

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06604**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Aidee Nieves called the Public Speaking session of the City Council to order at 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The city clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack
132nd District: *Dasha Spell (6:45)*, Rolanda Smith
133rd District: Aikeem Boyd
134th District: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Ortiz
136th District: Frederick Hodges
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: Maria Pereira, Jazmarie Melendez
139th District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

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

Council president Nieves greeted those in attendance and mentioned those signed up for public speaking must use their personal address if they are not board members at the Bridgeport Islamic Center and there will be no yielding time today, only those who signed up can share their statements.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604.

There were in total Eleven speakers, ten speakers were registered and one from the floor.

NAME

SUBJECT

John Marshall Lee -
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Municipal Governance.

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

Historic reenactments abound as we come to 250-year American anniversaries. This past weekend we read about the Boston Tea Party where colonials dressed as American Indians threw tea worth over \$1.7 Million in 2023 values into the Harbor at Boston. A pre-Revolutionary War protest? Like petitions and marches? I was away attending another enactment at Fort Ticonderoga. The Fort had changed hands between British, French and colonials in its earlier days overseeing the passage between two waters. When the British abandoned the location Americans under the command of Israel Putnam and Benedict Arnold replaced them and Colonel Henry Knox hooked oxen to cannons at Fort Ti to haul them across NY, VT and then MA to Boston during spring 1775 to be the artillery for the patriots gathered at Bunker Hill for a battle and siege. In the last hour of our trip home, we passed Putnam Park in Redding which was the winter encampment of troops during 1778-79 who were intended to support military activity along the Long Island shore, in Danbury-Ridgefield, and at West Point. Something I had never heard previously was the dire need of those soldiers for pay – the “Continental” were basically worthless to them, costing one month’s pay for less than a week of provisions. And clothing and bedding allotted to a soldier annually was not forthcoming either. A letter to military officers ultimately became a petition to Governor John Trumbull of CT outlining the distress caused, that promoted thoughts of mutiny among the fighters. The letter was in the form of a petition for redress. It received attention from General George Washington. It is interesting that the last two Council meetings have requested a petition from current residents about a cause of action. Whether the Council can offer any worthwhile action, or not, in this instance, it appears to me that they can listen to the voices of the people and respond without further delay. It is the “voice of some of the people.” As we approach next week, thank you CC for the new system to ask questions about governance. Civic learning can increase. That is to the good. Also, the findings from the CT Mirror about absentee ballot use and misuse shows the need for OVERSIGHT. What will you do as Council? And perhaps there will be more oversight by all residents for fair and equal treatment to combat injustice in the New Year. Time will tell.

Mohammad Nazme Shaham -
186 Beechmont Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Resolution calling for an immediate
de-escalation and ceasefire in
Israel and Gaza.

Mr. Shaham came forward and read the following statement into the record.

Assalamualaikum, my name is Mohammad Nazme Shaham. With all due respect, I would like each and everyone of your undivided attention. I'm here today to talk about the urgent and crucial issue of the need for a ceasefire in Palestine. All of Palestine. I am Palestinian, and I have family in the West Bank. I have family that was killed by the IDF. I have experienced threats, mistreatment, and fear of losing my life while visiting family in Palestine. We all have someone we look up to. My role model was my 22 year old cousin Ala Mohammad Shaham, who lived in Qalandi, a small town in the West Bank. He was killed on March 15th 2022 by the IDF while feeding his birds on his balcony. The IDF sniper shot one bullet straight to his head. Innocent, no weapons, no crime, just killed for no reason. In their eyes, it was practice or fun. The region's increased violence has caused unimaginable suffering, deaths, and human tragedy. We, the people, have a right to voice our concerns, and a moral duty to confront this issue and push for an end to the violence. Currently, the Gaza Strip holds close to 2 million people in an area of 140 square miles. That's no bigger than Washington D.C. Almost half that population is made up entirely of children. Innocent children, that have not committed a crime Innocent children who have no say in this war, Innocent children who have been victims of Israeli bombardment for more than 2 months and 80 plus years. In the eyes of the terrorist known as the IDF, the only crime Palestinians have committed is the fact that they were born Palestinian. With the holiday season upon us, most kids in America today

