

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Nieves called the Public Speaking session of the City Council to order at 6:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

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

The names in italics did not appear to respond during the roll call. Council Member Simmons had an excused absence due to illness.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604.

NAME

SUBJECT

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Fair Housing/Safety Public/City
Financial.

Mr. Lee came forward and read the following statement into the record:

Our City government posted a Legal Notice in the CT Post this morning. It has to do with the annual obligation of the City to post an Action Plan for CDBG where the

primary objectives are “to provide decent housing, a suitable living environment and to expand economic opportunities principally for persons of low to moderate income.”

Frank Recchia interviewed two residents of the Stratfield Apartments on Main Street, Bridgeport who spoke with him again to alert him to tenant issues including unsafe elevators repeatedly. Evidently the office of Senator Blumenthal has been observing the plight of 190 residents of this nine story HUD dedicated unit of elderly or disabled individuals also.

Stratfield Apartments management posted a notice on December 8, 2021, in which they said: “We are making all efforts to expedite the work that will be required. We expect that all elevator components that require an upgrade will be addressed and provide all residents with a safer riding experience once completed.” And closing, “Once we receive a date of when repairs begin, we will keep you updated.” This is the most recent notice posted.

There are a few longer-term residents who courageously persist to make known issues in the building. But there is no “tenant association” with residents encouraged to present their issues and concerns to management. Management response is threatening and intimidating.

What would you hear if the City maintained an active Fair Housing or Fair Rent Commission (profoundly inactive for more than 15 years)? What have you done with the information I have called to attention as to the permitted death of these groups for want of a Mayor using his power of appointment? What can you do? Perhaps until such Commissions are in place with notice to all citizens, you can call Scott Appleby at Emergency Services phones to be used for reporting any unsafe conditions? Of course, the option to call for Fire Department personnel to extricate residents from being trapped will still be there, but with only one report in the past 12 months the data of complaints are being handled differently.

And “housing discrimination” complaints can be handled by filing a brief form pursuant to Civil Rights 1968 and Housing Rights 1988 legislation with HUD in their New England Office. The legal guidelines are there. The law is clear. A Senator and US Representative are informed and beyond lip-service concern. The City Council is on notice but basically inactive despite initiatives they can take, though two Council representatives are on the case.

How do you make democracy, equal rights for all without discrimination, work? Speak up, please. Who is asking the Mayor to act? If he has appointed political actors to do this work during the past five years, how successful have they been? He has announced for another term last week. Can he continue to ignore housing and rental issues? Would that be FAIR to all? Time will tell.

Cecil Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Follow up: Violation of Civil Rights.

Mr. Young came forward and said that he had sent a packet of information to the Council Members. Council Members Newton and Cruz would like to have a meeting with them about Mr. Young's Civil Rights violations. He referred to the termination letter he received and also displayed a copy of his time card. Mr. Young stated that he had returned to work after 2 weeks, but had been terminated anyway. He informed the Council Members that he would be back again to speak about his unjust termination.

Stephen Nelson
Second Stone Ridge Co-op
24A Stoneridge Road
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Issues in the 135th District, Library
Request

Council President Nieves called Mr. Nelson's name three times with no response.

Ellie Angerame
1469 Green Village Initiative
497 Laurel Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Council vote for GVI's lease and use of
Reservoir Avenue (Reservoir Community
Farm).

Ms. Angerame came before the Council and said she had spoken to them about the lease around ten times now. She mentioned the facts and pictures that she had presented previously regarding urban farming. She said that the lease is only a short term solution, however, GVI needs it and they will be back before the Council in the future. She asked those in the audience who were there in support of GVI to stand up. Approximately 41 people stood.

Ms. Angerame said that she was asking the Council Members for their support for a future for everyone in Bridgeport to access fresh, nutritious food.

Dasha Spell
264 Beechwood Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Personal and professional concerns
about the Citizens Union.

Ms. Spell came before the Council and said that she was usually addressing the Council about educational matters but this was a personal matter.

Ms. Spell said that she was a Citizens Union Member and last Tuesday she had the honor of being asked to co-chair the Deliberations meeting. This was the first time that she had ever done this. She said that she had received the invitation from Council Member Pereira and agreed to nominate her suggested candidate as co-chair.

