

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION  
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015  
6:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Taylor-Moye called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:36 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:  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Howard Austin  
134<sup>th</sup> District: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia  
135<sup>th</sup> District:  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Alfredo Castillo  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Milta Feliciano,  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Melanie Jackson  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MARCH 16, 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

Financial questions.

Mr. John Marshall Lee came forward to address the Council.

**A MONEY STORY: Operating BRIDGEPORT, CT**

Money makes the world go around, and that is true for Bridgeport, too. However, the local resident pays less than half the current and bonded expenses for a number of reasons, and yet

feels overtaxed and underserved while watching property taxes<sup>4</sup> increase and residential and other property values decrease.

The operating budget for the City is around \$525 Million including education, but when all State and Federal revenues are included the annual revenues spent on government for one year may exceed \$670 Million. (There is no regular report provided by the City to show the revenues from all sources, or the employee positions in all programs or the trends from year to year as well as the variances within a year.)

The City has a Capital Budget as well that looks at the coming year plus four into the future. In 2013 the Mayor sought \$29 Million in his cover letter though the charts showed only \$26 Million for 22 projects in that year. In 2014 the Mayor proposed over \$35 Million for 33 projects. The current year shows about \$42 Million requested (though the requests shows ADOPTED) for 31 items, but the single page shows no history of recent year decisions, completions, changes and sources of funds for the Capital Budget. There is no update available to taxpayers throughout the year even though the City Council is charged to “solicit ideas” on the subject from a broad range of persons and to hold an annual public hearing. Why is this not done?

Actual salaries are recorded in payroll records not otherwise available for review publicly. However, a summary of line item 51000 “FULL TIME EARNED PAY” is the closest to tracking actual earnings available to the public but confirmation from OPM or Finance would be suggested before making such assumption.

And benefits are paid on behalf of people in groups for insurance, retirement plans, and unemployment, Medicare and Social Security.

The City purchasing department has processes that it follows with attention to the necessary integrity of their work. Here you will find a multitude of expenditures ranging from armored personnel carriers to coffee at Dunkin Donuts, from legal notice expenses to newspapers to catering by Tiago’s, from settlements of legal case claims to \$8,000 per month payments to outside legal counsel, Ed Maley, from legal expenses for a variety of services to Pullman Comley LLC running almost \$500,000 annually to playground and park development expenses totaling \$8.7 Million in the fall of 2014 from two out of state firms. (Look at the activity at Blackham School and consider what \$1.250,000 may be producing? And look for similar activity at Marin, Puglio and Columbus locations that would be receiving the rest of \$5,169,000 of funding contracted with the Cal Ripken Foundation? Where were those plans reviewed, decisions made and ratified by City Council, and how many City jobs are funded even on a short term basis? Most importantly what is the source of the money for these projects? Annual operating budget? Not seen in current Parks, Recreation, or other Department budgets! Capital approvals? Not seen in current or past two year adopted projects? All from grants to the City? Money of this kind would have caused a real splash and PR effort if funded by a grant. Therefore, unlikely. Bonding? But don’t projects like these need to get City Council approval?

What is the story when it seems difficult to explain all of the new things done in the City and tie the activities, the services and the “stuff” to how we are paying for them? Time will tell.

Following his concluding remarks, Mr. Lee noted that there were nine extra pages of revenues included in the report.

**Howard Gardner**  
25 Cartright Street, Unit 8G  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Capital Budget and other issues.

Mr. Gardner came forward to speak about the budget process. He said that the Capital Budget was brief and there were not much in the way of description. These are taxpayer's dollars and just giving a general title to the project is not enough.

*Council Member L. Martinez joined the meeting at 6:46 p.m.*

He pointed out that there was a re-evaluation coming up and with Wheelabrator leaving, the taxes would increase. He said that the Budget Committee needs to do a better job and there are a lot of costs that could be cut. He said that the project manager was building the schools but had to use space heaters to keep the students warm.

