

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015  
6:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President McCarthy called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:40 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130<sup>th</sup> District: Susan Brannelly, Enrique Torres  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jack O. 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: Richard Salter  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Alfredo Castillo  
137<sup>th</sup> District:  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Richard Paoletto  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS HAVE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.**

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

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

City purchases and control.

Council President McCarthy, City Clerk Hudson, Council Members and taxpayers and voters of the City of Bridgeport, greetings on this bitter cold night. February 2015 may become historic because both the first meeting and its makeup meeting have been canceled due to weather issues. Notably it is likely that this month will also show the body reduced temporarily by resignations of two members for cumulative reasons that bring no positive credit to the City. I want to address the CAFR that I have reviewed page by page. I found many errors not deserving annual award certificates.

City of Bridgeport  
City Council  
Regular Meeting  
February 17, 2015

*Council Member Austin joined the meeting at 6:42 p.m.*

THE REPORT IS LATE ONCE AGAIN! On February 6, 2015 the external audit signed off by Blum Shapiro was made available to the public at the City Clerk office and appeared on the Finance Department web site finally. The audit is signed December 27, 2014 (and includes a letter of the same date from Anne Kelly-Lenz, Finance Director) but the report did not get to the public in “published” form within six months of the close of the June 30, 2014 fiscal year as State law requires.

HAVE YOU READ IT? Is the report on your desk tonight? Or have you otherwise received it? More importantly have you taken time to review it in any fashion? If the answer is no, I sympathize with you because you are busy people, and your leadership removed research staff 19 months ago, and you have done nothing to recover that capacity though you have funds in your Legislative budget to do so. Are you so stuck that you will do nothing about it? Let’s assume one or more of you have read it. If the CT Post or Channel 12 were to question you about it, what might you respond? What would your sound bite be? It’s an election year.

As a public watchdog my methodology places last year’s CAFR of 2013 next to the CAFR of 2014 and “compare and contrast.” Nothing fancy.

First the auditor explained a “restatement” of the 2013 asset reporting was required to reduce City assets stated by over \$5 Million due to credit claimed for ‘bond issuance costs’ thus reducing City net asset position on July 1, 2014 to \$198,352,597. (Page 68, Note 16)

Much report narrative duplicates a previous year. One such instance is inappropriate in the extreme. The Finance Director reports on page iii, “The City’s taxable base remains steady with the October 1, 2012 with a Net Taxable Grand List at \$7 billion.” Troubling because this report should have indicated October 1, 2013 and the real taxable base value on that date.

- Certain City officials have seen the results of a property valuation study paid by taxpayers completed in 2013. They know that the City’s taxable base has not remained steady. It has decreased unevenly in the City and tax burdens are currently unfair. Perhaps the thinking is if you can avoid saying so in an official document in early 2015, what’s a year among friends?

- On page 48-49 under Note 10, Commitments and Contingencies, a full page is used to report the Wheelabrator property tax case. The essence of this case that has hung around for about seven years is that the City valued the land and buildings as high as \$445 Million producing an assessment of \$310 Million but the fair market value by the City was reduced to \$314 Million with a 70% assessment of \$219 Million. (See page 101.) The Net Grand List, our tax base will take or has taken a hit of \$130 Million because the City insisted but did not have the expert facts. Do you call that “steady?” What taxpayer addition makes up for a valuation loss of \$130 Million?

- And this court case has averaged \$150,000 per year of City legal expense. What is our purpose in this instance for continuing? Is this an example of quality treatment of a “largest taxpayer” that is a private company, in a competitive industry, and has an environmental mission in a “green city?”

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There is much more to this report than time allows. Required Pension reporting has increased by more than 9 pages. Pension Plan A assets of about \$120 Million are what remain today of the \$350 Million borrowed in 2000. For 15 years past and 15 into the future we spend \$30 Million in our Police and Fire operating budgets annually to reduce the balance of the Pension Obligation Bond currently at \$274 Million. Benefit payments of almost \$31 Million per year are paid to 799 beneficiaries. But the City is only 40% funded and that is more than worrisome. Why then are we raising the rate of return ASSUMED on Plan A to 8% from 7.27% while reducing both Plan B plan ASSUMPTIONS from 4.94% to 4.92%?

