

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
PUBLIC SPEAKING  
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019  
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 6:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Christina Smith, Pete Spain.  
131st District: Jack Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye  
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan  
133rd District: Michael Defilippo, Jeanette Herron  
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  
138th District: Nessah Smith, Karen Jackson  
139th District: Ernie Newton, Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019 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/BOE and Community.

Ms. Spell came forward and greeted everyone. She said that she was pleased to see all the Junior Council members.

Ms. Spell said that right now the BOE would be having a meeting to discuss the budget. She stated that Out of District placements can cost up to \$80,000 plus per student. The Charter Schools cost \$19 million plus, and mentioned that the Magnet programs, which non-Bridgeport

students can attend, costs \$26 million. There are no reimbursements from other towns for many of those non-resident students. There are many items removed from the budget but the Council finds money for other projects. Bridgeport loses a student every week. The City needs to do better. This is an election year.

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

Fiscal Governance.

Good evening City Council members as well as neighbors and fellow taxpayers:

I have with me tonight the latest two publications of the City Print Shop that are made available to you with color charts, wonderful content dividers and bound in such ways as to be more durable, than some of the items that we bond. (For instance on page 31 of the 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is a chart listing assets and the years assumed for average depreciation. We find Vehicles, like Police Cars to have a 3-5 year life time. What happens when we fund those same cars with 20 year money? Have they gone into the crusher 15 years before the debt is paid?)

Do you know the large numbers that are referenced infrequently regarding City finances? CAFR page 74 treats the subject of Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB). As of July 2016 the plan covers 3130 inactive employees receiving benefit payments and 3757 Active employees who will expect such benefits in the future. The liability currently stands at \$942,079, 091. The fiduciary trust for the fund holds \$100,013. That means that 99.9% of the liability is UNFUNDED. Page 74 tells us that an ordinance passed by the Council, includes the City Finance Director, one Council member, one BOE member, the Mayor and three other folks who specialize in employee benefits or finance as Trustees. Who are these people? When do they meet? Who is your liaison? Where are reports about the liability as well as agendas and minutes maintained? Almost \$1 Billion.....

Education of our youth is a top priority for most people, even if not so mentioned in recent Mayoral annual budget reports to the BRBC or taxpayers. It's a big number but do you know what we spend on Education? I suggest you turn to page 10 and 11 in the CAFR. Several color charts appear with little or no explanation. On page 11 the chart should bear a heading that indicates the numbers are (in 000s). Education expenditures in 2017 and 2018 are actually around \$407 Million each year. Did you know that? When I raised that number before seven BOE members last Monday afternoon at their selection meeting, not one of them recognized such sum as a total of expenditures annually during the past two years. If we assume that the chart on page 11 uses the same underlying data as on page 10, where BOE expenses are listed at 49% of City of Bridgeport Expenses – Primary, it means that your annual budget process is providing oversight on only about 70% of City expenditures of \$820 Million in recent years. Don't believe me? Do the math? Ken Flatto wrote the narrative and admits to reading it, but where is the explanation that shows where all the numbers come from? And you can ask Ken, because he offers assistance on page 16 of the CAFR. He has told me in the past week not to contact him any more. Which one of you will ask for full reporting on 2017 and 2018 as to what was spent by category and where those funds came from? I suggest that no one should run for

City of Bridgeport  
City Council  
Regular Meeting  
March 18, 2019

office without sharing with voters the total budget from operating, capital, grants, private funds, etc.

Another large number is the total of Pension Obligation Bonds. Ganim 1 created the Pension A Bond Fund that today shows about \$232,415,000 of obligations outstanding from the original \$350 Million. This must be retired by 2030. Police and Fire pay over \$30 Million from their operating budget each year for principal and interest. But additional amounts over \$10 Million in recent years have been required by actuaries. Plans become very expensive when investment returns do not work as assumed. And another \$99,500,000 was bonded to pay for past service liability when we moved Police and Fire over to the State MERS fund. Payments until 2046. All from taxpayers and not from external overtime employers? How did that happen?

Three numbers: OPEB almost One Billion and who is providing oversight? BOE expenditures at \$407 Million but neither the BOE nor the Council can provide details as we sit here tonight that would show \$815 Million Bridgeport expenditures in 2017 and 2018; \$331 Million of Pension Debt obligation, with high interest rates, crowding budgets in decades to come. What do you have to say for oversight as you prepare for another budget year? Time will tell.

