

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 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 Member Valle was absent due to illness.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 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 Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Governance & Finance.

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

Fellow residents and taxpayers I appreciate the fact that you are present and listening tonight. I know you are aware that it is Black History Month in Bridgeport and

across the United States. And the presentation of facts that are current as well as facts from the past, that we call history, may be rendered in stories but perhaps the stories or theories that are used politically and critically are not genuine history? In three short years Critical Race Theory, as a topic not in widespread evidence previously, has become a cultural label of infamy by folks on the right.

These are people who still are stating a concern that the 2020 election was “rigged”, maintain that President 45 actually won that election perpetuating “The Big Lie”, with over 130 US House Republicans, themselves winners in 2020 and/or 2022 maintaining this falsehood by repetition without evidence. Such persistence of “white supremacy” in 2023 does not serve 330 Million diverse citizens of the United States well. How are we doing according to the NY Times with an article in a recent Real Estate section. I am happy to see the City get some good press for its positives, but unhappy to see the school system ignored except for a report that 40% of the school population qualifies for nutritious in-school meals. That is untrue as you well know with a much higher percentage qualifying and 100% actually receiving foods through their schools. Perhaps they might rather compare the funds spent per child, the revenues providing salaries and benefits for instruction, and the results attained comparatively within CT. Would that, as news, say more about the struggle that you understand and the gaps you attempt to fund to gain greater attention to your annual budget struggle?

Finally, the rapid potential appreciation of a Black Rock residence was reported as changing hands one year at \$350-400,000 and put on the market less than two years later for \$1,350,000. Not the norm for redevelopment projects in the City nor was the Mayor identified as owner and resident. How was that missed?

Mayor Ganim and family have local fame as real estate investors with long term knowledge and experience. Why has the City administration failed to be FAIR when it comes to appointments to Fair Rent and Fair Housing boards? For years absent a response to such ignorance of responsibility?

And how has the “affordable housing report” (due every five years and overdue now) been considered incomplete when presented to the City Council three weeks ago failing specific data and goals showing real attention to the matter? And why has the public not been offered an opportunity to question such matters in a public setting, where responses can be made by those responsible, recorded for history, and responded to pro-actively by taxpayers, especially those who reside here? Time will tell.

Samantha Cheatham
60-C Terrace Circle
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Being bullied by a Council woman.

Ms. Cheatham said that one of the Council members had been very disrespectful to her and had the police at her beck and call.

She said that Council Member McBride-Lee had posted comments on Facebook about her. Council Member McBride-Lee has gone to war with the wrong person.

Clyde Nicholson
396 Madison Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Policing.

Mr. Nicholson said that he was present to propose a new 9-1-1 Emergency Center because the police are policing themselves. All over the country, the police are doing beat downs. He said that they need to have regular citizens watching over this. This is the only profession where the supervisors aren't watching over them. That's why the problems happened in Memphis. The police have cameras on them and they can block the image by pulling their coats over the lens. The military have the cameras on their helmets. It is time to take advantage of the technology. It is time to make Bridgeport a gun free zone. He mentioned that a young 27-year-old man was killed earlier in the day and concluded his comments by saying Bridgeport should be a gun free zone.

Maria Pereira
206 Beardsley
Bridgeport, CT

Council Member Pereira came forward and thanked Council President Nieves, Council Member Burns and others who had donated backpacks to Wilbur Cross School.

She said that she had problems with people who act inappropriately and said that there was an individual who had made a number of threatening phone calls to Council Member Pereira and the other Council Members. Council Member Pereira said that there were outrageous lies posted on Facebook by this person about Council Member Pereira.

Eve Parsons
506 Dewey Street
Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Parsons said that she was disappointed with the lack of support from Council Member Burns and McCarthy regarding the recent application for a cannabis dispensary in her neighborhood. The West Side group had spoken against the proposal. She gave a brief overview of the November Planning and Zoning meeting and Council Member Burns' comments at the time. However, at the January 30th meeting, the Planning and Zoning Commission approved the dispensary and Council Member Burns and McCarthy supported the dispensary. They should step into their role as representatives of the entire Community.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the Public Speaking Session at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
February 6, 2023

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2023

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 7:04 p.m.

