

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 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 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

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

A quorum was present. Names in italics were not present. Council President Nieves announced that Council Members Burns, Herron, Lyons, and Roman-Christy were not present due to illness.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 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 Governance, Safety & Finances.

Mr. Lee came forward and greeted the Council Members. He then read the following statement into the record:

Ladies and gentlemen of the Bridgeport City Council, I support your activity to REVITALIZE the governance for all the citizens with FAIRNESS, not in evidence for more than 15 years, and housing equality also for those attempting to build generational family wealth while living in this community.

If a hearing is held on the FAIR RENT ordinance proposed, can we raise some questions for consideration?

- Why is the amount/or level of rent the only stated purpose for this group? Why are actions of the Landlord, or failures to act, not a subject for public notice and decision? In contrast to Channel 12? Isn't rent amount relative to the services rendered while under a roof?
- Why are number of members cut to three from five?
- Will an evaluation of the performance of such members, by fellow members or other mechanism, be considered? Is presence, performance, experience, and demonstrated skill important to overall Board success?
- Has City Attorney approved the document as to Powers, Terms, Procedures, and Penalties specifically?
- Has consideration been provided as to which personnel, department, or otherwise will Staff this REVITALIZATION initiative after years of ignoring a responsibility? Where does the administration see such activity?

Likewise, if a hearing is held on the FAIR HOUSING ordinance proposed, may we submit comparable questions, where appropriate regarding Board member performance and City Attorney standing on Ordinance issues? Does the City at this time meet State requirements for meeting expectations on "affordable housing" reporting?

Does the proposed FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION, tasked as it is with requiring opportunity in housing and to "eliminate housing discrimination" robust enough to work within a community where HOUSING and RENTAL residences have been ignored, where there is no registry of "continued homelessness" as a priority for solution, and where there are examples of conflicted behavior on these subjects by those in office, elected or appointed? What is it worth to City Council members to know that you will be responsible for leveling the playing field for Bridgeport residents in 2022? With the construction of multi-family housing in the City, where do you seek out info on how many units are in City projects, how and where Section 8 vouchers are used throughout, and where pressure and disrespect rather than assistance is seen as a City agency response to WPCA, tax assessor, maintenance of lists of housing requests, and other housing issues? Time will tell.

Samuel Saunders
680 Ogden Street
Bridgeport, CT 06608

Harassment displayed by City Council
Woman Maria Pereira on Saturday,
September 17, 2022/Fireside.

Mr. Saunders came forward and greeted the Council Members. He then read the following statement into the record:

My name is Samuel Saunders and I am a resident of Bridgeport, for more than 20 years. I am the owner of Big Sam's Roadside Service, LLC for 18 years. For the past 6 months we have a contract with the City of Bridgeport's Housing Authority to remove cars from their properties without parking permits or illegally parked.

On Saturday, September 17, I was beginning to tow an unpermitted car from Fireside at 655 Palisades Avenue. A gentleman said that it was his daughter's car and he would get her to move it. In the meantime, Maria Pereira arrived and claimed "it was illegal" for me to tow the car. She made such a scene, I decided to cease the tow, leaving the car and when I attempted to leave, Maria Pereira jumped in front of my truck, which I braked and put in park, which caused the vehicle to rock slightly. She claimed I tried to hit her with my vehicle and called 9-1-1.

Maria Pereira, under the guise of her title of Council person, illegally called 9-1-1 where there was no crime. She held an illegal press conference and spread false allegations She has made libelous claims against my business and caused the Housing Authority to suspend my contract. Additionally, she has cause me to fear working, myself or my staff throughout the City because she has distributed flyers and appeared on Channel 12 News claiming falsely that we are stealing. In doing this, she has committed at least 3 crimes.

Why is she not being stopped and continues to represent the Council while abusing its power. I feel a restraining order may be necessary to make this stop for myself and my business.

Maria Pereira
206 Bradley Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

139th City Council Vacancy, City Council
Rules and Mayor's State of the City
Address.

Council Member Pereira came forward and stated that the City Charter Chapter 3, Section 2, regarding the Annual Report of the Mayor, it states: "In September of each year, the Mayor shall present an annual report showing the situation of the government, finances and improvements of the city of this chapter, to the city council." She asked where it required the Mayor to submit this report at a dinner. The presentation of the report took place at a dinner that cost \$75.00 to attend. The taxpayers and residents of the City should not have to pay \$75.00 to hear the Annual Report. She then listed a number of financial figures that the City budget encompasses including the 100% of cost of police, fire and emergency personnel.

