

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President McCarthy called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:40 p.m. He explained that there were five people who had signed up in advance to speak and there was only one spot left. Ms. Karen Jackson had signed up to speak first, so she would be included. If one of the earlier speakers was not present, a slot would become available, but if all speakers were present, then the session was full.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Susan Brannelly, Rick Torres
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: Patricia Swain
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Howard Austin
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District:
136th District: Richard DeJesus, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Lydia Martinez, Milta Feliciano
138th District: Michael Marella, Richard Paoletto
139th District: Eneida Martinez-Walker, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

Council President McCarthy stated that Council Member Banta was delayed by family business.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Beth Lazar
1241 Main Street, Apt. 728
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Remington Woods.

Ms. Lazar came forward and read the following statement into the record:

I am a concerned Bridgeport resident and a member of the Friends of Remington Woods.

Wake up, citizens of Bridgeport and Stratford. We might lose a piece of Paradise and not realize what a treasure we have until it's gone.

I'm talking about Remington Woods a beautiful 42 acre urban forest in Bridgeport and Stratford, which surrounds the 23 acre Lake Success and wetlands. The Woods is home to the endangered box turtle, fox, deer, many birds and thousands of trees.

The Dupont Corporation renamed Remington Woods to Lake Success Business Eco Park. There is nothing "eco" or "park like" in Dupont's plans. Dupont plans to knock down the woods and pave over this Paradise to put up a road, office buildings and a parking lot.

The loss of Remington Woods would worsen the air quality by increasing traffic and by destroying the air cleansing properties of the trees. Electric bills are likely to rise since green areas keep cities and towns cooler in the summer. This added carbon (CO₂) in the atmosphere will contribute to the problem of climate change, global warming and asthma rates in Bridgeport. The paving over of wetlands will increase flooding in the area when it rains.

Critics of the idea of preserving the woods claim that destroying the woods for development will increase Bridgeport's tax base. But taxpayers will have to foot the bill to build the access road. Ten years ago, the cost to the taxpayers was estimated at more than \$100 million. It's a lot more now.

There are too many abandoned buildings in Bridgeport that should be renovated to use as stores, offices or light industry rather than destroying Remington Woods. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has more than \$62 million set aside for cleaning brownfields that cities can use to clean up old, abandoned buildings.

Call upon the Remington Woods owners, Dupont, to reverse direction and instead step forward as a good citizen and work towards the preservation of the woods. Dupont has preserved the land at Stratford Point and Okefenokee Swamp.

In summary, I want the Bridgeport City Council to speak with one voice and tell Dupont to be a good citizen and preserve Remington Woods, because destroying the Woods is detrimental to Bridgeport. SAVE Remington Woods.

There were approximately 8 supporters in the audience with signs and wearing t-shirts.

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Justice.

Mr. Cecil Young came forward to speak on Justice. He announced that he was a whistle blower and blew a blast on a whistle to demonstrate. Mr. Young went on to speak about civil rights violations. He claimed that there had been mis-use of tax funds and civil rights violations during the last several years. It is wrong to have the police ticketing cars parked on the street in front of

the owner's homes. He announced that he was systematically fighting the system and displayed a document of some kind with a large seal on it.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City Council: fiscal watchdog?

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

Council President McCarthy and Elected Representatives
October 6, 2014

The City Council has the power to decrease future tax payments for a property owner. That means the rest of the taxpayers will pay more than called for in the future, even if City budgets never increase. Crazy? Not necessarily if there is a higher public good that will be met in the name of true “economic development”, and if you can explain it to voters.

Does the City have current guidelines that are publicly available to show us the winners and losers in such tax competition? I believe the answer is no. But the Grand List does have about 70 pages with more than 3500 owners who are currently benefiting from paying less than the full tax. As you sit here tonight, do you know why? Why not do the research before you vote? Does any City have a higher priority than fair taxation? I hope not.

Let’s look at the Norman Street property you have on your Consent Calendar. It was developed with Federal HUD funds 30-40 years ago by the Bridgeport Rotary Club. There has been no “tax abatement” language with the property but 100 one bedroom units are available to low income and senior residents. The Bridgeport Rotary Housing Authority is called to pay \$137,000 to the City this year based on a \$4.6 Million appraisal and a \$3.2 Million assessment. Most Rotary Club members live outside Bridgeport and I assume they decided to sell this property. But that is not economic development!

