

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021**

**6:30 P.M.**

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Nieves called the Public Speaking portion of the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

- 130<sup>th</sup> District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
- 131<sup>st</sup> District: Denese Taylor-Moye, *Jorge Cruz*
- 132<sup>nd</sup> District: Marcus Brown, M. Evette Brantley
- 133<sup>rd</sup> District: *Michael DeFilippo*, Jeanette Herron
- 134<sup>th</sup> District: *Michelle Lyons*, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
- 135<sup>th</sup> District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, *Mary McBride-Lee*
- 136<sup>th</sup> District: *Alfredo Castillo*, *Avelino Silva*
- 137<sup>th</sup> District: *Maria Valle*, Aidee Nieves
- 138<sup>th</sup> District: Maria Pereira, *Samia Suliman*
- 139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

During the roll call, there appeared to be no response from the individuals whose names are listed in italics.

Council President Nieves said that Ms. Wahl was the only speaker signed up and had 3 minutes.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.**

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

Briana Wahl  
35 Clarence Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06608

The successes of 2020, navigating COVID-19 Green Village Initiative and plans from a community-based organization – Green Village Initiative, etc.



Good Evening Members of the Bridgeport City Council,

My name is Briana Wahl, I am the new Director of Operations at Green Village Initiative.

I am here to address the City Council as a representative of an organization that brought me to Bridgeport and one whose mission I believe in.

As you may know, Green Village Initiative is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to grow food, knowledge, leadership, and community through urban farming and gardening to create a more just food system in Bridgeport through a network of 23 school gardens, 12 community gardens, a paid youth program, and our educational urban farm on Reservoir Avenue.

Our goal is for everyone in Bridgeport to have access to support and resources not only to survive, but to thrive. Green Village Initiative works towards our goal through urban agriculture that specifically focuses on food justice, antiracism, youth leadership, and community-building and we cannot make this happen alone. We are grateful to partner with our neighbors to grow a brighter future and hope the Council will join us in our work.

In 2020 we navigated the challenges of COVID 19 by reducing our in person program offerings like school field trips to Reservoir Community Farm, volunteer hours on our farm and garden sites, and moving the free, in-person educational workshops for our community that GVI has hosted for 9 years online.

Through these pivots, we still accomplished and supported our community to achieve major successes:

- Offered free PPE to every volunteer and visitor to Reservoir Community Farm
- A teen Youth Leader that has participated in our programming for over 3 years successfully launched her own catering business
- We grew and distributed over 2 tons of fresh, organic produce while donating to local food pantries
- Rebuilt several community gardens and school gardens with fresh wood and soil
- Offered Youth in our program 4 college credits with Housatonic Community College in addition to paid hourly work
- We provided virtual professional development for teachers that want to teach in their school gardens to get children into fresh air.

In 2021 we will offer more virtual community events while ensuring that gardening and farming can still take place safely. We are committing to growing knowledge in partnership with Housatonic Community College to offer free certificates to Bridgeport youth during our summer program. We will offer even more educational resources and support to Bridgeport teachers through our online gardening

curriculum. We will continue to make Reservoir Community Farm safe and welcoming for all so neighbors and visitors can continue to access a safe, outdoor space in the warmer months.

I hope that by speaking to you all today this can be the first in what I hope will be a continued open line of communication. I look forward to the year ahead and continuing to work together.

Thank you for the time to speak today.

At the conclusion of Ms. Wahl's remarks, Council Member Lyons and Council Member Silva announced that they joined the meeting during Ms. Wahl's comments. Council President Nieves and Council Member Herron said that they had seen Council Member Cruz and Council Member Valle on the call.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council President Nieves adjourned the public speaking at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021**

**7:00 P.M.**

This meeting was conducted by teleconference.

The public was able to listen to this meeting by calling a conference line.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Ganim called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 7:03 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member McBride-Lee to lead the Council in prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member Brown to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The City Clerk called the roll.