Council Member Pereira then read a portion of the City Charter Chapter 5, Section 1 (d) – "No person shall be elected to fill a vacancy on the city council unless he/she is a resident and registered voter of the city and is a member of the same political party as the person vacating such office. No person shall be elected to fill a vacancy in the office of any council member

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unless he/she is also a resident and registered voter in the same council district as the person vacating such office.”

She went on to state that the Charter did not mention having a political organization like the DTC or RTC selecting a replacement for a vacancy. It does not mention the DTC or RTC, which are political organizations having a role in this. The notion that the DTC can suggest a candidate is a false narrative.

Council Member Pereira then stated that the proposed candidate has a conviction and was notorious and spiteful. She added that the last time a candidate from the 138th won was in 2013. She then expressed her opinion of the proposed candidate, Eneida Martinez, who she claimed was facing 11 criminal charges. She concluded her remarks by saying that Bridgeport doesn't need any one from the outside to give them a black eye because they were so good in giving themselves a black eye.

She concluded her remarks by saying that Mr. Saunders was being investigated by the police.

Ernest Newton
190 Read Street
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Council Member Newton came forward and said that he totally disagreed with Council Member Pereira. He said that in the past, there had been a gentleman's understanding that the Town Committee would be elected by the people and furthermore, it has been the past practice of the Council to respect the Town Committee's recommendation of a candidate for a vacant Council seat. It cannot be handled both ways.

Council Member Newton said that he had lived in his home for many years and had never witnessed something being changed on a whim. It is shameful that someone would stand before the Council and criticize residents. Council members are elected by the people as are the Town Committee members. If the Council Members were elected at large by the entire City of Bridgeport, the results might be different, but the Districts elect their representatives. He repeated that he was opposed to what Council Member Pereira said. While Council Members may not like certain other Council Members, it is not their job because their job is to work for the residents.

Charles Treadway, III
75 Fireside, Stewart Street
Bridgeport, CT

Fireside Town

Mr. Treadway came forward and said that he resides at the Fireside located on Stewart Street. On August 12th, there was a resident meeting for those who live in the community. He said that the Park City Communities was going to institute a new policy regarding a proper registration and

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insurance. Only 30 residents showed up. The residents that have family members who come to visit should have their vehicles registered. He said that his vehicle had been hit by a Fireside squatter who was driving an unregistered, uninsured vehicle and was still trying to recover from his injuries. There are problems with drug dealers and other issues. They do not need more problems created by politicians coming on the property.

Helen Olga Losak
304 Bradley Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Apology

Ms. Losak came forward and greeted the Council Members. She said that she was a teacher at Victoria Soto School. Ms. Losak then said that Psychology Today defines an apology as an admission of error or discourtesy accompanied by an expression of regret. An apology has the ability to disarm others of the anger and to prevent further misunderstandings. People who cannot apologize often have such deep feelings of low self-worth that their fragile egos cannot absorb the blow of admitting they were wrong.

A good apology not only heals the first injury but strengthens the relationship between people. In contrast, the failure to make an apology when one is called for often causes more damage than the initial hurt – because it expands the breach between the two of you. When you don't apologize, you only make things worse.

Stephen Nelson
24A Stone Ridge Road
Bridgeport, CT

Community Issues

Mr. Steven Nelson came forward and said that he was not present as a Housing Commissioner. He is a born and raised Bridgeport resident. He said that people should take a piece of paper and crumble it up and then try to smooth it out again. Before saying something hurtful, it pays to think about what is going to be said.

He repeated that he was not present to speak on behalf of the Housing Commission. He said that there would be a formal response from the Commission.

Mr. Nelson said that he did not agree with everything that was said, but he felt that people need to see the better side of everyone else. Trumbull Gardens is having parking issues, along with all the other housing communities. When people leave abandoned cars or have unregistered vehicles on the property, they have to deal with them. He said that he did not know Mr. Saunders, but Mr. Nelson was previously a District leader for the 136th District. They will talk about the problem but they will not be disrespectful to the community.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the Public Speaking Session at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 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 7:03 p.m.

PRAYER

Council Member Hodges led those present in prayer.

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
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132nd District: Marcus Brown, Rolanda Smith
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134th District: *Michelle Lyons*, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
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136th District: Frederick Hodges, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman
139th District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. Names in italics did not respond when called. It was announced that Council Members Burns, Herron, Lyons, and Roman Christy were not present due to illness.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested a moment of silence for a very dedicated, retired Bridgeport Police Officer Nelson Gonzalez. She stated that Nelson Gonzalez was a husband to Josie, a father, a grandfather, a great-grandfather and a Friend. Nelson died on September 25th, 2022 and was laid to rest this morning, October 3, 2022.

