

AGENDA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008

7:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL - 45 LYON TERRACE
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

Prayer

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

City Council Citation: Blackham School for Service to the Community

Approval of City Council Minutes: May 5, 2008

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

- 106-07** Communication from Health and Social Services re Submission of Grant Contract to the WorkPlace, Inc. regarding the operation of a year round Summer Youth Employment Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 107-07** Communication from Mayor re Setting of the Mill Rate for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**
- 108-07** Communication from Public Facilities re Grant Application: re Regional Performance Incentive (RPI) Program submitted through the Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency (GBRPA), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

- *78-07** Public Safety and Transportation Committee report re Appointment of Jack McGregor (R) to the Police Commission.
- *80-07** Contracts Committee report re Professional Services Agreement with Blum Shapiro Consulting, LLC for the purpose of evaluating the current financial processes and procedures for the City and the Board of Education.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR) CONTINUED:

- *96-07** Contracts Committee report re Professional Services Agreement with Blum Shapiro & Company, P.C. for the purpose of conducting an examination of the City's annual financial statements.

- *97-07** Contracts Committee report re Lease Agreement with G.J.S. Properties LLC regarding Parking Facilities for police and city vehicles located at 205-245 Congress Street.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

- 94-07** Contracts Committee report re Agreement with the State regarding Airport Improvement Projects at Bridgeport Sikorsky Memorial Airport.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS HAVE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME	SUBJECT
Betsy Rivera 375 Huntington Road Bridgeport, CT 06608	Elimination of position – Family Literacy Coordinator at Beardsley School
Juneau Lee 50 Kent Street, 1 st Floor Bridgeport, CT 06610	Elimination of position – Family Literacy Coordinator at Beardsley School
Mary Poppa 169 Goddard Street Bridgeport, CT 06610	Elimination of position – Family Literacy Coordinator at Beardsley School
Richard Pezzella 643 Brooks Street Bridgeport, CT 06608	Elimination of position – Family Literacy Coordinator at Beardsley School
Annie Williams 236 Bond Street Bridgeport, CT 06610	Elimination of position – Family Literacy Coordinator at Beardsley School
Lorenzo D. Harris 63 Hazelwood Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06605	City wide roads and sidewalk conditions, also the Congress Street Bridge installation. Plan to reduce gas prices.

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008**

6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, Connecticut

RECEIVED
CITY CLERKS OFFICE
08 JUN -6 PM 3:26
ATTEST
CITY CLERK

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, Crowe, Colon, Santiago, Brantley, Walsh, McCarthy, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, dePara, Valle, Martinez, Paoletto, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: Silva, Curwen, Baker

Council president McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:40 p.m.

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, JUNE 2, 2008, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME	SUBJECT
------	---------

Betsy Rivera 375 Huntington Road Bridgeport, CT 06608	Elimination of position – Family Literacy Coordinator at Beardsley School
---	---

Not present to address the city council.

Juneau Lee 50 Kent Street, 1st Floor Bridgeport, CT 06610	Elimination of position – Family Literacy Coordinator at Beardsley School
---	---

Ms. Lee stated she was there to support literacy. She requested that the city council hold off making any more cuts and look into where the cuts are coming from.

Mary Poppa 169 Goddard Street Bridgeport, CT 06610	Elimination of position – Family Literacy Coordinator at Beardsley School
--	---

Ms. Poppa stated she was there to speak out for the kids that are being robbed of a proper education, in view of things being taken away and she exclaimed they were dead wrong for doing this. She felt there should be grant money or other funds to support the home school coordinator,

school nurses etc. She emphasized that kids were a top priority, so on behalf of all of them she pleaded for the city council to find some funds to support Beardsley School.

Richard Pezzella
643 Brooks Street
Bridgeport, CT 06608

Elimination of position – Family
Literacy Coordinator at Beardsley
School

Mr. Pezzella stated that his two daughters went to Beardsley School. He emphasized that little kids should come first and that they need, school nurses, tutors etc to get a good education. He commented that kids were our future and the ones that will one day be sitting in the city council seats, so again, tutors etc. were much needed, but it isn't happening. He asked for the council to take time and look at the budget for other options, because kids come first they should be given a chance and they need help from local government.