*Council Member McBride-Lee joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m.*

(If you don't blink, and no one calls you on it, it's because the City can reduce the stated liabilities by \$15 Million for a year until reality hits.) What City employee ordered that move? We are not masters of financial markets. That has already been proven in Bridgeport.

The last report page, 113, in Table 19 indicates that the City has lost, re-classified, or cares for 18 fewer recreation areas between 2013 and 2014. That may or may not be bad news, but footnotes are important when there are changes, especially reversals. But if I as a watchdog move from the 2014 CAFR to City purchase orders in the last quarter of 2014 that are accessible in the City Clerk office another story appears. We see that the City has committed over \$8.7 Million of funds to playgrounds, ball fields, etc. purchased from two vendor organizations outside Connecticut. Where is the City Council approval included in each of these activities? Appropriating funds? Tracking purchasing ordinances? Monitoring City expenditures? Where are the watchdogs when you expect them? Do you need to hear from the public more than you have? Do you think they want education dollars or playground dollars? I'll send the Mayor, the Finance Director, and the Council notes on the errors, mistakes and failures in report review. Hold a public meeting. Listen to the City experts. Listen to the people. Time will tell.

**Adrienne Houel, President & CEO**  
Bridgeport Enterprises, Inc.  
495 Iranistan Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Recent "green" initiatives that will Greater  
bring Community good jobs to  
Bridgeport.

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen of the Council, Council President McCarthy and Mayor Finch. Thank you for the opportunity to bring you testimony this evening and, above all, Thank you for Your Service to the City of Bridgeport.

1. We should never underestimate the color Green: what it means to us and how fast and far it can take us. We in Bridgeport know something about that. From Mayor Finch's Executive Order in 2008, through the publication of the BGreen 2020 Plan in 2010, to the opening of the largest fuel cell in North America in 2014, in this short time Bridgeport has risen to be recognized as an example of how and what a municipality with major challenges can accomplish with a good, green, sustainable program. It has changed our image and will change our future.

2. The Eco Technology Park, as one of our key green projects, came out of the site selection of some of our early green businesses: Bridgeport Bio Diesel, Flexi-Pave and my organization, Park City Green Mattress Recycling Factory joined some green old-timers such as Santa Energy and RESCO which started to define the geography of the Eco-Technology park. This site has quickly become a hub for companies that focus on recycling and creating clean

energy. Hundreds of jobs have been created so far. And more new businesses are moving in, revitalizing run down properties. You can see it from I-95, as U-Haul has taken over the former Bridgeport Metal Goods Factory on Cherry Street, in the heart of this newly defined district.

3. Now there is Solar Energy: it's used by some of the industries in the Eco Technology Park and featured with the creation of the Green Energy Park (yes we are really the Park City) solar is going even farther with this massive solar array flanked by a fuel cell.

4. Mayor Finch's and the City's Green policies have brought us many new resources, especially from state and national branches of government and from centers of learning. We have been chosen as UConn's first City Collaborative, we are working with Southern CT on founding a branch here in the City, and the State of CT through its DEEP and DECD are assisting with developing and financing new, green ventures, and important, energy-saving infrastructure projects.

5. Most importantly, Mayor Finch's leadership and your work on behalf of your constituents have brought us jobs. The Eco Technology Park has witnessed the creation of hundreds of jobs and is poised to create many more. Recycling and reuse businesses have the potential of turning our waste stream into jobs and dollars for our community. We produce 1,370 pounds of trash per year, per person. That gives us lots of opportunity to create jobs here. Our mattress recycling facility, the first licensed in the state, is a good example of creating jobs from trash. Our Mayor's advocacy helped bring into effect a new state law, as of May 1st, CT's Mattress Recycling Council will launch its program benefiting consumers and our environment, and create more jobs for Park City Green.

6. We in Bridgeport are investing in the future and making the city a place where our kids and grandkids will choose to live, work, and raise their families. The Key is Green: it produces clean energy so our kids breathe cleaner air, and it creates jobs, bringing economic sustainability to our families and communities.

**Chris Jarrin**  
25 Wade Terrace  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Good things that the City has done with the recent snow blizzard and also things that affect him as a resident and business owner.