Ms. Spell said that for those who had not heard, the meeting was a mess that was orchestrated by Council Member Pereira. Council Member Pereira intervened, interceded, obstructed and interfered with the process. As a Council Member, she was deliberately telling her candidate, who was the co-chair, what to say throughout the entire meeting. At one point, it was so that there was a motion to remove her co-chair. Ms. Spell stated that she had agreed to this.

Ms. Spell said that she had received a communication from Council Member Pereira that Ms. Spell felt was a threat because Ms. Spell had voted against Council Member Pereira's plan. Ms. Spell said that if she decides to do anything political that would be City wide in the City of Bridgeport, she will not receive any votes.

Secondly, Ms. Spell said that the following day, she received a text message from Council Member Pereira. Ms. Spell said that she had copies for all the Council Members. The text informed Ms. Spell that she would be part of a Federal complaint to HUD for the way that she acted at the meeting.

Ms. Spell said that she did not agree to this position to be harassed, bullied, intimidated, or threatened. She agreed to the chairmanship in order to be a part of the process.

Ms. Spell then asked the City Council to take action. She said that she was not willing to sit in a circus and neither are her volunteers. Ms. Spell requested the Council Members to open the City Charter to discuss the behavior of City Council Members. This is ridiculous. It does not look good when a City Council Member is telling their representative what to do. The people who were appointed to the Union were not appointed to be puppets, but were trusted to make decisions.

Ms. Spell repeated her request that the Council look at the Charter in terms of Council Member's behaviors since they represent the residents of the City. Secondly, she asked that if they have another meeting, that they not allow this to happen and not acknowledge the interference. Lastly she said that she has a Bachelor's of Art in psychology, with a minor in Sociology, a Masters in Science and is a Board certified and licensed counsellor with the State of Connecticut in Mental Health and Addiction. This issue needs to be addressed.

9:34



66%



Maria P

1:01 AM, Mar 30

Dasha,

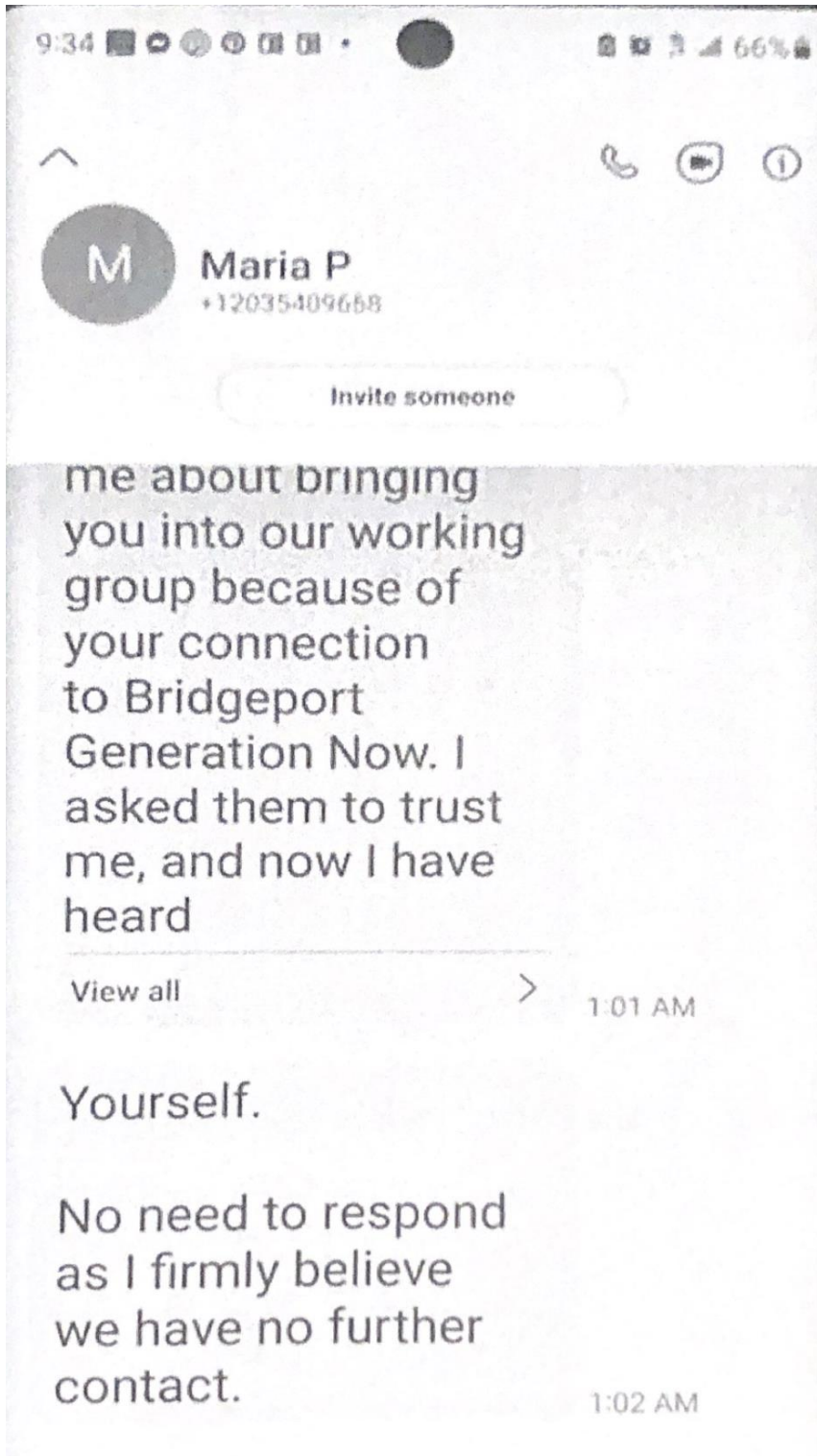
Michele, Sharon and Helen are su upset with your actions last night that we cannot move forward with you in any capacity.

