CITY COUNCIL MEETING PUBLIC SPEAKING MONDAY, JUNE 17, 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 6:33 p.m.

Council President Nieves reviewed the rules and reminded everyone they had five minutes to address the Council. She announced that Council Member Banta would not be present due to work obligations.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Christina Smith, Pete Spain

131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye

132nd District: Kyle Langan, Marcus Brown

133rd District: Michael Defilippo

134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia 135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy

136th District: Alfredo Castillo

137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle 138th District: Nessah Smith, Karen Jackson

139th District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

<u>NAME</u> <u>SUBJECT</u>

John Marshall Lee 30 Beacon Street

Bridgeport, CT 06605

Fiscal Governance.

Council Members, I know that each of you is occupied with many activities beyond being a family member, worker and friend of many with a wide group for whom you are a steward of

City events. But Mother's Day and Father's Day remind us of our adult responsibility to be good parents for all the youth, especially when the money runs out.

I am told that one of your duties as a legislative body is oversight. I can remember no Oversight Day, Week, Month or even mention held in the past ten years. Can you? You do legislate, through Ordinances vital to our residents. Money is vital as you realize every April when budgets are studied. But the school system is made less able to function and carry out its mission because of decisions made in the Executive offices and the lack of funds, this year, last year, the year before, etc. provided by Mayors. Need I go on? You know the need but have no priorities as a body; and it seems that long-term oversight on behalf of all families is not on your mind. Isn't that the essential work of a Finance Board? But we do not have one. And wouldn't that get addressed if you voted to request a MARB status?

As a matter of fact, it seems that Ganim2 has no announced priorities either. The school funding issue did not sneak up on the City did it? Is it a surprise that the ship has hit a glacier of cool indifference by the Mayor's office such that no new monies of significance become available? But his labor negotiators keep compensation increases part of the picture? Fair?

Why isn't the subject of educational financing a year round discussion of this body? You represent the kids and their families, don't you? Several of you have links with the school system. Is everything OK at your school? Many grants, long counted upon to fill in our lack of funding, have run out and not been replaced. And workers to help the needlest in Kindergarten to become on time readers equal with other school mates are history. How long is it reasonable to count on volunteers to provide such service?

The majority of you ran for office with the support of the DTC. Has anyone ever asked the leader of that body about his concern for the education of the children? Why not? Does the DTC have no education policy?

While you move to the July-August one meeting per month schedule, why not reflect on why you are not more active in making sure that the education system in Bridgeport is healthy and securing results. Is it an oversight that you are failing in oversight over this critical City responsibility? Plan your work and work your plan for full sight on behalf of all voters, including the young Council members who sit with you each year.

A lament of a Bridgeport voter:

Got work that pays for food, roof and coat, Skilled tools in the heavy old sack that I tote, And attend full mind to real news of note. I read, view and learn, and click the remote, So I can be wise, when it comes time. I vote.

'Politics is dirty', at least many folks say,
'Cuz those elected work to make the job pay,
For them and their own; all others mere prey!
All are not equal; and 'believers' get betrayed.
Especially the aged and weak left to pray.

We serve in uniform when we're called to fight.
We work to help others when storms cause all fright.
When the old and broke make plans for flight,
We then see things b'coming more wrong than right.
Are we just folks divided, to face a sorry plight?

Who'll raise a voice, a vote and some cents? To support the few who are honest, make sense? "**Defeat Hate, Educate, Vote**" works with patience, To sweep out corruption, greed, and incompetents. 'Cuz our biggest all around sin is: **public ignorance**.

John Marshall Lee, Copyright, 2019.

Pamala J. Williams

Jobs.

91 Clearview Drive Bridgeport, CT 06606

Council President Nieves called for Ms. William to come forward. There was no response. She repeated the call but there was no response.

Cecil Young

Cover-up of unjust termination.

