

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
MONDAY, MAY 16, 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 6:36 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: Avelino Silva, 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 President Nieves reviewed the rules for Public Speaking. Council Member Newton stated that Council Member Simmons was not present due to illness. It was also noted that Council Member Roman-Christy was not present due to illness.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MAY 16, 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

City Finances.

City of Bridgeport
City Council Meeting
Regular Meeting
May 16, 2022

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

Playground Learning: Bridgeport Legacy

Status quo is a reference to the way things exist today, what folks expect to happen, or a current operating system that can be commonly observed. Sometimes the status quo models the statutes, ordinances, and laws of a community and other times the current structure and elected representatives indicate a variance.

When Joe Ganim entered his first sand box, he brought his own shovel and sand bucket as a privileged youngster. Did he learn to share with friends? When there were fights, was he a mediating voice for peace or was he found at the root of the dispute? Did he encourage diversity of playmates, or limit participants to those who can be managed? Are compensation and benefit rewards paid by taxes meant to purchase loyalty?

When Ganim left the sand box learning experience, he considered the seesaw and observed that if you load enough weight on one seat of the teeter totter, you could eliminate the weight of others by keeping them in the air and their feet off solid ground. No motion. One person in control . It was good. Can you see how the lesson of unbalancing this beam and keeping it unbalanced has served him well? The Council is called to speak up for the interests of all the people, without supporting cast. Mayor unchecked. Unbalanced.

But shockingly, authorities saw the corrupt behavior of Ganim1 and awarded him a profoundly serious time out. Time to think about life? Consider course changes? Members of the bar did not renew the right to practice. Instead, some folks of faith who trust in second chances as part of life offered mercy. Likely, they looked to him for different behavior that provides equal and open governance, accountable and regular oversight, transparency of fact and structure so that people can see the honest values, rather than suspect a conspiracy against fairness. (Why does the City web site continue to show that the City offers a FAIR RENT and FAIR HOUSING board when each of them expired for want of timely appointments by a series of mayors? What is FAIR about these eliminations of good governance?)

Why does the Mayor not encourage all employees, unionized and political appointees to be purposeful in their daily efforts for which they receive pay and large benefits? What theory of municipal management leave oversight of priorities and personnel to the winds? That which Tom McCarthy took away at one time from City Council use, permanent competent staffing, why is it so threatening to Ganim2? Will the TV cameras be on next Monday when the City Council next meets archiving the ongoing drama? Time will tell.

Helen Olga Losak
304 Bradley Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Noise Ordinance that
applies to daytime
hours and no annoyance to
neighbors.

Ms. Losak came forward and stated she lives in the 138th District. She stated that it was National Be Kind to Your Neighbor Day.

Ms. Losak went on to inform the Council Members that there was a Daytime Noise Ordinance, which has been in effect for several years. She said that she had called the police last week about a neighbor who was yelling and screaming at his children. She confronted the neighbor, who then claimed Ms. Losak was harassing him.

When the police officer arrived, the officer who had been on the force for five years, was unaware of the daytime noise ordinance. She was astonished by his lack of knowledge. She said the Council should make sure all the police officers are aware of this ordinance and obey it to make Bridgeport a better place for its residents. There needs to be a City-wide campaign against noise.

Maria Pereira
206 Bradley Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

In-person meetings & 2023 Budget
Fiasco.

Council Member Pereira said that the State statute that allows the Council to have the virtual meetings has been extended past May 1st by the legislature. She noted that the Council has to vote as a body to have virtual meetings. By not doing this, the Council is in violation of State statute. People have the right to see their legislators and she added they were denying people a fundamental principle of democracy.

Council Member Pereira said that the Council had become complacent. The Mayor is not at fault since the City Charter indicates that any three Council Members can submit a request to the Mayor for a Special Meeting. She said that they have to be strategic.

The Council needs to ask what they had done incorrectly and what they could do better. She suggested that they amend the ordinance for regular meetings since the calendar has to be submitted to the State by January 31st. The Council should schedule regular meetings for the last three days which can then be canceled if they are not needed. The City Council was played by the Mayor. Touché.

