

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018
6:30 PM**

**City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Nieves called the Public Speaking session to order at 6:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Pete Spain
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jack O. Banta
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan
133rd District: Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Maria Zambrano Viggiano
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: Karen Jackson, Nessah Smith
139th District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

Council President Nieves said that Council Members McCarthy and Vizzo-Paniccia were absent due to illness and Council Member Martinez had an emergency.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City Budget.

Mr. John Marshall Lee came forward and read the following statement into the record:

Ladies and Gentlemen of the latest City Council, January 16, 2018

When you approached the voters you may have known some issues dear to them, had a good reputation in your district, or were considered someone who would stand for the community and have its back. Great. Congratulations!! Because now you are about proving that.

You all have equal **time**....that is 24/7 for the serious work of representation. **Talent**....skills, experience, knowledge, and relationships to come up with creative solutions. And **resources**....that is the TAXPAYER money in an operating budget or in a capital budget, already borrowed, the people who are employed in municipal work and the Charter, rules and policy of Bridgeport.

Let's talk about **time** first; the time committed by you to Council work and Committee meetings. I have been surprised at the number of recent cancelled Committee Meetings of the new Council. A comment overheard suggests that the City had not set out much for you to deliberate, discuss or decide so meetings were eliminated. Does this make good sense for the community at large, I ask you?

There is much to be learned by the newest members, not only about how the City Council operates twice per month when you all come together, but specifically about each Committee, the nature of its work and background info necessary to pick up where the old committee left off. I am most familiar with the way Budget and Appropriations has worked for years. What discussions are they having on the CAFR released last week, a document that provides a wonderful overall view for you? Read the narrative. Puzzle out the financial illustrations. What plans does the administration have for the departments you to review during budget sessions? What information can you review today so as to fully understand Capital budgeting plans? Have you discussed what professional assistance may be useful for more than the few weeks on operating budget formation annually? There are 5 rookies on this Committee. Don't they need every chance to get up to speed before decisions are facing them?

Public Safety and Transportation did not meet in December or yet in January as a meeting was canceled. More than half the members of this group are newly elected to the Council. The budgets for Police and Fire have grown faster than average in recent years and overtime budgets have been reasons for negative variances, yet there is nothing to learn, discuss, review, or have basic conversations about? Do you realize that the fringe benefit line for Police costs more than the salary line? Why is that? Know any private business that operates that way?

Perhaps Public Safety Comm. might consult the monthly operating budget to see that budgeted fringe benefits exceed basic compensation for the department. How did that happen? Was it planned? Would they also like to know how the year closed with the final June 30 report used in the Audit which had revisions and adjustments? Has a request been made to the Finance Director for the document?

Times are scheduled for you to respond to City actions, but that does not stop you from scheduling your own activities other than a Karaoke benefit and inviting the public to participate. How much benefit came from your fund raiser by the way? That is news, by the way.

Your talents will shine if you do the time and let the public in to see, ask questions, and learn with you. You must learn to question more frequently. Where is the fund for Lighthouse shown in City records? Where is the income from In-Plant Printing since last summer? Are they charging outsiders to gain revenue? Just examples of questions. Your opportunity. Time will tell.

John Brannelly
265 Golden Hill Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Hosting event that took place
on City Lights Gallery
January 12th that benefited
art programs such as Multicultural
Magnet.

Mr. Brannelly came forward, introduced himself and said he was the Vice President of the City Lights Gallery & Bridgeport Art Trail. He thanked Council Member McCarthy and Council President Nieves for their support during a recent event at the City Lights Gallery which raised over \$1,000 for a multi-cultural arts program.

Mr. Brannelly then invited all the Council Members to attend the Artist Reception for the new Vintage Pop-Up on January 25th at the 23 Golden Hill Street location.

Mr. Brannelly said that he also works for the American Heart Association. Heart disease is the #1 killer in the U.S. He informed the Council Members that he had left a lapel pin and AHA information at their Council desks.

Mr. Brannelly concluded his remarks by thanking the Council for their on-going support of the City Lights Gallery.

Ms. Dasha Spell
144 Golden Hill Street, #406
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Classical Studies Magnet
Academy.

Ms. Dasha Spell came forward and spoke about the Classical Studies Magnet Academy program and said that she would be following in Mr. Young's persistent footsteps.

She then explained that Classical Studies Magnet Academy was established in 2005. In 2008, they were approved to expand to K-6. Due to this expansion, they took over a second building that now has a leaky roof, and no security. The school is asking for something simple, just to be in one place and have a place to call their own. Everyone is asking for money, but she is just asking for a chance to have an open discussion about this issue. The staff and students have every right to ask the Council Members to listen and discuss this. There are over 30 schools in the City and more than 6 Charter Schools, the most in the State. They have to split resources, such as the library between two buildings.

