

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, December 7, 2009

7:00 pm.

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

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

Council member Tom McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

He announced that Mayor Finch would be delayed.

Council member Holloway stated that since Council member McCarthy technically wasn't the council president anymore, he questioned what the consensus was regarding this from the Mayor's office and other city council members.

Council member McCarthy said the matter was discussed and it was determined that the current council president remains the president until after the meeting, when a new council president is elected.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO HAVE COUNCIL MEMBER TOM MCCARTHY CHAIR THE MEETING**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

Council member Holloway said that it couldn't be done. He said that if the Mayor was supposed to be present to chair the meeting, then the council president term had already ended. He added that today was a new city council meeting and he stressed that Council member McCarthy wasn't the council president at this time.

City Attorney Anastasi referenced Chapter 5- Section 4A that read the council president elected should remain until November 30 if it's an odd year or until a successor is elected. Also, the council president presides in the absence of the Mayor, per Section-C, but the Mayor doesn't have a vote in the election of the council president. Therefore, Council member McCarthy had a vote as a council member only.
He further referenced Chapter 2-Section 8 regarding the successor guidelines.

Attorney Anastasi stated that it would be appropriate to act on Council member Curwen's motion; he stated that when there is no chairperson present, someone needed to be elected to conduct the meeting.

Council member McCarthy stated that he wasn't looking to run the meeting. However, he agreed with Attorney Anastasi that he was still the council president until a new one was elected. He suggested that they either wait for the Mayor to show up or they could act on the motion to conduct the meeting.

Council member Holloway was adamant that they should wait for the Mayor's arrival. Some of the other council members agreed that they should wait.

The meeting recessed at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Finch arrived to the meeting at 7:32 p.m. He resumed and called the meeting to order.

- Prayer - the prayer was offered by Council member Martin McCarthy.
- Pledge of Allegiance - the pledge was led by Council member Holloway.
- Roll Call - the city clerk took the roll and announced there was a quorum.
- Moment of Silence - a moment of silence was requested by Council member Holloway to recognize the 68th anniversary since Pearl Harbor.

Mayor Finch apologized for being late.

Adoption of City Council Rules

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER ANDERSON AYALA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Election of City Council President

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO NOMINATE COUNCIL MEMBER
THOMAS McCARTHY
** COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY SECONDED**

Hearing no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken:

**** MOTION PASSED WITH A MAJORITY VOTE**

Council President McCarthy expressed his appreciation for the nomination and the vote; for the confidence extended to him to serve as the council president for another two years, to Mayor Finch, the city council members and guests. He noted that although he wasn't perfect, he stated that more communication is needed between the city council and the administration. He stressed that he will always put Bridgeport first and serves in the best interest of the city. He commented on behalf of all city officials that it has been a struggle to make good decisions to represent their constituents well. He further stated that he was proud of all that everyone puts into their job serving the city.

Appointment of City Council Standing Committees

Council President McCarthy was recognized to announce the appointments of the city council standing committees. He stated that the process coordinating the committees was carefully thought out, and he tried to maintain what they had for the last two years – *he read the committees that were assigned and the listing was submitted to the city clerk's office.*

In addition, he announced the following and the Liaisons to Various Boards and Commissions.

Council President - Thomas McCarthy
President Pro Tempore - Carlos Silva
Majority Leader- Richard Bonney

**** COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE
APPOINTMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES
** COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH SECONDED**

It was stated that a new Liaison to the Zoo had been created. The liaison will be Council member Vizzo-Paniccia.

Council member Holloway stated the council president had a right to submit names for appointments for every committee, but he thought they needed to look back at who was attending meetings on a monthly basis, bi-monthly etc. He expressed that Council member Baker has shown up at every Budget & Appropriations Committee meeting and he felt he should have been nominated as a committee member. He said that was his plight and disappointment, in that the Budget & Appropriations Committee was a committee that controls everything. He reiterated that Council member Baker has been diligent in attending all the meetings, but he realized it was the choice of the council president.