The Council needs to be more strategic when handling the City's budget.

Karen Jackson Street
213 Bunnell Street
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Sweeping, permanent parking on
city streets, lack of police follow
through of the noise ordinance, etc.

Ms. Jackson came forward and said she was having a problem with the Police Officers when she has called them. They refuse to take a report because she was not providing them with her I.D. One only needs to provide I.D. if one has committed a crime, but she had not committed a crime.

When she requested Police records, they will not release them without a driver's license. This was not noted on the records.

She added that there was an issue with noise pollution due to an impromptu social club. When she calls the police, nothing happens, until last week. One individual parked his car on the street for the last five and a half months without moving it. It was finally moved last week when the owner found out she was coming to the Council about this. She gave the details of the situation and claimed that the individual was selling drugs and has created a hostile environment by parking his vehicle directly in front of her residence. Now she has to cross the street to get to her car.

Ms. Jackson said that when she comes to City Hall, which is a public building, she has to tell the receptionist where she is going. She said that this was wrong.

Ms. Carmen Lopez was the next speaker signed up. She was not present.

Mr. Terry Sullivan came forward and said that he lives on Beacon Street. He said that he had filled out applications for the Boards and Commissions but had never received any response. He asked how to submit an application so that he will know that the administration had received it. He also asked how to find out which Boards and Commissions had vacancies.

Council President Nieves asked if he had the application with him. Mr. Sullivan said that he did not. Council President Nieves said she would meet Mr. Sullivan at City Hall the next day to get his application.

Mr. Christopher Caruso was the next speaker signed up. He was not present.

Ms. Callie Heilmann came forward and said that she lives on Grovers Avenue. She added that she was the co-director of Bridgeport Now. She said that she was present to thank the Council for standing up to the Mayor, who has repeatedly shown his desire to hold power over the Council, which is a duly elected legislative branch. This ignores the Charter and the will of the people. There is only one budget, not the Mayor's Budget or the Council's budget – it's just the City's budget.

The Committee worked hard to increase and decrease the budget and held public hearings to hear from the people. She said that the Council was supposed to vote on the Budget on May 9th. She said that the Mayor had cancelled the meeting because he did not like the budget and failed to schedule the meeting for May 10th. The Mayor has a line-item veto. He is not a good faith actor. She encouraged the Council to use the State statute to vote to amend the budget. The people of Bridgeport stand with the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the public session at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
City Council Meeting
Regular Meeting
May 16, 2022

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 16, 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 7:00 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member McBride-Lee to lead the Council in prayer. Council Member McBride-Lee prayed for the victims and families of the recent mass shootings in Buffalo, New York and LaGuna Woods, California.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

Council Member Newton stated that Council Member Simmons was not present due to illness. It was also noted that Council Member Roman-Christy was not present due to illness.

73-21 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Approving Programs for Connecticut 2022 Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program Applications.

Mayor Gamin called the Public Hearing to order at 7:02 p.m.

Council Member Pereira said that there were issues with the program in the past because the Council Members didn't receive copies of the applications. She said that this year, she had received the applications. One of the applications was for a library for Cornwall, Connecticut. She said there were applications from non-profits and mentioned the Boys and Girls Club who been asking for funding for fixing elevators but they also had applied for CDBG funding. Fixing the elevator has nothing to do with programming. She said that this was a reflection on OPED because they allowed these applications to go forward.

Ms. Losak came forward and said that she was a taxpayer but had never heard of this program. She said that she was not aware of it until she looked at the agenda. She was surprised that this was not advertised because it could help businesses. People need to know what is available from the government and how to qualify for it.

