

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Thomas McCarthy Called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:40 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130<sup>th</sup> District: Susan Brannelly, Martin McCarthy  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Anderson Ayala, Denise Taylor-Moye  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: M. Evette Brantley  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy  
134<sup>th</sup> District: Michelle Lyons  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Richard Bonney  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Carlos Silva, Angel dePara  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Lydia Martinez, Manuel Ayala  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Richard Paoletto  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Andre Baker

There were fourteen members present and six members absent. A quorum was present.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2010, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.**

NAME	SUBJECT
Marie Madeleine LaChance 93 Mayflower Drive Bridgeport, CT 06604	Historic District Designation 93 Mayflower Drive

Ms. LaChance came forward and said that she was representing herself and would like to have her home created as a single house Historic District. She then introduced Mr. Halstead.

Mr. Halstead came forward and explained that he was a consultant for Ms. LaChance. He described where the house was located and the various details associated with this. He said that this particular house was a wonderful example of the 1950's architecture. Mr. Halstead then introduced Mr. Stuart Sachs.

Mr. Sachs came forward and said that he had sat on the Historic District Commission. He said that this type of request was something that could build a successful Historic inventory of architectural design.

Council President McCarthy asked Mr. Sachs if they had had a conversation with their Council Members from the 132<sup>nd</sup> District. When Mr. Sachs said that they had not, Council President said that he would facilitate a meeting about this with their Council Members to move this forward.

Mr. Cecil Young came forward and spoke about the sewage in the P.T. Barnum project and his concerns about the Ethics Commission. Mr. Young said that he was exercising his rights of free speech and requested that the City Attorney Anastasi contact him.

There was no one else who wished to address the Council at this time.

Council President McCarthy closed the Public Speaking Session at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PRAYER**

Mayor Finch then requested that Council Member Michelle Lyons lead those present in prayer. Council Member Lyons did so.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Finch then requested that Council Member Paoletto lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Council Member Paoletto did so.

**ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130<sup>th</sup> District: Susan Brannelly, Martin McCarthy  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Anderson Ayala, Denise Taylor-Moye  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: M. Evette Brantley  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy  
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138<sup>th</sup> District: Richard Paoletto  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Andre Baker

There were fourteen members present and six members absent. A quorum was present.

**MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

Mayor Finch then presented his Annual Address. He said that this past year had been difficult, but that the City had weathered many storms, some weather related, and others

figurative, such as the recent loss of two fire fighters. Mayor Finch then requested a moment of silence in honor of these fallen heroes.

While the media has been present for all the weather storms and the tragic event, they have not been present when Bridgeport has moved forward. During the past three years, the City has been making difficult budget decisions. Currently, the City is working with the Unions regarding closing the eight million dollar budget gap. While it is hard to accept reduced vacation or salary, it is critical not to raise taxes. With declining revenues, it is important to deal with tax scofflaws.

However, local, state and Federal revenues have continued to decline, even as the unsustainable pension requirements increase. The Mayor then gave several examples of how this happens.

Closing the budget gap during the past years has included department staff cuts and various other economies. In order to balance this budget, the administration has been seeking major concessions from the City staff. While much remains to be done, education reform must go forward and Mayor Finch said that the administration has been working with the School District to reduce costs.

Mayor Finch then gave a listing of the various areas that have seen improvement, along with illustrations for many of the various points, including 333 Park Street, Park City Hospital, introduction of Food Bazaar and PriceRite, which created new jobs in the City new sidewalks, new “green” police cars, CDBG funding to help demolish the Congress Street Bridge, competitive grants for improvements, forming a transportation consortium with various towns in both Connecticut and New York, brown field clean up, support for non-profits who are being foreclosed, and sustainability by reducing the City’s carbon footprint.

Mayor Finch then listed a number of green initiatives that have been taken since the beginning of the year. The first phase of the municipal consolidation plan has been implemented. Recycling bins and rain barrels have been offer. The rain barrels save money on water bills, along with keeping more clean rain water from running into the storm water system.

Regular updates on the Mayor’s initiatives have been posted on Facebook and Twitter. The Mayor has also started open forums and brown bag lunches.

The Mayor then gave a brief overview on the CitiStat system for tracking customer requests. Residents can go online to report a problem or concern and also can call in their concerns.

Chief Gaudett is working hard to solve all the murder cases and 16 of the 19 cases already been closed. The Chief is working on a Violent Crime Reduction Plan and programs for reducing the violence is being implemented. The Community services division is working on expanding their Block Watch program. 180 firearms have been seized and 130 arrests have been made by the officers. 30 new police cars and SUVs which used less fuel have been delivered to the City. Recruitment is underway and 450 candidates have completed the first few selection phases.

Mayor Finch then listed a number of items that had required the use of the Emergency Operations Programs, such as the March storm, the June tornado, and some large fires. Reverse 9-1-1 is critical for notifying residents of emergencies.

The Fire Department continues its Fire Safety program. More than 26,000 smoke detectors have been installed and this is more than any other city in the United States. Mayor Finch then recounted the effort by Domino's Pizza and firefighters working to communicate the importance of smoke detectors.

While it has been a difficult year, the Mayor commended the Council, the City Clerk and others for their efforts in working together to make Bridgeport a better place to live, work and play.

#### **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

Approval of City Council Minutes: August 2, 2010

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2, 2010 MEETING.**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2, 2010 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President McCarthy said that Council Members Vizzo-Paniccia, Blunt, and Walsh, all had called with excused absences.

