

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Taylor-Moye called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:35 PM.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Martinez called 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: 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
138th District: Anthony Paoletto
139th District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016 AT 6:30 PM, IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME	SUBJECT
John Marshall Lee 30 Beacon Street Bridgeport, CT 06605	City Financial Reporting- Audits, Reports and Summaries

Mayor Ganim, Members of the City Council and Public,

Last week (January 11) at the Budget and Appropriations meeting the major subject discussed was a resolution approving ‘bond refunding’ to save the City \$3 Million in payments or principal and interest in the current year and \$3 Million more in out years. It seems to be a smart tactic, one we have used before, to help reduce the current year’s budget deficit. I am personally in favor of it based on last week’s commentary.

The other part of the resolution facing you this evening is a request for new bonding that was increased by amendment to \$6,750,000 although because dollar amounts are not used with your resolutions, the public would not know the commitment you will make on their part.

A memo from David Kooris, OPED director, to Ken Flatto, Finance Director, concerned me, one line especially: ***“Unknown to OPED, a large transfer out of our capital account was made in late 2015 that will hamper our ability to move these and other planned projects forward.”***

Why and how can anyone access departmental capital accounts without the department director’s knowledge? Without explanation?

Who can do this without City Council review and approval of such transfer? Was this a legal use of funds sourced from a bond?

Who knows about this? Anyone present at this meeting tonight?

At the moment, the rumor trail tells me that the amount of funds that disappeared from OPED approached \$1 Million. A different source points to the Port Authority and perhaps ‘leasing and legal expenses’. But the Port Authority does not have a department budget but only a three person board. I went to the City Clerk office to review their meeting file. It contains only Agenda notices with no minutes of meetings. There are no \$\$\$\$\$ on any of their Agenda items so the public has no hint of what this may relate to. This is a problem you need to investigate further...different parts of City governance....moving money without authority or current approval....to pay what, to whom, for services occurring over an extended period of time? What is it that we do not know today but should know? Why is there such secrecy? Who will further investigate this serious breach? Time will tell.

Brendan Williams
100 Atlantic Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

PSEG Coal Plant and City Council

Mr. Williams spoke in objection to the continued operation of the PSEG Coal Plant, as outlined in the drafted agreement with PSEG. He specifically noted the environmental and health ramifications of its continued operation.

Kent Hoffman
2170 Park Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Why Bridgeport Deserves Green Energy

Mr. Hoffman spoke on the dangers of climate change and pollutions, as well as the benefits of green energy for the City of Bridgeport, citing the positive gains in quality of life and improvements in health for the City's constituents. He questioned how many natural disasters have to occur before interest groups acknowledge climate change and stated that leaders must focus on profit rather than people.

Cecil C. Young

Investigation of Unjust Termination

99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Mr. Young spoke on his desire for the City Council to take action against law enforcement officers who exhibit behaviors related to excessive force, particularly against young men of color. He requested the City Council go on record condemning this behavior, and praised Mayor Ganim for taking action against offending officers in the past.

Clyde Nicholson

Business Owner

54 Wallace Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Mr. Nicholson spoke of the problems involved with gun regulations and open/concealed carry policies. He stated that by refusing to show a permit or the weapon and having the weapon concealed on one's person allows an individual to become judge, jury and executioner. He further spoke on the contamination the children of Bridgeport suffer from, and stated that this would never occur in the wealthier, predominantly Caucasian towns of Greenwich or Fairfield. Mr. Nicholson further stated that the site given to Bridgeport Public Schools by GE should be returned to its original owner, and that they should be made to clean the site. He stated that they should be prevented from building on the site and more information should be provided to taxpayers to help clarify issues.

Jorge Cruz

Conflict of Interest- Healthy Connecticut and Alliance

251 Black Rock Avenue, Apt. 2
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Mr. Cruz thanked the City of Bridgeport police officers, the East Haven Boys and Council Member Banta. He stated that the community does not want the agreement with PSEG to go through, and that they do not want their health and the health of their community compromised any longer. Mr. Cruz further stated that there is little point in arresting drug dealers for distributing fatal narcotics if the contamination from the plants is killing the citizens anyway. He then asked that the City Council reconsider the deal and have a thorough study done.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Taylor-Moye adjourned the Public Speaking portion of the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Ramos
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016

7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

PRAYER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member Salter lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Martinez called 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: 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
138th District: Anthony Paoletto
139th District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

Council Member Olson stated that Council President McCarthy would not be present, as he was in Ireland to honor the death of his uncle.

Council Member Lyons stated that Council Member Feliciano would be absent due to surgery.

