

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 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 6:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

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

A quorum was present. Council President Nieves announced that Council Members Vizzo-Paniccia and Lyons were not present due to the fact they were on their way to a conference.

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

NAME

SUBJECT

Dasha Spell
284 Beechwood Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

CSMA/Community.

Council President called Ms. Spell forward. There was no response. She repeated her call two more times with no response.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Fiscal & Governance Issues.

Mr. Lee came forward and made the following statement:

Let me guess that your minds are focused on Election Day tomorrow. You hope to have as many people voting as possible. Bridgeport has a poor voting record in this City when you compare the number of people registered to vote to those who come out to vote. Why is that? Does one vote mean that little? Are folks frustrated that they vote and the elected do not listen? Are people cynical when the rich get richer and folks don't have food, shelter, clothing or good public educations? We have heard a lot about "fake news", lies and equivocation in politics in the past two years. But what do you call a communication that was handed out in my District this weekend published by the Democratic Town Committee? Did DTC leaders hold a meeting to declare that the DTC Chair Testa and each District Chair are in favor of "fully funding education"? Those are words put in the mouth of the Democratic candidates. They further claim that certain candidates have led the fight to restructure Bridgeport finances. Where is the evidence? What does MARB offer the City? The subject is school operations. In 3 months you'll be dealing with this again. Aren't you happy to know that the Bridgeport DTC, your sponsors and endorsers have paid for this ad promotion and approve its message??

As Communications Director for the Greater Bridgeport NAACP for several years now, I looked for what we might do this year. I heard about the NAACP motto for the year: DEFEAT HATE - VOTE!!! I figured that this community can see hate when it shows its ugliness in words and/or action. I ordered 500 buttons. I have worn mine every day and had many conversations with "friends I had not yet met". People know hate and know it has no place in the public square. Sometimes the hatred is about racial matters and it gets hidden institutionally.

For instance if you have a problem and wish to contact the City about it, there is a program that started as Bridgeport 311 under the previous administration that has morphed into SeeClickFix. I have talked with more than one homeowner resident and/or Council member. You seem to be happy about the ability to report an issue, have it officially recorded, and get a response that often by itself is the answer. For those of you who have Park City Communities residents in your Districts or know of their situation, why do they have a paper and pen system for reporting critical issues like failures in heating, days when no hot water is available. And multiple complaints about water, sewage and precipitation issues that cause mold and damage personal possession that are never solved. I reference months and even years of this. No accountability when paper files are lost. Fear by citizens that complaints will be met with eviction or further ignoring of basic quality of life components. Why are there two systems in play in Bridgeport with those who are caught in public housing offered one system that fails often and is not accountable ever? And another that seems to deal reasonably and timely with complaints from taxpayers? Is this equal treatment? Is it fair? (Is that part of our voting problem, too, when governance fails to deliver?)

Finally, I attended a meeting with Acting Chief Perez and Lt. O'Donnell regarding the van that was "not abandoned" on October 2. Last week Linda Lee told me that there was no action and she needs a lawyer to sue. The Chief is a nice friendly guy, but by telling the public on June 18 that he could fix it the next day and allowing nearly five months

passing, he demonstrates a lack of effectiveness. And when the story of Captain Straubel, his right hand assistant, turned into a soap opera with serious racial overtones, did he do everything possible to investigate all other forms of electronic communications that would either show other patterns of racial discrimination within the department or not. Was this completed? No word on this subject is revealed as the panels listen to candidates. This reflects poorly on the current administration in my opinion. Time will tell.

Maria Pereira

Board of Education Member
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06604

The City's obligation to
meet the Minimum
Budget Requirement.

Ms. Pereira came forward and said that there was a packet of information for the Council Members. All the Council Members should have also received a communications from the BOE's attorney. She reminded everyone that it is illegal to withhold the Minimum Budget Requirement. She then listed several incidents where there were hold backs by the City, which were absolute lies. Mr. Flatto and Mr. Nkwo then announced an increase in the BOE involving the vehicle reimbursement funds. This was also a lie. She listed the Council Members who voted against the budget.

Ms. Pereira then repeated her earlier statement that there was a packet of information with the documentation for the Council Members.

Aresta L. Johnson

Superintendent of Schools
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06604

BOE Funding

Dr. Johnson, the Superintendent of Schools, came forward. She said that there was an invitation to the Council Members to visit the schools for informational sessions and community conversations. She went on to list the various times and locations of these school meetings. The principals have planned a program and the staff would like the Council Members to attend.

Secondly, she wanted to share some information about the packet of information that included the \$235,000 State grant funding for the displaced students, which is separate from the MBR. That is in addition to the \$250,000 that the City still owes the schools.

Lisa Haut

1525 Noble Avenue, Unit 2
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Exotic & Wild Animal Circus
Ban.

Ms. Haut came forward and said that she wanted to thank the Council to allow everyone to speak in support of the Ordinance regarding wild animals. She said that the Council Members had received packets from Animals held in Captivity. There were some recent incidents where trainers had been injured because the animals were highly stressed. This is a public safety issue. She said that she had spent considerable amount of time educating the public. Ms. Haut added

that not only was there a decreased level of interest in the audience, but the audience seemed to have a negative attitude. She said that she goes to Beardsley park on a regular basis, and that it is important not to have the children learning these negative attitudes towards animals. She said that she hoped the Council would chose to be more compassionate.