Council President McCarthy called for the next speaker twice and then was told that the person was not present by another member of the audience.

**Douglas Breveglieri**  
99 Atlantic Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Ticketing of parked vehicles during the most recent snowstorm.

Mr. Breveglieri came forward to state his concerns about the recent snowstorm where a snow emergency was announced late at night and vehicles were towed or ticketed simply because the residents were unaware of the emergency status. He said that there was confusion regarding the Special Services District area which runs from the railroad tracks on the north side to the ball park, the arena and includes Main Street, Broad and Lafayette. The signs should read "Main Street north of Railroad".

In 2012, following the Hurricane, a call was placed to the Mayor regarding what the residents should do to help clean up the storm debris. The response was that the existing funds belonged

to the Special Service District, which ends just south of the ballpark. The Mayor said he was waiting on FEMA funding and the residents should contact Representative Jim Himes about allocating FEMA funding for the South End.

From 2010 to 2015, all the storm instructions for the area south of the railroad tracks, including Main Street were designated by the Mayor with parking on the odd or even sides of the street. There was never any problem with this system.

On February 13th, there was no snow or warning from the Mayor about vehicles parked on both sides of Main Street. On the 14th, during the early morning hours, there was a ban on parking with an enforcement order, resulting in many tickets. On Saturday morning there was no snow and no warning of this mysterious enforcement order for ticketing vehicles on both sides of South Main Street. Mayor Finch released a recorded message at 4:12 p.m. stating that there was even side of the street parking as usual, which Mr. Breveglieri still has on his recording device. The Police Department drove by to insure that all the vehicles were parked on the even side of the street at 11 p.m.

Mr. Breveglieri noted that Main Street South is a dead end at the Ferry entrances and the old Remington Shaver building and it is not a main route.

With the advent of the new South Main sidewalks, the snow instruction signs were removed. There was no warning, no snow, and no effort by the Police Department to contact the residents about the change in parking status.

*Council Member Lydia Martinez joined the meeting at 6:55 p.m.*

Mr. Breveglieri said that when he went to have coffee at McDonalds downtown, he called the Police Department in advance to insure that he would not get a ticket and was politely informed that he should follow the Mayor's instructions. Mr. Breveglieri stopped an officer patrolling in a police car and was also informed that there was a new process that during a snow emergency, absolutely no parking is allowed on Main Street and all the officers have been ordered to enforce this. Mr. Breveglieri pointed out that all the police officers that he spoke with were very polite and helpful within the scope of their authority.

At the conclusion of Mr. Breveglieri's remarks. Council President McCarthy requested that Council Members Taylor-Moye and Banta raise their hands, which they did. He then informed Mr. Breveglieri that they were his Council representatives and suggested that Mr. Breveglieri discuss the matter further with them. Mr. Breveglieri then submitted a copy of a handwritten statement to Council President McCarthy to give to the Mayor.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Council President McCarthy then adjourned the Public Speaking Portion of the Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015**  
**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 7:17 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Imam Mohammed Nasi led those present in a short prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Finch then requested Council Member Brannelly 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, Enrique Torres  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jack O. 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: Rev. Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Alfredo Castillo, Richard DeJesus  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Lydia Martinez  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Richard Paoletto  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present. Council President McCarthy said that Council Members Lyons and Feliciano were ill and Council Member Marella was out of town.

Council Member Paoletto then requested a point of personal privilege and read the following statement into the record:

Thank you Mr. Mayor for giving me the floor under point of personal privilege. Being here tonight sitting in this seat for the last time, brings many thoughts to my mind. But I would first I'd like to thank God for all he has given me, has allowed me to do, and what he has in store for me. I also thank my wife of 27 years Sue for allowing me to be the man I am, and to my 3 children: Richie, Taylor, and Anthony. Most people don't understand that not only do we the elected officials make sacrifices serving the public but our families make just as many. I would also like to thank all my friends and family for their love and support over all these years. Especially to Don you'll never know what your words have done. To my colleagues it has been truly a pleasure serving with most of you, and know that because of the work that is done in this chamber, the City is a better place.

