

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 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 Assistant City Clerk Frances Ortiz 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, Samia Suliman
139th District: Wanda Simmons, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. The names in italics did not appear to respond during the roll call. Council Members McCarthy and Brown had an excused absence. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia was absent due to a death in the family.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 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

Cowboy City – that’s not our style.

Ms. Losak came forward and greeted the Commissioners. She said that Bridgeport was becoming a Cowboy City due to the increase in gun violence. Duels were originally fought with swords and fought not to kill, but to gain satisfaction. It dates back to the 14th Century and there

were rules. Duels were ruled out in England in the 18th Century and later outlawed in the U.S. in the 1900's. The rules were changed because of public opinion and now there is the same problem in Bridgeport.

Ellie Angerame
497 Laurel Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605

How Urban Agriculture is growing in
Bridgeport the summer and fall of 2022.



August 1, 2022

Dear Members of the City Council,

Hello, my name is Ellie Angerame, I'm the Executive Director of Green Village Initiative. Beside me stands Julianna Solivan, a returning youth in her second year of GVI's Youth Leadership Program.

GVI is on a mission to grow food, knowledge, leadership and community through urban gardening and farming, to create a more just food system in Bridgeport.

We dream of a future for Bridgeport where all of us, in every district and zipcode, can access fresh, affordable, nutritious food that reflects the diversity of Bridgeport's community.

Tonight, we come before you to share news of what's "growing on" in our City and the very tangible impacts of you supporting our lease renewal in the Spring of this year.

This summer, our youth and farm teams, comprising 18 employees living and working in Bridgeport, are harvesting 30 varieties of fruits, herbs, and vegetables for our weekly Farmers Market where we double SNAP, WIC, and Senior dollars and help hundreds of our neighbors afford more vegetables with Bridgeport Bucks.

Each Saturday we host free walk-in hours to learn from urban farmers, as well as volunteer opportunities for all ages. This year alone we have hosted field trips for 150 Bridgeport school children, and hosted over 39 free farming workshops, events, and garden clean ups including: urban beekeeping, yoga, and composting classes.

Word of Bridgeport's urban farm is growing! We were chosen by CT's Department of Agriculture to host its annual Farm to Chef Week event in September highlighting local chefs, local vegetables, and local farmers - we hope you'll join us.

I will now invite Julianna Solivan to share her experience:

Hello City Council, my name is Julianna Solivan. I am 15 years old and go to Central High school. This summer is my second summer working at Reservoir Community Farm as a Youth Food Leader.

Some of the opportunities I have had as a food leader include workshops about Hydroponics, an herb walk with an herbalist, and an Identity Workshop last week led by Arnold, another youth! We also go on trips like to Yale's Farm and hiking to learn about native plants and connect to other farmers for inspiration.

To be honest I never thought I'd be speaking at a meeting to the City Council regarding GVI. This is the moment that GVI has been nurturing us for. GVI teaches us youth to have a voice in a world where we don't always have one.

It is a place where people feel safe and welcome in a city that sometimes isn't. GVI's farm is a place where youth and adults gain knowledge and start to believe in themselves due to acceptance and respect. I have learned so much during the time I have spent working for GVI.

I hope some of you can come to my graduation - invitations are in your sample bags with herbs and tomatoes I grew! Thank you!

Alexandria Almeida
135 Clarence Street
Bridgeport, CT 06608

Community Gardening in Bridgeport this summer – updates, insights, events and what's getting harvested now!



135 Clarence Street
Bridgeport, CT

Dear Members of the City Council,

My name is Alexandria Almeida. I joined Green Village Initiative in April as the Community Gardens Coordinator. I understand that representing these neighborhoods, you as council members acknowledge the importance of providing fresh, local, affordable, and nutritious food that reflects the diversity of this city. Thank you in particular to Councilman Cruz for attending a Ridge Ave Gardener Gathering on July 20th. It meant a lot to us to have an elected official coming out to share a meal, celebrate urban agriculture and our mission. What an incredible WHY to get behind and learn more about how to help.