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wonder about the gifts they' receive or how to spend their time while on their break from school. While children in Gaza worry about their homes falling on them, where their next meal or water will come from, or if they'll live to see another day. At this point, a cease fire is not a cry for help; it is a cry for humanity. Here are a few strong arguments in favor of the necessity and urgency of a ceasefire in Gaza: Humanitarian Crisis: The Gaza population is suffering from a serious lack of access to basic essentials like food, clean water, and healthcare. A ceasefire would open up an important window of opportunity for those in extreme need to receive humanitarian relief. International Stability: The Gaza conflict impacts international stability and security, with far-reaching effects that extend beyond the region. In order to lessen these wider effects and promote international collaboration in addressing the fundamental problems, a ceasefire is an essential first step. I question every day if my 6 year old nephew is going to be safe going to school as a Palestinian or if my sisters or mother or friends are going to be safe with their hijab on? Last time I was here in this room, there was a woman complaining about having no heat in the school her children go to. It's crazy to think that less than 1 percent of the 14.3 billion dollars that is sent to Israel to fund a genocide, could be used to make America as a whole a better place in so many aspects. I'm going to close off with this: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." And I quote "justice for all." Does that not include the three Palestinian males my age in Vermont that got shot for wearing this (Keffiyeh), or the 6 year old that got stabbed 26 times in Chicago for being Palestinian? Does it not include the Muslim women that wear hijab with fear everyday? I'll thank you for listening when action is taken. Free Palestine Cease fire now.

Mahmoud Abbas -
703 State Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Resolution calling for an immediate
de-escalation and ceasefire in
Israel and Gaza.

Mr. Abbas came forward and read the following statement into the record.

Good Evening, Respected members of the Bridgeport City Council, thank you for giving me the opportunity to address this urgent matter today. My name is Mahmoud Abbas, member of the Bridgeport Islamic Community Center, 703 State Street, Bridgeport. Born in a refugee camp in South Lebanon, after the "Nakba" catastrophe of 1948. In that year, the Zionist militias, protected by the British army, committed genocide, and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian population. My grandparents were among those displaced. Majority of those living in the peaceful cities were expelled to Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. The apartheid state of Israel continued to commit massacres over the next few decades, including in 1970 in Egypt, in 1982 in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camp in Lebanon, in 1996 in Qana in South Lebanon, and now in Gaza. Palestinians are facing the same devastation 75 years later in front of the whole world. We are watching children, women, elderly, and civilians being slaughtered with US weapons. A staggering 19,000 innocent Palestinians have been murdered and over 6,000 are still missing under the rubble. Over 50,000 are injured, with no medication. The only cure for some is amputation. Over 1.9 million are displaced and waiting for the basic necessities of life that we all take for granted. Palestinians face all kinds of oppression on a daily basis. Every time I travel to occupied Palestine, I get detained for over 5 hours. In 2019, while visiting Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, an Israeli soldier pointed a gun to my back, and forced me to get out of the mosque. I feared for my life, that I might get shot and killed while walking away. The Israeli state believes that the young will forget and the old will die. They are wrong. We will never forget, even if our elders pass on. We, Palestinians, exhibit remarkable resilience, loyalty, and pride that cannot be stripped away. Our stories deserve to be heard and understood through compassion and empathy. We know that Palestine will be free. We know that we will return back to our home. Ceasefire now. Lift the siege off Gaza and the West Bank today, and Free Palestine. Bridgeport City Council - please pass the Ceasefire Resolution today. Thank you.

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Muhsen Youssef -
26 Pequonnock Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Ceasefire in Gaza.

Mr. Youssef did not make an appearance on the podium, he was not in attendance.

Michael Merli -
703 State Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Resolution calling for an immediate
de-escalation and permanent ceasefire
in Israel, Gaza, and West Bank.

Alongside: Yahaira Martinez
30 Clearwater Circle
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Mr. Merli greeted the council and told the council he will be sharing his time with Yahaira Martinez. Council president Nieves responded they will not be yielding time today but he can read or submit her statement for the record.

Mr. Merli read the following statement on behalf of Yahaira Martinez into the record.