In reflecting on my almost 15 years, as an elected official I have faithfully served on and co-chaired every committee this body covers except budget, which was a true blessing in disguise, and held every title I've wanted on this council except for two. With that being said Mr. McCarthy you won't have to worry about me running for president, and I will honorable hold 2nd place for longest sitting councilman after Mr. Holloway.

To all my fellow employees, political supporters throughout the state, and all my union friends, I have enjoyed all the years working side by side with you on various projects and issues. I'm proud of the relationships I have built with each and every one of you.

To the constituents of the 138th District I thank you for the opportunity you entrusted me with to represent you. Time and time again through primaries and elections, I was always victorious because of you. It was truly a pleasure, and privilege representing you.

In closing God has blessed me with the privilege of being part of this city on multiple levels. Some may ask what will become of Rich Paoletto Jr., and like words that echo these chambers so often, time will tell!

Council President McCarthy remarked that for him, it would be a different world without Council Member Paoletto on the Council. He then thanked Council Member Paoletto for his service to the City, for providing a steady hand and all the sacrifices he made for both the City and the Council. Council President McCarthy concluded by wishing Council Member Paoletto the best in his future endeavors.

Mayor Finch also thanked Council Member Paoletto and noted that public service should never be taken lightly.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that Council Member Paoletto had been extremely helpful to her when she first was elected to the Council and had continued to give her assistance whenever she needed it.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN MOVED THE COUNCIL MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2014.**

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

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 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:**

**31-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS (NEA) FOR OUR TOWN GRANT PROGRAM (#16285), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**32-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CIVIL SERVICE RE: PROPOSED APPROVAL OF CLASS SPECIFICATION (JOB DESCRIPTIONS) FOR VITAL RECORDS DEPARTMENT REGARDING VITAL RECORDS CUSTOMER SERVICE CLERK (CLASS CODE 1265) AND VITAL RECORDS SENIOR CUSTOMER SERVICE CLERK (CLASS CODE 1264), REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**33-14 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES BY AUCTION, BY SALE TO ABUTTER OR BY SALE TO COMMUNITY BASED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS AND REQUEST TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE SAME, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**34-14 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF 157 WILLIAM STREET AND REQUEST TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE SAME, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**35-14 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF CRUZ O. ROSA (R) TO THE PARKS COMMISSION, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**36-14 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF JAMES BRIDEAU (R) TO THE PARKS COMMISSION, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**37-14 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF VELMA LOVELACE (D) TO THE ETHICS COMMISSION, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**38-14 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF RACHEL CUNNINGHAM (D) TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY COMMISSION, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**39-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: IBM SMARTER CITIES CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM (#16207), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**41-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT FY 2015 REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR STATEWIDE GIS ORTHO-IMAGERY FLIGHT, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**42-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT FY 2015 REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC WORKS TRACKING PLATFORM, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**43-14 COMMUNICATION FROM PARKS AND RECREATION RE: PROPOSED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH OLIN PARTNERSHIP, LTD., FOR BEARDSLEY PARK MASTER PLANNING SERVICES, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.**

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

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

**\*12-14 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the renaming of Ann Street in Steel Point to “Bass Pro Drive” permanently.**

**\*24-14 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: (Ref. #61-12 & #35-11) Resolution of 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).**

**\*182-13 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Department of Interior – National Park Services, Land & Water Conservation Fund Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program – Johnson Oak Park**

Development Project (#15462).

**\*186-13 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution regarding Reservoir Neighborhood Revitalization Zone-By-Laws and Boundaries Plan.**

**\*10-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: National Endowments for Arts (NEA) – Art Works Program for a Bridgeport Arts Fest Grant Program (#15454).**

**\*13-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for America the Beautiful (ATB) Grant (#154542).**

**\*16-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Office of Policy and Management for the Nutmeg Network Grant Program.**

**\*19-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Arbor Day Foundation for TD Green Streets Grant Program.**

**\*20-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Housing Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Tranche 2 Application for Public Facilities Infrastructure and Planning (#15463).**

**\*30-14 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: 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.**

Mayor Finch then asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested Item 12-14 be removed.

Council President McCarthy requested that Item 182-13 be removed.

Council Member Swain then requested that Item 30-14 be removed.

