

**SPECIAL
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016
6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President McCarthy called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:39 p.m.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Kathryn Bukovsky, Scott Burns
131st District: Jack O. Banta
132nd District: John Olson
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy
134th District: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District:
136th District: Jose Casco, Alfredo Castillo,
137th District:
138th District: Nessah Smith
139th District: James Holloway

A quorum was present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME	SUBJECT
Clyde Nicholson 54 Wallace Street Bridgeport, CT 06604	Taxes.

Mr. Nicholson came forward to ask the Mayor and Council to do something about the violence on the streets. He said that every time he turns around, someone is getting shot. He mentioned that there were two shootings the previous evening. The kids have no fear. Mr. Nicholson spoke about two local reverends and their concerns about the students walking a mile and a half to school. He wondered why he was paying taxes and getting nothing in return. He asked why cameras were not being put up and officers were not walking a regular beat.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City Fiscal Distress.

Good evening CC members,

One or more of you may have attended the Diocese of Bridgeport Synod services last Saturday at Webster Arena to hear about the journey of renewal of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Bishop Frank Caggiano spoke eloquently to the 8,000 people gathered there about the journey they were on. A scripture reading for the service, from St. Paul to the Philippians related: "Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but (also) everyone for those of others." It was a reminder to me of my journey with Tyisha Toms to become members of this body, our City Council, providing non-conflicted service to the public as part of Open, Accountable, Transparent and Honest governance. Last week's results were the culmination of months of speculation and door knocking and fewer than 400 votes separated Democrats City wide. In the 130th we received 46% of the vote. Somebody is paying attention to our questions.

A Sunday reading at my community of faith also caught my attention from Letter of St. James: "Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice." Nearly 2,000 years after these lines of scripture were first set down, the affairs of men and women unfortunately continue to feature selfishness, disorder and "every foul practice". Is it just human nature, or is it continuing failure of our institutions to put into practice and maintain Open, Accountable, Transparent and Honest process?

A voter gets one chance in our system to vote every two or four years. But how have they become informed? When a registered voter fails to vote we criticize them, but what is done to encourage them to come out to learn what you do and how important this work is to providing adequate services, public safety, reasonable spending and fair taxation in this City? Do you invite people to come to your Committee meetings and speak up? Can they receive all documents and records as you do electronically? How are they solicited per the Charter as annual participants in the Capital Budget process? Can you show them that you are more careful with their taxpayer funds than with your personal financial interests? Why are there so many questions that go unanswered? Is that someone else's duty, not yours?

When you face the voters in your district this year, assuming you are running, how will you answer their questions? Our operating budget may be around \$525 Million but by Fiscal year end close to \$700 Million including all grants and capital funding will be spent. Can you show them where your careful and informed participation made a difference? And if you are leaving the Council, as five members of the Budget and Appropriations Committee indicate, what legacy

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Special Meeting
September 20, 2016

have you left to be followed? On primary day, a former CT mayor standing at our polls for a few hours to support a friend asked about the “conflicted City employees as Council people” situation; about what the elimination of an Internal Auditor seven years ago as part of City internal controls process meant and the subsequent failure by the City to follow a Council ordinance on annual purchasing reports and triennial audits. He was startled to understand that not only does this Council have no research support or service assistance but that the City has no Finance Board or body outside your B&A Committee to monitor fiscal matters. His instant response to me? Where are your checks and balances? Exactly. And profound.

Will voters be concerned this year in similar fashion? Time will tell.

Council Members Lyons, McBride-Lee and Brantley joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Lee Samowitz
55 Armitage Drive
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Solutions to property tax disparity for
commercial tax rates.

Mr. Samowitz came forward and said that he had gone to Hartford and asked what they should do about Bridgeport. The answer he was given was that the State only has so much money and Bridgeport needs a competitive edge

Council Member Feliciano joined the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

Mr. Samowitz spoke about a voluntary program that would help the businesses in the City. He said that it was time for the City to think outside the box.

Stephen M. Nelson
24A Stoneridge Road
Bridgeport, CT

Issues and concerns in the 135th District/
“Agents of Change” Program.

Mr. Stephen Nelson came forward to speak about Agent of Change. He reminded everyone that he had spoken to the Council two weeks earlier. He said that it was important to know what happens when the community responds with love and support.

