

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2020**

This meeting was conducted by teleconference.

***Due to the public health emergency, public speaking will be
by written testimony only***

***Please submit written testimony to
PublicTestimony@bridgeportct.gov
by 6:30 p.m. on Monday April 6th.***

The following testimonials were received and are listed in no particular order.

Margaret Hiller
50 Beacon Street
Bridgeport

Good evening, My name is Marge Hiller and I live at 50 Beacon Street. Thank you for letting me present tonight through this new format.

Tonight I am representing the School Volunteer Association. I have been a long time school volunteer and on the board of directors for many years. Currently I am chairing the Strategic Planning Committee. The goal of this committee is to have the SVA budget restored to the school district budget. The line item for SVA is \$176,000 - less than 1/10 of 1% of the total school district budget!!! This funding supports two full-time staff who manage every activity of the SVA office.

Everyone on the City Council already understands the school district is grossly underfunded. I am here tonight to speak specifically about the School Volunteer Office that had its funding eliminated two years ago. To continue its work during school year 2018-2019 the financial resources built up over many years was used to keep the office afloat. Dramatic fundraising ensued which allowed to SVA to continue its work during this school year. But this is absolutely the final year.

Each year SVA raises \$100,000 to provide the materials and supplies given to the volunteers. SVA does not have the capacity to raise an additional \$200,000. And did I mention that the total budget for the SVA is \$176,000 which is less than 1/10 of 1% of the school district budget.

You all know SVA through Read Aloud Day – and I suspect that many of you have participated along with 700 people who read to each pre-K through 6 grade classroom. The books that are read are left in the classroom to help build classroom libraries.

What you may not know is that:

- There are 560 Reading Enrichment volunteers in the schools each week.
- There are 85 Book Buddies
- 292 Reading & Math tutors
- 109 Mentoring matches
- 43 business & community partnerships with all the schools
- 42,000 books given to children and classroom libraries

The volunteers are vetted and those that work directly as mentors & tutors have background checks which the SVA performs. As you also know the district has suffered millions of dollars in cuts the past several years. The SVA volunteers give much needed support to the teachers often acting as interventionists and tutors. All the past budget cuts have also left a gap in administrators – there is not one administrator who has the capacity to take on one more FULL TIME job that is now undertaken by two staff people.

Members of SVA have made countless attempt to have funding restored to the SVA office. We have met with each BOE committee. There have been meetings with the Grants office and the Chief Financial Officer. At each BOE board meeting there are volunteers giving personal testimony to the value of SVA and speaking about their personal experiences. This year we would like to meet with the Budget and Appropriations & Education Committees of the City Council – if and when meetings are rescheduled.

The work of SVA cannot and will not continue without having the funding restored. SVA cannot be run by volunteers.

I am also providing each of you with a document that outlines exactly the dollar value of each component of the work of SVA. This document also lists the partnerships that have been established with businesses, churches and other nonprofits that are managed by the SVA office.

Without the support of SVA these partnerships will end.

In fact without a restored budget, which is less than 1/10 of 1%, everything I have just told you is GONE!

Thank you for your time and your support.

Nidia Marín
47 Vine Street
Bridgeport, CT

Hello good afternoon

My name is Nidia Marín I am from Honduras. My address is 47 Vine Street. I have lived in the United States for 18 years, with my husband and my three wonderful children. I joined Make the Road CT because I want to learn more about my rights and how I can protect my family. I like many undocumented families, chose Bridgeport as my home, looking for a better place where I and my family felt safe, protected and loved. I am here

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today because I want you to pass the ordinance so that we have protection where families feel safe, free without being afraid, where they can speak my language without discrimination, where I have access to an interpreter and where they do not question my status.

This ordinance enforces the TRUST ACT law at the city level along with the executive order that the mayor signed last October, this is nothing new, we only demand as a community members that this becomes a law.

So that all city employees comply with the demands of this ordinance and are trained with all the new changes to the new trust act.

