

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 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 Martinez called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Kathryn Bukovsky, Scott Burns
131st District: Jack O. Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye,
132nd District: M. Evette Brantley, John Olson
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter
136th District: Jose Casco, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Milta Feliciano
138th District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith
139th District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015, 2015 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Ethan Book
144 Coleman Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Secularization of government.

Mr. Ethan Book came forward and said that he was a City Council candidate in 2013 and ran again in 2014. He congratulated the various officials who were elected in November. He congratulated Mayor Ganim and announced his support of Mayor Ganim.

Mr. Book then referred to remarks that he had made on April 1, 2013 to the Council, about the secularization of government and a 2011 article titled "The Secularization of Government" that he had authored. He spoke about the Federal attempts to advocate for the separation of church

and State and how there were major Supreme Court decisions in 1962 banning prayer in public schools and the 1963 decision regarding the use of the Bible. More recently, there has been a ban on posting the Ten Commandments in public places. These decisions were followed by sharp rises in teen pregnancy, single parent households, STDs and various other issues including violent crime, while SAT scores decreased. These are verified by Federal statistics.

Mr. Book said that the secularization of government had resulted in a decrease of public safety, education and various other societal issues resulting in the decline in the quality of life. He said he believed this could be reversed. He then quoted I Kings 3:9 “Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people that I may discern between good and evil for who is able to govern [inaudible] people?” He concluded by saying, “May God bless us all.”

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City priorities and finances.

Mr. Lee came forward and made the following comments:

Greetings to all Council members at this first meeting in Council chambers. On behalf of fellow Bridgeport citizens, voters and taxpayers I am present tonight to wish you success in your work on behalf of all of us. Those of you who are returning veterans of Council activity have heard me speak on a variety of City subjects, many of which relate to City finances. I will continue to advocate for OPEN, ACCOUNTABLE, TRANSPARENT and HONEST governance practices in the City with the hope that more practices are improved in these directions without any dollar cost to the City.

According to the Agenda for this evening, you will have an opportunity to vote on City Council Rules. If you wish to encourage more attention to City concerns, more knowledge on the part of voters about City problems of all kinds, and support for activity that will increase City strength in all departments, I respectfully suggest that you open your Council Sub-Committee meetings to brief public comment or discussion but noted in your minutes. You may hear a question, or a practical suggestion, or an alternative approach that makes sense to you and respond appropriately. What is wrong with this? If people do not attend these Committee sessions, where the real work of your body is accomplished in recent years, then your meetings will have no greater length. If they do attend with contributions to your subject matter, isn't that positive? Please consider this advance in OPEN behavior.

I have referenced TRANSPARENT governance many times. Please take a look at your Agenda for this meeting. It is formed this way purposefully. There are 16 communications and resolutions 01-15 to 15-15 and one petition 20-15 that face your consideration tonight. Not one of these items shows a number preceded by a dollar sign symbol. Why not? Where is the price tag, or price range information that will alert you on some level to the relative priority and importance of such item? Why is there a total absence of such information when it reaches your desk? To the extent that one has to look at back up paperwork that the public does not get to see, until a decision is made when it shows up in the minutes, can you justify such secrecy?

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ACCOUNTABILITY for City property and funds is also critical. In that regard, you will see a new signature on the October Monthly Report from Ken Flatto, Finance Director. Impressive is the continued use of a shortened format to make your review duties easier. Variances are reported for revenues as before, but now variances show for expense line items as well. That is positive. However, there has been no “Explanation of Variances” regarding Police and Fire Department overtime since May, 2015 when it was reported “The overage in the Police Department overtime accounts is attributable to large retirement of Police Officers this fiscal year. Please note that the salary savings from these retired officers will compensate the overtime overage by year end.” A similar explanation was entered regarding Fire Department overtime.

Silence on that subject through June (Draft report-FINAL REPORT due shortly with issuance of CAFR-2015 at calendar yearend), July, August, and September, until the new Finance Director in the October variance comments: “Please note that the salary savings from these retired officers will partially compensate the overtime overage by year end.” June 30, 2016 is the year end and right now the negative variances for both departments assuming all forecasts hold is that deficits of \$4, 250,000 will have to be made up but how will that be done? What questions will you ask? What research will be done for you on this and other questions? Will you look to support your Council with assistants who can get to the bottom of issues on a full time basis?

HONEST is a word that is honored I hope by all. HONEST dialogue and reporting is the major condition that supports civic authority and respect. If partial honesty or dishonesty in some matters becomes the special of the day, we become lost as a community. As a watchdog of some duration municipally, I attempt to provide timely, complete and honest information for the public benefit.

You will receive a copy of these comments at your Council email address for review or reflection. Call me with your questions. Ask for a more extended conversation. Several former Council members are also available as questions arise to assist in your education and training. You have a difficult task to monitor. Public expectations are especially high this year. How will you do your critical part in meeting those expectations? Time will tell.