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Labor Relations.

Mr. Young said that he wanted to correct the records about why he comes out to speak to the Council. He said that after 50 years of community activity, he said that he wanted to get the evidence of what the City had done to him. Mr. Young said that he was a whistle blower. He then showed a photograph of him with Council Member Newton and that Council Member should be working on getting the Labor Relations' evidence to show him why he should be let go. He mentioned that two weeks after he was terminated, the City cancelled his benefits. Atty. Anastasi's job is to protect the City. This is not about him, but about everyone. This is about doing the right thing. Mr. Young will keep on coming down to the Council until they do the right thing.

Ms. Karen Laski
CT Votes for Animals
279 Fern Street
Manchester, CT

Ms. Laski came forward and said that she would like to yield her time to Ms. Lori McClaine, a Bridgeport resident.

Ms. Lori McClaine came forward and said that many people are aware of the abuse of the animals. With so many other forms of entertainment available, people do not need this type of entertainment. The animals do not need to be used this way. She said that Bridgeport was working on re-shaping the Art Trail and there were so many different venues for people like the Bijou, the Downtown Cabaret and even a comedy club. One of her favorite of places to visit is Seaside Park where there is a statue is for the founder of the ASPCA. On the side of the statue are three words: Justice, Humanity, and Compassion. She asked the Council Members to consider that as they vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the public speaking portion at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
November 5, 2018

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2018

7:00 PM

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

Mayor Ganim called the City Council to order at 7:10 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim requested a member of the public to lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim requested a member of the public to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Brown asked for a moment of silence in memory of Ms. Myoshi Bagley who was tragically killed over the weekend.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk called the roll.

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

A quorum was present.

Mayoral Presentation of “Key to the City” to the 2019 Connecticut “Teacher of the Year” Sheena Graham.

City Council Citation: Recognizing the 2019 Connecticut “Teacher of the Year” Sheena Graham.

Ms. Graham was called forward and presented with both the “Key to the City” and City Council Citation recognizing her contributions to the City of Bridgeport.

Mayoral and City Council Citation(s): Recognizing Dulce Nieves for her many years of Dedicated Community and Human Services Work.

Ms. Nieves was called forward and presented with both Mayoral and City Council Citations recognizing her contributions to the City of Bridgeport.

Mayoral and City Council Citation(s): Recognizing Cruzmilda (Millie) Maldonado for her contributions to the Community as Emeritus Member and Founder of the Puerto Rican Parade of Fairfield County, Inc.

Ms. Maldonado was called forward and presented with both Mayoral and City Council Citations recognizing her contributions to the City of Bridgeport.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: October 1, 2018.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 1, 2018.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 1, 2018 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

192-17 Communication from Public Facilities re: Proposed Construction Agreement with Armani Restoration, Inc. regarding the City Hall Façade Project, referred to Contracts Committee.

193-17 Communication from Finance re: Proposed Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

194-17 Communication from OPM re: Proposed Budget Modification to Fiscal Year 2018-19 General Fund Budget for the Board of Education: Increase the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Revenue Line Item #01863000-44520 (\$235,240) in order to comply with the State Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR), referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

195-17 Communication from OPM re: Proposed Amendments to the FY 2019-2023 Capital Plan Budget for Approval of Additional Capital Project Authorization, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Council Member Langan requested that Agenda Item 194-17 be removed from the referral list for discussion.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO REFER THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMITTEES:**

192-17 COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC FACILITIES RE: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT WITH ARMANI RESTORATION, INC. REGARDING THE CITY HALL FAÇADE PROJECT, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

193-17 COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE RE: PROPOSED APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

195-17 COMMUNICATION FROM OPM RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2019-2023 CAPITAL PLAN BUDGET FOR APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL CAPITAL PROJECT AUTHORIZATION, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SPAIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***117-17 Ordinance Committee Report re: Resolution requesting the creation of an Ordinance for the Establishment of the Bridgeport “Percent for Art” Development Program.**

***161-17 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Title 6 – Animals, amend to add new Chapter 6.08 – Wild and Exotic Animal Acts, Rides, Performances and Traveling Exhibitions Prohibited.**

***174-17 Ordinance Committee Report re: Resolution to consider if Ms. Eleanor Guedes, a member of the Civil Service Commission, violated both the City’s Charter and the Municipal Code of Ordinances while being registered to vote in Trumbull from June 2017 through January 2018.**

***157-17 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Disposition of City-Owned Properties (5) by Auction, by Sale to Abutter or by Sale to Community Based Housing Development Corporations.**

***165-17 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution concerning the Purchase of Bridgeport Housing Authority Property located on Broad Street and Bounded by South Frontage Road, Lafayette Street and former Allen Street.**

***142-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Reappointment of Sauda Efia Baraka (R) to the Library Board of Directors.**

***173-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Sandra Lee.**

***187-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Refund of Excess Payments – Victory Bible Church International.**