Mr. Joel Estrada came forward and asked what the applications were for and where they were available. Mayor Ganim said that they would send him the information.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

• **April 18, 2022**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 18, 2022 MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira stated that there were numerous errors in the minutes and said that she would be sending a list of those corrections to the Council Members.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 18, 2022 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, HODGES NIEVES, VALLE, SMALL AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

77-21 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Fernando Oquendo – Docket # FBT- CV21- 6108122-S, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

78-21 Communication from Health & Social Services re: Proposed Resolution regarding the MPH Fieldwork Education Agreement with the University of Bridgeport/ Goodwin University, referred to Contracts Committee.

79-21 Communication from OPED re: (Ref. # 36-21) Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12.16 – Street and Sidewalk Use Regulations, amend Section 12. 16.245 – Permit to Use City Streets and Sidewalks for the Shared Mobility Program, referred to Ordinance Committee.

81-21 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Establishment of the Upper East Side Neighborhood Revitalization Zone and its Boundaries, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

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

77-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF FERNANDO OQUENDO – DOCKET # FBT- CV21- 6108122-S, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

78-21 COMMUNICATION FROM HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING THE MPH FIELDWORK EDUCATION AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT/ GOODWIN UNIVERSITY, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

79-21 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: (REF. # 36-21) PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 12.16 – STREET AND SIDEWALK USE REGULATIONS, AMEND SECTION 12. 16.245 – PERMIT TO USE CITY STREETS AND SIDEWALKS FOR THE SHARED MOBILITY PROGRAM, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

81-21 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UPPER EAST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION ZONE AND ITS BOUNDARIES, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

* 64-21 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the 2022 “ Second” Round of Sidewalk Repair Pilot Program.

* 71-21 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – Airport Improvement Program (# 22334).

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

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

*** 64-21 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE 2022 “ SECOND” ROUND OF SIDEWALK REPAIR PILOT PROGRAM.**

*** 71-21 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) – AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (#22334).**

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

82-21 Resolution presented by Council Member(s): Mack, Nieves, Burns, Newton, McCarthy & Herron re: Proposed Resolution regarding the Budget and Appropriations Amended 2022- 2023 Municipal Budget, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO REFER AGENDA ITEM 82-21 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S): MACK, NIEVES, BURNS, NEWTON, MCCARTHY & HERRON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS AMENDED 2022- 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET BACK TO COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO REFER AGENDA ITEM 82-21 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S): MACK, NIEVES, BURNS, NEWTON, MCCARTHY & HERRON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS AMENDED 2022- 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET BACK TO COMMITTEE PASSED WITH PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, HODGES NIEVES, VALLE, PEREIRA, SMALL AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (MCCARTHY).**

83-21 Resolution presented by Council President Nieves and Councilmember(s): Mack, Burns, Newton, McCarthy & Herron re: Proposed Resolution for obtaining an Independent Legal Opinion for the City Council, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

**** COUNCILPRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AGENDA ITEM 83-21 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES AND COUNCILMEMBER(S): MACK, BURNS, NEWTON, MCCARTHY & HERRON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR OBTAINING AN INDEPENDENT LEGAL OPINION FOR THE CITY COUNCIL, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira requested a roll call on this item.

Council Member Pereira said that the item was not properly noticed and said that it was not an urgent matter as it has to do with having legal counsel in the future. She said that she was opposed to this and would be filing a complaint with the FOIA if it passes because it is a flagrant violation of the FOIA.

Council Member Newton asked his fellow Council Members to support this item.

Council Member Burns said that the it was clear that the Council Members were asking for an independent legal opinion.

Council Member Cruz said that he would be supporting the resolution. After this past week, the Council needs their own attorney to help them. He felt that the administration had been disrespectful to the Council and treated them like a little child. Council Member Cruz said that he was present to represent his District and the City Attorney's Office had acted disgracefully towards the Council. He said that he had wanted to thank the Council Members for their hard

work. He will continue to speak his mind about the disrespectful manner in which the Council Members were treated.

Council Member Mack said that he was disappointed with how this came out and was sorry that the residents saw how this played out. The City Attorney is supposed to be impartial. He said that the legislative and administrative branches were equal parts and he would support this item.

