

**CITY of BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2012
6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, Colon, Olson, Brantley, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, Blunt, dePara, Silva, Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Curwen

ABSENT: Council members: Taylor-Moye, T. McCarthy, Baker, Holloway

President Pro Tempore Council member Bonney called the public speaking session to order at 6:35 pm.

ROLL CALL: the city clerk took the roll call and she announced there was a quorum.

The following speakers signed up prior to the public speaking session:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2012, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Update on Lawsuit against the City of Bridgeport and P.T. Barnum Sewage Problem.

Mr. Young mentioned the sewage problem in P.T. Barnum. He asked if someone would check it out to make sure the problem is still being controlled. He also mentioned the problem with contaminants at Columbus School that he noted was related to a health hazard.

He went on to speak about a pre-trial scheduled for March 28, 2012 related to his wrongful termination. He emphasized that he will continue to seek justice to get the matter cleared up. He stated that he was upset that that his attorney and the city attorney didn't show up

for two separate court dates on February 16, 2012 and March 12, 2012. He stressed that since he was unjustly terminated, he should have his day in court. He said that he has come before the council as a taxpayer and he deserves justice. He stated that the matter is about right and wrong and what happened to him shouldn't happen to anyone else.

Ethan Book Jr.
131 Vine Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Public discussion of matters pertaining to
the late Sister Adelaida Coriano and
Luis A. Rivera.

See the contents of Mr. Book's statement below:

PUBLIC COMMENTS OF ETHAN BOOK
BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MARCH 19, 2012

Mr. Council Speaker, Members of the City Council and public:

I am Ethan Book, residing at 131 Vine Street in Bridgeport (temporarily residing there for six years). I operate a small limousine service business and in part for matters related to some long-term unaddressed matters in state public works, I am a candidate for the U.S. Senate 2010. As brief explanation, the primary focus of my active candidacy is an active federal court challenge of portions of the recent statewide election process.

On June 6, 2005, Ofcr. Stanley Wuchek responded to a complaint of suspicious activity on the East Side, that regarding several youths who were changing a tire on a parked Jeep Cherokee. Ofcr. Wuchek reviewed the matter and observed that the vehicle marker plates were on record with the Conn. Department of Motor Vehicles as corresponding to a Pontiac owned by Adelaida Coriano, a resident of Sherman Street. He spoke with the youths and was given the telephone number of Ms. Coriano. He called her to discuss the matter. She explained that she had properly had the vehicle plates transferred from the Pontiac to the Jeep Cherokee. Without any further review, Ofcr. Wuchek issued a motor vehicle citation and he ordered the vehicle towed. Anthony's Auto Body responded to the call. The operator used a type of tow truck which wasn't recommended for that vehicle. During the tow, the transmission was damaged.

Ms. Coriano had the vehicle repaired at her expense. [The motor vehicle citation was dismissed when she demonstrated to the court the proper papers that the transfer of registration had been done.] As one who is a personal friend and colleague through the Hispanic prison ministry El Alfarero which she founded over 40 years ago and has served as Director, in 2006 Ms. Coriano contacted me to ask for assistance. I helped her in preparing an administrative claim presented to the City Clerk. That was denied. I then assisted her in preparing and presenting a small claims action. After some extreme arguments made by Associate City Attorney Gregory Conte, that lawsuit was dismissed.

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For reasons of justice, on May 21, 2011, I assisted Ms. Coriano in presenting a renewed administrative claim with the City Clerk, that by which she seeks \$1,940.25 in compensation for this matter. She advised me that she never received a response from the City.

After a failure by physicians at Bridgeport Hospital in August of 2011 to observe early signs of cancer on x-rays, Ms. Coriano developed a serious bone cancer and passed away on March 11th. Her family has not had the funds to cover the full costs of burial. The family would greatly appreciate that the City releases the requested funds to the estate of Ms. Coriano.

I had also intended to speak briefly this evening of a separate matter regarding Luis Rivera. However, considering the time limitation for speaking, I will for now forego that portion to give some references that are applicable to both matters.

Early Constitutional scholar William Rawle said in 1825:

But it is said that there is generally a propensity in public functionaries to extend their power beyond its proper limits¹

James McHenry, a signer of the Constitution, stated,

[T]he Holy Scriptures . . . can alone secure to society, order and peace, and to our courts of justice and constitutions of government, purity, stability, and usefulness. In vain, without the Bible, we increase our penal laws and draw entrenchments [protections] around our institutions.²

In his book, Restoring the Lost Constitution – A Presumption of Liberty, Law Professor Randy E. Barnett explains,

The Constitution that was actually enacted and formally amended creates islands of governmental powers in a sea of liberty. The judicially redacted constitution creates islands of liberty rights in a sea of governmental powers.³

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Finally for now, the Declaration of Independence refers to “the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God”. It affirms “certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

I thank you for your attention.

Ethan Book

¹ Original Intent by David Barton (2010, WallBuilders Press, Aledo, TX), p. 273 quoting from A View of the Constitution of the United States by William Rawle (1829, Philip H. Nicklin, Philadelphia), p. 201.

² Original Intent at p. 179 quoting from The Life and Correspondence of James McHenry by Bernard C. Steiner (1907, The Burrows Brothers, Cleveland) at p. 475.

