

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
CITY of BRIDGEPORT
MARCH 21, 2011
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Brannelly, A. Ayala, Brantley, Austin, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, dePara,
Silva, M. Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Curwen, Baker, Holloway
ABSENT: Council members: M. McCarthy, Taylor-Moye, *Walsh,
T. McCarthy, *Lyons, Blunt

*= arrived late

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE PRO-TEM COUNCIL
MEMBER SILVA TO CONDUCT THE PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council member Pro-Tem Silva called the public speaking session to order at 6:45 pm.

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

Council member Pro-Tem Silva announced that there weren't any speakers who previously signed up. He asked if there was anyone else present to speak tonight.

Charles Coviello came forward to address the city council. He spoke about one of the agenda items that pertained to property tax credits. He stated that he hoped the matter would be handled properly and not available to investors. He said the tax credits should only be available to the owner-occupant. He requested that if the stipulation wasn't part of the tax credit, the item should be amended. He commented that the tax credit should only be for people who reside in the City of Bridgeport.

Hearing none, the public speaking session was closed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC SPEAKING
SESSION**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The public speaking session ended at 6:50 pm.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 21, 2011

7:00 p.m.

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

ATTENDANCE: Brannelly, A. Ayala, Brantley, Walsh, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, *Blunt, dePara, Silva, M. Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Curwen, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: M. McCarthy, Taylor-Moye, T. McCarthy

*= arrived late 7:15pm.

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Prayer - the prayer was offered by Council member Brantley.

Pledge of Allegiance - the pledge was led by Council member Holloway.

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

Council member Silva announced that the following council members were absent tonight: Council member Blunt was delayed and on his way; Council member T. McCarthy was out of town, Council member M. McCarthy unable to attend due to the fire that occurred at his business and Council member Taylor-Moye wouldn't be attending.

City Council Citation: Bridgeport – Port Jefferson Steamship Company in recognition of Service to the Bridgeport Community.

Mayor Finch stated that it was a great honor to be there to give a citation to Fred Hall of the Port Jefferson Steamship Company. He expressed that it was a good thing to have all the transportation outlets connected, noting there is none other like it in the country.

Council members Curwen and the Mayor presented the citation. Council member Curwen asked all the council members to come forward to take part in presenting the citation. He stated that all the districts have benefited from the service that the Port Jefferson Steamship Company provides to the community. He read the citation on behalf of the city council; which highlighted the recognition of service to Bridgeport and wished them continued success. Council member Curwen noted that some of the council members that have served on the council for years, have always been appreciative how the Port

Jefferson Steamship Company has reached out to the community and they never asked for anything in return. He thanked Mr. Hall for his company's generosity.

Mayor Finch expressed his thanks and appreciation for having worked with Mr. Hall and Lou. He stated that they assure everyone boards safely and he also thanked them for promoting economic development growth. He said he looked forward to a long relationship with them.

Mr. Hall expressed his gratitude. He noted that he felt like part of the community and he was happy to serve Bridgeport residents.

Mayor Finch read the item into the record. He asked if there was anyone present to speak for the item. Hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

20-10 Public Hearing regarding Disposition and Redevelopment of City Owned property located at 167 Steuben Street and 95 Gilmore Street former Waltersville School.

Mayor Finch read the item into the record. He asked if there was anyone present to speak for the item. Hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

25-10 Public Hearing regarding A City Council resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a PILOT Agreement with the developer of the Clinton Commons Project, a 33 unit affordable housing project at 75-101 Clinton Avenue.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: February 22, 2011

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES
** COUNCIL MEMBER M. AYALA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSY**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMITTEES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED**

50-10 Communication from Superintendent of Schools re Grant Submission re: The Creation of a Replacement Roofing Project at Bassick High School, referred to Education and Social Services Committee.

51-10 Communication from Tax Collector re Assignment of Tax Liens for fiscal year 2011, referred to Contracts Committee.

52-10 Communication from City Attorney re Suit Settlement with Sherry Johnson, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

53-10 Communication from Public Facilities re Application for Driveway Permit: #680 Park Avenue – Roosevelt School, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

54-10 Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re Tentative Agreement with Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) concerning their collective bargaining contract, referred to Contracts Committee.

55-10 Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re Tentative Agreement with Bridgeport City Supervisors Association (BCSA) concerning their collective bargaining contract, referred to Contracts Committee.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

56-10 Resolution presented by Council member Baker re Resolution to honor Bishop Jonathan Powell by adding his name above street signage on Wilmot Avenue as Bishop Jonathan Powell Avenue, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO REFER THE RESOLUTION TO BOARD, COMMISSION, ETC.**

**** COUNCIL dePARA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

Mayor Finch asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent calendar.

Council member Walsh said he didn't want to remove any items. However, he made a statement that he was glad to see the budget transfers come forward for approval. He further stated that he was happy to see OPM step up to the place for submitting the items to the city council for authorization and approval.