Annie Williams
236 Bond Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Elimination of position – Family
Literacy Coordinator at Beardsley
School

Ms. Williams stated that she was a parent at Beardsley School. She said she was there to speak on behalf of the Literacy Coordinator. She asked that the city council take the time to make the right decision, because kids were the next generation. She spoke about the budget cuts that affect kids and programs that are sorely needed, with tutors etc. She expressed that if they were taken away, no one learns and this results in a lost generation. She pleaded for the council to look further for funds and consider how they would feel if it were their own kids.

Lorenzo D. Harris
63 Hazelwood Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City wide roads and sidewalk
conditions, also the Congress
Street Bridge installation. Plan
to reduce gas prices.

Not present to address the city council.

Council President McCarthy thanked all the speakers for coming out. He expressed that he liked hearing from constituents. He mentioned that the city council had nothing to do with the cuts. He explained that the determination for the budget was made weeks ago and by state law, they only write a check to the Board of Education, but they don't have any authority over funding cuts. He further clarified that the city council allocated almost \$9 million more this year than last year, but nine members from the BOE chose where to put the money. He agreed that the last place cuts should be made is at the classroom level. He further pointed out that more than (105) people in the BOE make more than \$100k per year. He explained that he mentioned this, because if it was looked at, they could possibly address it on an administrative level. He urged everyone to talk to the BOE with their concerns.

The public speaking session ended at 6:55 p.m.

Council President McCarthy called for a democratic caucus prior to the city council meeting at 6:56 p.m. The caucus ended at 7:16 p.m.

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008**

7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, Connecticut

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, Crowe, Colon, Santiago, Brantley, Walsh, McCarthy, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, dePara, Valle, Martinez, Paoletto, Holloway
ABSENT: Council members: Silva, Curwen, Baker

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m.

Prayer – the prayer was offered by Council member Martinez

Pledge of Allegiance – the pledge was led by Council member Brantley

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

City Council President McCarthy mentioned that Council members Silva, Baker and Curwen all phoned to say they were unable to attend for various reasons.

City Council Citation: Blackham School for Service to the Community

The students present approached the front of council chambers.

Council member Lyons stated that the citation was for the students, teachers and staff at Blackham School. She expressed how they have gone beyond their love for the community. She mentioned that they held a dance and collected over (300) books for area shelters. They raised over \$300k for Katrina victims and they raised \$2,000 for Tsunami victims. They were also involved with the soldier program and they have helped out fire victims in the north end area. She went on to say they were also involved in helping and supporting impoverished families. She further noted all numerous organizations and charities that they have been a part of; such as collecting money and food for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission and Toys for Tots. She relayed that they have done these good works for more than six years and she thanked them for all the work they've done. She presented the citation and noted that it was also going to be presented during a school assembly on June 3. She also thanked the Assistant Superintendent who was present.

Mayor Finch expressed that the citation was well deserved. He also noted that the teachers should be thanked for helping out others. He further expressed that there was a lot of work to do in City of Bridgeport

City Council Meeting

June 2, 2008

Page 3

Bridgeport and he asked that the kids always stay safe. He further thanked the parents present for raising such fine kids.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia thanked the kids and congratulated them.

Approval of City Council Minutes: May 5, 2008

**** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER de PARA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Finch requested a motion to approve:

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

106-07 Communication from Health and Social Services re Submission of Grant Contract to the WorkPlace, Inc. regarding the operation of a year round Summer Youth Employment Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**

107-07 Communication from Mayor re Setting of the Mill Rate for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

Council member McCarthy clarified that this item was on the agenda for immediate consideration. He explained that the mill rate resulted from a formula that came from the budget vote taken and it just needed to be set by the full city council.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER COLON SECONDED**

Council member Walsh stated he would stay with his tradition and vote against the mill rate.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND THREE VOTES IN
OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS: BRANTLEY, WALSH and dePARA)**

108-07 Communication from Public Facilities re Grant Application: re Regional Performance Incentive (RPI) Program submitted through the Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency (GBRPA), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER
** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

The city clerk asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent calendar.

