

**CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2010
6:30 pm**

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

ABSENT: Council members: A. Ayala, Brantley, Walsh, Austin, Blunt

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:44 pm.

He apologized for starting the public speaking session late. He announced that the reason for the emergency meeting was that the city had received an award for the TIGER Grant in the amount of \$11 million, which is hugely important for the Steel Pointe development. He expressed that it was time well spent, because the project will now happen.

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

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS HAVE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2010, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Radmila Dobrijevic
287 East Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Neighborhood Problems

Ms. Dobrijevic stated she spoke at the last meeting. She said that Captain Perez has done a good job policing the area day and night, although there is still some vandalism, but the situation is much better. She expressed that she was surprised at the police getting involved, but she felt that more was needed to address the issues that are still going on. She further spoke about helping the youth by means of training programs. She felt that the programs will help keep the youth out of trouble. Overall, the situation is much better.

Council President McCarthy mentioned that she should talk to Elaine Ficarra regarding any additional comments.

Felix Kouakau
299 East Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Neighborhood Problems

It was stated that this speaker wasn't present.

Robert Hempel
289 East Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Neighborhood Problems

It was stated that this speaker wasn't present.

The following are other speakers that signed up tonight:

Charles Coviello

Varied Topics

Mr. Coviello stated that the murder that was committed on Barnum Avenue had been followed up on. He stated that it was good the police are doing their job.

He further talked about the youth and the importance of saving programs that have helped in the past; such as the Peer Program at Central High School. He spoke about the issue of youth on the verge of drug abuse and other destructive behaviors and he stressed that they needed to keep the program active on a regular basis. He noted that the program could also be done at Bassick High School and Harding High School. He emphasized that the students that have participated in the program have gone on to attend college and they have become better citizens. He further emphasized that they need to keep the program going on a daytime basis. He said he thought the program was canceled due to cuts in funding. He urged the council to request that the Board of Education to please save the program, because it keeps kids out of the hallway, off the street and back in the classroom. He noted that one social worker's salary is well worth keeping the program alive. He was adamant that it was crucial to "Save the Kids"!

Cheyenne Myers

Peer Program

Ms. Myers spoke about transferring to Central High School in 2008. She expressed that when she was at the school, there was a lot of drugs and the dropout rate was high. She said she was introduced to the Peer Program that helps and benefits all students who have made changes and have progressed in so many different ways. She said that the fact that the program is being taken away is bothersome. She further shared that she was able to graduate in three years and this was because she was encouraged by someone who mentored and guided her in the program. She expressed that this would never have happened if it wasn't for the program. She further shared stories of some of the other students who were on the verge of destruction, but their lives were turned around through

involvement with the program. She emphasized that the peer counselors were extremely crucial in helping the students. She noted how some kids are skipping school to get high and drink; so that's why it's important to keep the program active day to day. She highlighted that many problems kids encounter later in life have to do with their involvement with drugs early in life. However, if the program was allowed to remain, she felt some of this could be avoided. She stressed that they need to bring the program back, to applause!

Another graduate in 2008 from Central High School spoke personally about how the program helped her when she was using drugs and skipping class. She expressed that the peer counselors also touch on topics such as teen pregnancy and they guide them to avoid pitfalls. She asked the city council to help keep the program alive. She further expressed that the counselors were extraordinary!

Council President McCarthy asked her to give her name and address to Tom White.

Cecil Young

Topic not identified

Mr. Young stated that he was upset over the fact about the person that spoke about the crime on East Avenue and he was glad she had a good outcome with the problem being addressed. He went on to thank Council members Baker and Holloway for inquiring about the youth that was killed and that they pursued the demand for an investigation.

He further spoke about being clearly heard when he addressed the council. He once again spoke about the issue of being a taxpayer and how the problem of the raw sewage still hasn't been investigated at P.T. Barnum. He stressed that some answers need to be found to his complaints. He noted that preferential treatment should be given to anyone, but as a taxpayer, he asked to be given the same respect extended to others when they bring issues forward. And he requested that his complaints be responded to as well.

Mr. Ethan

Topic not identified

He stated he lived at 131 Vine Street. He said that he temporarily resided in Bridgeport and has a political campaign going in the city. He stated that he moved to Connecticut in 1983 to Fairfield from the Dominican Republic and he was recognized early on as being a specialist in alternative energy. He noted that he was a current candidate for the U.S. Senate.

He went on to talk about the limousine service that he operates. He explained that he had one of the vehicles parked between Vine Street and Sanford Place. One night, he found the vehicle gone, so he call 911 and he was told the vehicle had been towed to Jerry's Auto. He then found out the vehicle was seized, because it was perceived to be stolen. He

said that his neighbor saw the vehicle taken away and they told Jerry's Auto not to tow it, because it belonged to a U.S. Senator. He subsequently found out that he had unpaid parking tickets that he said he was glad to pay; however, he doesn't have any records as back up. He mentioned the storage fees that have accumulated, because he didn't feel the vehicle should have been towed to begin with. Mr. Ethan read an excerpt from a book written by Randy Barrett in reference to constitutional rights and the problem of excess of government. He requested that the city council consider the matter and he asked them to assist in the matter of getting his vehicle back.