As a newcomer to this space, I'm grateful to speak with you on my experiences, albeit brief...

(pause)

It is said that farmers are the greatest peacemakers of today. I regularly witness peacemakers here in your neighborhoods up early and awake late tending to the land. Twelve community gardens that are led by leaders from all walks of life, ranging from an herbalist in their ~~late~~ twenties, to a Boriqua matriarch who celebrated her 86th birthday this year!

Now, if you have spent time with hands in the soil, you understand how physically hard it can be. I have worked alongside these captains, their gardeners and community volunteers in rain and shine; tilling, lifting, planting, weeding, watering and problem solving. In the hotter than ever week of July 18, we held a volunteer day with close to 30 UB students at Hough Ave Garden AND hosted a gardener gathering at Ridge Ave Garden with 19 gardeners.

Why is this important? Because it shows how these gardens bring people together! Over 120 gardeners and their families have community garden plots this season. Many of these folks also share their bounty with neighbors, friends, and local organizations in need. They are providing healthy food, farm to table style, to the people you serve and represent.

One of our newest gardeners revealed to me that this has been life saving. The isolation brought on by Covid had been unbearable, mentally and spiritually, for her. Now, she has a quiet place within a ^{sometimes} noisy city, renewed purpose in feeding her family, and human connection! We have hosted 4 Summer gardener gatherings

where we come together over a meal sourced by local chefs and share our farming experiences.

These gardens have renewed my faith. Faith in our young people because they want to support Bridgeport and see community gardens as a way to serve. In four

months, we've hosted 10 events with volunteers from the Mayor's Youth Conservation Corps, Full Circle Youth Empowerment, Sacred Heart University, UB and Fairfield U, among others.

In closing, I look forward to recruiting more families to grow in community gardens, educating on sustainable growing practices, and finding ways where we all patiently, like plants, work together in support of community gardens as places for creating a more just food system in Bridgeport. Thank you.
Sincerely,

Alexandria Almeida
Community Gardens Coordinator

Eneida Martinez
Connecticut Avenue
Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Martinez said that she was before the Council about the behavior of Council Members. She said that when she was on the Council, she was chastised in the Connecticut Post and other information outlets for something she had done.

Ms. Martinez went on to speak about how Council Member Pereira had published a number of statements about Ms. Wanda Jetter and her involvement in the voting process.

Council Member Pereira interrupted Ms. Martinez's comments several times and was finally called out of order by Council President Nieves.

Mr. Terry Sullivan
1115 Main Street
Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Sullivan said that he was speaking about Seaside Park and what a great place it was to hang out and enjoy the City. He mentioned a skate park that had been removed and asked that the City consider building a skate park for the kids.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the public session at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
August 1, 2022

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 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 7:15 p.m.

PRAYER

Council Member Newton came forward and led those present in prayer. He announced that Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia had lost her mother recently. He added that Former Registrar of Voters Nereyda Robles also passed away recently and requested a moment of silence in memory of them.

At the conclusion of the moment of silence, Council Member Newton announced that it was Council Member Lyons' birthday.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

The Assistant City Clerk Ms. Ortiz 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, Samia Suliman
139th 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 Member Brown and McCarthy were absent due to conflicts in their schedules.

Mayor Ganim then announced he would be presenting a Certificate to the Connecticut Workers Center. He added that it was International Worker's Day.

Mayor Ganim then had the member of the Connecticut Workers Center come forward for the presentation.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

• **June 21, 2022**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 22, 2022 MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

The following correction was noted:

Page 10, regarding Agenda Item 86-21: please change the following from:

**** 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).**

TO:

**** 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) AGAINST (CASTILLO, SMALL AND PEREIRA).**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 21, 2022 AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

107-21 Communication from Public Facilities re: Proposed Resolution regarding the 2022 “Fourth” Round of City Sidewalk Repair Pilot Program, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

108-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: U.S. Department of Justice FY 2022 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program (#23312), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

109-21 Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re: Proposed Prescription Drug Benefit Administration Agreement between the City of Bridgeport, the Bridgeport Board of Education and OptumRx, referred to Contracts Committee.