Two of them warned me about bringing you into our working group because of your connection to Bridgeport Generation Now. I asked them to trust me, and now I have heard "we told you so" repeatedly tonight.

You voted for a number of applications knowing full well they did not comply with the City of Bridgeport Regulation requiring specific documents be attached.

You will be highlighted in my federal complaint with the HUD Inspector General.

You really should be ashamed of yoursel.



Eneida Martinez
819 Connecticut Avenue, #2
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Citizens Union Violations, Council
Interference and Council Disrespect

Ms. Martinez came forward and said that she was present regarding the Citizens Union's Violation, Council interference and Council disrespect. She explained that she had been elected to serve on the Citizen's Union PY 48. She has served before and this was not her first rodeo ride.

Ms. Martinez said she was familiar with the Citizens Union bylaws and procedures. On Tuesday, March 28th at 6 p.m., the Citizen's Union started their deliberations for grant applications to allocate thousands of dollars in grant awards. This meeting was solely for Citizens Union members. Once the Committee meeting started, the entire Committee needed to nominate a Chair and co-chair as Ms. Spell stated. The nomination went to Ms. Helen Losak which led to the District of Council Member Pereira. The Committee members voted to allow Ms. Losak to become the Chair with Ms. Spell as the co-chair. Throughout the meeting, the Union members could hear Council Member Pereira in the background coaching Ms. Losak about what needed to be said and what needed not to be said regarding numbers of grants, applications without complete paperwork, about individuals who have submitted applications or have received grants for longer than five years. Council Member Pereira targeted a slew of grant applications that were submitted by black and Hispanic applicants.

Ms. Martinez said that there were laws that they have to follow. Their power is limited. Ms. Martinez said her point to Council Member Pereira was that she was constantly threatening individuals, such as Ms. Spell, with the FBI, or filing complaints about this or that.

Ms. Martinez said that the Council Members need to take a step and address this matter. While she may do well in her own District because of the way that she treats her constituents, but her style doesn't fit in well with anyone else. With all due respect, Council Member Pereira needs to make an apology to Ms. Spell for her nastiness during the meeting. Ms. Martinez said that she expected to see something about this tomorrow on Facebook.

Pamala J. Williams
91 Clearview Drive
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Reservoir Farm

Once again, thank you to all the City Council members from around the city that came out to support the Reservoir farm. We appreciate you.

Tonia Eagleton
441 Flint Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Reservoir Farm

Council President Nieves called Ms. Eagleton's name three times with no response.