Mr. Nelson said that he would like to respond to the negative comments that had been made at the previous meeting. Many of the shootings happen over unmediated disputes. He said that there were a number of students who were members of the program "Agents of Change" present with him.

One young woman came forward and explained that for many members of the group, it was the first job that they ever had. She then gave the details about an upcoming event that would be held at the Margaret Morton Government Center during the coming week-end.

Another young woman spoke about the upcoming event about how the group is working at Trumbull Gardens to improve things there.

Howard Gardener
Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Howard Gardner came forward and said he was present as a member of the Board of Education. He said that the District was one of the lowest scoring Districts and has been under funded for many years. Bridgeport spends about \$14,000/per student. Waterbury and Hartford spend more. He then reviewed the budget figures from 215-2016. The cost of education continues to grow due to increased salaries, health care costs and an increasing number of students. Mr. Gardner mentioned the MBR and pointed out that it has not grown since the last administration. The past few years have been flat funded. This resulted in the program's being cut and many of the programs are vital, such as paraprofessionals. This year, The District started with a 25 million dollar deficit. Mr. Gardner said that the City had received some funding from the State and that it was not enough for the District.

Ms. Karen Jackson
Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Jackson said that she had just heard that the City Council had received 12 million from the State and thought that 6 million was going to be given to the District. She said that for the last 14 years, the school budgets have been cut. Ms. Jackson said that her three children have been in the Parent's Choice program and are being educated in other towns at the City's expense. She mentioned the recent CCJEF decision and encouraged the City to work to get more money for the students.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President McCarthy closed the public speaking at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT

**SPECIAL
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

Council President McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:49 p.m.

PRAYER

Council President McCarthy requested Council Member McBride-Lee lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President McCarthy requested that a member of the City staff lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

The following members were present:

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

148-15 Public Hearing re: Disposition of Eight (8) City-Owned Properties by Auction, Sale to Abutter or by Sale to Community Based Housing Development Corporations.

Council President McCarthy opened the public hearing on the Disposition of Eight (8) City-Owned Properties by Auction, Sale to Abutter or by Sale to Community Based Housing Development Corporations at 7:52 p.m.

He asked if there was anyone who was present who wished to speak in favor of the issue. No one came forward. He repeated the question.

Council Member Olson asked Mr. Perez to come forward to speak about the parcels that were on the list for the action or sale. Mr. Perez listed the parcels. Council Member Brantley asked to be notified of the date of the sale. Mr. Perez said that he would let the Council Members know.

Council Member Banta asked how the price was determined and the auction was handled. Mr. Perez gave a brief overview of the auction process.

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak in favor of the issue. No one came forward. He repeated the question two more times with no response. Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak against the issue. No one came forward. He repeated the question two more times. Hearing none, Council President McCarthy closed the public hearing on Agenda Item 148-15 - Disposition of Eight (8) City-Owned Properties by Auction, Sale to Abutter or by Sale to Community Based Housing Development Corporations at 8:00 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 148-15 REGARDING THE DISPOSITION OF EIGHT (8) CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES BY AUCTION, SALE TO ABUTTER OR BY SALE TO COMMUNITY BASED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SALTER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President McCarthy said that Council Member Herron was unable to attend due to work issues and Council Member Taylor-Moye was out of town.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia then requested a moment of silence for Bridgeport Police Sergeant Carl Leonzi, Sr. who died on June 24, 2016. She said that she knew Sgt. Leonzi for over 20 years and that he was both a family man and a community minded man. He served Bridgeport for over 44 years and was part of the Narcotics Division. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia concluded her remarks by wishing Sgt. Leonzi to rest in peace and God's blessing on his wife, Gail and the family.

Council Member Brantley asked for a moment of silence for Ms. Rose Gilliam who served the City for several years and worked with the community to make Bridgeport a better place.