PRAYER

Council Member McBride-Lee took a moment of personal privilege to thank Council Members Burns and McCarthy along with others who participated in providing backpacks for Wilbur Cross students.

Dr. Irvy led those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack
132nd District: 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 Member Valle was absent due to illness.

Appointment of:

- City Council Standing Committees
- Special Committee on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- City Council Officers (e.g. President Pro Tempore, Majority Leader, Deputy Majority Leaders and Sergeant at Arms)
- City Council Liaisons to various City agencies, boards, and commissions
- City Council Representatives on the School Building Committee

Council President Nieves requested this be handled later in the agenda.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

• **January 3, 2023**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 3, 2023 MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 3, 2023 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

18-22 Communication from Labor Relations re: Proposed Tentative Agreement with the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), AFL-CIO, Local 834 regarding their Bargaining Unit Contract for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025, referred to Contracts Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO COMMITTEE:**

18-22 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS RE: PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS (IAFF), AFL-CIO, LOCAL 834 REGARDING THEIR BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACT FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***07-22 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development – Mount Growmore Hydroponic Farming Greenhouse and Wellness Campus (#23874).**

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- *08-22 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Historic Restoration Fund – Perry Memorial Arch (#23868)**
- *01-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Refund of Excess Payments – BLD Waterfront Upland Owner LLC, WITHDRAWAL.**
- *02-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Brittany Lawrence – Docket No. FBT-CV-21-6102576-S.**
- *11-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Richard Starkey – Docket No. FBT-CV-206095747-S.**
- *12-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the approval of the 2023-2024 Citizen’s Union Committee.**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove this item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Pereira requested that Agenda Item 11-22 be removed from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested that Agenda Item 12-22 be removed from the Consent Calendar.

The City Clerk then read the remaining agenda items into the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- *07-22 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – MOUNT GROWMORE HYDROPONIC FARMING GREENHOUSE AND WELLNESS CAMPUS (#23874).**
- *08-22 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HISTORIC RESTORATION FUND – PERRY MEMORIAL ARCH (#23868)**
- *01-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – BLD WATERFRONT UPLAND OWNER LLC, WITHDRAWAL.**
- *02-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF BRITTANY LAWRENCE – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-21-6102576-S.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

11-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Richard Starkey – Docket No. FBT-CV-206095747-S.

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she had several questions and would like this matter to be discussed in Executive Session with Atty. Anastasi. Mayor Ganim suggested that they hold this matter to the end of the agenda. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia reminded the Council Members that they can submit questions and concerns to the committee chairs before the Committee meetings and contact the City Attorney's Office.

12-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the approval of the 2023-2024 Citizen's Union Committee.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that they had received a late addition to the 2023-2024 Citizen's Union Committee from Council Member Hodges.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 12-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE 2023-2024 CITIZEN'S UNION COMMITTEE TO ADD ROBERT DELGADO AS A REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE 136TH DISTRICT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

A brief discussion followed.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT OF AGENDA ITEM 12-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE 2023-2024 CITIZEN'S UNION COMMITTEE BY ADDING ROBERT DELGADO AS A REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE 136TH DISTRICT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 12-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE 2023-2024 CITIZEN'S UNION COMMITTEE AS AMENDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that there were vacant seats and objected to the appointment of two candidates for the 139th District.

Atty. Anastasi said that the practice has been to allow each Council Member to submit two names for the Citizens' Union.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 12-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE 2023-2024 CITIZEN'S UNION COMMITTEE AS AMENDED PASSED WITH FIFTEEN IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, NIEVES, SULIMAN AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA FOR REFERRAL.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA FOR REFERRAL PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO REFER A BUDGET TRANSFER REQUEST FROM OPM TO THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #19-22)**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

10-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Jeri D. Kollock – Docket No. 3:20-cv-1286 MPS.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS INVOLVING LITIGATION WITH ATTY. BOHANNON BY PHONE AND ATTY. ANASTASI:**

10-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF JERI D. KOLLOCK – DOCKET NO. 3:20-CV-1286 MPS.

