

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
MONDAY, JULY 3, 2017
6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President McCarthy called the Public Speaking session to order at 6:50 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JULY 3, 2017 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Frank Gyure
74 Harbor Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Contract regarding the
Downtown Theatres.

Mr. Hank Gyure came forward and said that he had been born in Bridgeport and went on to speak about the Downtown theaters which would cost about \$4 million dollars and compared it to the Steel Point project. He spoke about new housing and rental units in Bridgeport and said that when companies who contract with Bridgeport are rushed through and it will be obvious what the outcome will be. He spoke about how the Mayor was pushing a contract through within 30 days. He said that it would be important for the sub-committee to slow the process down and think about the impacts on the City. Due diligence is required.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City Finances.

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

Tonight on your agenda is an item, # **105-16** to refer to committee, an idea from Joe Ganim's "playbook" that has had very little discussion.

"All full-time employees of the City, except the Board of Education personnel, police, firefighters, janitors and engineers who participate in other plans described below participate in MERS" is a quote on page 55 of 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). Educators are covered through the Connecticut Teachers Retirement System and police and fire retirement benefits were transferred in recent years from Plan B to the State of CT. But to which fund? Did the external auditors leave out information about our Police and Fire plans from the 2016 CAFR?

Background: Retirement plans accept contributions today, to invest, to meet benefit targets that are projected. Assumed rates of investment return and mortality data about how long people will live are used. A major problem in recent years has been the difference between the assumed rate of return sought by a plan and actual market returns. Page 59 shows that Bridgeport's net pension liability for most MERS employees when an 8% assumed interest return is used was \$31, 237, 539, but when 7% is the assumed rate, the taxpayer liability increases to \$119, 518, 938. I suppose if the rate was further reduced to 6%, that the current \$31 Million City responsibility rises to \$200 Million or more?

A turn to page 85 of the CAFR indicates that the investment rate for City Pension Plan A, established by Mayor Ganim in 2000 (that has lost tens of millions in down markets and cost taxpayers an added \$100 Million already), had an assumption reduction from 8% to 7% in 2015. Was this reduction a result of your deliberations? Is it noted in minutes? Who made the decision to reduce from 8% to 7% in 2015? Was it an actuary employed by the City? I do not know. But I think it might be wise if you discover how this works since you do vote on contracts and bonding on behalf of taxpayers.

Page 85 indicates that the change from an 8% to a 7% instantly increased Bridgeport's Net Pension Liability by \$75 Million and that from 2014 to 2016 our asset position relative to the liability decreased from 40.59% to 23.42%. Good news? Not!! Aren't you really curious about the actual plan earnings rather than the assumed earnings? For instance if we were earning 10% per year and assuming 8% it would seem that our problems would be under control. Actually in the three year period for Pension Plan A, page 93 reports that our average return was 3.15%. We project at 7% or 8% but earn at 3-4%? (Even Moody's suggests a 5% assumption.) And then the actuary tells us that we must fund the increased liability over a five year period. Should we bond it?

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Other liability for retiree lifetime healthcare, called OPEB increased in 2016. Page 76 indicates the City contributed \$32 Million a part of the obligation but the liability still increased by an additional \$42 Million and stands at \$251 Million. Should that be bonded?

POLICE OVERTIME: The Council decided in 2012 and 2013 to approve Fire and Police contracts and moved them from the fiscally sound Bridgeport Plan B to the State Retirement System, a ***move that allowed overtime hours to become part of the retirement benefit calculation*** (so that a recent long term high ranking police officer is now earning \$180,000 per year in retirement, it has been reported). Who is funding this swollen benefit? What is the price tag for this change? Is it the \$88 Million contemplated by 105-16?

Did you see a cost projection in City paperwork when you approved the contract? The **UNFUNDED ACTUARIALLY ACCRUED LIABILITY** today is about \$88 Million. It is to be paid over 28 years at \$7.5 Million/A for a total of \$207 Million. Another alternative has been offered. And a plan is before you to bond instead at 4-4.5% guaranteed for the better part of 30 years. (CT pension investment returns are among the lowest 25% nationally.)

But you see the price tag of Police and Fire OVERTIME for the first time. \$88 Million!! Why bond it specifically when the City has other liabilities that are equal or greater and growing faster? The projected, assumed, NOT GUARANTEED, returns that can be reduced by actuaries create increasing accrued funding liabilities for us as they decrease. Is this a guaranteed standard of comparison on which to base an annual savings? Perhaps it is not so simple? Perhaps it takes a study of all City liabilities? Why the rush? If the State is in trouble, perhaps restructuring of retirement liabilities should be completed first before the City binds payments to another bond? Time will tell.