And that's why I support The Ordinance called Protection for Families and Immigrants in Bridgeport. I ask you to support it too.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Today is the first Monday in April, time for an official meeting of the City Council. It is also time for Mayor Ganim, to present his annual budget “message” that will tell us:

- whether local property taxes will increase this year,
- what department budgets will look like when the Council approves a 2020-21 official operating budget
- what actions will become necessary in terms of borrowing funds, short term or long term, and the 5-year Capital plan to enact the priorities of the administration.

A citizen role in observing whether good governance is being met by elected and appointed parties is further limited this year because of the virus and the necessary close of public gatherings to restrict the spread of virus. The Council will meet on a technology platform and the public will be able to tune in to LISTEN. And there is no precedent at Council meetings of any kind for public comments to receive response from the City leaders, in the administration, on the Council, from Boards and or from operating departments except for FOI requests. No chance for the public to see the paperwork revealed to Council and Committee members contemporaneous with the elected and appointed representatives, even for the least “secret” matters. I compliment the leaders who provided an opportunity for the public to submit written testimony before 6:30 PM to PUBLICTESTIMONY@BRIDGEPORTCT.GOV . Will such reporting be read by Council members or members of the administration? Who has designed a credible mechanism for response to the public? There was no time or word limit to such written testimony in the notice observed on Only In Bridgeport.

Where are the minutes for each Board, Commission and or Council Sub-Committee posted publicly and how long do they remain unknown by taxpayers before approval and revelation? When are they made public and where are they posted and made available to all? For instance, if Mayor Ganim is posting his FY 2020-21 proposed operating budget,

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and has made such reporting and narrative available to the 20 members of the City Council, why is such information unavailable for downloading by citizens at the same time as the Council gets to see it? That might be a first step in OPEN fiscal governance!!

Why are taxpayers denied ready and timely access to City plans and priorities like what will be done with their property taxes?

TRANSPARENCY of City projects, especially those functioning under 5-year Capital budgets would likely have revealed more than one year ago that Coronavirus devastating Italy is not the only issue that placed our former Bluefish ballpark transformation behind schedule. Where would such reporting be available to taxpayers? Today there are Council persons willing to commit considerable additional City funds, because a public-private deal put together by Ganim2 and a friendly developer has sprung some financial difficulties on the private party who likely should have pursued more due diligence before signing. HONESTLY, what are the terms of the original deal that has become delayed? It is now spring 2020 and the bright displays of daffodils have shown up for our delight due to Mayor Ganim's foresight and investment. Why have other projects downtown not responded in the same manner as Mother Nature?

ACCOUNTABILITY is a final and realistic taxpayer expectation. While agendas, minutes, notes and narratives can be part of such package to explain what, how, why, when, for how much and who gets revenues, and produces service and work, it is the monthly operating budget report that has been public for years that I question today.

- Are all revenues, especially cash payments, received by each City department reported by the Finance Department routinely? I have raised questions previously about In-Plant Printing for several years, yet Finance while budgeting "\$10,000" continues to report "0". Is this "honest" or complete reporting?
- Line item expenses are reported against "unaudited" expenses that may change for the same year in different reporting year columns. Where is an annual report of the operating budget in the standard format provided monthly after each annual June 30 Fiscal Year closing provided by the City after the Audit and by which future department budgets are measured?
- Line Item 01620 provides information on City Contributions to organizations as Supportive Contributions. Who makes the spending decision each year? What is City policy on such use of taxpayer funds? The Legislative branch also provides some other fiscal support through Stipend grants? How much, why and how is not disclosed? Why not? What amount of City taxpayer provided revenues flow to individuals or organization where the use of Non-biddable designation covers an outlay but the product or service provided to the City taxpayer is left in doubt?

The taxpayer should trust those who are part of decision making. Trust is difficult to develop when communications are further limited, responses are absent and when questions of integrity or morality remain unanswered. Perhaps the City might ask an existing department, for example the Mayor's representative for Integrity and

Accountability to be the go-to person in the City for questions about such issues? If you do not appoint a person to respond to OVERSIGHT issues, the work of the City Council, are you telling the public that you are not responsible? Time will tell.