There is no urgency to the sale of this property to a private developer located in Portland, Maine. If the new buyer renovates units at a rate of \$25,000 per unit, somewhere between \$2,500,000 and a stated \$3.6 Million will add to the property value and the quality of life of the residents. Normal expenses like principal, interest, insurance, maintenance, utilities, and management services will be part of the future budget. Property taxes must also be paid. But why are property taxes the only item that is being changed to fit their borrowing formula for the next 40 years?

Will you pass more abatement agreements tonight? On Norman Street there are no new jobs for our economy. There is no new structure for the skyline. And no new shovel in the ground for a photo op. When you pass the property next year it will likely look the same. Development?

The purchase price of \$6.6 Million is more than 150% of the City appraisal, from the Oct 1, 2008 valuation. Why is it so high when the 2013 revaluation suggested that market values have decreased in the City? Are you approving and facilitating a real estate sale at an above market price? Is that your sense of “economic development”?

May I have one of these deals, please? Do I need to gather with neighbors to package our homes for such a 40 year deal? It will certainly make our property more valuable in the future, and our tax payments less onerous than for other City property owners. But is it fair to all concerned? What if the sale were done at \$3.5 Million, more in line with current valuations in the City that are lower than the October 1, 2008 official numbers? The taxes on the property would be affordable since they would continue at the same level as they are today, and increase at a likely lower trend than 3% per year in the future.

If you cannot explain this deal in its detail, why vote on it tonight? There is no City emergency. You can look at the guidelines, or make up new guidelines and policy and explain it in your districts. What will you tell voters in your district?

Mayor Finch gets to look at all sorts of numbers regarding the City. Those numbers and reports create impact or limitations in future budgets. For instance will tax initiatives or abatements survive a formal bankruptcy of this City? Do you know? As responsible Council representatives will you support a moratorium on all abatement and property tax initiative plans for a period of time to study how each one affects real economic development?

And will you please focus on the plight of the small taxpayer who does not understand what you are doing, partly because you do not really understand either? Will you postpone these actions until November 2015, when the new revaluations are due to blossom all over the City, shortly after Election Day 2015, courtesy of Mayor Finch? Time will tell.

Elaine Thompson-Ward
197 Sheridan Street, 3rd Fl.
Bridgeport, CT 06610

PSEG/Environmental.

Ms. Elaine Thompson Woods was the next speaker signed up. She requested that her daughter, Ms. Sherri Lewis, the Executive Director of the Connecticut Coalition of Environmental Justice come forward to address the Council Members. Council President McCarthy suggested that Ms. Thompson Woods accompany her daughter at the podium. Approximately 35 supporters came forward to flank the podium.

Ms. Lewis said that the group was here due to the upcoming retirement of the PSEG plant. It is time for Bridgeport to begin to think about energy plants. She said that it was important for the neighbors to be involved in issues like this because they have to deal with the various issues on a daily basis. These problems associated with the power plant have been going on for years.

Onte' Johnson
246 Louisiana Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Coal Plant Resolution.

Mr. Onte Johnson came forward to address the Council Members. He said that when the PSEG plant closes, the families in the nearby neighborhood will not have to suffer with the dirty air from the burning coal anymore. He said that he was pleased with the bi-partisan effort to

transfer the energy production away from coal and reminded everyone that Bridgeport has a very high rate of children with asthma.

Council Member Banta joined the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Ms. Karen Jackson was the next speaker. She said that she was present to express her opposition against the coal plant. She is the mother of three boys, two of whom have asthma. Ms. Jackson said that when her family attended a funeral out of the area, she noticed that her sons were not having asthma attacks, which led her to believe the problem was Bridgeport's air quality. Ms. Jackson also noted that methane gas is more dangerous than coal and the practice of fracking put gas fumes into the ground water. She said that Bridgeport did not need any more power plants and should look to increase local jobs.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President McCarthy then adjourned the Public Speaking Portion of the Council Meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014
7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Finch called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

PRAYER

Council Member Salter led those present in a short prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Finch then requested Council Member Lyons to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Assistant City Clerk Ortiz called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Susan Brannelly, Rick Torres
131st District: Jack Banta, Denise Taylor-Moye
132nd District: Patricia Swain
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Howard Austin
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter
136th District: Richard DeJesus, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Lydia Martinez, Milta Feliciano
138th District: Michael Marella, Richard Paoletto
139th District: Eneida Martinez-Walker, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

Mayor Finch then requested a moment of silence in memory of Council Member Richard Salter's brother, James, who passed away recently.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: August 4, 2014

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2014.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2014 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Finch announced that the Council would be doing the following items that were added to the agenda first:

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

174-13 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Professional Services Agreement with Collaborative Planning Studio for Upper East Side NRZ Visioning Consultant Services, referred to Contracts Committee.