A roll call vote was taken - It was clarified that a **yes vote** = a vote for the appointments as they were submitted by the council president *and* a **no vote** = a vote against the appointments:

Attorney Anastasi advised that the city council president nominates and assigns the appointments and the city council ratifies the vote.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH SIXTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND FOUR VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS: BONNEY, BLUNT, SILVA and BAKER)**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER
** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED**

- 01-09** Communication from Airport Manager re Proposed Agreement between the City and the State for Final Design and Permitting for the Realignment of Main Street, (Route 113), File No AERO 5800-1613, State Project No. DOT00150336PE, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 02-09** Communication from Public Facilities re Settlement of claim by Music and Arts Center for Humanity, Inc. regarding termination of lease, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 03-09** Communication from Public Facilities re Application for Driveway Permit: #124–140 Logan Street, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.
- 04-09** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re Grant Submission: 2009-2012 State Department of Public Health for a STD/TB Control Program Grant, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 05-09** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re Grant Submission: 2009-2010 State Department of Public Health for a Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention – Education Outreach Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 06-09** Communication from Tax Collector re Refund of Excess Payments, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 07-09** Communication from City Clerk re Certification of Oath of Office of City Council Members, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**
- 08-09** Communication from Mayor re Appointment of Cynthia S. Maignan (D) to the Board of Assessment Appeals, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 09-09** Communication from Mayor re Appointment of Osman Shabazz (D) to the Board of Assessment Appeals, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 10-09(A)** Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re Proposed Amended and Restated Agreement - Deferred Compensation Plan under I.R.C. Section 457, referred to Contracts Committee.

- 10-09(B)** Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re Proposed Amended and Restated Agreement - Section 401(a), Money Purchase Pension Plan, referred to Contracts Committee.

- 11-09** Communication from Civil Service re Position Reclassification: Fire Department, Fire Deputy Chief/Executive Officer, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

- 12-09** Communication from City Attorney re Proposed Settlement of Pending Lawsuit Joseph Gasparri v. Martin Pizighelli, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

- 13-09** Communication from Central Grants & Community Development re Proposed Approval of 2010-2012 Citizens' Union Committee, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

- 14-09** Communication from Central Grants & Community Development re Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development Program Year 35 Annual Action Plan: Community Development Block Grant Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

- 15-09** Communication from Central Grants & Community Development re Proposed Amendment to the Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development 2008-2013; Community Development Block Grant Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

- 16-09** Communication from Mayor re Appointment of Edwin P. Farrow (U) to the Police Commission, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

- 17-09** Communication from OPED re (Ref. #125-08) Proposed Modification of the Development Program for the former Webster School, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

- 18-09** Communication from OPED re Proposed Agreement to Fix Assessment for Certain Units within 800 Seaview Avenue, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO COMMITTEE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED
 ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO REFER RE: TRANSFER OF THE BRIDGEPORT FERRY FROM THE DOCK AT WATER STREET TO**

**THE NORTH SIDE OF THE HARBOR ON THE EAST SIDE OF
BRIDGEPORT (ITEM # 21-09)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED**

Council member Holloway stated that a resolution was drafted for the support of this item, but it didn't have anything to do with moving the ferry. He emphasized that they could either sign on in support of the resolution or not. He reiterated that it was only a resolution in support.

**The proper committee to be referred to will be determined.*

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES
FOR**

THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM FOR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ADD AN ITEM NOT ON
THE AGENDA RE: STIPULATION OF RONALD F. DEBIASE WORKERS'
COMPENSATION CLAIM REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
COMMITTEE (ITEM # 19-09)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES
FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY MOVED TO REFER RE:
CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 354 and 368 MAIN
STREET (AKA LITTLE LIBERIA by the CITY OF BRIDGEPORT to THE
MARY and ELIZA FREEMAN CENTER for HISTORY and COMMUNITY,
INC. ("FREEMAN CENTER") TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
COMMITTEE (ITEM # 20-09)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

Mayor Finch commented that this item was an important part of our history and he acknowledged everyone who worked on it.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Other business:

Council member Walsh reminded Mayor Finch and Council President McCarthy that in the last leg of the session, there was talk of acquiring budgetary impact, but it hasn't been done yet. He stressed that he would like to see it happen to start off on the right foot.

Council President McCarthy concurred with Council member Walsh.

- ◆ BRBC annual dinner tomorrow December 9, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. It was noted that there were only a certain number of seats available on a first come first serve basis. The dinner will be held at the Trumbull Marriott Hotel; contact Gail Solis to R.S.V.P.
- ◆ Reminder to please respond to the Christmas party invitation.
- ◆ It was announced that Deborah Caviness was being rewarded for her work in the Minority Office by the BRBC.
- ◆ It was noted that Jonathan Silva, Council member Carlos Silva's son has been accepted to the YNH Criminal Services Program. Congratulations were extended to him on behalf of the city council.
- ◆ Council member Holloway expressed some opposition to holding the BRBC meeting outside of the Bridgeport area in Trumbull; he noted that the title read "**Bridgeport**" Regional Business Council.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services