

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019
6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Aidee Nieves called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:30 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:
134th District: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Michelle Lyons
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves
138th District: Karen Jackson, Nessah Smith
139th District: Ernest Newton, Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Monette Ferguson, PhD
1070 Park Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Preventing teen tobacco use in
Bridgeport.

Dr. Monette Ferguson, Director for ABCD, came forward and said that this was a major issue for the City. She said that she felt that issues like this should not be done to us, but with us. She said that her community, the black and brown communities, have 14% of their preschoolers that suffer from asthma and there are many others under the age of 3 years old that also have asthma. This affect the entire community because sick children result in loss of work days for parents. Supporting this initiative would send a message to young parents and teens that the City cares

about their well-being. ABCD works to provide resources for the entire family including education and advocacy.

Anna E. Greer, PhD
59 Harborview Place
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Preventing teen tobacco use in
Bridgeport.

Dr. Anna Greer came forward and said that she was a public health professional and also on the Bridgeport Health and Human Services Advisory Board and is a mother. She said that it was important to think about this issue. At Sacred Heart University a study is underway on "vapping". For many of the college students, vapping was not even around until they were in their mid-teens. The average age the students started vapping was 17 and the earlier that they start, the more likely they are to use it daily. Vapping can also lead to marijuana use. she strongly urged the Council to support this item.

Kevin O'Flaherty
American Heart Association
2800 Main Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Preventing teen tobacco use in
Bridgeport.

Mr. Kevin O'Flaherty came forward and said that six states have already passed this type of legislation. 70% of New York residents are also already covered by similar legislation. Right now, 18 through 20-year-olds can legally buy cigarettes and sell them to younger students. There are more 20-year-olds in high school now than before. What this legislation does is prevents the 15 to 17-year-olds from purchasing cigarettes.

It prevents the kids from smoking and they don't consume large amounts of tobacco and this protects our youth.

He thanked everyone for their support.

Dr. Michael Smith
Bridgeport Hospital
267 Grant Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Increasing public health in
Bridgeport by increasing tobacco
sales age to 21.

Dr. Michael Smith from Bridgeport Hospital Primary Care Unit came forward and greeted the Council. He and his coworkers at Bridgeport Hospital are concerned about the addictive properties of tobacco. It is a major cause of preventable deaths and accounts for 1 out of 5 deaths in Connecticut. Smoking is powerfully addictive and delivers nicotine to the brain within seconds. When people try to stop smoking, they experience withdrawal with anxiety, sleepiness, and many other side effects. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to smoking. as an Internist, he and the Bridgeport Hospital strongly supports this item.

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

Saving and preserving Remington
Woods.

Ms. Lazar came forward to read the following statement into the record:

For Bridgeport's Health, Happiness and Safety – Save Remington Woods.

A gem in the heart of capital Bridgeport, Remington Woods is a 422 acre forest encompassing a 23 acre lake, wetlands, forest and meadows. It is home to at least 70 species of birds including a bald eagle, also mammals and fish.

Dupont Corporation wants to knock down beautiful Remington Woods, killing the trees and homes of thousands of birds and wildlife. They want to pave over this earthly paradise, put up a parking lot, major road and office buildings. 23% of office buildings in Fairfield county are vacant. Why not utilize these vacant offices instead of destroying Remington Woods?

Bridgeport's health, happiness and safety safe future are some of the many things that saving Remington Woods Forest would promote.

Trees of the forest take in carbon. This process cleans the air and helps mitigate climate change. Trees produce oxygen, which helps all mammals, including humans breathe. Bridgeport has some of the worst air pollution on the East Coast. Asthma rates are high and local people especially children struggle to breathe. One of the many ways the forest helps Bridgeport citizens health is by cleaning the air. Asthma rates are significantly lower in residents who live around Remington Woods. Trees of the forest absorb water from the rain and snow which helps mitigate flooding

It has been proven that being in the forest aids mental well-being, as well as physical healing. It could greatly help with stresses of urban living. Deforestation is the largest source of CO2 emissions because of burning fossilized fuels.

If we are to keep our future safe we need to reduce global climate breakdown. Preserve this rare living forest for you and future generations. Leave a legacy of life.

Yesterday was Martin Luther King Day and there was a lot of talk of dreams and visions. I have a dream for Bridgeport and Remington Woods. I have a vision of the Bridgeport City Council successfully stopping the destruction of this urban forest gem by putting pressure on Dupont to put the woods in a public land trust for all time.

I envision the woods will be free and open to the public with paths for walking, meditating, enjoying nature and distancing from urban living. No cars, motorcycles, trucks or loud music. Art teachers will bring students to the woods to draw and paint. Biology and horticulture teachers will bring their students to observe and study a living eco system.

