

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2017
6:30 PM**

**Geraldine W. Johnson School, Auditorium
475 Lexington Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Pro Tempore Taylor-Moye called the Public Speaking session to order at 6:38 p.m.

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

ROLL CALL

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

A quorum was present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2017 AT 6:30 P.M., AT GERALDINE W. JOHNSON SCHOOL, AUDITORIUM, 475 LEXINGTON AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604.

NAME

SUBJECT

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City Finances.

Mr. Lee read the following statement into the record:

Council members, are pensions and bonding difficult subjects for you? Let's get basic. Bonding may seem simpler. Works like a home mortgage. Principal? Term of years? And guaranteed interest rate? Now, pensions. Employees work. Then they retire expecting a promised

guaranteed income from the City. Income is based on enough funds earned on pension assets. For years Bridgeport employees have trusted Municipal Employee Retirement System which the State manages but makes no contributions to. This year MERS reported a “past service liability”. First the CAFR said \$31Million was due. Now the Mayor says \$90 Million will settle the deal with no more money ever. But CAFR shows when assumed earnings are decreased, liabilities increase. And it does not show \$90 Million!!!

Labor Relations Department negotiates contracts for the City Police and Fire came to terms with overdue contract renewals. Labor Relations handled all the details that importantly included shutting down Pension B Plans and transferring active personnel to MERS. Most of Plan B assets transferred to MERS. The City was current with contributions.

MERS requires more trust assets to fund actuarial past service liability that Bridgeport became obligated to in the 2012-16 contract. Does anyone present know the price tag of that obligation? In other words, what did that contract cost the City for the terms agreed to? If the City had no MERS past service liability before 2015 but has one in 2016 why else look anywhere other than including public safety overtime earnings?

The \$90 Million requested for bonding by Ganim’s “concept” eliminates past service liability? Like this small box, nice and neat with no more payments for liabilities ever despite investment earnings? Or do we face \$270 Million if actuaries reduce the assumed earnings rate to 7% (as was done with Ganim’s first pension bond deal Plan A recently)? Or is the liability represented by the big box at over half a billion dollars when the liabilities of Plan A and MERS are considered. (Remember that the 2000 bond deal has the City paying \$900 Million for the privilege of borrowing \$350 Million as well as NOW contributing tens of millions when the trust portfolio at \$60 Million disappears. Looked at today, a good deal? As advertised or expected?) It depends on added contributions from the City, which were often reduced and deferred. It depended on earnings at 8% to come true. Plans like Plan B and MERS have been earning less than 5% on average. So liability INCREASES each year into the future.

The Mayor talks about saving 4% of \$90 Million bond interest expense payable or \$3.6 Million per year. But since MERS does not agree that all past service liabilities are forever funded in full, then the savings really disappears and bonding interest of \$100 Million becomes an extra expense.

As the trust earns less than assumed, City liability increases, and more taxpayer contributions are required.

What was the cost to transfer from Plan B to MERS based on actual realistic rates of return (5% assumption) in the market place? Will Labor Relations show you the calculations now? Were they shown to CC and made public previously? Were they secret then and now?

Perhaps a re-negotiation is in order? Normal retirement requires 25 years. Rights to and funding of such overtime earnings have been part of formulas for merely five years. Adjustments may be possible to help the taxpayer in this poor City as both Mayor Finch and Mayor Ganim have stated when they have gone to Hartford routinely request the cost of our obligations be kicked down the road. What did taxpayers gain from the MERS transfer?

Vote NO on the pension bonding resolution until you can show voters the total cost to taxpayers of the move from Plan B pensions to MERS assuming that our earnings continue at the average rate of the past ten years?

In the meantime pay MERS one of the schemes they have offered to the City. We will not have a \$4 Million surplus every year as we do this year.

Bonding and bond interest as suggested by the Mayor is unnecessary expense. \$100 Million extra interest over 28 years to borrow \$90 Million. MERS is not demanding a lump sum today. And a lump sum payment to them will likely continue low returns and market losses as we have seen in Ganim's existing Plan A. Which box to fund? How much is required? Know the amount before choosing the method? Be certain before you vote. Taxpayers will pay attention this year. Time will tell.

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Community Policing.