Council Member Herron said that they have been trying to get their own independent attorney because the community needs this. They have been trying to get this done for years. They need to have guidance on the statute so they will know what to do.

Council Member Lyons asked Atty. Anastasi to give an explanation about Agenda Item 83-21 - Resolution presented by Council President Nieves and Councilmember(s): Mack, Burns, Newton, McCarthy & Herron re: Proposed Resolution for obtaining an Independent Legal Opinion for the City Council.

Atty. Anastasi said that there was a certain amount of specificity in the wording. He said that the Council would have to justify what the urgency was for immediate consideration and include it on the record.

Atty. Anastasi said that Council President Nieves had referred to having three attorneys interviewed. He reviewed the process and noted that the final step was having the City Attorney sign off on it. This needs to be done according to the Charter. He repeated that the urgency for immediate consideration needed to be included in the record.

Council Member Lyons said that she would like to see this referred to Committee because she believes that they need an attorney for all the issues.

Atty. Anastasi said that when there is a conflict the charter says that the City Attorney would assign an outside counsel.

Council Member Burns said that regarding the timing of the request, there was nothing that states it has to be an emergency. He said that the Council could request outside counsel at any time for any reason.

Council Member McCarthy said that he agreed that the Council needs outside counsel and there should be an investigation into the City Attorney's office to identify the leak. He said that there should be a vote. The Council spent hours and hours and in the end were disrespected because the Council should have the right to vote. He said that the Finance staff sat with the Committee through all those hours, too.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she did not want to wake up and see a Connecticut Post or Channel 12 article about the Council. Council Member McBride-Lee said that she had voted

against the budget because right is right and wrong is wrong. The whole Council needs to make the decision and it needs to be done right.

Council Member Pereira asked what part of the vote they were on. She wished to clarify this vote was on suspending the rules for immediate consideration. Council Member Pereira said that this was about getting a one-time legal opinion, not selecting legal counsel for the Council. She read a portion of Section 5 of the rules about taking a vote on immediate consideration.

They need a roll call vote for immediate consideration.

Council Member McCarthy asked if the item would be referred to Committee if the motion failed to pass. He was told that this was so.

**** THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AGENDA ITEM 83-21 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES AND COUNCILMEMBER(S): MACK, BURNS, NEWTON, MCCARTHY & HERRON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR OBTAINING AN INDEPENDENT LEGAL OPINION FOR THE CITY COUNCIL, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, PEREIRA AND SMALL).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 83-21 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES AND COUNCILMEMBER(S): MACK, BURNS, NEWTON, MCCARTHY & HERRON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR OBTAINING AN INDEPENDENT LEGAL OPINION FOR THE CITY COUNCIL.
** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO FOR THE PURPOSE OF SCHEDULING TWO (2) PUBLIC HEARINGS ON AGENDA ITEM 52-21 AND AGENDA ITEM 65-21 FOR JULY 5TH AT 6:20 P.M.
** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira stated that the subject of the Agenda Items being proposed for public hearings should be announced.

Council Member Brown replied that Agenda Item 52-21 involved an amendment to the purchasing procedures and Agenda Item 65-21 concerned amendments to the Storm Water Management Manual.

**** THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO FOR THE PURPOSE OF SCHEDULING TWO (2) PUBLIC HEARINGS ON AGENDA ITEM 52-21 AND AGENDA ITEM 65-21 FOR JULY 5TH AT 6:20 P.M. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

52-21 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 3.08 – CITY CONTRACT AND PURCHASING PROCEDURES, AMEND SECTION 3.08.070 – PURCHASING PROCEDURE.

65-21 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 15 – BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION, AMEND CHAPTER 15.48 – STORM WATER MANAGEMENT MANUAL.

FOR JULY 5TH AT 6:20 P.M.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

80-21 Communication from OPM re: Establishing of Mill Rates for Fiscal Year 2022- 2023, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED AGENDA ITEM 80-21 COMMUNICATION FROM OPM RE: ESTABLISHING OF MILL RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022- 2023, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**** THE MOTION FAILED DUE TO LACK OF A SECOND.**

Council Member Lyons asked what would happen with the mill rate if legal counsel opined that the Council was correct with their concerns.