I ask that you take a moment of silence, for Nelson to Rest in Peace and ask GOD TO BLESS and watch over his family. Thank you.

AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia Councilwoman, 134th District. (Family Friend)

Council Member Newton requested a moment of silence for former Council Member Julian Braxton, who passed away on September 20, 2022.

Council Member Newton also noted that Council Member McBride-Lee's sister had passed away recently.

Those present in the Chambers then were silent in memory of the various individuals who had recently died.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

• **August 1, 2022**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 1, 2022 MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 1, 2022 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

128-21 Communication from Police Department re: Proposed Master Terms Agreement with Getac Video Solutions Inc. from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028, referred to Contracts Committee

129-21 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Mesa Greenidge – Docket No. FBT-CV-21-6111475-S, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

130-21 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Leopold Bamouni – Docket No. FBT-CV-21-6105768-S, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

131-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: United States Conference of Mayors – Childhood Obesity Prevention/Environmental Health and Sustainability Awards (#23305), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

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

128-21 COMMUNICATION FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT RE: PROPOSED MASTER TERMS AGREEMENT WITH GETAC VIDEO SOLUTIONS INC. FROM JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2028, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE

129-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF MESA GREENIDGE – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-21-6111475-S, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

130-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF LEOPOLD BAMOUNI – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-21-6105768-S, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

131-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS – CHILDHOOD OBESITY PREVENTION/ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS (#23305), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***126-21 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.92 – Fair Housing Commission.**

***127-21 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.94 – Fair Rent Commission.**

***117-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection – Urban Act Grant – Ellsworth Field Improvements.**

***118-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: CT Department of Economic and Community Development – CT Communities Challenge (#23205, #23441 and #23891).**

***115-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Refund of Excess Payments – Lereta, LLC Re: 1839 Main Street.**

***121-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Arbitration in the Matter of the City of Bridgeport, et al vs. Bridgeport Housing Authority, et al re: Remaining Arbitration/Claim Against Excess Umbrella Carrier for Bridgeport Housing Authority/James River Insurance Company.**

***124-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Michael Franklin, Docket No. FBT-CV-20-6095498-S.**

Mayor Ganim asked if any member of the Council would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar.

Council Member Pereira requested Agenda Item 118-21, 115-21, 121-21 and 124-21 be removed from the Consent Calendar. City Clerk Martinez read the remaining items into the record.

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

***126-21 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 2.92 – FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION.**

***127-21 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 2.94 – FAIR RENT COMMISSION.**

***117-21 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION – URBAN ACT GRANT – ELLSWORTH FIELD IMPROVEMENTS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

118-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: CT Department of Economic and Community Development – CT Communities Challenge (#23205, #23441 and #23891).

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 118-21 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – CT COMMUNITIES CHALLENGE (#23205, #23441 AND #23891) PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

115-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Refund of Excess Payments – Lereta, LLC Re: 1839 Main Street.

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 115-21 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – LERETA, LLC RE: 1839 MAIN STREET PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

121-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Arbitration in the Matter of the City of Bridgeport, et al vs. Bridgeport Housing Authority, et al re: Remaining Arbitration/Claim Against Excess Umbrella Carrier for Bridgeport Housing Authority/James River Insurance Company.

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 121-21 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING ARBITRATION IN THE MATTER OF THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, ET AL VS. BRIDGEPORT HOUSING AUTHORITY, ET AL RE: REMAINING ARBITRATION/CLAIM AGAINST EXCESS UMBRELLA CARRIER FOR BRIDGEPORT HOUSING AUTHORITY/JAMES RIVER INSURANCE COMPANY PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

124-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Michael Franklin, Docket No. FBT-CV-20-6095498-S.

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 124-21 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF MICHAEL FRANKLIN, DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-20-6095498-S PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA REGARDING A REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE INVOLVING A RECOMMENDED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF CHRISTOPHER GOULDEN, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JAYSON NEGRON V ARMANDO PEREZ, ET AL.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA REGARDING A REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE INVOLVING A RECOMMENDED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF CHRISTOPHER GOULDEN, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JAYSON NEGRON V ARMANDO PEREZ, ET AL. PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA). (ITEM #132-21)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO REFER RECOMMENDED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF CHRISTOPHER GOULDEN, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JAYSON NEGRON V ARMANDO PEREZ, ET AL. TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #132-21)**

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SULIMAN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services