**Cecil Young**  
99 Carroll Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Cover up of unjust termination.

Mr. Cecil Young came forward and displayed a broom. He said that he started with a broom because he didn't finish high school and never went to college. Most of the time that he was in school, he was in the principal's office. Mr. Young also displayed photographs from when he worked with a patrol at the Barnum housing project. He said that he has worked hard for the City of Bridgeport and is continually thinking about Bridgeport, even when he was at his brother's funeral. He said that his home, where he lived for 30 years, is paid for, and his taxes are paid.

Mr. Young spoke about transporting an officer who was shot to the hospital in his car. Mr. Young displayed a photograph of him with Chief A. J. Perez. He thanked Council Member Newton for all that he has tried to do about Mr. Young's unjust termination. He said that he had a tape recording of his supervisor saying that he should be at work. He then spoke about \$5,000 for the Lighthouse Program and how he has supported it.

**Myron Dukes**  
184 Harriet Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06608

Targeted and banned from public event.

Mr. Myron Dukes came forward and said that he had previously spoken to the Council on March 4th about how he was removed from a public event at the Margaret Morton Center. He said that someone had sent his photo to the police and said that he had threatened them. The police escorted him out of meeting and out of the building. He said that he had never done anything and complied with the police request.

Since this incident, Mr. Dukes said that he did some deep study on Margaret Morton. if Ms. Morton was alive, she would not approve of the police actions. He said that he wants the Mayor to know about this. He added that he was asking the council how someone could use the Police Department to target him.

**Lisa Fedick**  
123 Glenwood Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06610

The new rinks in Bridgeport.  
Wonderland of Ice

Ms. Fedick came forward and said that she would like to highlight some of the things that they have done at the Wonderland of Ice in the last 30 years. She said that she owns the Wonderland of Ice company and she along with her business partner, Mr. Ferguson have operated the rink for the last 36 years. She thanked the City for renewing their lease last year.

Ms. Fedick said that the Wonderland of Ice was built in 1968 outside and was a seasonal rink. It was enclosed in 1975 and locker rooms were added. In 1989, Ms. Fedick said that the City allowed Ms. Fedick and Mr. Ferguson to take over facility and in 2006 they upgraded by adding a second NHL sized skating sheet along with a 3-lane curling facility. She went on to list additional amenities that were added to the rink and were included in a presentational booklet distributed to the Council Members.

Ms. Fedick said that there is a misconception that the new ice palace will be used to train Olympic skaters. However, four-time Olympic medalist Julie Chu trained at the Wonderland of Ice, as have others, including Ted Drury, Chris Drury and Kristen Santos. Wonderland of Ice has been represented in every Winter Olympics for many years.

**John Ferguson**  
Ferguson Sports  
123 Glenwood Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06610

The new rinks in Bridgeport.  
Wonderland of Ice

Mr. Ferguson came forward and spoke about how the Wonderland of Ice was able to help the children of Bridgeport. He pointed out that the City owns the facility but Ms. Fedick and he run it. Mr. Ferguson then turned the microphone back over to Ms. Fedick and yielded his remaining time to her.

Ms. Fedick explained that the Wonderland of Ice has been able to add another sheet of Ice for hockey and have a sheet for curling. Ms. Fedick then listed a number of different groups that uses the facility included special need teams, the hockey teams and various other equipment for athletes.

In summary, she asked if the proposed downtown facility was filling a void or just taking business from the Wonderland of Ice.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council President Nieves adjourned the Public Speaking portion of the Council meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019**

**7:00 PM**

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

**Bridgeport, Connecticut**

Mayor Ganim called the meeting of the City Council to order at 7:14 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Mayor Ganim requested former Council Member, Rev. John Olson to lead those present in prayer. Rev. Olson came forward and led the prayer which focused on the recent, unexpected death of former Council Member Ezekiel Santiago.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member Ernest Newton 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: Jack Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye  
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan  
133rd District: Michael Defilippo, Jeanette Herron  
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  
138th District: Nessah Smith, Karen Jackson  
139th District: Ernie Newton, Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present.

Mayor Ganim announced that he would like to do two presentations before continuing with the listed agenda items.

Mayor Ganim proclaimed this was the National Women's History Month and called all the Council Members forward. He then distributed white carnations to the female Council Members and the Junior Council Members along with the female staff that were present. Mayor Ganim

then read the Proclamation to those present and declared March 18th to be National Women's History Day. Mayor Ganim presented Council President Aidee Nieves with the proclamation. Mayor Ganim then announced that there was an additional presentation of a certificate of recognition along with a Key to the City to Andre Graham for his contribution to the Internet. Mr. Graham thanked everyone for their kind words and named the other members of his team.