Council Member Taylor-Moye stated that Council Member Smith could not attend.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND CITY COUNCIL CITATIONS

Honoring the Members of the University of Bridgeport Women's Soccer Team for their Outstanding Accomplishments during the 2015 Season.

Mayor Ganim invited the noted individuals forward in order to receive a round of applause and recognition in the form of citations.

The following individuals were issued Congressional Honor Citations as a result of their involvement with the 2015 Women's Soccer Team:

Coach Magnus Nilerod

Jennifer Wendelius

Melanie Zienger

Lauren Mengel

Julie Weidenmark

Hanne Neby

Rebecka Ronnegard

Gabby Reis

Nicola Worthington

Flo Gamby

Amanda Moura

Jess Laszlo

Stephanie Vahos

Marieke Kramer

Catalina DelMoral

Nicole Greenwald

Teriana Liovvi

Kendra Fitzpatrick

Julia Navarro

Ariana Weingard

Daniela Varela

Alison Dowdle

Carolina Rico

City of Bridgeport

City Council Meeting

January 19, 2016

Hailey Marquis
Scott McBride (Associate Head Coach)
Felipe Ribeiro (Head Assistant Coach)
Leonardo Germiniani, Steph D'Andrea, Paige Adamsky (Graduate Assistant Coaches)
Renato Topalli and Ferid Zimic (Volunteer Assistant Coaches)
Caitlin Rives (Athletic Trainer of Soccer Team)
Chuck Sedowsky (Sports Information Director)
Anthony Vidia (Director of Soccer Team)

Mayoral Proclamations and City Council Citations: Honoring the Members of the University of Bridgeport Women's Volleyball Team for their Outstanding Accomplishments during the 2015 Season.

The following individuals were issued Congressional Honor Citations as a result of their involvement with the 2015 Women's Volleyball Team:

Gary Mullin, coach
Sara Cruz
Ellie Rich
Frida Randen
Salina DeCicco
Katarina Krstonosic
Martina Santia
Amelie Guinci
Sarah Rosa
Jade Zhao
Lexi Enck
Kira Shapiro
Larissa Oliviera, Biljana Savic, Giovana Soares (Graduate Assistant Coaches)

In Recognition of University of Bridgeport Head Women's Soccer Coach Magnus Nilerud on being named the 2015 NCAA Division II National "Coach of the Year".

A Congressional Honor Citation was issued to Magnus Nilerud for being named 2015 NCAA Division II National "Coach of the Year".

In Recognition of Student-Athlete Ruben Gimenez of the University of Bridgeport Men's Swimming Team for receiving the NCAA 2016 "Today's Top 10" Award for his Successes on the Field, in the Classroom and in the Community.

A Congressional Honor Citation was issued to Ruben Gimenez for receiving the NCAA 2016 "Today's Top 10" Award.

Mayor Ganim congratulated all of the recipients for their success, and thanked the coaches for their leadership and role in the formation of the students of the University of Bridgeport.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF DECEMBER 21, 2015 WITH THE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS:**

- 1. COUNCIL MEMBER OLSON CLARIFIED THAT HIS REMARKS ON PAGE 10 CARRIED THE FOLLOWING MEANING- HE VOTED TO SUPPORT ITEM 23-15 BECAUSE IT WAS BARGAINED IN GOOD FAITH, THUS HE VOTED TO MAINTAIN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION (COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY).**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO REFER ALL ITEMS DESIGNATED AS COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMITTEES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SALTER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The following communications were referred to committee:

39-15 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF PEARL BROOKS (U) TO THE COMMISSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

40-15 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH ALMEIDA (D) TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

41-15 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF OBIORA NKWO (D) TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

42-15 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF CHARLES COVIELLO (D) TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

43-15 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 2 ADMINISTRATION AND

PERSONNEL, AMEND TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 2.124 THE CREATION OF A BRIDGEPORT ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

44-15 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF TAXES RELATING TO 889 BARNUM AVENUE AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A CERTAIN PENDING U.S. BANKRUPTCY CASE: REMGRIT REALTY, INC. DEBTOR, CH. 11, CASE NO. 14-51542, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

45-15 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED APPROVAL OF A NEW NONCOMPETITIVE JOB CLASSIFICATION FOR A LEGAL ASSISTANT TO THE CITY ATTORNEY, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

46-15 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONCERNING COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AGREEMENT WITH PSEG POWER CONNECTICUT, LLC., REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

47-15 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF VALERIE QUARLES (D) TO THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

**amvp

**salter

**opposed unanimously one matter

Ganim: Anyone want to remove one?

