

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 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 6:41 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: Jeannette Herron, Michael Defilippo
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Maria Zambrano Viggiano, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves
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, NOVEMBER 4, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Municipal Governance.

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

Ladies and Gentlemen of the City Council

It's my last chance to address you before the election tomorrow. A sincere "Thank you" to the few Democrats on this Council who came with open minds two years ago to

represent the people and do their work. Some have been curious, raised questions, and have come away with a profound understanding of how one-party-rule is rooted and supported, in the person of Mayor Ganim in his “second chance” role, also in the ways that Charter and Ordinances serve to limit questions or challenges.

Yesterday I attended a reception where a Trustee of The Rotary Foundation (the world wide service organization) spoke to us about raising the funds necessary to eliminate polio as a crippling scourge in the last two countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan. She spoke about the non-profit Guidestar rating service showing RI at four stars, 100%, for years now. Such a rating allows donors to trust the statements and results and maintain generosity. In her role as Trustee she acts as a steward and indicated the “sheriff toughness” required to maintain high standards.

I find your stewardship lax over many City matters I raised. It is almost as if you want nothing to do with issues or believe that you have no influence over results. Those are poor places to practice stewardship. Let’s look at In Plant Print department once again, but with new info?

I have told you that City purchases coded to Print department exceeded those recorded by the CFO in the monthly report over a five year period by \$800,000 or \$160,000 per year. CFO Flatto disagreed but never requested my City data. He considered it was a personal attack. It wasn’t. Recently I did a one year check of FY 2018-19 currently under audit, and found that the problem still exists but may have reduced to \$85,000. Good news? Hardly. Still off by \$75,000.

But we also noted that the Print Department receives revenue that was hidden and not reported. Flatto acknowledged that certain parties, allowed access to City printing, paid for this privilege. We have not been able to discover the list of such groups and individuals. No one has shared the process to gain such privilege, although rumors filter through about Bridgeport not-for-profits and “black businesses” with some access. Is there City Council approval at some past time? Has no one addressed how the rates charged to the “privileged” are calculated? That is critically important. If the rates are not based on the Print department costs, especially are lower, then the bulk of taxpayers are subsidizing those rates. How would they have any idea that this is ongoing? Charging lower rates than what is “cost based” might indicate that a real look at municipal needs for this Department might be studied instead of ignored and used to groom political favor.

One further observation regarding trust in governance must be made. Two years of Freedom of Information request by Mayoral candidate Ethan Book for the period FY 2016-2018 produced Print Department Invoices, numbering about 330. CFO Flatto estimated that Print revenues would annually run at \$10,000. Actually he recorded \$6,987 in just three months from July to September of 2017 and stopped counting. Zeroes were the default entry for months. Had print department stopped collecting on invoices? Rejected any idea of funds? Flatto lowered his revenue assumptions to \$3500 currently and ignores reporting accurate actual funds received. You see in the two fiscal years reviewed almost \$70,000 was invoiced. If the Federal authorities were interested in

\$35,000 for scrap metal, do you think they will be interested in the non-recording of checks to City of Bridgeport or Printing Department? At least three members of the Council used the print department and received such an invoice. But the 6.5% State tax was avoided. Nor was it applied to a NY based group who received more than \$10,000 of Print services and paid no State sales tax either.

Who will add their voice to mine in requesting Blum Shapiro and others to look at this? Let me know in the next 48 hours if you wish to participate in this stewardship effort. Time will tell.

Dasha Spell
284 Beechwood Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

BOE.

Council President Nieves called for Ms. Spell. There was no response.

Ethan Book
144 Coleman Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

City Finances.

Mr. Ethan Book, the President of the Hollow NRZ and a writing in candidate for Mayor, came forward. He said that he was in support of Mr. Lee's comments regarding the City Print Department. He confirmed that he had submitted a FOI request for a list of the customers of the Print Shop and discovered a number of non-city customers. During a visit to the Print Shop, Mr. Book spoke with a Print Shop technician, who informed him that there was an approved list of non-city customers that were non-profits. He then said that during a second visit to the Print Shop, he spoke with the Supervisor and had requested copies of the invoices for the non-city companies and a number of the invoices appear to be for commercial ventures. He said that he had strong concern about governance and felt that the Council should look into these matters.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves adjourned the Public Speaking portion of the Council meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2019

7:00 PM

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

Council President Nieves called the meeting of the City Council to order at 7:04 p.m.

PRAYER

Council President Nieves requested Council Member McBride-Lee to lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Nieves requested Council Member Langan lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the conclusion of the Pledge, Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested a moment of silence in recognition of the recent passing of Ms. Anne Pappas-Phillips, a Planning and Zoning Commissioner.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Ganim joined the meeting at 7:08 p.m. and assumed the Chair.

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: Jeannette Herron, Michael Defilippo
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee
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138th District: Nessah Smith, Karen Jackson
139th District: Ernest Newton

Council President Nieves stated that there had been requests for Points of Personal Privilege by various Council Members.

