. Why not? This is not a unique instance. Your Committees routinely ask for information from the City that has not been thoughtfully prepared in advance and available to make your job easier. Why do you allow this disrespectful dance?

When will someone on this Council have the judgment and courage to push back on these City requests? When will one of you answer when your Council vote is called for, in the following fashion?

I must abstain from voting, as I have not been received sufficient information, though I have asked for same, to make a serious decision on behalf of the taxpayers and citizens of Bridgeport.

Would that change the nature of information flow from a City department to you as Council members, serving on sub-committees, AHEAD of decision making and voting on the consent calendar?

We all know that the municipal election cycle will have all 20 Council seats up for election in November. The voters need your help to do a fair job evaluating each of you in your Districts. The voters need a Report Card, showing Attendance, Conduct, Effort and your grasp of and participation in the work of this body. What kind of tool would you like to suggest that voters use? Last week I made the same statement to the Board of Education members. Report cards are done in other communities on the activities of elected representatives. I believe it will be helpful in Bridgeport. I am asking for your suggestions and participation in this project in the next 60 days. Of course, if you show no interest in offering suggestions or commenting on this subject, the creation of such a scorecard will not stop. The voters need to know where you are succeeding and where you are failing them. Bad conduct, poor effort, or weak attendance may require a time out to improve learning about stewardship of the public's business. Time will tell.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605
Cell 203-521-1930
Office 203-259-9642

The public speaking session closed at 6:55 pm.

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2013

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, Banta, Brantley, T. McCarthy, dePara, Silva, Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: Taylor-Moye, Olson, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, Curwen

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

Prayer - Council member Baker offered the prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance - Fleeta Hudson (city clerk) led the pledge of allegiance.

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

146-11 Public Hearing re: Disposition of City-Owned Properties by Auction, Sale to Abutter or by RFP.

Mayor Finch asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor or against this item. There were none heard. The public hearing was closed.

30-12 Public Hearing re: Disposition of City-Owned Property Located at 956 Main Street – City Savings Bank Building.

Mayor Finch asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor or against this item. There were none heard. The public hearing was closed.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: February 19, 2013

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

- 40-12** Communication from City Attorney re: Twenty Day Notice to Settle Pending Litigation Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130: Zaida Vanderbeck, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**
- 41-12** Communication from Tax Collector re: Assignment of Tax Liens for Fiscal Year 2013, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 42-12** Communication from Tax Collector re: State Reimbursement of Low and Moderate Income Housing Tax for the Grand List of 2012, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 43-12** Communication from Mayor re: Proposed Five-Year Capital Plan (CP) for Fiscal Years 2014-2018, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.
- 45-12** Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Disposition of Property Located at 1136, 1144, 1148-50, 1154-56 and 1160-62 Main Street ("The Preservation Block") and Authorization of a Partial Tax Abatement in Support of the Preservation Block's Historic Renovation and Redevelopment as a Mixed-Use Residential, Retail and Commercial Complex, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 46-12** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Judicial Branch Court Support Service Division (CSSD) – Youth Violence Prevention Legislation, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

47-12 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Request for the Discontinuance of a Portion of Bank Street between Main Street and the Easement known as Middle Street, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

48-12 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3.20 Tax Incentive Development Program, amend Section 3.20.030 Eligibility Criteria and Section 3.20.060 Miscellaneous Provisions, referred to Ordinance Committee.

ADDED:

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

49-12 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Agreement with Water Pollution Control Authority (W.P.C.A.) and Sacred Heart University, referred to Contracts Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

44-12 Resolution presented by Council Member Blunt re: (Ref. #39-11) Request to Schedule an Informational Session to Review the Curfew for Minors Ordinance, referred to Joint Committee on Ordinances and Public Safety & Transportation.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BLUNT MOVED TO REFER RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC**

**** COUNCIL MEMEBRE BRANTLEY 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 consent calendar items into the record.

- *33-12** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Application for Waiver to Extend Driveway Width Located at 680 Park Avenue – Roosevelt School.

- *28-12** Contracts Committee Report re: Agreement with The Hartford Life Insurance Basic Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance for City Employees for the period of April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2016.

- *29-12** Contracts Committee Report re: Agreement with Unum Short Term and Long Term Disability Income Protection Insurance Policy for Eligible City Employees for the period of March 1, 2013 – February 28, 2015.

