

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM  
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022  
City Council Chambers, City Hall  
45 Lyon Terrace  
Bridgeport, CT 06604**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Nieves called the Public Speaking session of the City Council to order at 6:35 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: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Marcus Brown, Rolanda Smith  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Aikeem Boyd, Jeanette Herron  
134<sup>th</sup> District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Mary McBride-Lee, *Rosalina Roman-Christy*  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Frederick Hodges, Alfredo Castillo  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Maria Pereira, Michele Small  
139<sup>th</sup> District: *Wanda Simmons*, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. The names in italics did not appear to respond during the roll call.

It was announced that Council Members Roman-Christy and Simmons were absent due to illness.

*The following is a summary of the comments made by the public at the meeting.*

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, APRIL 18, 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.

Council Member Cruz stood next to Mr. Lee holding a sign with the word “FAIR” on it with a red diagonal line through it.

I am looking for FAIR in Bridgeport tonight and I come to you as a last resort. Do we need to call on the State or Federal government for assistance? Where is the FAIR in the Housing Commission in Bridgeport? Where is the FAIR in the Rent Board in Bridgeport? Largest City in the State by population, which is the fact by number of residents, but without a FAIR Housing or FAIR Rent group to listen to residents who have questions, problems, issues, or concerns. And more renters than in most cities or towns. With constituents from throughout the City going to New Haven or other towns and being asked by those communities WHY?

As one duty among his authorized powers, the Bridgeport Mayor is tasked with appointing resident voters to limited terms with an expiry date on Boards and Commissions and persons so appointed and approved by the Council serve until replaced. What you know but have done nothing publicly about for too many years, is that without nominees to the bodies, all terms expire, and groups do too. No nominee replacements. All expired. Groups die in place. Nobody buries them!!

Failures of Finch, Fabrizi and now Ganim for recent six years to provide timely nominations leaves many vacancies, as well as persons serving expired terms....maybe, but does CC provide oversight or feedback? As I look back on much of the past 15 years, I note that political appointees have been assigned to work on the task of finding board replacements. First, a former City Council member, Angel DePara and subsequently Constance Vickers, members in good standing with the DTC have addressed the appointment subject.

But the work is never completed. No public discussion occurs. The CC appears deaf to my 2022 observations as I get no feedback that I can quote. I am working with Council members downtown on HUD housing issues of discrimination and intimidation that is illegal and being reported to HUD in Boston. People who are harassed because of the color of their skin have nowhere to turn WITHIN THE CITY because of the City failure to support Civil Rights and Fair Housing laws.

How fast can you get FAIR back into Bridgeport Boards and Commissions? Or must we live another 15 years without citizen representation and hypocritically claim on our City website that all is FAIR and in order? Time will tell.

**Helen Olga Losak**  
304 Bradley Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Boards & Commissions – Address the  
Selection Process.

Ms. Losak came forward and greeted the Council. She said that she would be addressing a statement made by Council Member Newton about how Bridgeport residents were not interested in serving on the Boards and Commissions.

Ms. Losak said that there were individuals who were recycled to serve on different commissions. Some members continued to serve on expired terms for over 10 years. She said that she had applied to serve on a Commission but had never been contacted by the administration.

Several years ago, there was a member of the Civil Service Commission that was serving as Chair for many years even though she did not live in Bridgeport. It was not until it came out that she resigned.

There have been many chances to serve on Bridgeport Boards and Commissions. Follow the Charter and give the other Bridgeport residents the opportunity to serve in the local government.

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

Council, Community Priorities and Quality  
of Life Issues.

Ms. Martinez was not present at the meeting to address the Council Members.

**Tony Barr**  
141 Pennsylvania Avenue, #8  
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Budget and Schools.

Mr. Barr greeted the Council Members and said that he would address his remarks referring to any Council Member directly by name. He said that he would like to speak to Council Member Pereira. He said that Mr. Testani had said that he would move to Bridgeport if he became Superintendent of Schools. If Council Member Pereira was so righteous to do right by the City of Bridgeport, she would be fighting to have Mr. Testani move to Bridgeport.

