

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SPEAKING  
APRIL 5, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President McCarthy called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Hudson called the roll. The following members were present.

130th - Martin McCarthy  
131st – Denise Taylor-Moye  
132nd – M. Evette Brantley, Robert Walsh  
133rd - Thomas McCarthy  
134th – Amy Marie Vizzo-Paniccia (6:50 p.m.)  
135th - Richard Bonney  
136th - Angel dePara, Carlos Silva  
137th - Lydia Martinez  
138th - Robert Curwen

Ms. Hudson stated that a quorum was present.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS HAVE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO  
ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2010, 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**

**Unethical Tactics and Labor Relations**

Mr. Young said that he had some photographs for both the Council members and the public to view. He said that he had been a resident of Bridgeport for 44 years.

He then reviewed the various photographs, including two shots of men washing themselves in potholes, and two garbage cans overflowing with human waste in a basement. He then said that this had happened four years ago and when he reported it, he was told that he was interfering with someone's job. He then said that this situation had been cleaned up once, but was still going on.

Mr. Young then spoke about a situation on East Main Street that was unhealthy and unsafe for the residents. He said that there were some people who claimed that he was never satisfied and then asked why he should be satisfied.

*Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined the meeting at 6:50 p.m.*

He then concluded his remarks by saying that he hoped that someone would deal with the injustices because he was sixty years old and tired.

**Emeline Bravo-Blackwood**  
**176 Bunnell Street**  
**Bridgeport, CT 06607**

**Proposed Capital Improvement Budget**

Ms. Blackwood came forward and said that the Council has a very big responsibility in representing the residents. She then said that she had distributed an information sheet to each of the Council Members. This document was titled “Bridgeport Public Schools Identified as Needs Improvements. These Schools Have Failed to Show Improvement for 2007, 2008, 2009” There are 18 schools in Bridgeport that are failing.

*Council Member Blunt joined the meeting at 6:55 p.m.*

Ms. Blackwood then proceeded to list the various points from the document for the Council.

**Cynthia S. Maignan**  
**518 North Summerfield Avenue**  
**Bridgeport, CT 906610**

**Proposed Capital Improvement Budget**

Ms. Maignan came forward and said that she was present to speak on behalf of the parents of Harding High School. She said that when her child enrolled at Harding, she expected the worst, but was pleasantly surprised by the caring atmosphere. She said that it was her opinion that Harding needs supports and needs upgrades. She said that she was pleased that the Mayor amended his recommendation to include Harding. Ms. Maignan listed a number of issues, such as carpeting in the auditorium and the problem with the Canada geese on the football field and lockers that were not securely fastened to the walls. She urged the Council Members to find funding for Harding to send a message to the students that Harding is important to the City. She thanked the Council for their time.

**Geraldine Johnson**  
**3030 Park Avenue, Apt. 9W16**  
**Bridgeport, CT 06604**

**Proposed Capital Improvement Budget**

Ms. Johnson came forward and said it was important meeting. She said that Ms. Maignan who had expressed concerns about her son being a student at Harding. Ms. Maignan had asked her to come and address the Council about school. Ms. Johnson then said that she was surprised that only slightly more than of the Council were present and thanked those who were present for being present.

Ms. Johnson said that regarding Bridgeport students, she goes way back. She said that she felt that she got a good education at Harding and McKinley. She said that she couldn't believe that almost 30 years have slipped by since she retired from the school district. However, she felt very upset when she saw the list of failing schools. She said that there should be a sense of pride of being Bridgeport resident. Growing up in the East End, it was much, much cleaner and people didn't throw garbage and newspapers out on the street. She said that it would be very important for people to work together to erase the column that says "failure". She said that she would like to see Bridgeport return to a clean, green status. Ms. Johnson said that she felt that some planning was being done, but would encourage the Council and the District to include Harding. She urged the Council not to treat Harding like a stepchild. Any plan that is done, and she recognized that there are financial restraints, but plans need to include Harding for repairs and renovations.

She said that the original plans have been expanded to include Harding and she was present to express her gratitude for this. She said that she hoped that what is done for each high school, it will help the students take real pride in their schools. She asked that the schools make a sincere effort to actively participate in the effort as an integral part of good citizenship. She said that everyone should be treated with equality and there should be no stepchildren.

