

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
PUBLIC SPEAKING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017  
6:30 PM**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President McCarthy called the Public Speaking session to order at 6:48 p.m.

The City Clerk, Lydia Martinez called the roll.

**ROLL CALL**

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

A quorum was present.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 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

Financial Issues.

Mr. Lee came forward and made the following statement:

Good evening Council members,  
As a City are we in the habit of getting financial decisions right? As far as accountability how can we tell? What is being done currently that puts us on a dependable track to climb from our current economic development problems?

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Tonight we take another public look at the project featuring the Majestic and Poli theaters. The oft-mentioned number is \$400 Million. Is that what will be added to the Taxable Grand list in a certain year in the future? If the project is promoted as being market rate for the majority of units, why is the funding assumed so dependent on scarce State funding available for low income housing? Will land for the project gathered by the City and currently non-taxable, receive a fair value from developers and produce revenue annually without limiting agreements? Will services to the new tenant population overwhelm a 'limited revenue stream' with additional expenses?

And MGM is talking about a deal on our precious harbor front. How long has Bridgeport Landing Development owned the property now being addressed by Mr. Murren? It is good to know that such development may not be financed with public funds but what other adjustments need to be made because of agreements in that district? As a citizen taxpayer it would be a change to see enough numbers and a timetable for at least five years to show what the plan is if all things go right.

Police budgets have risen in recent years, though two administrations have tried to limit the overtime component. Why do we continue to include external work guarding street construction, etc. as overtime work when it is not the same work for which internal overtime is credited? Is the significant additional expense for pensions, since Plan B benefits have been abandoned for MERS, worth the low level skills required for such duty? It is work that does not require weaponry or much of police recruit training. Is there another way to accomplish such duty at reduced expense to contractors, decrease pension funding by taxpayers, and open new positions to City residents, perhaps second chance candidates with preference?

Since this Council took office nearly two years ago, you have heard me raise questions about many subjects including abatements, PILOTS, City revenues and cutting expenses using variance info. Among these were: \$950,000 paid from OPED Capital accounts that was money from bonded sources and transferred to pay off Port Authority debt without coming through the Council. When were you asked to approve money transfers, as part of your Council duty?

Last week, the Finance Director called that OPED transfer "illegal" yet neither the City nor the Council has ever gotten excited enough to call for consequences. Why is that? How do you replace the OPED funds? Who gives you money when you fail to chase the robber?

Lighthouse program raises funds from 'family fees' each year, which never appear in your budget of \$800,000 to \$900,000. Yet Lighthouse does not spend all of the revenues annually that they receive on their internal staff and outside services purchased. They seem to create a 'profit', or sum of money that is spent elsewhere, but where is that? It would appear to be enough to pay rent to BOE. Have you researched that? Can you see the whole story? Can the taxpayer or fee payer? It would help fund school operations, if you acted.

In Plant printing continues to work with non-City customers. Was authorization for this found and presented to the Council? Finance budgeted \$10,000 of annual income but the first month of the year shows revenues over \$6500. Is this an opportunity to cut one full time position and expensive benefits and let the business flow to tax paying Bridgeport printers?

And taxpayers still cannot raise a question to your financial committee? And the monthly report available to you electronically is not available to those same taxpayers for what reason?

Some of you will not be present when the new Council sits in December. That is a fact. It is also a fact that the items above have not been addressed fully by this Council and the question on Election Day will be, "Why not?" Time will tell.

**Dasha Spell**  
144 Golden Hill Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Classical Studies Magnet  
Academy and Education.

Ms. Spell came forward to speak about the Magnet Academy and asked the Council to reconsider the property next to it. She said that this would be saving the City money because they are currently paying rent for the facility the Academy occupies. She said that it would be important to support our children. It is not fair for the children suffer because of a red line budget. She asked the Council to reconsider their decision. This is a time when everyone should be working together but she has seen Council Members working against one another or not doing their job. It's time to stop Bridgeport's bad reputation. It is time to be role models and show leadership. The children should not have to suffer because of the budget.

**Cecil C. Young**  
99 Carroll Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Requesting that the council ask the  
Mayor to look into unethical tactics.

Mr. Young said that he was present to ask the Council to ask the Mayor to look into the issue that happened 11 years and 9 months ago. He said that someone asked him if he was tired of coming to City Hall to address the issue of his unjust termination. He said that if he is elected to office, one of the first things that he will do will be bringing forward an amendment regarding his unjust termination.

Secondly, he said that it was wrong for the WPCA to foreclose on homes. It is wrong that people lose their homes over a water bill. While Police Chief Perez is a friend of Mr. Young's, Mr. Young said he does not hesitate to say shame on him and the Mayor for ignoring this issue.

Mr. Young then spoke about a shooting that happened 11 years ago where he put the victim up and took him to the hospital. Mr. Young was given an award for his actions that night.

**Clyde Nicholson**  
54 Wallace Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

City of Bridgeport/Taxes.

Mr. Nicholson said that he was present to ask why the residents were paying taxes but there were murders on five streets within a neighborhood. While the City may have some fine officers, but the police are not doing the job. If the Chief is not doing his job, it is up to the Mayor to remove the Police Chief.

