CITY COUNCIL MEETING PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020 6:30 P.M. City Council Chambers, City Hall 45 Lyon Terrace Bridgeport, CT

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Nieves called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jorge Cruz
132nd District: Marcus Brown, M. Evette Brantley
133rd District: Michael DeFilippo, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michael Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Maria Zambrano Viggiano
137th District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves
138th District: Ernest Newton

Council President Nieves announced that the public speaking rules had changed to 10 speakers for 3 minutes each. She reviewed the updated Council Rules with those present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020 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:

Good evening. It is January 6 in the New Year of 2020.

The phrase 2020 for most of my years has indicated a state of good vision that does not require attendance by eye doctors. But our visual acuity changes as we age, and what worked without intervention in younger years calls for expert help today.

It is similar to what happens with basic governance. When your basic needs for food and water, clothing and shelter, safety of person and property, basic education from childhood to entering work in the marketplace as well as opportunities for activities that enhance your quality of life are met routinely? When you find those wants and needs met, you can identify success in some measure, and provide satisfaction to you.

When the needs are not met, governance process and resources are often established to provide a safety net for the public. That is especially necessary in a poor, under-resourced community like Bridgeport. Things can go wrong in housing, whether public housing, or in the private markets. There may be inadequate housing for families of size that is affordable. If corners are stretched by landlord owners, where can a renter go for redress, rather than a court process that ends in eviction?

Recent experience indicates that there is an expectation in CT that a Fair Rent or Fair Housing board or commission is available to serve City residents. And indeed it appears that such groups, with public members appointed by Mayors, who served without pay, met regularly, had minutes and processes to deal with issues and problems. Fair Housing had Mayor and City Council President serving ex officio. Fair Rent had no ex officio but bipartisan representation for appointment and landlord membership as well as renters.

Conversation with a former Park City Community resident who had failed to gain a reasonable accommodation, but had experience of whom to call at Park City Communities (formerly the Bridgeport Housing Authority) as well as City building inspection personnel, found her calling on City inspectors, Fire and Police personnel while a landlord ignored dealing with complaints about conditions and the lease that were in conflict.

City personnel and CT court workers advised the tenant to visit the Fair Rent group. There is info on the City website. But the groups appear to have died. Why is that? How can such a group die when the City Council and Mayor are part of the process? What statute was created to support such groups? In Mayor Ganim's second term, as well as the preceding eight years of Mayor Finch's term, why has this issue dropped from sight?

The Bridgeport resident followed the advice and visited the Fair Rent Commission in New Haven who were sorry for the family circumstances but has no jurisdiction in Bridgeport. When one or more problem issues can be identified, but the Court still evicts the party making them homeless, who is interested in City process enough to act? When space rented to one party becomes an illegal additional unit with no access to the renter? When the Fire Department, housing code and health department are aware of items to be corrected, where is the safety net in operation? Is it possible that there is a "law", City statute, or State regulation that has been ignored in Bridgeport process for the better part of 15 - 20 years? And when two calls to 311 get no response? Time will tell.

Myron Dukes 184 Harriet Street Bridgeport, CT 06608

Mr. Dukes came forward and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He went on to speak about an incident on February 19, 2019 when he was denied entrance to a public event at the Margaret Morton Government Center. He said that he has been subsequently harassed and noted that at the last Council Meeting, he was confronted by a Council Member who called him retarded in front of everyone.

Mr. Dukes said that he was there only for the truth and would not go away or be silenced. He thanked everyone for their time and attention.

Anthony Marshall

To Adopt "Peace Day" as Peace Week for the City.

74 Oakdale Street Bridgeport, CT 06606

Mr. Marshall came forward and said that he had distributed a document about Peace Week and was asking the City to adopt Peace Week. He said that they often say that they want to be unified, but they aren't. The adults have to show the youth how to be unified. They will be collaborating with the Juneteenth event and various other organizations. He encouraged the Council to participate with the events during the week of June 6th.

Ethan Book 144 Coleman Street Bridgeport, CT 06604

List of things for the City Council to do in 2020.

Mr. Book came forward and greeted the Council. He said that he was the President of the Hollow NRZ. While the elections were over, there were still issues that were not resolved such as having an independent City auditor review each department. He said that he had received a comment from a tax payer who stated that he must pay \$70 in taxes on a vehicle costing \$500. This type of issue needs to be addressed.

Cecil Young 99 Carroll Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06607 Taxes.

Council President Nieves called Mr. Young's name several times. There was no response.

There were two additional speakers who signed up at the meeting.