Council Member Pereira says she stands for righteousness and wanted him and Council Member Newton to take a drug test but was silent about Mr. Testani moving to Bridgeport. He's in violation of his contract.

Mr. Barr said that he did not think the schools needed any more money because there was a surplus of \$6 million dollars. Mr. Barr said he had spoken to Mr. Testani about the \$6 million and Mr. Testani told Mr. Barr that he had spent the money and added it was none of Mr. Barr's business as to what it was spent on.

Mr. Barr said that he wanted Mr. Testani to move to Bridgeport. They need to be fair to Bridgeport. He asked the Council Members to do the right thing. Kids are committing suicide while the money is being lost.

**Chris Caruso**  
208 Beechmont Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06606

ATVs, Dirt Bikes and Governance.

Mr. Chris Caruso came forward to greet the Council and thanked the Council for expediting the resolution on ATVs. Feel good legislation often is the thing that stops people who don't follow the law because it carries a penalty. At the last meeting, several people who were ATV riders came to the meeting and would not reveal who they were. That probably was because they were in violation of the law.

The other day, he saw an ATV run through a red light. If the rider had been hit, he may have been seriously injured or potentially killed. If that had happened, the driver would have been deemed at fault, the police and City would have been sued because ATVs and dirt bikes are illegal in Bridgeport.

**Maria Pereira**  
206 Bradley Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Critics/ATV Dirt Bikes and Governance.

Council Member Pereira said that there were so many people that were talking about her, she was thrilled that she was occupying space in their brains. To her critics, what they say about her goes in one ear and out the other. They do not occupy any space in her brain.

Council Member Pereira then spoke about how this legislation would affect less than 40 gas stations. She said that she did not care that it would affect 200 or 300 ATV riders or 40 gas stations because Bridgeport has over 148,000 residents. Council Member Pereira said that she had been in the car with her granddaughter when she was surrounded by ATV riders and that this was wrong.

**State Rep. Jack Hennessy**  
556 Savoy Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06606

ATV/Dirt Bikes.

State Rep. Hennessy came forward and greeted the Council. He said that he was present to testify in support of the proposed legislation. The law was not working and people were being terrorized by ATV riders. This would be a way to stop them from gassing up and will curtail them. He said that he hoped this resolution would be supported by everyone.

**Joel Xavier**  
584 Norman Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Dirt Bike/ATV Ordinance.

Mr. Xavier said that he was present to support the Gas Station resolution. He said that he was 16 years old and driving near a school when a rider came by and was driving dangerously near him.

**Cecil Young**  
99 Carroll Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Response from Council – Civil Rights Violation.

Mr. Young said that he was tired of coming to the City Council about his unjust termination. He said that he is not happy that a Council Member had told him two and a half years ago that they would work this out. He's been out of work for 16 years.

He said that he was not going to use the "N" word. He is a homeowner and a taxpayer. He was out there campaigning with Council Member Newton and Council Member Newton said that he would look out for Mr. Young. Mr. Young claimed that the judge was intimidated by the City Attorney, who should be elected official rather than appointed.

Mr. Young then began yelling and used the "N" word twice. When Council President Nieves asked him to stop, he ignored her and repeated it two more times.

**Chris Cruz**  
Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Cruz came forward and greeted the Council. He said that he was 16 years old and supports the ordinance. As a younger child, he saw an entire group of riders come down the street and almost hit someone.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council President Nieves closed the Public Speaking portion of the Council Meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022**

**7:00 PM**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Nieves called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 7:18 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Council President Nieves asked Council Member Smith to lead the Council in prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council President Nieves asked Council Member Cruz to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked for a moment of silence for:

Mrs. Nina Kuchma, Mother of former Councilman, Philip Kuchma.

Mr. Donald Goff, with our Beardsley Zoo. He was a kind, educational man in his field. Don made sure all visitors, Staff, Volunteers and Board Members were greeted, informed all of Zoo details, knowledgeable of all Animal visitors and a gentleman. He will be missed.

May they both rest in peace.

## ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130<sup>th</sup> District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Marcus Brown, Rolanda Smith  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Aikeem Boyd, Jeanette Herron  
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139<sup>th</sup> District: *Wanda Simmons*, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. It was announced that Council Members Roman-Christy and Simmons were absent due to illness.

### MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

#### • MARCH 21, 2022

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE MINUTES OF MARCH 21, 2022.**

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

Council Member Pereira stated that Council Member Simmons had not been at the meeting.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PERREIRA MOVED TO CORRECT THE MARCH 21, 2022 MINUTES AS FOLLOWS:**

**PAGE 1 UNDER ATTENDANCE: PLEASE CHANGE THE FOLLOWING FROM:**

**THE CITY CLERK CALLED THE ROLL.**

**130<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT: SCOTT BURNS, MATTHEW MCCARTHY**  
**131<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT: JORGE CRUZ, TYLER MACK**  
**132<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT: MARCUS BROWN, ROLANDA SMITH**  
**133<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT: AIKEEM G. BOYD, JEANETTE HERRON**  
**134<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT: MICHELLE LYONS, AMYMARIE VIZZO-  
PANICCIA**  
**135<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT: MARY MCBRIDE-LEE, ROSALINA ROMAN-  
CHRISTY**  
**136<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT: VACANT, ALFREDO CASTILLO**

**137<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT: AIDEE NIEVES, MARIA VALLE**  
**138<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT: MARIA PEREIRA, MICHELE SMALL**  
**139<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT: WANDA SIMMONS, ERNEST NEWTON**

**TO:**

**THE CITY CLERK CALLED THE ROLL.**

**130<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT: SCOTT BURNS, MATTHEW MCCARTHY**  
**131<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT: JORGE CRUZ, TYLER MACK**  
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**138<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT: MARIA PEREIRA, MICHELE SMALL**  
**139<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT: WANDA SIMMONS, ERNEST NEWTON**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO CORRECT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 21, 2022 AS INDICATED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**64-21 Communication from Public Facilities re: Proposed Resolution regarding the 2022 “Second” Round of Sidewalk Repair Pilot Program, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.**

**65-21 Communication from Engineering re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Title 15 – Buildings and Construction, amend Chapter 15.48 – Storm Water Management Manual, referred to Ordinance Committee.**

**66-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Public Health – Heart Health Disease and Stroke Prevention Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.**

**67-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: United Way of Coastal Fairfield County – Emergency Food & Shelter Program (#22873), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.**

**68-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) COVID-19**



**Response, Innovate, Sustain and Equip (RISE) Awards (#22397), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.**

**69-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) FY 2021 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants – Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) (#22476), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.**

**70-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Transportation FY 23-25 Dial-A-Ride Municipal Grant Program for the Elderly and Disabled, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.**

**71-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – Airport Improvement Program (#22334), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.**

**72-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) FY 2022 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) Grant Program (#21210 & 21483), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES:**

**64-21 COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC FACILITIES RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING THE 2022 “SECOND” ROUND OF SIDEWALK REPAIR PILOT PROGRAM, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**65-21 COMMUNICATION FROM ENGINEERING RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 15 – BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION, AMEND CHAPTER 15.48 – STORM WATER MANAGEMENT MANUAL, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.**

**66-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH – HEART HEALTH DISEASE AND STROKE PREVENTION PROGRAM, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**67-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: UNITED WAY OF COASTAL FAIRFIELD COUNTY –**

**EMERGENCY FOOD & SHELTER PROGRAM (#22873), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**68-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AND CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS (NACCHO) MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS (MRC) COVID-19 RESPONSE, INNOVATE, SUSTAIN AND EQUIP (RISE) AWARDS (#22397), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**69-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) FY 2021 HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANTS – FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE (FMA) AND BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES (BRIC) (#22476), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**70-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FY 23-25 DIAL-A-RIDE MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**71-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) – AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (#22334), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**72-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) FY 2022 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM (AFG) GRANT PROGRAM (#21210 & 21483), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

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

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

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):**

**\*23-21 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.06 – Common Council, amend Section 2.06.070 – Office of**

**Legislative Services and amend to add New Section(s) 2.06.080 – Legislative Aides for City Council, 2.06.090 – Legislative and Legal Counsel to the City Council and 2.06.100 – Budget Director for City Council.**

**\*35-21 Ordinance Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing Administration of the Shared Mobility Device Program.**

**\*36-21 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12.16 – Street and Sidewalk Use Regulations, amend Sections 12.16.245 – Permit to Use City Streets and Sidewalks for the Shared Mobility Program and 12.16.250 – Miscellaneous Acts Prohibited.**

Council President Nieves asked if there was anyone who wished to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would like to remove all three items from the Consent Calendar.

