

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2023  
City Council Chambers, City Hall  
45 Lyon Terrace  
Bridgeport, CT 06604**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Pro Tempore Newton called the Public Speaking session of the City Council to order at 6:31 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130<sup>th</sup> District: Scott Burns, *Matthew McCarthy*  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Rolanda Smith  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Aikeem Boyd, Jeanette Herron  
134<sup>th</sup> District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy  
136<sup>th</sup> District: *Frederick Hodges, Alfredo Castillo*  
137<sup>th</sup> District: *Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle*  
138<sup>th</sup> District: *Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman*  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. Names shown in italics did not respond when the roll was called.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604.**

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

**John Marshall Lee**  
30 Beacon Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City Governance – Cognizant Reporting

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

Two weeks from today many of us will exercise a critical and valuable civil right. I will visit the polls because I am eligible to vote, registered to cast a ballot, and have informed myself to some degree on where the candidates for office stand on issues. When 70- 80% do not vote, there is a decided problem in our community.

What are we doing about it? Urging folks to register does not solve it. We have been doing that for years. Turnout remains low.

We continue to observe some corrupt action with absentee ballots. The DTC, the party in power, seems to ignore the problem. Is it perhaps because they are embedded in activity that does not meet the standards set for legal balloting? Does political power find silence is golden? Some activists have been highlighted or cited for specific actions through the years. Has that changed anything?

Now we wait for the court to assess and rule on the current flood of visual evidence for which we seem to have no explanation other than ballot box stuffing. Such seeming activity, by whatever political activists are found to be involved, injures our community's understanding of civic duty. While we are patient for a decision on what happened in September, and any current remedy from the court system, will you brainstorm 'outside the box' on the problem?

I have a driver license and a vehicle registration for which I pay CT fees to legally operate on roads and highways. If I am unable or unwilling to drive, CT still gets paid, roads are open, and my neighbors suffer no risk from me being off the road. That seems to be a win-win-win, for me, for my neighbors, and for State governance. Why don't we apply the same thinking around the responsibility and rights to select community leadership as we do about travel in our community?

In this case registering to vote is a civil right and must continue without expense. However, registering to vote while living in a community and not sharing your confidential ballot opinion with neighbors provides a loss to your neighbors as certain as speeding, or driving without lights when it is dark. Would a fine of \$20, equal to the fee for ignoring a parking meter be enough, or not enough to change public performance? What if the public became aware that all such fines would be used to finance an expansion of civics education in the community and especially the schools? What is your plan to change our current responses? Time will tell.

**Ms. Eve Parsons**

City Concerns

Dewey Street  
Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Parsons came forward and greeted the Council Members. She said that it was just over a month since the primary and there has been no announcement about the outcome of the primary. She said that she was ashamed to admit she lives in Bridgeport. Not one of the Council Members have addressed the situation. She said that before the September primaries, she knew Bridgeport was corrupt, but now she knows how corrupt it is. She asked why. The truth will set everyone free. She said that there are people who know that she is fair and just. The people deserve an answer. God is watching this whole situation.

**Edward James**

Police Accountability

Williams Street  
Bridgeport, CT

Mr. James came forward and greeted the Council Members. He said that Ms. Parsons gave a great speech.

Mr. James said that there were only 3 minutes to speak. He asked whether or not the time could be extended if there were fewer people in the audience.

Council President Pro Tempore Newton said that the Council has a three-minute rule. Mr. James repeated that the Council should consider extending the speaking time if there are only a few people present.

Council President Pro Tempore Newton said that they had changed the rules to have 10 speakers.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council President Pro Tempore Newton closed the public session at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2023**

**7:00 PM**

**City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace**

**Bridgeport, Connecticut**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Pro Tempore Newton called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 7:01 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Council President Pro Tempore Newton asked Council Member McBride-Lee to lead those present in prayer.

Council Member McBride-Lee requested a moment of silence for those affected by the strife in the Middle East.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Council President Nieves joined the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and assumed the Chairmanship.*

**ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130<sup>th</sup> District: Scott Burns, *Matthew McCarthy*  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Rolanda Smith  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Aikeem Boyd, Jeanette Herron  
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135<sup>th</sup> District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy  
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137<sup>th</sup> District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle  
138<sup>th</sup> District: *Maria Pereira*, Samia Suliman  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Ernest Newton

There was a quorum present. Names shown in italics did not respond when the roll was called.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

• September 5, 2023

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 MEETING.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**138-22 Request from OPED to Order a Public Hearing for November 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a PILOT and Tax Incentive Development Agreement for the Fuel Cell Development Project located at 1225 Central Avenue.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED AGENDA ITEM 138-22 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR NOVEMBER 6, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PILOT AND TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE FUEL CELL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT LOCATED AT 1225 CENTRAL AVENUE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**138-22 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a PILOT and Tax Incentive Development Agreement for the Fuel Cell Development Project located at 1225 Central Avenue, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED AGENDA ITEM 138-22 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PILOT AND TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE FUEL CELL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT LOCATED AT 1225 CENTRAL AVENUE, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):**

**\*115-22 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of the De-Authorization of Five (5) Projects previously approved for Bonding Authority.**

**\*122-22 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: U.S. Department of Justice FY 2023 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program (#24312).**

**\*124-22 Contracts Committee Report re: Nomination of Elizabeth Rivera-Rodriguez for the Appointment to the City's Director of Health Position.**

**\*125-22 Contracts Committee Report re: Site Access Agreement with The Connecticut Light and Power Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy for the Installation of New Poles and Power Lines on City and Park Properties.**