Tony Barr
405 Taft Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

WPCA, guns and jobs for kids.

Mr. Tony Barr came forward to speak to the Council. He said that Police Chief Perez told him that the overtime was authorized. He spoke about the two police officers standing at a construction job and earning overtime. He said that the Mayor was responsible to every Bridgeport resident. He said that there needed to be a recall and said that whatever Mayor Ganim does, it will be up to the Council to fix it. He mentioned the issues with the WPCA foreclosures and the lack of jobs in the City. Mr. Barr said that some people love him and others hate him. He said that Mayor Ganim had made many promises but didn't keep them. He said that people were leaving because there was nothing in the City for them.

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Unjust termination.

Mr. Cecil Young came forward to speak to the Council. He said that he believed Mr. Barr and then spoke about all the issues involved in his termination. He then played an audio with a clip of a speech and a portion of a song.

Dasha Spell
144 Golden Hill Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Youth and Education.

Ms. Spell came forward to address the Council. She said that legacy was something that was handed down from generation to generation. The youth of Bridgeport is its future. She did some research and said that the Finance department was proposing a \$14,000 increase for two positions. However, it costs \$14,000 for each student in the City. Right now the legacy in Bridgeport is housing and poor education. Ms. Spell said that there were students who were honored for becoming Bridgeport graduates and going on to colleges. However, many of the students don't know how to even begin to think about college. There are no jobs and as a tax payer she finds this hard to understand. In the grants department, there are three grant writers at \$60,000 a year.

Ethan Book
144 Coleman Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Downtown Parking Meters.

Mr. Book came forward to address the Council. He said that he was a resident of Bridgeport and part of the Republican Town Committee. He is always the operative of a small transportation business. He then listed the various positions that he had been candidate for and said that he had become familiar with the various downtown business owners. The current policy is not business friendly. He then made several suggestions for the meters including making the base time longer.

Mr. Book then said that Council President McCarthy had made some comments and state that Council President McCarthy was a City employee and also on the Council. He said that the City administration continues to ignore various legitimate claims. It will be important to be sure that the residents receive the best services for their money.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President McCarthy adjourned the public speaking portion of the Council meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
July 3, 2017

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 3, 2017

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 7:26 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member Brantley lead those present in prayer. Council Member Brantley asked for a moment of silence to remember the three men who recently lost their lives. Council Member Feliciano asked that the Ayala family also be included in the moment of silence due to the loss of a family member who was an Air Force veteran. Council President McCarthy also requested those present to include another family who suffered a recent loss.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

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

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: June 1, 2017 (Special Meeting) and June 5, 2017.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED THE MINUTES OF APRIL 17, 2017.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 1, 2017 (SPECIAL MEETING) AND JUNE 5, 2017 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE:**

94-16 COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD OF EDUCATION RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD FOR THE FY 2018 SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE PRESCHOOL SPACES FOR CHILDREN THAT ARE THREE AND FOUR YEARS OLD WHO RESIDE IN THE CITY FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2017 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2018, REFERRED TO EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

95-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH SHEKKIAH DAVIS, ET AL, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

96-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES & TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM (PROJECT #18232 & 18233), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

97-16 COMMUNICATION FROM LIBRARY RE: APPOINTMENT OF DONALD W. GREENBERG (U) TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE.

98-16 COMMUNICATION FROM LIBRARY RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF ROSALINA ROMAN CHRISTY (D) TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE.

99-16 COMMUNICATION FROM LIBRARY RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF PHYLICIA R. BROWN (D) TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE.

100-16 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF ELEVEN (11) PROPERTIES WITHIN THE SEAVIEW AVENUE INDUSTRIAL PARK AND REQUEST TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE SAME, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

101-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES – BOND FUND FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (#4L001), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

102-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (DECD) BROWNFIELD GRANT PROGRAM – ROUND 11, REMEDIATION FOR CIVIC BLOCK PROJECT (18231), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

103-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: FEMA PORT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM, (#18388, #18390, #18391, #18392 AND #18393), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

104-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE – BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (#18302), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

105-16 COMMUNICATION FROM OFFICE OF POLICY & MANAGEMENT RE: PROPOSED APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO ADOPTED FY2018 CAPITAL BUDGET AND THE CMERS PENSION BOND, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***92-16 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Title 10 – Vehicles and Traffic, amend Chapter 10.12 Stopping, Standing and Parking Generally and amend Chapter 10.16 – Parking.**

***89-16 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management for FY 2017 Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development Program (#18331).**

***87-16 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Aixa G. Acevedo, et al.**

***93-16 Special Committee for CDBG Program Report re: Program Year 43 Annual Action Plan: Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), Homeless Emergency Solutions Grant Program (HESG), HOME Investment Partnership Program, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program (HOPWA).**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Martinez requested Agenda Item 92-16 be removed from the Consent Calendar. Council President McCarthy requested that Agenda Item 93-16 be removed from the consent calendar.

