

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
MONDAY, MARCH 19, 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 6:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Christina Smith, Pete Spain
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
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.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Luis Reyes
347 Jewett Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Quality of life.

Mr. Luis Reyes came forward and greeted the Council Members. He said that he lives across the street the Catholic center and has lived there for 10 years. He said that he was concerned about the Charter school moving into the property across from his home. He said that he felt that the property values would drop and that the kids would be running around the street. There have

been a number of accidents at the stop sign on the street. There is only one entrance and there are no sidewalks in front of the residences. The home owners would have to put in sidewalks, which would cost a great deal of money. The building has asbestos and mold. This will cost a lot of money. There are also concerns about the buses backing on the street.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City Finances.

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

City Council and Taxpayers?

When you listen to taxpayers complain about increasing taxes, or about big increases what is your gut reaction as a representative of the people? Whose money is “taxpayer money”? City property taxes pay about 50%, of City/BOE expenses, with thirty percent from the State of CT. Federal funds and local fees or sale revenues make up the difference. Bridgeport citizens contribute to each of these sources.

Once taxes are paid to the Tax Collector, what is reasonable for a taxpayer to expect as to the use of those dollars? Should he see them spent in certain basic ways that are announced as budget priorities? Should she see them accounted for in ways that make sense, that are accurate and also timely? Is that practice current in Bridgeport today? When budgets are presented, are they compared to several actual past years to show trends? Are they accompanied by statements telling how and where they will be measured by City managers, and seen on the City website?

Where are the reports with quantified measures that can be compared to other periods or other municipal best practices by local watchdogs? Actual reports monitoring police overtime, as an example?

Should we eliminate any expectation that a pre-election claim by a campaigner should be honored once he gains office? That would be silly wouldn't it? Draining the swamp, for instance? Or closer to home, STOP RAISING TAXES? Or hiring 100 police in a year and hearing that it has likely taken more than two years, and the public is not yet informed about police retirements during that time period or the number of newer and younger public safety officers who have left the City for positions in other cities? 100 hires but what is the net effect to the Department? We don't know, but the City will still crow about training 100 new officers. Does that make sense?

Who negotiates our contracts and agreements? Why aren't we bragging about the way they show win-win-win for taxpayer, administration, and business contractor? If we have 30, 50 or 90 political appointments, untested and unofficial, or should we say political, what is that expense of salary and benefits? What priority is accomplished other than getting out the vote at election time?

What about handling funds in prudent manner where you show real savings, and can demonstrate that to taxpayers!! Would that build a climate of trust in the system? When using taxpayer money, who is looking to come home with the best deal possible? Best possible compared to what? If it is poorly budgeted, that is, without a priority attached, does that mean it is needs to be spent this year?

If the financial issues are genuinely public, then the anticipated value of a completed project can be compared to its total expense. But if the process is not OPEN and TRANSPARENT then little light is shown on such matter and expense and value can be very far apart. Lighthouse supposedly has a fund worth hundreds of thousands. It has come about from taxpayer contributions or parent fees over the years. Why is that lump sum held aside and not spent on the program during the year like other departments? Who will explain this concept and not showing the reserves in an operating budget? Is the City reporting all revenue expectations when it asks you to approve the operating budget?

And if a purchase does not consider all operating expenses, can you find yourself with greater expenses than one can obtain from outsourcing to a private taxpaying firm? Is that what has happened with In Plant Printing where no revenues were shown until this year and revenues stopped being reported after one month. Take a look and see that Finance Office revenue estimates are woefully off base. Why?

What body in the City of Bridgeport sees HONEST ACCOUNTABILITY as its task and duty to the taxpayer? Why does the Council have to fight to get info presented in a manner that makes it easier for comparisons to be made and progress to be discovered? Why does the Finance Director present narratives and financial reports for six months into a new year, sensing they are in error, but making no comment about the past year until the CAFR is published? Where is a CAFR meeting with the Council sharing results with taxpayers? Time will tell.

Jorge Cruz
251 Black Rock Ave., Apt. 2-R
Bridgeport, CT 06605

WPCA, PSEG, Bridgeport's homicides
and Cecil Young.

Mr. Cruz came forward and greeted the Council Members. He said that he was member of the DTC for the 131st District and a member of the Emergency Response Team. He said that he had signed up to speak at the last meeting, but there were too many speakers. He said that the WPCA issue had been brought up to Hartford. Mr. Cruz said that he hoped that there would be some correction in the situation.

