

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 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 6:37 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. It was announced that both Council Member McCarthy and Valle were absent due to illness.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 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

City Structure & Finance.

Mr. Lee came forward and greeted the Council Members. He also wished Council Member Newton Happy Birthday. Mr. Lee then read the following into the record:

City Council members, neighbors, sisters, brothers, as I prepared to meet with you for the three minutes you permit at each meeting, I recognized that we are in February. It

is Black History Month with many activities by many organizations informing or reminding us of people and actions of note. Interesting how February, the month of Presidential birthdays of Washington and Lincoln, has gained relevant and important status as it turns to look at the lives and actions of those who have had a major struggle to secure notice and attention as human beings to their equal and fair civil rights.

We also celebrate Mardi Gras, the last day in the liturgical year before Lent and a reminder of our human condition. It called to my attention that our public speaking session has no prayer ceremony and so I ask, why not? And I offer one for your consideration as fellow human beings. The title also lends itself to February as one week ago, we celebrated Valentine's Day.

The poem is called FALL IN LOVE and attributed to Father Pedro Arrupe, a Jesuit leader of that order when he died in 1991. Suggestion is actually writer was Father Joseph Whelan, S.J.

Nothing is more practical than
finding God, than
falling in love
in a quite absolute, final way.
What you are in love with,
what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.
It will decide
what will get you out of bed in the morning,
what you do with your evenings,
how you spend your weekends,
what you read, whom you know,
what breaks your heart,
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.
Fall in love, stay in love,
and it will decide everything.

I continue to seek and pursue Fair Rent and Fair Housing boards. Time will tell.

Germaine Rogers
1188 Main Street
Bridgeport, CT

FOI Requests

Mr. Rogers came forward and greeted the Council. He asked why the largest city in the State had 2,000 FOI requests. Mr. Rogers said that he had been stymied in this process and was waiting for three long years. If he did something wrong, it would be in the newspaper and on the news. He asked why he and the other 1,999 people were still waiting. The Mayor said that he was going to change the process in 2015. If the attorney doesn't do his job, fire him.

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
February 21 2023

Page 2

Terry Sullivan
205 Success Village
Bridgeport, CT

Future Development of
Recreational Fields.

Mr. Sullivan came forward and greeted the Council. He said that the game of soccer had expanded so much in the last three years. He asked if there could be more fields added because the need was so great.

He asked if there was any possibility of having the Council meetings translated into Spanish because many people don't attend the Council meetings because they are not fluent in English.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the Public Speaking Session at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 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 7:00 p.m.

PRAYER

Council Member McBride-Lee was asked to lead those present in prayer. Council Member McBride-Lee asked that everyone remember Council Member Newton's daughter who had been in a car accident, Council Member McCarthy who was in the hospital and Council Member McBride-Lee's family who had just experienced the loss of another family member.

Council Member McBride-Lee then lead 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. It was announced that both Council Member McCarthy and Valle were absent due to illness.

**Removal of Special Committee on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
from City Council standing Committees.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE THE REMOVAL OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FROM CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

• January 17, 2023

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2023 MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira stated that the statements listed under the Corrections to the December 19, 2022 minutes on page 5 of the January 17th minutes were incorrect regarding statements and motions that were made during the December 19, 2022 meeting. She stated that she did not say that she was pleased Ms. Smith was being presented as a candidate for the Police Commission and she did not want to have her constituents read that she supported Ms. Smith's appointment. She added that that everyone knows that when a vote tally has nine opposed, the motion failed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO AMEND THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2023 MEETING BY DELETING THE FOLLOWING:**

Page 9, under Agenda Item 139-21, paragraph 1, please change the following 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.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2023 MEETING PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2023 AS AMENDED.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2023 MEETING AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

20-22 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Ronald Mercado – Case No. 3:20-cv-01783 (JAM), referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

21-22 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Professional Services Agreement with SONO Studios LTD, LLC for Logo Development and accompanying Guidebook, referred to Contracts Committee.

22-22 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Andre C. Forde – Docket No. FBT-CV-22-6118716-S, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

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

20-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF RONALD MERCADO – CASE NO. 3:20-CV-01783 (JAM), REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

21-22 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SONO STUDIOS LTD, LLC FOR LOGO DEVELOPMENT AND ACCOMPANYING GUIDEBOOK, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

22-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF ANDRE C. FORDE – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-22-6118716-S, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***19-22 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Budget Transfer to FY 2022-2023 From: Department of Emergency Operations Center Salary Account #01290000-51000 (\$80,000) To: Emergency Operations Center Security Services Account #01290000-56225 (\$80,000) for retention/payment of security guards for the rest of FY 2022-2023.**

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

19-22 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: BUDGET TRANSFER TO FY 2022-2023 FROM: DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER SALARY ACCOUNT #01290000-51000 (\$80,000) TO: EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER SECURITY SERVICES ACCOUNT #01290000-56225 (\$80,000) FOR RETENTION/PAYMENT OF SECURITY GUARDS FOR THE REST OF FY 2022-2023.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH THIRTEEN (13) IN FAVOR (CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (BURNS AND PEREIRA).**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

18-22 Contracts Committee Report re: 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.

**** Council Member Herron moved Agenda Item 18-22 Contracts Committee Report re: 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.**

**** Council Member Cruz seconded.**

Council Member Newton thanked those involved in coming to agreement on the Firefighters contract.

Council Member Pereira stated that during the Committee meeting, she still had questions when a motion was made to move the question. She will not vote on anything when she did not have the complete information.

Council Member Cruz said that he had personally spoken with those involved with the negotiations on this contract and they all were in agreement with the terms of the contract.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that if there had been anyone involved in the contract had objections, they would have said so.

Council Member Herron said that when they have contract negotiations, the first thing they do is check with the Union president. The Fire Department has been giving to the City for years and this was well worth it.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 18-22 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: 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 PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #23-22)**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia explained that there had been some changes to the proposed 2023-2024 Citizen Participation Plan. Copies of the updated plan were given to the Council Members.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED UPDATES TO THE 2023-2024 BRIDGEPORT CITIZEN UNION - PY49 AS PRESENTED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Atty. Anastasi said that due to the time constraints and the fact that this was being immediately considered, therefore a 2/3rd majority was needed for the item to pass.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED UPDATES TO THE 2023-2024 BRIDGEPORT CITIZEN UNION - PY49 AS PRESENTED PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE UPDATED 2023-2024 BRIDGEPORT CITIZEN UNION - PY49 AS PRESENTED.**

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

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE UPDATED 2023-2024 BRIDGEPORT CITIZEN UNION - PY49 AS PRESENTED PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA). (ITEM #23-22)**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SULIMAN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services