Mr. Young came forward and thanked the Council for the time to speak. Mr. Young said that he had been a Democrat for the last 50 years and had just switched to being an Independent in order to run for Council. He spoke about the last 11 1/2 years and said that he was hurting. Mr. Young mentioned that the Mayor was going to run for Governor and went on to give his opinion on this.

He went on to speak about the issue and concluded by playing an audio recording of a speech along with a portion of the song "A Long Time Coming", and finally an audio clip of Dr. Martin Luther King's speech on "We Shall Overcome".

Clyde Nicholson
54 Wallace Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Parking Meters.

Mr. Clyde Nicholson came forward and said that he was present to voice his opinion about the parking meters. He said that he was sad to find out that Mayor Ganim signed off on the parking meters and that the Council was being tricked into bad situations.

He said that Atty. Anastasi was no longer able to speak out in meetings and it was time for him to go. He said that Atty. Anastasi had cost the City thousands of dollars. Mr. Nicholson said that Atty. Anastasi can't be touched because he is above the law.

Mayor Ganim showed up late to the meeting and Mr. Nicholson claimed Mayor Ganim signed the contract before the City Council had even voted on it.

Mr. Nicholson pointed out that the Mayor's job was 24/7 but Mayor Ganim was running around the State campaigning for the Governorship with a City vehicle and being chauffeured by a city driver, who is being paid by the City.

Mr. Nicholson said that the parking meters contract had a 120 days before it had to be signed. He added that he had just spoken with a restaurant owner who had to close because of the impact the meters had on his business.

Pete Spain
280 Grovers Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Due diligence.

Mr. Spain came forward and said that there were two items on the agenda he was concerned about and that everyone wants the City to prosper. The Connecticut Post reported that the new proposal was for a major development with the renovation of the two theaters, over 120 hotel rooms and a historic house, which would be all done by the same developer.

Mr. Spain wondered if the individual who claimed that the project was straight forward was present. Mr. Bill Coleman said that he was the one who had made the statement. Mr. Spain wondered why there were no experts, historians, and other project development strategists. He said that he would like to know who decided that the Poli theater would be divided up into family friendly spaces.

Frank Gyure
74 Harbor Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Poli-Majestic Theater
Contract with Exact
Capital.

Council President Pro Tempore Taylor-Moye announced that the next speaker was Mr. Frank Gyure. There was no response. She called for Mr. Gyure two more times and she moved on to the first person who had signed up for Public Speaking at the meeting.

Ms. Crystal Mack
Bridgeport, CT

Council President Pro Tempore Taylor-Moye said that Ms. Mack's address was not on the list. Ms. Mack gave her address to Council President Pro Tempore Taylor-Moye.

Ms. Mack said that she was here to speak about the WPCA. She then said that there were a number of things that the WPCA was duping the residents about. She pointed out that it was important to know how much a unit of water was and how much it costs. Because they don't, they are losing their homes. She said that it was wonderful what Mr. Young played because it shows how people need to know their government.

Ms. Mack spoke about a child who had been suspended from a charter school, the fact that there is no need for another train station and added that the State lotto money was unaccounted for. Now she is hearing that the MERS payments are going to be reduced. Shame on those who are representing the residents. Ms. Mack said that she likes Trump because he tells the truth the way that the people see.

Mr. Jorge Cruz
Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Jorge Cruz came forward and said that he lives on Black Rock Avenue. He said that he would like to have the resolution that would prevent UI from cutting down the trees in the City. UI was letting the companies come in and just do what they want to without any accountability. Unless this is stopped, soon the city will not be known as the Park City anymore.

He pointed out that trees provide oxygen and the City does not have to pay for them. One large tree can provide oxygen for 4 people. Through photosynthesis, the tree can filter out carbon dioxide for the city. They also provide cooling via the shade.

Mr. Cruz said that he understands that UI needs to cut back the trees for storm prevention, but pointed out that the birds and the people need the trees, too.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Pro Tempore Taylor-Moye adjourned the public speaking portion of the Council meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2017
7:00 PM**

**Geraldine W. Johnson School, Auditorium
475 Lexington Avenue
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member Olson to lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim then requested City Clerk Lydia Martinez to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Martinez called the roll.

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

A quorum was present.

Mayoral Proclamation and City Council Citation(s): Recognizing Bridgeport Police Officer Ryan Mullenax and his K9 Partner Zeus for their Extraordinary Response in locating a missing child on July 9, 2017.