**City Council Citation: Recognizing the Primary Care Action Group for its Annual “Know Your Numbers” Health Campaign.**

Mayor Ganim called the health professionals that had been working on the “Know Your Numbers” Health Campaign to come forward. A City Council Citation recognizing their contributions to the City was then presented to them.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

**Approval of City Council Minutes: February 19, 2019**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 19, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES.**

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

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 19, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**51-18 Communication from Mayor re: Proposed Five-Year Capital Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-2024, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.**

**52-18 Communication from Finance re: Proposed Approval of the De-Authorization of Projects Previously Approved for Bonding Authority, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.**

**55-18 Communication from Engineering re: Proposed Agreement with WSP USA Inc. for Consulting Engineering Services for the Design of Park Avenue Traffic Signal Upgrade, utilizing Funding from the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program, State Project: 15-376 and Federal Aid Project: 1015(136), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.**

**56-18 Communication from Public Facilities re: Proposed Lease Agreement with East Main Development, LLC for the East Side Senior Center located at 1053-1057 East Main Street and 440 Arctic Street, referred to Contracts Committee.**

**57-18 Communication from Police Department re: Proposed Trade Agreement with Smith & Wesson for the Upgrade of Firearms in Exchange for Receiving Older Firearms and Magazines at no cost to the City, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

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

**53-18 Resolution presented by Council Member Langan re: Proposed request that the installation of “On-Street” parking control signs be placed on Wood Terrace with appropriate signage and street markings to ensure safety and livability for residents, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.**

**54-18 Resolution presented by Council Member Langan re: Proposed request that a study be done for the installation of “No Parking During Office Hours” signs to be located at 702-812 State Street, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO COMBINE AND APPROVE THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES WITH THE RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**51-18 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020-2024, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

**52-18 COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE RE: PROPOSED APPROVAL OF THE DE-AUTHORIZATION OF PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED FOR BONDING AUTHORITY, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

**55-18 COMMUNICATION FROM ENGINEERING RE: PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH WSP USA INC. FOR CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN OF PARK AVENUE TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADE, UTILIZING FUNDING FROM THE CONGESTION MITIGATION AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) PROGRAM, STATE PROJECT: 15-376 AND FEDERAL AID PROJECT: 1015(136), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**56-18 COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC FACILITIES RE: PROPOSED LEASE AGREEMENT WITH EAST MAIN DEVELOPMENT, LLC FOR THE EAST SIDE SENIOR CENTER LOCATED AT 1053-1057 EAST MAIN STREET AND 440 ARCTIC STREET, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**57-18 COMMUNICATION FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT RE: PROPOSED TRADE AGREEMENT WITH SMITH & WESSON FOR THE UPGRADE OF FIREARMS IN EXCHANGE FOR RECEIVING OLDER FIREARMS AND MAGAZINES AT NO COST TO THE CITY, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**



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

**53-18 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LANGAN RE: PROPOSED REQUEST THAT THE INSTALLATION OF “ON-STREET” PARKING CONTROL SIGNS BE PLACED ON WOOD TERRACE WITH APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE AND STREET MARKINGS TO ENSURE SAFETY AND LIVABILITY FOR RESIDENTS, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.**

**54-18 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LANGAN RE: PROPOSED REQUEST THAT A STUDY BE DONE FOR THE INSTALLATION OF “NO PARKING DURING OFFICE HOURS” SIGNS TO BE LOCATED AT 702-812 STATE STREET, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

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

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

**\*24-18 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the Acceptance of Easements on 39 Pine Street and 450 Wordin Avenue and the Subordination of Easements in SCG’s ELURs.**

**\*45-18 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the “2019” First Round Sidewalk Repair Pilot Program.**

**\*26-18 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Public Health for Preventative Health Block Grant (#19605).**

**\*27-18 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Public Health for Preventative Health Block Grant – Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention: Hypertension Project (#19609).**

**\*37-18 Special Committee on CDBG Report re: (Ref. #108-17) Substantial Amendment to the City’s Consolidated Plan for Housing & Community Development (2013-2018) and PY 44 Annual Plan and multiple CDBG Program Years.**

**\*33-18 Joint Committee on Contracts & Economic and Community Development and Environment re: Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Land Development Agreement (“LDA”) with Primrose Companies, Inc. for the Mixed-Use Development of Congress Plaza Commons located on the corner of Main Street and Congress Street.**

Mayor Ganim said there had been a request to remove Agenda Item 33-18 from the Consent Calendar. He then 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 45-18 be removed.