**Laurayne Ferrar-James**  
**George Pipkin Way**  
**Bridgeport, CT 06608**

**Proposed Capital Improvement Budget**

Not present.

**Chelsea Ramos**  
**195 Berkshire Avenue**  
**Bridgeport, CT 06608**

**Proposed Capital Improvement Budget**

Ms. Chelsea Ramos came forward said that she was a sophomore and was concerned about Harding High School. She said that her schools was in terrible shape. The teachers are very good and work hard, but wanted to know how she was supposed to get an education in the surrounding. The buildings are in terrible condition. She asked why the bathrooms are so dirty and wondered where the janitors were. Often the bathrooms are locked. She said that there was a difference between Harding and the other schools. She said that the students need to be heard and Harding needs to be fixed. Stairs, bathrooms,

and classrooms need to be repaired. People say that Harding is a ghetto and Ms. Ramos asked when the repairs were going to happen. She said that the kids were very angry and that the President had said that there needed to be changes, but where were the changes. She said that the students have problems at home and the police cars are often parked in front of the school. The students need a new school and there need to be changes.

Council Member McCarthy explained to Ms. Ramos that he, along with the rest of the Council agreed with Ms. Ramos' concerns and statements. However, he added that the Council does not have the authority to tell the District how to run the school.

Mr. Clyde Nickerson came forward and said that he was present to speak about a number of issues. He said that everything Ms. Ramos had stated about Harding School was true. He said that he felt that the Superintendent of Schools was responsible. He said that he would like to ask the Council to check on various issues. He then said that an outside attorney was hired to handle certain issues when the City has 13 of their own attorneys. He then challenged Council Members Baker and Holloway to visit Harding. He repeated that the administration that was running the District and the Board of Education were responsible. Harding needs to be repaired. Mr. Nickerson said that the Superintendent needed to be fired today, not tomorrow.

Council President McCarthy explained that the Council does not have any authority with the School District. The city just writes the check and the school administration spends it as it sees fit.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council President McCarthy adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 5, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:26 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Mayor Finch asked Council Member Silva to lead those assembled in a prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Finch asked Council Member Martin McCarthy to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Finch said that he would like to remind everyone that when the funds for Harding were allocated in 2002, the City could not match the funds and the money was returned to the State. He reminded everyone that he was not Mayor at that time, but also said that he was recommending Harding get a new building. The other school capital projects will be renovations.

Mayor Finch said that although there is planning for the future of Harding, in the next month or two, a proposal is going before the Trumbull Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning for the Discover Magnet School which would have 1,000 seats for Bridgeport students.

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Hudson called the roll. The following Council Members were present:

130th - Martin McCarthy  
131st – Denise Taylor-Moye  
132nd – M. Evette Brantley, Robert Walsh  
133rd - Thomas McCarthy  
134th – AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia  
135th - Richard Bonney, Warren Blunt  
136th - Angel dePara, Carlos Silva  
137th - Lydia Martinez  
138th - Robert Curwen  
139th – Andre Baker

Ms. Hudson stated that a quorum was present. Council President McCarthy said that Council Member Paoletta and Lyons were not able to be due to illness and Council Member Brannelly was out of town on business. Council Members Anderson Ayala and Manuel Ayala were absent due to a family emergency.

**Mayoral Citation: Kolbe Cathedral High School Girls Basketball Team for winning State Championship in their division.**

**City Council Citation: Kolbe Cathedral High School Girls Basketball Team for winning State Championship in their division.**

The Mayor congratulated the Kolbe Cathedral Girls Basketball Team on their State Division Championship win. The team came forward into the Council area and Council President McCarthy reminded everyone that the team had won the championship three times. Certificates were then presented to the team members. The coach then thanked all those who contributed to the team's success.

Council President McCarthy then read the Council Citation to the team.

**Mayoral Citation: Central High School Boys Basketball Team for winning State Championship in their division.**

**City Council Citation: Central High School Boys Basketball Team for winning State Championship in their division.**

The Mayor congratulated the Central High Boys Basketball Team on their State Division Championship win. The team came forward into the Council area. Certificates were then presented to the team members. The coach then thanked all those who contributed to the team's success.