Good evening City Council, My name is Yahaira Martinez, and my address is 30 Clearwater Circle. I have been a Bridgeport resident for the past 33 years. My family is from Humacao, Puerto Rico. I am a wife, a mother, a sister, an aunt, a daughter, and a teacher. But most importantly I am a Christian. My Bible teaches me that I have to be my brother's keeper. Those in Gaza and in the West Bank are my brothers and sisters. I'm trying my best to be their keeper. How can I be their keeper when my hard-earned tax dollars are going to fund weapons and ammunition to Kill innocent people who are with no food, water, medicine, communication, and shelter? Children are dying, and those who are still alive have watched their parents, siblings, grandparents, and I've seen and followed the journey of two young Palestinian heroes, Bisan and Motaz, who are disappearing right before our eyes. These Palestinian heroes are journalists, and through their eyes, the rest of the world gets to see what is really going on in Gaza. Bisan and Motaz have been reporting on the destruction of their own people and their own homeland, while they are only 24 and 25 years old. My heart aches for them and their people. My heart aches with the rest of my brothers and sisters who you are hearing from today, who are asking you to take a stand and demand an end to Israel's genocide of the Palestinian people. We demand an immediate and permanent ceasefire. With a ceasefire, we will save lives. All of us here should be able to agree that saving human life is an important and urgent concern for us. I cannot begin to imagine the pain that the people of Palestine are going through. They don't know where their next meal is going to come from or whether or not they will have shelter and a warm place to stay. They do not have safety, they do not know if they will be alive even in the next second with the bombs Israel is dropping from above. It is heartbreaking to see children crying out for parents who unfortunately are not coming out of the rubble. Children are missing limbs, they are crying in pain because they are hurt, they are traumatized, they are scared and alone. Parents are crying because they have lost everything in a blink of an eye, they have lost their homes, they have lost their precious children who they loved so dearly. You don't have to be from a specific denomination, race, or culture to understand their pain. You just have to be human. As a Christian, my prayer is that God touches the hearts of those who are in charge of this genocide and moves them to immediately ceasefire, but we can not wait. We must act now and do all that we can to stop this. Bridgeport City Council - as your constituent, I ask you to do the right thing and vote in favor of the Ceasefire Resolution.

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Hanan Abdulwahid -
703 State Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Resolution calling for an immediate
de-escalation and ceasefire in
Israel community and Gaza.

Ms. Abdulwahid came forward and read the following statement into the record.

My name is Hanan, and I am Palestinian American. I came here today to express my deep sorrow for the Palestinian people who have lost and continue to lose their lives at this moment due to the Israeli bombing of the Gaza Strip. According to the health administration in Gaza, more than 20 thousand people have lost their lives, including 8,000 children, and hundreds are still missing under the rubble of their houses, schools, and hospitals. What we are witnessing right now is the literal definition of genocide. It is an ethnic cleansing of our people, and nobody is taking any serious action to stop it from continuing. Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib said, "We are not disposable." Indeed, we are human beings who deserve to live in peace and have fundamental human rights such as water, electricity, food, and shelter. I speak to you as a mother of two young Palestinian children. I have been watching a genocide through my screen for the past 72 days. We are exhausted and heartbroken at the images and videos we are witnessing of children being murdered. They are being deprived of food, water, and shelter. It is winter in Palestine and they are sleeping on the ground under freezing rain. We have seen children getting their limbs amputated without anesthesia —children who have to bury their parents. Infants were left out to die in hospital beds with no mercy due to the brutal Israeli army. And let me tell you, when I look into the faces of those children, I see my children's faces. Words cannot express the amount of pain and guilt I feel because I believe We, as the United States government, have failed those kids. Israel claims its violence is about trying to eliminate Hamas. But even though Hamas only has a presence in Gaza, Israel's violence has not been limited to Gaza; they have been killing and terrorizing Palestinians in the occupied West Bank as well. On October 8, I lost my cousin who was only 16 years old. He was shot and Killed for no reason. My cousin is one of the hundreds of Palestinian civilians in the occupied West Bank who have been killed or detained since October 7. So I am here today to ask that you support the Ceasefire Resolution submitted by Council Member Melendez. I support an immediate and permanent ceasefire. I support humanitarian aid being able to pass into Gaza so we can save the rest of the civilians that have endured far more than anyone can imagine.

