

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023
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 6:40 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: *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 shown in italics did not respond when the roll was called. Council Members Smith, Herron and Vizzo-Paniccia were ill and Council Member Castillo had an excused absence.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 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 St
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Governance & Finance.

Mr. Lee came forward and said that he had just come from Housatonic Community College and that they were hosting an exhibit on democracy. He encouraged everyone to visit the exhibit.

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

As Council members you have much to remember as you meet constituents, hear their problems or concerns, and attempt to recall the backup system available to you and to taxpayers for inquiry. Through the years I have consulted the City website and found that it is often under review or design. I find no dates to inform me when the last adjustment was made nor what the plan is, and not a prediction as to completion. Tests the patience of folks, I am sure.

Today I am talking about the most recent iteration of the listing of Boards and Commissions on which taxpayer citizens can and do serve based on a process with a Mayoral appointment and approval by the Council. The most recent listing is actually less adequate than before. It lists 22 groups but likely there are more. The individual listings in many cases have ceased to talk about purpose, mission, numbers to serve, and where agendas, meeting times, and minutes can be accessed.

An overview or summary of the Board and Commission (B&C) facts does not tell us that as of 1-1-23 there are more than 65 people serving a term as long ago as 20 years or more that has EXPIRED. Why is that? All of us know that it did not happen overnight. And we also know that FAIR HOUSING AND FAIR RENT groups have actually died in plain sight because no nominees were forthcoming from each Mayor during that time. Does this show Mayors living up to the Charter spirit?

The current summary reports ACTUAL VACANCIES at 30 persons with no attribution for the Housing or Rent groups. And there are three vacancies being filled at the time of the report.

Where volunteers and home addresses are listed as well as appointment expiry dates occasionally these facts are missing as well as details of B&C. Why, so incomplete, or sloppy? Disrespect for open, accountable, transparent, and honest presentations? Why not perform timely and proud? Why not add more training and support to group members? Why not highlight their attendance, participation, and service if the City chooses to extend their tenure. Merely expecting them to serve until relieved by new appointments does not show leadership, pride in appointing others to serve, nor an incentive to entice new folks to seek appointment, sadly.

There is a bright spot on the scene at this moment, the Historic District Commission. They have four members and what appear to be two alternates, all of whom are serving Unexpired terms. The work can get done to provide the minds and voices of the voters with good data and reasons for their own pride in leadership. Time will tell.

Brian Moore
153 Grandview Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Mr. Moore came forward to speak about the obstruction of driveways and commercial vehicles parking overnight. He pointed out that obstruction of driveways just covers the actual obstruction of the access to the driveway. However, there are combination vehicles that are not classified as trucks on the street and only an inch or so from the driveway access, which often blocks the sight lines. He explained that the residents have to wait until 1 a.m. to call the police

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
January 17, 2023

to do something about it. He listed a number of locations where there were commercial vehicles parked on city streets that have not moved. He asked that the Council Members review the parking ordinances and change it.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the Public Speaking Session at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023

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 7:02 p.m. She stated that the Mayor was attending the United States Conference of Mayors in Washington, D.C.

PRAYER

Council Member Lyons led those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Boyd led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk Martinez requested a moment of silence for the mother of the City Clerk staff member Althea Williams, who recently died.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack
132nd District: *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 shown in italics did not respond when the roll was called. Council Members Smith, Herron and Vizzo-Paniccia were ill and Council Member Castillo had an excused absence.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES:

• **December 19, 2022**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2022 MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she was pleased to announce that Ms. Nessah Smith had in fact been appointed to the Police Commission since the minutes recorded the vote with seven in favor and nine opposed and the minutes must be correct.

She also noted that the comment that she thanked Ms. Smith was incorrect since she was opposed to Ms. Smith's appointment.

Council Member Pereira said that there were other issues with the vote for Agenda Item 146-21, but she would not amend that vote.

Council Member Newton spoke about the vote for Agenda Item 146-21 being incorrect and noted that Council Member Castillo had in fact voted against the item.

The following corrections were noted:

Page 9, under Agenda Item 139-21, paragraph 1, please change the following **MOTION** from:

Council Member Pereira thanked Ms. Smith and said that there need to have Police Departments held accountable. She said that Ms. Smith had been on the Council and voted for item 99% of the time.

TO:

Council Member Pereira said that there need to have Police Departments held accountable. She said that Ms. Smith had been on the Council and voted for items 99% of the time.

Page 9, please change the following motion from:

**** THE MOTION REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 139-21 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF NESSAH J. SMITH (D) TO THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION FAILED TO PASS WITH SEVEN (7) IN FAVOR (BROWN, BOYD, VIZZO-PANICCIA,**

MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO AND SULIMAN); NINE (9) OPPOSED (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, NIEVE, VALLE, PEREIRA AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (HODGES).