Bridgeport Generation Now

Monday, April 6th, 2020
City Council Meeting

Public Hearing Testimony in support of Resolution 36-19:

Proposed resolution concerning Municipal Code of Ordinance Section 2.02.080 – Residency Reporting of all Municipal Elected Officials, Boards and Commission Members.

In 2017, the City Council did the right thing and passed an ordinance requiring local elected and appointed officials to provide proof of residency to the Town Clerk, annually.

The people of Bridgeport deserve to know whether our elected and appointed officials live in Bridgeport. We also deserve to know that our local officials are in compliance with local law.

According to City Council Member Maria Pereira’s research, there are approximately 123 elected municipal officials and appointed members of our Boards and Commissions. As of January 31st - the day the form is due - only 33 members had completed the residency form. That is just 27% of those required to submit this form.

Also according to Council Member Pereira, the Mayor did not submit his form to the Town Clerk, along with 10 City Council Members and 4 Board of Education members. The Library Board was the only Board that was compliant.

That must change. 100% of elected and appointed officials can - and must - complete this form.

Trust in our government - at the local and national level - is at an all time low. Transparency and accountability are two practices that help re-establish trust between government and its residents.

If you live here, why not say it loud and say it proud? Pass this resolution - and show the people of Bridgeport that we really are “in this together!”

Signed,
Bridgeport Generation Now

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2020

7:00 P.M.

This meeting was conducted by teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member McBride-Lee to lead those present in prayer. At the conclusion of Council Member McBride-Lee's prayer, Council Member Suliman asked if she could offer a prayer. Mayor Ganim invited her to do so. She then offered a brief prayer in her native language.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member Newton to lead those present in reciting the Pledge.

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: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Avelino Silva
137th District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves
138th District: Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman
139th District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: March 23, 2020 (Adjourned meeting from March 16, 2020)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED THE MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2020.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2020 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

12-19 Public Hearing re: Ordinance Committee for April 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. regarding Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.06 – Common Council, amend to add New Section 2.06.070.

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that the item has been placed on the agenda in error. It failed in Committee on February 24th. It was placed on a Special Ordinance Committee meeting agenda on March 30th in error and Council Member Brown announced that it was on the agenda in error at that time. Council Member Pereira said that she was not sure what it was doing on the full Council agenda. It was not discussed by the Committee on March 30th.

Council Member Brown, the Ordinance Co-chair, replied that Council President Nieves had placed the item on the agenda, which is within her full discretion and authority to do. He said that Council President Nieves would like the full Council to weigh in on the item. He went on to give the details of the process.

Council Member Pereira said that she did not understand how an item could fail in Committee and then be withdrawn from another agenda only to be placed on the full Council agenda. She said that this was contrary to every piece of legislation she had ever seen including both State and Federal. She repeated she did not understand how an item could fail in Committee and be brought forward to the Council.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, NEWTON AND MARTINEZ) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

66-19 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Carmelo Mendez, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

67-19 Communication from WPCA re: Proposed Water Pollution Control Authority Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

68-19 Communication from Mayor re: Proposed General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO CONSOLIDATE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE:**

66-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH CARMELO MENDEZ, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

67-19 COMMUNICATION FROM WPCA RE: PROPOSED WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

68-19 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira stated that Agenda Item 67-19 was a report. She said that the WPCA had only one meeting before the crisis and was concerned that the WPCA had discussed raising the rates 3 to 5%, which the WPCA had not yet voted on since the meetings had been suspended. She asked if the Council would in any way be approving a 3 to 5% increase in the WPCA rates.

Mayor Ganim said that it was being referred to Committee, so that she would have to discuss that question with the Committee.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, DEFILIPPO, ROMAN-CHRISTY, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, SILVA, NIEVES, NEWTON AND MARTINEZ); TWO (2) ABSTENTION (LYONS AND SULIMAN) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (VALLE AND PEREIRA).**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***31-19 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10.12 – Stopping, Standing and Parking Generally, amend Section 10.12.010 – Restrictions on Stopping or Parking Generally-Violations-Penalties-Exemption.**

***36-19 Ordinance Committee Report re: Resolution concerning Municipal Code of Ordinance Section 2.02.080 – Residency Reporting of all Municipal Elected Officials, Boards and Commission Members.**

***59-19 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Title 2 – Administration and Personnel, amend to add New Chapter 2.125 – Trust Act Enforcement.**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Newton requested Agenda Item 36-19 be removed. Council Member Pereira requested Agenda Item 59-19 be removed.

