

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
PUBLIC SPEAKING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 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 6:45 p.m.

**ROLL CALL.**

The City Clerk, Lydia Martinez called the roll.

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

A quorum was present.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.**

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

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

BOE/Classical Studies Magnet  
Academy.

Ms. Spell came forward and said that she is now living on Beechwood Avenue and was a home owner. She said that she was now even more invested in the City.

Ms. Spell said that the school had a rally at Jewett Avenue and it was very peaceful. The reason that she was present was to ask that the school move into one building. One of the buildings they are currently in is owned by the City, the second is owned by the Diocese of Bridgeport. She

said that they do not want to continue to rent the second building. They were not present to fight with the City but to work with the Council Members. She reminded everyone that the Classical Studies school is not a neighborhood school but a district school. She said that suggestions had been made about using a school building or combining the schools. However, the Classical Studies Academy is a Magnet School and simply can't just be combined with another school. After doing her research, there are no other properties available. She asked that the Education Subcommittee vote yes for Classical Studies Magnet School's request to purchase 238 Jewett Avenue.

**Lorie Gumbs-Tyler**  
33 Ridge Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Classical Studies Magnet Academy  
and the purchase of 238 Jewett  
Avenue.

Ms. Tyler came forward and asked that the Council reassess the decision not to purchase the property at Jewett Avenue. She said the discussion about the property has gone on too long. All the questions should have already been answered. All children are legally required to attend school and all children should have a building to go to. 238 is nestled between Main Street and Madison Avenue. It is protected from the rapid pace of traffic. She said there were concerns about a liquor store that is .3 miles away. Roosevelt school is only .1 mile from a liquor store and across from a homeless shelter. As a magnet school, the majority of students are coming by bus or being dropped off on the Jewett Avenue, but This is not the case with the present buildings.

The diocese is interested in selling the building to the school, but that offer may not last. She asked what the issues were and why this was not a good location. She said that she hoped people would vote yes for the school purchase.

**Gemeem Davis**  
Bridgeport Generation Now  
1115 Main Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Anti-Corruption Movement in  
Bridgeport.

Council President Nieves said that Ms. Davis had cancelled her request to address the Council at this time.

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

Taxes.

Mr. Nicholson came forward and said that he was dressed in fatigues and said that the citizens of Bridgeport were being robbed. He said that the city was bringing in large corporations and not giving seniors a break.

Mr. Nicholson said that there were too many people being killed in Bridgeport. He said that if a person killed someone, they would get free Board and room, three meals a day and clothing for life. This costs \$65,000 a year. People who are out there selling people guns and if Mr. Nicholson sold a beer or cigarette to a young person, he would go to jail. He said that the black

on black crime was nothing and that the racial color doesn't matter because we are all part of the human race. Make Bridgeport a gun free zone and no one can bring in any more guns.

**John Marshall Lee**  
30 Beacon Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City financial.

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

Members of the City Council, greetings,

Less than two months ago, the Assistant City Clerk wrote a letter to three members of the November 2017 City Council informing them of the approved resolution requiring that “all officers of the city, elected or appointed under the provisions of the charter, shall be residents and registered voters of the City of Bridgeport...” and “are required to provide their current residence street address (or any change) by January 31st of each year. That date passed last week. I checked with the Town Clerk office.

The Town Clerk has a copy of the December 2017 letter from Assistant City Clerk Ortiz to Council persons Michelle Lyons and former members Bukovsky and Burns. An Application for Residency Reporting has been prepared with City Attorney assistance.

At the moment I have been informed that no one has come forward during the month of January to “provide true and accurate information” of their address as well as proof of residence. New law? No notice? People with too much to do? Perhaps a part of your sub-committee oversight of Approval of Mayoral appointments might get your clerk to put out such notice to all members of Boards and Commissions? Alternatively Angel DePara may have some idea on how to expedite the process by providing notice to those who are covered by the residency reporting resolution? Will you take part in this critical oversight? I have formerly mentioned an important City commission that has some longstanding confusion as to whether a President of that body resides and votes within the boundaries of the City of Bridgeport. Trust our rules and live up to them?

What about our City financial reports? Do you trust the numbers that come to you monthly with full revenue reporting but summarized expenses by category? I have asked in past years for a final June 30, 2017 Report for a completed year. Not the one sent out on the fourth Friday of the month of July because the City and auditors are in a dance in those times preparing the books for the annual audit and that includes changes in posting of revenues or expenses from one year to another for instance. So the August report of June 30 will show both revenue and appropriation totals different from what will appear in the CAFR six months later. But will you get such a copy automatically, with all of the expense fields identified by line item? Not automatically. And it is important, because the exact ACTUAL expenses are what you will need to understand when you get to budgeting. And if you have a listing with two or three years of Audited and Actual you can see trends in increasing expenses and ask WHY?