Our City streets are filled with pits and potholes. Mr. Nicholson said that he would go to hell and come back before he stops complaining. ProBass has wonderful paving because the city paid for it while the neighborhoods have broken sidewalks and there are potholes all over the place.

Mr. Nicholson then began to speak about the education that the children were receiving. However, his remarks became inaudible because he began to yell. He also mentioned the fact that the Council had to rent this school while the Chambers were being renovated.

**Mr. Ethan Book**  
144 Coleman Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Mr. Book came forward and made the following statement:

Mr. Council President, Members of the City Council and public:

I'm Ethan Book, resident in the Hollow section of Bridgeport and a proud member of the Bridgeport Republican Town Committee.

There was recently a very interesting and valuable City Council Candidates' Forum at the Bijou Theater.

There were seventeen participants including six City Council incumbent members. Those six incumbent candidates were Scott Burns from the 130th District, Denese Taylor-Moye and Jack Banta from the 131st District, Alfredo Castillo from the 136th District, Milta Feliciano from the 137th District, and Eneida Martinez from the 139th District.

There were two questions of particular interest.

The first was, "Do you believe that the City Council should retain its own legal counsel for legal advice which is independent of that the Office of the City Attorney might give?" The idea is to protect the balance of powers between the Mayor's Executive Branch and the City Council's legislative branch of government. Every candidate including the six incumbent members responded by saying that there should be independent legal counsel for the City Council.

If this is the opinion of the six participating incumbent members, then where were they since 2013 when I first proposed this? Also, could it be said that these members exercised due diligence in reviewing the administration's budget proposals and contracts without first having sought independent legal counsel?

The second question pertains to what appears to be, at the time of the Forum, of the new state budget which would substantially reduce state funding for Bridgeport education. The question was, "If the state budget as is proposed substantially reduces funding for Bridgeport education, do you believe that there might be areas of the current approved city budget where cuts might be made to offset the state funding for education. My recollection is that all of the incumbent candidates answered "Yes".

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Specific areas mentioned of potential cuts for the existing budget included the police budget, top-heavy salaries such as in the administrative positions of the Board of Education, and reducing city hires which are political favors. If, at that point, it can be said that the current budget could be reduced in these areas, then where were these City Council members when the current budget was reviewed and approved four months ago?

This brings us to the state budget approved by the state legislature last week. That budget had been proposed by the Republican legislature and during the recent votes, it drew the support of several moderate Democrat legislators. That budget accomplishes several important matters. It does not involve any increase in state taxes and it does not reduce the usual state funding for education for municipalities. There are no new taxes such as on hospitals, on hotels, on cell phones, and to eliminating the property tax credit, changes which would have resulted in even more increases in our municipal property taxes. We're already at a record high 54 mil rate.

This sensible budget is already being criticized by 129th District State Representative Steve Stafstrom, who says it would represent substantial reductions of funding for state higher education and would be disastrous to urban communities. Well, it seems to me that if university executives are earning \$800,000 and \$900,000 annually, there are areas where state contributions for higher education should be cut.

In addition, if there are no further tax increases to chase businesses and employees out of the state, there will be better jobs retention for urban job seekers. I also point out that the Republican budget proposal sat for four months before the legislature before there was even open debate on it. Sure, those legislators who oppose it can find sound bites to protect their political positions. However, upon careful review, those sound bites become hollow.

Our Bridgeport legislative delegation consists of six State Representatives and two State Senators. Each of one of them voted against the sensible budget proposal. I hope and pray that Dan Malloy will adopt the budget as is approved by our bi-partisan legislature.

Thank you for your attention.

**Ms. Chiquita Stephenson**  
Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Stephenson came forward and said that she was present to speak about the LDA. She said that her organization was against the LDA for the Majestic because it was being brought forward as a union job. There are skilled workers in Bridgeport that are not union workers and they should be given the opportunity to work on the site. This will bring a significant change in the taxes. People have to have an income in order to pay the taxes for their property. She asked the Council just to rethink the process and that the non-union workers should have an opportunity to work on the project. This will help the MBEs and others.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council President McCarthy adjourned the Public Speaking portion of the Council meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 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 7:20 p.m.

**PRAYER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Ganim then requested Council Member Olson to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

At the conclusion of the Pledge, Council Member Olson suggested that the Council create an Interfaith group including Jewish rabbis, Christian ministers and Muslim imams along with other clergy to provide the prayer at the opening of each Council meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Martinez called the roll.

130<sup>th</sup> District: Kathryn Bukovsky, Scott Burns  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jack O. Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: M. Evette Brantley, John Olson  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron  
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139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

**Mayoral and City Council Citation(s): Recognizing volunteers and committee members of the Bridgeport Community Rally in Peace Project, Inc., for conducting the “Rally in Peace Day” on June 3rd.**

Council Member Brantley said that she had the opportunity to march with the Rally for Peace and it was a wonderful experience. Teaching peace starts with the children, not when they are 18 and hardened.

One of the leaders of the group came forward and spoke about the goals of the group.

Council President McCarthy then presented the City Council Citation to the organization.

Mayor Ganim then presented the group with a Mayoral Citation.