Mayoral Proclamation(s) and City Council Citation(s): Recognizing Bridgeport Police Detective Vincent Lariccia and Police Sergeant Gilberto Valentin for their Exemplary Professionalism displayed at a community event at Newfield Park on July 21, 2017.

Mayor Ganim announced that these two items would be deferred to the next Council meeting.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: June 19, 2017

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED THE MINUTES OF JUNE 19, 2017.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 19, 2017 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR AGENDA ITEM 115-16 (REF. #88-16) REGARDING THE LAND DISPOSITION AGREEMENT FOR THE DOWNTOWN THEATERS ON SEPTEMBER 5, AT 7:00 P.M.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Holloway said that he would like to take a point of personal privilege and said that about 5 weeks ago, an elderly man was struck and killed by a car. The gentleman got off the bus where there was no sidewalk. One motorist stopped to let the man cross, but another driver cut around the first car and hit the pedestrian. Council Member Holloway spoke about the various cross walks in the City. Four years ago, he had brought forward a situation similar to this. Council Member Holloway asked the Mayor to authorize cross walks on the State roads because people are being hit by cars. When a pedestrian is in the cross walk, they have right of way.

Mayor Ganim said that this was noted for the record and he would have it looked into this matter.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE FULL COUNCIL AGENDA REGARDING REFERRING A GRANT SUBMISSION REGARDING THE CONNECTICUT PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT TO THE ECDE COMMITTEE.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD THE ITEM TO THE FULL COUNCIL AGENDA REGARDING REFERRING A GRANT SUBMISSION REGARDING THE CONNECTICUT PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT TO THE ECDE COMMITTEE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO REFER A GRANT SUBMISSION REGARDING THE CONNECTICUT PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT TO THE ECDE COMMITTEE.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION TO REFER A GRANT SUBMISSION REGARDING THE CONNECTICUT PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT TO THE ECDE COMMITTEE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #125-16)**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE AND RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:**

106-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH GABRIEL RAMOS, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

107-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH TINA GIORDANO, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

108-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES FY 2017 COPS HIRING PROGRAM (#18200), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

109-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS (AARP) FOR COMMUNITY CHALLENGE PROGRAM (#18205), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

110-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH CONSTANCE L. TAAFE, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

111-16 COMMUNICATION FROM OFFICE OF REENTRY AFFAIRS (M.I.R.A) RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR FAMILY REENTRY, INC./SHARED STUDIOS FAMILY REUNIFICATION COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTAL, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

113-16 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – 1700 SPE CT PARK LLC, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

114-16 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – DONNA SICILIANO, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

115-16 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: (REF. #88-16) PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LAND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT (“LDA”) FOR THE DOWNTOWN THEATRE BUILDINGS AND ADJACENT

VACANT PROPERTIES AND REQUEST TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE SAME, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

116-16 COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE RE: PROPOSED 2017-18 MERS PENSION BOND ISSUANCE RESOLUTION, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

117-16 COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE RE: PROPOSED FY 2018 CAPITAL PROJECT BOND ISSUANCE AND ASSOCIATED RE-FINANCINGS, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

118-16 COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE RE: PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF TAX ANTICIPATED NOTES (TANS), REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

112-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY RE: (REF. #86-16) REQUEST THAT THE INSTALLATION OF “NO THROUGH TRUCK TRAFFIC” SIGNS BE INSTALLED ON SEAVIEW AVENUE AND CENTRAL AVENUE AT THE DEKALB AVENUE, DEFOREST AVENUE AND ADAMS STREET INTERSECTIONS, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION.

119-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU (#18532), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

120-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY GRANT PROGRAM (#18341), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

121-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU ENHANCEMENT (#18540), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

122-16 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED/HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RE: (REF. #93-16) PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING PROGRAM YEAR 43 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT, REFERRED TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CDBG PROGRAM.