**23-21 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.06 – Common Council, amend Section 2.06.070 – Office of Legislative Services and amend to add New Section(s) 2.06.080 – Legislative Aides for City Council, 2.06.090 – Legislative and Legal Counsel to the City Council and 2.06.100 – Budget Director for City Council.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED AGENDA ITEM 23-21 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2.06 – COMMON COUNCIL, AMEND SECTION 2.06.070 – OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AND AMEND TO ADD NEW SECTION(S) 2.06.080 – LEGISLATIVE AIDES FOR CITY COUNCIL, 2.06.090 – LEGISLATIVE AND LEGAL COUNSEL TO THE CITY COUNCIL AND 2.06.100 – BUDGET DIRECTOR FOR CITY COUNCIL.**

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

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that there still needs to be work done in terms of clarifying the positions.

Council Member Mack said that the Council Members had been sent a copy of the amendments in the afternoon.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MACK MOVED TO AMEND BY SUBSTITUTION.**

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

Council Member Pereira said that she had not received the document. Atty. Anastasi said that he sent it out as soon as it was signed. Council Member Mack said that there was a copy of the document on all the Council Members' desks. He said that many of the changes were just clarifying the language and reviewed the changes with everyone. This is to help represent the

people the best that they can. If they are to do their best, this will assist them in serving their constituents.

Council Member Newton said it was time to bring the Council into the 21st Century. While he commends those who don't work for a living and can focus on the Council business, most of the Council Members do work. The City Clerk's office can't do press releases and it is time to separate the work and help the Council to do their job. It is time for them to do something for their constituents. Two years ago, the Council worked on this past year's budget and they don't get much credit for it.

Council Member Newton said that he was Council President in 1981 and here it was 2022. It is time to move forward.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the details of the language. He asked about the phrase "subject to [inaudible] and availability of funds", "appoint up to 5 legislative liaisons"; and "when in the opinion of 14 members". Discussion followed.

Council Member Herron said that it was about time to have staff to help the Council Members. There are municipalities that are smaller than Bridgeport and have multiple staff members to assist them. There is one person in the City Clerk's Office. Because Council Member Herron knows that the staff member has a great deal of work, Council Member Herron does her own work. It is time to look forward. They have to start somewhere. This is necessary for the constituents.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she agreed with Council Member McCarthy and would like the changes they asked for added in. She asked who would choose the Special Coordinator for the Council Legislative Services. Council President Nieves said that Civil Service would handle the process.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she would like confirmation that all the Council Members would have access to the staff.

Council Member Pereira said that this was a crazy process. She spoke about the number of legal opinions that had been issued and said that the latest opinion was released at 5:28 p.m. The amendment speak about the Council having to allocate funding for up to five staff, but the Council may only hire two or three. Her responsibility is to her constituents.

Something has to be done about the City Attorney since they have not been getting the legal opinions to the Council in a timely manner.

Council Member Lyons said that her concern was to ensure that the individual would not be politically affiliated and also that they would sign a confidentiality agreement. She added that the City Clerk's Office has been getting requests for things like garbage cans or pads of paper.

Council Member Mack said that he was concerned that the Council all agree on what they need to do. He added that he had been taking notes during the discussion to adjust the proposal.

Council Member Newton said that the reason why this was handled by Civil Service was so they would follow the procedure. He said that he did not know where the amount of half a million dollars came from. He said that he had spoken to his Budget co-chair, Council Member Burns and they did not think it would be hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Council Member Burns then suggested some language amendments. He added that the amount would be .08% of the City's budget and felt it was money well spent.

