

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06604**

CALL TO ORDER

City Council President, Aidee Nieves 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.

130th District: Scott Burns
131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack
132nd District: Dasha Spell, Rolanda Smith
133rd District: Aikeem Boyd, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Ortiz
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Frederick Hodges
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: Jazmarie Melendez
139th District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

President Nieves welcomed everyone to the public speaking session then asked everyone to be mindful of the three minute rule for those looking to speak to the council and for those in the audience to respect the speakers. She also welcomed the Youth Ambassadors who were in attendance.

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

There were a total of ten speakers, ten were registered to speak and due to two speakers being absent, two speakers were asked to speak from the sign-up sheet.

NAME

SUBJECT

Lisa Becker
Jewish Federation of Greater Fairfield County
4200 Park Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Resolution 20-23.

Ms. Becker greeted the council and shared that she only wants peace for everyone. She thanked the Miscellaneous matters for reconsidering resolution 20-23 as many cities are looking to Bridgeport for leadership on the issue. She believed this resolution didn't consider any Jewish community and it only created a bigger divide within the city.

Bob Scinto
Jewish Federation of Greater Fairfield County
4200 Park Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Downtown Cabaret Support.

Mr. Scinto was not in attendance to speak at the public speaking session.

Muhsen Youssef
125 Kossuth Street
Bridgeport, CT 06608

Ceasefire Resolution.

Mr. Yourself was not in attendance to speak at the public speaking session.

Mohamed Hamada
665 Boston Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Ceasefire Resolution

Mr. Hamada greeted the council and stated resolution 46-23 that was passed on January 2nd was an insult to the council as they are the voice of the city and this act shows how the council dismisses their constituents. He shared there has been a lot of lies and Zionist propaganda being shared during these meetings, even in the resolution. He stated President Nieves nor council member Burns would not allow any antisemitic behaviors in the chamber. Mr. Hamada asked council member Burns to reconsider his stance on the resolution and be an ally towards peace and ending the war.

Mohamed Ali
2370 North Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

History of Palestine.

Mr. Ali greeted the council and stated Muslims and Israelis have been living alongside each other for many years. They have both went through torture and deaths, and much more. Resolution 20-23 is a ceasefire to end the war and protect both communities.

Sarah Ibrahim
88 Harbor Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Ceasefire Resolution.

Ms. Ibrahim stated she is a 15 year old proud Palestinian Bridgeport resident looking to shed light on people losing their basic human rights in the Middle East. With this occupation and genocide there are people eating grass due to no access of real food. A ceasefire is needed to protect, rebuild, and allow for a real conversation to be had.

Pastor Anthony Bennett
Mount Aery Baptist Church
45 East Eaton Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Ceasefire Resolution.

Mr. Bennett greeted the council and stated at previous meetings he has seen signs and heard people share ignorant and condescending opinions regarding the city making a stance on international affairs when Bridgeport is an international city. The council has a moral obligation to pass the ceasefire resolution to show to their constituents that they are being acknowledged. As an African American he stands for human rights and peace. He is ashamed to have heard of many financial contributions to the city that has only bought silence. He ended his statement by sharing that the resolutions did not create a divide but only revealed them.

Tarek Etman
120 Huntington Turnpike
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Ceasefire Resolution.

Mr. Etman greeted the council and shared that the issues within the Middle East have been going on for decades. Many lives have been lost including innocent children during these war times. He believes these issues are forever lasting due to land and identity. For over 70 years Palestinians have been living under the occupation under the Israeli state and Gaza is treated like an open air prison with their ports and airports being destroyed since 2014.

Khaled Elleithy
BICC
703 State Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Ceasefire.

Mr. Elleithy greeted the council and shared that the members of the Bridgeport Islamic Community Center are proud of the city council in regards to passing the ceasefire resolution and having other cities in Connecticut look to them as trailblazers. On the other hand, he is ashamed that people on many platforms have not read the resolution and broadcast it is to destroy the Israeli government when in fact it is to create peace, stop killing lives, and protect humanity. He asked for the council to continue to advocate for justice and peace.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Finances & Governance.