Council member Walsh requested to remove items: 80-07 and 96-07.

The city clerk read the remaining items into the record.

***78-07** Public Safety and Transportation Committee report re Appointment of Jack McGregor (R) to the Police Commission.

***80-07** Contracts Committee report re Professional Services Agreement with Blum Shapiro Consulting, LLC for the purpose of evaluating the current financial processes and procedures for the City and the Board of Education. – **removed from consent calendar (see below)**

***96-07** Contracts Committee report re Professional Services Agreement with Blum Shapiro & Company, P.C. for the purpose of conducting an examination of the City's annual financial statements. **removed from consent calendar (see below)**

***97-07** Contracts Committee report re Lease Agreement with G.J.S. Properties LLC regarding Parking Facilities for police and city vehicles located at 205–245 Congress Street.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER COLON SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Finch returned to the items removed from the consent calendar.

***80-07** Contracts Committee report re Professional Services Agreement with Blum Shapiro Consulting, LLC for the purpose of evaluating the current financial processes and procedures for the City and the Board of Education.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED**

Council member Walsh congratulated the city for moving forth with a new auditing firm to look at things differently. However, he said he had a question about the contracts and if any were minority-based enterprises in Bridgeport or if they applied. He questioned if they didn't what steps were taken to address the matter.

Mike Feeney said the answer was no, because no minority contractors responded to the RFP.

Council member Walsh stated that every time they ask this question, they are told that no minority contractors responded. He felt that it was up to the administration to help minority contractors and take on the responsibility to find the firms and get the responses.

Mayor Finch said the administration shared the concern and they have reached out to minority firms. He further mentioned that had good news from the small business minority and he noted that \$1 million was let to minority firms to date. However, there weren't any minority firms that responded to this particular request. He added that they also reached out to the banking industry for future help with recruiting minority firms. He expressed that he hoped more would come forward in the future.

Council member Holloway stated that the newspapers report daily what contractors can bid on. He stressed that they have to sub-list for minority contractors through the proper media, such as the newspaper etc. he felt that the City of Bridgeport had to either throw the ball on this matter or keep the pass, but overall, he felt that Bridgeport was choosing to keep the pass.

Council member Brantley asked how the contracts were advertised for. Mr. Feeney said it was done through an electronic RFP process and also advertised in the CT Post.

Council member Walsh asked the value of the two contracts. Mr. Feeney said the Financial contract was \$130k and the Auditing was a 5-year contract for \$230k. He noted these values were found on Schedule-C attached to the information in their packets.

Council member Colon requested that Deborah Caviness address the council about questions regarding the small minority contractors.

Ms. Caviness stated that the RFP bid process was done via electronic software. She mentioned that they were in the process of registering companies to make minority contractors aware of bidding on contracts. She also mentioned that they awarded over \$1 million to local contractors to date.

Council member Martinez said he had a concern how pro-active they were seeking out minority firms. He said he didn't feel that posing the information in the CT Post was sufficient. He asked what they were doing specifically to get more interest from minority firms to let them know they really have a chance to bid on a contract. Ms. Caviness said the information was provided in a bid package. Mr. Feeney further explained that the market for this project wasn't that large to reach out to that many firms. He emphasized that Blum Shapiro & Company, P.C. was an established firm with a great track record.

Council member Holloway reminded everyone that if a contract goes out, and the ordinance calls for a certain percentage to be set aside specifically for minority contractors to bid on, he felt that if that wasn't being done, then it constituted a violation of the ordinance.

Council member Blunt asked what mechanism was in place for the recruitment of minority firms in addition to what they were already doing. Ms. Caviness said she researched many areas in Connecticut, including the database they are building that is now up to 1600 contractors statewide that will be added to the database in the spring.