Amina Seyal -
703 State Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Resolution calling for an immediate
de-escalation and ceasefire in Israel,
Gaza, and the occupied West Bank.

Ms. Seyal did not make an appearance on the podium, he was not in attendance.

Hamza Seyal -
703 State Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Resolution calling for an immediate
de-escalation and ceasefire in Israel,
Gaza, and the occupied West Bank.

Mr. Seyal came forward and read the following statement into the record.

Hello City Council of Bridgeport, My name is Hamza Seyal and I'm a member of BICC at 703 State Street. Now, I was born just five minutes from here at Bridgeport Hospital 21 years ago and to this day I'm still here as an active member of the Bridgeport Islamic Community Center. I'm also Pakistani, I'm a Muslim, and I'm a student at UConn Stamford studying Political Science. Over the past few weeks, I've

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seen some people say that it "seems pointless for a city council to support a ceasefire resolution for something happening across the world" and to that, I could not disagree with more. This great city of Bridgeport, has more influence than you would think. You all as well, respected members of the City Council, have far more influence than you would think. Three weeks ago in Burlington, Vermont, three 20 year old Palestinian students were shot in cold blood simply for wearing Palestinian Keffiyehs. Last Monday, the City Council of Burlington held a vote to call for a ceasefire resolution, and while the vote tied 6 to 6, that vote had major influence on what politicians in the state of Vermont felt about a ceasefire. Most notably, one of the most recognizable and popular politicians in the whole country, Senator Bernie Sanders from Vermont, made a statement in support of a ceasefire in Palestine last Wednesday. For over two months, Senator Bernie's supporters were continuously asking him to support a ceasefire resolution but he didn't comply. Even after three Palestinians were shot in the city he used to be mayor in, he still didn't call for a ceasefire. But, two days after the City Council of Burlington had a vote on a ceasefire resolution, that is when Bernie finally called for a ceasefire as well. Now while Burlington is the largest city in Vermont, Bridgeport is the largest city here in Connecticut. The politicians representing Bridgeport in congress, Senator Chris Murphy, Senator Richard Blumental, and Congressman Jim Himes are the ones who can truly pressure the US government into calling for a ceasefire. I interned with Congressman Himes last year, and I know for a fact he takes note of what is going on in the cities he represents, and I know he, alongside Murphy and Blumental, will hear about the vote on the ceasefire resolution that will take place here in the Bridgeport City Council. One thing I always tell my family is that local elections are so so important to vote in because the local officials that we're voting for are the ones who will actually represent us and influence those above to make the right decisions. Members of the City Council, if you pass this ceasefire resolution, I guarantee it will influence those with more power in this state and this country to potentially call for a ceasefire themselves. This incredible community behind me put you all on that stage to represent us, we put our trust in you all, and I can only hope you do the right thing. Thank you.

James Shaham -
703 State Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Resolution calling for a de-escalation
de-escalation and ceasefire in
Israel and Gaza.

Mr. Shaham came forward and read the following statement into the record.

Good evening, members of the city council and fellow community members. I would like to thank the Bridgeport City Council for this opportunity to speak in front of you tonight. First to get this out of the way. I condemn all civilian deaths that occur from the military occupation of Palestine on both sides for many decades or since I lived there in 1994. I'm over 50, born and raised in Connecticut and married for 29 years to a beautiful woman from the West Bank who still has a large family there living under occupation, and they are always in our prayers. We are blessed to have four sons who were all born in Bridgeport. My 80 year old mother was born and raised in Bridgeport and my living 80 year old father was born in Lydda Palestine and survived the Lydda Death March of 1948. My father worked at Bonanza and the Bridgeport Jai-Alai for many years, and then became an engineer and devoting another 20 years of his life to assembling the Abrams tank engines with the UAW only minutes from here. He is a very reclusive man that was never affiliated with any political group or ever taught us to hate anyone based on their race or religion, and in fact has always tried to avoid the topic for years, but still agreed to come tonight in support of my speech. I am here today not only as a concerned American taxpayer, but also as a father, a son, a grandson, and a husband to urge you to support a ceasefire resolution in the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas. This war has claimed the lives of thousands of innocent people, including many children, and has caused immense suffering and devastation for both sides. A ceasefire is not only a moral duty, but also a strategic necessity for the security and stability of our region and the world. A ceasefire is the only way, I'll say it again, a ceasefire is the only way to end the cycle of violence and