123-16 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS AND BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION RE: PROPOSED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE SEGAL COMPANY FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

FOR PERFORMING REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS (RFP'S) REGARDING MEDICAL AND DENTAL PLANS, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

124-16 COMMUNICATION FROM OPM RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2017-2018 CAPITAL PLAN BUDGET REGARDING THE CONGRESS STREET BRIDGE/PARKING GARAGE IN DOWNTOWN BRIDGEPORT, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***129-15 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinance, Title 8 – Health and Safety, amend Chapter 8.76 – Anti-Blight Program.**

***226-15 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Appointment of James T. Morley (D) to the Board of Fire Commissioners.**

***67-16 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution requesting that the City's Tree Warden require all Utility Companies working in the City to include in their Annual Vegetation Management Plan a language with clear signage regarding postings on any tree marked for pruning or removal.**

***103-16 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: FEMA Port security Grant Program (#18388, #18390, #18391, #18392 and #18393).**

***104-16 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance – Bulletproof Vest Partnership Initiative (#18302).**

***96-16 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Public Health for Sexually Transmitted Diseases & Tuberculosis Control Program (Project #18232 & 18233).**

***101-16 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services – Bond Fund for Capital Improvement (#4L001).**

***102-16 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) Round 11 Brownfield Grant Program – Remediation for Civic Block Project (#18231).**

***97-16 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Donald W. Greenberg (U) to the Library Board of Directors.**

***98-16 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Reappointment of Rosalina Roman Christy (D) to the Library Board of Directors.**

***99-16 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Reappointment of Phylicia R. Brown (D) to the Library Board of Directors.**

***94-16 Education and Social Services Committee Report 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.**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested Agenda Items 67-16 and 98-16 be removed from the Consent Calendar.

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

***129-15 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCE, TITLE 8 – HEALTH AND SAFETY, AMEND CHAPTER 8.76 – ANTI-BLIGHT PROGRAM.**

***226-15 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF JAMES T. MORLEY (D) TO THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS.**

***103-16 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: FEMA PORT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (#18388, #18390, #18391, #18392 AND #18393).**

***104-16 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE – BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (#18302).**

***96-16 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES & TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM (PROJECT #18232 & 18233).**

***101-16 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES – BOND FUND FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT (#4L001).**

***102-16 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (DECD) ROUND 11 BROWNFIELD GRANT PROGRAM – REMEDIATION FOR CIVIC BLOCK PROJECT (#18231).**

***97-16 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF DONALD W. GREENBERG (U) TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

***99-16 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF PHYLICIA R. BROWN (D) TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

***94-16 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT 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.**

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

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

88-16 Contracts Committee Report re: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Exact Capital Group, LLC regarding the Redevelopment of the Poli-Majestic Theatres and the Savoy Hotel.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said she will be voting against the item in Committee because the contracts are not thorough. She said that she had just gotten the paperwork earlier in the day.

Council Member Holloway said that he had just gotten the information and had some concerns about this. Mayor Ganim pointed out that the item was just the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and not the Land Disposition Agreement (LDA). The Council Members just received the LDA and have 30 days to review it. The MOU was distributed some time ago for the Council to review.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that this was not a good project because there was no guarantee that all the information was legitimate.

Council Member Lyons said that she was out of town when the contract was distributed. She said that she would not be voting for this until it is going to Contracts and she will do her due diligence during the Committee meeting.

Council Member Olson made a comment about President Trump and went on to say that initially that he Council can't be going into this blind folded. He said that he was confident it would work out well.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that it would have to go back to contracts. Now it looks like they will be able to do the job and get the project off the ground. She said that she will be voting for the revised MOU.

The Mayor said that this was not the LDA and there would be a public hearing for the LDA.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 88-16 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH EXACT CAPITAL GROUP, LLC REGARDING THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE POLI-MAJESTIC THEATRES AND THE SAVOY HOTEL.**

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

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE FAILED TO PASS WITH SIX (6) IN FAVOR (BUKOVSKY, BANTA, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA AND MARTINEZ) AND ELEVEN (11) AGAINST (BURNS, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, OLSON, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, NIEVES, FELICIANO, PAOLETTO, SMITH AND HOLLOWAY.)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED TO AMEND BY SUBSTITUTION TO ENSURE THAT SPECIFIC LANGUAGE WITH REGARDS TO THE LDA LANGUAGE GO BACK TO THE CITY COUNCIL.**