³ Restoring the Lost Constitution – A Presumption of Liberty by Randy E. Barnett (2004, Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ), p. 1.

John Marshall Lee

signed up to speak prior to the public session

Mr. Lee spoke about the following topics summarized below:

- City Charter, Chapter 9, Section 7 – it was stated that the charter calls for the Mayor to submit fiscal reports including revenues, expenditures and variances to the city council by the fourth Friday of each month relative to the prior month – a full 12-months of these reports haven't been made available to the city council or the Budget and Appropriations Committee. He questioned why this unlawful pattern continues and how does this show a record of accountability?
- The charter and budgets presented and passed by the city council body each year indicate an internal audit staff. He found that the city has not had an internal audit staff for a number of years and he questioned what the story is and where are these watchdogs?
- City spending and total City revenues. He indicated that from 2007 through 2011, the city had a deficit in total cash flow each year for a sum of \$163 million; an average of approximately \$33 million annually. He questioned how city expenditures can exceed revenue regularly? He further mentioned that the city has bonded \$133 million in the past five years that resulted in entering the debt market on four occasions. And the city fund balance has decreased during that time by half at least, but not by \$30 million. He questioned if the subject is ever discussed by the Budget & Appropriations Committee? Does either the city council or B&A formally review the CAFR each year? Overall, he questioned if the city council is aware of the entire city fiscal picture. He concluded to ask where the financial accountability and transparency is.

Mr. Lee noted that he would be holding a public session on Bridgeport Finances 101 next Sunday at 4:00 pm at Harborview Market.

Mary Jane Foster

signed up to speak prior to the public session

Ms. Foster spoke about sexually oriented businesses. She stated that the topic is a big concern for many people. She mentioned the proposed new ordinance; she said the new ordinance was much better drafted than the one that was proposed last year. She expressed that residents in Bridgeport have an opportunity to show that they can lead and do something good for the city and passing the ordinance will further regulate these types of businesses and how they are used. She emphasized that this was the city council's chance to support the ordinance and show some initiative. She further commented that there are at least nineteen (19) of these businesses in Bridgeport, pointing out that the matter pertains to quality of life and doing something to change it. She asked that the council act in favor of the bill and show leadership.

Stephanie Barnes

signed up to speak prior to the public session

Ms. Barnes said she concurred with Ms. Foster's comments in support of the ordinance. She stated that there are four (4) massage parlors in the Black Rock area; noting that one of them is very close to a playground. She stressed that she would like to see the environment change; especially for the kids. She questioned why nothing has been done in the past to address the problem. She also mentioned the issue of human trafficking that are often related to these establishments. She expressed that it wasn't right to turn a blind eye and she emphasized the importance of doing our part to address the issue. Overall, she said the ordinance was important and relative to building up the city to bring in new business.

The public hearing session closed at 7:04 pm.

CITY of BRIDGEPORT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2012

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, Colon, Olson, Brantley, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, Blunt, dePara, Silva, Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Curwen

ABSENT: Council members: Taylor-Moye, T. McCarthy, Baker, Holloway

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Prayer - Council member Austin offered the prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance - Council member M. McCarthy led the pledge of allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Council member Brantley asked for a moment of silence for Margaret Morton; former State Representative; passed away.

She also asked for a moment of silence for the two women that were involved in a motor vehicle accident on the Merritt Parkway, noting that they were residents of Stratford and had friends in Bridgeport.

Council member Lyons asked for a moment of silence for James Cleary who passed away under unfortunate circumstances. She said he sold the CT Post for many years and he did a lot for the north end community. She further expressed that he always had a smile!

Council member Curwen asked for a moment of silence for Bobby Deluca who passed away.

Mayor Finch acknowledged the contributions that Margaret Morton made to the state and the city. He recalled that she proudly won elections during a time when minorities weren't welcomed in politics or elected to office. He commented that Council member Brantley reminded him of her when she speaks.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: February 21, 2012

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES
** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Roll call - the city clerk took the roll call and she announced there was a quorum.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

64-11 Communication from Mayor re: Proposed Five-Year Capital Plan (CP) for Fiscal Years 2013-2017, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

65-11 Communication from City Attorney re: Twenty day notice to Settle Litigation pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130: Elizabeth Newby, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER
** COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
** COUNCIL MEMBER COLON SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

66-11 Resolution presented by Council Members dePara, Silva, and Austin re: Installation of appropriate Signage identifying Gurdon Street (between Salem Street and Hawley Avenue) "Compact Car" Parking Only Area, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY MOVED TO REFER RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***56-11** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: 2011 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

Mayor Finch asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent calendar. There were none heard.

The city clerk read the consent calendar item into the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

New business:

- Council member Colon announced that Council member Taylor-Moye had minor surgery that she was recovering from and unable to attend the meeting.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING TWO ITEMS TO COMMITTEE
** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO REFER RESOLUTIONS RE: TO ADDRESS THE REGULATION OF SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESSES (ITEM# 67-11) AND MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS AND MASSAGE THERAPISTS (ITEM#68-11) TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED WITH SIXTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION (COUNCIL MEMBER BLUNT)**

**Mayor Finch thanked Auden Groggins for her leadership in this matter.*

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services