Council President McCarthy then read the Council Citation to the team.

Council Member Blunt then recognized two members of the public as special guests.

### **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

**Approval of City Council Minutes: March 1, 2010**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED THE MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2010.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES.**

**49-09 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130: FRED GONZALEZ, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

**50-09 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE ASSIGNMENT OF TAX LIENS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**51-09 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE STATE REIMBURSEMENT OF LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING TAX, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**52-09 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF HEALTH (CADH) FOR 2009-2010 CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION AND CONTROL CONTRACT, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**54-09 COMMUNICATION FROM AIRPORT MANAGER RE PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE STATE REGARDING STATE PROJECT NO. DOT00150347PE FOR FINAL DESIGN AND PERMITTING FOR THE REALIGNMENT OF MAIN STREET (ROUTE 113) AT SIKORSKY MEMORIAL AIRPORT, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**55-09 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RE GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR 2009-2010 PER CAPITA GRANT, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**56-09 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET FY2010-2011, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

**57-09 COMMUNICATION FROM ENGINEERING RE SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE AND THE CITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTRACT PLANS,**

**SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES FOR THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL MODERNIZATION AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS UTILIZING FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER THE URBAN COMPONENT OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM. STATE PROJECT NO. 15-310, FEDERAL-AID PROJECT NO. STPB-000R(303), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**58-09 COMMUNICATION FROM ENGINEERING RE SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND VANASSE HANGEN BRUSTLIN, INC. FOR CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE COMPUTERIZATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS. STATE PROJECT NO. 15-310, FEDERAL-AID PROJECT NO. STPB-000R(303), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

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

**59-09 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS THOMAS MCCARTHY AND AUSTIN RE REAL ESTATE PARCEL AT 595 MADISON AVENUE THE LOCATION OF THE NORTH END BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**\*37-09 (PHO) ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE PILOT AGREEMENT WITH THE OWNER OF WAKEMAN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB SMILOW-BURROUGHS CLUBHOUSE FOR LAND AND BUILDING AT 2468 FAIRFIELD AVENUE FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED 8 YEARS. (REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING)**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTY SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:**

**19-09 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re Workers Compensation Stipulation between the City and Ronald F. Debiase.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that this item did not pass unanimously in committee.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED THE ITEM.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED.**

Council Member Walsh said that he would like this to be noted as not being unanimously passed. Council Member Walsh said that the claim was about a police officer who had been shot on duty and was suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PSD). Atty. Anastasis said that the medical conditions could not be discussed in public.

*Council Member Anderson Ayala joined the meeting at 8:00 p.m.*

Council Member Walsh said that he researched the issue and that the individual had gone to a Tampa football game and had been involved in a fight. He said that the individual was now suing the City of Tampa. He then said that he would now go to executive session if necessary.

Council President McCarthy pointed out that there had been several meeting about this and that it had been fully discussed. A roll call vote was requested.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 19-09 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE WORKERS COMPENSATION STIPULATION BETWEEN THE CITY AND RONALD F. DEBIASE PASSED WITH NINE IN FAVOR (M. MCCARTHY, TAYLOR-MOYE, T. MCCARTHY, VIZZO-PANICCIA, BONNEY, BLUNT, DEPARA, SILVA AND CURWEN) AND FIVE AGAINST (A. AYALA, BRANTLEY, WALSH, MARTINEZ, AND BAKER).**

Council President McCarthy said that as a point of clarification, Agenda Item 37-09 was a request for a public hearing.

Council Member Curwen said that he would like to bring to everyone's attention that this would be his 11th year of chairing the budget. Tomorrow the budget hearings will start. And the budget book needs to be started tomorrow. The vote on the CDBG votes is scheduled for Wednesday.

Council President McCarthy then requested a quick caucus meeting following the adjournment of the Council meeting.

On behalf of Council Member Colon, Council Member Anderson Ayala said that the City would be sponsoring census workers at Winfield Park, Washington Park and other

locations from 1-4 p.m. Very important to have everyone counted for federal representation.

Mayor Finch then complimented Council Member Brantley for the great Easter Egg Hunt that was recently sponsored.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services