11-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF RICHARD STARKEY – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-206095747-S.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Council Members, Atty. J. Bohannon (via phone) and Atty. Anastasi entered into Executive Session to discuss pending legislation at 7:26 p.m. They returned to Public Session at 8:05 p.m. No actions were taken or motions made while in Executive Session.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 11-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF RICHARD STARKEY – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-206095747-S.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Jeri D. Kollock – Docket No. 3:20-cv-1286 MPS.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 10-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF JERI D. KOLLOCK – DOCKET NO. 3:20-CV-1286 MPS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she was voting against this item because while she had faith in Chief Porter, she felt that the settlement was wrong.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 10-22 PASSED WITH FIFTEEN IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, NIEVES, SULIMAN AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

Appointment of: [CONT'D]

- **City Council Standing Committees**
- **Special Committee on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**
- **City Council Officers (e.g. President Pro Tempore, Majority Leader, Deputy Majority Leaders and Sergeant at Arms)**
- **City Council Liaisons to various City agencies, boards, and commissions**
- **City Council Representatives on the School Building Committee**

Council President Nieves presented the following appointments:

**COMMITTEES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
2022-2023**

First two named Councilmembers serve as Co-Chairs

Committee on Budget and Appropriations

Councilmembers: Burns, Newton, McBride-Lee, Herron, McCarthy, Mack, Vizzo-Paniccia.

Committee on Ordinances

Councilmembers: Mack, Roman-Christy, Newton, Lyons, Boyd, Valle, Cruz.

Committee on Public Safety and Transportation

Councilmembers: Valle, Lyons, Cruz, Boyd, Castillo, Suliman, Vizzo-Paniccia.

Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment

Councilmembers: Valle, Burns, Roman-Christy, Lyons, Mack, McBride-Lee, Smith.

Committee on Miscellaneous Matters

Councilmembers: Vizzo-Paniccia, Boyd, Smith, Castillo, Mack, McCarthy, Suliman.

Committee on Contracts

Councilmembers: McCarthy, Herron, Cruz, Roman-Christy, Pereira, Hodges, Newton.

Committee on Education and Social Services

Councilmembers: Cruz, Boyd, Suliman, Castillo, Hodges, Pereira, Lyons.

Special Committee on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

*Councilmembers: Herron, Mack, McBride-Lee, Valle, Smith, Suliman, Castillo.
(Special Committee Appointed on February 22, 2022)*

CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Aidee Nieves
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE: Ernest Newton
MAJORITY LEADER: Jeanette Herron
DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER: Rosalina Roman-Christy
DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER: Michelle Lyons
SGT AT ARMS: Jorge Cruz

LIAISONS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Liaison to the Chamber of Commerce: Scott Burns
Liaison to Fire Commission: Jeanette Herron
Liaison to Food Policy Council: Maria Valle
Liaison to Harbor Commission: Matthew McCarthy
Liaison to Historic Commission: Rolanda Smith
Liaison to Housing Authority: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack
Liaison to the Library Board: Rosalina Roman-Christy
Liaison to Parks Commission: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia & Matthew McCarthy
Liaison to Police Commission: Matthew McCarthy, Maria Valle & Mary McBride-Lee
Liaison to Port Authority: Aikeem Boyd
Liaison to WPCA: Ernest Newton
Liaison to Zoo: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
School Buildings Committee Members: Ernest Newton (Chair), Matthew McCarthy (Vice Chair),
Aikeem Boyd

Updated: February 7, 2023

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE THE CHANGES TO THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND LIAISONS AS PRESENTED.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services