110-21 Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re: Proposed 2022 Renewal Addendum and Amendment to the Anthem Medicare Preferred (PPO) Group Agreement between the City of Bridgeport, the Board of Education and Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc., referred to Contracts Committee.

112-21 Communication from Civil Service Commission re: Proposed Update to the Job Description of the Classification of Tax Assessor pursuant to Civil Service Rule IX, sec 3., referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

113-21 Communication from Civil Service Commission re: Proposed Approval of a New Job Classification and Specifications of the Health Code Enforcement Inspector Position pursuant to Municipal Charter Chapter 17 Section 206(d)., referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

114-21 Communication from Civil Service Commission re: Proposed Approval of a New Job Classification and Specifications of the Healthcare Administration Position pursuant to Municipal Charter Chapter 17 Section 206(d)., referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR REFERRAL:**

107-21 COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC FACILITIES RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING THE 2022 “FOURTH” ROUND OF CITY SIDEWALK REPAIR PILOT PROGRAM, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

108-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FY 2022 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM (#23312), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

109-21 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS AND BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION RE: PROPOSED PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION AND OPTUMRX, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

110-21 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS AND BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION RE: PROPOSED 2022 RENEWAL ADDENDUM AND AMENDMENT TO THE ANTHEM MEDICARE PREFERRED (PPO) GROUP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ANTHEM INSURANCE COMPANIES, INC., REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

112-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION RE: PROPOSED UPDATE TO THE JOB DESCRIPTION OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF TAX ASSESSOR PURSUANT TO CIVIL SERVICE RULE IX, SEC 3., REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

113-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION RE: PROPOSED APPROVAL OF A NEW JOB CLASSIFICATION AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE HEALTH CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTOR POSITION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CHARTER CHAPTER 17 SECTION 206(D), REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

114-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION RE: PROPOSED APPROVAL OF A NEW JOB CLASSIFICATION AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION POSITION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CHARTER CHAPTER 17 SECTION 206(D), REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SIMMONS SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she would be voting against these referrals because Agenda Items 112-21, 113-21 and 114-21 were added to the agenda after the deadline.

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

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

111-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: CT Department of Economic and Community Development – Community Investment Fund 2030 Grant Program (#23374, #23435 & #23439), FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ADD ITEM 111-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2030 GRANT PROGRAM (#23374, #23435 & #23439) TO THE AGENDA FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION DUE TO THE TIME CONSTRAINTS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

It was noted that this would require a 2/3rd vote (11 votes) of those present.

Council Member Herron noted that it was not a guaranteed grant award.

Council Member Valle said that she was opposed to this item for immediate consideration.

Council Member Pereira said that they did not know anything about the project.

Council Member Cruz said that there were numerous projects for the City and it was not money from the taxpayers.

Council Member Newton pointed out that there were a thousand other applications that were applying. He said that Bridgeport does not have a strong tax base. It is the Council's job to bring money into the City.

Council Member Pereira said that there was a matching requirement and that they only received a paragraph and a half on the project. She said she was voting against the item because it requires over \$500,000 and they should not have to vote on this on the floor.

Council Member Valle said that she was not against the project but OPED did not explain the projects with the Committees. However, fixing up the theater is not a priority when the East Side Seniors have a building where there is no air conditioning. She said that the Congress Street Bridge was still not repaired after many years but there is money to fix a theater.

Council Member Simmons said that she was not voting against the projects but was uncomfortable with the process.

Council Member Burns said that he agreed with EN but felt that the matching fund requirement was not explained to the Committee.

Council Member Cruz said that Mr. Coleman and other OPED staff were present to answer questions.

Ms. DeJesus, the Central Grants Director, came forward and reviewed the details. She noted that if the application was not approved, it would not be accepted. She added that the Congress Street bridge has funding allocated for it and that was not the reason the project was delayed.

Council Member Pereira said that submitting the Grant applicant and asking for a decision on \$112 million was highly inappropriate. She asked if the State was aware of this issue. Ms. DeJesus said that the State was aware of this. Mayor Ganim said that it was not right to suggest it was illegal. He noted that he could call a Special Meeting for this issue but had been reluctant to do so.

