

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2015
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President McCarthy called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:45 p.m.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Susan Brannelly, Enrique Torres
131st District: Jack O. Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: Robert Halstead, Patricia Swain
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Howard Austin
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District:
136th District: Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Milta Feliciano, Lydia Martinez
138th District:
139th District: Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present.

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.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

A new year: any resolutions?

Good evening members of the City Council, President Thomas McCarthy, City Clerk Fleeta Hudson, fellow citizens in Council Chambers and viewers at home. This is the second Council meeting of 2015, a time for checking New Year resolutions.

More than a few of you were new to the Council in December 2013. Most of you have been on the Council for a longer period. Tonight I want to ask you to reach back in your memory bank and get in touch with your sense of what being chosen by your neighbors from your specific district felt like the first time it happened. Did you feel honored, happy to have come out the

winner, and were you looking forward to sitting in your raised positions in this Chamber as you are tonight? Feel any different tonight?

Were you aware of the folks in your District who would call you, meet you in public, write letters or emails and ask for help? Some just complained. But as you sought answers you became more aware of how the City really works. Likely you were able to help more folks in your District. That form of representation is critical to those who ask for help when they receive it. It has built a formidable reputation for several of you. It is individual representation but it is only part of the job.

When you were tasked with one or more Committee assignments you were exposed to Ordinances, or City Contracts, or Education, Economic Development, or even Budget and Appropriations a few of the specific areas of broad range representation. New issues, reviewing old answers, framing responses for all of the Districts causes a new way of listening and acting. It is in this area that I have had the most to say to you in a critically constructive manner, I hope and believe.

How can you do this work alone, without assistance? Only with the greatest difficulty and personal sacrifice is that possible. You have allowed yourself to attempt to manage the affairs of a community of our size and complexity with budget including all sources of close to \$700 Million annually. Yet you have not one research assistant, or other specific adviser, owing loyalty and dedication to your legislative body. How can you properly do your work without such assistance? Even teachers in a classroom have helpers in their work. And City Departments are staffed for their work. How have you let yourself be outfitted so poorly?

Is it because you trust the administration implicitly, explicitly and without concern for oversight and monitoring? Are there enough issues that have been raised in your mind to provide some action on your part to verify assumptions that are made? You are watch dogs for the public. We need to hear your bark at least occasionally.

It is popularly heard every day in news releases and media references that the City is getting better every day. You have heard that haven't you? And it may be true in specific cases. But if you are talking to people in your District, you will know that it is not true across the Board. Because you have heard it. Jobs? Education budgets?

Housing? Apartment and condo buildings in the City with people leaving underwater, just giving up? Is that the reason that our Development Director is promoting the "steep discounts on rents and real estate"? Is it the loss of property values caused by high taxes already that has created those opportunities? Yet you have ignored the new department supervisors and managers with six figure incomes and benefits more generous than the private sector that have increased our budgets year after year. Are there evaluations and review of all personnel? Have new folks been hired because others have not done the job? But are still here?

Do you have a list of the settlements with former employees made in the past five years, and the legal expenses made to get to that point? Why not? Have any of you gone to Wheelabrator, supposedly the largest City property owner/ taxpayer, and asked how they feel about our property valuation methods? They have been in Court going on seven years, contesting the City

valuation and assessment. Yet the expert hired by the City is still \$100 Million under the value the City claims. Why are we paying \$100,000 or sometimes \$200,000 annually to pay legal counsel when perhaps we should settle?

These are big issues confronting the City. What is your role? Are you prepared for facing them? Can you steer our City on a better course? If not, what is holding you back from the legislative representation role the public expects? Will you tell the story to your public? Time will tell.

John Marshall Lee

Ms. Denise Bukovan
Housatonic Community College
900 Lafayette Blvd.
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Bridgeport's assets

Ms. Bukovan from Housatonic Community College came forward and introduced herself to the Council Members. She said that usually people come before the Council and complain or demand that the Council Members fix Bridgeport. She said that while she was a newcomer to Bridgeport, there were many, many assets. The City has character and history.

Council Member Salter joined the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Ms. Bukovan said that she often makes positive comments about Bridgeport and that the best thing that people can do is to get young people to come to Bridgeport to see the various colleges. Once the young people arrive they realize what a great place Bridgeport is. She concluded her remarks by distributing copies of the Bridgeport Regional Business Council report to the Council Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President McCarthy then adjourned the Public Speaking Portion of the Council Meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2015
7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Council President McCarthy called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

PRAYER

Pastor Norman Wright led those present in a short prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President McCarthy then requested two representatives from the Bridgeport Hospital and St. Vincent's Hospital's Health Screening Awareness program lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Susan Brannelly, Enrique Torres
131st District: Jack O. Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: Robert Halstead, Patricia Swain
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Howard Austin
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Richard Salter
136th District: Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Lydia Martinez, Milta Feliciano
138th District:
139th District: Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present. Council President McCarthy said that Mayor Finch was attending the U.S. Council of Mayors Convention.