Mayor Finch commented that he was pleased that Council member Walsh was happy with the transactions for approval.

The city clerk read the items into the record:

***37-10** Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re Approval of Budget Transfer for Public Facilities – Garage Maintenance Department From: Electricity (\$87,000) and Gas Utility Maintenance Account (\$87,000) To: Municipal Garage Auto Parts (\$79,000), Garage Diesel Fuel (\$75,000) and Vehicle Maintenance Services (\$20,000) in order to complete purchases for supply needs and prepare for spring activity funds.

***38-10** Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re Approval of Budget Transfer for Public Facilities – Golf Course From: Vehicle Rental/Lease Account (\$10,000) To: Other Maintenance and Repair Account (\$10,000) in order to complete purchases for supply needs and prepare for spring activity funds.

***39-10** Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re Approval of Budget Transfer for Public Facilities Maintenance Department From: Electricity (\$18,000) and Gas Utility Maintenance Account (\$17,000) To: Building Maintenance Services (\$32,000) and Management Services (\$3,000) in order to complete purchases for supply needs and prepare for spring activity funds.

***25-10** Economic and Community Development Committee Report re PILOT Agreement with POKO Partners in collaboration with Alpha Community Services for the Clinton Commons Project a 33 unit affordable housing project at 75-101 Clinton Avenue.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED WITH FIFTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION
(COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY)**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

27-10 Contracts Committee Report re Lease Agreement with Gloria P. Sancho for 1335 East Main Street to be used by the Police Department for the East Side Precinct.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO APPROVE**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. AYALA SECONDED**

Council member Martinez read a statement regarding East Main Street being a crime ridden area that has seen various crimes committed through the years, especially during the years 2008 and 2009. She relayed that she and Council member M. Ayala requested that Mayor put more police presence in the area. She further stated that she hoped the community will work closely with the police department to cut down on crime. She urged approval of the lease agreement at 1335 East Main Street to be used by the police department for the east side precinct. She thanked the Chief of Police for his support of the police sub-station.

Council member Walsh said he was disturbed by this item. He mentioned that the city put out the RFP and they only received one response. He updated that the policy is when only one response is received, the matter should be go back out to RFP. He stressed that the city shouldn't be spending \$10k for a vacant storefront. He further questioned how many officers will have to give up a day's pay to open up the police post. He felt there was a better way to attack crime than opening up a post with a year's lease. He emphasized that they have to start living up to the fact that there is a budget crisis on their hands and not take, take from the taxpayers.

Council member Holloway stated that the matter went out to bid twice. He said that when a contract comes forward, purchasing should look at it, not the police department. He recalled what's going on at 485 Howard Avenue, where the city is looking to spend \$115k per year for a lease with the option of eventually buying the property. He felt the property should be purchased first, noting that it's not the way to spend taxpayer's money. He stressed that the property should be bought right now. He said he couldn't see spending \$115k per year on a piece of property they don't own.

Council member Brantley asked if the money for the property was coming out of the city budget or the police department's budget. Mayor Finch said it was coming out of the police department's budget. Council member Walsh asked if they could obtain the account number that the funds are coming from. Mayor Finch said the information could be provided tomorrow.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia commented that 485 Howard Avenue wasn't mentioned in item 27-10. She asked that they stick to discussing 1335 East Main Street only.

Council member Baker asked exactly what line item the funds were coming from. Mr. Sherwood, OPM stated the line item number was 01250-000 that is the police department rental account.

Mayor Finch commended Council members Martinez and M. Ayala for their hard work in the district. He said he recognized how they organized block watches and Take Back the Night watches. He further commented that they worked closely with Police Chief Gaudett to help fight crime.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH FIFTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH)**

Other Business:

Council member Brannelly recognized the Bridgeport Fire Department for working tirelessly from dawn to dusk during the fire that recently occurred in her district, where multi-homes were lost, as well as Martin McCarthy's business. She stated that Council member M. McCarthy wanted to thank the fire department for their tireless dedication they put in to try to save the property and he was grateful for their hard work.

Council member Brannelly requested a moment of silence for all those that lost their home during the fire.

Council member dePara reminded everyone about the ECDE/CDBG public hearings that will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights in council chambers at 6:00 pm.

Council member Brantley thanked all the council members who agreed to make a donation to the College Initiative Tour. She noted that the donations will help assist those that need it. Council member Lyons mentioned the child in Orange, CT that was missing. She asked everyone to pray that she returns safe and sound.

Mayor Finch mentioned his presence at the fire scene over the weekend. He acknowledged Council members Lyons and Vizzo-Paniccia for their support in bringing in food. He further stated that he was confident that the city will help relocate the residents who lost their homes. He expressed that it was a shame that a new business with so much hope was destroyed. He extended the city council's sentiments, with the hope that Council member M. McCarthy recovers from the incident.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services