This dream can become a reality if you want it to be Remington Woods could be a an oasis for wildlife and for us. The very soul of Bridgeport's health, happiness and safety. A study done by the urban land Institute concluded that Bridgeport would reap negative net returns on

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investments and encourage environmental harm through development of Remington Woods. That means Bridgeport would lose money and destroy the local environment by knocking down the trees in the woods. Save Remington Woods

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Cover-up of City Officials.

Mr. Cecil Young came forward to speak about the Cover up by City Officials. He said that he would like to apologize to Council Member Spain for some comments he made some weeks ago. He then spoke about someone who is now in a wheel chair but continues to smoke a carton of cigarettes a week.

Mr. Young knelt down and begged the Council Members to please do something about his unjust termination and named a number of people who were involved in taking away his medical benefits, including Jody Paulk and Mike Cohen. He said that he did not have a union representative at the hearing.

Mr. Young said that he did not finish grade school and then moved on to Central High School where he dropped out at 16 years old. He said that he had a handicap but didn't want a favor but wanted the Council to do the right thing. He said that this was all that he was asking.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019

7:00 PM

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

Council President Nieves called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

PRAYER

Council President Nieves requested Council Member McBride Lee lead those present in prayer. Council Member McBride Lee requested a moment of silence for her nephew who passed away unexpectedly over the week-end. Following the conclusion of the moment of silence, she led those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Nieves requested Council Member Martinez 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: Michael Defilippo
134th District: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Michelle Lyons
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves
138th District: Karen Jackson, Nessah Smith
139th District: Ernest Newton, Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present. Council President Nieves announced that Council Members Zambrano-Viggiano and Jeanette Herron were absent due to illness.

Mayor Ganim joined the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Mayoral Proclamation and City Council Citation: Recognizing State Heroine Prudence Crandell and her first African American Student Sarah Harris for defying racial discrimination in education in 19th Century Connecticut.

Council President Nieves suggested this item be deferred until after Mayor Ganim's arrival.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: December 17, 2018

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 17, 2018.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF DECEMBER 17, 2018 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Ganim assumed the chairmanship of the meeting.

Mayoral Proclamation and City Council Citation: Recognizing State Heroine Prudence Crandell and her first African American Student Sarah Harris for defying racial discrimination in education in 19th Century Connecticut.

Mayor Ganim requested that this item be deferred to the end of the meeting.

COMMUNICATION TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE:

18-18 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Robin Favello, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***200-17 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Title 8 – Health and Safety, amend Chapter 8.90 – Regulation of the Marketing of Tobacco Products to Children.**

***05-18 Contracts Committee Report re: Medical Administrative Services Only Agreement between the City of Bridgeport and Bridgeport Board of Education and Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company.**

***06-18 Contracts Committee Report re: Dental Administrative Services Only Agreement between the City of Bridgeport and Bridgeport Board of Education and Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company.**

***11-18 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) Round 12 Remedial Action and Redevelopment Municipal Grant (#19231).**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Members who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Spain requested Agenda Item 200-17 be removed from the Consent Calendar.

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

***05-18 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: MEDICAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ONLY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT AND BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION AND CIGNA HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.**

***06-18 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: DENTAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ONLY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT AND BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION AND CIGNA HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.**

***11-18 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (DECD) ROUND 12 REMEDIAL ACTION AND REDEVELOPMENT MUNICIPAL GRANT (#19231).**

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

200-17 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Title 8 – Health and Safety, amend Chapter 8.90 – Regulation of the Marketing of Tobacco Products to Children.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED THE ITEM.
** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SPAIN MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION DUE TO A SCRIBNER’S ERROR REGARDING “CHILDREN AND OLDER YOUTH AND OLDER YOUTH” BY REMOVING THE SECOND AND UNNECESSARY REFERENCE TO “AND OLDER YOUTH” IN ALL OCCURRENCES OF THIS IN THE RESOLUTION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.
** THE MOTION TO AMEND THE SCRIBNER’S ERROR AS NOTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED AGENDA ITEM 200-17 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 8 – HEALTH AND SAFETY, AMEND CHAPTER 8.90 – REGULATION OF THE MARKETING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO CHILDREN AS AMENDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 200-17 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 8 – HEALTH AND SAFETY, AMEND CHAPTER 8.90 – REGULATION OF THE MARKETING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO CHILDREN AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Newton then requested a point of personal privilege. He said that there were concerns about due process and justice. He wanted the Council Members to know that with the assistance of the Mayor, he had sent a letter to Ms. Hawkins. Council Member Newton asked Ms. Hawkins to review the file to see if previous administrations had overlooked anything in the situation. He also asked Ms. Hawkins what she would have recommended to the City Council in this instance. Ms. Hawkins responded that the City had acted appropriately in this case. Council Member Newton said that he wanted to make sure that people knew that this has been reviewed and he wanted to set the record straight.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services