Council member Walsh said that he would vote against the two contracts. He stressed that not until the city council made a full statement and rejects these contracts and takes it seriously, he felt they should return to the matter later, for the purpose of locating minority contractors to respond to contract bids. He felt a statement should be made to demand that minority contractors be brought to the table.

Council member McCarthy stated that he thought he heard the issue about assurances that they were doing enough to be pro-active to get the information into peoples hands by publicizing. And for the most part, he noted that a full informational session will be presented to the city council soon. So he thought this would assure them that the legislation is being worked on and it is being adhered to and followed. He further noted that he wouldn't want to see a contract stalled in the meantime.

Mayor Finch commented that he wished a minority firm did respond to these contracts, but there wasn't one that did.

Ms. Caviness recalled that she did contact an African-American firm in Bridgeport, but they weren't interested in the project.

A roll call vote was taken:

MOTION PASSED WITH TEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND SIX VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS: BRANTLEY, WALSH, BONNEY, BLUNT, VALLE, HOLLOWAY)

City Attorney Anastasi noted that the majority of votes present were needed to carry the vote.

Council President McCarthy noted for the record that Council member Crowe left the meeting because he wasn't feeling well.

***96-07** Contracts Committee report re Professional Services Agreement with Blum Shapiro & Company, P.C. for the purpose of conducting an examination of the City's annual financial statements.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO APPROVE**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED WITH MOTION PASSED WITH THIRTEEN VOTES IN**
FAVOR AND THREE VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS:
BRANTLEY, WALSH, HOLLOWAY)

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

94-07 Contracts Committee report re Agreement with the State regarding Airport Improvement Projects at Bridgeport Sikorsky Memorial Airport.

Council member dePara stated this item came out of committee favorably.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO APPROVE**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH SIXTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION
(COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE
PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA
** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADD ITEM 57-07 ECONOMIC and
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT and ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE:
LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE BLACK ROCK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED**

Council member Walsh stated he didn't have any objection to the lease agreement, but when it first came up, he asked why the city wasn't selling one of the properties as a piece of prime real estate.

Council member Brannelly responded to say that she understood the company sought was not to be sold, since it was a small vacant building lot and deeded to the city not to be developed.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE
PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA
** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE RE: 73-07 ECONOMIC
and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT and ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
re 2007-2009 PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS GRANT
** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE
PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA
** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE
PURPOSE OF REFERRING ITEMS TO COMMITTEE (ITEMS 109-07 – 114-07)
** COUNCIL MEMBER BLUNT SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO REFER RE: CAPITAL PLAN
DETAILS FOR THE 80/20 SPLIT FOR CAPITAL PLANNING TO THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
THE FOLLOWING ITEMS REFERRED BY THE ABOVE MOTION:**

- 109-07 Grant Application and Authorization for School Construction Work at Roosevelt School.**
- 110-07 Grant Application and Authorization for School Construction Work at Longfellow School.**
- 111-07 Grant Application and Authorization for School Construction Work at Wilbur Cross School.**
- 112-07 Grant Application and Authorization for School Construction Work at Whittier School.**
- 113-07 Grant Application and Authorization for School Construction Work at High Horizons Magnet School.**
- 114-07 Grant Application and Authorization for School Construction Work at Multi-Cultural Magnet School.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD TWO ITEMS TO THE AGENDA**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM: 88-07
SUIT SETTLEMENT FOR: LASHAYA WATSON VS. CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
\$32,000.00**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM: 89-07
SUIT SETTLEMENT FOR: ROBERT EVANS VS. CITY OF BRIDGEPORT \$50,000.00**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER COLON SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Informational purposes:

Council member Lyons updated about the Billy Lopaz benefit to be held at Testo's Restaurant to benefit the American Cancer Society, Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Shriners. The cost to attend is \$35.00 and 100% of the proceeds go towards the cancer foundations sponsored by Testo's.

Council President McCarthy pointed out that Senator Ed Gomes was in the audience tonight.

Mayor Finch also noted that Chris Finch, Anna Montalvo and Captain Porter of the Neighborhood Block Watch were also present in the audience.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services