City Clerk Martinez read the remaining item into the record.

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

***31-19 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 10.12 – STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING GENERALLY, AMEND SECTION 10.12.010 – RESTRICTIONS ON STOPPING OR PARKING GENERALLY-VIOLATIONS-PENALTIES-EXEMPTION.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, PEREIRA, NEWTON AND MARTINEZ) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

36-19 Ordinance Committee Report re: Resolution concerning Municipal Code of Ordinance Section 2.02.080 – Residency Reporting of all Municipal Elected Officials, Boards and Commission Members.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND REFER IT BACK TO COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS SOME ISSUES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that it was her ordinance and that the item has been unanimously passed out of Committee. Everything was presented in writing with all the edits highlighted. Council Member Newton was present at that Committee meeting and was given a copy of the item. It was the day that Council President Nieves testified before the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus in Hartford.

Council Member Pereira said that the only language that she would have been offering as an amendment was from the Town Clerk's Office involving the inclusion of language about having a list from the administration showing all appointees to Boards and Commissions in order to send out a reminder letter to every single elected official and appointees on Boards and Commissions regarding the residency ordinance requirements. She repeated that it had been fully vetted in Committee and passed unanimously.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she would be voting against the ordinance because the various individuals that had not turned in their forms on time would be fined. She added that she would want to know who would be collecting the money and where the fines would be going. She pointed out that someone could lie about where they lived also.

Mayor Ganim said that it would be going back to Committee for discussion.

Council Member Newton said that for the record, he had not seen any of the amendments that Council Member Pereira was speaking about and that the amendments should be addressed in Committee. Mayor Ganim said that the motion was to send the item back to Committee. Council Member Newton agreed.

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 36-19 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION CONCERNING MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCE SECTION 2.02.080 – RESIDENCY REPORTING OF ALL MUNICIPAL ELECTED OFFICIALS, BOARDS AND COMMISSION MEMBERS AND REFER IT BACK TO COMMITTEE PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, NEWTON AND MARTINEZ) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

59-19 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Title 2 – Administration and Personnel, amend to add New Chapter 2.125 – Trust Act Enforcement.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 59-19 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 2 – ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL, AMEND TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 2.125 – TRUST ACT ENFORCEMENT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

20-19 Ordinance Committee Report re: Resolution for an Ordinance and Temporary Moratorium for the Honorary Naming of Public Streets.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 20-19 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION FOR AN ORDINANCE AND TEMPORARY MORATORIUM FOR THE HONORARY NAMING OF PUBLIC STREETS AND REFER IT BACK TO COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

70-19 Request from OPED to Order a Public Hearing for April 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. re: Proposed Resolution Making Certain Findings required to Reauthorize the Connecticut City and Town Development Act.

71-19 Request from OPED to Order a Public Hearing for April 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Connecticut City and Town Development Act.

74-19 Request from OPED to Order a Public Hearing for April 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. re: Proposed Resolution Making Findings Per Connecticut City and Town Development act (Precursor to Consideration of Tax Incentive Development Agreement – 306 Canfield Avenue).

75-19 Request from OPED to Order a Public Hearing for April 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement – 306 Canfield Avenue & Adjacent Properties.

77-19 Request from OPED to Order a Public Hearing for April 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. re: Proposed Resolution Making Findings Per Connecticut City and Town Development Act (Precursor to Consideration of Tax Incentive Development Agreement) – Congress Plaza.

78-19 Request from OPED to Order a Public Hearing for April 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for the Congress Plaza Commons Redevelopment Project.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE SCHEDULING OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS BY THE FULL COUNCIL:**

70-19 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 20, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS REQUIRED TO REAUTHORIZE THE CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT.

