

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 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 6:39 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: 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, Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present.

Council Member Cruz stated that Council Member Taylor-Moye was not present due to illness.

Council President Nieves announced that the public speaking rules had changed to allow 10 speakers to address the Council for 3 minutes each. She also stated that the speakers would have to give their name and address for the record.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 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

Citizen Participation in Governance.

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

Council Members, Greetings.....

I have with me this evening the “red boots” that I first brought to a Council Session more than 6 years ago. Years have passed, new folks are in charge, and some things seem improved. For instance “the rainy day” fund is increasing. Do you have a good idea what that represents?

With budget time approaching, take a look at the CAFR page 122 and it will tell you that 98.38 % of folks paid the taxes levied timely. But the City uses an arbitrary lower number. It likely overtaxes currently. Is it necessary in a time when other communities use a rolling average of recent years? Four year rolling average is 98.4 (2016-19). By using a lower assumed tax rate for property tax revenue, is it any surprise that the City raises more funds than budgeted and then touts the surplus? Meanwhile there are many departments over budget which are not discussed. Consult the CAFR and keep the experience in mind when setting assumption for the budget numbers upcoming for 2020-21.

Let me put my NAACP Communications hat on for a moment. I want to inform you that we are hearing grievances once again from multiple sources that WPCA foreclosure actions are alive and causing fear, despite the Council actions of recent years. Who is looking into this? The local NAACP is considering seriously a range of alternatives at this moment. It is important to know where the City is headed to secure fairness and justice for all citizens.

Finally, gangs and gunshots in the City and homicide victims seem to be in 2020 news. These are quality of life issues for certain and no easy answers are available. Our “tear them down” Mayor is not looking at serious alternatives with less expense. In 2015 Mayor Ganim ran for office with photos of him securing a fence at Beardsley Gardens. Fencing at Greene Apartments is not part of any photo-op. Why not? There are fences but not gates. Anyone can walk in 24/7. Are the doors to each of the towers secure? Or can outsiders operate without authorization to enter and take elevators anywhere they wish?

What are the wishes of the residents? Do they trust the City administration? Do they have an operating resident board that meets regularly and can talk to the City about real needs when Park City Community with its own Mayoral nominated Board is failing to provide safe and secure within a couple blocks of Police HQ? And which of you heard me raise the issue of Fair Rent and Fair Housing Boards that died with no public notice or attempt at rescue? What is with that? Where does any tenant go to register dissatisfaction with their current situation? Time will tell.

Shaping the future in Bridgeport, a City in action?, or City inaction?

1. Get a consultant, with no specific purpose or results while expenses are paid?
2. Form a task force to reach out, assess, review and recommend and then ignore the work?

3. Restrict fiscal, Board minutes, and public opportunity to listen and respond publicly?
4. Study an issue with major input coming from political City employees without sharing timetables, tasks, or those responsible?

Time will tell.

Clyde Nicholson
396 Madison Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Tax.

Mr. Nicholson came forward and said that he had a problem with the police response to the shots fired incident last Tuesday. He said that he had driven from Police Headquarters to Kossuth and James in just a few minutes. It recently took the Police six minutes to respond to something that happened on East Main Street. The residents are getting zero protection from the Police Chief. He asked what happened with his proposal that Bridgeport become a Gun Free Zone. The residents pay taxes but the city is not a safe place for them or their families. The killings and shootings have to stop.

Cecil Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Taxes.

Mr. Young came forward and said that he had been told that he could not say a certain word, but this is still the United States of America. He reminded everyone that he had worked for the City for 37 years. One of the Council Members had promised to help him, but later changed directions. He also mentioned another ordained Council Member had disagreed with him. He said that he would not use the N-word unless it was called for.

Tony Barr
141 Pennsylvania Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Schools, Police and Greene
Apartments.

Mr. Barr said that he would be leaving the meeting shortly to visit a friend who had been shot earlier in the day. He said that he wanted to speak about racism on the Council. He said that there were Council Members who directed everything towards black and brown people while claiming that they cared. Mr. Barr said that that this was wrong and stated he had served 21 years in prison. He warned the racist Council Members that there were black and brown people outside who were "packing". Mr. Barr concluded his remarks by saying that he had to leave to visit his friend in the hospital who had been shot in earlier in the day.

Myron Dukes
184 Harriet Street
Bridgeport, CT 06608

Equality for Myron Dukes.

