

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member Taylor-Moye lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim then requested Mr. Thomas Gaudett to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Martinez called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Kathryn Bukovsky, Scott Burns
131st District: Jack O. Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: M. Evette Brantley, John Olson
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron
134th District: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Michelle Lyons
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Jose Casco
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Milta Feliciano
138th District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith
139th District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

Mayor Ganim welcomed everyone and explained that this special meeting was convened to vote on the proposed 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget. There would not be a Public Speaking Session since it was a special meeting.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON

59-16 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: General Fund Budget
a,b,c,d,e for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 – Votes as follows:

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Special Meeting
May 8, 2017

General Fund:

- a. Revenue Increases**
- b. Revenue Decreases**
- c. Appropriation Increases**
- d. Appropriation Decreases**
- e. General Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2017-2018 as amended**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER INTO CAUCUS.**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Council Members entered into caucus at 7:25 p.m. They returned to public session at 8:03 p.m.

Mayor Ganim called the meeting back to order at 8:03 p.m. He reviewed the numbers needed for each of the votes to pass.

59-16 a, b, c, d, e – Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: General Fund Budget as follows:

a. Revenue increases

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO HAVE A ROLL CALL.**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REVENUE INCREASES OF \$3,984,873.00 AS STATED IN THE AMENDED GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018.**

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

b. Revenue decreases.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REVENUE DECREASES OF -\$4,880,024.00 AS STATED IN THE AMENDED GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018.**

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

c. Appropriation Increases

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPROPRIATION INCREASES OF -\$3,534,431.00 AS STATED IN THE AMENDED GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

d. Appropriation Decreases

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPROPRIATION DECREASES OF \$4,429,582.00 AS STATED IN THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BUKOVSKY, BURNS, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, OLSON, MCCARTHY, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, NIEVES, PAOLETTO, SMITH AND HOLLOWAY) AND SIX (6) OPPOSED (HERRON, LYONS, CASCO, CASTILLO, FELICIANO, AND MARTINEZ).**

Council Member Herron said that the budget committee had worked hard but she was concerned about the level of crime that was taking place. There were three robberies. She said that she was not in agreement with reducing funding to the Police Department.

Council Member Lyons said that she also had concerns about the finances. She said that she would like to see the BOE hire the paraprofessionals back. She said that she had while she understood the overtime issues, she felt bad for the patrol officers. The mid-level officers take the majority of the overtime.

Council Member Holloway said that the city encompasses the East Side and East End. If they increase the taxes, more people will lose their homes. While the Police need the overtime, but if they don't have the money, there will be problems. His constituents have told him that they have never paid so much in taxes. He spoke about the State budget and hope that the funding would come through so that they could give the Police and the BOE the funding they need.

Council Member Holloway spoke about his concerns about the police department.

Council Member Brantley said that she was in favor of the schools. It is painful when people talk about the status of education. The children are being short changed. She said that someone was killed down the street from her house. When she came home from work, the drug dealers were dealing from the middle of the street in the middle of the street. She said that the crime happens all over the city. It's time to start teaching the children the 10 commandments, one of which is "Thou shalt not kill." These kids need to be in church and it's not happening. With her job, she can't remember the last time she had overtime. It's time for the Police to take control of their budget.

Council Member Martinez thanked the Budget & Appropriations Committee members for their hard work. She said an issue with the police department and that there has been an increase with the police department. There needs to be more overtime. As an elected official, she has a problem taking money from the Police Department and giving it to the BOE.

Council Member Martinez also spoke about her concerns regarding the Minority and Small Business Department.

Council Member McBride-Lee then spoke about the BOE allocations and the education. The students are the ones that suffer. Bridgeport should be cultivating the children and preparing them to be successful in their lives. It's time to hold the line.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that it was important to support the police officers. She then spoke about the overtime and said that if something happens in Bridgeport, the Police will find the funding for the overtime. She said that the cut in overtime was not about the police, but about finding a way to educate the children so that they have respect for the police, grow up and have successful lives.

Council Member Feliciano said that she was happy that they were having the discussion so they could move forward. At the same time, she was pleased that the Chief had spoken about the measures that they are taking to control the overtime.

Council Member Lyons reiterated her thanks to the Budget committee. There were numerous questions that came up during the discussions. The Budget committee did their best but she felt that if the BOE gets more money, it should go to direct student services.

e. General Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2017-2018 as amended

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET OF \$895,151.00 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 AS AMENDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

Council Member Feliciano asked how it was amended and stated she did not receive the document with what the final figures were. Mayor Ganim informed her that the updated information had been placed on her Council desk before the meeting began.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Ganim said that he would be working on this new budget. The State Budget was still uncertain.

Council Member Brantley said that former City Clerk Fleeta Hudson had lost her daughter recently and requested a moment of silence.

Council Member Burns thanked everyone on behalf of the Committee. He reminded everyone that they had been working in a vacuum. He appreciated the hard work. He said that the intention of the Council in giving the BOE more money was to bring the paraprofessionals back into the classrooms. He said that it was difficult but that it would be important to recognize there were many things that the schools need; however, the paraprofessionals top the list for the students.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services