Beth Lazar
1241 Main Street, Apt. 728
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Saving and preserving
Remington Woods.

Council President Nieves called for Ms. Lazar to come forward. There was no response. She called for Ms. Lazar a second time with no response.

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Update of unjust termination
issue.

Mr. Young came forward and said that he was not just talking about "me", but "we". He said that Mr. Cruz had spoken about the issue of gun violence recently and that the groups need to come together to work towards the common cause. He said that when he was the supervisor at P.T. Barnum, he worked on the issue of gun violence. Even after work, he would patrol the project off the clock to make sure that everything was okay. It will be important to have community policing. He spoke about how he used to meet with the officers on Stratford Avenue and named a number of different officers, including Police Chief A.J. Perez and some of the detectives. He related several incidents that he was involved in as a liaison. Community policing reduced the number of the gun incidents in P.T. Barnum. He said that he was ready to meet with the officers and show them how to do this.

Ethan Book
144 Coleman Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Recent tax increase.

Mr. Book came forward and said that he would wait until the next Council Meeting to address the Council.

Mr. Chris Taylor
155 Davenport St
Bridgeport, CT

General Information

Mr. Taylor said that he was concerned about the Classical Studies Magnet school. He suggested that the Classical Studies Academy move into the Dunbar School once the Tisdale students move back to their facility.

Mr. Taylor said that he was recently told that allegedly 6,000 yards of PCB contaminated soil was dumped at Harding High School by a contractor. He said that he did not know if it was true or not, but that the Council should be aware of this.

Mr. Albert Benejan
752 William Street
Bridgeport, CT

Bassick High School

Mr. Benejan came forward and said that he was the PTA President for Bassick High School. He thanked the Council for their support. He said that Bassick was built in the 1920's and it is time that they got better facilities. It is time for the BOE and the Council to work together. He said that he was tired of hearing that the BOE and the City can't work together. Everyone pays taxes. He maintains an open door and is willing to work with everyone who wants to work together.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the public speaking portion at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018**

7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gamin called the Council Meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim requested Mr. Ethan Book lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim requested the Assistant City Clerk Frances Ortiz to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk called the roll.

130th District: Pete Spain
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jack O. Banta
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan
133rd District: Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Maria Zambrano Viggiano
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: Karen Jackson, Nessah Smith
139th District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

Mayoral and City Council Citation(s) along with Certificates of Merit from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Honoring Daniel Arango and Juthika Rasul for their CCM #LoCoolGov Contest essay about the City of Bridgeport.

Daniel Arango and Juthika Rasul were called forward and presented with a Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Certificate of Merit along with both Mayoral and City Council Citations recognizing their contributions to City residents.

Mayoral and City Council Citation(s): Honoring the Rev. Herron Keyon Gaston for his civic contributions, work with the youth and making a significant impact in the life of the City.

Rev. Herron Keyon Gaston was called forward and presented with both Mayoral and City Council Citations recognizing his positive contributions to City's youth.

03-17 Public Hearing re: Disposition of Certain City-Owned Properties (5) by Auction, Sale to Abutter or by Sale to Community Based Housing Development Corporations.

Mayor Ganim opened the hearing on the Disposition of Certain City-Owned Properties at 7:40 p.m. He asked if anyone present who would like to speak in favor of the item. No one came forward. Mayor Ganim repeated his question. There was no response. Mayor Ganim then asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition. No one came forward. Mayor Ganim repeated his question. Hearing no response, Mayor Ganim closed the hearing on the Disposition of Certain City-Owned Properties at 7:41 p.m.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: December 18, 2017

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE DECEMBER 18, 2017 COUNCIL MINUTES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**

The following correction was noted:

Page 9, last paragraph: please change the following from:

“Council President Nieves announced that Council Member Banta was absent due to illness, and Council Member Castillo and Vizzo-Paniccia were absent due to schedule conflicts.”

TO:

“Council President Nieves announced that Council Member Banta was absent due to illness, and Council Member Castillo was absent due to schedule conflict and Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia wasn't present due to being ill with the flu virus.”

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 18, 2017 COUNCIL MINUTES AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

30-17 Communication from Labor Relations re: Proposed Tentative Agreement with Police Union Local #1159 (AFSCME Council 4) regarding their Bargaining Unit Contract, referred to Contracts Committee.

