

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2014  
6:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President McCarthy called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:33 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130<sup>th</sup> District: Rick Torres  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jack Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Robert Halstead, Patricia Swain  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy  
134<sup>th</sup> District:  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Richard Salter  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Richard DeJesus  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Milta Feliciano  
138<sup>th</sup> District:  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present. Council President McCarthy stated that Council Member Marella was not able to attend due to a personal issue and Council Member Lyons was enroute to the meeting.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS HAVE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2014 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.**

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

**Karen Jackson**  
841 State Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Zoning matters of three businesses.

*Council Member Austin joined the meeting at 6:34 p.m.*

Council President McCarthy called Ms. Jackson three times. There was no response.

**John Marshall Lee**  
30 Beacon Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City Council – financial watchdogs?

*Council Member Brannelly joined the meeting at 6:35 p.m.*

John Marshall Lee then came forward to address the Council Members.

**Council Chair and elected Council representatives of the people of Bridgeport (November 3, 2014)**

Tonight we meet on the eve of Election Day, of special importance to those running for State Office. Three hundred and sixty four days from now we will be on the eve of another election that will elect candidates for Council and Mayor. Some of you have been through the process multiple times while others were newly elected last year.

It may be difficult to focus on local issues with the entire hoopla attendant to and the dollars spent for Election Day 2014, but I thought I might share a viewpoint with you from the Sunday paper. At the end of an article about one of your long time members the CT Post quoted a union official who declined to be identified: ***“The city employees I’ve spoken to think that nothing’s going to happen – that there will be no discipline. A council person should be held to a higher standard, almost like a police officer. Yes, they’re human beings but they should be held to a higher standard.”***

I, too, believe in that higher standard of delivery expected of you by following “best practices.” That is why I have been addressing you for several years so that you may become more aware of City business, especially fiscal business using taxpayer dollars, where I sense your attention is not regularly focused or informed. Those are not easy words for you to hear, I have been told. Some of you may have turned off my comments because it is unpleasant to be found wanting and hear that stated. However, if you are correct and the issues I bring to your attention are not true or accurate, I would have expected you to let me know my error. I would be happy to apologize. Please have the courtesy to tell me that. Surely you are not fearful of telling me the truth as you know it, are you?

But here is a union official, perhaps fearful of reprisal for stating his opinion in public, and he is saying what most in the City expect. ***As our representatives you are held to a higher standard.*** That standard would suggest that you be more informed when you make decisions, especially decisions that have fiscal importance and bind the City to a course of action for decades into the future. With higher expectations you need credible support to assist you in your deliberative work. That can take the form of staffing of your legislative body. You officially have no support today. It might take the form of simplified 20 page financial reports monthly where variances show clearly. It might be in the form of a formal recommendation for each Committee report to the Council recommending an action and posting to the Consent Calendar have a short summary of the why, how, what, of the motion as well as any and all costs in terms of funds and other resources. Such a summary would be an acknowledgement that your vote had substance rather than that it was part of “going along to get along”.

City of Bridgeport  
City Council  
Regular Meeting  
November 3, 2014

In that regard I have a visual to show you the actions that determine the Mill Rate annually. The numerator of the fraction is derived from the Annual Budget you approve and indicates the net amount of revenues the City needs after estimating all other sources. The denominator of the fraction is represented by all of the properties that have no exclusion, exemption, or special abatement from full taxation. In that regard you have been tearing down the City Net Grand List this fall, as surely as if you were demolishing a building, in the name of “economic development”. You do not indicate what that development will look like when it appears, how long it will take to appear, and what is the full cost to the taxpayer? Is that fair? Where is the list of ALL City Property that has such special treatment? Is it readily available to you? Must a taxpayer search through Freedom of Information for such?

You are special people in Bridgeport. You have duties and responsibilities to the broad public as well as to your district. If you were giving yourself a report card today, what grade might you assign to your behavior and accomplishment? How will you grade the Council’s use of your Legislative budget for \$30,000 of secret donations to charity by 15 of the 20 members? The public is looking. The public is paying taxes. What do they see when they are aroused and come to vote? Time will tell.