Mr. Dukes came forward and said that he was a natural born American citizen, a father and resident. He said that when he brought the issue of his being targeted at an event at the Margaret Morton Center, there were three additional City officials who have targeted him. He said that as a natural born citizen of the country, he knows his rights and doesn't want to be targeted in his own city. Mr. Dukes reminded everyone that the Mayor had spent 9 years in prison and received acceptance after his return to the City, but Mr. Dukes himself had not been welcomed back after serving a 25-year sentence for a murder he did not commit. He is a hip-hop musician and he loves his city.

Lillie Troy
144 Cottage Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Seniors and Homelessness.

Ms. Troy came forward and said that she was there to speak about the deplorable conditions of the administration that would not return a phone call. The City is being sold out to out of city investors. It is a silent epidemic. You can't forget the black and brown residents. White sheets were previously used to cover the racists. Now the white sheet racists wear suits and add to the plight to the poor of this city. They are forcing the poor out of their homes and selling them to Mr. Epstein. Why is the City selling homes to a non-entity like a bank for \$6,000. The kids are out on the streets because there is no money for after school programs. Where is the money from these sales going?

Derwin Hill
60 Waldorf Avenue
Bridgeport, CT

Parking

Mr. Hill said that it was hard to speak about his issue because of all the more serious issues that have been mentioned earlier. He said that there were issues with parking on Waldorf Avenue. He said that what was happening was that people were swapping parking places so that they looked like they had been moved. It would be helpful if the administration could do something about this because the residents would like to have a place to park.

Maria Pereira
85 Nutmeg Road
Bridgeport, CT

City Attorney Contract

**City Council Meeting
February 18, 2020
City Attorney Contract**

I honestly believe that the City Attorney's Office has and continues to damage the City of Bridgeport's governance and reputation.

The City Attorney's union officers have negotiated a contract which creates a Step 12 which gives EVERY one of its 9 members a \$9,315 raise effective January 1, 2020.

All of you have a highlighted copy of Page 1 of the Tentative Agreement that clearly shows a chart at the top showing a 0% increase for 2018 followed by incremental increases in 2019 - 2022. However, the highlighted language at the bottom of the page clearly states "no employee shall qualify for Step 12 until January 1, 2020" or Year 3.

If you flip the page to the Cost Analysis provided by Nestor, it clearly shows a Step 12 calculation for year two or 2019 which violates the TA Agreement on the front page. No Step 12 Payments are to be made until January 1, 2020. This clearly means that because Year 2 is calculated incorrectly, it should only be showing a 2% increase in Step 11, a domino effect is created; therefore the entire spreadsheet is incorrect because years 3, 4, 5 & the Total Columns are based on Column 1.

If you look at the third table which I created, you can see that a 2% Increase has been calculated for Year 2 for both Step 11 and Step 12 as required under the TA which means at the end of December 31, 2019 all 9 City Attorney's salaries, highlighted in the grey box, ended at \$138,938 on Step 11. If this contract is approved, all 9 City Attorneys will receive a raise retroactive to January 1st of this year which will increase their salary to \$148,253, highlighted in Year 3 in the grey box, which will cost taxpayers \$109,378 this year alone.

In fact, if we just left Step 11 in place and added another 2.0% Increase for year one, it would cost taxpayers about an additional \$30,000 or a total Increase of \$137,000 over the length of the 5 year contract. Additional savings would be obtained in reduced MERF and Medicare Contributions. Voting to add a Step 12 payable in years 3, 4 & 5 and adding the Year 2, Step 11 increase is a total increase of \$204,867 to taxpayers, or 48% higher, which does not even include the increased costs in MLRF and Medicare contributions.

Under this contract all nine members of this City Attorney's Union will receive an \$18,784 increase in their salaries over the length of this 5 year contract ending at \$ 155,000 in 2022.

We don't have money for our 20,100 public students, 88% of which are minority; however we have money to give 9 of the highest paid city employees an \$18,784 salary increase over 5 years.

How many Bridgeport residents and taxpayers do you believe would support this?


2/18/2020

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves adjourned the public speaking at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
February 18, 2020

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 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 7:12 p.m.

PRAYER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member Roman-Christy lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Celebration of Black History Month: Traditional African Dance by Council Member Mary McBride-Lee and a Performance by the Bridgeport Boys Choir.

