

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2021

This meeting will be conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

THERE WILL NOT BE A PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM HELD ON DECEMBER 6, 2021 DUE TO THE CITY COUNCIL RULES HAVING TO BE ADOPTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE BODY FOR THE NEW LEGISLATIVE TERM.

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 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 Vizzo-Paniccia to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The Assistant City Clerk Frances Ortiz called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack
132nd District: Marcus Brown
133rd District: Aikeem Boyd, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy
136th District: Avelino Silva, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle,
138th District: Maria Pereira, Michele Small
139th District: Wanda Simmons, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

ADOPTION OF CITY COUNCIL RULES.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ADOPT THE CITY COUNCIL RULES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira stated that on December 7, 2020, the Council President appointed a committee on City Council Rules which would involve leadership. During the following year, the Committee never had a meeting. She noted that they were adopting the rules that the City Clerk's Office has already printed with a statement that they had been adopted on the 6th, but the Council has not voted on them yet.

The Council President was included in the leadership group, which is a violation of the City Council Rules because the rules state that the City Council President can only be an ad hoc member on any regular, standing or special committee.

Council Member Pereira said that she had never voted for those rules because there was a number of issues with those rules. However, she does everything within her power to abide by them. She stated that this would be the reason she would be voting against the Council Rules.

Council Member Lyons said that she needed clarification on whether the Council Rules were the old Council Rules. She asked if they would be changing. They had voted to change the rules, but never had the opportunity to change them. Mayor Gamin said that they were the same rules that were in place last year.

**** THE MOTION TO ADOPT THE CITY COUNCIL RULES PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, HERRON, BOYD, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, VALLE, NIEVES, SIMMONS, NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED. (PEREIRA, SMALL).**

ELECTION OF CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mayor Ganim opened the floor for nominations for the City Council President.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN NOMINATED COUNCIL MEMBER AIDEE NIEVES FOR COUNCIL PRESIDENT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ AND COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON BOTH SECONDED.**

There were no other nominations from the floor.

Council Member Pereira stated that the City Charter required a roll call vote. This was confirmed by Assistant City Clerk Ortiz that City Charter Chapter 5, Section 10a required a roll call vote.

Council Member Pereira then submitted the following statement for the record:

The City of Bridgeport is in desperate needs [sic] of honest, transparent, ethical, principled, unconflicted, independent, intelligent, and articular leaders who are committed to serving the interest of the residents and taxpayers of Bridgeport, not their own interests or the interests of those with political and financial power.

We need leaders who demonstrate thru [sic] their actions, not their words, that they believe in upholding every aspect of our laws, including but not limited to our City Charter.

In closing, we need leaders who respect democratic principles while respecting well-researched differing viewpoints and perspectives without governing in a fascist, authoritarian and tyrannical manner.

For these reasons I will be voting in opposition to the nominee.

Council Member Newton said that he had been intending to vote against Council Member Nieves for Council President due to some other issues but after hearing Council Member Pereira's comments, he would not sit back and allow someone to paint that kind of a picture of someone who had worked hard to bring the Council together. He then thanked Council Member Pereira for giving him a reason to vote for Council Member Nieves as Council President.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE COUNCIL MEMBER AIDEE NIEVES FOR COUNCIL PRESIDENT PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, HERRON, BOYD, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, VALLE, NIEVES, SIMMONS AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (PEREIRA AND SMALL).**

Council Member McCarthy said that they had the swearing in ceremony in person but this meeting was a Zoom meeting. He said that they should return to in person meetings.

APPOINTMENT OF CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES.

Council President Nieves thanked everyone for their support. The last two years have been difficult but there has been a great deal of work that has been done. There are issues that have to be addressed socially and economically. Some of them will take a long time to correct, others require an ordinance change.

She reminded everyone that they should humble themselves during discussions and keep the discourse civil and not attack individuals. [Inaudible]

Council Committees:

Budget & Appropriations – Burns, Newton, McBride-Lee, Herron, McCarthy, Vizzo-Paniccia
Ordinance –Brown, Roman-Christy, Newton, Lyons, Valle, Boyd, Cruz

Public Safety – Valle, Lyons, Cruz, Boyd, Castillo, Simmons, Vizzo-Paniccia

Economic & Community Development & Environment– Valle, Burns, Roman-Christy, Lyons,
Mack, McBride-Lee, Brown

Miscellaneous Matters – Vizzo-Paniccia, Mack, Brown, Castillo, Boyd, McCarthy, Simmons

Contracts – Herron, McCarthy, Cruz, Roman-Christy, Pereira, Newton, Silva

Education and Social Service –Cruz, Boyd, Small, Simmons, Silva, Pereira, Lyons

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Council Officers:

City Council President: Aidee Nieves

President Pro Tempe: Marcus Brown

Majority Leader: Jeanette Herron

Deputy Majority Leader: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

Deputy Majority Leader: Ernest Newton

Deputy Majority Leader: Michelle Lyons

Sgt at Arms: Rosalina Roman-Christy

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Liaisons to various Boards and Commissions:

Liaison to the Chamber of Commerce: Scott Burns.

