

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2012
6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, Taylor-Moye, Olson, Brantley,
T. McCarthy, Lyons, Blunt, dePara, Silva, Ayala, Martinez, Baker

ABSENT: Council members: M. McCarthy, Austin, Bonney, Paoletto, Curwen,
Holloway

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:45 pm.

The city clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

*The Following Named Persons Signed Up Prior To The Public Speaking Session To
Address The City Council:*

NAME

SUBJECT

Jehan Abdur-Raheem

Mr. Raheem spoke about the participants of the Safe Harbor Program. He stated that they needed more information from the city council to find out when they should sign up to address them. He said he was concerned about the way information is distributed to the citizens of Bridgeport.

Carmen Lopez

Ms. Lopez spoke about the rules for the public speaking session. She said the rules needed to be clarified. She asked if it was possible to change the day for signing up on Wednesday; so that residents are able to sign up after the agenda has been finalized.

The public speaking session closed at 6:50 pm.

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2012

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, Taylor-Moye, Olson, Brantley,
T. McCarthy, Lyons, Blunt, dePara, Silva, Ayala, Martinez, Baker

ABSENT: Council members: M. McCarthy, Austin, Vizzo-Paniccia, Paoletto,
Curwen, Holloway

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

Prayer - the prayer was offered by Council member Olson.

Mayor Finch wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Pledge of Allegiance – the pledge was led by Council member Blunt.

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

Announcements - Council President McCarthy stated that the following council members were absent:

Council member Austin had a family issue; Council member Curwen had a family issue; Council member Paoletto had a family emergency and Council member M. McCarthy had a personal issue.

142-11 Public Hearing re: Disposition of City Owned Properties to Habitat for Humanity.

Mayor Finch asked if there was anyone to speak in favor of the item.

The Co-president of Habitat for Humanity thanked the city council for their favorable vote in the past and for future consideration. He expressed that it has been a great partnership for the last twenty-seven years and he said he was honored to have done the work in Bridgeport. He gave some background information about the recipients of a Habitat for Humanity home. He mentioned a single mother that was living with her children in the project. He said that the mother relayed to him how she covers her child's eyes so that they don't have to read what's written on the walls. He mentioned another couple who has two severely disabled boys and how they have to bring them up and down the stairs daily to go to the doctor etc. He noted that both of these families were first time homeowners.

He went on to explained that all the properties will have a home built on it and each home will have a working family living there that will be engaged and vested in the community. He further noted that property taxes for these homes amount to well over \$5 million annually.

Mayor Finch commented that this disposition of properties (17) lots was the largest transfer of property to date.

Mayor Finch asked if there was anyone to speak against the item. There were none heard.

Hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

151-11 Public Hearing re: Disposition of City Owned Property located at 1163 Main Street.

Mayor Finch asked if there was anyone to speak in favor of the item. There were none heard.

Mayor Finch asked if there was anyone to speak against the item. There were none heard.

The public hearing was closed.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: October 15, 2012 and October 22, 2012

(Special Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayoral Proclamation: Recognize and Congratulate Graduates of The Business Development Workshop Series for Hispanic Businesses.

City Council Citation: Recognize and Congratulate Graduates of The Business Development Workshop Series for Hispanic Businesses.

Deborah Caviness and Ezequiel Santiago came forward to present the proclamation and citation with Mayor Finch and Council President McCarthy.

Mayor Finch made a request for all the graduates to come forward. He recalled that there were workshops that he spoke at, noting that the business development workshop series offers help for existing businesses, as well as start-up businesses, noting there were six workshops, one that consisted of the five C's of credit; there were twenty-four (24) graduates total. He further expressed that Bridgeport is about families that make up the city and keep it thriving and strong. He mentioned that Bridgeport is the only city that gives free office space to the Spanish Business Association and the Small Business Development Class.

Council President McCarthy expressed that he was proud of the work and commitment that exists. He noted that SBA provides jobs and they help the city survive. He said he appreciated the leap that they take as entrepreneurs. He added that the association is also good for the city's tax role.

Deborah Caviness expressed that she was pleased and proud of the work that has been done with the Hispanic partners program that has been very successful. She noted that this was the fifth graduating class and she congratulated everyone who participated. She stated that she looked forward to more of the same in the future. She gave a special thank you to Council President McCarthy and Ezekiel Santiago for their involvement.

Council President McCarthy read the proclamation on behalf of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Finch recalled that they began the SBA four years ago and they put over \$50 million plus work into small minority businesses. He emphasized that they have seen tremendous progress and he said it was a good thing that the money stays in the community and he encouraged them to keep doing that. He urged everyone to put the word out to contact Ms. Caviness and Mr. Santiago for further assistance. He congratulated everyone involved.

Council President McCarthy stated that the SBA had 7,000 applications after Hurricane Sandy and only (500) of them have been returned. He urged everyone to submit their applications in order to receive any assistance that they might be entitled to. He commented that the last time there was a hurricane, FEMA didn't offer much assistance; but thanks to the SBA assistance will be forthcoming this time.

Mayor Finch stated that this Saturday would be designated as small business Saturday. He urged everyone to spend locally, noting that doing so; helps boost the economy and improve neighborhoods.

ADDED:

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***158-11(A)** Contracts Committee Report re: Integrated Prescription Drug Program Agreement with Medco Health Solutions, Inc. for the period of October 1, 2011 – December 31, 2013.

***158-11(B)** Contracts Committee Report re: Medicare Part D EGWP Amendment with Medco Health Solutions, Inc. for the period of January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2013.

*** REMOVE ITEMS# 158-11 (A) & (B) FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

Council member Silva stated that the items passed unanimously in committee. Council member Brannelly stated that she would abstain from the vote due to her affiliation in the medical field (MEDCO).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO CONSOLIDATE ITEMS *158-11(A) and *158-11(B) FOR APPROVAL**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH TWELVE VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION (COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY)**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

165-11 Communication from Engineering re: (Ref. #36-11) Resolution in Support of Public Information Meeting regarding Iranistan Avenue – Installation of Sidewalks from State Street to Railroad Avenue Utilizing Funding from the STP-Urban Program: State Project No. 15-358, Federal Aid Project No. 1015(124), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

166-11 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution concerning Approval of the Mill Hill Neighborhood Revitalization Zone (NRZ) By Laws and Boundaries, as proposed and delineated by the Mill Hill Revitalization Zone Planning Committee, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

Council member Olson recalled that many trees were planted by the Bridgeport Housing Authority years ago and many people were upset that the trees won't be saved. Mayor Finch recalled when the golden chain trees were planted. He explained that this type of tree isn't appropriate for street use because they have a short life span and aren't meant to last more than ten (10) years. He said Steve Lladen has identified the appropriate type of trees that should be planted that will last much longer. He said he urged them to consider a larger number of smaller trees that will have a longer life span.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***138-11** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Application for Waiver to Extend Driveway Width: #2660 Main Street – St. Vincent's College.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services