John Marshall Lee

Council President McCarthy then called Mr. Cecil Young, who had signed up to speak.

**Mr. Cecil Young** then came forward to address the Council. He then displayed a document for the public to see as the Council Members had already seen them. He then spoke about conferring with his attorneys and actions that had been in progress for two years. He mentioned the mis-use of Taxpayers' dollars through fraud and said that he had spoken with the Chairman of the State Labor Board regarding this matter. Mr. Young said that he had given the Council Member copies of the documents showing the fraud. He said that he would continue to talk about the fraud and would not just go away. Mr. Young said that he would continue to make sure that the people who were on this list would be charged with fraud as they violated the public trust.

**Ms. Karen Jackson** came forward and said that she wanted to address the Council about Tisdale and Dunbar Schools and the City ordinance law. She said that there was a bus stop in front of a liquor store. She went to the Zoning Department about this but the bus stop remains.

She then reported that Merritt Hardware had taken over a nearby public area by parking a vehicle on it.

Ms. Jackson said that regarding Code Enforcement, she and her children had been without heat for the entire winter. She said that she was confused about the Zoning Department because this was a zoning violation. She then gave the details of the situation. She wished to know why the landlord was allowed to continue this.

## ADJOURNMENT

Council President McCarthy then adjourned the Public Speaking Portion of the Council Meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2014**  
**7:00 PM**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Finch called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Council Member Taylor-Moye led those present in a short prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Finch then requested Council Member Feliciano to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130<sup>th</sup> District: Susan Brannelly, Rick Torres  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jack Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Robert Halstead, Patricia Swain  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy, Howard Austin  
134<sup>th</sup> District: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Richard DeJesus, Alfredo Castillo  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Milta Feliciano  
138<sup>th</sup> District:  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present. Council President McCarthy stated that Council Member Marella was not able to attend due to a personal issue and Council Member Lyons was enroute to the meeting.

Council President McCarthy then requested a moment of silence for a close family friend of Council Member E. Martinez who had been like a mother to Council Member E. Martinez.

Council President McCarthy spoke about Rev. McBride-Lee who gave the benediction during the President's visit. Council Member Banta then spoke about how happy he was that the President had visited. Mayor Finch said that there was a great deal to be proud of. Council Member Brannelly said that it was exciting to see the President with the Governor and there was a tremendous opportunity to get things done. Rev. McBride-Lee said that she was very honored to give the benediction prayer for the President's visit. She added that she had the chance to take her picture with her Senator and Congressman. Council Member Salter said that it was very nice to shake the President's hand. Mayor Finch said that his children from the oldest to the youngest were thrilled. He said that Bridgeport loves President Obama.

**Mayoral Proclamations: In Recognition of three students who completed intensive Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) BizCamp and competed at the 2014 National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge.**

**City Council Citations: In Recognition of three students who completed intensive Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) BizCamp and competed at the 2014 National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge.**

Mayor Finch invited the three students to come forward to meet the Council members. Council President McCarthy said that the City was pleased and that the students were doing phenomenally well. Mayor Finch then read the names of the people who helps the students with their goals.

The Mayor then presented the students with Citations in recognition of their achievements.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

**Approval of City Council Minutes: September 15, 2014.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2014.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2014 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ITEMS LISTED BELOW TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**180-13 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY CLERK RE: ITEMS PENDING BEFORE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES PURSUANT TO CITY COUNCIL RULES CH. XIII (11), ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

**181-13 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH HILLARY MACKENZIE, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

**182-13 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR – NATIONAL PARK SERVICES, LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND OUTDOOR RECREATION LEGACY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM – JOHNSON OAK PARK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**183-13 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF MARIA ALVES (D) TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS COMMISSION, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**184-13 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS AND BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION RE: PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH UNITED AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY FOR A GROUP MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE PLAN FOR MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREES OF THE CITY AND BOARD OF EDUCATION EMPLOYEES FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**185-13(A-B) COMMUNICATION FROM NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION OFFICE RE: (A) PROPOSED NEW ORDINANCE RESERVOIR NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION ZONE PLAN, (B) PROPOSED NEW RESOLUTION REGARDING RESERVOIR NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION ZONE PLAN, REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCE AND ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT.**