The public hearing session ended at 7:20 pm.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, October 18, 2010

7:00 pm.

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

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

ABSENT: Council members: A. Ayala, Brantley

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:21 pm.

Prayer The prayer was offered by Charles Coviello.

Pledge of Allegiance The pledge was led by Council member M. McCarthy

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

Council President McCarthy announced that Council member Brantley wasn't in attendance because she had a work obligation. And Council member A. Ayala was out of town for a training seminar.

Presentation by Jeffrey C. Williams, Publisher – “Bridgeport By The Sea” calendars.

Mayor Finch stated that it was a beautiful calendar. He urged everyone to purchase it at a cost of \$12.00.

Mr. Williams thanked the city council for allowing him to speak tonight. He recalled that the calendar was started to help improve the image of the city. He noted that the pictures show Bridgeport as it once was and could be again under the right circumstances. He further noted that it was the 75th anniversary. He urged everyone to purchase a calendar at the Barnum Museum to support the restoration of the museum.

Mayor Finch expressed his gratitude to Mr. Williams for the positive work he has done. He urged him to keep up the good work.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: September 20, 2010

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**

149-09 Communication from Airport Manager re Proposed Agreement with Vector-US, Inc. to provide General Aviation Billing, Servicing and Collecting Services for the City, referred to Contracts Committee.

150-09 Communication from City Attorney re Twenty day notice to Settle Litigation pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130: Jessica Delvalle **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ADDED:

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY MOVED TO REFER THE ADDED COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMITTEES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY SECONDED**

151-09 Communication from City Attorney re Proposed Agreement with Panuzio & Giordano Public Affairs, LLC for Federal Lobbying Services, referred to Contracts Committee.

152-09 Communication from City Attorney re Proposed Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Trumbull for the Provision of Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services to the Fairchild-Wheeler Memorial High School, referred to Ordinance Committee.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

OTHER BUSINESS:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD
ITEM # 144-09 TO THE AGENDA
** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM # 144-09
AGREEMENT WITH INTECH HEALTH VENTURES TO PROVIDE
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR THE EARLY RETIREE REINSURANCE
PROGRAM FOR COVERED RETIREEES OF THE CITY & BOARD OF
EDUCATION FOR THE TERM OF THREE YEARS**

He stated that the item went before the committee and it passed unanimously, but it missed the agenda deadline.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE
PURPOSE OF ADDING ITEM # 142-09 TO THE AGENDA
** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM # 142-09 GRANT
SUBMISSION: TIGER II INFRASTRUCTURE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
GRANTTO FUND STEEL POINTE HARBOR ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT
PROJECTS.**

She stated that the item should have been on the consent calendar, but they needed to hold the Public Safety & Transportation Committee meeting that was conducted earlier tonight.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED**

Council member Walsh stated that the committee meeting was suppose to take place two weeks ago, but had a conflict and couldn't attend. He said he wasn't notified of the rescheduled meeting and then he found out the meeting was held tonight without any notice to him. He stressed that he felt slighted by this, because he had some questions about the matter.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MADE A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO
HOLD AND HONOR THE COMMITTEE MEETING**

There was no second to the motion

Mayor Finch emphasized the importance of receiving and accepting the \$11 million grant they received for the project development.

Council member Walsh stated that he would be happy to do that, as long as the developers submit a letter to forfeit the right to develop, per the credit risk of selling off the property.

Mayor Finch commented that it would be foolish not to accept the \$11 million.

Council member Brannelly stated that she understood, according to the city clerk that the entire city council received notice of the special Public Safety & Transportation Committee that was held tonight. She added that the questions Council member Walsh submitted were addressed during that meeting. She further spoke about the process they went through during the meeting tonight and she expressed that they were all proud of approving the resolution and breathing life into the project. She said they were anxious to see the project get started and move forward. She expressed that they were bless that they were awarded the money. She went on to congratulate all the parties involved in the grant submission and she was glad that life was finally being put into the project.

Mayor Finch stated that if it was not for the efforts of Senator Dodd and Congressman Himes to receive the grant, he would be remiss to mention them. He recalled that this was the first round of the TIGER Grant that Bridgeport hasn't received in the past. He further noted that because of the hard work of the collective efforts of Senator Dodd and Congressman Himes, he was glad that it is the largest grant they ever received. He also mentioned the Central Grants Office and Alanna Kabel who was also instrumental in burning the midnight oil to get the grant for the city. He also mentioned Alexandra McGoldrick for her dedication through the process. Overall, he said it was an historic time for Bridgeport.