- *36-12** Contracts Committee Report re: Approval of Master Banking Services Agreement with Webster Bank, National Association.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED WITH THIRTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR *and* ONE ABSTENTION
(COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY) FOR ITEMS *28-12 and *29-12**

Announcements:

Council President McCarthy stated the following persons were absent for the following reason(s): Council member Vizzo-Paniccia was still recovering from surgery; Council member Lyons had a medical situation; Council member Taylor-Moye was in Washington as a representative for the Bridgeport Housing Authority; Council member Olson was on vacation.

Council President McCarthy called for a democratic caucus at 7:20 pm.

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The Caucus ended at 7:40 pm.

Mayor Finch reconvened the meeting at 7:41 pm.

New business:

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING FIVE (5) ITEMS TO THE AGENDA
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO REFER RE: THE APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM MARSHALL(D) TO THE FIRE COMMISSION FOR REFERRAL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

****replacement for vacancy by Edgar Rodriguez-term expired January 1, 2011.***

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (ITEM # 52-12)**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO REFER RE: PROPOSED WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION STIPULATION WITH MR. JAMES DePIETRO FOR THE TOTAL SUM OF \$265,000 TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (ITEM # 51-12)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO APPROVE FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION THREE (3) BUDGET MODIFICATION TO THE FY 2012-2013 GENERAL FUND TO CORRECT CITY SHARE TO BOE FOR ECS FUNDING.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY SECONDED (ITEM# 50-12)**

Tom Sherwood briefly explained the details for the budget modification to the Board of Education. He said they over transferred funds to the Board of Education and they needed to make the modification to put it back in the general fund. He clarified that the matter was strictly a housekeeping matter.

Superintendent Vallas explained that they will receive \$8.4million from the city and state and the balance will be made up and allocated as determined. He further explained that the modification will result in a savings by the Board of Education and they will be made whole, because now they won't have to make the contribution and transfer the funds to the city service fund, which ultimately will save money.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH TWELVE VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER)**

Other business:

Council President McCarthy stated that they needed to appoint new co-chairs to the Budget and Appropriations Committee (Council members: Brannelly and dePara).

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Mayor Finch clarified that Council member Curwen verbally resigned. However, according to state law, they require a written letter or resignation.

Mayor Finch expressed his thanks for approval of the budget transfer. He relayed that the \$8.4 million is being spent wisely and the city council's engagement with the Board of Education has been well received. He further mentioned that the superintendent has done a great job steering the schools in the right direction. He gave an update that 7th grade test scores have exceeded the schools in the Town of Fairfield and the changes have paid off. The thanked Superintendent Vallas and the City Council for their hard work and dedication.

Point of personal privilege:

Council member M. McCarthy stated that he will resign from serving on the city council. He explained that his business and life have become stressful and the commitment of hours required to serve on the City Council could no longer be fulfilled. He expressed his appreciation for the other council members picking up the slack in during his absence. He further relayed that it has been a pleasure to have worked with everyone and he hoped the city was made better by all the good work that the City Council conducts.

- Council President McCarthy thanked Council Member McCarthy for serving on the City Council. He expressed that he has been a true great friend and he appreciated all the work that he did on the council. He congratulated him and wished him good luck.
- Council member Brannelly expressed that with all the challenges Council Member McCarthy has endured over the last three years, he has handled it well. She said she appreciated all of his contributions to the City Council while he served.

Mayor Finch recalled that he was with Council member McCarthy on the day his business burned. He expressed that he epitomized the character of a good man through it all and he also displayed endurance. He said to have seen him suffer through it with all he had invested in the business, was done with grace and dignity. He commented that the City of Bridgeport had one heck of a taxpayer and a great business. He urged everyone to patronize the pizza truck that Council Member McCarthy is currently running his business from.

- Council member Martinez expressed that Council Member McCarthy always worked well with everyone and he never looked at their race or nationality. She said she knew him to be honest, hardworking and a decent man that won't be forgotten.
- Council member Brantley expressed that she loved and admired Council member McCarthy's spirit and she wished him the best of luck with his new baby. She further expressed that many people weren't aware of the level of commitment that Council Member McCarthy had beyond the City Council, noting that he has been involved with the Safe Asleep Program that installs smoke detectors in homes and businesses. She mentioned that the program has allowed people to safely sleep.

General announcement(s):

Council member Brantley urged everyone to participate in the egg hunts that will be held in various communities. She noted that an egg hunt will be held on March 30 at Clinton Avenue Park from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. She expressed that involvement is a great way to give back.

Council President McCarthy recognized Dave Roach from the Black Rock district who was present in audience tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services