Council Member Pereira asked if it would be a majority of the whole or a majority of those present. Council President Nieves said it would be a majority of those present and voting.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MACK MOVED TO AMEND THE CONSOLIDATE THE LANGUAGE AS PRESENTED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

Council Member McBride-Lee asked for clarification on the hiring process. Atty. Anastasi said that because it would be handled through the Civil Service, it will be a qualified candidate. Discussion followed.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO AMEND THE CONSOLIDATE THE LANGUAGE AS PRESENTED PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, AND NEWTON) AND THREE (3) OPPOSED (PEREIRA, SMALL, VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 23-21 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2.06 – COMMON COUNCIL, AMEND SECTION 2.06.070 – OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AND AMEND TO ADD NEW SECTION(S) 2.06.080 – LEGISLATIVE AIDES FOR CITY COUNCIL, 2.06.090 – LEGISLATIVE AND LEGAL COUNSEL TO THE CITY COUNCIL AND 2.06.100 – BUDGET DIRECTOR FOR CITY COUNCIL AS AMENDED PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, AND NEWTON) AND THREE (3) OPPOSED (PEREIRA, SMALL, VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

**35-21 Ordinance Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing Administration of the Shared Mobility Device Program.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE ITEM.**

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

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that there had been a mention that this agreement was with one company. She added that there needs to be more accountability when picking up scooters and asked how long the contract would be.

Ms. Haig came forward and said that they have terms and conditions with the company. It will cover a 1-year period. If the City finds that a company is being unresponsive, they can pull the application.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia stated she would be voting against this.

Council Member Lyons said that she had seen someone hurt on the scooters and it has moved from the testing period and into permanent contract.

Council Member Herron said that the problem other municipalities experienced was because they were warm all year around rather than seasonal like Bridgeport. She said that she had seen the scooters picked up promptly and was in agreement with this. Each year, the company has to come back for a new agreement.

Council Member McCarthy requested to move question. Council Member Newton seconded.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 35-21 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADMINISTRATION OF THE SHARED MOBILITY DEVICE PROGRAM PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, PEREIRA, SMALL, AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA AND LYONS).**

**36-21 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12.16 – Street and Sidewalk Use Regulations, amend Sections 12.16.245 – Permit to Use City Streets and Sidewalks for the Shared Mobility Program and 12.16.250 – Miscellaneous Acts Prohibited.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE ITEM.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD SECONDED.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that they don't have bike lanes and that would put motorized vehicles on the sidewalks with children and the seniors. She will be voting against this.

Council Member Lyons said that she had concerns about the sidewalks, so will be voting against it as well. She saw someone who got hurt while riding on the sidewalk.

Council Member Herron said that there were bike riders who ride in the street where there are cracks and holes. It is the parent's responsibility to take care of their children. The Council has been waiting for years for bike lanes downtown.

Council Member Pereira said she had seen these used in her district. She has a lot of seniors in her District, so having them on the sidewalks could be dangerous for the seniors. This will make the company the only entity that can ride on the sidewalk.

Council Member Brown said that it was not going to be the only company that was going to be allowed to do this. He added that on some streets, there are cars parked on both sides of the street and it is too dangerous for the scooters to be in the street.

Council Member Hodges asked about the liability for these and whether there was revenue. Council Member Brown said that the company carried the liability and they had received some revenue during the test period.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 36-21 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 12.16 – STREET AND SIDEWALK USE REGULATIONS, AMEND SECTIONS 12.16.245 – PERMIT TO USE CITY STREETS AND SIDEWALKS FOR THE SHARED MOBILITY PROGRAM AND 12.16.250 – MISCELLANEOUS ACTS PROHIBITED PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, SMALL, AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (PEREIRA, MCBRIDE-LEE, VIZZO-PANICCIA AND LYONS).**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:**

Council President Nieves said that when they get to Agenda Item 32-21, those who are not on the CDBG Committee will have to abstain.