Council Member Hodges asked if they had included a list of the projects with the submission of the grant application. Ms. DeJesus said that they had included the projects with the application.

Council Member Hodges said that the Council should have called a special meeting to discuss this and the Council should be deciding which projects were being funded.

Mr. Gill, the OPED Director, came forward and said that they had met with the State Representatives. He said that the focus was on having a substantial impact on a designated area and linking the various areas like the Hollow with the downtown. He noted that it was a five year program and that they may only receive a portion of the money or none at all.

Council Member Burns noted that the legislation needs to sign off on it with a letter of support.

Council Member Burns asked what portion they would have to match. Mr. Gill said that they did not know how much money they were getting so they don't know how much they would have to match.

Discussion followed.

Council Member Pereira said that the Council Members were elected to represent their constituents and that the OPED staff were not elected officials. One of three OPED staff member present does not even live in Bridgeport. She added that it was wrong for them to be meeting with the State Representatives without the Council Members' knowledge. Also, she said that she would not be able to tell her constituents that one dollar was going to her district from this grant.

Council Member Newton said that they work for the whole city and he votes for what is good for the City, not just his District.

Council President Nieves said that she agreed with Council Member Newton and felt that the Council should have more information but was not always time to provide it.

Council Member Cruz said that he was baffled over this. While he agreed with some of the points brought up by the other Council Members, he asked why the black and brown Council Members were tearing one another apart at the Council Meetings. He said that because of some technicality, the Council Members were going to slow down the application. This hurts everyone. He has supported other projects, like in Black Rock, which is thriving. Now it is time for Main Street to have improvements.

Council Member Hodges said that the grant will help with revitalizing Bridgeport, but his problem was that the Council was not being consulted on certain issues. If they need a Special Meeting, so be it.

**** THE MOTION TO ADD ITEM 111-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2030 GRANT PROGRAM (#23374, #23435 & #23439) TO THE AGENDA FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION DUE TO THE TIME CONSTRAINTS PASSED WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, HODGES, NIEVES, SULIMAN, SIMMONS, AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (BURNS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, VALLE, PEREIRA).**

Council Member Burns requested that the OPED staff and the Central Grants staff update the Council Members.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 11-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2030 GRANT PROGRAM (#23374, #23435 & #23439).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 111-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2030 GRANT PROGRAM (#23374, #23435 & #23439) TO THE AGENDA FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION DUE TO THE TIME CONSTRAINTS PASSED WITH ELEVEN (11) IN FAVOR (CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, HODGES, NIEVES, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND FIVE (5) OPPOSED (BURNS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, VALLE, SIMMONS, PEREIRA).**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***91-21 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the 2022 “Third” Round of City Sidewalk Repair Pilot Program.**

***95-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: CT Department of Agriculture – Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (#23431).**

***96-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Long Island Sound Futures Fund (#23614).**

***97-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging (SWCAA) – Title III Funding Older Americans Act Grant Program – Elderly Hispanic Program (#23270).**

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

***100-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Urban Green & Community Garden Initiative Grant.**

***103-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of LaJeune Pollard v. City of Bridgeport, et al – Docket No. FBT-CV-18-6071490-S.**

***94-21 Education and Social Services Committee Report re: Grant Submission: CT Department of Education – Summer Enrichment Grant Program (#22681).**

Mayor Ganim asked if any member of the Council would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Hearing none, Assistant City Clerk Ortiz read the Consent Calendar items into the record.

