

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 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:

130<sup>th</sup> District: Enrique Torres  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jack O. Banta  
132<sup>nd</sup> District:  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy  
134<sup>th</sup> District: Michelle Lyons  
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:  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Melanie Jackson  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

Council President McCarthy stated that Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia was absent due to a death in the family and that a number of other Council Members were in a Committee meeting.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2015, 2015 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>
<b>Jacquelyn Cauthen</b> 397 Charles Street Bridgeport, CT 06606	Update on Becoming D.I.V.A.S. (Dynamic Intelligent Versatile Ambitious Savvy) girls empowerment/Life Skills Program.

Ms. Cauthen came forward and said that she had distributed invitations to the Council Members to attend a private showing of her artwork to raise money for her program for young girls. She had someone display some artwork that was composed of a three dimensional mask of a person with a headdress on it. She said that she would be able to create this type of artwork for

customers and the cost of the work would go towards the programs for young ladies. Ms. Cauthen said that her program could not be funded by the Lighthouse Program until the start of the new fiscal year in July of 2016. Since the art display will be a private affair, it will be important for the Council Members to RSVP. Ms. Cauthen thanked the council members for their time and attention.

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

City Priorities and Finances.

**Until Bridgeport has a sustainable governance structure and processes, with checks and balances for the benefit of all residents, we will need watchdogs.** What moves me to stand in front of your body twice a month for years and raise things to your attention with stories and questions is covered in that one simple sentence? Let me repeat it to you slowly, so that its full content and meaning are not lost.

**Until Bridgeport has a sustainable governance structure and processes, with checks and balances for the benefit of all residents, we will need watchdogs.**

Regarding “sustainable structure”, our current form of decision making in a poor urban City does not listen well to the voices of the people and then they fail to vote. Open process for using their voice would look differently in the composition of Boards and Commissions, their encouragement to continuing education and high standards, and providing time and interest to the goal of increased communication with the public.

In my opinion “transparent” process and accountability would look very different from today where 1% or fewer of the public can understand the unnecessarily complicated financial yet on the whole, incomplete fiscal reporting provided by City Hall. Without a Finance Board, with expertise and credibility, how do we trust the decisions of this body that let some people enjoy 100% of City services while taxing them at a fraction of that percent for decades into the future?

“For the benefits of all residents” sounds good to my ears and perhaps to yours also. However, when was the last time that “taxpayers” who may be young or old, poor or advantaged, and come in all colors, religions and cultural persuasions or philosophies, were regarded in your deliberations?

On Election Day I spoke with a former Mayor of a CT city in the New Haven region at the polls. He stated that our problem in Bridgeport were those of you who may have conflicts of interest because of your own or a relative’s City employment. He saw the conflict of interest. His answer: pass a law. When I shared with him that our City Charter was on the books already, and that local legal interpretation allowed the behavior to continue he was surprised. When I asked him whether he had an Internal Auditor to work on fiscal controls, he said yes. I told him that we lost ours years ago and have been getting neither an annual purchasing report nor tri-annual audit because there is no Internal Auditor. The Ordinance on the books for about two decades has not caused the Council to come to its rescue.

City of Bridgeport  
City Council  
Regular Meeting  
October 5, 2015

Finally I asked him did his city have a Finance Board and he said they did. I told him Bridgeport does not have such a body. And he looked me in the eye and said: “Where are your checks and balances?” And I said: “Exactly.”

Within one month the General Election will take place. What advances has your body made in the past two years to move us towards more sustainable governance? What have you done to provide more checks and balances or processes to have government work more fairly for all of the people? What have you done to advance the cause of monitoring, review, oversight or watchdog activity where it is needed?