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create the conditions for a lasting peace. According to the UN General Assembly, a ceasefire would allow for the release of the Israeli hostages and the arbitrarily detained Palestinians, the restoration of basic services and humanitarian aid to Gaza, and the de-escalation of the conflict. A ceasefire would also prevent further escalation and regional instability, as warned by the Indonesian President and other world leaders. A ceasefire would also reflect the will of the majority of the people, as shown by the letters and petitions signed by hundreds of Biden. administration staff, former campaign staff, and congressional employees, who called on the president to demand a ceasefire and reassess the US foreign policy on Israel. A ceasefire would also save lives and heal wounds, not only in Israel and Gaza, but also here in our city. I'm sure you all know someone who has been affected by this war, either directly or indirectly. I had two cousins that were killed by the Israeli occupation forces last year in the West Bank (which shows that Israel's violence against Palestinians did not begin on October 7, 2023). We are almost numb to the suffering. Maybe you have a friend or a relative who lives in Israel or Gaza, or who has family or friends in the West Bank. I have family in both Israel who never left their land in 1948 and the occupied West Bank of Palestine so I have seen much of both sides of the story from an American born perspective. In conclusion, a ceasefire is the most urgent and sensible solution to ending the violence. A ceasefire would stop the bloodshed, ease the suffering, and pave the way for peace. A ceasefire would also serve the interests and values of our city, our country, and our world. I urge you, members of the Bridgeport City Council, to pass this resolution in support of a ceasefire, and to use your influence and connections to pressure the President and the Congress to do the same. I also urge you, my fellow community members, to raise your voice and demand a ceasefire, and to show your solidarity and compassion with the people of Israel and Gaza. My hope is to see Palestinians and Israelis living side by side in peace, and prevent the next generation of American Palestinian children being told "Palestine doesn't exist". Together, we can make a difference and end this war. Thank you for your time and attention.

Yahya Attieh -
703 State Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Resolution calling for an immediate
de-escalation and ceasefire in Israel,
Gaza, and the occupied West Bank.

Mr. Attieh came forward and read the following statement into the record.

Good evening respected members of the Bridgeport City Council. Thank you for granting me the chance to voice my concerns today as a resident of Bridgeport. My name is Yahya Attieh, I live at 2429 North Avenue. I am 70 years old and I am Palestinian. / came to the US almost 50 years ago in 1974 as a student. I studied here, I got married, I worked 16 hours a day for 22 years, I raised and took care of my family here, I have grandkids now too. Sadly, the genocide and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people started not on October 7, 2023, but 75 years earlier. My story started in Jordan, born as a Palestinian refugee from Jerusalem. My family suffered the first Nakba in 1948, forcing them to flee to refugee camps in Jordan. My parents managed to return to Jerusalem in 1960 when I was a young child, but to a different village. Seven years later, we suffered the 1967 Naksa, when Israeli forces took over Jerusalem and forced many Palestinians to leave. The occupation army came, but my Mom refused to leave. I remember when she said, "We are not going to leave again. That is enough. If we die, we die here." Today, my sisters and brothers with their families are still living under oppression and daily abuse in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of Jerusalem. The Israeli government continues to try to force these families to leave the homes where they have lived for generations. The current ongoing attack on Gaza is over 10 weeks old. That means it has been over 70 days of killing civilians in Palestine, including Gaza and the occupied West Bank. The Israeli army continuously targets civilian locations, including residential buildings, churches and mosques, UN refugee schools, and hospitals. Today, Palestinians are suffering not only from continuous bombing and the use of chemical weapons, but also from cold weather, hunger, and disease. Over 1.5 million people are displaced as refugees without food or access to clean water, medical care, fuel, and other basic needs. International calls are being made to stop this crisis, and prevent

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an already dire situation from becoming even worse. The whole world knows that the occupation wouldn't have started without the unconditional support of the US government. Tonight, I stand in front of you as a Bridgeport resident, and as a Palestinian-American who believes in justice. I stand in front of you tonight, to ask you to do the right thing, to support and pass the Ceasefire Resolution submitted by Council Member Melendez. Together, let's make a shared commitment to human rights and support the Palestinian people.