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

***91-21 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE 2022 “THIRD” ROUND OF CITY SIDEWALK REPAIR PILOT PROGRAM.**

***95-21 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – LOCAL FOOD PURCHASE ASSISTANCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM (#23431).**

***96-21 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION – LONG ISLAND SOUND FUTURES FUND (#23614).**

***97-21 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING (SWCAA) – TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM – ELDERLY HISPANIC PROGRAM (#23270).**

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

***100-21 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION URBAN GREEN & COMMUNITY GARDEN INITIATIVE GRANT.**

***103-21 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF LAJEUNE POLLARD V. CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, ET AL – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-18-6071490-S.**

***94-21 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – SUMMER ENRICHMENT GRANT PROGRAM (#22681).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PRESENTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

105-21 Joint Committee on Public Safety and Transportation and Contracts Report re: Agreement with BusPatrol America, LLC regarding a School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 105-21 JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION AND CONTRACTS**

REPORT RE: AGREEMENT WITH BUSPATROL AMERICA, LLC REGARDING A SCHOOL BUS STOP ARM ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that the assertion that the City has the right to negotiate an exclusive contract with a service provider for the BOE was wrong. Doing so without the BOE's approval is wrong. This was so outrageous and so unlawful.

Council Member Pereira also claimed that it was wrong that the BOE would be receiving 20% while the City keeps 80%. The BOE has the contract with the bus company, not the City. Therefore, she will be voting against this item.

Council Member Herron said that there were conversations with the BOE about this. She noted that the City would be receiving a percentage of the fines after the company and police get their portions. This is about safety for the students. If the company can stop cars from passing stopped school buses that are discharging students, she is okay with it.

Council Member Lyons said that she had done some research on the program. It has been done in a number of other countries and districts. She said that it was important to think about the safety of the students. There is a lot of speeding that happens in Bridgeport. Other people ignore the flashing lights and stop sign.

Atty. Jankovsky came forward and said that there were some amendments to the contract. He explained that there would be 20% would be taken by the State first and then Police OT and court costs would deducted. He outlined the changes to the contract for the Council Member.

Council Member Hodges said that he was concerned about the Police Overtime. Atty. Jankovsky said that they did not expect any police overtime to be involved.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO AMEND THE CONTRACT AS PRESENTED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

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

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 105-21 JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION AND CONTRACTS REPORT RE: AGREEMENT WITH BUSPATROL AMERICA, LLC REGARDING A SCHOOL BUS STOP ARM ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM AS AMENDED PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, SIMMONS, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

Council Member Valle left the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

79-21 Ordinance Committee Report re: (Ref. #36-21) Amendment 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.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 79-21 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #36-21) AMENDMENT 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.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES SECONDED.**

Council Member Roman-Christy announced that there were amendments per the legal opinion.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 79-21 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #36-21) AMENDMENT 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 TO ADD LANGUAGE PER LEGAL OPINION AFTER 12.16.245 SECTION B.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that the original version said that they would have to inform the Council of changes. This indicates that the Council will have to vote on the change. The Council will have to approve the amendments first before the main motion. She proceeded to review the various changes to the document.

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 79-21 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #36-21) AMENDMENT 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 TO ADD LANGUAGE PER LEGAL OPINION AFTER 12.16.245 SECTION B As PRESENTED PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, SIMMONS, PEREIRA AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (LYONS).**

Council Member Pereira said that they were selling public safety for riding on the City sidewalks. Some Council Members expressed concerns about this. There were two major accidents with the scooters.

Council Member Lyons said that she had been voting no because of the conditions of sidewalks and streets. She said that she was hoping that they would have to fix the sidewalks. She will be voting against this.

Council Member Herron said that the regulations say that the riders have to be 18 years of age. She said that she was pleased to see that the scooters were being used. Denying people the access to mobility is wrong. Bike accidents happen and so do scooter accidents.

Council President Nieves said that the addendum was sent out on July 29th.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 79-21 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #36-21) AMENDMENT 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 AS AMENDED PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, SIMMONS AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (LYONS AND PEREIRA).**

Council Member Newton requested a point of personal privilege. When recognized, he stated that there continued to be an issue with another Council Member who had refused to apologize to him regarding remarks she made. To date, she had refused to apologize.

Council Member Newton stated that his name was Ernest Newton II, not “felon”. He asked the Council Members to take this to the next level by removing her from the Committees until she is willing to apologize. There have been times when Council Member Newton stepped out of line and he has apologized.