***188-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Ana DeJesus.**

***189-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Jazmarie DeJesus.**

***190-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Janessa Berrios.**

***191-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Kelly Jaramillo.**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Newton requested that Agenda Item 142-17 be removed from the Consent Calendar.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

***117-17 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CREATION OF AN ORDINANCE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BRIDGEPORT “PERCENT FOR ART” DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

***161-17 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 6 – ANIMALS, AMEND TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 6.08 – WILD AND EXOTIC ANIMAL ACTS, RIDES, PERFORMANCES AND TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS PROHIBITED.**

***174-17 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER IF MS. ELEANOR GUEDES, A MEMBER OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, VIOLATED BOTH THE CITY'S CHARTER AND THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES WHILE BEING REGISTERED TO VOTE IN TRUMBULL FROM JUNE 2017 THROUGH JANUARY 2018.**

***157-17 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: DISPOSITION OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES (5) BY AUCTION, BY SALE TO ABUTTER OR BY SALE TO COMMUNITY BASED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS.**

***165-17 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF BRIDGEPORT HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY LOCATED ON BROAD STREET AND BOUNDED BY SOUTH FRONTAGE ROAD, LAFAYETTE STREET AND FORMER ALLEN STREET.**

***173-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH SANDRA LEE.**

***187-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – VICTORY BIBLE CHURCH INTERNATIONAL.**

***188-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH ANA DEJESUS.**

***189-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH JAZMARIE DEJESUS.**

***190-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH JANESSA BERRIOS.**

***191-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH KELLY JARAMILLO.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***142-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Reappointment of Sauda Efia Baraka (R) to the Library Board of Directors.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Newton said that as he has previously stated, he wanted to be consistent. He said he still does not believe that it is right to have Commissioners or Board Members to serve until they die. This is not a judgeship. Someone was appointed to the Civil Service Committee today. If someone serves over 20 years, he will be voting against the person. It is not personal. With 142,000 residents, there should be more qualified candidates available.

Council Member McBride-Lee spoke about the fact that the Library Board represents the City. If someone is doing a good job, they shouldn't have to be forced off the Board or Commission.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that this was something that the City Council would like to see finalized and she had spoken to Council Member Newton about this. Council Member Taylor-Moye said she agreed with Council Member McBride-Lee that if someone is doing a good job, they shouldn't have to be forced off the Board or Commission. There are opportunities to serve in the City.

Council Member Herron said that she thinks that the Council should look at the process. However, the Board and Commissions need experienced members serving on them. She said that she has seen some of the Committee meetings and that the process is daunting. Council Member Herron reminded everyone that these individuals are volunteers and give up their evenings to do the work.

Council Member Roman-Christy said as a former Library Board member that she had watched Ms. Baraka in action and she was focused on the children in the community. She reminded everyone that the people on the Boards and Commissions are volunteers and often stay late at the meetings. These people want to serve the City.

The question was called and a roll call vote was requested.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 142-17 PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, SPAIN, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, LANGAN, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, JACKSON AND N. SMITH) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (NEWTON).**

194-17 Communication from OPM re: Proposed Budget Modification to Fiscal Year 2018-19 General Fund Budget for the Board of Education: Increase the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Revenue Line Item #01863000-44520 (\$235,240) in order to comply with the State Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR), referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO SECONDED.**

Council Member Langan said that the Council Members had just heard from Dr. Johnson about the \$235,240 in grant funding of which is a one-time grant allocation from the State and not part of the MBR. Council Member Langan said that he would like to have someone speak about this.

Mayor Ganim stated that this type of question usually was discussed in the Committee meeting.

Council Member Newton said that the Council Members could amend the item because this funding was not part of the ECS funding.

Mayor Ganim reiterated his earlier comment. Council President Nieves said that she agreed with the Mayor regarding this type of work should be done in committee. She said that she heard everything that Dr. Johnson and Ms. Pereira said and that this was why the Council has Committee meetings. The Council Members need time to read the information and actually understand the complex issues involved.

Council Member Spain asked if this item could be amended on the floor.

Council Member Zambrano Viggiano pointed out that the Council Members were not approving this, they were just referring it to Committee for discussion and possible amendment. She said that there were many different concerns and those conversations should be held in Committee.

The question was called. A roll call was held to determine if it should be sent to committee.

**** THE MOTION TO REFER AGENDA ITEM 194-17 TO THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, LANGAN, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, JACKSON AND N. SMITH) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (SPAIN AND NEWTON).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING TWO ITEMS TO THE AGENDA FOR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO MOVED TO REFER THE FOLLOWING TWO ITEMS TO THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE:**

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING PUBLIC PURCHASING DIRECTOR TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON PUBLIC FACILITIES DEPARTMENT PURCHASES. (ITEM #196-17)

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PUBLIC PURCHASING DIRECTOR TO DELIVER TO THE CITY COUNCIL REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER THE PURCHASING ORDINANCE. (ITEM #197-17)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President Nieves then called for a caucus. The Council Members entered into caucus at 8:05 p.m. They returned to the public session at 8:37 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service