**Mayoral and City Council Citation(s): In Recognition of Bridgeport resident and Poet Gissel Grizzle for her inspiring self-published poetry book titled “Untold Verses”.**

Mayor Ganim said that the City was proud to recognize Ms. Grizzle as an author of a poetry book. Mayor Ganim then presented her with a Mayoral Citation.

Council President McCarthy then presented Ms. Grizzle with the City Council Citation. She then presented a copy of her book to Mayor Ganim.

Ms. Grizzle said that the poems were about her own life story and how she turned around abuse and moved forward. Everyone has dark moments when they have to turn things around. She said that she was totally taken by surprise when she was informed about this award.

At the conclusion of the presentations, Council Member Holloway requested a point of personal privilege and said that he had spoken with one of the ex-mayors of Jackson about hiring minorities. Two years later the Council passed a resolution about this and the LDA is on the agenda for this meeting. It will be important to come together on this and move the project forward.

**100-16 Public Hearing re: Disposition of eleven (11) properties within the Seaview Avenue Industrial Park.**

The properties were as follows:

- 430 Bunnell Street
- 440 Bunnell Street
- 448 Bunnell Street
- 454 Bunnell Street
- 1209 Central Avenue
- 1217 Central Avenue
- 1231 Central Avenue
- 1239 Central Avenue
- 1251 Central Avenue
- 1271 Central Avenue
- 169 Williston Street

Mayor Ganim opened the public hearing at 7:47 p.m. he asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak in favor or in opposition to the item.

Mr. Chris Hailer came forward to speak about the properties. He said that there was a Mr. McBride who had purchasing one of the property. Mr. Hailer said that he was not able to move his project forward.

Mr. Ernie Newton came forward and said that Mr. McBride was going to bring his company to the Seaview Avenue Park. They will be putting a new office building on a blighted property that has been that way for 34 years. This is a chance to move the project forward.

Council Member Olson wanted to hear from OPED about the project. Mr. Coleman gave a brief overview.

Mayor Ganim asked if there was anyone else present who wished to speak in favor or in opposition to the item. Hearing none, Mayor Ganim closed the public hearing at 7:55 p.m.

### **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

#### **Approval of City Council Minutes: August 7, 2017**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 7, 2017.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED THE COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**139-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH CARLENS AND EVENS DORVELUS, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**140-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH ISHMAIL MUHAMMAD, ET AL, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

**141-16 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 3.20 – TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AMEND SECTION 3.20.060(G) – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.**

**142-16 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 3.24 – AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AMEND SECTION 3.24.040(F) – MISCELLANEOUS, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.**

**143-16 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION APPROVING UNIFORM POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND FORMS PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCE SECTION 3.20.020(C) – PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.**

**144-16 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION APPROVING UNIFORM POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND FORMS PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCE SECTION 3.24.020(C) – PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):**

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 to have Agenda Item 115-16 removed. Mayor Ganim requested that the City Clerk read the remaining Consent Calendar items into the record.

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**\*108-16 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES FY 2017 COPS HIRING PROGRAM (#18200).**

**\*135-16 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – EDWARDS BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM FY 2017 LOCAL SOLICITATION (#18312).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*115-16 Contracts Committee Report re: (Ref. #88-16) Resolution Authorizing a Land Development Agreement (“LDA”) for the Downtown Theatre Buildings and Adjacent Vacant Properties.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 115-16 WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITION:**

**“THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE LDA SHALL BE REVISED IN A MANNER THAT REQUIRES THE DEVELOPER IN ITS**

**SOLICITATION OF CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION TO ALLOW UNION AND NON-UNION SHOPS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BID FOR SUCH WORK AND REQUIRED THEM:**

**(A) TO USE GOOD FAITH EFFORTS TO INCLUDE QUALIFIED MBES, INCLUDING BRIDGEPORT BASED MBES, IN PERCENTAGES SIMILAR TO AND USING THE GOOD FAITH EFFORTS DESCRIBED IN THE CITY'S MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE ORDINANCE ON EACH PHASE OF THE PROJECT AND ON THE PROJECT AS A WHOLE, AND**

**(B) TO MAKE REASONABLE EFFORTS TO REQUIRE THAT EACH CONTRACTOR AWARDED A PORTION OF THE WORK ADVERTISE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND HAVE IN ITS EMPLOY ON EACH PHASE OF THE PROJECT AND ON THE PROJECT AS A WHOLE A REASONABLE NUMBER OF BRIDGEPORT RESIDENTS.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH THIRTEEN (13) IN FAVOR (BUKOVSKY, BURNS, BANTA, OLSON, MCCARTHY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, NIEVES, FELICIANO, PAOLETTO, SMITH, AND MARTINEZ) AND FOUR (4) IN OPPOSITION (BRANTLEY, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, AND HOLLOWAY).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 115-16 AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH THIRTEEN (13) IN FAVOR (BUKOVSKY, BANTA, BRANTLEY, OLSON, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, NIEVES, FELICIANO, PAOLETTO, SMITH, MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND FOUR (4) IN OPPOSITION (BURNS, MCCARTHY, LYONS, AND VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services