Council President Nieves thanked all the Council Members who worked with her to change things in Bridgeport. She mentioned the changes with the WPCA practices. She thanked everyone for their help during her term as Council President. She thanked Council Member Spain and said that while they disagreed on issues, they were able to discuss the matter.

Council Member Newton thanked everyone who worked on the Council and mentioned that there was a lot of time that everyone spent away from their families. However, there were major changes made in the ordinances. He thanked all the Council Members who were on the ballot because he learned a great deal from them.

Council Member Taylor-Moye thanked everyone and said that it had been a difficult two years due to difference of opinion, but the goal was to do the best for the City. She thanked everyone for working with her to support the City and do their due diligence.

Council Member Lyons said that she felt the same way and there were some good times and some crazy times. It's important to have different view points because that makes things healthy. She thanked everyone for their input.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: October 21, 2019

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21, 2019.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21, 2019 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***154-18 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Transportation – Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) (#0T002, #0T003, #0T004).**

***159-18 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution to Support the Resilient Bridgeport Project.**

***148-18 Contracts Committee Report re: Professional Services Agreement with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. for the Perry Memorial Arch Monument Study and Assessment located at Seaside Park.**

***151-18 Contracts Committee Report re: Agreement concerning Operational Budget to Hire Independent Security Contractors for Municipal Security Services.**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. There were no requests from the Council Members to remove any item at that time.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:**

***154-18 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – LOCAL TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (LOTICIP) (#0T002, #0T003, #0T004).**

***159-18 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE RESILIENT BRIDGEPORT PROJECT.**

***148-18 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH WISS, JANNEY, ELSTNER ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR THE PERRY MEMORIAL ARCH MONUMENT STUDY AND ASSESSMENT LOCATED AT SEASIDE PARK.**

***151-18 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AGREEMENT CONCERNING OPERATIONAL BUDGET TO HIRE INDEPENDENT SECURITY CONTRACTORS FOR MUNICIPAL SECURITY SERVICES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

160-18 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Honorary Street Naming of Pearl Harbor Street as “Barbara and Stanley Powell Way” with appropriate signage.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED AGENDA ITEM 160-18 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: HONORARY STREET NAMING OF PEARL HARBOR STREET AS “BARBARA AND STANLEY POWELL WAY” WITH APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE.**

Council Member Lyons said that the Committee had discussed the number of honorary plaques that were being put up on the street signs. She said that there had been a discussion about establishing a potential scholarship which a child would benefit from. This could be linked to a plaque in City Hall.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

Council Member Vizzo-Panicca said that since she started as a Council Member, she had difficulty with the numerous signs on the street signs. She said that with no disrespect to anyone, she was happy to have this issue considered in the future.

Council Member N. Smith said that she had been initially denied the request, but after she had gone to the memorial services about all the Powell's had done, she decided to move forward with

it. Pearl Harbor Street is very long and only a portion of the street where they lived will have the honorary naming.

Council Member Newton said that Mr. Powell had been a highly ranked military service man. He said that he had first met Mr. Powell as a highly decorated soldier and was disappointed with how many people had been disrespectful to members of the military. Instead of naming street signs after everyone, he felt that it would be important to have a scholarship.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that people who contribute to the City of Bridgeport. In Norwalk, there are plaques for those have served in the Armed Forces. We can never pay them back for what they did. There are people who have contributed to Bridgeport and never receive any recognition.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she had always been in agreement with the signage, but felt the scholarship idea had merit.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, SPAIN, TAYLOR-MOYE, LANGAN, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, ROMAN CHRISTY, MCBRIDE-LEE, VALLE, CASTILLO, ZAMBRANO-VIGGIANO, NIEVES, N. SMITH, JACKSON, AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (BROWN AND VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

ITEM FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

161-18 Communication from Labor Relations re: Proposed Tentative Agreement with National Association of Government Employees (NAGE), Local RI-200 regarding their Bargaining Unit Contract, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO WAIVE REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION FOR AGENDA ITEM 161-18 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS RE: PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES (NAGE), LOCAL RI-200 REGARDING THEIR BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACT DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 161-18 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS RE: PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES (NAGE), LOCAL RI-200 REGARDING THEIR BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Newton said that this contract was no different from other contracts.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD THE TWO FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE AGENDA:**

111-18 REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – TISH PROPERTIES LLC.

153-18 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH AMERICAN EMPIRE SURPLUS LINES.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH MOVED THE TWO FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE AGENDA:**

111-18 REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – TISH PROPERTIES LLC.

153-18 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH AMERICAN EMPIRE SURPLUS LINES.

Council Member N. Smith explained that they were not able to assemble a quorum for a number of the scheduled meetings. A Committee meeting was held earlier in the evening to consider the items, which were all unanimously approved by the Committee members.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE TWO ITEMS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services