*Council Member Casco joined the meeting at 6:48 p.m.*

Mr. Gardner said that O&G had been working on City projects and it was time to go out to bid for a new contractor.

**Beverlee F. Dacey**  
989 Hancock Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Positive relocation experience and company vision.

Council Member Taylor-Moye called Ms. Dacey three times. There was no response.

**Michelle Margo**  
Black Rock Farmers Market  
481 Brewster Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

The benefit of farmers markets in Bridgeport.

Ms. Margo came forward to speak about the Bridgeport Farmer's Market Collaborative, a group of six farmer's markets. Last year, there were over \$90,000 of fresh food was purchased in these markets which are located in food deserts.

*Council Member McBride-Lee joined the meeting at 6:50 p.m.*

Ms. Raquel Ravero Pablo, another member of the Bridgeport Farmer's Market Collaborative, also came forward to speak about the various markets that offered various events, such as a concert, a cooking demonstration and recipe suggestions along with a soup kitchen.

**Michael Moore**  
DSSD  
938 Broad Street  
Bridgeport, CT

Downtown

Mr. Moore came forward and greeted everyone. He said that he wanted to echo the support for the downtown farmer's markets. These markets serve people who don't have access to fresh food.

He acknowledged Mr. Jorge Garcia and his staff for working so hard to remove the snow from the streets.

The St. Patrick's Parade will kick off at noon from downtown. Mr. Moore listed a number of venues that would be participating.

The DSSD is working to be a cultural hub and the concert series will be starting soon. There will be an Arts Trail and other events.

**Dan Donovan**  
N.Y. Power  
10 Middle Street

Thermal Loop

Mr. Donovan came forward to speak about the removal of the power plants. He mentioned previous work and said that the steam that was being produced from one of the plants and using it to produce hot water and heat for the fuel cell facility. Mr. Donovan then gave the details about how this would be done. He also listed the various firms that were hired and also listed some of the potential customers, such as UB, Peoples Bank and a few other businesses. He said that his company was hoping to work with the residential and municipal areas, also.

### ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Taylor-Moye adjourned the public Speaking portion of the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015**  
**7:00 PM**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Mayor Finch requested Council Member Brannelly to lead those present in prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Finch then requested Council Member Torres 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: 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: Jose Casco, Alfredo Castillo  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Milta Feliciano, Lydia Martinez  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Michael Marella, Melanie Jackson  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present.

It was announced that Council President McCarthy was not in attendance due to illness and that Council Member Lyons had been delayed.

**Appointment of City Council Standing Committees.**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED TO TABLE THE APPOINTMENT OF CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES AT THIS TIME.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION TO TABLE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Brannelly asked for a moment of personal privilege. She said that she would like to request a moment of silence in order to mark the passing of former Council Member Patrick Crossin. The Mayor also spoke about his high regard for Mr. Crossin and requested a moment of silence in honor of him.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

**Approval of City Council Minutes: January 20, 2015.**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2015.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 20, 2015 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**56-14 COMMUNICATION FROM WPCA RE: FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JUNE 30, 2014 PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE SECTION 13.04.420 ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

**57-14 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF VINCENT DIPALMA (D) TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY COMMISSION, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**58-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED WORKERS COMPENSATION STIPULATION WITH JO ANN MEEKINS, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**59-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED WORKERS COMPENSATION STIPULATION WITH MADELINE KING (DEPENDENT SPOUSE OF EARL KING, DESCENDENT), REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**60-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: APPOINTMENT OF KELLY A. PEREZ (D) TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**61-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT D. RUSSO, III (R) TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**62-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING SELECTION OF WAKEMAN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB RFI RESPONSE PROPOSAL TO OPERATE THE FORMER BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB LOCATED AT 595 MADISON AVENUE, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**63-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: APPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW CUMINOTTO, JR. (D) TO THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION TO ADJOURN PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services