32-17 Communication from Engineering re: Proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the Federal Highway Administration, CT State Historic Preservation Office, CT Department of Transportation and CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection regarding Route 127 Safety Improvements at Evers Street, Federal Aid Project No. 0127(001); State Project No. 15-335, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

33-17 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Orlando Soto Conservator of the Estate of Israel Soto, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:

31-17 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Valle & Nieves re: Proposed request that a Traffic Control Signal be installed at the intersection of Barnum Avenue and Hallett Street, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

34-17 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Newton & Martinez re: (Ref. #141-16) Proposed resolution regarding the reversal of the 2017 Amendments to Chapter 3.20 – Tax Incentive Development Program of the Municipal Code of Ordinances, referred to Ordinance Committee.

35-17 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Newton & Martinez re: (Ref. #142-16) Proposed resolution regarding the reversal of the 2017 Amendments to Chapter 3.24 – Affordable Housing Tax Incentive Development Program of the Municipal Code of Ordinances, referred to Ordinance Committee.

36-17 Resolution presented by Council Member Spain, Co-sponsor(s): Banta, Brown, Herron, Jackson, Langan, Lyons, Martinez, Newton, Nieves, Roman-Christy, C. Smith, N. Smith & Taylor-Moye re: Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Title 8 – Health and Safety, amend to add New Chapter 8.09 – Prohibition on Waste Associated with Natural Gas and Oil Extraction, referred to Joint Committee on Ordinance and Economic and Community Development and Environment.

37-17 Resolution presented by Council Member Spain, Co-sponsor(s): Brown, Jackson, Langan, Martinez, Newton & C. Smith re: Proposed request that appropriate reimbursements be made to the city for expenses incurred by the Mayor, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Council Member Newton requested that Agenda **Item #30-17** be withdrawn. He then read the following letter into the record:

City of Bridgeport
City Council
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January 16, 2018

January 16, 2018

Honorable City Council Members
Office of the City Clerk
City of Bridgeport

RE: Bridgeport Police Local #1159 Tentative Agreement – WITHDRAWAL

Dear Honorable Members:

The Tentative Agreement between the City of Bridgeport and the Bridgeport Police Local #1159 (AFSCME Council 4) was NOT RATIFIED in a union vote conducted on January 12, 2018.

Consequently, there is no need for City Council action on this matter. This office respectfully requests that the City Council vote to approve the Office of Labor Relations withdrawal of this matter from Council consideration. Proposed motion to be made by one of the Contract Committee Co-Chairpersons: “I hereby move to approve the Office of Labor Relations withdrawal item #30-17 from City Council consideration.”

The parties will return to binding arbitration and we will update you as developments occur.

Sincerely

Janene Hawkins
Director of Labor Relations.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO THE OFFICE OF LABOR RELATIONS WITHDRAWAL ITEM #30-17 FROM CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO COMBINE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR APPROVAL:**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

32-17 COMMUNICATION FROM ENGINEERING RE: PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, CT STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE, CT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND CT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REGARDING ROUTE 127 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT EVERS STREET, FEDERAL AID PROJECT

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NO. 0127(001); STATE PROJECT NO. 15-335, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

33-17 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH ORLANDO SOTO CONSERVATOR OF THE ESTATE OF ISRAEL SOTO, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:

31-17 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) VALLE & NIEVES RE: PROPOSED REQUEST THAT A TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL BE INSTALLED AT THE INTERSECTION OF BARNUM AVENUE AND HALLETT STREET, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

34-17 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) NEWTON & MARTINEZ RE: (REF. #141-16) PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING THE REVERSAL OF THE 2017 AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 3.20 – TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

35-17 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) NEWTON & MARTINEZ RE: (REF. #142-16) PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING THE REVERSAL OF THE 2017 AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 3.24 – AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

36-17 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPAIN, CO-SPONSOR(S): BANTA, BROWN, HERRON, JACKSON, LANGAN, LYONS, MARTINEZ, NEWTON, NIEVES, ROMAN-CHRISTY, C. SMITH, N. SMITH & TAYLOR-MOYE RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 8 – HEALTH AND SAFETY, AMEND TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 8.09 – PROHIBITION ON WASTE ASSOCIATED WITH NATURAL GAS AND OIL EXTRACTION, REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCE AND ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT.

37-17 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPAIN, CO-SPONSOR(S): BROWN, JACKSON, LANGAN, MARTINEZ, NEWTON & C. SMITH RE: PROPOSED REQUEST THAT APPROPRIATE REIMBURSEMENTS BE MADE TO THE CITY FOR EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE MAYOR, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

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

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service