**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 THE ITEM.**

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

Council Member Pereira said that the case went viral on Facebook and in her two years on Council, they have paid out over \$2 million in damages. She then gave the details of the lawsuit. She said that she would be voting for this because the officer violated the victim's Civil Rights. She said that there needs to be accountability on this.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 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) PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, PEREIRA, SMALL, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (MCCARTHY).**

**34-21 Contracts Committee Report re: Assignment of Tax Liens for Fiscal Year 2022.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED THE ITEM.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that there were \$4 million dollars in tax liens on the list and she was not provided with the addresses. She doubted the accuracy of the information. She said that the people who purchase the liens will be charging an additional 3% more.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 34-21 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: ASSIGNMENT OF TAX LIENS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, AND NEWTON) AND THREE (3) OPPOSED (VALLE, PEREIRA AND SMALL).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AGENDA ITEM 33-21 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) PEREIRA & SMALL AND CO-SPONSOR CRUZ RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 10.32 – THE OPERATION OR USE OF DIRT BIKES, ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES, SNOWMOBILES, MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES, OR MINI CYCLES.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PERERIA SECONDED.**

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

Council Member Brown said that he had a last minute amendment for the item.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE ITEM.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM AGENDA ITEM 33-21 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) PEREIRA & SMALL AND CO-SPONSOR CRUZ RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 10.32 – THE OPERATION OR USE OF DIRT BIKES, ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES, SNOWMOBILES, MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES, OR MINI CYCLES BY SUBSTITUTION SECTION D 10.3 AS PRESENTED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PERERIA SECONDED.**

Council Member McCarthy asked about riding mowers. Council Member Brown said that there were some mowers that have plow attachments.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 33-21 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) PEREIRA & SMALL AND CO-SPONSOR CRUZ RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 10.32 – THE OPERATION OR USE OF DIRT BIKES, ALL-**



**TERRAIN VEHICLES, SNOWMOBILES, MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES, OR MINI CYCLES BY SUBSTITUTION AS PRESENTED PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, PEREIRA, SMALL, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 33-21 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) PEREIRA & SMALL AND CO-SPONSOR CRUZ RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 10.32 – THE OPERATION OR USE OF DIRT BIKES, ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES, SNOWMOBILES, MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES, OR MINI CYCLES BY SUBSTITUTION AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that dirt bikes were a problem due to the noise and the danger was obvious. However, placing the burden on the small business owner is wrong. They are not enforcing the current ordinance. She added that they will now be riding on the sidewalks because they see the scooters there.

Council Member Newton said that their constituents will think that they won't see dirt bikes on the street anymore. It's feel good legislation. There is nothing to stop the riders from going to Stratford, Trumbull and Fairfield. He encouraged his fellow Council Members to support it, but cautioned them against thinking this would stop the problem. He and Council Member Cruz spoke to some of the older riders about teaching the younger riders to ride safely because they will continue to ride. The police can't sit at gas stations waiting for a dirt bike or ATV to pull in. The Council Members are making an effort to do what they can. It will be important to tell their constituents the truth that which is this will not stop them.

Council Member Lyons said that she had received a long letter from Erica T. which would be submitted to the City Clerk's. She said that the Police Department has asked for the Council's help.

*Council President Nieves left the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Council Member Brown assumed the chairmanship of the meeting.*

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said when she sees the bikes coming down the street, there were many riders that were adults. This has become a situation and has gotten to the point where it is bad. She said that she was concerned about the small business owners.

*Council President Nieves rejoined the meeting at 8:41 p.m. and assumed the chairmanship.*

Council Member Herron said that this was one more thing on the small businesses. She said that in the past that they had talked about doing this on a State level. Enforcement is the key. She said that she would not vote for something that would affect the business owners.

Council Member Cruz said that he was opposed to this. He was not advocating that the riders continue to do what they do, but they were victimizing the gas station owners. He supports the police 100%. As a community organizer, he would go and talk to people about the various issues.

This is a feel good policy. Council Member Cruz said that there was a meeting with the riders to work on a solution. The majority of riders are black and brown. He said that he understood why people were intimidated but who were they punishing. When the riders heard about the changes with the gas stations, the riders came and spoke with the Council Members.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that most of the people riding the dirt bikes were over 20. She said that owners were not going to sell gas to others if it will cause a problem. She said that when she was coming home from work, she was suddenly surrounded by riders doing tricks on their bikes. If they don't check who they were selling the gas to, the police will. She said that they may be saving someone's life by laying down the law.