71-19 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 20, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT.

74-19 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 20, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS PER CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT (PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION OF TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – 306 CANFIELD AVENUE).

75-19 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 20, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – 306 CANFIELD AVENUE & ADJACENT PROPERTIES.

77-19 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 20, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION MAKING

FINDINGS PER CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT (PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION OF TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT) – CONGRESS PLAZA.

78-19 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 20, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE CONGRESS PLAZA COMMONS REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she believed there would be a total of 9 items on April 20th public hearing agenda. She said that this was quite extensive and was concerned about having nine items on the list for one public hearing session.

Mayor Ganim said that he believed that they were trying to get to these items to a public hearing and the item would be handled with due diligence by allowing all those interested to speak. He said that it had been his experience that there were usually only one or two people to address issues when the public hearings are held at the Council level.

Council Member Brown said that item that was referred earlier was to be heard before the Ordinance Committee. He said that the items under consideration were for a full Council Public Hearing.

**** THE MOTION TO SCHEDULE THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

70-19 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 20, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS REQUIRED TO REAUTHORIZE THE CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT.

71-19 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 20, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT.

74-19 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 20, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS PER CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT (PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION OF TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – 306 CANFIELD AVENUE).

75-19 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 20, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING

A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – 306 CANFIELD AVENUE & ADJACENT PROPERTIES.

77-19 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 20, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS PER CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT (PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION OF TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT) – CONGRESS PLAZA.

78-19 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 20, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE CONGRESS PLAZA COMMONS REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, NEWTON AND MARTINEZ) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

69-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Nieves, Valle, Burns, Taylor-Moye, Herron, Roman-Christy, Castillo, Newton & Martinez re: Proposed resolution in Support of an Extension regarding the State’s Temporary Suspension of Eviction Actions, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

Council President Nieves said that she doesn’t like to use Immediate Consideration for items, but she would like to have the Governor reconsider the timeline and give an additional extension for the State’s Temporary Suspension of Eviction Actions to renters. There are many people out of work and there have been problems with receiving the unemployment checks. There are also some landlords who are pressuring their tenants for the May rent check. This is a non-binding resolution. The Governor is the only one who has the legal authority to do this. Bridgeport would be the first city in Connecticut to do this, but other cities in other states have already passed resolutions like this.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that the resolution was to both the Governor and the State Superior Court. She said that the Governor has strict authority in this area to stop rental evictions and wanted to know why the State Superior Court would be involved. Council President Nieves said that there were some landlords that had already started eviction proceedings.

Council Member Herron said that this would only protect those renters who are current on their rent so that they would not be evicted because of the April, May and June rent payments. Council President Nieves confirmed that.

Council Member McCarthy asked if there could be some language added to clarify that renters who were already delinquent in their rent before the pandemic happened should not be included in the resolution. Those individuals were already in the eviction process.

Council President Nieves said that there was language that the renters would have to provide documentation about this. Discussion followed.

Council Member Pereira said that they should select a date regarding the pandemic's start and those who were already in the eviction process would not qualify.

Council Member Herron said that she liked the clarification, but some landlords had not had an opportunity to file the eviction. She said that anyone who was in arrears before the pandemic would not qualify.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she supports the resolution but wanted clarification. She said that she was concerned about the families that might end up being homeless. While landlords need their rents, there is a crisis going on. The shelters are all filled.

Mayor Ganim asked Council President Nieves if she would circulate a draft for the Council Members to comment on. Council President Nieves said that Atty. Anastasi was on the line and she would like to discuss the item with the City Attorney.

City Clerk Martinez asked for clarification. Mayor Ganim said that they were not voting on the item right now but most likely would be voting on it later in the meeting.

Council Member Lyons pointed out that she had received a text from Ms. Ortiz regarding whether or not a motion to waive referral to Committee for the item's Immediate Consideration had been made.

Council Member Lyons said that a motion to amend the item would need to include the proposed amended language and would need to be approved as amended.