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Joseph D. Thompson
352 Woodlawn Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Proposed fine for gas stations
allowing ATV and dirt bikes
to fill up.

Mr. Thompson came in and said that many of the gas station owners were not able to come to the meeting. However, he said that those owners he spoke with were against the fine. Mr. Thompson then attempted to play an audio recording of a conversation he had with an owner about this from his phone. It was inaudible. Mr. Thompson said that the owner would not be able to prevent selling gas to those who wished to use the gas for their ATV or dirt bikes. Mr. Thompson then asked those in the audience who were there in opposition to the bill to stand up. Approximately 12 people stood up.

Jermain Rodgers
Main Street
Bridgeport, CT

Status of FOI request

Mr. Rodgers said that he wished to know why he had not received the FOI information that he had requested months ago. He heard the City Attorney may be retiring and wanted to know what would happen then. He asked the Council Members to push the City Attorney to get the work out.

Christopher Caruso
208 Beechwood Avenue
Bridgeport, CT

33-21 Dirt bikes and ATVs

Mr. Caruso came forward and said that he had sat quietly and listened to all the speakers this evening and was now asking for the same courtesy.

Mr. Caruso greeted the Council Members and introduced himself. He said that in 2015, the Council had passed Ordinance #1032 that prohibits ATVs, dirt bikes, snow mobiles, motor driven cycles and mini-cycles from being used on the City streets. In addition, the State does not issue a license for any of those vehicles because most of those vehicles are used on private property. This is because of not only the noise, but also the danger to not only the riders, but also other drivers and pedestrians.

If an ordinance is to mean anything, it is to be enforced. If it needs to be changed, that is the right of the citizens to do. Under the current ordinance, the Council has the right to levy a fine against the violators of the laws. Most officers will not chase these vehicles because of the danger involved.

Currently Resolution 33-21 is before the Ordinance Committee to amend the ordinance. Without a tool to enforce the ordinance, an ordinance is meaningless, whether it is a senior driving on the City streets or a citizen who is trying to have some peace in the city. The vehicles are now in Seaside Park and there is a prohibition against this. There are children and pedestrians in the park that can be hit by one of these vehicles. The law is the law. If people want to change the law, then they should change it. If the Council wants to throw the law out and allow ATVs to drive

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through the City, then do that. There are people in the City who care about the City, but are concerned that the law means nothing. It may not be popular to those who want to use those vehicles, but to the majority of the citizens feel they are dangerous and uncomfortable. The riders go through stop signs, red lights and break almost every driving law in existence. If someone tries to stop them, they just take off. In a free society, no one has the right to infringe on other people. Follow the law or change it. This is important. The Council represents the citizens of the city, all of the residents.

Mr. Caruso then spoke about a childhood friend who was riding at 90 Acres Park and flipped a vehicle. It took a very long time for the broken bones to heal. Some drivers do not wear helmets or seat belts. Enforce the law or do away with the law.

Helen Olga Losak
306 Bradley Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

33-21 and gas station owners

Ms. Losak came forward and greeted the Council Members. She asked the Council Members to support the resolution regarding gas station owners selling gas to ATV owners. This is the first step to protect legal vehicle drivers on the City street.

In March of 2021, the lower East Side was terrorized by dirt bike and ATV riders who disregarded the law. Many times, there were drivers who were surrounded by dirt bike riders who would weave in and out of lanes. She said that there was the chance that the bikes could crash into vehicles that were stopped or injuries if the ATV riders lost control. They pop wheelies. She said that Bridgeport needs to prevent these accidents or deaths by passing this ordinance right now.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the Public Speaking portion of the Council Meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 7:20 p.m.

PRAYER

Council Member McBride-Lee led the Council in prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayer, Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested a moment of silence for Arthur L. Delally Jr., Jeanette Nadrizny and Retired Superior Court Judge Jack Grogins.

The Mayor requested that they also hold the people of Ukraine in their thoughts. Council Member Newton requested that they include a recent car accident victim during the moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

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

A quorum was present. The names in italics did not appear to respond during the roll call. Council Member Simmons was absent due to illness.