TO:

**** THE MOTION REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 139-21 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF NESSAH J. SMITH (D) TO THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION FAILED TO PASS WITH SIX (6) IN FAVOR (BROWN, BOYD, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, AND SULIMAN); TEN (10) OPPOSED (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, NIEVE, VALLE, CASTILLO, PEREIRA AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (HODGES).**

Page 9, please change the following vote outcome from:

**** THE MOTION REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 146-21 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION FAILED TO PASS WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, VIZZO-PANICCIA, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, CASTILLO, NIEVE, VALLE, PEREIRA AND NEWTON) AND THREE (3) OPPOSED (BROWN, MCBRIDE-LEE AND SULIMAN)**

**** THE MOTION REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 146-21 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION FAILED TO PASS WITH THIRTEEN (13) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, VIZZO-PANICCIA, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, NIEVE, VALLE, PEREIRA AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (BROWN, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, AND SULIMAN).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2022 MEETING AS AMENDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2022 MEETING AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

10-22 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Jeri D. Kollock – Docket No. 3:20-cv-1286 MPS, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

11-22 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Richard Starkey – Docket No. FBT-CV-20-6095747-S, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

12-22 Communication from Housing and Community Development re: Proposed Resolution regarding the approval of the 2023-2024 Citizen Union Committee, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

13-22 Communication from Mayor re: Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.108 – Bylaws Citizens’ Union, referred to Ordinance Committee.

14-22 Communication from Mayor re: Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3.08 – City Contract and Purchasing Procedures, amend Section 3.08.070 – Purchasing Procedure, referred to Ordinance Committee.

17-22 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the Affordable Housing Plan, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

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

15-22 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Burns and Co-sponsor(s): Nieves, Mack, Boyd, Vizzo-Paniccia & Newton re: Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.06 – Common Council, amend to add New Section 2.06.100 – Capital Budget Reporting Program, referred to Ordinance Committee.

16-22 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Mack and Co-sponsor(s): Nieves, Burns, Boyd, Vizzo-Paniccia & Newton re: Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.06 – Common Council, amend Section 2.06.030 – Special Meetings, referred to Ordinance Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

10-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF JERI D. KOLLOCK – DOCKET NO. 3:20-CV-1286 MPS, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

11-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF RICHARD STARKEY – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-20-6095747-S, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

12-22 COMMUNICATION FROM HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE 2023-2024 CITIZEN UNION COMMITTEE, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

13-22 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 2.108 – BYLAWS CITIZENS’ UNION, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

14-22 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 3.08 – CITY CONTRACT AND PURCHASING PROCEDURES, AMEND SECTION 3.08.070 – PURCHASING PROCEDURE, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

17-22 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

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

15-22 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BURNS AND CO-SPONSOR(S): NIEVES, MACK, BOYD, VIZZO-PANICCIA & NEWTON RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2.06 – COMMON COUNCIL, AMEND TO ADD NEW SECTION 2.06.100 – CAPITAL BUDGET REPORTING PROGRAM, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

16-22 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) MACK AND CO-SPONSOR(S): NIEVES, BURNS, BOYD, VIZZO-PANICCIA & NEWTON RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2.06 – COMMON COUNCIL, AMEND SECTION 2.06.030 – SPECIAL MEETINGS, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

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

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***04-22 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: US Department of Transportation – Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program (#23469).**

Council President Nieves asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove this item from the Consent Calendar. No one indicated they wished to have the item removed from the Consent Calendar.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

04-22 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – STRENGTHENING MOBILITY AND REVOLUTIONIZING TRANSPORTATION (SMART) GRANTS PROGRAM (#23469).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

03-22 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Honorary Designation of Waterview Avenue as “Hattie Mae Stevenson Way”.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED AGENDA ITEM 03-22 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: HONORARY DESIGNATION OF WATERVIEW AVENUE AS “HATTIE MAE STEVENSON WAY”.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

Council Member Valle said that it had been presented to the Public Safety Committee and she wished to stand against the honorary naming of streets.

Council Member Pereira said that she was in opposition due to the potential confusing of the first responders in the event of an emergency.

Council Member Newton pointed out that the Council Committee had set up a procedure including gathering signature of residents and paying for the sign.

Council Member Cruz said that this issue had been discussed and approved by the Committee. He said that he would not disrespect the family by voting against the item. If further changes need to be made, then the Committee should go back and revisit the issue. He pointed out that the street name remains the same on the GPS that the Police and Fire department uses.

Council Member Hodges said that were many people who had done good things in Bridgeport, including people who looked like him. He spoke about some the various individuals who worked to provide school lunches and asked the Council Members to respect Bridgeport residents by honoring them this way.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that they don't do much for taxpayers in Bridgeport. She reminded everyone that they had voted to change the way the honorary street signs were handled. If it wasn't for the taxpayers, the City would not be running. She said it was a shame that the honorary street wasn't named for Ms. Stevenson before. It is important to honor people who make contributions to the City.

Council Member Lyons said that she was a co-chair of Public Safety. She said that the process to have an honorary street sign was in the ordinances. That ordinance was approved by the Council and the Council needs to follow the rules. If the Council objects, then they need to change the ordinance.

Council Member Valle said that when they started the reconsideration of this ordinance, they had department heads come in to give their thoughts about it. She said that someone might not know the real street name. Discussion followed.

Council Member McCarthy requested that the question be moved. Council Member Newton seconded.

Council Member Cruz said that Ms. Stevenson was a benefit to the City and mentioned his own youth growing up in the projects. He asked what more the City could do for the residents who give so much.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 03-22 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: HONORARY DESIGNATION OF WATERVIEW AVENUE AS "HATTIE MAE STEVENSON WAY" PASSED WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BOYD, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, NIEVES, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (VALLE AND PEREIRA).**

Council Member Cruz requested a moment of personal privilege and spoke about two meetings that were to take place in the coming week.

Council President Nieves spoke about a meeting on homelessness that was scheduled for 8 p.m. Council Member Newton noted that it was a sad commentary that the Council had voted to do a study two years ago and that nothing had been done about it.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services