

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 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: Scott Burns
131st District: Jack O. Banta
132nd District: John Olson
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy
134th District:
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter
136th District:
137th District:
138th District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith
139th District: James Holloway

A quorum was present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2016 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME	SUBJECT
Amos Brown, Sr. 758 Kossuth Street Bridgeport, CT 06608	Democrats.

Mr. Amos Brown came forward and said that he had listened to both the Democrats and the Republicans. He said that he had questions about why the people should elect a President who doesn't change things. President Obama will have served his terms and nothing has changed.

People are still on welfare and struggling. There are many opportunities to change things and the people who are elected to represent us don't change things.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City Finances.

Mr. John Marshall Lee came forward and said that there was a Reverend in the back of the chambers with a shofar to wake everyone up.

Mr. Lee then read the following statement into the record.

Members of the City Council

I am present tonight with only one red boot. The BS boot in RED continues as a reminder of real balance sheet problems. Have you looked at the August monthly financial report? Are you confused?

1. Property taxes paid to the City in the first two months of the year show only \$117 Million. That is the same number reported a month ago. Was any additional tax money collected in August, 2016? Is there a quiet tax protest in the City? Is there an error? Do you know?
2. The Finance Department reports the receipt of \$14,476,283 of revenue and projects another \$2 Million later in the year under Municipal Share of Sales Tax Revenue. Your adopted budget showed only \$9,874,826 for the whole year. The City variance is almost \$5.5 Million as actual surplus that may grow to \$7.5 Million by year end.
This is a revenue surplus for you to allocate today.
3. Turn to the Expense Budget for the Police Department. Ignore the variance column as it is in error. It appears that Finance may have adjusted the full time and over-time projections. How many officers are assumed? Is it the 478 Police Department employees that is impossible to hire before June 2017 or a lower realistic number? Finally, you authorized a budget of \$102 Million and after two months Finance is telling you the number is projected to be \$109 Million? Is this a game? Is it for real? Or is it just another report with errors?

The schools have reopened and about 10% of this school year is history. Where is the march, the walk or the protest in this community that says YOUNG LIVES MATTER? Are you ready to stand up and say: Black lives, brown lives, yellow lives, red lives and white lives matter? Do we need a parade for each group or will you act to recognize that truth tonight? I speak of our most vulnerable City children, those who enter school with no understanding of alphabet symbols and sounds as kindergartners, who still face a task of being able to read at the end of their first public school year, no matter how they entered public school nine months previous. They are for the most part ordinary or average youngsters, without appearance of special education issues, but poorly prepared because: another language is spoken at home; more time spent by parents on things other than reading to their child; or no pre-K at all. Those youth need rapid advancement that year through teacher, para-professional and literacy interventionist teams in every school. If they are touched three times

each day by the team reading readiness scores double. Without that team? We will see this year, if you allow this current tragic experiment to continue.

Some of you have jobs in education and others have relatives working in the schools. What do they see and tell you? One Council member was leader for a community exercise to show community solidarity reference to our public safety officers a week ago. Where is that same solidarity with 3 times as many education employees? Where is your financial support for education?

Tonight who will create a resolution and a second to remit \$3-4 Million of the surplus to the school system tonight as a priority issue? How will you vote on the issue? Give the Board of Education the money to return the Kindergarten para-professionals immediately.

Mayor Ganim has not declared the school operating budget a priority at any time. So what? Does he have children in the school system? Does he even live in the City? I don't know but he talks to you. Is this subject of "Young Lives Matter" a priority to you? You need to act on it. At this time you look more like a Mayoral Council rather than a Council for the people of the City. When you permit one-third of our youth to start public school in an unequal position relative to young suburban lives, can't you predict that the results in future years will be disappointing? Can you see that many will become frustrated and leave school before graduation? But we will have spent money, but not with the mission in mind. We will not reach goals. Are you creating problems for a lifetime for people of our community? Eliminate this potential trajectory. Resolve to allocate these taxpayer dollars from the State to eliminate this inequity. Time will tell.

Clyde Nicholson
54 Wallace Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Taxes.

Mr. Clyde Nicholson came forward and said that he was present to talk about taxes and investing in the schools. He suggested closing the City Hall Annex because the City doesn't need two City Halls, but suggested that there be an African American Museum in Bridgeport instead. He said that it would be important to do the right thing. He said senior citizens deserve a break.

Robert E. Halstead
55 Sterling Place
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Palace and Majestic Theaters.

Mr. Robert Halstead came forward and made the following statement:

Last month, I stood before you to express my concern that Bridgeport's treasures, the Palace and Majestic Theaters are at great risk of arson, vandalism, deterioration and theft. I expressed concern that the \$30,000 from last year's fiscal budget approved by the Council, that I supplied documentation thought minutes and line item transfer, that confirmed funds were set aside to install fire and intrusion alarms, make the theater secure, install temporary lighting and clear the Majestic of the fire trap now present from the Cabaret's storage of props, I have gotten no results from this statement.