Mayor Ganim pointed out that the LDA had been separated out and would be voted on in a separate vote by the City Council. This vote is only on approving the MOU, not the LDA. This amendment by substitution is to clarify the item.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 88-16 BY SUBSTITUTION PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BUKOVSKY, BURNS, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, OLSON, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, NIEVES, FELICIANO, PAOLETTO, SMITH, MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED AGENDA ITEM 88-16 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH EXACT CAPITAL GROUP, LLC REGARDING THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE POLI-MAJESTIC THEATRES AND THE SAVOY HOTEL AS AMENDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 88-16 AS AMENDED PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BUKOVSKY, BURNS, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, OLSON, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, NIEVES, FELICIANO, PAOLETTO, SMITH, MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND THREE (3) OPPOSED (BANTA, VIZZO-PANICCIA AND LYONS).**

62-16 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention FY 2017 Safe and Thriving Communities – Planning and Collaboration.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BUKOVSKY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 62-16 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION FY 2017 SAFE AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES – PLANNING AND COLLABORATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***67-16 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution requesting that the City’s Tree Warden require all Utility Companies working in the City to include in their Annual Vegetation Management Plan a language with clear signage regarding postings on any tree marked for pruning or removal.**

Council Member Lyons said that while she was one of the chairs for that Committee, she had been out of town when this was on the agenda.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER OLSON MOVED TO REFER THE ITEM BACK TO COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Olson said that this resolution was in violation of State law.

Council Member Banta said that he would like this item to be voted on at this meeting. He pointed out that no one is against having the utility companies trim back the trees to keep the electricity coming. However, they have been cutting down trees that were perfectly healthy without any notification. That is all anyone wants.

Mayor Ganim said that he thought everyone was basically on the same page. However, he pointed out that there may have been some procedural issues raised and that is why it should be referred back to Committee.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that there were a number of trees that were planted and no money was allocated to maintain them. The trees shouldn't be planted near sidewalks and overhead wires. Notices about the removals were sent out last year.

Council Member Feliciano asked who created this and if copies of it could be sent to everyone. Council Member Banta said that he had authored the item and would see that she received copies of the information.

Council Member Holloway said that all trees that are in the city's right of way are handled by the Parks Department. There should be postings before the trees are removed.

Council Member Lyons said that she was in favor of sending it back to Committee. Now it looks like they are planning a golf course.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said her concern was that this needed to move forward. UI is taking the trees down, but they are leaving the stumps where people can trip on them. UI should be posting the demolitions. She said that UI should come before the Council and present the information.

The Mayor suggested that it be sent back to committee.

Council Member Bukovsky said that she was one of the co-sponsors and would like to amend the ordinance and have the Tree Warden post on the trees. This should be an ordinance vs. a resolution.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that as chair of the Public Safety and felt there was nothing wrong with having the postings.

Council Member Martinez said that UI should be held accountable to post the removals. If the City has to get permits to remove a tree, so do the utilities.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that regarding the tree stumps that had been left by the city in the past, if they want UI to remove them, then the City should remove the stumps they have left in the past. A brief discussion followed.

Council Member Herron said that with the tree stump issue, the City cannot continue to do in kind services for these organizations. They are making the City look foolish. The regulations say that the trees need to be trimmed if it was 8 feet from the wires, but other trees not near the poles were being taken down.

**** THE MOTION TO REFER AGENDA ITEM 67-16 BACK TO COMMITTEE FAILED TO PASS WITH EIGHT (8) IN FAVOR (BUKOVSKY, OLSON, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, FELICIANO, MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND NINE (9) OPPOSED (BURNS, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, NIEVES, PAOLETTO AND SMITH).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 67-16.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 67-16 PASSED WITH ELEVEN (11) IN FAVOR (BUKOVSKY, BURNS, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, NIEVES, PAOLETTO AND SMITH) AND SIX (6)**

AGAINST (OLSON, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, FELICIANO, MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY).

***98-16 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Reappointment of Rosalina Roman Christy (D) to the Library Board of Directors.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the Miscellaneous Matters Committee had met before the Council Meeting and had voted to table the matter pending more information.

Mayor Ganim said that at the last meeting for Miscellaneous Matters, the Committee had voted to approve the appointment, which is how it got onto the agenda. He said her comments were noted for the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 98-16 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF ROSALINA ROMAN CHRISTY (D) TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIXTEEN IN FAVOR ((BUKOVSKY, BURNS, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, OLSON, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, NIEVES, FELICIANO, PAOLETTO, SMITH, MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER OLSON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service