175-13 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Professional Services Agreement with Mandate Media, Inc. for Web-Based and Digital Marketing Services, referred to Contracts Committee.

176-13 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Professional Services Agreement with Gum Spirits Productions for Radio and Cable-Based Marketing Services, referred to Contracts Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ITEMS LISTED ABOVE TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

162-13 COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE DEPARTMENT RE: APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO REFUND CERTAIN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, REFERRED TO BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

163-13 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

165-13 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH NANETTE BUSTAMANTE, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

166-13 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH SIMONE BROWN, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

168-13 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH STACY BORICHKO, SR., ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

169-13 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: OFFICE OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FEDERAL PROMISE ZONE DESIGNATION PROGRAM, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

170-13 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY FY 2015 TARGETED GRANT FOR HISTORIC DOCUMENTS PRESERVATION PROGRAM, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Swain stated that Agenda Item 167-13 Resolution presented by Council Member Torres re: Request that the City Establishes a Moratorium on Tax Abatements, Expansions and or Proliferations of any Not-For-Profit Organization, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee was included in the Resolutions to be referred to Boards, Commissions, etc. and should have been included in with the items to be referred to Committees. Mayor Finch then asked Council Member Holloway and Council Member Marella if they would like to add Agenda Item 167-13 into their previous motion.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO ADD THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEM TO THE COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE:**

167-13 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES RE: REQUEST THAT THE CITY ESTABLISHES A MORATORIUM ON TAX ABATEMENTS, EXPANSIONS AND OR PROLIFERATIONS OF ANY NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, REFERRED TO

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS:**

164-13 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BANTA AND TAYLOR-MOYE RE: REQUEST THAT THE INTERSECTION OF LAFAYETTE STREET AND GREGORY STREET BE DESIGNATED AS AN “ALL-WAY-STOP” WITH APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE AND MARKINGS, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

172-13 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN RE: REQUEST THAT THE INSTALLATION OF A “NO PARKING” SIGN BE PLACED ON CAPITOL AVENUE WEST OF THE NORMAN STREET INTERSECTION, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

- ** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS:**

***151-13 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY & MANAGEMENT RIGHT RESPONSE CT NETWORK GRANT PROGRAM.**

***152-13 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FY 2015 LEAD POISONING PREVENTION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

***154-13(PHO) ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PUBLIC HEARING ORDERED FOR OCTOBER 20, 2014: RE RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENT #4 TO THE WEST END MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO DESIGNATE FOR ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES IN THE WEST END REDEVELOPMENT AREA FOR THE CHERRY STREET ADAPTIVE REUSE PROJECT.**

***155-13(PHO)ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PUBLIC HEARING ORDERED FOR OCTOBER 20, 2014: RE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION AND SUBSEQUENT DISPOSITION OF FOUR PROPERTIES IN THE WEST END REDEVELOPMENT AREA FOR THE CHERRY STREET ADAPTIVE REUSE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***47-13 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the Coal Burning PSEG Plant in Bridgeport Harbor.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

Council Member Holloway spoke about the problems with coal burning plants and mentioned a family member who developed asthma at age 8. He pointed out that low sulfur coal is actually shipped to Europe, while the higher sulfur content remains here in the U.S. Council Member Holloway said that he has been a proponent of clean air since 1993 and said that during the Public Speaking portion of the meeting, there had been about 35 people present to express their opposition to the coal burning plant.

Council Member Marella moved the question.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 47-13 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE COAL BURNING PSEG PLANT IN BRIDGEPORT HARBOR PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (TORRES, BRANNELLY, TAYLOR-MOYE, BANTA, SWAIN, MCCARTHY, AUSTIN, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, DEJESUS, CASTILLO, MARTINEZ, FELICIANO, MARELLA, PAOLETTO, MARTINEZ-WALKER AND HOLLOWAY) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

***142-13 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Agreement for Crescent Crossings, An Affordable Housing Development Located at 252 Hallett Street.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED.**

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that both she and Council Member Banta would like to speak on the issue. Council Member Banta said that this was a very important issue and that the quality of life would be improved.