99 Carroll Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06607

Mr. Young came forward and apologized for giving the impression that he might become a problem. He mentioned the Chief of Police and said that he had letters from the police. There is also a letter from the Health Director at the time showing that he was at work, yet he was informed by others that he had not been at work and was fired. He listed the details and reminded everyone that this was the United States, not Russia.

Mr. Young said that there was a time when black people had no rights, but that time has passed. It is time for the Council to do the right thing. Mr. Young said that he was pleading with the Council Members, who took an oath, to look at the documents which show in black and white that he was at work and was even paid for that day's work. At the conclusion of his speaking time, Mr. Young thanked the Council for listening.

Jacquelyn Cauthen 397 Charles Street Bridgeport, CT 06606 Becoming D.I.V.A.S. Network Summer Program Meetings.

Ms. Cauthen came forward and said that after her workshop, she was able to get the Bridgeport Library to let her have a room from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays for 10 weeks. She was also able to get a plot at the Community Garden and would be teaching them how to grow vegetable and herbs. Ms. Cauthen will be showing the girls how to grow wheat grass and sprouts to help

them learn about healthy eating. She spoke about giving the girls a tote bag, a mug and the other items that the participants will be given. Ms. Cauthen said that if anyone was interested in sponsoring a young woman, to please contact her. There will be two field trips, one to Port Jefferson and another to Harlem, which is where Ms. Cauthen is from. She thanked the Council Members for their time.

Dorothy Nieves 45 Rockland Street Bridgeport, CT 06610 Zoning problem with new owners next door to property.

Council President Nieves called for Ms. Nieves to come forward. There was no response. She repeated the call and there was no response.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves adjourned the Public Speaking portion of the Council meeting at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 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 7:00 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member McBride-Lee to lead those present in a prayer. Council Member McBride-Lee prayed for the family of Charles Coviello, who had passed away on June 13, 2019.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member Castillo to 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: Kyle Langan, Marcus Brown

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, Maria Valle

138th District: Nessah Smith, Karen Jackson

139th District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

89-18 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Sale of 55 Cannon Street.

Mayor Ganim opened the public hearing on Agenda Items 89-19 at 7:02 p.m. He asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak in favor of the item.

Mr. Coleman came forward and gave a brief overview of the proposal. He announced that there would be more details provided at the ECDE meeting scheduled for June 18th.

Ms. Jing Chen came forward and greeted the Council. She said that they already own 49 Cannon Street and that the additions of 55 Cannon will allow the number of apartments to increase. She reviewed the location of the site and said that the building will be renovated inside into one-bedroom apartments and studio apartments.

Mayor Ganim asked if there was anyone else present who wished to speak in favor of the item. No one came forward.

Mayor Ganim then asked if there was anyone else who wished to speak against the item. He repeated his request. Hearing none, Mayor Ganim closed the public hearing on Agenda Item 89-19 at 7:05 p.m.

92-18 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Approving Programs for Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program.

Mayor Ganim opened the public hearing on Agenda Items 92-18 at 7:05 p.m. He asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak in favor of the item. No one came forward. He repeated his request with no response.

Mayor Ganim then asked if there was anyone else who wished to speak against the item. He repeated his request with no response. Hearing none, Mayor Ganim closed the public hearing on Agenda Item 89-19 at 7:06 p.m.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: May 6, 2019

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2019 MEETING.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2019 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

- 94-18 Communication from Finance re: Proposed Approval of the Issuance of Pension Deficit Funding Bonds and the use of the Proceeds of the Pension Bonds, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.
- 95-18 Communication from Finance re: Proposed Approval of Tax Anticipation Notes (TANS) To Pay Current Expenses and Obligations of the City FY2020, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