Mayor Ganim announced that the Bridgeport Boys Choir would be performing the National Anthem. Following the conclusion of The Star-Spangled Banner, the Choir performed Marching in the Land of Love and We Shall Overcome.

There were numerous requests from the Council Members for a moment of silence in memory of those who had recently passed away including Gennaro Perullo; Phillip Ingram; Adrian Miles and a Newfield Avenue shooting victim.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: 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, Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present.

Celebration of Black History Month: Traditional African Dance by Council Member Mary McBride-Lee and a Performance by the Bridgeport Boys Choir CONT'D.

Council Member McBride-Lee then demonstrated a traditional African Dance for those present.

Mayor Ganim welcomed a number of University of Bridgeport students who were present in the audience to observe the Council meeting.

Council President Appointment of Special Committee for Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO APPOINT THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM:**

**JEANETTE HERRON, CO-CHAIR; MARY MCBRIDE-LEE, CO-CHAIR;
ALFREDO CASTILLO, JORGE CRUZ, MATTHEW MCCARTHY,
MARIA PEREIRA AND SAMIA SULIMAN.**

**** COUNCIL HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Martinez requested a Point of Personal Privilege to state that at the last City Council meetings there had been police officers present in the Chambers. As elected officials, the Council Members cannot be without a police officer present at the Council meetings or at Committee meetings.

Council Member Brantley agreed with Council Member Martinez's concerns and noted that the Council Members had been threatened earlier during the meeting.

Council President Nieves said that she had sent an email to the Police Department about having an officer present at the full Council meetings and at the Committee meetings.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had contacted the Police Department in December about this and that she was told that the officers were there when they had available manpower to spare.

Mayor Ganim said that the Council President would be in contact with the Police Department about this.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG).PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: February 3, 2020

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3, 2020.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3, 2020 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

44-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Burns and Nieves re: Proposed resolution in Support of the Selection of Sikorsky Airport by the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

45-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Newton, Martinez and Herron re: (Ref. #34-17 & #141-16) Proposed resolution regarding the reversal of the 2017 Amendments to Chapter 3.20 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances – Tax Incentive Development Program, referred to Ordinance Committee.

46-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Newton, Martinez and Herron re: (Ref. #35-17 & #142-16) Proposed resolution regarding the reversal of the 2017 Amendments to Chapter 3.24 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances – Affordable Housing Tax Incentive Development Program, referred to Ordinance Committee.

47-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Taylor-Moye and Cruz re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10.16 – Parking, amend Section 10.16.070 – Rates and Charges; Grace Period; Prompt Payment Discount; Immobilization; Exemptions, referred to Ordinance Committee.

51-19 Resolution presented by Council President Nieves re: Proposed revision necessitated by OPED noncompliance with Item #176-17 authorizing the Urban Enterprise Zone Assessment Deferral for Qualified Development located at 515 West Avenue, referred to Joint Committee on Miscellaneous Matters and Budget and Appropriations.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

48-19 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Program Year 46 Annual Action Plan: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); Homeless Emergency Solutions Grant (HESG); HOME Investment Partnership and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), referred to Special Committee on Community Development Block Grant.

49-19 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Disposition of 398, 400, 430, 440, 448 and 454 Bunnell Street (the “Redevelopment Properties”) within the Seaview Avenue Industrial Park, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

50-19 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Darsey Papcun, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

Mayor Ganim explained that the Council combines the items listed as Resolutions to be Referred to Committee along with the Communications to be Referred to Committee into one vote.

Council Member Pereira requested that Agenda Item 50-19 be removed from the Communications to be Referred list in order to amend the item.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED COMBINE AND REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

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

44-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BURNS AND NIEVES RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SELECTION OF SIKORSKY AIRPORT BY THE CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY (CAA), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

45-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) NEWTON, MARTINEZ AND HERRON RE: (REF. #34-17 & #141-16) PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING THE REVERSAL OF THE 2017 AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 3.20 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES – TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

46-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) NEWTON, MARTINEZ AND HERRON RE: (REF. #35-17 & #142-16) PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING THE REVERSAL OF THE 2017 AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 3.24 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES – AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

47-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) TAYLOR-MOYE AND CRUZ RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 10.16 – PARKING, AMEND SECTION 10.16.070 – RATES AND CHARGES; GRACE PERIOD; PROMPT

PAYMENT DISCOUNT; IMMOBILIZATION; EXEMPTIONS, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

51-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES RE: PROPOSED REVISION NECESSITATED BY OPED NONCOMPLIANCE WITH ITEM #176-17 AUTHORIZING THE URBAN ENTERPRISE ZONE ASSESSMENT DEFERRAL FOR QUALIFIED DEVELOPMENT LOCATED AT 515 WEST AVENUE, REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS AND BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

48-19 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED PROGRAM YEAR 46 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG); HOMELESS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (HESG); HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA), REFERRED TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT.