City Clerk Martinez then read the remaining items into the record.

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

**\*24-18 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE ACCEPTANCE OF EASEMENTS ON 39 PINE STREET AND 450 WORDIN AVENUE AND THE SUBORDINATION OF EASEMENTS IN SCG'S ELURS.**

**\*26-18 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR PREVENTATIVE HEALTH BLOCK GRANT (#19605).**

**\*27-18 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR PREVENTATIVE HEALTH BLOCK GRANT – HEART DISEASE AND STROKE PREVENTION: HYPERTENSION PROJECT (#19609).**

**\*37-18 SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CDBG REPORT RE: (REF. #108-17) SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE CITY'S CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (2013-2018) AND PY 44 ANNUAL PLAN AND MULTIPLE CDBG PROGRAM YEARS.**

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

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

**45-18 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the "2019" First Round Sidewalk Repair Pilot Program.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 45-18 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE "2019" FIRST ROUND SIDEWALK REPAIR PILOT PROGRAM AND SEND IT BACK TO COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Martinez said that the reason this item was being taken off the agenda and being sent back to Committee was because when the program was originally created, she was on the Council. There were numerous meetings with former Council Members who are no longer on the Council. Council Member Martinez said that the Committee needs to review the program again because the home owners are being ripped off by the current contractor. Once the program is reviewed, it needs to go back out to bid for contractors that will give the home

owners a reasonable accommodation on price. There should not be a sidewalk that costs \$10,000 and the home owner is being charged \$17,000 or \$20,000 because the City is paying a portion of it. This program is good for the homeowners, but Council Member Martinez said she believes that what is currently happening in Bridgeport along with the investigation that is going on, this project should go back out to bid for other contractors. She said that her recommendation in Committee would be that they review the contract prices because the home owner is going to be paying 50% of the costs. They should play a role in these three quotes. She said that this was only fair when someone would be paying for part of the project.

Council Member Lyons asked to speak. Mayor Ganim reminded everyone that there was a motion to table and there is no discussion on motions to table. The motion had been made and seconded. He then requested that the Council Members vote on the item.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 45-18 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE “2019” FIRST ROUND SIDEWALK REPAIR PILOT PROGRAM AND REFER IT BACK TO COMMITTEE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**33-18 Joint Committee on Contracts & Economic and Community Development and Environment re: Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Land Development Agreement (“LDA”) with Primrose Companies, Inc. for the Mixed-Use Development of Congress Plaza Commons located on the corner of Main Street and Congress Street.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE ITEM.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Newton said that this was an agreement to build residential units along a block of Main Street that is a vacant City owned parcel.

Council Member Spain said that he was for developments in the City. Primrose is well respected. However, he urged everyone to consider the fact that this was the only proposal received. There are good parts but the City will lose \$9 million in taxes on a \$17 million dollar project. He felt that it would be best to put the project back out to bid.

Council Member Castillo said that there was a joint committee meeting where a detailed presentation was given and it was passed on the Committee level. When items come to the floor on the Consent Calendar, it should be for final approval. If Council Members have difficulty or questions, they need to be at the Committee meetings.

Council Member Herron said that the joint meeting was over two hours long and she did not receive any questions in advance from any Council Members.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that as Co-chair of the Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee, the points were discussed and she did not feel that the Council should go back to the bidding process. The item should be accepted as is.

Council Member Langan said that he appreciated everyone's comments. He said that he asked his two questions and had reached out to OPED regarding the project, but still has questions. Of course, they want development in the city. He said that \$9 million dollars tax abatement for a \$17 million dollar project was too high. He also wanted to know what the City is doing for the small businesses like the karaoke bar.