I have also to report that Public Facilities reported it has spent \$4,500 to hire McBride Electric to repair the temporary lighting in the theaters. My inspection reveals that this has only partially been done and the hotel and theater remain dark whereas the amount appropriated and spent far exceeds the amount of work done. I spoke to Ed Adams of the Mayor's Office about this expressing my concern that there may be inappropriate operations taking place as had been done in the City's past. I have yet to hear back from Mr. Adams thought he said he would investigate and get back to me.

Council Member Brantley, Herron, Martinez, Feliciano, Castillo, and Casco joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

This is about two months since I spoke to him. Again, I express my concern.

Following last month's meeting, I was invited by Scott Burns, Chair of the Budget Committee and my representative in the 132nd District, John Olson, to come to the succeeding week's budget committee meeting, that they were discussing an allocation of funding to put towards the theaters along with other Downtown improvements. I attended this meeting but was not provided with documentation as Councilman Olson at the behest of my other representative, Evette Brantley, although she is not committee chair withdrew the hand outs out of my hands. I was not given any documentation from City staff for the remainder of the evening at the behest of Councilwoman Brantley. I feel this is a lack of respect towards a former Councilman and a lack of transparency toward the citizens of Bridgeport in general.

Councilman Olson and Councilman Burns neglected to honor my request that they look into how the Capital funds were to be spent on the theaters, although it was stated that funds would be appropriated although they had promised me they would do so, did not ask the question.

It has also been reported that OPED has internally appropriated funds to put a net over the theaters at the cost of \$100,000. I do not see the need for this expenditure. The façade of the building appears sound to me. I have spent my entire career restoring older buildings. My suggestion that the City follow through on doing a structural study on the façade was ignored, even though the City's own Grants Office brought up that there was a grant available from the State Historic Preservation Office to do so. Further, it has today come to my attention that there is now a new grant available for up to \$20,000 to do a structural study on historic preservation projects under the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation technical assistance grant. The grant deadline is November 3rd. I suggest the City apply for this grant as the \$100,000 would be better spent repointing the façade of the theaters instead of placing a new over it that would surely give the public the false impression that the theaters are structurally unsound and a lost cause.

Finally, I would like to bring to the City's attention that there are a great number of people in Bridgeport who would like to see the theaters restored. There is a preservation organization, the newly formed Bridgeport Architectural Preservation Alliance that has many members who expressed a willingness to volunteer to clean the theaters up. The community should also be involved in coming up with a plan for the theaters for Downtown, but that is another matter.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter.

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
October 3, 2016

Mr. Ernest Newton
Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Ernest Newton came forward and said that he was present to speak as a former City Council Member. He said that business should never be stopped by the City. He said that since the Council was not able to get in touch with certain officials, the Council should call a recess and deal with the business. With 147,000 residents in Bridgeport, Mr. Newton found it hard to believe that the administration could not find the appropriate candidates in the City.

Mr. John Brannelly
Bridgeport, CT

Mr. John Brannelly came forward and said that he works for the American Cancer Society. He said that the walk would be held at Seaside Park on October 23rd from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. It is important to raise awareness about Breast Cancer.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 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 7:25 p.m.

PRAYER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim requested City Clerk Lydia Martinez 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: Scott Burns
131st District: Jack O. Banta
132nd District: John Olson, M. Evette Brantley
133rd District: Jeanette Herron
134th District:
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

A quorum was present.

Mayoral Proclamations: Recognizing the Youth who have built the leadership skills and completed the training in 2016 to become a “Green Village Initiative Food Leader” who will be working in the community to help create a positive change for the City.

City Council Citations: Recognizing the Youth who have built the leadership skills and completed the training in 2016 to become a “Green Village Initiative Food Leader” who will be working in the community to help create a positive change for the City.

Council President McCarthy then greeted the residents who were involved in the Green Village Initiative Food Leaders. Council Member Burns thanked everyone for their hard work, as did the Mayor.

Council President McCarthy then read the Council Proclamation and congratulated all those involved. The group was then presented with certificates by Council President McCarthy.

Informational Session re: Progress update concerning the Bridgeport Public Schools by Interim Superintendent of Schools, Frances Rabinowitz.

Mayor Ganim said that he was pleased to introduce the Interim Superintendent of Schools, Fran Rabinowitz. He said that she was administering the largest school system in the State with in excess of 22,000 students. The schools are receiving excellent leadership from Ms. Rabinowitz.

He also mentioned the recent CCJEFF court decision regarding the inequities of education due to the reliance on property taxes.

Ms. Rabinowitz came forward to present her 2015-2016 End of the Year report. She said that far too often she was present at Council meetings to ask for more money. This report is to let the Council know what the money is being used for.

Two years ago, the Council approved funding for a school nurse in each school. Those nurses are in place, as are the interventionist. Both the nurses and the interventionists are having a major impact on the students.

