

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2018
6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT**

Council President Nieves called the Public Speaking session to order at 6:32 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
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Maria Zambrano Viggiano
137th District: Aidee Nieves
138th District: Karen Jackson, Nessah Smith
139th District: Ernest Newton, Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present. Council President Nieves announced that Council Member Banta and McBride-Lee were not able to attend due to illness and Council Member Valle was absent due to a schedule conflict.

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

Capital Budget – Last 60
Months.

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

A “second chance” to get it right by a “second chance” candidate??

Council Members, taxpayers and voters, friends.....tonight I wanted to look at the process by which some taxpayer dollars are spent and where no oversight exists for the whole story. This morning the CT Post reported that discontent from camera parking

meters during the past year will become resolved as 118 modern meters and another 512 of the old style will be replaced for \$600,000 and be installed by City workers. Lower tech, certainly. Benefiting from the failures of the first rollout? Yes, but does anyone know whether this is a fiscally necessary and productive scheme from the numbers reported by Brian Lockhart? Where does one go to see what it has cost the City to step into the current program, and what expense to get out of it? And how does the new program compare in costs per unit? And whose budget are these meters being paid from, operating or capital expense? And what is the expense to Public Facilities for installation?

Former environmental Mayor Finch saw benefit in converting City vehicles or a portion thereof, from gasoline fuel to an alternative. Who did the conversion? At what expense per vehicle? And was there ever a report on how this subsequently benefited the taxpayer? Well, his successor at 999 Broad Street may have had some “second thoughts” about fuel economy because I heard a recent story that some of the Finch vehicles have been returned to gasoline fuel. And the reason was? And the expense of retrofitting a second time was? And this makes sense at what date? Does anyone see how a budget assistant to your committee might be looking at stories like this and making sure that fiscal sense is applied to “dollars and cents”?

Oversight by an assistant or a Finance Board could also look at items purchased by the City on occasion that are used sparingly at best or that disappear from sight. Do you remember a public light system that was to present shows under railroad bridges near the end of Bill Finch’s term? Perhaps the expense including hardware and software was \$300,000 or more. It wasn’t used as contemplated. What happened to it? Is it sitting in a City property gathering dust while we pay of the expense of the borrowed money used to purchase? Or did it get sold off? What return on the original purchase have we seen?

I thought it might be instructive to look at the bonds that you just authorized as they become City dollars. \$23,380,000 of General Obligation bonds with a first payment due in July 2019. We get to work with the funds for a year before beginning to repay our obligation. Is the \$12 Million for the Congress Street Bridge replacement located here? What if we do not have all of the permissions and plans in order, plus other funding, where can the City Council (and interested taxpayers) see that the money is well attended to in the meantime? Why is there no reporting on City Capital accounts at least quarterly?

Have you ever read a bond document? You know it includes a copy of the most recent CAFR 2017. On page A-1 I quote: “The officials listed below were elected or appointed in the autumn of 2017. The current administration has a significant amount of prior governmental management experience. The Mayor had five previous terms in office from 1991-2003 (info on others).....The goals of the Administration include fiscal accountability and openness, a commitment to management efficiencies and total quality management, and a proactive approach to improve the financial condition of the City of Bridgeport and the quality of life for all Bridgeport citizens, residents and businesspeople.” Interesting way to write history with half a brush and paint left in the can?

I have other comments on the other bond authorized for another day because it will cost taxpayers to do this refunding, and the purpose was really to put this year's payment schedule off for a year so as to balance the budget without added taxation. How long can we keep on refunding debt as interest rates rise and not realize that there is a true increasing cost to that strategy? Time will tell.

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

FOI Complaint.

Mr. Young came forward and stated his name and address for the record. He said that every week, he watches the Council meetings on Channel 78 or 79, but the audio for the meetings is terrible. The City is spending a lot of money to have the meetings video recorded, but there is no audio. The administration needs to do something about this.

He then spoke about the fact that when he requested information from his file under FOI, most of the documents that he received were from him. Mr. Young then went on to speak about how the union had agreed with his termination and the details of his unjust termination.

Linda Lee
60 Freeman Street
Bridgeport, CT

Towing of legal vehicle

Ms. Lee came forward and said that her vehicle, which was properly registered, with all the taxes paid, had been towed from in front of her house. Just before the meeting began, she spoke with Police Chief Perez, showed him the documentation on her vehicle and he assured her that the vehicle would be released to her.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the public speaking portion at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2018**

7:00 PM

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

Mayor Ganim called the City Council to order at 6:56 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim requested that former City Council Member John Olson lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim requested City Council Member Thomas McCarthy lead 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: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Maria Zambrano Viggiano
137th District: Aidee Nieves
138th District: Karen Jackson, Nessah Smith
139th District: Ernest Newton, Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present. Council President Nieves announced that Council Member Banta and McBride-Lee were not able to attend due to illness and Council Member Valle was absent due to a family obligation.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: May 7, 2018