Michelle: 33-15.

Ganim: 33-15 will be removed and voted on separately unless objection. Hearing none, motion.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR)

Mayor Ganim asked if there were any items the Council Members would like removed from the Consent Calendar prior to a mass vote.

Council Member Brantley requested item 33-15 be removed. Mayor Ganim stated that 33-15 would be removed and voted on separately, barring any objections. Hearing none, he requested a motion to approve the other matters on the Consent Calendar.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE ALL ITEMS ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITEM 33-15.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER SALTER SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The following items were approved:

***02-15 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING SAFETY AND TRAFFIC OPERATION IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF MAIN STREET AND CAPITOL AVENUE AND THE REMOVAL OF MEDIAN ON THE SOUTHBOUND APPROACH AS PART OF THE 15-360 MAIN STREET SIGNAL PROJECT.**

***34-15 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT (OPM) TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) GRANT PROGRAM FOR DOWNTOWN NORTH GRANT.**

***09-15 (A) ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: DISPOSITION OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 281-283 DOVER STREET BY AUCTION, SALE TO ABUTTER OR BY SALE TO COMMUNITY BASED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS.**

***04-15 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH MARIA MEDINA.**

***05-15 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH MICHAEL STINSON.**

***06-15 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH GREGORY VOLPE.**

***21-15 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS CONCERNING HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS USA, INC.**

***22-15 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS CONCERNING WELLS FARGO HOME MORTGAGE.**

***28-15 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: LITIGATION SETTLEMENT CONCERNING WORKERS COMPENSATION MATTER WCC#40076124.**

***29-15 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION APPROVING FY 2016 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS/ BOND REFUNDING AND BOND ISSUANCE.**

***03-15 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPLICATION REGARDING STATE GRANTS AND INITIATION OF DESIGN FOR THE PARTIAL ROOF REPLACEMENT LOCATED AT HOOKER SCHOOL.**

MATTERS WITHDRAWN FOR DISCUSSION OR AMENDMENT

Mayor Ganim asked if there were any other items the Council Members would like to have withdrawn for discussion or amendment.

Council Member Martinez stated that she would like 34-15 removed for discussion and approval. Mayor Ganim stated, barring an objection, he would withdraw item 34-15. Hearing no objection, 34-15 was withdrawn for discussion and approval.

33-15 RE: Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report RE: Request that the honorary designation of “Dee Cortello Place” be created with proper signage on the corner of parallel street adjacent to Saint Patrick’s Church.

Council Member Lyons stated that she wished to amend the application to include her name, in order to indicate her support of the application. She stated that Dee Cortello is an exemplary neighbor, constituent, friend and contributor to the community.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 33-15 RE: PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REQUEST THAT THE HONORARY DESIGNATION OF “DEE CORTELLO PLACE” BE CREATED WITH PROPER SIGNAGE ON THE CORNER OF PARALLEL STREET ADJACENT TO SAINT PATRICK’S CHURCH WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT:**

- 1. COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS’ NAME WILL BE ADDED TO THE REQUEST IN ORDER TO INDICATE HER SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

34-15 RE: Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report RE: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Grant Program for Downtown North Grant.

Council Member Martinez stated that she wanted to thank David Kooris for providing the detailed packet of information on this item. She stated for the record that, in future, if this caliber of information is not provided to sub-committees, the item in question will be tabled.

Mayor Ganim extended his thanks to Mr. Kooris, and stated the information exchange with the sub-committees was a topic of discussion during the Cabinet Department Head meeting. He stated that they were asked to be as responsive as possible to requests from the City Council.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 34-15 RE: PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT (OPM) TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) GRANT PROGRAM FOR DOWNTOWN NORTH GRANT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Council Member Lyons stated that the item was being passed with added information, and as a co-chair of the committee, she appreciated his addition of information. She stated that this level of communication and information will be something they look for in the future, so the committee members can make informed decisions.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OTHER MATTERS TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COUNCIL

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA RE: REFERRING TO COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE DATED JANUARY 19, 2016 RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF A LEGAL CLAIM FILED BY THOMAS W. BUSEY FILED ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT THOMAS C. MCCARTHY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO REFER AGENDA ITEM RE: CORRESPONDENCE DATED JANUARY 19, 2016 RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF A LEGAL CLAIM FILED BY THOMAS W. BUCCI FILED ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT THOMAS C. MCCARTHY TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE. (ITEM #48-15)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SALTER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED THE MOTION.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Ramos
Telesco Secretarial Services