Mayor Ganim said that per the City Charter, he would be submitting the budget on April 5th with the transmittal letter.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM REGARDING REFERRING THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 TO THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira asked if the budget was present for referral. Mayor Ganim said that it would be delivered on April 5th and explained that they were doing this in order to facilitate the budget process to move forward.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO REFER THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET TO THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #63-21)**

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

• March 7, 2022

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 7, 2022 MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 7, 2022 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, BOYD, SMITH, BROWN, MACK, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, VIZZO-PANICIA, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SMALL, PEREIRA AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (HODGES).**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

56-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Connecticut State Department of Education Bureau of Health/Nutrition Family Services and Education – 2017, 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Year 5 of 5 (Lighthouse After-School Program), referred to Education and Social Services Committee.

57-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Connecticut State Department of Education Bureau of Health/Nutrition Family Services and Education – 2018, 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Year 3 of 5 (Lighthouse After-School Program), referred to Education and Social Services Committee.

58-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Connecticut State Department of Education Bureau of Health/Nutrition Family Services and Education – 2021, 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Year 1 - 5 (Lighthouse After-School Program), referred to Education and Social Services Committee.

59-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Connecticut State Department of Education Bureau of Health/Nutrition Family Services and Education – FY 21-23 ARP ESSER Enhancement and Expansion After School Grants for Pre-K – 12 (Lighthouse After-School Program), referred to Education and Social Services Committee.

60-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Environmental Task Force Community Environmental Benefits Fund – Fitness Courts (#22398), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

61-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Urban Act Grant Program – Remington Arms Demolition and Remediation Phase II (#22215), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

62-21 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Shannon L. Calhoun v. Christopher J. Borona, et al – Docket No. 3:18-cv-1203 (AWT), referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

56-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUREAU OF HEALTH/NUTRITION FAMILY SERVICES AND EDUCATION – 2017, 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS GRANT YEAR 5 OF 5 (LIGHTHOUSE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM), REFERRED TO EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

57-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUREAU OF HEALTH/NUTRITION FAMILY SERVICES AND EDUCATION – 2018, 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS GRANT YEAR 3 OF 5 (LIGHTHOUSE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM), REFERRED TO EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

58-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUREAU OF HEALTH/NUTRITION FAMILY SERVICES AND EDUCATION – 2021, 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS GRANT YEAR 1 - 5 (LIGHTHOUSE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM), REFERRED TO EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

59-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUREAU OF HEALTH/NUTRITION FAMILY SERVICES AND EDUCATION – FY 21-23 ARP ESSER ENHANCEMENT AND EXPANSION AFTER SCHOOL GRANTS FOR PRE-K – 12 (LIGHTHOUSE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM), REFERRED TO EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

60-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS FUND – FITNESS COURTS (#22398), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

61-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT URBAN ACT GRANT PROGRAM – REMINGTON ARMS DEMOLITION AND REMEDIATION PHASE II (#22215), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

62-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF SHANNON L. CALHOUN V. CHRISTOPHER J. BORONA, ET AL – DOCKET NO. 3:18-CV-1203 (AWT), REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Pereira said that the Agenda Items having to do with appointments needed to have roll call votes. She suggested a separate section of the agenda be created for the roll call votes.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia agreed and included the fact she had requested procedure changes with consent calendar, requests to Mayor and Attorney office to submit in writing their changes in rules after 19 years and to adjust the system of roll call voting.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***50-21 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Budget Transfer to FY 2021-2022 From: Emergency Communications and Operations Center Account #01290000-56180 (\$209,252) To: Health & Social Service Department Accounts (\$209,252).**

***42-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing Certain Amendments to the Hollow NRZ Plan.**

***43-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing Certain Amendments to the South End NRZ Plan.**

***48-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Public Health – Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Supplement (ELC) Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement (#22474).**

***49-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: CT Urban Forest Council – Urban Forestry Climate Change Grant Program (#22396).**

***37-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Tobias Watson (D) to the Ethics Commission.**

***38-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Martha R. Dixon (R) to the Harbor Commission.**

***40-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of John Slater (R) to the Zoning Board of Appeals.**

***41-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Reappointment of Donald W. Donaldson (D) to the Commission for People with Disabilities.**

***45-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Claim #836987 in the Matter of Lexi Black.**

***46-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Ryan Collins v. Bouchard, et al – Case #3:19-cv-01646 (JAM).**

***53-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Debra Giannattassio – Docket No. FBT-CV-19-6084321-S.**

***28-21 Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts Report re: Resolution Authorizing a Lease Agreement with Green Village Initiative Inc. for 1469 Reservoir Avenue and 20 Yaremich Drive.**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was anyone who wished to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Pereira requested that Agenda Items 42-21, 43-21 and 28-21 be removed from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Pereira stated that according to the City Charter, Agenda Items 37-21, 38-21, 40-21 and 41-21 require roll call votes.