My point this evening is that the ACTUAL 2017 REVENUES and EXPENDITURES for FY 2017 completed June 30, 2017 seemed to change between the November and December FY 2018 monthly reports. Did you catch the discrepancy? And if you did was there an explanation in the narrative to inform you?

2017 Actual Revenue (NOV)	2017 Actual Revenue (DEC)
\$554,922,403	\$555,522,403
-Less Expense	- less Expense
\$550,188,662	\$549,938,662
\$4,733,741 Surplus	\$ 5,583,741 Surplus

Good news, yes. But confusing perhaps without narrative? And how do we increase revenues and decrease expenses five months after the close of a Fiscal Year? If we wait another month or two, will those numbers improve again? Show us how to do that Chief Finance Officer.

More importantly, how did we lose an additional \$1.2 of revenue between November and December while expenses increased almost \$1.9 Million? Last year results look positive, but this year's get worse, but no one has bragged about the Surplus, though Ken Flatto called it \$4.6 Million in the CAFR letter. And now it has increased to \$5.5 Million surplus??

Take a good look at the expense projections in November for Full Time personnel and fringe benefits specifically. Then December. Look at the projected expense variances pointing to employee freeze on pay and benefits. How did such surplus get put into the current year numbers? Do you know how many full time employees are getting paid in the City today based on FY 2018 budgets? Isn't that your responsibility? Show the taxpayers the numbers, please. Time will tell.

**Tony Barr**

141 Pennsylvania Ave., Apt. 8  
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Jobs, schools, policing and WPCA.

Mr. Tony Barr came forward to address the Council about jobs, school and policing. He said that there were a number of attorneys in the Chambers last week to address the WPCA. He said that the WPCA was raping the citizens and there should be a one-year moratorium on foreclosures.

Mr. Barr said that Jayson Negron was a 15-year-old boy who was shot five times and left to bleed out by a white police officer. If the two boys involved with that crime had simply been arrested, they would have gotten a court appearance. He reminded everyone about the cartoon character Charlie Brown who used to get a rock dropped in his candy sack on Halloween. That's what the children in Bridgeport get, rocks.

Mr. Barr said that he has a person sleeping at his house who is homeless. He said that they should cut the City Attorney's Office budget. Mr. Barr announced that Tony Barr is here and not

going away. This is turning into a joke. Those Council Members who look like him are not doing their jobs.

Council President Nieves called the next speaker who had signed up that evening to come forward to address the Council.

**Ms. Callie Ellerman**

Grovers Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Callie Ellerman forward and gave her address. She then asked those who would like to stand against corruption to please stand up. Most of those present did so. Ms. Ellerman said that Bridgeport has a history of corruption and this is not just a story. Now people in powerful position are using their power for personal gain. She then said that a Bridgeport Police officer had been told by the Police Chief to collect absentee ballots for Mario Testa. She said that the Bridgeport Generation Now and Bridgeport United Now were working against corruption in the City, in the county, and in the State. The Council members can sign a petition and anti-corruption resolution in March. This is part of a network of anti-corruption from many different towns.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council President Nieves closed the public speaking portion at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018**

**7:00 PM**

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

**Bridgeport, Connecticut**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Mayor Ganim requested Rev. John Olson lead those present in a prayer. Rev. Olson prayed for Jayson Negron, who died on May 9, 2017. Following the conclusion of that prayer, Council Member Newton requested a moment of silence for all of the 22 homicide victims who lost their lives in Bridgeport during 2017.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

The City Clerk called the roll.

130<sup>th</sup> District: Christina Smith, Pete Spain  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jack Banta  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron  
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137<sup>th</sup> District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Karen Jackson, Nessah Smith  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. Council President Nieves announced that Council Members Herron and Vizzo-Paniccia were absent due to illness and Council Member Martinez was out of town on business.

Mayor Ganim announced that the Council would be doing the two Mayoral and Council Citations first.

**Mayoral and City Council Citation(s): Recognizing the Primary Care Action Group for positively impacting the health of the community with the 2018 “Know Your Numbers” Health Screening Initiative.**

The representatives of the Primary Care Action Group from St. Vincent’s were called forward and presented with both Mayoral and City Council Citations recognizing their contributions to City residents.

**Mayoral and City Council Citation(s): Recognizing the Bridgeport International Academy for 20 years of service to the community and building character, creativity and global citizenship in its students.**

The representatives of the Bridgeport International Academy were called forward and presented with both Mayoral and City Council Citations recognizing their contributions to City residents.