Orlanda Strong
418 Park Street
Bridgeport, CT 06608

Classical Magnet Academy Building

Ms. Strong shared she was at the last public speaking to talk about Classical Magnet school and a new building for the school. She was told to submit a proposal and asked why was the plan denied. About 5-6 years ago she was working with Dasha T. Spell and other family members were sitting in the same position asking the same questions. The original plan to move Classical Studies to the old Bassick High school location was told to be denied by the previous superintendent. Last week they were told the school would be moving to BMA, member of the BOE told her that plan was denied as well. Her question now is where are these kids going to go. She interviewed her daughter about the conditions of the school and got a response that there is only one water fountain available. From the previous principle, she was told the building cannot get a complete water fountain renovation, they can only add one. She was also told to use PACT funding to get new water fountains for the building, which is not allowed. Ms. Strong ended her statement asking the council what will they do for the kids.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Aidee Nieves closed the public session at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vianca Rivera
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 7:22 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member McBride-Lee to lead the prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim asked City Clerk, Lydia Martinez to lead the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack
132nd District: Dasha Spell, Rolanda Smith
133rd District: Aikeem Boyd
134th District: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Ortiz
136th District: Frederick Hodges
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: Maria Pereira, Jazmarie Melendez
139th District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. The names list were present when the roll was called.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

- **October 16, 2023**

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****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2023 MEETING.**

****SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE LEE**

Council Member Pereira stated that those who were absent to the meeting of October 16, 2023 were McCarthy, Hodges, and herself.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2023 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED WITH NINE (13) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, NEWTON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, AND MCBRIDE-LEE) AND SEVEN (7) ABSTAINED FROM VOTING (MCCARTHY, SPELL, ORTIZ, HODGES, PEREIRA, MELENDEZ, AND MARTINEZ).**

Council Member Newton requested a moment of silence for the community as three important figures recently passed away. A woman who was raised in the East End, Richard Scalo, City Attorney, and Jack O'Connell, who was previously on the board.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES

- 21-23 Communication from City Clerk re: Certification of Oath of City Council Members, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

- 22-23 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Public Health FY24 Per Capita Funding Allocation (#24220), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.**

- 23-23 Communication from Civil Service Commission re: Proposed Approval to Establish Two (2) New Permanent Positions for the Job Classification and Specifications of Library Maintenance and Facilities Manager and the Library Information Technology Services Manager (ITS) Pursuant to Municipal Charter, Chapter 17, Section 206(d), referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

- 24-23 Communication from Civil Service Commission re: Proposed Approval for an update to the Job Description of the Classification of Purchasing Agent Pursuant to Civil Service Rule IX, Sec. 3, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

- 25-23 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Paul Miller (R) to the Zoning Board of Appeals, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

- 26-23 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of John Stevens (U) to the Harbor Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

27-23 **Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax PILOT Agreement with the Bridgeport Housing Authority d/b/a Park City Communities to Facilitate the Substantial Renovation of the Harborview Apartments, to provide Housing to Elderly and Disabled Residents, located at 376 East Washington Avenue, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOTIONED TO CONSOLIDATE COMMUNICATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES TO ONE VOTE.
**SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE.
THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADDING NEW ITEM TO AGENDA

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOTIONED TO SUSPEND COMMITTEE RULES AND ADD AN ITEM FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE REASSIGNMENT AND LIASONSHIP.
** SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNAMIOUSLY.**

President Nieves stated to change the city council 2023-2024 committees with such:
Addition to liaison to parks commission: Matthew McCarthy.
Addition to liaison to police commission: Matthew McCarthy.
And removing Dasha T. Spell from school buildings committee and adding Matthew McCarthy.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE REASSIGNMENTS AND LIASONSHIP.
** SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNAMIOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vianca Rivera,
Telesco Secretarial Services

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