Council Member Burns requested that Agenda Item 28-21 be removed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

50-21 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: BUDGET TRANSFER TO FY 2021-2022 FROM: EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND OPERATIONS CENTER ACCOUNT #01290000-56180 (\$209,252) TO: HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS (\$209,252).

48-21 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH – EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY CAPACITY SUPPLEMENT (ELC) ENHANCING DETECTION COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT (#22474).

49-21 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CT URBAN FOREST COUNCIL – URBAN FORESTRY CLIMATE CHANGE GRANT PROGRAM (#22396).

45-21 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM #836987 IN THE MATTER OF LEXI BLACK.

53-21 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF DEBRA GIANNATTASSIO – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-19-6084321-S.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

42-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing Certain Amendments to the Hollow NRZ Plan.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira stated that there had been an amendment to the plan by adding a property and informed the Council that she would be voting no. She was concerned about the potential use of eminent domain.

Council Member Newton said that this addition property to the NRZ Plan was about blighted properties and not an attempt to take people's property. The parcel has been vacant for a long time.

Council Member Castillo said that the parcel has been blighted for 40 years and that this is not a misuse of eminent domain through the Council. Discussion followed.

Council Member Herron said that she was normally opposed to the use of eminent domain, but sometimes it is necessary.

Council Member Burns pointed out that the NRZ has the authority to do this and they are trying to re-energize the neighborhood.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE 42-21 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE HOLLOW NRZ PLAN PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, BOYD, SMITH, BROWN, MACK, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, VIZZO-PANICCIA, HODGES, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (SMALL, PEREIRA).**

43-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing Certain Amendments to the South End NRZ Plan.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Cruz said that the NRZs are the eyes and ears of the community. He pointed out that the building was dilapidated and that pieces fall off onto parked cars during high winds. He asked the Council Members to please support the South End.

Council Member Pereira said that she had a problem with the 10 properties that were on the list and said that vacant lots were not listed. She also stated that Mr. Paul Boucher is the NRZ President but he also works for Zoning and reports to Bill Coleman.

Council Member Brown asked Mr. Coleman to address the fact that only two NRZs were being updated. Mr. Coleman said that they have every intention of updating all the NRZs, but these were simply the first two that were finished. Discussion followed.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE 43-21 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE SOUTH END NRZ PLAN PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, BOYD, SMITH, BROWN, MACK, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, VIZZO-PANICCIA, HODGES, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (SMALL, PEREIRA).**

37-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Tobias Watson (D) to the Ethics Commission. (Roll call)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 37-21 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF TOBIAS WATSON (D) TO THE ETHICS COMMISSION PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, BOYD, SMITH, BROWN, MACK, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, VIZZO-PANICCIA, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SMALL, PEREIRA AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (HODGES).**

38-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Martha R. Dixon (R) to the Harbor Commission. (Roll call)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 38-21 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF MARTHA R. DIXON (R) TO THE HARBOR COMMISSION PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, BOYD, SMITH, BROWN, MACK, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SMALL AND PEREIRA) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (NEWTON).**

40-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of John Slater (R) to the Zoning Board of Appeals. (Roll call)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that the ZBA was one of the most important boards in the City because they make critical decisions about variances. She said she was concerned because State statute requires 5 permanent appointments and 3 alternates. Mr. Slater will be the fourth Commissioner from the 130th. Council Member Pereira said that she was concerned that one District was over-represented.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 40-21 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF JOHN SLATER (R) TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS FAILED TO PASS WITH EIGHT (8) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, HODGES, AND NIEVES) AND ELEVEN (11) OPPOSED (BOYD, SMITH, BROWN, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, VALLE, SMALL, PEREIRA AND NEWTON).**