Derwin Hill 60 Waldorf Avenue Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Hill came forward and greeted the Council. He spoke about his area in Black Rock where there are many three family residences. The problem in the area is parking. He said there was one residence that has multiple vehicles that park in such a manner that no one can park along the street. There was also a car fire recently by a vacant lot where the building burned down many years ago. There are multiple vehicles parked on that lot. He said that hopefully someone will come out and check it out. Zoning can't do anything because it is a blight issue.

Lynn Mosher-Howell

Parking Grace Period

1115 Main Street Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Mosher-Howell came forward and greeted the Council. She apologized for being disruptive at the last Council meeting. She said that there was an issue with parking tickets. The new contract allows no grace period and people are being ticketed while sitting in their vehicles or pulling over to answer a call. She said that she had Mayor Ganim's public Internet page and read a number of comments that residents have left. One person was ticketed while trying to put their infant in their vehicle. She said that she was demanding that the Council put back to 10 minutes grace period because it is running off customers.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves adjourned the public speaking at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020

7:00 P.M.

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

Mayor Ganim called the meeting of the City Council to order at 7:07 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member McBride-Lee to lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim requested that Finance Director Ken Flatto lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jorge Cruz
132nd District: Marcus Brown, M. Evette Brantley
133rd District: Michael DeFilippo, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Maria Zambrano Viggiano
137th District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves
138th District: Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman
139th District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

Mayoral Proclamation and City Council Citation: Recognizing Bridgeport Police School Resource Officer Carlos Carmo, Jr. for his Exceptional Bravery.

Bridgeport Police School Resource Officer Carlos Carmo, Jr. was called forward and presented with both Mayoral and City Council Citations recognizing his exceptional bravery. He was then presented with Mayoral and City Council Citations.

City Council Citation(s): Recognizing the Recipients of the 2019 City of Bridgeport "Employee of the Year" Award.

Council President Nieves then read the list of Bridgeport City employees who had been recognized as 2019 City of Bridgeport "Employee of the Year" recipients. Those employees who were present came forward and were congratulated by the Council Members.

Mayor Ganim requested a moment of silence for a Bridgeport Police Officer who recently passed away unexpectedly. Council Member Brantley also requested a moment of silence for Mr. Paul Gee who also passed away during the past week.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES: DECEMBER 16, 2019

** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 16, 2019. ** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.

The following corrections were noted:

- Page 5 of **PUBLIC SPEAKING**, paragraph 4, line 1: please change the following from: "Council Member Martinez's name several times. She then told" to: "Council Member Martinez's name several times. Council Member Martinez then told"
- Page 5 of **PUBLIC SPEAKING**, paragraph 5, line 1: please change "this issue was not address when he" to "this issue was not addressed when he"

Page 11, paragraph 1, please change the following from:

"Council Member Pereira said that the copies of the contract were not received until earlier in the meeting. She said that she would not support this because the contract was not delivered in a timely manner."

To: "Council Member Pereira said that she would not support this because she was concerned about the process involved and pending litigation."

Page 14, **MOTION FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**: Council Member Pereira expressed concern about the number of votes that were taken regarding this matter. However, a review of the audio recording of the meeting and the written record of the vote was done and the substance and number of votes as presented in the minutes were found to be accurate.

** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2019 MINUTES AS AMENDED PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, PEREIRA, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (HERRON).

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

18-19 Communication from Labor Relations re: Proposed Agreement with PMA Management Corporation of New England, Inc. to provide Third Party Administrative Services for Workers' Compensation and Heart and Hypertension Benefits, referred to Contracts Committee.

19-19 Communication from Fire Department re: Proposed 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 Manuel Firpi having or soon to attain the age of sixty-five years or more to remain employed by the City for another year, referred to Contracts Committee.

21-19 Communication from City Attorney re: Twenty Day Notice to Settle Pending Litigation Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130 with Freddie Manning, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

22-19 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution for the Acceptance of Three-Foot Signs from Sound Cyclists Bicycle Club, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

23-19 Communication from City Attorney re: Twenty Day Notice to Settle Pending Litigation Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130 with Victor Vicarrondo, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

24-19 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Thelma Burnett-Snipes, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

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

20-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Valle & Vizzo-Paniccia re: Proposed resolution for an Ordinance and Moratorium regarding Honorary Street Naming, referred to Ordinance Committee.