#### **ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:**

143-09      **Petition from The Barnum Museum by Kathleen Maher, Executive Director/Curator re Establishment of a Historic Preservation Restriction on the Barnum Museum site, 820 Main Street, to meet guidelines required for the (CT CCT Historic Preservation Fund – Endangered Building – Stabilization/Rehabilitation) grant application and resolution to authorize said grant application FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO CONSIDER AN ITEM FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA SECONDED.**

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

Council President McCarthy announced he was on the Board of Barnum Museum. Mayor Finch asked if he was paid. Council President McCarthy said that he was not.

Ms. Maher, the Executive Director and Curator of the Barnum Museum, came forward and explained that the Museum had an opportunity to apply for an endangered building grant. She then reviewed the details of the grant requirement and reminded everyone that the building is owned by the City.

The Mayor said that this item will require a 2/3 vote. He added that Council President McCarthy would be recusing himself from voting.

Council Member Brannelly asked for some clarification of the details regarding the time lines. Ms. Maher reviewed this with the Council Members.

Council Member Baker then asked about repairs that would be covered by the grant funding. Ms. Maher reviewed the details with everyone. Council Member Baker asked if the final financial obligation rests with the City. Mayor Finch confirmed that this was so because the City owns the building.

Council Member Brannelly asked what would happen if the City violated the Preservation Restriction guidelines. Ms. Maher said that it would be under the jurisdiction of the National Parks Service, but that she was not aware of any violation by anyone, anywhere at any time in the past.

Council Member Brannelly asked if a claim has been registered with FEMA following the June tornado. Ms. Maher said that this was so and that there was an amount of detailed work involved. She then spoke about some of the damage that was done to the dome and how both the dome and the trusses had been shifted by the tornado winds.

Council Member Brannelly asked if the appeal to FEMA would change the amount of money that could be awarded by the CCT grant. Ms. Maher said that she did not believe so. Council Member Brannelly asked if the FEMA money did not come through, whether the insurance would cover some of the damage. Ms. Maher said that the structure was primarily covered by the insurance, but there were many other issues involved.

Council Member Brannelly expressed concerns about entering into a fifteen year agreement with the State and possible payback clauses. Mayor Finch said that the City

often enters into agreements with this type of restriction and that if extenuating circumstances arose, the State tended to be flexible.

Council Member McCarthy asked if this was time sensitive. Ms. Maher said that it was.

Council Member Brantley asked if the eagle had been survived the tornado. Ms. Maher said that it had. Discussion followed about prior fund efforts.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 143-09 PETITION FROM THE BARNUM MUSEUM BY KATHLEEN MAHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CURATOR RE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HISTORIC PRESERVATION RESTRICTION ON THE BARNUM MUSEUM SITE, 820 MAIN STREET, TO MEET GUIDELINES REQUIRED FOR THE (CT CCT HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND – ENDANGERED BUILDING – STABILIZATION/REHABILITATION) GRANT APPLICATION AND RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE SAID GRANT APPLICATION FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION PASSED WITH TWELVE IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, M. MCCARTHY, A. AYALA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, LYONS, BONNEY, DEPARA, SILVA, M. AYALA, MARTINEZ, AND PAOLETTO), ONE ABSTENTION (T. MCCARTHY) AND ONE OPPOSED (BAKER).**

Council President McCarthy then welcomed Council Member Lyons back after being ill. Council Member Lyons then thanked everyone for their support during her illness. Mayor Finch said that he was glad that she was back with the Council.

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

**\*112-09 Contracts Committee Report re Sale and Ground Lease Agreement for property located at Sikorsky Memorial Airport with GAMA Aviation Inc. for use as a Corporate Headquarter Operations.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**112-09 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE SALE AND GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT SIKORSKY MEMORIAL AIRPORT WITH GAMA AVIATION INC. FOR USE AS A CORPORATE HEADQUARTER OPERATIONS**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER M. MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

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

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:**

**137-09 Contracts Committee Report re Agreement with the State for Re-evaluation of Environmental Impact Statement Installation of Enhanced Taxiway Markings at Sikorsky Memorial Airport File No. AERO File No. 5800-1644, State Project No. DOT00150349CN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEM:**

**137-10 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE FOR RE-EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT INSTALLATION OF ENHANCED TAXIWAY MARKINGS AT SIKORSKY MEMORIAL AIRPORT FILE NO. AERO FILE NO. 5800-1644, STATE PROJECT NO. DOT00150349CN.**

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

**138-09 Contracts Committee Report re Agreement with Universal Benefits Corporation to provide Medicare medical claims administrative services to covered retirees of the City and Board of Education for the period of July 1, 2010 thru June 30, 2011.**

Council Member Paoletto informed the Council that Mr. Weiner had worked very hard to finalize the medical claim rates for this motion. He had brought it before the Contract Committee and it had been approved. Subsequent to that, the insurance company involved changed their rates. Therefore, Council Member Paoletto was requesting that the Council vote against the resolution.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO DENY THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEM:**

**138-09 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE AGREEMENT WITH UNIVERSAL BENEFITS CORPORATION TO PROVIDE MEDICARE MEDICAL CLAIMS ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES TO COVERED RETIREES OF THE CITY AND BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2010 THRU JUNE 30, 2011.**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION TO DENY PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Service