Mr. Cruz then said that one of the pastors had recently passed away and asked Council Member Spain to have a moment of silence in recognition of this.

He then spoke about the PSEG situation and felt that the Council needs to think about this issue. He said that there was a number of pastors that were complaining about the PSEG actions and felt it was wrong.

He also commented that Mr. Young was still waiting for the Council to address his issues and that he'd been coming to the Council for years about his unjust firing.

Mr. Cruz said that he was sorry to say all the pastors who were present at the last meeting, not one of them mentioned all the homicides that had happened in the City. There was only one group that shows up consistently at crime scenes and that is the Muslim brotherhood.

Theresa Schneider
337 Jewett Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Quality of life issues.

Council President called for Ms. Schneider to come forward. There was no response. She called Ms. Schneider's name two more times with no answer.

Sylvia Marrero
415 Jewett Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Quality of life issue.

Mr. Robert Marrero Jr. came forward and said that his mother was too ill to come tonight, but his father, Mr. Robert Marrero, Sr. was present. He said that his parents had been residents of the North End for over 30 years and it has been a very peaceful street. He said that his parents were against the idea of having the Catholic Center turn in to a school because it would increase the traffic on the street and decrease the property values. The property is going to need a great deal of work and they wanted to know if this would benefit the City. He said that his parents would appreciate the Council reconsidering this decision.

David L. Council
319 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Would like to purchase lot located at 327
Carroll Avenue and fix it up.

Council President called for Mr. Council to come forward. There was no response. She called Mr. Council's name two more times with no answer.

Clyde Nicholson
54 Wallace Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Mr. Nicholson came forward and greeted the Council. He said that he was present to echo Mr. Cruz's comments. He said that he wanted to talk about the violence and that jobs would be the cure for this trouble. The kids have no jobs and they have nothing to do. The City pays the police officers thousands to serve and protect, but the officers are not protecting. He wanted to know what Mayor Ganim was doing during the funerals and stopping the violence. He is not giving anyone jobs. However, Mr. Young has been coming to the Council for 12 years and the Council has not done anything to help him. Justice done for one of us is justice for all of us.

Mr. Nicholson said that Council Member Newton had promised during the election that he was a man of his word, but he has not done what he said that he would do to help Mr. Young. Not addressing this issue is wrong. Mr. Nicholson concluded by pointing out that Mayor Ganim is running for governor but he can't even run the City of Bridgeport.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the public speaking portion at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018

7:00 PM

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

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

PRAYER

The Mayor asked Council Member McBride-Lee to lead those present in prayer. Following the conclusion of that prayer, Council Member Spain requested a moment of silence in recognition of the recent passing of Rev. Holloway. Council Member McCarthy also requested that the moment of silence include Terri Pontillo, a long time Bridgeport City employee and another former City employee.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim then led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk called the roll.

130th District: Christina Smith, Pete Spain
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan
133rd District: Jeanette Herron, Thomas McCarthy
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy
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 announced that Council Member Martinez and Council Member Banta were absent due to illness.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: February 20, 2018

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED THE FEBRUARY 20, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES.**

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

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 20, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

64-17 Communication from Tax Collector re: Refund of Excess Payments – Lereta Mortgage RE: 1839 Main Street, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

65-17 Communication from Tax Collector re: Refund of Excess Payments – Santa Lucia Ralph & Pamela C/O Trustee, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

66-17 Communication from Tax Collector re: Refund of Excess Payments – Sportech, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

67-17 Communication from Finance re: Proposed Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Refund Certain General Obligation Bonds (Series 2018A), referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

68-17 Communication from Finance re: Proposed Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects (Series 2018B), referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

69-17 Communication from Airport re: Proposed Professional Engineering Services Agreement for On-Call Airport Consulting regarding Sikorsky Memorial Airport, referred to Contracts Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES AS SUBMITTED.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President Nieves announced there would be an Executive Session for all Council Members regarding pending litigation. Mayor Ganim stated that he would be leaving and would yield the chairmanship of the meeting to Council President Nieves.

Mayor Ganim left the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Council President Nieves assumed the Chairmanship of the meeting.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Council Members entered into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation with Atty. Bohannon at 7:15 p.m. They returned to public session at 7:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service