

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06604**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Nieves called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. A quorum was present.

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. It was announced that Council Members McCarthy and Valle were out of town and Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia was not present due to illness.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604.

NAME

SUBJECT

Helen Olga Losak
304 Bradley Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

The challenge – Be kind, nice and respectful.

Ms. Losak came forward with Devon Brown and said that this was the International Day of Gay Music.

She said that they wanted to present a song to the Council. They sang the Song "Everyday People"

She challenged all the residents to be kind and respectful to everyone else.

Rene A. Mezariegos

Parks.

A205 Bld.39
Success Village
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Mr. Mezariegos came forward to speak about his concern that people from out of state would be coming to use the parks in Bridgeport. He spoke about how the Latin community had worked with the City of Bridgeport.

Chris Taylor

Big trucks taking up all the parking.

155 Davenport Street
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Mr. Taylor greeted the Council Members. He said that he was concerned about trucks parking on the street. He suggested a lot where there had been demolished and the acreage was level and could be used to park many trucks on it.

Mr. Taylor said that he was also concerned about the dirt bike riders and had a suggestion for handling the problem.

John Marshall Lee

Available housing.

30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

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

Bridgeport Council members, In the thirty-minute allocation you have provided to the public to raise issues at each session, I look to address the matter of housing quality and residences for all once again. What can you do about such matters as Council members? I can suggest that if you have no Council Committee to successfully address an issue that you look at City Boards and Commissions.

That may sound counterintuitive in a City where you have been informed, repeatedly, that Mayoral process, based on the City Charter and practice for too many years has left taxpayers with a website listing many Boards and Commissions, most with vacancies and members serving beyond term expires. Fewer than half of those serving are present in their initial term, yet to reach the expiry date.

And the two Boards, each of which represent FAIR practices, are Fair Rent and Fair Housing. If the operation of the Charter and lack of concern for active citizen governance by a Mayor or series of them, allows two groups to sicken into inactivity and ultimately death, what are you to say assuming oversight is one of your duties? Is anyone proud of this purposeful record even though no one claims responsibility? Thousands of people? Tens of millions of dollars?

Housing and Urban Development supplies framework, funding, and some administration for thousands of residential units in the City. How do you interact with them? The Stratfield Apartments are but one example of 191 units of such housing. Around Thanksgiving last year, a gathering of Council members, Federal elect, residents fearing personal safety on elevators, NAACP members, and others including Council Members Cruz and Mack, provided a spotlight to Channel 12 and other media. Tenants have moved away. But the appointment of an experienced and professional Resident Service Coordinator, with years of equivalent service in listening, confidentiality and advocacy for tenants and a separation from routine business administrative duties, provides reason to hope that fears can be understood, injustices eliminated, and quality community living can be an expectation.

A gathering of tenants is planned for July 12 to meet the new Coordinator, hear about the opportunity to form a Tenant Representative group, and discuss such other subjects as may be raised.

The CT Post carried a legal notice of a Public Meeting to be held on July 13, 2022, at 3 PM to review the 2023 Annual Plan and the 2022 Capital Fund Annual Plan. Which Council subcommittee or Bridgeport Board or Committee group will attend such a meeting as a matter of course to understand the planning, the funding, and the expected results? What questions might the elected representatives of the people of the City occur that need answers to improve the quality of life of all? Time will tell.

Maria Pereira
206 Bradley Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Redistricting

Council Member Pereira came forward and mentioned that Remington Woods Park was in her district.

Council Member Pereira then stated that there had been gerry-mandering in the district. She stated that there were districts that had been completely gerry-mandered. This was unethical, unprincipled and dishonest. She noted that the Special Committee on Redistricting had held one meeting when the census data was presented. Now, despite the fact that this Committee had not met again, the proposed maps were being referred to Ordinance. No one has seen these maps yet.

City of Bridgeport
City Council Meeting
Regular Meeting
June 21, 2022

Council Member Pereira said that the 138th District was underpopulated by over 900 residents which is a -6.8% while the 139th District has more than 600 residents than allowed with a 4.49% increase. The 132nd was slightly off by -1.3%.

She asked how it was that City Clerk Martinez's home and her tract had been shifted into the 139th District. Council Member Pereira asked if they were scared of a 76-year-old woman.