Erik D. Robinson
849 Noble Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06608

Bringing new jobs to the City.

Council President McCarthy called for Mr. Robinson twice with no response.

Cecil Young
Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Young, of Carroll Avenue came forward to address the Council. He spoke about the previous issues he had with the City Health Department. He said that originally, there had been a policy of “See something, say something”. He claimed he saw something, said something and was persecuted for it. It is a shame that in America, if someone saw something and said something, they could be persecuted for it.

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Mr. Young then displayed several posters with enlarged copies documents that he claimed were doctor's notes and employee time cards. He said that he supported Mayor Ganim. Mr. Young added that Council President McCarthy was a city resident and would be paying more taxes. He displayed another poster that he claimed was a medical form from 2017. He said that all the facts were documented and requested an apology.

State Senator Ed Gomes
Bridgeport, CT

State Senator Ed Gomes came forward to address the Council. He congratulated all the elected Council Members and said that he wished them all well. He said that as a Senator for the City, he would be working hard for the City he loved.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim then requested Council Member McBride-Lee to lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim then requested Council Member Holloway to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Martinez called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Kathryn Bukovsky, Scott Burns
131st District: Jack O. Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye,
132nd District: M. Evette Brantley, John Olson
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter
136th District: Jose Casco, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Milta Feliciano
138th District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith
139th District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

ADOPTION OF CITY COUNCIL RULES

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADOPT THE CITY COUNCIL RULES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

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**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ELECTION OF CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mayor Ganim opened the floor for nominations for Council President. He reviewed the process and said that a roll call vote would be taken.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO NOMINATE THOMAS MCCARTHY AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT.**

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that since she came on the Council two terms ago, she has always been able to talk to Council President McCarthy and go to him for guidance. She said that he was fair, honest and decent.

**** THIS MOTION WAS SECONDED BY: COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ, COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY, COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE, AND COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS.**

Council Member Martinez said that Council President McCarthy had been very helpful to her during her two years on the Council.

Council Member Brantley said that she was proud to give a second to Council President McCarthy's nomination. He works cooperatively with the Council Members and she was looking forward to serving with him.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that this was her second term on the Council and that Council President McCarthy put her on the right track and felt that he was a great Council President. She thanked him for all the help in getting her emails.

Council Member Lyons said that she and Council President McCarthy had served together for ten years. She said that Council President McCarthy was always there when there were personal issues along with Council issues. She said that Council President McCarthy would call to give people warnings about important issues coming to Committees and always available to make quorum. With 20 different personalities on the Council, it can be a challenge to coordinate things like that.

Mayor Ganim asked if there were any other nominations for Council President. Hearing none, Mayor Ganim then closed the floor for nominations. A roll call vote was then taken.

**** THE MOTION TO NOMINATE THOMAS MCCARTHY AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPOINTMENT OF CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES

Council President McCarthy welcomed Mayor Ganim and said that Mayor Ganim had the City's best interest at heart. He then welcomed back all the returning Council Members, and congratulated the new Council Members on their election to their seats. Council President

McCarthy said that he had spoken with all the Council Members and gotten feedback from them. He said that not everyone would get the Committees that they had requested, but that he felt the assignments were his best effort.

Council President McCarthy then announced the following appointments to the City Council Standing Committees:

(The names in bold type serve as Co-chairs.)

Committee on Budget and Appropriations : Taylor-Moye, Burns, Brantley Vizzo-Paniccia, Nieves, and Casco.

Committee on Ordinances: Martinez, Casco, Lyons, McBride-Lee, Bukovsky, Banta, and Vizzo-Paniccia.

Committee on Public Safety and Transportation: Lyons, McBride-Lee, Banta, Salter, Bukovsky, Martinez, and Herron.

Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment: Feliciano, Brantley, McBride-Lee, Lyons, Nieves, Martinez, and Herron.

Committee on Miscellaneous Matters: Vizzo-Paniccia, Salter, Taylor-Moye, Paoletto, Feliciano, Smith and Olson.

Committee on Contracts: Banta, Herron, Feliciano, Salter, Holloway, Castillo, and Paoletto,

Committee on Education and Social Services: Castillo, Olson, Casco, Burns, Smith, Nieves, and Bukovsky.

CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Thomas McCarthy

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE: Denese Taylor-Moye

MAJORITY LEADER: Eneida Martinez

***A) DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER/SGT AT ARMS**: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

***B) DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER**: Michelle Lyons

***C) DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER**: M. Evette Brantley

LIAISONS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Liaison to the Chamber of Commerce: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

Liaison to the Fire Commission: Jeanette Herron

Liaison to Harbor Commission: Mary McBride-Lee

Liaison to Housing Authority: Denese Taylor-Moye and Alfredo Castillo

Liaison to the Library Board: Richard Salter

Liaison to Parks Commission: Kathryn Bukovsky

Liaison to Police Commission: Eneida Martinez

Liaison to Port Authority: Anthony Paoletto

Liaison to WPCA: Jack Banta
Liaison to Zoo: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
Liaison to Historic Commission: John Olson
School Buildings Committee Members: James Holloway, Chair; Scott Burns
and Aidee Nieves.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED THE APPOINTMENT OF CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES AS PRESENTED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

A roll call vote was requested.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES AS PRESENTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: October 19, 2015

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED THE MINUTES OF October 19, 2015.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, MCCARTHY, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, FELICIANO, MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND EIGHT ABSTENTIONS (BUKOVSKY, BURNS, BRANTLEY, OLSON, HERRON, NIEVES, PAOLETTO, AND SMITH).**

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ALL REFERRED TO COMMITTEES.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:**

01-15 Communication from Health & Social Services re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15.12 Housing Code, amend Sections: 15.12.250, 15.12.270, 15.12.280 and 15.12.320, referred to Ordinance Committee.

02-15 Communication from Police Department re: Proposed Resolution regarding Safety and Traffic Operation Improvements at the Intersection of Main Street and Capitol Avenue, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

03-15 Communication from Board of Education re: Proposed Resolution for School Construction Project Application regarding State Grants and Initiation of

Design for the Partial Roof Replacement located at Hooker School, referred to Education and Social Services Committee.

04-15 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Maria Medina, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

05-15 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Michael Stinson, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

06-15 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Gregory Volpe, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

07-15 Communication from Civil Service re: Proposed Approval of a New Job Classification with NAGE Local RI-200 for Senior Housing Code Inspector/Enforcement Officer, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

08-15 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution concerning the Disposition of City-Owned Properties located at 130 Clifford Street and 16 River Street by Auction, 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.

09-15 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution concerning the Disposition of (8) Eight City-Owned Properties by Auction, 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.

10-15 Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re: Updated ranges for Officers and Unaffiliated Employees Salaries pursuant to and as required by Municipal Code Section 2.36.010, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

16-15 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission for a Pool Safety Grant Program (Project #16269), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

17-15 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: National Endowment for the Arts for an Art Works Grant Program (Project #16454), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

18-15 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Rockefeller Foundation for the 100 Resilient Cities Challenge Grant Program (Project #16208), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

19-15 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: FY 2016 Connecticut State Library Targeted Grant for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:

11-15 Resolution presented by Council Member Martinez re: Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8.56 Garbage Collection and Disposal, amend Section 8.56.170 City Dumping Regulations, referred to Ordinance Committee.

12-15 Resolution presented by Council Member Martinez re: Request that the taking of vehicles and the action of “Booting” must only be employed after multiple offenses and that a Certified Letter be submitted to the owners of vehicle and that Notice is provided to the appropriate City Council Committee for their Approval of said action, referred to Ordinance Committee.

13-15 Resolution presented by Council Member Martinez re: Request that Liening or the taking of Homes by Foreclosure Action by the WPCA or the City of Bridgeport must only be employed after consultation and approval of said action by the Common Council, first through appropriate committee and then as a Whole Council, referred to Ordinance Committee.

14-15 Resolution presented by Council Member Martinez re: Request that a Two-Year Pilot Program be introduced concerning WPCA Liens, referred to Ordinance Committee.

15-15 Resolution presented by Council Member Martinez re: Request that a Two-Year Pilot Program be introduced for the Sale of City Tax Liens, referred to Ordinance Committee.

PETITIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

20-15 Petition from Green and Gross, P.C. Law Offices re: Proposed Resolution regarding the Discontinuance of a Portion of the Paper Street known as Summit Place, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE LISTED ITEMS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Olson requested a moment of silence in memory of Pearl Harbor as a point of personal privilege. The Mayor requested all those present to stand for a moment of silence in memory of those who died during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested as a point of personal privilege that a list of the new staff members be sent to the Council Members. Mayor Ganim said that this would be done.

Council President McCarthy congratulated Lydia Martinez on her election to the office of City Clerk.

He then recognized the following dignitaries in the audience: Democratic Chairman Mario Testo; State Senator Ed Gomes; City Chair Steve Nelson, State Senator Jack Hennessey, former Council Member Angel dePara; former Council Member Melanie Jackson; former Council Member Richard Paoletto; District Leader Freddino, and Mr. Tom Lyons.

Mayor Ganim said that it was an honor to be with everyone. He asked that the resident to be patient with the new administration and the new staff members as they start their new duties.

Mayor Ganim said that he looked forward to working with Council President McCarthy and he had had met with the Board of Education and the local Representatives.

Council Member Martinez said that she had gone to Public Facilities and the various administrators and been warmly welcomed.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services.