Council Member Pereira said that she was opposed to Council Member McCarthy's amendment and there were over 550 evictions in process, most of which were in Bridgeport and Hartford. The Council should be asking the Governor to extend all of the eviction proceedings. Council Member Pereira said that she agreed with Council Member Taylor-Moye in that the amendment would create even more people who would be homeless who were financially unstable and in crisis.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

70-19 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Making Certain Findings required to Reauthorize the Connecticut City and Town Development Act, referred to Ordinance Committee.

71-19 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Connecticut City and Town Development Act, referred to Ordinance Committee.

72-19 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3.20 – Tax Incentive Development Program, amend Section 3.20.060 (G) – Miscellaneous Provisions, referred to Ordinance Committee.

73-19 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3.24 – Affordable Housing Tax Incentive Development Program, amend Section 3.24.040 (F) – Miscellaneous, referred to Ordinance Committee.

74-19 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Making Findings Per Connecticut City and Town Development act (Precursor to Consideration of Tax Incentive Development Agreement – 306 Canfield Avenue), referred to Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts.

75-19 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement – 306 Canfield Avenue & Adjacent Properties, referred to Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts.

76-19 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed First Amendment to the Facility Development and Operating Agreement dated as of December 2017 with Harbor Yard Amphitheater, LLC, referred to Contracts Committee.

77-19 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Making Findings Per Connecticut City and Town Development Act (Precursor to Consideration of Tax Incentive Development Agreement – Congress Plaza, referred to Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts.

78-19 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for the Congress Plaza Commons Redevelopment Project, referred to Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO CONSOLIDATE AND REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO COMMITTEES:**

70-19 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS REQUIRED TO REAUTHORIZE THE CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

71-19 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

72-19 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 3.20 – TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AMEND SECTION 3.20.060 (G) – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

73-19 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 3.24 – AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AMEND SECTION 3.24.040 (F) – MISCELLANEOUS, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

74-19 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS PER CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT (PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION OF TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – 306 CANFIELD AVENUE), REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS.

75-19 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – 306 CANFIELD AVENUE & ADJACENT PROPERTIES, REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS.

76-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE FACILITY DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATING AGREEMENT DATED AS OF DECEMBER 2017 WITH HARBOR YARD AMPHITHEATER, LLC, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

77-19 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS PER CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT (PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION OF TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – CONGRESS PLAZA, REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS.

78-19 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE CONGRESS PLAZA COMMONS REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT, REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

79-19 Request from OPED to Order a Public Hearing for April 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. re: Proposed Resolution Making Findings Per Connecticut City and Town Development Act (Precursor to Consideration of Tax Incentive Development Agreement – Civic Block).

80-19 Request from OPED to Order a Public Hearing for April 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement –Civic Block Redevelopment Project.

There was a brief discussion regarding whether these items had already been scheduled for public hearings earlier in the meeting. Mayor Ganim said that out of an abundance of caution, he would like to have the items voted on again.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

79-19 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 20, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS PER CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT (PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION OF TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – CIVIC BLOCK).

80-19 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 20, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT –CIVIC BLOCK REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

79-19 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Making Findings Per Connecticut City and Town Development Act (Precursor to Consideration of Tax Incentive Development Agreement – Civic Block, referred to Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts.

80-19 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement - Civic Block Redevelopment Project, referred to Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO COMMITTEES:**

79-19 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS PER CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT (PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION OF TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – CIVIC BLOCK, REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS.

80-19 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT - CIVIC BLOCK REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT, REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Ganim announced that Council Member Brown had an item that he would like to add to the agenda.