Council President Nieves said that personal attacks were not allowed. Council Member Pereira replied that she still had the floor and was speaking. Council President Nieves said this was out of order. Council Member Pereira said even if Council President Nieves did not like this, she was allowing it. She then stated that they would be going to court and she would be teaching Council President Nieves a lesson. Council President Nieves repeated that Council Member Pereira was out of order. Council Member Pereira stated that this was not a dictatorship and repeated that she would see Council President Nieves in court.

Mr. Terry Sullivan
Bridgeport, Ct.

Mr. Sullivan came forward and commented that he was pleased that the parks were being so well maintained.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the public session at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 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 7:08 p.m.

PRAYER

Council President Nieves asked Council Member McBride-Lee to lead the Council in prayer. Council Member McBride-Lee prayed for Pastor Gaston who recently lost a family member. She requested a moment of silence for the Gaston family.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

City Clerk 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
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137th District: Aidee Nieves, *Maria Valle*
138th District: Maria Pereira, Michele Small
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A quorum was present. The names in italics did not appear to respond during the roll call. It was announced that Council Members McCarthy and Valle were out of town and Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia was not present due to illness.

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

93-21 Request to Order a Public Hearing for Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. re: Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.06 – Common Council, amend Section 2.06.010 – Districts for Election of Council Members.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED AGENDA ITEM 93-21 REQUEST TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2.06 – COMMON COUNCIL, AMEND SECTION 2.06.010 – DISTRICTS FOR ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, SMALL, SIMMONS AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

• May 16, 2022

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2022 MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2022 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, NIEVES, SMALL, PEREIRA AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (SIMMONS AND ROMAN-CHRISTY).**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

91-21 Communication from Public Facilities re: Proposed Resolution regarding the 2022 “Third” Round of City Sidewalk Repair Pilot Program, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

92-21 Communication from Labor Relations re: Updated ranges for Officers’ and Unaffiliated Employee Salaries pursuant to and as required by Municipal Code Section 2.36.010, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

94-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: CT Department of Education – Summer Enrichment Grant Program (#22681), referred to Education and Social Services Committee.

95-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: CT Department of Agriculture – Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (#23431), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

96-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Long Island Sound Futures Fund (#23614), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

97-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging (SWCAA) – Title III Funding Older Americans Act Grant Program – Elderly Hispanic Program (#23270), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

98-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging (SWCAA) – Title III Funding Older Americans Act Grant Program – Bridgeport Senior Center Recreation Activities (#23533), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

99-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Grant-In-Aid-Beardsley Zoo Improvements, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

100-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Urban Green & Community Garden Initiative Grant, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

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

93-21 Resolution presented by Council President Nieves and Co-sponsor(s): Brown & Newton re: Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.06 – Common Council, amend Section 2.06.010 – Districts for Election of Council Members, referred to Ordinance Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WITH THE NOTE THAT DUE TO A SCRIBNER’S ERROR, AGENDA ITEM 93-21 SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE:**

91-21 COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC FACILITIES RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING THE 2022 “THIRD” ROUND OF CITY SIDEWALK REPAIR PILOT PROGRAM, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

92-21 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS RE: UPDATED RANGES FOR OFFICERS' AND UNAFFILIATED EMPLOYEE SALARIES PURSUANT TO AND AS REQUIRED BY MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.36.010, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

94-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – SUMMER ENRICHMENT GRANT PROGRAM (#22681), REFERRED TO EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

95-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – LOCAL FOOD PURCHASE ASSISTANCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM (#23431), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

96-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION – LONG ISLAND SOUND FUTURES FUND (#23614), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

97-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING (SWCAA) – TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM – ELDERLY HISPANIC PROGRAM (#23270), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

98-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING (SWCAA) – TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM – BRIDGEPORT SENIOR CENTER RECREATION ACTIVITIES (#23533), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

99-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT-IN-AID-BEARDSLEY ZOO IMPROVEMENTS, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

100-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION URBAN GREEN & COMMUNITY

GARDEN INITIATIVE GRANT, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

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

93-21 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES AND CO-SPONSOR(S): BROWN & NEWTON RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2.06 – COMMON COUNCIL, AMEND SECTION 2.06.010 – DISTRICTS FOR ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS, REFERRED TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***85-21 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Municipal Suspense Tax Book.**

***87-21 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds and the Reallocation of City Bond Proceeds for Certain Board of Education Capital Projects – To Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects.**

***78-21 Contracts Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the MPH Fieldwork Education Agreement with the University of Bridgeport/Goodwin University.**

***73-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Approving Programs for Connecticut 2022 Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program Applications.**

Council President Nieves asked if any Council Member wished to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Pereira requested that Agenda Item 73-21 be removed.