130<sup>th</sup> District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jorge Cruz  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Marcus Brown, M. Evette Brantley  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Michael DeFilippo, Jeanette Herron  
134<sup>th</sup> District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Alfredo Castillo, Avelino Silva  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

During the roll call, there appeared to be no response from any individual whose name is listed in italics.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia announced that the Parks Board had approved the placement of a memorial bench for Eugene “Gene” O’Neill (8-24-33 – 11-20-20) on the sidewalk in front of the P. T. Barnum Statue with the wording “No One Spread More Love in One Life than Gene O’Neill – 8-24-33 – 11-20-20 – Who Always Had a Smile and a Helping Hand for Everyone.”

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES: DECEMBER 21, 2020**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 21, 2020.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF DECEMBER 21, 2020 AS SUBMITTED PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (PEREIRA).**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**10-20 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Bridgeport Firefighters Local 834, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**11-20 Communication from Mayor re: Reappointment of Stuart Rosenberg (U) to the Board of Fire Commission, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.**

**12-20 Communication from Mayor re: Reappointment of Joseph Larcheveque (R) to the Board of Fire Commission, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.**

**13-20 Communication from Mayor re: Reappointment of Osiba Nelson (D) to the Water Pollution Control Authority, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**14-20 Communication from Mayor re: Reappointment of Clement Young (D) to the Water Pollution Control Authority, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**15-20 Communication from Mayor re: Reappointment of Nina M. Thomas (D) to the Water Pollution Control Authority, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**16-20 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Jacqueline Martoral (U) to the Board of Assessment Appeals, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

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

**17-20 Resolution presented by Council Member Cruz re: Proposed resolution for the City Attorney to draft an ordinance Prohibiting Targeted Residential Picketing within 300 Feet of the Property Line of Certain Residential Dwellings, referred to Ordinance Committee.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO COMBINE AND REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**10-20 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH BRIDGEPORT FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 834, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**11-20 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF STUART ROSENBERG (U) TO THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSION, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**12-20 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH LARCHEVEQUE (R) TO THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSION, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**13-20 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF OSIBA NELSON (D) TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**14-20 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF CLEMENT YOUNG (D) TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**15-20 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF NINA M. THOMAS (D) TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**16-20 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF JACQUELINE MARTORAL (U) TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

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

**17-20 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY TO DRAFT AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING TARGETED RESIDENTIAL PICKETING WITHIN 300 FEET OF THE PROPERTY LINE OF CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* THERE WAS A SECOND.**

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

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:**

**01-20 Contracts Committee Report re: Tentative Agreement with New York Typographical Union, CWA Local 14156 (Printers) regarding their Bargaining Unit Contract.**

Council Member Herron stated that the Committee had voted this item out of Committee.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 01-20 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH NEW YORK TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION, CWA LOCAL 14156 (PRINTERS) REGARDING THEIR BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACT.**

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

Council Member Pereira said while the financial commitment was small, she had issues with the fact that the cover letter stated that if the City Council did not take action by December 23rd, the contract would automatically go into effect. The following day, there was a Contracts Committee meeting and this item was not acted upon. It is not okay that this contract went into effect because people did not fulfill their obligations. Mr. Amado did his job.

Council Member Brown said that while it is true that it was a small contract, the issue is the principle. This is the crux of the disrespect that the Council receives. He said that this was a test to circumvent a legal process. He said that he would not support this contract and the Council will not support any attempts to circumvent the Council's authority.

Council Member Newton said that Mr. Amado explained the contracts come in at different times and the Committee will be rescheduling their meetings to address these issues. It was stated in the Committee meeting that in the future, they would schedule meetings as needed.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 01-20 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH NEW YORK TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION, CWA LOCAL 14156 (PRINTERS) REGARDING THEIR BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACT PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4) AGAINST (BROWN, DEFILIPPO, LYONS AND PEREIRA).**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**196-19 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend to add New Chapter 12.17 – Establishing an Honorary Street Naming Program in the City of Bridgeport.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 196-19 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 12.17 – ESTABLISHING AN HONORARY STREET NAMING PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

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

Council Member Newton asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Richard Veder, a Civil Rights leader, who recently passed away.

Council Member Pereira asked about Agenda Item 196-19 being listed as unfinished business. She said that she could not find the record of it being voted out of committee. Council Member Brantley said that it was voted on at the last Committee meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services