Liaison to the Fire Commission: Jeanette Herron

Liaison to the Food Policy Council: Maria Valle

Liaison to the Harbor Commission: Matthew McCarthy

Liaison to the Historic Commission: Marcus Brown

Liaison to the Housing Authority: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack

Liaison to the Library: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Wanda Simmons

Liaison to the Parks Commission: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

Liaison to the Police Commission: Matthew McCarthy, Maria Valle,

Liaison to the Port Authority: Aikeem Boyd

Liaison to the WPCA: Ernest Newton

Liaison to the Zoo: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

School Buildings Committee Members: Marcus Brown, Ernest Newton, Matthew McCarthy

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Mayor Gamin said that the assignments to various committees would require a vote.

[Inaudible crosstalk]

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS, COUNCIL OFFICERS ASSIGNMENTS, AND LIAISONS TO VARIOUS COMMISSIONS AND BOARD ASSIGNMENTS AS PRESENTED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that a point of order takes precedence over all of the matters on the floor. She said that she was trying to raise the point that the City Council Rules allow any member to request a motion to be reduced to writing and distributed to the members because hearing a list of several standing Committees read rapid fire is difficult to understand. It is a City Council Rule and she was requesting that the list be sent to the Council Members prior to the vote.

Council Member Pereira stated that she would like a roll call vote on the appointment of Committees. She added that the agenda item was for the Appointment of City Council Committees. There is nothing on the agenda about officers or liaisons.

Chapter 5, Section 4a of the Charter states that the City Council President is elected for a two year terms while Section 13 references a Majority Leader and a Minority Leader. There is no reference to a President Pro Tem, Deputy Majority Leaders, or the Sergeant at Arms. Those positions do not exist in the City Charter.

The Liaison positions are also not included in the City Charter, in the Ordinances, or referenced in the City Council Rules. These other items are superfluous and not on the agenda, which is required under the Freedom of Information Act.

Council Member Newton stated that it was the legislative body's discretion to set up boards or appointments. The Council President has the authority to appoint Council Members.

Council Member Newton said that he would like to withdraw his name for Deputy Majority Leader at this time, due to some issues.

Council Member Small said that she would like to apologize but due to the fact that she was serving with DCF, she would appreciate a different Committee assignment.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she did not hear her name called for a liaison position. Council President Nieves said that she had not assigned Council Member McBride-Lee as a liaison.

Council President Nieves pointed out that there was no way to know who would be elected as Council President before the vote, so the Committee assignment could not be sent in advance.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS, COUNCIL OFFICERS ASSIGNMENTS, AND LIAISONS TO VARIOUS COMMISSIONS AND BOARD ASSIGNMENTS AS PRESENTED PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, HERRON, BOYD, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, VALLE, NIEVES, SIMMONS, NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED. (PEREIRA, SMALL).**

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

• September 20, 2021

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2021  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 AS  
SUBMITTED PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ,  
BROWN, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY,  
SILVA, CASTILLO, VALLE, NIEVES, PEREIRA AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4)  
ABSTENTIONS (MACK, BOYD, SMALL AND SIMMONS).**

**PUBLIC HEARING(S) TO BE ORDERED BY THE FULL COUNCIL:**

**10-21 Request from OPED to Order a Public Hearing for December 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.  
re: Proposed Resolution making certain findings required by the City and Town  
Development Act (As Precursor to Consideration of a Tax Incentive Development  
Agreement) for Steelpointe – New Residential Development along East Main Street South  
of Stratford Avenue.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED THE ITEM.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that this item involved a multi-million-dollar tax break and the public hearing should not be held 3 days before Christmas. It should be held after the holidays.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 10-21 REQUEST FROM OPED TO  
ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR DECEMBER 20, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. RE:  
PROPOSED RESOLUTION MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS REQUIRED BY THE  
CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT (AS PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION  
OF A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT) FOR STEELPOINTE – NEW  
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ALONG EAST MAIN STREET SOUTH OF  
STRATFORD AVENUE PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS,  
MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, HERRON, BOYD, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA,  
MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, VALLE, NIEVES,  
SIMMONS, NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED. (PEREIRA, SMALL).**