**\*126-22 Contracts Committee Report re: Tower Cell Site Lease Agreement with DISH Wireless, L.L.C. for the Installation of Antennas and other Equipment at Kennedy Stadium.**

**\*133-22 Contracts Committee Report re: Resolution and Small Cell Wireless Facilities Rights-of-Way and Access Agreement including Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement for the purpose of Facilitating Uniform Deployment of 5G Facilities within Connecticut Cities.**

**\*121-22 Education and Social Services Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Connecticut State Department of Education FY 24 After-School Health Disparities Grant for Grades K-12 (Lighthouse After-School Program).**

Council President Nieves asked if anyone wished to remove an item from the Consent Agenda. There was no response.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA:**

**\*115-22 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF THE DE-AUTHORIZATION OF FIVE (5) PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED FOR BONDING AUTHORITY.**

**\*122-22 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FY 2023 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM (#24312).**

**\*124-22 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: NOMINATION OF ELIZABETH RIVERA-RODRIGUEZ FOR THE APPOINTMENT TO THE CITY'S DIRECTOR OF HEALTH POSITION.**

**\*125-22 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SITE ACCESS AGREEMENT WITH THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR THE INSTALLATION OF NEW POLES AND POWER LINES ON CITY AND PARK PROPERTIES.**

**\*126-22 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: TOWER CELL SITE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH DISH WIRELESS, L.L.C. FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ANTENNAS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT AT KENNEDY STADIUM.**

**\*133-22 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AND SMALL CELL WIRELESS FACILITIES RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND ACCESS AGREEMENT INCLUDING CONFIDENTIALITY AND NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF FACILITATING UNIFORM DEPLOYMENT OF 5G FACILITIES WITHIN CONNECTICUT CITIES.**

**\*121-22 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FY 24 AFTER-SCHOOL HEALTH DISPARITIES GRANT FOR GRADES K-12 (LIGHTHOUSE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:**

**116-22 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds for the John Winthrop Elementary School Renovate/New Project.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED THE ITEM.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS SECONDED.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that they had not received any documents in writing about adding a wing to the school for the Anna Baum Skane School. She said that she was worried about the Skane School would be ignored. She would not like the Skane School to be absorbed into Winthrop

Council Member Burns said that he would like to acknowledge Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia's comments which were very clear about the Skane School. A whereas clause about the Skane School was added to the resolution and State resolution now includes the additional clause Council Member Newton said they made sure that the Skane School would have its own facility. He said that it was understood that both schools would be on the same campus. This project will be similar to another school project that was done earlier.

Council Member Lyons said that she had the same concerns and looked into this issue. Winthrop needs repair and she thanked her colleagues for having this addressed.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she was not against the project, but simply worried that the school would be absorbed into Winthrop.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that her concern was that the students at Skane were not receiving the instruction and guidance they need. Discussion followed.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 116-22 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR THE JOHN WINTHROP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RENOVATE/NEW PROJECT PASSED WITH THIRTEEN (13) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCA AND MCBRIDE-LEE).**

**17-22 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the Affordable Housing Plan.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED AGENDA ITEM 17-22 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Mack said that this item has been around for a while and there needs to be more work done than just having a plan.

Council Member Burns pointed out that this was a State Mandate and needs to be done.

Council Member Newton said that the State wants the municipalities to have an Affordable Housing Plan. He said that his concern was that it might put the City in jeopardy with the State. Council Member Newton asked if there was a deadline. Atty. Anastasi said that he did not know if there was a deadline. Discussion followed.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ WITHDREW HIS MOTION.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON WITHDREW HER SECOND.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED AGENDA ITEM 17-22 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Lyons said that it would be important to have a clarification on what the State means by Affordable Housing.

Council Member Newton said that they could change the Plan or add to it as they see fit. If the City doesn't have a plan, it looks like they are not doing their job.

Atty. Anastasi said 8-32j said the City could amend the plan every five years, but they are free to amend it when they wish to. Discussion followed.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 17-22 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE:**



**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (MACK).**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**\*93-22 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing the Acquisition of chronically Vacant and Blighted Properties in accordance with the Hollow Neighborhood Revitalization Zone Plan as amended.**

**\*94-22 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing the Acquisition of a chronically Vacant and Blighted Property at 330 Myrtle Avenue in accordance with the South End Neighborhood Revitalization Zone Plan as amended.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO TABLE AND SEND THE FOLLOWING ITEMS BACK TO COMMITTEE:**

**\*93-22 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF CHRONICALLY VACANT AND BLIGHTED PROPERTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HOLLOW NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION ZONE PLAN AS AMENDED.**

**\*94-22 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF A CHRONICALLY VACANT AND BLIGHTED PROPERTY AT 330 MYRTLE AVENUE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SOUTH END NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION ZONE PLAN AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*112-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Soledad Nunez (D) to the Planning and Zoning Commission.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED AGENDA ITEM 112-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF SOLEDAD NUNEZ (D) TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 112-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF SOLEDAD NUNEZ (D) TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.**

**\*\* THERE WAS A SECOND.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 112-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF SOLEDAD NUNEZ (D) TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION PASSED WITH EIGHT (8) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND SEVEN (7) AGAINST (MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON).**

Council Member Newton was given a point of personal privilege. He said that the Mayor has the Emergency Power to appoint people. He pointed out that people don't want to serve because the Council gives people such a hard time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services.