49-19 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF 398, 400, 430, 440, 448 AND 454 BUNNELL STREET (THE "REDEVELOPMENT PROPERTIES") WITHIN THE SEAVIEW AVENUE INDUSTRIAL PARK, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA SECONDED.**

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

50-19 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Darsey Papcun, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO REFER AGENDA ITEM 50-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH DARSEY PAPCUN, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she had received an Executive Summary that violated Council Rule XIII-15 and that the amount listed did not include the best reasonable estimate as to all expenditure and revenue effects. She said that the amount was not acceptable. This rule was consistently violated. Council Member Pereira said that she also wished to know which department's budget the settlement would be charged against. Discussion followed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 50-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH DARSEY PAPCUN, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE WITH THE REVISED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY TO BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY TO THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

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

Council Member Brantley asked Atty. Anastasi about the reason why the Executive Summary was not following the guidelines. Atty. Anastasi said that there had been internal discussion and that more detail would be forthcoming on future Executive Summaries.

Council Member Cruz said that he agreed with Council Member Pereira and was concerned about the number of lawsuits resulting the actions taken by the police. The taxpayers were the ones who were paying the settlements.

Council Member Pereira said that she had a point of order. She said that the Council Rule III requires the Council to vote on whether to allow Atty. Anastasi to speak. She went on to read the language of the Council Rule to those present.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked why this was an issue when it was simply being referred to Committee. She then requested that the question be moved.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE REFERRAL OF AGENDA ITEM 50-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH DARSEY PAPCUN, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***42-19 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Refund Certain General Obligation Bonds.**

***27-19 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) for Dollarwise Innovation Grant (#21320).**

***13-19 Contracts Committee Report re: Resolution regarding a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc. (#20266).**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Pereira said she would like to remove Agenda Item 42-19.

City Clerk Martinez read the remaining items into the record.

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

***27-19 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS (USCM) FOR DOLLARWISE INNOVATION GRANT (#21320).**

***13-19 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH ACTION FOR BRIDGEPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC. (#20266).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Ganim spoke brief regarding the fact that the City had received grant funding from the USCM for the last four years.

Council Member Roman-Christy had a question about the grant which Council Member Newton answered for her. He assured her there was no cost to the City.

42-19 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Refund Certain General Obligation Bonds.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said the item was to refinance \$45,000,000 in bonds but the Council Members had not received an amortization schedule, information on what the length of the refinancing bond would be or what the cost of the bond counsel fees would be. She referred to Council Rule XIII-15 which requires all the costs be disclosed. She said that she could not vote on an item involving \$45,000,000 without the information that she was entitled to have.

Mr. Ken Flatto came forward to provide the details. He said that the bond rates change daily and that they will not know what the rate will be until they go out for refinancing. Discussion followed on the details of the proposed resolution.

Council Member Pereira said that the Council deserves a simple amortization schedule. Mayor Ganim said that this was to save the taxpayers money. Mr. Flatto said that there has to be savings in order to proceed with the refinancing. Council Member Pereira had several questions about the anticipated percentages stated in the resolution.

Council Member Pereira asked Mr. Flatto if he thought it was fair for the Council to have a simple amortization schedule along with the anticipated length of the bond. Mr. Flatto repeated his earlier statement that there has to be savings in order to proceed with the refinancing.

Council Member Newton said that it was his understanding that the bonds involved were from 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016. He said that he believed that the only reason that the Finance Department does this is because there are savings to the City and the taxpayers. He asked the Council to support this item.

Council Member Zambrano Viggiano pointed out that when the original bonds were issued, the City was not able to access these lower interest rates. Refinancing the bonds is very similar to refinancing a mortgage on a house. This proposal is to authorize the Finance Department to act on the interest rates. The Committee's approval was based on the opinions of the bond counsel's expertise.