Mayoral Proclamation: In Recognition of the Get Healthy CT Coalition Declaring February “Know Your Numbers” Month to Increase Health Screening Awareness.

City Council Citation: In Recognition of the Get Healthy CT Coalition Declaring February “Know Your Numbers” Month to Increase Health Screening Awareness.

Council President McCarthy called the Health Screening Awareness representatives from both Bridgeport Hospital and St. Vincent’s forward so the Council could present them with the mayoral proclamation and the City Council Citation awards.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: December 1, 2014.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED THE COUNCIL MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2014.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2014 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

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

24-14 COMMUNICATION FROM ENGINEERING RE: (REF. #61-12 & #35-11) PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING SUPPORT FOR ADVANCEMENT OF PROJECT CONCERNING MAIN STREET TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS – UTILIZING FEDERAL FUNDING FROM THE URBAN COMPONENT OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM: STATE PROJECT NO. 15-360, FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. 1015(126), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

25-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH ELIJAH PENDERGRASS, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

26-14 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF LILLIAN WADE (D) TO THE PARK COMMISSION, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

27-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) FOR A FY 2015 BROWNFIELD CLEANUP GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 141 STRATFORD AVENUE (#15374), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

28-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) FOR A FY 2015 BROWNFIELD CLEANUP GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 173 STRATFORD AVENUE (#15407), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

29-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE WAYNE STREET PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (#4P764), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

30-14 COMMUNICATION FROM OPM RE: PROPOSED BUDGET MODIFICATION AND BUDGET TRANSFER TO THE FY 2014-15 GENERAL FUND BUDGET: INCREASE APPROPRIATION FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND FOR ADDITIONAL TRANSFERS TO VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS TO BUDGETARILY REASSIGN AND/OR CREATE NEW POSITIONS, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***05-14 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Request that a Streetlight be Installed on Utility Pole #4335 Located in front of 39 Belmont Avenue.**

***09-14 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: 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.**

***14-14 Contracts Committee Report re: Pharmacy Benefit Management Agreement with Express Scripts Insurance Company, Inc. for the period of January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016.**

***15-14 Contracts Committee Report re: Services Agreement with Express Scripts Insurance Company, Inc. regarding Medicare Part-D Employer-Only Sponsored Group Waiver Plan Prescription Drug for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016.**

***18-14 Contracts Committee Report re: Design-Build Agreement concerning Streetscape Projects.**

Council President McCarthy 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 five items on the Consent Calendar were put forward for consideration.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS FOLLOWS:**

***05-14 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REQUEST THAT A STREETLIGHT BE INSTALLED ON UTILITY POLE #4335 LOCATED IN FRONT OF 39 BELMONT AVENUE.**

***09-14 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: 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.**

***14-14 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH EXPRESS SCRIPTS INSURANCE COMPANY, INC. FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2014 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016.**

***15-14 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH EXPRESS SCRIPTS INSURANCE COMPANY, INC. REGARDING MEDICARE PART-D EMPLOYER-ONLY SPONSORED GROUP WAIVER PLAN PRESCRIPTION DRUG FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016.**

***18-14 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: DESIGN-BUILD AGREEMENT CONCERNING STREETScape PROJECTS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia then requested a moment of personal privilege. She said that she had been involved in a national organization since 2006 and 2007, particularly the Public Safety Crime Commission, which focuses on the public safety in cities and towns. She also mentioned that she had been involved in the PCC, a council that addresses the various issues that cities and towns have with the colleges located in their towns. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had served as Vice Chair and recently had received word that she had been elected as Chairman for these positions. She explained that she had met with the four colleges located in Bridgeport to discuss various issues.

Council President McCarthy said that Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia had done a phenomenal job in her roles at the national organizations. He then publicly thanked her for her excellent work.

Council Member Eneida Martinez requested a moment of silence in memory of Eileen Gearing, the sister of Bridgeport Police Captain Robert Gearing, who recently passed away.

Following the conclusion of the moment of silence, Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia commented that the broadcast audio track for the meetings had been missing or muted. She said that this was not limited to the broadcasts of just Bridgeport's meetings, but the same problem occurred with other town's meeting broadcasts. She suggested that the Council re-evaluate the situation.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ADJOURN PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services