Ms. Rabinowitz then gave a brief overview of her five theories of action as outlined in PowerPoint packet. She said that while there has been strong growth in the various academic skills, there are still only 15% of the Bridgeport students working at grade level.

She spoke about the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and reported that 34 Bridgeport students had received this award, which is the most of any Connecticut school district.

The pre-school programs are expanding, and the literacy outreach is successful. The Science Department and Math Department have also made major changes and moved forward. The technology department has worked hard to insure that the computers work well in the schools. Ms. Rabinowitz reviewed the various grants that the District received, including the five Bridgeport schools that have received Apple Grants. The Arts programs are starting again.

The teaching staff is focused on literacy for 3rd graders with the goal that all the students will pass 9th grade English and Algebra 1. This will make it less likely that the students will drop out of high school. Ms. Rabinowitz said that the graduation rate has decreased because she raised

the requirements. It was discovered that the students were using their cell phones to look up answers to tests and quizzes.

Chronic absenteeism has decreased but there are still over 3,000 students who are out of school more than they attend. Ms. Rabinowitz then gave a brief overview of the attendance statistics, including the in school suspensions, out of school suspension, expulsions and school based arrests.

Council President McCarthy thanked Ms. Rabinowitz and said she had moved the District forward against the tide. He said that he wanted to applaud her for her contributions. Council President McCarthy said that Ms. Rabinowitz had spoken to the Council Members honestly and had worked hard to do more with less.

Council Member Herron said that Ms. Rabinowitz had never denied any of the issues and faced them. She said that she appreciated all the effort. Council Member Herron said that the little boy sitting in the audience was a student and she had notice his improving math skills.

Council Member Olson commented on how the schools had changed in the last 50 years. He thanked Ms. Rabinowitz for all the positive changes he has seen during the last nine months.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: September 6, 2016.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2016.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2016 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President McCarthy announced that Council Member Taylor-Moye was not present due to a family emergency, Council Member Lyons was not present due to illness, and Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia and Council Member Bukovsky were not present due to a conflict in their schedule.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

Mayor Ganim then asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Eneida Martinez requested that Item 187-15 be removed from the Consent Calendar. The City Clerk then read the consent calendar items into the record.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

***148-15 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: DISPOSITION OF EIGHT (8) CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES BY AUCTION, SALE TO ABUTTER OR BY SALE TO COMMUNITY BASED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS.**

***188-15 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH MIGUEL RIVERA.**

***189-15 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH JAMES FRANCOEUR.**

***190-15 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

193-15 Communication from City Attorney re: Mayoral Nomination of Maritza Bond for the Director of Health Position, referred to Contracts Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE:**

193-15 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: MAYORAL NOMINATION OF MARITZA BOND FOR THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH POSITION, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NIEVES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

126-15 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the Reconstitution of the Bridgeport Public Library Board of Directors, DENIED.

Mayor Ganim explained that this vote was to accept or deny the recommendation of the committee.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE DENIAL OF THE RESOLUTION REGARDING THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

187-15 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of Amendment to Adopted FY2017-2021 Capital Plan.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 187-15 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO ADOPTED FY2017-2021 CAPITAL PLAN.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

A roll call vote was requested.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 187-15 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO ADOPTED FY2017-2021 CAPITAL PLAN PASSED WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (BURNS, BANTA, BRANTLEY, OLSON, MCCARTHY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, NIEVES, PAOLETTO, SMITH AND HOLLOWAY) AND FOUR (4) AGAINST (CASCO, CASTILLO, FELICIANO AND MARTINEZ).**

186-15 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects.

A roll call vote was requested.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 186-15 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 186-15 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS PASSED WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (BURNS, BANTA, BRANTLEY, OLSON, MCCARTHY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, NIEVES, PAOLETTO, SMITH AND HOLLOWAY) AND FOUR (4) AGAINST (CASCO, CASTILLO, FELICIANO AND MARTINEZ).**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA REGARDING THE ASSIGNMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS TO THEIR COMMITTEES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council President McCarthy said that he would like to switch Council Member Salter from the Contracts Committee to the Ordinance Committee and move Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia to Contract from Ordinance.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO CHANGE COUNCIL MEMBER SALTER FROM THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE AND MOVE COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA TO CONTRACT FROM ORDINANCE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Ganim left the meeting at 8:20 and Council President McCarthy assumed the chair. Council Member Brantley left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Council Member Eneida Martinez stated that she would like a point of personal privilege. She said that she thought it was rude that the Mayor left the meeting and felt that he should have stayed to hear about a serious issue regarding the WPCA lien on a house on Stratford Avenue. She went on to give the details and explained that the Ordinance Committee did not have a quorum when the item was on the agenda. She said that the Council Members would continue to fight for the property owners who have liens placed on their homes by the WPCA.

ADJOURNMENT CONT'D.

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services