Council Member McBride-Lee agreed with Council Member Newton.

Council Member Lyons thanked Council Member Zambrano Viggiano and Mr. Flatto for their clear explanation.

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

PUBLIC HEARING(S) TO BE ORDERED BY THE FULL COUNCIL:

49-19 Request from OPED to Order a Public Hearing for March 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Disposition of 398, 400, 430, 440, 448 and 454 Bunnell Street (the "Redevelopment Properties") within the Seaview Avenue Industrial Park.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR MARCH 2, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF 398, 400, 430, 440, 448 AND 454 BUNNELL STREET (THE "REDEVELOPMENT PROPERTIES") WITHIN THE SEAVIEW AVENUE INDUSTRIAL PARK.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED ON

43-19 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of Additional Capital Project Authorization to the 2020-2024 Capital Plan and Approval of General Obligation Bonds.

Council Member Pereira said that she would like to divide the question according to Council Rule VI – Amendments and Divisions.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO CONSIDER THE REMINGTON ARMS REMEDIATION FOR \$5 MILLION DOLLARS AS ONE QUESTION AND THE \$2,000,000 FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES ROADWAY PAVING, BRIDGES, CULVERTS, INTERSECTIONS AS A SECOND QUESTION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Zambrano Viggiano spoke briefly about the Committee discussion.

Council Member Pereira said that the State provides significant funding for brown fields. She asked if the taxpayers would be liable for the remediation. Council Member Pereira said that she would like amortization schedules for the 20 or 30-year bonding and what the terms were for the remediation. Mr. Flatto came forward and gave the details. Discussion followed about the interest percentages over the life of the bond.

Council Member Pereira said she would support the Remington Arms item but was not pleased with the terms.

Council Member Newton said that the City needs to remove the buildings and that the only way things change was from the top down. The East Side and East End taxpayers will be happy to get rid of the building eyesore. They would love to see something else there that would provide jobs.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE ADDING THE REMINGTON ARMS REMEDIATION FOR \$5 MILLION DOLLARS TO THE 2020-2024 CAPITAL PLAN PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The discussion then moved to the remaining \$2,000,000 for Public Facilities Roadway Paving, Bridges, Culverts, Intersections

Council Member Pereira said that they should never go out to bond for street paving. This is a terrible investment.

Council Member Newton asked what the City gives the taxpayers in the City. Paving roads may not seem important, but he said that people would be surprised to know how many people thanked him when a street is paved. He said that if the residents were given the choice of putting the cost of the street paving in a bond or not having their street paved, they would choose to bond in order to pave the streets.

Council Member Brown said that this discussion had been held at length at the Committee meeting. He said that the residents pay some of the highest tax rates in the State but have sub-par education and lousy roads. He said that there were people who were living from paycheck to paycheck and hitting a large pothole could put these people in a position where they have to choose between food or repairing the car. Bonding may not be the best practice, but his previous

street has not been paved in 25 years. Council Member Brown asked the Council Members to support this item.

Council Member Lyons said that she agreed with Council Member Brown about the paving. She said that it is a high priority for people. They talk about street paving, education and taxes.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE ADDING ROADWAY PAVING, BRIDGES, CULVERTS, INTERSECTIONS FOR \$2,000,000 FOR PAVING TO THE 2020-2024 CAPITAL PLAN PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, BROWN, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (MCCARTHY, VIZZO-PANICCIA, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO AND PEREIRA).**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO APPROVE THE BALANCE OF ITEM 43-19, INCLUDING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12 MILLION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE BALANCE OF ITEM 43-19, INCLUDING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12 MILLION PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS MCCARTHY, CRUZ, BROWN, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, ZAMBRANO-VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (PEREIRA).**

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Herron pointed out that if the company decided to sever ties with the City, the cost would triple.

Council Member Newton said that this item should be sent to the Board of Education for their review.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE "SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION".**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira had several objections regarding the PMA company and noted that the contract has expired in June. Council Member Pereira said that the Council was spending Board of Education money while there was no representation from the Board of Education. This violates State, Federal and City ordinances.

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

30-19 Contracts Committee Report re: Agreement with AFSCME 1303-272 (City Attorneys) Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2018-2022.

Council Member Herron said that this three-year contract had been discussed at length.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Brantley said that she was a member of AFSCME but part of a different unit.