He added that Mr. Chris Taylor was there to speak about trucks parking on the street and there was no reason to call Mr. Taylor an ex-felon.

When Council Member Pereira calls Council Member Newton a felon, she is also talking about thousands of other Bridgeport residents who have jobs and pay taxes. He said that he would not be disrespected by Council Member Pereira.

Council Member Pereira objected.

Council Member Newton said that he would like to have the Council President to take action on his request to change Committee assignments. He noted that the Council President has the authority to change the Council Committees as she so chooses.

Council Member Pereira corrected Council Member Newton on his mispronunciation of the word "censured".

Council Member Pereira said that she had never said Council Member Newton's name. However, Council Member Newton repeated violated Rule 26 by using her name. She stated that she uses the phrase "my colleague from the 139th District" which is according to the rules.

Regarding Mr. Taylor, she never said that his criminal record and did not make a reference to Council Member Newton. She said that people cannot be treated disparagingly than others. The rules were violated against her because she has so much evidence of Council Members making disparaging comments in emails.

She stated that during the meeting, there was nothing in the minutes to substantiate the claim that she had called anyone anything and this was all made up. She has been repeatedly accused of breaking the rules.

Council Member Hodges asked about the appropriateness of Council Member Pereira's comments since she had been censored. Mayor Ganim said that it was within the Council President's authority to reassign Committee members. Regarding the censuring, he consulted with Atty. Anastasi.

Atty. Anastasi said that his legal opinion stated that the censure barred Council Member Pereira was barred from discussion, but not from making motions or voting. Mayor Ganim asked if he was wrong in allowing Council Member Pereira to speak. Atty. Anastasi said that this was correct.

Atty. Anastasi said that in his first legal opinion for the Council, he failed to clarify "debate" which was an undefinable term from inquiry or asking questions. He gave a more narrow definition and Mayor Ganim allowed Council Member Pereira to ask questions.

He noted that changing the Council Committees was not included on the agenda, so it will need to be added to the agenda. Secondly, Council Member Pereira should be allowed to speak in her own defense. Discussion followed about the procedure.

Council President Nieves explained that the use of a Council Member's name is not forbidden but using derogator terms is. She requested Council Member Pereira apologize.

Council Member Pereira said that she wanted a roll call vote. She never used the Council Member's name. She said that Rule 26 says "City Council members shall refrain from mentioning any other member by name, shall confine themselves to the question, shall be courteous and not use unbecoming, abusive, or unparliamentary language, and shall avoid personalities." She repeated that she had never said anyone's name and this was totally fabricated. She stated that she objected to her name coming out of any felon's mouth. That is her right and personal dignity.

Council Member Pereira said that the Council Members will have their chance to present their proof in a court of law. The comment was nowhere in the minutes. She reiterated Rule 26 and it is her right to enforce the rules. She has emails from official City Council Members accounts

making false claims. Nothing was done by the Chair. She stated that she had filed police reports about Council Members.

Mayor Ganim said that he had no idea of what Council Member Pereira was speaking about.

Council Member Newton said that there had been derogatory comments made by Council Member Pereira. He said that it was amazing that she did not call Mr. Taylor to the right of her a felon and Ernie Newton to the left of her a felon. He said that both he and Mr. Taylor heard those comments. Council Member Newton said that he was asking the Council President to remove her from the Committees. Council Member Pereira presenting herself as Mother Theresa is wrong.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO ADD AN ITEM REGARDING THE COMMITTEE RE-ASSIGNMENTS TO THE AGENDA.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ADD AN ITEM REGARDING THE COMMITTEE RE-ASSIGNMENTS TO THE AGENDA PASSED WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, NIEVES, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND THREE (3) OPPOSED (LYONS, SIMMONS AND PEREIRA).**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO CHANGE THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:**

CONTRACTS:

**REMOVE COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA
ADD COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH**

EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

**REMOVE COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA
ADD COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE COMMITTEE RE-ASSIGNMENTS AS PRESENTED PASSED WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, NIEVES, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND THREE (3) OPPOSED (LYONS, SIMMONS AND PEREIRA).**

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services