**11-21 Request from OPED to Order a Public Hearing for December 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.  
re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for a New  
Residential Development at Steelpointe along East Main Street South of Stratford Avenue.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED THE ITEM.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

City of Bridgeport  
City Council Meeting  
Regular Meeting  
December 6, 2021

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 11-21 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR DECEMBER 20, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR A NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT STEELPOINTE ALONG EAST MAIN STREET SOUTH OF STRATFORD AVENUE PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, HERRON, BOYD, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, VALLE, NIEVES, SIMMONS, NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED. (PEREIRA, SMALL).**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**03-21 Communication from Tax Collector re: Refund of Excess Payments – 2012 ESA Project Company, LLC regarding 522 Fairfield Avenue, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**04-21 Communication from Tax Collector re: Refund of Excess Payments – DRS Naval Power Systems, Inc. regarding 196 Island Brook Avenue, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**05-21 Communication from Tax Collector re: Refund of Excess Payments – DRS Naval Power Systems, Inc. regarding 141 North Avenue, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**06-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Court Support Services Division – Youth Violence Prevention Initiative (#22399), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.**

**07-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: National Fitness Campaign – Healthy City Grant Program (#22328), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.**

**08-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: United States Conference of Mayors – 2022 Childhood Obesity Prevention/Environmental Health and Sustainability Awards (#22305), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.**

**09-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Southwestern CT Agency on Aging (SWCAA) – Title III Funding Older Americans Act Grant Program – American Rescue Plan Act Funding – Bridgeport Seniors Center Recreational Activities Expansion (#22419), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.**

**10-21 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution making certain findings required by the City and Town Development Act (As Precursor to Consideration of a Tax**



**Incentive Development Agreement) for Steelpointe – New Residential Development along East Main Street South of Stratford Avenue, referred to Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts.**

**11-21 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for a New Residential Development at Steelpointe along East Main Street South of Stratford Avenue, referred to Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts.**

**12-21 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Litigation Settlements (with Modified Conditional Participation Agreements) concerning Certain Litigation Comprised of Various Consolidated Class-Action Opioid Lawsuits Pending in the State of Connecticut, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO CONSOLIDATE AND REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO COMMITTEE:**

**01-21 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS RE: PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF LABOR UNIONS (CALU), (NURSES UNION) REGARDING THEIR BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACT FOR THE TERM OF JULY 1, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**02-21 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS RE: PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE BRIDGEPORT SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS ASSOCIATION REGARDING THEIR BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACT FOR THE TERM OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2026, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**03-21 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – 2012 ESA PROJECT COMPANY, LLC REGARDING 522 FAIRFIELD AVENUE, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**04-21 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – DRS NAVAL POWER SYSTEMS, INC. REGARDING 196 ISLAND BROOK AVENUE, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**05-21 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – DRS NAVAL POWER SYSTEMS, INC. REGARDING 141 NORTH AVENUE, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**06-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION – YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE (#22399), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**07-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: NATIONAL FITNESS CAMPAIGN – HEALTHY CITY GRANT PROGRAM (#22328), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**08-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS – 2022 CHILDHOOD OBESITY PREVENTION/ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS (#22305), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**09-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: SOUTHWESTERN CT AGENCY ON AGING (SWCAA) – TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM – AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING – BRIDGEPORT SENIORS CENTER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES EXPANSION (#22419), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**10-21 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS REQUIRED BY THE CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT (AS PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION OF A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT) FOR STEELPOINTE – NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ALONG EAST MAIN STREET SOUTH OF STRATFORD AVENUE, REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS.**

**11-21 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR A NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT STEELPOINTE ALONG EAST MAIN STREET SOUTH OF STRATFORD AVENUE, REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS.**

**12-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED LITIGATION SETTLEMENTS (WITH MODIFIED CONDITIONAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS) CONCERNING CERTAIN LITIGATION COMPRISED OF VARIOUS CONSOLIDATED CLASS-ACTION OPIOID**

**LAWSUITS PENDING IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

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

Council Member Pereira stated that she would like to split the question so that she and Michele could vote against two items. Mayor Gamin thanked her for her comments and called for a vote.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE AND REFER THE ABOVE NAMED ITEMS TO COMMITTEE PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, HERRON, BOYD, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, VALLE, NIEVES, SIMMONS, NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED. (PEREIRA, SMALL).**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AMVP SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services