Council President McCarthy then requested all those present to rise and observe a moment of silence.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: August 1, 2016 and August 15, 2016 (Special Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF AUGUST 1, 2016 AND AUGUST 15, 2016 (SPECIAL MEETING).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF AUGUST 1, 2016 AND AUGUST 15, 2016 (SPECIAL MEETING) AS SUBMITTED PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BUKOVSKY, BURNS, BANTA, BRANTLEY, OLSON, MCCARTHY, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASTILLO, NIEVES, FELICIANO, PAOLETTO, SMITH, MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND ONE ABSTENTION (CASCO).**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO COMBINE THE RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS WITH THE COMMUNICATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE AND APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

188-15 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH MIGUEL RIVERA, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

189-15 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH JAMES FRANCOEUR, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

190-15 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

192-15 COMMUNICATION FROM POLICE CHIEF RE: PROPOSED REQUEST THAT THE TABLE OF ORGANIZATION FOR LIEUTENANTS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT BE INCREASED FROM TWENTY-ONE (21) TO TWENTY-TWO (22) POSITIONS IN THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

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

191-15 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER NIEVES RE: PROPOSED REQUEST THAT THE INSTALLATION OF "SPEED HUMPS" OF SUFFICIENT HEIGHT, SIGNAGE READING "SCHOOL CROSSING" AND CROSSWALKS PAINTED ON ROAD SURFACES BE PLACED AT THE

**INTERSECTION OF BARNUM AVENUE AND HALLETT STREET,
REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

Council President McCarthy then asked if there was any Council Members who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Hearing none, he requested City Clerk Martinez read the items into the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

***89-15 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT
RE: APPOINTMENT OF STUART M. ROSENBERG (U) TO THE BOARD OF
FIRE COMMISSIONERS.**

***161-15 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT
RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), OFFICE
OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS (OJP), BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (BJA),
EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG)
PROGRAM (PROJECT #17321).**

***167-15 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT
RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: OMNIBUS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
(MOA) WITH THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY FOR THE STATE HOMELAND
SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP).**

***169-15 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT
RE: REQUEST THAT THE HONORARY DESIGNATION OF “OFFICER
GERALD T. DIJOSEPH WAY” BE CREATED WITH APPROPRIATE
SIGNAGE ON JAMES STREET BETWEEN HARRAL AND WASHINGTON
AVENUES.**

***183-15 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: ON-CALL
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
AGREEMENT WITH AECOM, TRC ENVIRONMENTAL CORPORATION,
TIGHE & BOND, FREEMAN COMPANIES AND LEGGETTE, BRASHEARS &
GRAHAM, INC FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES.**

***184-15 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE:
APPROVAL OF TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES (TANS) – TO PAY CURRENT
EXPENSES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY – FY2017.**

***185-15 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE:
APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO REFUND CERTAIN
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SALTER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

140-15 Contracts Committee Report re: Professional Services Agreement with St. Vincent's Multispecialty Group, Inc.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

180-15 Special Committee Report re: (Ref. #121-03) Street Discontinuance - Portions of East Washington Avenue ("Street"): Adopted on June 7, 2004.

Council Member Feliciano said that this item had been tabled because the Council Members were unsure as to what was involved. She said that she had contacted the Office of Economic Development and the Engineering Department. The staff reviewed the details and reasons for the discontinuance to her, she now understood what was being requested.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member McBride-Lee requested a point of personal privilege. She announced that there would be a Community March in Solidarity for the Police Department on Saturday, September 24th starting at 12 Noon from the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. The march will be sponsored by Mayor Joe Ganim; I.M.A.; the Bridgeport Police Department, the Bridgeport Fire Department, Street Safe; the Bridgeport City Council; the Bridgeport Guarding Fire Birds, and Alaziz Islamic Religious Leaders among others.

Council Member Feliciano announced that there would be an awards ceremony involving Council Member Eneida Martinez on Friday, September 23rd which will be held at 999 Broad Street.

Council Member Paoletto said that there was an upcoming Public Forum on Asylum Street from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and is open to the public.

Council Member Brantley announced that there would be a celebration held in honor of Jack Bailey on September 24th at 8:00 p.m.

Council Member Olson announced that there was a School Volunteer Association Read Aloud Day scheduled for October 20, 2016. Interested parties should sign up in advance to read aloud to the school children. The event is being sponsored by People’s United Bank, Gexpro; Fairfield University, New City Foundation; Bigelow Tea; United Way of Coastal Fairfield County; Emera Energy; and the Rotary Club of Bridgeport.

Council Member Brantley announced there would be a Connecticut Against Violence event on “Preparing the Youth for a Better Tomorrow” held at Housatonic Community College on September 23rd from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The focus will be on interactive workshops and forums helping students prevent youth violence in the community and in schools.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BUKOVSKY SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8: 11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services