

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President McCarthy called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Assistant City Clerk Ortiz called the roll call.

The following members were present:

130th District: Susan Brannelly, Enrique Torres
131st District: Jack Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: Robert Halstead
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Richard Salter
136th District: Richard DeJesus
137th District: Milta Feliciano
138th District: Richard Paoletto
139th District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present. Council President McCarthy then listed the members who were not able to be present at 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

Jacquelyn Cauthen
397 Charles Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Re-opening of the Boys and Girls Club
on Madison Avenue.

Council President McCarthy then called Ms. Cauthen to come forward to speak. There was no response. He repeated the call two additional times with no response.

Council President McCarthy then called the next speaker forward.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Striving for excellence.

Striving for Excellence....getting better in Bridgeport?

Council President McCarthy, City Clerk Hudson, Council members in attendance, and friends and neighbors who reside in Bridgeport. My purpose is to inform, to educate, & to make our City governance better. I care about the people of our City. We are broken fiscally. We are broken in governance in ways that other cities are not. You have a critical role in the healing, curing and recovery for which you are not trained. It is your role nevertheless. First, a brief story....

My grandson, Cooper is twelve years old and in the sixth grade. He has played hockey for several years here at Wonderland, and last year in Chicago. We were present at the dedication of the KaBoom playground in Black Rock two Saturday's ago with Mayor Finch and Senator Blumenthal. Telling me about the new hockey season, Cooper said that he likes being coached. Those words got my attention! So I asked him what he meant. He told me that he wants to get better, to improve his skills so that he can perform better and have more fun as a team member. He believes that his coach wants him to improve and he trusts him. I recognized that this was what I was attempting to perform for you, though I have never quite expressed it that way. And the practical insight is that few of you think of me in that way.

So I asked myself what I can do as a coach to improve performance for your fans the voters. I did not for a moment think to discontinue my self-assigned "coaching" responsibility, anymore than Cooper misses his practices or gives up playing time when the coach puts him in the game.

Coaching provides tips for playing as well as reminders of rules of the game.

- Financial reporting is more timely these days than it was even two years ago. You are getting year end draft June reports. But you need a Standing Resolution to receive a Final audited report as well and you must create the time to publicly discuss the results. Last year you saw \$500,000 of Miscellaneous Cash appear in the Comptroller budget. Why? You also discovered that nearly \$30,000 from your own Legislative budget illegally disappeared because 15 Council persons used City taxpayer money for charitable and political purpose in June 2013. You have to chase the puck when it is in your zone.
- Your financial watchdog skills would improve greatly if you RESOLVE to reform the actual Monthly Financial Report. Currently it is too big, too unwieldy and confusing for you to review, so you don't. If Cooper's coach placed a football instead of a puck, trying to score with a hockey stick would be a worthless exercise. When dollars are spent with no practical review by the Council, how is your public served? Will a 23 page report rather than 90 pages help you with your work? It keeps your eye on the puck better.
- Hockey at every level requires that the ice is cleared routinely, not by the players but by a Zamboni driver. You folks don't have a Zamboni driver, or any assistance for that matter, so it is hard to play well with so much information to push around when you are trying to get ready to take a shot. Get someone to help you get clarity with your decisions. Isn't the money in your budget? Remember Other Services?

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
December 1, 2014

- Knowing what the Charter as well as current ordinances requires is important as well as the ethics of your position so as not to be operating with appearance of conflicts of interest. That problem still exists here in the City. Where are the two or three referees to blow a whistle, call an offside or assess a penalty? But those situations happen when driveways get built in a hurry under the influence of a City Commission where your Council President and the Mayor sit? When you don't get a full story a year later on what happened and how, who really cares? When dollars are spent by the leadership with no public explanations? Penalty time?

There is another Council season ahead. It's a year where all the elected know that their work will be measured at the polls. Voters will look at the records and question results. What will you do to improve governance in Bridgeport? Are you working for the people in your District or for the Executive branch of the City? Time will tell.

Council Member McBride-Lee, Council Member Castillo and Council Member Martinez joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Council President McCarthy then called the next speaker who had signed up forward.

Mr. Clyde Nicholson said that he was present to try to benefit the East End. He said he was concerned about a recent shooting and that the City needs to have video cameras on every police officer in the City. This needs to be done now before something happens rather than afterwards. Mr. Nicholson then demonstrated an attachment on his glasses that would show what the officer sees. He pointed out that when people go into the bank there are cameras and there are cameras in many other businesses. He requested a meeting be set up to discuss this issue with the City administration about this.

Council Member Swain joined the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Mr. Danny Goodman came forward to speak about the recent shooting of a young man who pointed a toy gun at a police officer. He said that if someone pointed a toy gun at him from a distance, he would draw his own weapon and fire simply because at a distance, it's impossible to tell if it's a toy. He added that the orange safety tip had been removed, so the officers couldn't tell if it was a toy or not.

Tony Barr came forward and said that the old game that was going on in Bridgeport was over and that change was coming. He said that the incidents of police officers shooting unarmed people was going to stop. He claimed that the surrounding suburban communities were teaching their children to hate people of different skin colors. When those children grow up, they end up in powerful jobs and oppose those with other skin colors. This is going to stop because minorities are not going to allow this anymore. The game is over.