** Council Member Brown moved to combine and approve the following items to be referred to the Committees:

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

18-19 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS RE: PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH PMA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION OF NEW ENGLAND, INC. TO PROVIDE THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND HEART AND HYPERTENSION BENEFITS, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

19-19COMMUNICATION FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT RE: PROPOSEDREQUESTBY THE FIRE CHIEF PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE

WITH C.G.S. §7-430 AND THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAIN AGREEMENT, FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 834 THAT MANUEL FIRPI HAVING OR SOON TO ATTAIN THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OR MORE TO REMAIN EMPLOYED BY THE CITY FOR ANOTHER YEAR, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

21-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH FREDDIE MANNING, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

22-19 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF THREE-FOOT SIGNS FROM SOUND CYCLISTS BICYCLE CLUB, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

23-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH VICTOR VICARRONDO, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

24-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH THELMA BURNETT-SNIPES, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

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

20-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) VALLE & VIZZO-PANICCIA RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR AN ORDINANCE AND MORATORIUM REGARDING HONORARY STREET NAMING, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira stated regarding Agenda Items 21-19 and 23-19 that she had never received the 20-day notice or an executive summary for the items. Atty. Anastasi reviewed the process with her.

** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS FOR REFERRAL PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

*04-19 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution regarding an Application for the Acquisition of the Bridgeport Breakwater Lighthouse.

*01-19 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Sue Ann Paiva.

*03-19 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Refund of Excess Payments – Riverbank Landing, LLC.

*07-19 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with James Nardozzi.

Mayor Ganim asked if there were any Council Members who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Pereira requested that Agenda Items 01-19; 02-19 and 07-19 be removed from the Consent Calendar.

04-19 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution regarding an Application for the Acquisition of the Bridgeport Breakwater Lighthouse.

****** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED THE ITEM. ****** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED.

Council Member Pereira expressed concerns about the proposal because the 126-year-old Lighthouse was located on private land and there was a number of other issues. She asked why the tax payers should have to pick up the cost for the lighthouse restoration and noted that there was no public access. Ms. Haig came forward and explained that OPED does have funding for this type of property.

Council Member Pereira said that she had not received the Executive Summary on this. Atty. Anastasi said that the documentation had been sent out to the Co-chairs and all the Committee Members that had email addresses.

Council Member Brantley asked Ms. Haig to speak about the significance of the lighthouse, which is on the National Historic List. Ms. Haig came forward and gave a brief summary. Discussion followed.

** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 04-19 – ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING AN APPLICATION FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE BRIDGEPORT BREAKWATER LIGHTHOUSE PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA). 03-19 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Refund of Excess Payments – Riverbank Landing, LLC.

** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED THE ITEM. ** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia pointed out, that the item had been approved unanimously in Committee.

Council Member Pereira stated that the address of the LLC was actually an empty lot. Mr. Flatto explained that the company had paid their taxes. They later appealed the assessment and the City was required to refund the money due to the court decision.

Council Member Pereira repeated her statement that the address of the LLC was actually an empty lot. Council Member Burns said that he was familiar with the address and that it was a condominium.

** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 03-19 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – RIVERBANK LANDING, LLC PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

****** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS:

01-19 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH SUE ANN PAIVA.

07-19 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH JAMES NARDOZZI.

02-19 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH LEONA WILLIAMS, ADMIN. AND CARNELL WILLIAMS.

** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.

** THE MOTION FAILED TO PASS WITH EIGHT (8) IN FAVOR (BURNS, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, LYONS, PEREIRA, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ELEVEN (11) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, VALLE, CASTILLO, NIEVES, MCBRIDE-LEE, MCCARTHY, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CRUZ, AND ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO)

01-19 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Sue Ann Paiva.

07-19 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with James Nardozzi.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

01-19 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH SUE ANN PAIVA.

07-19 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH JAMES NARDOZZI.

** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia stated that the items had been discussed in Committee and that they both had been unanimously approved by the Committee members. She added that previously the Council had allowed other non-Committee Council Members to attend those Executive Sessions but due to a recent Court ruling, only those Committee Members and the attorneys involved in the cases were permitted to be present.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS:**

01-19 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH SUE ANN PAIVA.

07-19 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH JAMES NARDOZZI.

PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

02-19 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Leona Williams, Admin. and Carnell Williams.

** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED AGENDA ITEM 02-19 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH LEONA WILLIAMS, ADMIN. AND CARNELL WILLIAMS. ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERDON SECONDED

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she wanted to know what occurred and what the settlement was for. Atty. Kascak came forward and said that it was a shooting incident and the settlement amount was \$45,000.

** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 02-19 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH LEONA WILLIAMS, ADMIN. AND CARNELL WILLIAMS PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, ZAMBRANO-VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, PEREIRA SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MCCARTHY).

ADJOURNMENT

** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN. ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED. ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes Telesco Secretarial Services