Council Member Hodges said that the gas station attendants are being put in the middle. He also pointed out that the riders also have credit cards and denying them the gas sale is losing money.

Council Member Hodges said that he did not agree with the way the riders are performing their stunts in traffic.

Council Member Pereira requested a roll call vote.

Council Member Pereira said that it is already illegal to ride on the sidewalk. She said that they should not be advocating space for riding.

Council Member Pereira said that POS systems are very advanced and they can work it so that the clerk can look up on the monitor to see if it's a vehicle before releasing the gas.

Council Member Pereira said that it does not mean that they can't purchase gas in cans. Other towns have crushed the riders by confiscating the ATVs and selling them. She reminded everyone that Lt. Cotto had said that they would be using City cameras to view the stations. Sometime just trying to help their constituents shows that the Council heard them and made an effort.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the company that had the scooters were liable. She said that the City should not open up an area for the riders and the liability that would go with it.

Council Member McCarthy requested the question be moved. There was a second.

Council Member Cruz said that just a few minutes ago they had passed 36-21 for the scooters and now they were banning the dirt bikes. The riders came to the Council in good faith.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 33-21 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) PEREIRA & SMALL AND CO-SPONSOR CRUZ RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 10.32 – THE OPERATION OR USE OF DIRT BIKES, ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES, SNOWMOBILES, MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES, OR MINI CYCLES BY SUBSTITUTION AS AMENDED PASSED WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, BROWN, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, PEREIRA, SMALL, AND NEWTON) AND SIX (6) OPPOSED (CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON AND VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

Council Member Newton asked for a point of personal privilege before the Council Members left the Chambers. He went on to say that he had asked Mr. Young to give the paperwork about his termination to Ms. Hawkins, who was the head of Labor Relations at the time. The documents were reviewed by Ms. Hawkins, and also by the court and later sent to Hartford for review. All those that had reviewed the documentation agreed that Mr. Young had been treated fairly. Mr. Young has come to the Council for the last 16 years about this and Council Member Newton has done all that he was able to do for Mr. Young. However, the answer was not the one that Mr. Young was looking to hear.

At the conclusion of Council Member Newton's remarks, the following Council Members left the Chambers: Burns, Cruz, Brown, Boyd, Lyons, Hodges, and Newton.

**32-21 Special Committee on CDBG Report re: Program Year 48 Annual Action Plan: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); Homeless Emergency Solutions Grant (HESG); HOME Investment Partnership Program and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA).**

Council Member Herron announced that there was a Scribner's error on the forms which needed to be corrected.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 32-21 SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CDBG REPORT RE: PROGRAM YEAR 48 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG); HOMELESS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (HESG); HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA) TO CORRECT THE CDBG PROGRAM ALLOCATION FROM \$3,471,698.00 TO \$3481,811.00.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member McCarthy stated that he felt that the CDBG allocations should be done only by the Citizen's Union rather than the Citizen's Union with the final figures determined by the Council Committee. He stated that he was not voting on this issue.

*Council Member McCarthy then left the Chambers.*

**\*\* THE MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 32-21 SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CDBG REPORT RE: PROGRAM YEAR 48 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG); HOMELESS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (HESG); HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA) TO CORRECT THE CDBG PROGRAM ALLOCATION FROM \$3,471,698.00 TO \$3481,811.00 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 32-21 SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CDBG REPORT RE: PROGRAM YEAR 48 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG); HOMELESS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (HESG); HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA) AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she had never heard about CDBG before coming onto the Council. She said that everything was in violation and listed how the process was not following the procedures. The amount of violations are too numerous to mention. She said that she had contacted HUD about this.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 32-21 SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CDBG REPORT RE: PROGRAM YEAR 48 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG); HOMELESS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (HESG); HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA) AS AMENDED PASSED SIX (6) IN FAVOR (CASTILLO, HERRON, MACK, MCBRIDE-LEE, SMITH AND VALLE) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (PEREIRA AND SMALL).**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services