Council Member E. Martinez joined the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President McCarthy then adjourned the Public Speaking Portion of the Council Meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 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 Salter to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Assistant City Clerk Ortiz called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Susan Brannelly, Enrique Torres
131st District: Jack Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: Robert Halstead, Patricia Swain
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter
136th District: Richard DeJesus, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Lydia Martinez, Milta Feliciano
138th District: Richard Paoletto
139th District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

Mayoral Citations: In Recognition of three members of the Bridgeport Fire Department who rescued a 93-year-old woman from a house fire.

City Council Citations: In Recognition of three members of the Bridgeport Fire Department who rescued a 93-year-old woman from a house fire.

Mayor Finch and various members of the Council came forward to present Lieutenant Neal Carr, Lieutenant Dennis Gergely and Firefighter Robert Hernandez citations for rescuing a 93 year old woman from a house fire. Fire Chief Brian Rooney and Assistant Chief Christopher Martin both made their appreciation known.

ADOPTION OF CITY COUNCIL RULES

Council President McCarthy said that it was time to approve the City Council Rules. He explained that he had received a suggestion regarding clarifying the role of "Liaison" in the rules and that this would be done as an amendment through the appropriate committees in the coming months.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE CURRENT CITY COUNCIL RULES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPOINTMENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES

Council President McCarthy said that as Council President, he was charged with the duty of assigning Council members to various committees. After reviewing the committee memberships, he felt they should remain as they are at this time.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE CURRENT CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, SWAIN, MCCARTHY, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, DEJESUS, CASTILLO, MARTINEZ, FELICIANO, PAOLETTO, E. MARTINEZ, AND HOLLOWAY) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (HALSTEAD AND TORRES).**

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: October 20, 2014.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2014.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20,, 2014 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

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

01-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH CYNTHIA GOLDSTEIN, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

02-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: FY 2014-2015 MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS CAPACITY BUILDING AWARD (#15397), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

03-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH HILLARY MACKENZIE, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

04-14 COMMUNICATION FROM HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RE: CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR HOME PROGRAM/FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER DOWN-PAYMENT ASSISTANCE, MR. DESMOND PADILLA, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

05-14 COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC FACILITIES RE: PROPOSED REQUEST THAT A STREETLIGHT BE INSTALLED ON UTILITY POLE #4335 LOCATED IN FRONT OF 39 BELMONT AVENUE, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

06-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR A HISTORIC BROWNFIELD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM (15409), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

07-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH VALERIE SORRENTINO, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

08-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED DISCUSSION, REVIEW AND APPROVAL AS APPROPRIATE OF VARIOUS STATUTORILY AUTHORIZED PROPOSALS AND APPLICATIONS CONCERNING REAL PROPERTY TAXATION, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

09-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LOCAL TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (LOTICIP) (#4T001) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER THE ASH CREEK ESTUARY, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***188-13 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Mary Pooser.**

***190-13 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Workman's Compensation Stipulation with Steve Isaac for the Total Sum of \$25,000.**

***177-13 Education and Social Services Committee Report re: Grant Submission: FY 2014-2015 School Readiness Contract for Early Childhood Lab School at Housatonic Community College.**

Mayor Finch then asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. When there was no response, he asked a second time. Hearing no response, the three items on the Consent Calendar were put forward for consideration.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

***188-13 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH MARY POOSER.**

***190-13 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION STIPULATION WITH STEVE ISAAC FOR THE TOTAL SUM OF \$25,000.**

***177-13 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: FY 2014-2015 SCHOOL READINESS CONTRACT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LAB SCHOOL AT HOUSATONIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

183-13 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Maria Alves (D) to the Zoning Board of Appeals Commission.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** Council PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

Council Member Swain said that "as an Alternate" had been omitted from the item.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 183-13 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF MARIA ALVES (D) TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS COMMISSION TO INCLUDE "AS AN ALTERNATE".**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, TORRES, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, SWAIN, MCCARTHY, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, DEJESUS, CASTILLO, MARTINEZ, FELICIANO, PAOLETTO, AND E. MARTINEZ,) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (HALSTEAD) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (HOLLOWAY).**

Council Member Halstead then made the following statement for the record:

"I am voting consistent with my previous statements that I have no confidence in the vetting process and appointments of the Mayor to Boards and Commissions based on my observations that I have personal knowledge of qualifications of applicants that were much more qualified than those supported by the Mayor.

In addition, the Miscellaneous Matters Committee has had exposure from appointments where there was not full disclosure of the background checks relating to sexual offenders.

This is in no way a reflection of the appointment brought before us this evening."

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 183-13 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF MARIA ALVES (D) TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS COMMISSION AS AMENDED PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, TORRES, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, SWAIN, MCCARTHY, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, DEJESUS, CASTILLO, MARTINEZ, FELICIANO, PAOLETTO, AND E. MARTINEZ,) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (HALSTEAD) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (HOLLOWAY).**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services