At the conclusion of these presentations, Mayor Ganim announced that the Council would like to consider the Agenda items before hearing the presentation from PSEG.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

**Approval of City Council Minutes: January 2, 2018**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 2, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 2, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**38-17 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Cheryl Anderson, Administrator of Estate of David Anderson, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**39-17 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Kiarra Davis, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**46-17 Communication from Public Facilities re: Proposed Resolution concerning the Sidewalk Repair Pilot Program Cost Estimates (Second Round), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.**

**47-17 Communication from Labor Relations re: Proposed Tentative Agreement with AFSCME Local 1303-468, Council 4 (Public Facilities) regarding their Bargaining Unit Contract, referred to Contracts Committee.**

**48-17 Communication from Labor Relations re: Proposed Tentative Agreement with LIUNA, Local 1224 regarding their Bargaining Unit Contract, referred to Contracts Committee.**

**49-17 Communication from Labor Relations re: Proposed Tentative Agreement with New York Typographical Union, CWA Local 14156 (Printers) regarding their Bargaining Unit Contract, referred to Contracts Committee.**

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

**40-17 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Valle & Nieves re: Proposed request to designate the intersection of Pembroke Street and Berkshire Avenue as an “All-Way” Stop with appropriate signs erected and stop lines, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.**

**41-17 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Valle & Nieves re: Proposed request to designate the intersection of Kossuth and Shelton Street as an “All-Way” Stop with appropriate signs erected and stop lines, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.**

**42-17 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Valle & Nieves re: Proposed request that the section of Stillman Street between Hallett and Pembroke Street be designated as a “One-Way Only” street to coincide with the arrival and dismissal hours of Achievement First Bridgeport Academy Elementary School, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.**

**43-17 Resolution presented by Council Member Jackson re: Proposed request that the installation of a crosswalk and appropriate warning signage be placed at the intersection of East Main Street and Pennsylvania Avenue to ensure pedestrian safety, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.**

**44-17 Resolution presented by Council Member Jackson re: Proposed request that the installation of a crosswalk and appropriate signage be placed on Huntington Turnpike adjacent to Priscilla Street and the GBT bus stop, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.**

**45-17 Resolution presented by Council Member Roman-Christy re: Proposed request that Yaremich Drive be converted into a “One-Way” street beginning at the corner of Soundview Avenue and Stoneridge Road with warning signage posted at appropriate locations, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO COMBINE BOTH THE COMMUNICATION TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES AND THE RESOLUTION TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC. FOR APPROVAL.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

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



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

**\*03-17 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Disposition of Certain City-Owned Properties (5) by Auction, Sale to Abutter or by Sale to Community Based Housing Development Corporations.**

**\*28-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Gregory Walker.**

**\*33-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Orlando Soto Conservator of the Estate of Israel Soto.**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Lyons requested that Agenda Item 03-17 be removed. The City Clerk then read the remaining agenda items into the record.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**\*28-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH GREGORY WALKER.**

**\*33-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH ORLANDO SOTO CONSERVATOR OF THE ESTATE OF ISRAEL SOTO.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

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

**03-17 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Disposition of Certain City-Owned Properties (5) by Auction, Sale to Abutter or by Sale to Community Based Housing Development Corporations.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED TO TABLE AND REFER BACK TO COMMITTEE - AGENDA ITEM 03-17.**

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

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

**Presentation by Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) on its commitment to Bridgeport and to update the City Council on the work it is doing with the Community Environmental Benefits Agreement the (“CEBA”) signed on February 26, 2016.**

Mr. Richard, Thigpen, the PSEG Vice President of State Government Affairs, and Mr. Jim Gilroy, the contractor performing services for PSEG Services Corp., came forward and greeted the Council Members.

Mr. Thigpen said that the PSEG had been in Bridgeport for four years and he was ready to answer questions that the Council Members had about the project. He explained that PSEG was looking forward to closing the coal fired plant down in 2020 or 2021. It is the last coal fired plant in Connecticut.

Mr. Thigpen said that he was proud to be part of the public services and that PSEG would be donating \$2 million for the Environmental Task Force, which is part of the company's green initiative. He added that PSEG wanted to be an active part of Bridgeport and part of Bridgeport's Green Initiative. PSEG will be the largest taxpayer in the City and will be paying \$51 million dollars in taxes to the City over the next four years.

Mr. Thigpen said he has heard complaints that there were no jobs for Bridgeport residents being created at the site. He explained that the construction site is dangerous and requires the workers to receive training. PSEG works with the local unions and Rule Number One is that everyone goes home at the end of the day in the same condition that they arrived in. CEBA has required that they establish a training program, so 50 Bridgeport residents will be receiving training. Mr. Thigpen thanked Mr. Peter Carroll and Ms. Amy Blackwood for their efforts in this area.