Council Member Pereira said that this was one of the most outrageous contracts she had ever seen in politics. The attorneys are the highest paid in the city. Council Member Pereira went on to review all the figures with those present. She said that she was willing to meet with any constituent that wished to discuss the matter. The teachers and the guidance counselors do not receive these types of benefits. The contract includes paying for the renewal of the law licenses and the City does not pay for the teachers, the social workers and guidance counselors to renew their licenses. She then listed the salaries for attorneys in Greenwich and Stamford before asking what that had to do with the price of coffee in China. When the City creates steps like this, it creates a precedent for every other bargaining unit. She announced that she would not be voting for this.

Council Member Newton said that he was on the Contracts Committee and had previously stated many times that all the Committee can do is vote yes or no on contracts that are presented to them. He added that the time has come for legislation to provide the Contract Committee to sit down with the appropriate groups in order to have some say so in the upcoming negotiations. Council Member Newton went on to speak about expressing the items that they would like to see and things that would be good for the City in previous contracts.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 30-19 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AGREEMENT WITH AFSCME 1303-272 (CITY ATTORNEYS) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR 2018-2022 BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING WHEREAS CLAUSE:**

WHEREAS, THE BRIDGEPORT CITY COUNCIL BELIEVES THAT IF NEW ATTORNEYS ARE BEING HIRED AND [INAUDIBLE] ONE OF THEM SHALL BE ASSIGNED BY THE CITY ATTORNEY UNDER ARTICLE 8 MAYOR'S RIGHTS [INAUDIBLE] RIGHT OF THE CVA TO WORK SOLELY WITH THE BRIDGEPORT CITY COUNCIL IN REGARDS TO LEGAL QUESTIONS AND PROCEDURES CONCERNING BRIDGEPORT CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Newton said that the reason that he was proposing this was due to the type of issues that Council Member Pereira had articulated which are not being addressed. This shows him that it is time for the City Council's Office to appoint one attorney to be solely responsible to the Council.

Council Member Martinez said that she had an issue with this due to the fact that the Council Members do not receive any respect from the City Attorney's Office as representatives and elected officials. There have been excuses and no responses to Council Members' emails. While the Council does not have the power to change the contract, the City Attorneys are not supportive of the Council Member. She went on to list a number of issues such as attorneys retiring and coming back as contract employees that were concerns.

Council Member Pereira said that there were three steps and went on to describe them. She indicated that salary step 12 is post-dated to 2018.

Council Member Valle spoke about the importance of the City Attorney's office and encouraged people to vote in favor of the amendment. She said she had sent an email to the City Attorney's Office regarding guidance on handling an issue but did not receive an answer.

Council Member Lyons said that she had been in AFSCME in the past and that her unit did not get raises or help with negotiations.

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Pereira requested a roll call vote.

Council Member Brantley noted that the Committee had supported this.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 30-19 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AGREEMENT WITH AFSCME 1303-272 (CITY ATTORNEYS) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR 2018-2022 AS AMENDED PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, BROWN, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, ZAMBRANO-VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, SULIMAN AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (LYONS, VALLE, PEREIRA AND MARTINEZ).**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA REGARDING REFERRING A PROPOSED RESOLUTION CREATING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE BRIEFED ON THE CURRENT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING AND PRACTICES BY THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO REFER A PROPOSED RESOLUTION CREATING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE**

BRIEFED ON THE CURRENT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING AND PRACTICES BY THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #52-19)**

Council Member Cruz said that they have started a group to work on the homeless population in the City and was quite disturbed that there was a task force on homelessness and another one on a related issue. Council Member Cruz said that it was important for all the groups to work together on resolving the homeless issues rather than working against one another.

Council Member Cruz said that the group had been started to study this issue and if there were any outside groups working on homelessness that were duplicating the efforts, it becomes very difficult. Their group has been assigned with a specific charge on homelessness. He asked those who might be interested in this issue to join them.

Mayor Ganim thanked Council Member Zambrano Viggiano for her service. Council Member Zambrano Viggiano thanked her Council partner, Council Member Castillo and Council President Nieves for their help along with all the other Council Members. She thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve.

Council Member Lyons said that Council Member Zambrano Viggiano had handled the Budget & Appropriations Committee well.

Council President Nieves said that it was with a heavy heart that they would be saying goodbye to Council Member Zambrano Viggiano. She thanked Council Member Zambrano Viggiano for all she brought to the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services