- How has the gun-buyback program been funded? Public \$\$ from which budgets? Where are the Purchase Orders?
- July tax payments this July covered only 37% of the annual budget? Is this a reason for any concern with the state of the economy?
- Whether you trust the current administration’s fiscal activity or not, there will be a new administration soon. How do you trust and verify fiscal matters?
- A previous speaker tonight, a retired registered nurse from NY who is attempting to work with youth in our city, wondered why she must wait for a June payment from Lighthouse after providing 15 programs per semester as a vendor. And I wonder why does that same program fail to declare annual fee revenue of \$850,000 from parents and families when they present their budget to the City Council annually?

Watchdogs? Time will tell.

Council President McCarthy then called the next speaker forward who was on the sign up sheet.

Mr. George Cruise came forward to speak about the upcoming election in the 134th. HE said that the Council needs to do more for the residents. He asked the residents to become involved with the Town Committees to make the City of Bridgeport better for its residents.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council President McCarthy adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 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 7:23 p.m.

**PRAYER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Finch then requested Council Member Marella 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: Patricia Swain, Robert Halstead  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy  
134<sup>th</sup> District: Michelle Lyons  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Rev. Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Josè Casco, Alfredo Castillo  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Milta Feliciano, Lydia Martinez  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Melanie Jackson, Michael Marella  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

**City Council Citations: Honoring Michael “Mickey” Kelly, Kenton Clarke and John Ratzemberger for being Inducted into the World Drum and Bugle Corps Hall of Fame.**

**\*\*This Item was removed from the agenda\*\***

**Mayoral Citation: Honoring Irineu Portella as a Role Model in a good Citizenship for his work as a Milne Street Public Safety Advocate for the last Five Years.**

Mayor Finch then requested Mr. Irineu Portella forward to receive a Mayoral Citation. He spoke glowingly of Mr. Portella's work in his neighborhood.

**City Council Citation: Honoring Irineu Portella as a Role Model in a good Citizenship for his work as a Milne Street Public Safety Advocate for the last Five Years.**

Council Member Taylor-Moye and Council Member Banta spoke about how Mr. Portella had organized the residents into a team to shovel the streets when there was a major snowstorm.

Council President McCarthy then presented Mr. Portella with a City Citation.

**City Council Citation: Honoring Connecticut Against Violence for Preventing Violence, Promoting Justice and Preparing Youth for a better tomorrow with the 3rd Annual Back to School Youth Summit.**

Council President McCarthy requested Mr. Kingsley Osei, the Founder Executive & Director of Connecticut Against Violence to come forward to receive a City Council Citation for his work to prevent youth violence. Mayor Finch said that there were three groups that were working to reduce youth violence and that these efforts were making a difference. Mr. Osei said that following the death of a young Bridgeport resident, he decided to stop being part of the problem and become part of the solution. He said that some of his team could not be present for the presentation, but thanked them for their help.

Mayor Finch recognized Council Member Holloway as a point of personal privilege. He said that this was his 22 year of serving on the Council. During that time, people have been critical of him, but he had continued to be re-elected to the Council. Council Member Holloway said that when the election occurs, the people will have spoken about the performance of the various council members. He then spoke about the incident five years ago, when a member of the Council physically attacked a member of the public. Council Member Holloway said that he did not feel that the tax payers should pay for that incident. He said that this was wrong and that the City Council members should not get out of their seat and touch a member of the public no matter what they say.

*Council Member Torres left the meeting a 7:48 p.m.*

Council Member Holloway said that because he believed this settlement was wrong, he was leaving the meeting.

*Council Member Holloway left the meeting at 7:49 p.m.*

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

**Approval of City Council Minutes: September 8, 2015.**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2015.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

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

**178-14 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.**

**179-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH DELIAH PORTILLO, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

**180-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FOR A POOL SAFELY GRANT PROGRAM (PROJECT #16269), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**181-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY FY 2016 TARGETED GRANT FOR A HISTORIC DOCUMENTS PRESERVATION GRANT PROGRAM, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**182-14 COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC FACILITIES RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AND SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH GENERAL ELECTRIC INTERNATIONAL, INC. TO PROVIDE ELECTRICITY AT REDUCED COST TO THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL LOCATED AT 379 BOND STREET, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**183-14 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE BRIDGEPORT NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT, LOCATED AT 515 WEST AVENUE,**

**REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**\*80-13 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12.28 Park Use Regulations, amended Section 12.28.210 Regulation Banning Smoking in City Parks.**

**\*96-14 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8.80 Noise Control Regulations, amended Sections 8.80.020 Definitions and 8.80.050 Prohibited Noise Activities by adding new Subsection “C” (10).**

**\*116-14 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amended to add new Chapter 13.12 Property Tax Exemption for Cogeneration Systems Incorporated into a Microgrid and Serving Municipal Buildings.**

**\*105-14 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Resolution requesting that City Council Members’ written and electronic requests for departmental information of any kind be provided expeditiously.**

**\*137-14 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Reappointment of Esperina Baptiste Stubblefield (U) to the Food Policy Council.**

Mayor Finch then asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Brannelly requested that Agenda Item 80-13 be removed from the Consent Agenda. City Clerk Hudson then read the revised Consent Agenda into the record.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**\*96-14 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8.80 Noise Control Regulations, amended Sections 8.80.020 Definitions and 8.80.050 Prohibited Noise Activities by adding new Subsection “C” (10).**

**\*116-14 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amended to add new Chapter 13.12 Property Tax Exemption for Cogeneration Systems Incorporated into a Microgrid and Serving Municipal Buildings.**

**\*105-14 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Resolution requesting that City Council Members’ written and electronic requests for departmental information of any kind be provided expeditiously.**

**\*137-14 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Reappointment of Esperina Baptiste Stubblefield (U) to the Food Policy Council.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

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

**\*80-13 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12.28 Park Use Regulations, amended Section 12.28.210 Regulation Banning Smoking in City Parks.**

Council Member Brannelly explained that the Committee had mistakenly thought they were approving the ordinance as amended when in fact, they were approving as written. She then read the amended ordinance language.

**Amended from the floor on October 5, 2015 to read as follows:**

Smoking of tobacco or any other combustible products shall not be permitted at the playgrounds, sports fields nor on the beaches of the parks of the city. Noticed by posting and signage.

Any person violating this rule and regulation and ordinance shall be fined as provided in chapter 1.12 of the code of ordinances of the city of Bridgeport.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 80-13 AS READ.**

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

**\*\* THE MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 80-13 AS READ PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 80-13 AS AMENDED.**

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

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 80-13 AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**\*98-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing an Affordable Housing Tax Incentive Agreement for Crescent Crossing II, A Mixed-Income Affordable Housing Development Located at 252 Hallett Street.**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MCCARTHY MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 98-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT FOR CRESCENT CROSSING II, A MIXED-INCOME AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT LOCATED AT 252 HALLETT STREET.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 98-14 AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD TWO ITEMS TO THE AGENDA.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

**176-14 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH GULSEN BERRIOS.**

**177-14 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH CECIL YOUNG.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEMS 176-14 AND 177-14 PASSED WITH NINE (9) IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, HALSTEAD, SWAIN, LYONS, L. MARTINEZ, MARELLA, AND JACKSON) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASCO, AND E. MARTINEZ) AND THREE (3) ABSTENTIONS (MCCARTHY, CASTILLO, AND FELICIANO).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD TWO ITEMS TO THE AGENDA.**

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

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO REFER THE FOLLOWING TWO ITEMS TO THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE:**

**A PROPOSED CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT AND THE BRIDGEPORT CITY SUPERVISOR'S ASSOCIATION; (185-14) AND**

**A PROPOSED CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT AND THE BRIDGEPORT BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL (184-14).**

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

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

Council President McCarthy announced that Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia was not present due to a death in the family and that Council Member Torres had to leave because his wife was giving a presentation.

Council President McCarthy then congratulated Council Member Jackson on her recently completed international tour.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services