Mr. Marshall Lee greeted the council and acknowledged the elections for Mayor have been finalized and commented the process is not righteous or just with reports of over millions of dollars being collected while under 10,000 votes were collected. Mr. Lee went on to say he appreciates the recent engagements at the public speaking sessions but the council isn't engaging or discussing anything being said. He suggested a better communicative speaking forum between the constituents and city council so everyone can understand and learn and be more innovative with proposals.

Aziz Seyal
BICC
703 State Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Ceasefire resolution.

Mr. Seyal greeted the council and saluted the council members who were staying firm on defending the resolution. He doesn't understand why anyone would not support the resolution as it is a call for peace and ceasefire. Someone has wrongfully spoken to the press as a scare tactic to stop Jewish investors from working or donating to Bridgeport businesses. As an investor of Bridgeport himself he sees the changes firsthand, even the real estate industry is changing.

Mohammed Shaham
866 Beechmont Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Ceasefire resolution.

Mr. Shaham greeted the council and began to share that the community will not give up and keep advocating for the ceasefire until all the innocent lives are returned, human rights are returned, and the killings stop. He asked for a moment of silence for the American soldier who committed suicide to advocate for the ceasefire.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the public session at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vianca Rivera,
Telesco Secretarial Services.

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

President Aidee Nieves called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

PRAYER

President Aidee Nieves asked Council Member McBride-Lee to lead them into prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Aidee Nieves asked Council Member Boyd to lead them in the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk 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, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Ortiz
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Frederick Hodges
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: Jazmarie Melendez
139th District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

Council President Nieves stated Council Member McCarthy was not in attendance due to prior work engagement and Council Member AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia is still sick so she will not be in attendance.

Council President Nieves wanted to acknowledge all the women who were elected and serving on the City Council during the month of March, Women's Month. She also acknowledged the youth ambassadors who are volunteering to learn more about what is going on in the City of Bridgeport.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

- Approval of City Council Minutes: February 20, 2024

****COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20,2024**

****COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

51-23 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Rosa Franco (D) to the Board of Parks Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

52-23 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection – Emergency Management Performance Grant (FY23-27), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

53-23 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Emilia Charles v. City of Bridgeport – Docket No. FBT-CV-21-6110594-S, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

56-23 Communication from Information Technology Services re: Proposed Professional Services Agreement with Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, LLC to perform a Permitting Process Study for City Departments, referred to Contracts Committee.

58-23 Communication from Civil Service re: Proposed Approval to Establish the New Job Description of the Classification and Specifications for the Senior Paralegal Position pursuant to Municipal Charter Chapter 17, Section 206(d), referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

59-23 Communication from Civil Service re: Proposed Approval to update the Job Description of the Classification of Deputy Fire Chief Administration and Operations pursuant to Civil Service Rule IX, Sec. 3, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

60-23 Communication from Civil Service re: Proposed Approval to Establish the New Job Description of the Classification and Specifications for the Deputy Fire Chief Executive Officer Position pursuant to Municipal Charter Chapter 17, Section 206(d), referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

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

54-23 Resolution presented by Council Member Mack re: Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend to Add New Chapter 2.127 – Civic Engagement Commission, referred to Ordinance Committee.

55-23 Resolution presented by Council Member Mack re: Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12.28 – Park Use Regulations, amend Section 12.28.040 – Parking Restricted within Public Parks, referred to Ordinance Committee.

57-23 Resolution presented by Council Member Mack re: Proposed Resolution concerning Succession Planning for Critical Departments, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

****COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOTIONED FOR ALL COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, AND RESOLUTIONS TO ALL BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Council member Newton asked for a moment of silence for the young lady who passed away in a car accident at the intersection of Connecticut and Seaview Avenue.

ADJOURNMENT

****COUNCILMEMBER MARTINEZ MOTIONED TO ADJOURN.**

****SECONDED BY COUNCIL PRO TEMPORE NEWTON.**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Vianca Rivera,
Telesco Secretarial Services.