**186-13 COMMUNICATION FROM NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION OFFICE RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING RESERVOIR NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION ZONE-BY-LAWS AND BOUNDARIES PLAN, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**\*133-13 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY & MANAGEMENT – YOUTH SERVICES PREVENTION**

**GRANT FOR THE OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION MENTORING PROGRAM.**

**\*160-13 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GROUND LEASE FOR THE USE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF THE REAR PORTION OF 236 EVERGREEN STREET.**

**\*169-13 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: OFFICE OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FEDERAL PROMISE ZONE DESIGNATION PROGRAM.**

**\*171-13 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – OFFICE OF THE ARTS FOR THE SUPPORTING ARTS IN PLACE GRANT PROGRAM.**

**\*163-13 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS LISTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*154-13 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Approving Amendment #4 to the West End Municipal Development Plan to designate for Acquisition and Disposition certain Properties in the West End Redevelopment Area for the Cherry Street Adaptive Reuse Project.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA MOVED AGENDA ITEM 154-13 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENT #4 TO THE WEST END MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO DESIGNATE FOR ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION CERTAIN PROPERTIES IN THE WEST END REDEVELOPMENT AREA FOR THE CHERRY STREET ADAPTIVE REUSE PROJECT**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

Council Member Torres said that he was not in favor of this project as he had stated on previous occasions.

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, HALSTEAD, SWAIN, AUSTIN, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, DEJESUS, CASTILLO, FELICIANO, MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (TORRES).**

**155-13 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing the Acquisition and subsequent Disposition of Four Properties in the West End Redevelopment Area for the Cherry Street Adaptive Reuse Redevelopment Project.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA MOVED AGENDA ITEM 155-13 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION AND SUBSEQUENT DISPOSITION OF FOUR PROPERTIES IN THE WEST END REDEVELOPMENT AREA FOR THE CHERRY STREET ADAPTIVE REUSE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT.**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

Council Member Torres said that he was not in favor of this project as he had stated on previous occasions.

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, HALSTEAD, SWAIN, AUSTIN, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, DEJESUS, CASTILLO, FELICIANO, MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (TORRES).**

**170-13 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Connecticut State Library FY 2015 Targeted Grant for Historic Documents Preservation Program.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 170-13 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY FY 2015 TARGETED GRANT FOR HISTORIC DOCUMENTS PRESERVATION PROGRAM.**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

Council Member Halstead then asked for clarification on the details of the grant. Ms. Gupta from the City Grants Department came forward and introduced herself to the Council. This grant is from the State Library and this is for an assessment of what documents should be saved based on their assessments. Council Member Halstead asked if they were mostly historic documents or municipal documents. She said it was mostly municipal documents but does not include maps. Ms. Gupta said that there were other grants for preserving maps.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 170-13 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President McCarthy said that next Saturday was the deadline for the tour of various project sites, so RSVPs should be turned in. This will cover the three economic sites and the current development sites.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked for a point of personal privilege. She then said that she was contacted to speak at the Cathedral Academy Middle School and it was her first visit. Her visit was well received. She then gave the details of the program which addressed both Election

Day and Veteran's Day. Army Captain Harold Burke from Fort Dix also addressed the students. She thanked Ms. Catherine Rubans, the 7th grade teacher and the principal, Mr. DiPalma for the opportunity.

Council President McCarthy announced that Council Member Taylor-Moye would be honored by Al-Aziz Islamic Center at their Ijlal Muhammad Humanitarian Awards Dinner on March 22, 2015,

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia announced an upcoming December meeting for the National League of Cities. They will be having a meeting about issues involving schools and universities in various municipalities. She said this was a group of people from all over the nation.

Mayor Finch said that he wished everyone the best of luck in the elections. He said that this was the first year in Connecticut that those who were not registered could register at the Margaret Morton Center and vote on the same day.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services