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED THE MINUTES OF MAY 7, 2018.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MAY 7, 2018 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

118-17 Communication from Tax Collector re: Municipal Suspense Tax Book, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

119-17 Communication from Civil Service re: Proposed Approval of a New Job Classification with LIUNA for a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Technician, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

120-17 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Robinette Walker, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

121-17 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Rayford Scott, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

122-17 Communication from Public Facilities re: Proposed Resolution regarding the Sidewalk Repair Pilot Program Cost Estimates (Third Round), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

123-17 Communication from City Attorney re: Twenty Day Notice to Settle Pending Litigation Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130 with Oreste Badolato, et al, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

125-17 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Vincent Albaladejo (D) to the Ethics Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

126-17 Communication from Mayor re: Reappointment of Willie A. Dyer (R) to the Water Pollution Control Authority Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

127-17 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Anthony R. Paoletto (D) to the Port Authority of Commissioners, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

128-17 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Arturo R. Gravina-Hernandez (U) to the Planning and Zoning Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED THE COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

124-17 Communication from Central Grants re: Proposed Resolution regarding Police Body and Car Cam Expenditure and Reimbursement Request Authorization, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO ADD AGENDA ITEM 124-17 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING POLICE BODY AND CAR CAM EXPENDITURE AND REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST AUTHORIZATION, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Newton spoke about the need for these police body cams. A brief discussion about the timeline followed. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia expressed concerns about the storage of the recordings. She was assured by staff that the grant covered the cost of data storage for five years.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 124-17 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING POLICE BODY AND CAR CAM EXPENDITURE AND REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST AUTHORIZATION.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***109-17 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Title 3 – Revenue and Finance, amend to add new Chapter 3.80 – Establishment of an Other Postemployment Benefits Trust and an Other Postemployment Benefits Trust Fund.**

***23-17 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Appointment of Joseph J. Larcheveque (R) to the Board of Fire Commissioners.**

***25-17 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Reappointment of Thomas A. Lyons (D) to the Board of Police Commissioners.**

***105-17 Education and Social Services Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood for the FY 2019 School Readiness Grant**

Program to Provide Preschool Spaces for Children that are three and four-years-old who reside in the City for the Period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Martinez requested that Agenda Item 25-17 be removed from the Consent Calendar.

The City Clerk read the remaining items into the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

***109-17 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 3 – REVENUE AND FINANCE, AMEND TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 3.80 – ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS TRUST AND AN OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS TRUST FUND.**

***23-17 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH J. LARCHEVEQUE (R) TO THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS.**

***105-17 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD FOR THE FY 2019 SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE PRESCHOOL SPACES FOR CHILDREN THAT ARE THREE AND FOUR-YEARS-OLD WHO RESIDE IN THE CITY FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

25-17 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Reappointment of Thomas A. Lyons (D) to the Board of Police Commissioners.

Council Member Lyons recused herself and left the Chambers.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED AGENDA ITEM 25-17 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF THOMAS A. LYONS (D) TO THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN CHRISTY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, LANGAN, MCCARTHY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, ROMAN CHRISTY, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, JACKSON, N. SMITH, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE ABSTENTION (SPAIN).**

Following the conclusion of the vote, Council Member Lyons rejoined the meeting.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

24-17 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Reappointment of Matthew Cuminotto Jr. (D) to the Board of Police Commissioners.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED THE ITEM.**

Council Member Langan said that he had asked Mr. Cuminotto about two issues, one being the about the negative perception the Department received from broadcasted TV episode some time ago and Mr. Cuminotto's answer about this was not satisfactory to Council Member Langan. Therefore, Council Member Langan said that he had abstained from the Committee vote and would be voting against the appointment.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, MCCARTHY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, ROMAN CHRISTY, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, JACKSON, N. SMITH, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON), ONE IN OPPOSITION (LANGAN) AND ONE ABSTENTION (SPAIN).**

26-17 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Reappointment of Edwin P. Farrow (D) to the Board of Police Commissioners.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Newton spoke about how abstentions usually were the result of a conflict of interest. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia pointed out that the Council Members should state the reason for abstaining.

Council Member Langan said that he had abstained from this vote because Atty. Farrow was representing him in a real estate transaction.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, MCCARTHY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, ROMAN CHRISTY, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, JACKSON, N. SMITH, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON), AND TWO ABSTENTIONS (LANGAN AND SPAIN).**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

90-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Edward J. McLaine (R) to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 90-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF EDWARD J. MCLAINE (R) TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AND REQUESTED THE ITEM NOT BE PLACED ON THE COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA UNTIL THE ISSUE IS RESOLVED.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Council Members then presented Council Member Thomas McCarthy who was retiring after serving on the Council for 17 years with a certificate recognizing his contribution to the City. The Council Members also created a PowerPoint presentation of various photos from Council Member McCarthy's tenure on the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service