Alanna Kabel approached the council to explain that she worked closely with Steve Tyliczszak. She stated that the project was crucial for the city and that \$1.9 million in applications were submitted. She said that Bridgeport was lucky to receive the grant. She further stated that there will not be one nickel of city money put into the project and they were not asking for authorization to use city funds. She clarified that a matching fund is required, but it will be paid through the tax district. And when the bill is due, it will be drawn out of the federal source and tax district. She made it clear that **no city money is involved.**

Council member Lyons clarified that a letter was sent on October 15 about the special meeting held tonight. She emphasized that anyone that had questions was welcome to attend the meeting, as was done by Council member Baker who asked numerous questions. She also thanked everyone that was involved with the Steel Pointe project and she said she expected it will be a big success.

Mayor Finch stated that the proposed agreement was forwarded to the city council and he thanked the development team for their involvement and cooperation.

Council President McCarthy stated for the record that he received notice of the special meeting by mail and email, so the co-chairs did a good job making sure everyone received the notice. He also expressed his pleasure at seeing the project come to fruition.

Mayor Finch thanked Michelle Obama for her support of the project.

Council member Baker stated that Mayor Finch shouldn't minimize the questions and concerns that Council member Walsh had. He further noted that he was still leery about who will make up the difference in costs and he would like more detail in writing in regard to how the entire process will work. He stressed that serious money was involved that the city doesn't have and he felt it would be a problem down the line to the city, if they have to pay back the grant. He stated that he would vote against the item until he receives more details concerning insurance to cover the city's back.

Council member Martinez thanked Mayor Finch for all the work into receiving the grant money. She also thanked Alanna Kabel for her hard work. She stressed that she wasn't afraid the money would go into the wrong hands. She highlighted that the Steel Pointe project will bring jobs and change to the east end of Bridgeport.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION RE: THAT THE DEVELOPER POST AN IRREVOCABLE LETTER OF CREDIT FOR THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE MATCH WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS OF THE FEDERAL FUNDS BEING MADE AVAILABLE. AND IF THEY SHOULD FAIL TO DO SO, OR IF THEY ALLOW THE LETTER TO LAPSE; THEN THE DEVELOPERS MUST FORFEIT ALL DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS TO STEEL POINTE. THE LETTER MAY BE REDUCED BY THE FUNDS GENERATED BY THE REVENUE DISTRICT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER SECONDED**

Council member Walsh stated that the reason for his amendment was to guarantee the taxpayers and assure that they aren't put on the hook for the amount of the match. He pointed out that there will not be any taxable revenue until the tenants go into the property, so there is a risk of the bonding and the city match being affected. He further offered the amended to send the message to the taxpayer that the city council covered them.

Attorney Pacacha addressed the Mayor and the city council. He clarified that it was a complicated financial deal, but if the city council approved the LDA (Land Disposition Agreement) for Steel Pointe, the thing that it will come back to is the Inter-Model Agreement to divide it three different ways: 1) Pertains to the protection of the city's rights 2) pay off the bonds raised by selling of the bonds. This includes any leases by minor and major tenants. 3) Paid through city taxes and the developer doesn't guarantee the match, it's the city's responsibility to pay for the infrastructure.

Council member Baker mentioned that he didn't appreciate the Mayor discounting his and Council member Walsh's comments.

Council member Baker asked Attorney Pacacha what the time frame was for the monies that will be generated. Attorney Pacacha said the developer will maintain the tenant commitments, and when they secure the leases, this will form the basis for the bonds to be sold. If all goes as anticipated, when the Inter-Model Agreement comes forward within the next months, he expects the potential sale of the bonds during early 2011.

Council member Baker posed a question based on the agreement with the developer per Council member Walsh's amendment, he asked if it could be implemented. Attorney Pacacha said it would violate the agreement, because all the aspects of the project were agreed upon and there is no obligation to produce a performance bond.

Mayor Finch reiterated that it would be foolish not to receive the \$11 million.

Council member Curwen stated that the documents were gone over in the last two years and they were very overwhelming. He said he understood the concerns, but he stressed that if the documents were read, a lot of the questions were answered. He agreed to some degree that the state delegation helped put the plan into action. He further expressed that the matter involves \$11 million with no strings attached, although he wished they had the agreement prior. Overall, he felt confident that the federal government has some oversight and he urged everyone to make the clock start moving and get the project started.

*A roll call vote was taken on the amendment put forth by Council member Walsh

**** MOTION FAILED WITH TWO VOTES IN FAVOR AND SIXTEEN VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS: BRANNELLY, M. McCARTHY, TAYLOR-MOYE, T. McCARTHY, AUSTIN, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, BONNEY, BLUNT, dePARA, SILVA, M. AYALA, MARTINEZ, PAOLETTO, CURWEN, HOLLOWAY)**

Mayor Finch returned to the **original motion** to accept and approve the resolution for the \$11 million grant.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 142-09 GRANT SUBMISSION: TIGER II INFRASTRUCTURE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION GRANT TO FUND STEEL POINTE HARBOR ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH SIXTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND TWO VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS: BAKER and WALSH)**

Council President McCarthy reminded everyone about the White House breakfast in the Annex Building on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at 7:30 am.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services