Council Member Brown said that the Governor had issued Executive Order 7S, which requires all cities to take swift action to decide on local property taxes by April 25th.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSES OF ADDING AN ITEM CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR’S EXECUTIVE ORDER 7S TO THE AGENDA FOR REFERRAL TO THE BUDGET COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO REFER THIS ITEM CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR’S EXECUTIVE ORDER 7S TO THE AGENDA FOR REFERRAL TO THE BUDGET COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #81-19)**

Mayor Ganim said that there was a Budget transmittal letter that would be sent to the Council Members tomorrow. The Governor’s waiver would allow them more time, but he wished to maintain the previous schedule if possible. He said that they should start the process and perform their due diligence. It will be difficult to project their level of certainty at this time. The Administration will work with the Committee to provide the best budget possible and meet the funding for the BOE while having some level of tax relief. The State Legislature has the same unusual challenges that the Council has regarding this.

Fairfield County has the largest number of COVID-19 cases due to its proximity to New York. However, Bridgeport has a relatively low number of cases. The next two weeks could be critical. Mayor Ganim said he will be asking the Police to use their PA system to encourage people who are not observing the social distancing rules to stay home. He spoke about the needs of the local

hospitals for more masks, ventilators, and medical staff. Everyone can make a difference and do their civic duty.

Mayor Ganim noted that this week was Holy Week with both Passover and Easter occurring during the week. The schools will continue providing instruction, but Friday is Good Friday, so they will not be providing instruction. Bridgeport is doing a phenomenal job.

Council Member Cruz said that he wanted to express a point of concern about the coming two weeks. Even though the agency has been working with the homeless and has been doing a good job, the homeless are calling him. He encouraged the Mayor to contact the Governor to get these people off the street.

Council Member Martinez said that she had some questions about the closures of businesses. There are some grant opportunities for small businesses. However, there are many small mom and pop businesses that are taking a major loss. She asked if these businesses don't have a crowd in the business, can they stay open past 8 p.m.

Mayor Ganim said that he was strongly encouraging all the restaurants to close at 8 p.m. but they are not doing a lock down on the City. He strongly recommended that the businesses close at 8 p.m. Council Member Martinez said that when Mayor Ganim does his Facebook live broadcast tomorrow, he should mention this.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that he would like to thank Mayor Ganim for his leadership and Council Member Castillo for sharing the masks with the Council.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked Council Member Castillo if Rev. Gaston had been contacted about the homeless. Council Member Castillo said that Rev. Gaston was already involved and was doing an outstanding job.

Council Member Newton said they were not able to come up with \$40,000 to buy over 5,000 pairs of gloves and masks for people. He said that this was a doggone shame. Mayor Ganim said that Council Member Castillo was front and center in getting this done.

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION CONT'D:

69-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Nieves, Valle, Burns, Taylor-Moye, Herron, Roman-Christy, Castillo, Newton & Martinez re: Proposed resolution in Support of an Extension regarding the State's Temporary Suspension of Eviction Actions, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

Council President Nieves said that she had to add Council Member Cruz and Council Member Brantley to the resolution.

Council President Nieves said she had spoken with Atty. Anastasi about Council Member McCarthy's proposed amendment language regarding those renters who were already in the eviction process.

Council President Nieves then said that the last paragraph starting with “That the City Council of the City of Bridgeport as the local legislative body calls upon and urges...” should be amended with the last sentence ending with “universal economic crisis” should be continued with the following language:

“To move forward with the following statement provided that they had not commenced prior to the March 10, 2020 Governor’s Declaration of Emergency.”

Council Member McCarthy said that this proposed language would be acceptable.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO WAIVE REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE REGARDING A MATTER OF IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION ON A TIME SENSITIVE MATTER REGARDING A NON-BINDING RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE THE GOVERNOR AND OTHERS ON THE STATE LEVEL TO SUPPORT RELIEF IN GENERAL FOR RENTERS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Brantley said Council Member Cruz and Council Member Herron were doing an awesome job in working on the homeless issue.

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE 69-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) NIEVES, VALLE, BURNS, TAYLOR-MOYE, HERRON, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NEWTON & MARTINEZ RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN EXTENSION REGARDING THE STATE’S TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF EVICTION ACTIONS, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION AS AMENDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

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

Council President Nieves said that she wanted to encourage the Council Members to update their Facebook posts. She encouraged those who speak a second language to not only post in English, but also include the post in their second languages.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services