Council Member Pereira asked when the Charter required the mill rate to be set. Mayor Ganim announced that the mill rate needed to be confirmed that day.

Discussion followed about the car taxes, which Council Member Pereira claimed had not been adjusted properly. Therefore, the budget was incorrect.

Council Member Newton said that the budget adjustments should be made before the vote.

Council Member Pereira said that the motion to suspend the rules to add to the agenda would require a 2/3rd majority. The next vote for immediate consideration would require a 2/3rds majority. She stated it was outrageous that the Council Members had not received the documentation until 4 p.m. She listed the various votes that were required and the majorities needed in order to pass those items.

Mayor Ganim announced that the first vote would be for adding the item to the agenda for immediate consideration. This would require a 2/3rds majority.

The next vote taken concerns the immediate consideration and also requires a 2/3rds majority. The final vote will encompass the entire budget and be a substantive vote.

Council Member Herron said that she was tired of Council Members shouting over the other speakers. She encouraged the Mayor to shut down the microphones on those who are not respectful.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Newton said that the Council needs to adhere to the rules.

Council Member Pereira stated she had requested a roll call vote. Mayor Ganim said that there would be a roll call vote.

Council Member Burns noted that there had been much work done on the budget and it was a shame that the BOE would not be getting more money. However, it was not the fault of the Council.

Council Member Herron said that it was the vote to add it to the agenda. It is not the perfect budget, but it needs to be added to the agenda for discussion. She said that it was sad to see all the quibbling.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION PASSED WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE AND NEWTON) AND SIX (6) OPPOSED (BURNS, MCCARTHY, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, PEREIRA AND SMALL).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO REFER “PROPOSED BUDGET MODIFICATIONS TO THE FY 2022-2023 GENERAL FUND BUDGET: INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS” TO COMMITTEE. (ITEM #84-21)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SMALL SECONDED.**

City of Bridgeport
City Council Meeting
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Council Member Burns asked for clarification. Council Member Pereira said that they could call a special meeting about this because she had received seven pages of documentation on this.

**** THE MOTION TO REFER “PROPOSED BUDGET MODIFICATIONS TO THE FY 2022-2023 GENERAL FUND BUDGET: INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS” TO COMMITTEE FAILED TO PASS WITH SEVEN (7) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, PEREIRA AND SMALL) AND ELEVEN (11) OPPOSED (CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE AND NEWTON).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF “PROPOSED BUDGET MODIFICATIONS TO THE FY 2022-2023 GENERAL FUND BUDGET: INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS”**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF “PROPOSED BUDGET MODIFICATIONS TO THE FY 2022-2023 GENERAL FUND BUDGET: INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS” PASSED WITH THIRTEEN (13) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE AND NEWTON) AND FIVE (5) OPPOSED (MCCARTHY, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, PEREIRA AND SMALL).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED A SERIES OF AMENDMENTS THE BUDGET THAT HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO THE COUNCIL “PROPOSED BUDGET MODIFICATIONS TO THE FY 2022-2023 GENERAL FUND BUDGET: INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS” FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION. (ITEM #84-21)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that they could not amend the budget. Discussion followed.

**** THE MOTION TO ADD TO THE AGENDA A SERIES OF AMENDMENTS THE BUDGET THAT HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO THE COUNCIL “PROPOSED BUDGET MODIFICATIONS TO THE FY 2022-2023 GENERAL FUND BUDGET: INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS” FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION FAILED TO PASS WITH THIRTEEN (13) IN FAVOR (CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE AND NEWTON) AND FIVE (5) OPPOSED (BURNS, MCCARTHY, LYONS, PEREIRA AND SMALL).**

Council Member Brown and Council Member Boyd left the meeting at 8:19 p.m. A quorum was still present.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED ESTABLISHMENT OF MILL RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022- 2023.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services