Mr. Carroll came forward and said that the training program started two years ago with the goal of providing decent jobs, wages and having residents work in Bridgeport. He thanked PSEG for their assistance and then gave the statistics for Bridgeport workers.

Ms. Blackwood came forward and said that she was the director of the Building Pathways, CT program. She asked all the students currently enrolled that were in attendance to please stand. Approximately 10 people did so. Ms. Blackwell said that there would be 9 students certified in construction and the goal of the program was to help these students get through the program so they would be ready to work after graduation.

Mr. Thigpen said that PSEG was using regional contractors whenever possible, but point out that the plant requires some very specialized equipment such as turbines that are made to spec. However, over \$100 million is expected to go to local contractors when more generalize services such as landscaping, paving, curbing and other similar services are needed.

Currently, there are 224 workers on the construction site and 13% are Bridgeport residents. PSEG would like to increase that percentage to 15%, but that is not possible right now. Mr. Thigpen pointed out that the staff is staying at a local hotel and purchasing their food at local eateries.

He also spoke about the \$5 million that PSEG was dedicating to energy and said that projects have been submitted for review. Mr. Thigpen said that he would like to acknowledge some of the local leaders such as the YMCA and the Cardinal Sheehan Center, among others. He also introduced Mr. Chris Marturi, a local engineering student, who is working with PSEG.

In conclusion, Mr. Thigpen invited the Council Members to visit him in New Jersey, which is where the Thomas Edison homestead is located.

Council Member Newton said that there had been a number of former felons who had applied to the Career Workplace and were rejected. He said that he had met with Kathleen Donovan and an appeal process has been started because if a felon is rejected, they have the right to know why. Mr. Thigpen said that he knew of one former felon currently on site and that PSEG is looking for people who want to turn their lives around. Council Member Newton replied that he hoped the message would get passed down to the screeners and that the appeal process is used.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked for confirmation on the number of workers on site. Mr. Thigpen said that it was 224, 28 of which are Bridgeport residents. Council Member McBride-Lee said that she would like to see it at 15% or more. Mr. Thigpen agreed.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked if the students will have jobs when they graduate. Mr. Carroll said that they can become union apprentices and will be qualified to get jobs at other locations. Mr. Thigpen encouraged Council Member McBride-Lee to contact him about a meeting to talk about her concerns regarding this.

Council Member Jackson asked if PSEG had connected with Bullard Haven and another vocation program. Mr. Thigpen encouraged her to submit those names to Mr. Gilroy.

Council Member Jackson asked if PSEG had an emergency plan for the BOE if there was a problem at the plant. The Plan Manager came forward and said that those plans would be part of the permitting process. Council Member Jackson said that she wanted to make sure that the BOE was part of the plan.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that the Council had looked at many aspects of the project and had brought PSEG in to answer questions. She reminded everyone that this was something that the Council had signed off on and she felt that PSEG would do their due diligence. They are helping Bridgeport residents receive training, which will result in apprenticeships and then, hopefully employment.

Mr. Thigpen reminded everyone again that the construction site is a dangerous place and the workers need to be trained in how to work there.

Council Member Langan asked how the Environmental Task Force and the Renewable Energy program will receive their funding. Mr. Thigpen said that Mr. Stuart Sachs was the Chairman of the Environmental Task Force and that the funds would be deposited into an account that the group would have access to. Regarding the Renewable Energy program, Mr. Thigpen referred everyone to the Bridgeport Harbor Station website for additional information.

Mr. Langan asked about the increase in asthma and whether this would be discussed by PSEG. Mr. Thigpen said that this will be discussed and the Bridgeport City Health Department will have a place at the table during that discussion.

Council Member Roman Christy asked about the number of people hired. Mr. Thigpen repeated that there were currently 224 employees at the construction site, but reminded everyone that when the construction was completed, the number of employees will decrease. He added that the current students in training would likely be joining the union. Council Member Roman-Chrity

said that she would like the unions to come back to the Council to report how many of these trainees were hired by the union.

Council Member Newton said that he hoped the trainees will be licensed and hired by PSEG. He asked if PSEG would make sure there was a job available. Mr. Thigpen explained that PSEG works with the building trades and said that the unions will work on other project in the future, which is why the trades are so valuable.

Council Member Banta said that he had started out in his job the same way 32 years ago. It's not a matter of getting a job at the power plant, but keeping up with the technology changes. Union jobs can be and often are, the start of a career and he would like to see more of this.

Council Member Nieves thanked Mr. Thigpen and pointed out that the information packet has a great deal of information in it. She added that one of her constituents was enrolled in the next class.

Mayor Ganim said that he appreciated the concerns about the second chance opportunities and would like every job at the power plant to be a Bridgeport resident. He added that his staff would be happy to work with PSEG.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Service