- 96-18 Communication from Finance re: Proposed Approval of General Obligation Bonds To Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.
- 97-18 Communication from Finance re: Proposed Approval of General Obligation Bonds To Refund Certain General Obligation Bonds, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:
 - 94-18 COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE RE: PROPOSED APPROVAL OF THE ISSUANCE OF PENSION DEFICIT FUNDING BONDS AND THE USE OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE PENSION BONDS, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.
 - 95-18 COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE RE: PROPOSED APPROVAL OF TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES (TANS) TO PAY CURRENT EXPENSES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY FY2020, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.
 - 96-18 COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE RE: PROPOSED APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.
 - 97-18 COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE RE: PROPOSED APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO REFUND CERTAIN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

- *57-17 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13.04 Utilities, amend Section 13.04.380 Collection of Past Due Accounts and Late Payment Penalties.
- *71-18 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10.12 Stopping, Standing and Parking Generally, amend to add New Section 10.12.015 Lawn Parking.

- *79-18 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5.48 Street Vendors, Itinerant Vendors and Motor Vehicle Vendors, amend to add New Section 5.48.300 Pedal Cabs (Pedicabs).
- *80-18 Contracts Committee Report re: Request by the Fire Chief Pursuant to and in accordance with C.G.S. §7-430 and their Collective Bargain Agreement, Fire Fighters Local 834 that Dennis Rodgerson having or soon to attain the age of sixty-five years or more to remain employed by the City for another year.
- *83-18 Contracts Committee Report re: Contract with Municipal Valuation Services (MVS) for 2020 Revaluation.
- *85-18 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Municipal Suspense Tax Book.
- *87-18 Education and Social Services Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood for the FY 2020 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, 2019 through June 30, 2020.
- *88-18 Contracts Committee Report re: Professional Services Agreement with James Duncan and Associates, Inc. for the City's Comprehensive Zoning Rewrite.
- *90-18 Education and Social Services Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood for the Smart Start Grant Program.
- *92-18 Education and Social Services Committee Report re: Resolution Approving Programs for Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program.

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Brown requested that Agenda Item 57-17 be removed. Council Member Spain requested Agenda Item 71-18 be removed. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested that Agenda Items 79-18; 80-18 and 88-18 be removed. The City Clerk read the remaining items from the Consent Calendar into the record:

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:
 - *83-18 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: CONTRACT WITH MUNICIPAL VALUATION SERVICES (MVS) FOR 2020 REVALUATION.
 - *85-18 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK.
 - *87-18 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD FOR THE FY 2020 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, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020.

- *90-18 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD FOR THE SMART START GRANT PROGRAM.
- *92-18 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION APPROVING PROGRAMS FOR CONNECTICUT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- 57-17 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13.04 Utilities, amend Section 13.04.380 Collection of Past Due Accounts and Late Payment Penalties.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO AMEND THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 13.04 UTILITIES, AMEND SECTION 13.04.380 COLLECTION OF PAST DUE ACCOUNTS AND LATE PAYMENT PENALTIES AS AMENDED AND APPROVED BY THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE ON MAY 29, 2019 AND AS OUTLINED IN THE DOCUMENT DATED JUNE 17, 2019 FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING THE REVISIONS.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 57-17 AS AMENDED.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- 71-18 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10.12 Stopping, Standing and Parking Generally, amend to add New Section 10.12.015 Lawn Parking.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER SPAIN MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 71-18 AS PER THE LETTER DATED JUNE 17, 2019 FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING THE REVISIONS.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.

Council Member Lyons said that there was an amendment that was provided by the City Attorney's Office. She said that there had been a number of vehicles and recreational vehicles that are being parked on lawns. The vehicles often leak oils and present a fire hazard. If there is a special event, the people need to get a permit. There has been damage to curbing due to people driving vehicles up onto the lawns.

- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER SPAIN MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA 71-18 AS AMENDED.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- 79-18 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5.48 Street Vendors, Itinerant Vendors and Motor Vehicle Vendors, amend to add New Section 5.48.300 Pedal Cabs (Pedicabs).
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE ITEM.
- ** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES SECONDED.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that there was an issue with non-motorized vehicles on the road. She said that she was worried about legal liability. She said that she would be opposed to this.