Mayor Ganim requested that the City Clerk read the remaining Consent Calendar items into the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

***89-16 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT FOR FY 2017 RESPONSIBLE GROWTH AND TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (#18331).**

***87-16 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH AIXA G. ACEVEDO, ET AL.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

92-16 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Title 10 – Vehicles and Traffic, amend Chapter 10.12 Stopping, Standing and Parking Generally and amend Chapter 10.16 – Parking.

Council Member Martinez said that after hearing the public's comments at the Public Hearing that was held immediately before the beginning of the Council meeting, she would like to have this referred back to Committee.

Council Member Burns spoke about his concerns regarding the waiting period.

Council Member Taylor-Moye agreed with Council Member Martinez that the item should be sent back to Committee.

Mayor Ganim said that he would like to see the item move forward because that would provide some financial relief while the final details were worked out.

Council Member Herron asked if it could be amended. Council President McCarthy suggested that the Council pass the amendments and work on the details in Committee. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia wished to know who would be responsible for the adjustment.

Council Member Olson said that he was in favor of passing the amendments because people had complained about various issues and these were addressed. The Ordinance Committee spent time on this item and now it needs to go forward.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO REFER AGENDA ITEM 92-16 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 10 – VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, AMEND CHAPTER 10.12 STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING GENERALLY AND AMEND CHAPTER 10.16 – PARKING BACK TO COMMITTEE.**

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

A roll call vote was requested. Council President McCarthy clarified that a “Yes” vote was to send the item back to Committee and a “No” vote would keep the item on the floor for a vote.

**** THE MOTION TO REFER AGENDA ITEM 92-16 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 10 – VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, AMEND CHAPTER 10.12 STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING GENERALLY AND AMEND CHAPTER 10.16 – PARKING BACK TO COMMITTEE FAILED TO PASS WITH EIGHT (8) IN FAVOR (TAYLOR-MOYE, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, FELICIANO, AND MARTINEZ); NINE (9) AGAINST (BURNS, BRANTLEY, OLSON, MCCARTHY, MCBRIDE-LEE, NIEVES, PAOLETTO, SMITH, AND HOLLOWAY) AND ONE ABSTENTION (BUKOVSKY).**

Council Member Bukovsky was asked to state the reason she abstained. She replied that her brother works for the Public Facilities Department.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER OLSON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 92-16 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 10 – VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, AMEND CHAPTER 10.12 STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING GENERALLY AND AMEND CHAPTER 10.16 – PARKING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO REFER AGENDA ITEM 92-16 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 10 – VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, AMEND CHAPTER 10.12 STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING GENERALLY AND AMEND CHAPTER 10.16 – PARKING PASSED WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (BURNS, BRANTLEY, OLSON, MCCARTHY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, NIEVES, PAOLETTO, SMITH, MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY); FIVE (5) AGAINST (TAYLOR-MOYE, VIZZO-PANICCIA, SALTER, CASCO AND FELICIANO) AND ONE ABSTENTION (BUKOVSKY).**

***93-16 Special Committee for CDBG Program Report re: Program Year 43 Annual Action Plan: Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), Homeless Emergency Solutions Grant Program (HESG), HOME Investment Partnership Program, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program (HOPWA).**

Council President McCarthy announced that the following Council Members would recuse themselves from the vote on the agenda item due to a potential conflict of interest:
Council Members Brantley, Herron, Burns and Martinez.

RECESS

Mayor Ganim announced that there would be a short recess and that Council President McCarthy would chair the remainder of the meeting. The recess started at 7:55 p.m.

Mayor Ganim and Council Members Brantley, Herron, Burns and Martinez left the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Council President McCarthy called the meeting back to order at 7:56 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 93-16 SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR CDBG PROGRAM REPORT RE: PROGRAM YEAR 43 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG), HOMELESS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM (HESG), HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM, HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS PROGRAM (HOPWA).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ADJOURN PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services