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

**\*24-14 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #61-12 & #35-11) RESOLUTION OF 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).**

**\*186-13 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING RESERVOIR NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION ZONE-BY-LAWS AND BOUNDARIES PLAN.**

**\*10-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: NATIONAL ENDOWMENTS FOR ARTS (NEA) – ART WORKS PROGRAM FOR A BRIDGEPORT ARTS FEST GRANT PROGRAM (#15454).**

**\*13-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL (ATB) GRANT (#154542).**

**\*16-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT FOR THE NUTMEG NETWORK GRANT PROGRAM.**

**\*19-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION FOR TD GREEN STREETS GRANT PROGRAM.**

**\*20-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR) TRANCHE 2 APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING (#15463).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

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

The Council then proceeded to consider the remaining items.

**\*12-14 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the renaming of Ann Street in Steel Point to “Bass Pro Drive” permanently.**

Council President McCarthy stated as a point of information that the scheduling of a public hearing had been approved.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said as a point of personal privilege that she had spoken against the practice of renaming streets without a process in the past. She said that she had concerns about naming a street for a developer or a business and in order to be consistent, she would be voting against this measure.

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 12-14 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE RENAMING OF ANN STREET IN STEEL POINT TO “BASS PRO DRIVE” PERMANENTLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

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

Council President McCarthy requested that Agenda Item 30-14 be considered next due to the fact that he would be calling a caucus for Agenda Item 182-13.

**\*30-14 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: 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.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED ITEM 30-14.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

Council Member Swain said that she would like confirmation from Mr. Sherwood about this item. Mr. Sherwood, the OPM Director, came forward and explained that there were two parts to the item. One part was the educational cost sharing for the Board of Education. He then reviewed the details associated with this particular issue. Mr. Sherwood then stated that there had been a number of staff positions in the budget that had not been filled, but the departments need more staff in order to do their work.

Council Member Swain asked if the increase in the budget for the Board of Education mandated or was it an appropriation. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the details.

Council Member Brannelly asked Mr. Sherwood to explain where the funding was coming from. Mr. Sherwood explained that the 17 or 18 week funding was coming from the police officer health care fund and gave the details of how this was done through the Police Control account.

**\*182-13 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Department of Interior – National Park Services, Land & Water Conservation Fund Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program – Johnson Oak Park Development Project (#15462).**

Council President McCarthy called a caucus at 7:40 p.m. The Council Members returned from caucus at 7:50 p.m.

*Council Member Paoletto left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.*

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 182-13 AS DISCUSSED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.**

Atty. Anastasi came forward and explained that these were just technical changes and gave a brief overview of them. Mr. Sherwood said that the proposed changes would strengthen the application.

Council Member Swain about the funding for the program in the 2014-2015 budget. Mr. Sherwood answered that question.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the property would be shared by both the Parks and Recreation Department and the BOE. Mr. Steve Hladun came forward and said that the proposed project would be shared by both and that the BOE was aware of this.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia commented that while grant funding was great, there was the issue of on-going maintenance. Mr. Sherwood explained that the proposal is a conceptual plan and pointed out that currently, the City maintains the park area while the BOE maintains the area behind Tisdale school. The focus of this request is for submitting the grant application.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if this was a City park. Mr. Sherwood said that it was. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked that the Council Members be kept up to date on the status of the project.

Council Member Salter asked where the funding for the project would be placed. Mr. Sherwood said that the funds would be allocated to the project account.

Mayor Finch commented that the students at Tisdale had helped to design the park. He added that Bridgeport was being considered for the grant funding because of its commitment to parks and thanked the Trust for Public Lands for their work on this project.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she wished to clarify that while it may be used by the students in that particular school district, the park was a City wide park.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ITEM 182-13 AS DISCUSSED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 182-13 AS AMENDED.**

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

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

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:**

**40-14 Special Committee Report re: (Ref. #161-12) Discontinuance of Former East Main Street (South of Stratford Avenue), Former Pierpont Street, Former Pembroke Street (South of Stratford Avenue), Former Maiden Lane and Former California Street ("Streets") on Steel Point Peninsula: Adopted on November 4, 2013.**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 40-14.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services