Council Member Newton said that there was a public hearing earlier in the evening. He said that the first area would be at Seaside Park and it would not be throughout the City. There will be benchmarks to where the pedicabs would be going and most have bike routes.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked to respond to Council Member Newton and said that she was concerned about it trickling into other areas.

- ** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 79-18 TO INSERT A REGISTRATION FEE OF \$50.00 IN SUBSECTION 5.48.340(B).
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 79-18 AS AMENDED.
- ** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- 80-18 Contracts Committee Report re: Request by the Fire Chief Pursuant to and in accordance with C.G.S. §7-430 and their Collective Bargain Agreement, Fire Fighters Local 834 that Dennis Rodgerson having or soon to attain the age of sixty-five years or more to remain employed by the City for another year.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED THE ITEM.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she was voting against the continued employment after age 65.

- ** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, SPAIN, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, LANGAN, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, JACKSON, N. SMITH AND NEWTON) ONE (1) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (LYONS).
- 88-18 Contracts Committee Report re: Professional Services Agreement with James Duncan and Associates, Inc. for the City's Comprehensive Zoning Rewrite.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.

Council Member Lyons said that she had some comments about the Zoning Rewrites. She said that it was very important to have discussion and it would be important to have chances to give input like they did with Plan Bridgeport.

Council Member Herron said that the Contracts Committee there was a long discussion about this in Committee and OPED was told that they have to keep the Committee and the Council in the loop. She said that it would be important to have everyone involved and they will not allow companies to come forward to take over.

Council Member Roman-Christy said that she concurred with her colleagues because developers want to go into RA zones and build high density housing and this should not be allowed.

- ** THE MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSES OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO REFER A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 15.12 HOUSING CODE TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #98-18)

Mayor Ganim said that the Council Members were asking for a moment of silence for Mr. Coviello, who died on Thursday. All those present stood respectfully for the moment of silence.

Following the conclusion of the moment of silence, Council Member Newton said that the City had lost an important person in politics. He spoke about how he met Mr. Coviello when Council Member Newton was 20 years old and was ready to take over the world. He said that Mr. Coviello was probably the last of the politicians from the old school. Council Member Newton spoke about the advice Mr. Coviello had given him in the early years. Council Member Newton thanked Mr. Gaudett for trying to put together a collage of all the people Mr. Coviello touched

during his life time, but unfortunately they were not able to run it on the screens in the Chambers.

Council Member Herron said that she had seen Mr. Coviello on Monday before he died and he was happy and encouraging everyone to work together to make Bridgeport great. She said that he had been at her house a few days before he was hospitalized and he would be deeply missed during the upcoming elections. She said that they would have to work on making his legacy live on.

Council Member Lyons said that it was important to have his legacy live on through working together.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that Mr. Coviello had always shared his wisdom and spoke about the last political race he had participated in for the City. He helped everyone and that is something everyone should do. People need to come together and they need to bring everyone together. It will be important to keep his legacy alive. She said that she would really miss him.

Council President Nieves said that she got to know Mr. Coviello when she had first started organizing grass roots movements in her neighborhood. Mr. Coviello told her to never give up on her neighborhood or on Bridgeport. She said that she felt blessed in having known him.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she had known Mr. Coviello for many years and that he was a peace maker. He was kind but engaged. She said that Mr. Coviello had encouraged her to get out and do things. He was for all of the Districts and a wonderful encourager. She said that she knows he was in Heaven watching over all of them.

Mayor Ganim said that he would like to add words of condolences and encouragement to the family and to the member of the Council. He said that he had done some door to door campaigning with Mr. Coviello, who was known as Mr. Bridgeport, and at every third house, there was always a story told about Mr. Coviello. He introduced Mayor Ganim to many people in the East End. He was steady, calm and deliberate. At the last election, Mr. Coviello was on the ballot along with Mayor Ganim. When he was approached by someone and told to step aside, Mr. Coviello stood firm.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ADJOURN.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting

June 17, 2019