41-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Reappointment of Donald W. Donaldson (D) to the Commission for People with Disabilities. (Roll Call)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED THE ITEM.**

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

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 41-21 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF DONALD W. DONALDSON (D) TO THE COMMISSION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, BOYD, SMITH, BROWN, MACK, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SMALL AND PEREIRA) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (NEWTON).**

46-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Ryan Collins v. Bouchard, et al – Case #3:19-cv-01646 (JAM).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira gave the details of the case which involved an incident of mistaken identity.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

28-21 Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts Report re: Resolution Authorizing a Lease Agreement with Green Village Initiative Inc. for 1469 Reservoir Avenue and 20 Yaremich Drive.

Council Member Burns offered the following amendment:

At the end of Section 7: “Prior to terminating this Lease or declining to extend the Term, Lessor agrees to enter into good faith negotiations with the Lessee and the Library for the shared use of the Demised Premises by the Lessee and the Library.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 28-21 JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH GREEN VILLAGE INITIATIVE INC. FOR 1469 RESERVOIR AVENUE AND 20 YAREMICH DRIVE AS FOLLOWS:**

AT THE END OF SECTION 7: “PRIOR TO TERMINATING THIS LEASE OR DECLINING TO EXTEND THE TERM, LESSOR AGREES TO ENTER INTO GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LESSEE AND THE LIBRARY FOR THE SHARED USE OF THE DEMISED PREMISES BY THE LESSEE AND THE LIBRARY.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 28-21 JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH GREEN VILLAGE INITIATIVE INC. FOR 1469 RESERVOIR AVENUE AND 20 YAREMICH DRIVE PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, BOYD, SMITH, BROWN, MACK, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, HODGES, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SMALL AND PEREIRA).**

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she and Council Member Roman-Christy had worked very hard and long to secure the location for the Library and asked the Council Members to support the children. She added that she had no problem with a shared site. Discussion followed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 28-21 JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH GREEN VILLAGE INITIATIVE INC. FOR 1469 RESERVOIR AVENUE AND 20 YAREMICH DRIVE AS AMENDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 28-21 JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH GREEN VILLAGE INITIATIVE INC. FOR 1469 RESERVOIR AVENUE AND 20 YAREMICH DRIVE AS AMENDED PASSED WITH THIRTEEN (13) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, BOYD, SMITH, BROWN, MACK, HERRON, HODGES, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, AND NEWTON) AND SIX (6) OPPOSED (LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SMALL AND PEREIRA).**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

54-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Aaron Kearney vs. Cristina Arroyo, et al – Docket No. 3:19cv00651 (AWT).

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

55-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Update and Action needed concerning Outside Counsel Retention Agreement and Settlement Authority in Marinelis Sena, Administratrix of the Estate of Tyrone O. Tillman, et al vs. American Medical Response, Inc., et al – Docket No. FST-CV-15-6044815-S.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED THE ITEM.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira asked for the settlement amount that the City was trying to recover. She was told it was \$230,000 if they were completely successful. A brief discussion followed about the details.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 55-21 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: UPDATE AND ACTION NEEDED CONCERNING OUTSIDE COUNSEL RETENTION AGREEMENT AND SETTLEMENT AUTHORITY IN MARINELIS SENA, ADMINISTRATRIX OF THE ESTATE OF TYRONE O. TILLMAN, ET AL VS. AMERICAN MEDICAL RESPONSE, INC., ET AL – DOCKET NO. FST-CV-15-6044815-S PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, BOYD, SMITH, BROWN, MACK, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SMALL PEREIRA AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (MCCARTHY).**

Council Member Herron said that she wanted to take a point of personal privilege as the Co-chair of the CDBG Committee, she received some phone calls about the deliberation session. She stated that she follows the rules. She explained that Council Member Pereira raised her hand but there was no speaker listed. Council Member Herron said that her concern was that every time that the Council Members say or do anything, they are reprimanded or told that she will file complaints against them. People make mistakes and no one is perfect. Enough is enough. The insults have to stop.

Council Member Herron said that she had been running the meeting while she was in the hospital ICU with a family member. She added that she would apologize to the Citizens Union who were being interfered with.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Telesco Secretarial Services