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

***85-21 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK.**

***87-21 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND THE REALLOCATION OF CITY BOND PROCEEDS FOR CERTAIN BOARD OF**

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS – TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

***78-21 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE MPH FIELDWORK EDUCATION AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT/GOODWIN UNIVERSITY.**

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

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

86-21 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Refund Certain General Obligation Bonds.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 86-21 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO REFUND CERTAIN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS.
** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED.**

Council Member Burns explained this is a resolution to refund certain bonds that would be advantageous to the City in terms of reducing the interest.

Council Member Pereira said at the Committee meeting there was a lengthy debate about interest rates. Following that meeting the Feds made the largest increased the interest rates in 40 years. She will oppose this.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 86-21 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO REFUND CERTAIN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS PASSED WITH THIRTEEN (13) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, NIEVES, SIMMONS AND NEWTON) AND THREE (3) ABSTENTIONS (CASTILLO, SMALL AND PEREIRA).**

73-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Approving Programs for Connecticut 2022 Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program Applications.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 73-21 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION APPROVING PROGRAMS FOR CONNECTICUT 2022 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE TAX CREDIT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she had raised a number of questions about the incomplete applications and wanted copies of the leases for the organizations but did not receive a response until May 19th. This is why Bridgeport is a laughingstock in Hartford. Bridgeport just rubber stamps the applications. Many of the applications are problematic. She will not support this.

Council Member Pereira also noted that the Cornwall Library had also applied for funding.

Council Member Newton said that the Council's job was not to micromanage the applications. It is not the job of the Committee to play God or cross out poor grammar.

Council Member Pereira objected when Council Member Newton mentioned her name. Council President Nieves referred to Council Rule 26.

Council Member Newton said that when there are small towns that do not have access to this type of funding and the State law indicates that they can apply through another municipality.

Council Member McBride-Lee pointed out that the Boys Club had asked for the same amount of money and she did not think they should send that application to Hartford because the Council knows that the CDBG funding had been allocated for the elevator. This is wrong for them to put two applications in for the same project.

Council Member Burns said that the non-profits and corporations can apply to the State but the entire program is capped at \$5 million dollars. He said that OPED would be contacting the State OPM about this. This issue was raised in committee. The City is merely a conduit and the State determines how much money the applicants are awarded.

Council Member Herron said that she would like to know if they could remove the application. Council Member Burns said that the information is referred to the State OPM. It is not really a City program. The applications were assembled a few months ago and it is possible that there were other applicants that had received funding from other sources. Discussion followed.

Council Member Pereira said that there was no accountability and the best way to teach people accountability is to say no. She read the resolution and said that Cornwall did not have any programs in Bridgeport.

Council Member Burns and Council Member Newton both stated that they had included the issues regarding the elevator funding in the resolution.

Council Member Roman-Christy said that she agreed with Council Member Newton and confirmed that Mr. Max Perez would be informing the State OPM that the Boys Club had received funding for the elevator.

Council Member Castillo said that he had been on the Council for 5 terms. He said that he had been working on the Orcutt Boys Club even though it was not in his district. He said that he was the only one that fights for those kids. There were two different applications submitted. This was \$800,000 for fixing up a historic building for the City's children. The Council is supposed to serve the City. This is the only Boys Club that is still open on the East Side. It is time to find a solution rather than pointing fingers.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she did not know that they had contacted the State about the elevators. Council President Nieves said that the Boys Club has received funding for the architect.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 73-21 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION APPROVING PROGRAMS FOR CONNECTICUT 2022 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE TAX CREDIT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, SIMMONS AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (SMALL AND PEREIRA).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA REGARDING A REFERRING A COURT CASE TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira asked why there was no Executive Summary presented. Interim City Attorney Anastasi said she should contact his office.

**** THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA REGARDING A REFERRING A COURT CASE TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK MOVED TO REFER THE MATTER OF GALE VS. CITY OF BRIDGEPORT TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO REFER THE MATTER OF GALE VS. CITY OF BRIDGEPORT TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #101-21)**

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO ADJOURN**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Telesco Secretarial Services