Council Member Langan said that he was concerned this was an open shop project. What expands the middle class is union workers. Open shop can have illegal workers who aren't properly insured. He asked who could afford a market rate unit. These buildings are not made for Bridgeporters, but for outside people to come in. He does not want to go down the road that will end up with developers pricing the Bridgeport residents out.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LANGAN MOVED TO TABLE 33-18 JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS & ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A LAND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT (“LDA”) WITH PRIMROSE COMPANIES, INC. FOR THE MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT OF CONGRESS PLAZA COMMONS LOCATED ON THE CORNER OF MAIN STREET AND CONGRESS STREET.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SPAIN SECONDED.**

A roll call vote was requested. Mayor Ganim said that a “Yes” vote would be for tabling and a “No” vote would be against the table.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO TABLE FAILED TO PASS WITH SIX (6) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, SPAIN, LANGAN, LYONS, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO AND JACKSON) AND THIRTEEN (13) AGAINST (BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, N. SMITH, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON).**

*Mayor Ganim left the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Council President Nieves assumed the Chairmanship.*

Council Member Newton pointed out that the Council had been given the responsibility to OPED for these projects. He said that it would be nice if the companies that came to Bridgeport did not need the City's help. However, that is not the case. As a Council, the Council Members have the right to pick and choose as they wish to. However, there was a meeting lasting almost three hours and the project was approved.

Council Member Newton would like to see OPED have developers put some skin in the game. He spoke about another shipyard that went belly up. He then asked his colleagues to vote on this. It is important to have a downtown that looks like Hartford, New Haven and Shelton.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that the downtown has growth and development. She said that she would echo Council Member Newton's words. It is time to move forward. She was also asking her fellow Council Members to move this project forward. All cities need all the different forms of housing.

Council Member Lyons said that she wanted to clarify that not all the Council Members voted in favor of giving OPED the authority to work on projects like this. She did not vote in favor of giving away the Council's authority. Primrose is an excellent developer and it is time to make some changes for better communication.

Council Member C. Smith asked OPED they had approved a contract and if there was a recommendation. Mr. Coleman came forward and said that he had reviewed the contract. He then said that there was a 37% break that would decrease over the years. He added that he did not know where the \$9 million-dollar figure came from.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that anyone that knows her knows how she feels about tax breaks. Compromise is important. She said that it would be important for small businesses to ask for what they need, but it is important to entice people to come live in Bridgeport. There should be all kinds of people living in Bridgeport. She said that she hoped that they did move forward on this project.

Council Member Herron said that she appreciated everyone's comments. She said that OPED does not have sole power. Over and over again, she has told OPED that no more 40-year tax abatements. However, development does not have a lengthy abatement. She said that when there are multi-million-dollar developers asking to do a project in Bridgeport, she will not oppose it. Fighting about tax abatements that will help develop the City is not right.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE QUESTION.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, N. SMITH, JACKSON MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) AGAINST (SPAIN, AND LANGAN).**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 33-18 JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS & ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A LAND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT ("LDA") WITH PRIMROSE COMPANIES, INC. FOR THE MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT OF CONGRESS PLAZA COMMONS LOCATED ON THE CORNER OF MAIN STREET AND CONGRESS STREET PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, N. SMITH, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND THREE (3) AGAINST (SPAIN, LANGAN, AND JACKSON).**

Council Member Lyons asked for a point of personal privilege. She thanked Council Member Martinez for stating her reasons for sending Item 45-18 back to Committee. However, in the future, if one Council Member is allowed to speak, all Council Members should be allowed to speak. She said that for the record, she was Co-chair of that Committee, and she wanted it on the record that she had not voted on the item. Now it is being sent back to Committee.

Council Member Martinez said that she wanted to say that the East End of Bridgeport has had a violent few weeks. She wanted to thank the Mayor, the administration, Police Chief Perez, and most importantly Captain Lonnie Blackwell who has been trying to turn around the issues in the East End. Having police patrolling on foot on Stratford Avenue has greatly encouraged the residents in the area. She said that one resident thanked her for the extra police presence.

People go on social media to complain about their elected officials in their District, but Council Member Martinez said that she would like to clarify that the \$9,000 a year the Council Members receive will never compensate for time that the Council Members spend away from their families.

She said that when Dyshon Williams was shot, it was right across the street from where she lives and she felt helpless because she didn't know what to do.

Regarding Mr. Dukes' situation, Mr. Dukes should go down to the Police Department and file a complaint because his civil rights were violated. She said that she had spoken to Chief Perez about the incident at the Government Center and Chief Perez had been unaware of the situation. Council Member Martinez said that the officer that banned Mr. Dukes from the Government Center had no authority to do so. She said Mr. Dukes needed to file a police report, draft a letter to the Mayor about the issue and send copies to the Council Members.

Council Member Martinez concluded her remarks by thanking her colleagues and reminding everyone that life is short and people should appreciate one another. It will be important to work closely with the city business to fulfill the needs of their constituents.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services