Council Member Torres said that as a point of personal privilege, he was happy to be on the winning side for once.

Council Member Holloway spoke of the history of the parcel and said that he was for the tax break. He said that it is important to have people come to Bridgeport and repeated that he was for the tax abatement.

Council Member Torres said that Bridgeport is the most generous city by far in Fairfield and that there are many large residential buildings on the west side of the City that have become group homes for special needs residents. He added that the City was also one of the most tax challenged cities in the nation. He pointed out that the taxpayers would be underwriting this project for Phase 1.

Council Member Taylor Moye said that she was for the tax abatement because the City needs to have new development and to grow. Although she might not benefit directly, she believes that her grandchildren will. Anyone who wants to see the future of their children improved should be in favor of this project.

Council Member Banta said that he was in favor of the abatement. He went on to speak about how this would be a positive thing for the City.

Council Member Brannelly said that she would like to draw everyone's attention to a few points. Recently, there have been a number of projects presented to the Council by OPED. It wasn't all that long ago that there were almost no development projects being presented. Not all of the projects that are being presented have requested tax abatements. The benefits are not just the dollars and cents but other metrics like the quality of life and overall development of the City. Bridgeport should not stagnate because if it does, it will become like Detroit. There are many things happening, but allowing a building like this to go on as without rehabilitation is wrong.

Council Member Martinez said that she was supporting the project and that it was good to see developers coming to help the City. She added that in the future, she would like to see Bridgeport not having to give tax abatements, but will still support this.

Council Member Torres said that it would be nice to see the surrounding towns step up to help with providing services to the residents. He asked the Council Members if they were willing to pay more for someone else's tax abatement.

Council Member Swain said that Council Member Torres had a point and that she had considered this project carefully. While she was excited about the project, it was hard to make the decision because of the tax issues.

Council Member Martinez-Walker said that she would applaud OPED for their hard work on these types of projects and also the developers who present their plans and then adjust them for the City's needs.

Council Member Marella commented that he remembered a time in the 1960's when F.D. Rich had come to Bridgeport and asked for a tax break to do some development. Bridgeport said no and F.D. Rich then went to Stamford and built that city up. It was a major mistake on Bridgeport's part.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that while the input from the government was important, the City needs to look to the future.

Council Member Holloway said that in response to those who were not in favor of the tax abatement that after the ball park was built, Sacred Heart started buying parcels on Park Avenue and expanding. They pay no taxes on their property. He asked the Council if they would like to see Sacred Heart take over all of Park Avenue.

Council Member Holloway then requested a roll call vote. Council Member Marella seconded.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 142-13 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT FOR CRESCENT CROSSINGS, AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT LOCATED AT 252 HALLETT STREET PASSED WITH THIRTEEN (13) IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, MCCARTHY, AUSTIN, VIZZO-PANICCIA, CASTILLO, DEJESUS, MARTINEZ, MARELLA, PAOLETTO, MARTINEZ-WALKER AND HOLLOWAY) AND SIX (6) OPPOSED (TORRES, SWAIN, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, AND FELICIANO).**

***145-13 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Agreement for the Laurelwood Place Apartments, An Affordable Housing Development Located at 585 Norman Street.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

Council Member Torres said that for him, this was very similar to the last item. He went on to speak about real estate practices. He pointed out that this would incur costs to the City.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, MCCARTHY, AUSTIN, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASTILLO, MARTINEZ, MARELLA, PAOLETTO, MARTINEZ-WALKER AND HOLLOWAY) AND FIVE (5) IN OPPOSITION (TORRES, SWAIN, LYONS, FELICIANO AND DEJESUS).**

157-13 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Application with the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEEP) for Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Projects.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 157-13 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEEP) FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY EQUIPMENT (EVSE) PROJECTS.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

153-13 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for the Cherry Street Adaptive Reuse Redevelopment Project.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 153-13 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE CHERRY STREET ADAPTIVE REUSE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT TO SEND BACK TO COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED.**

Mayor Finch commented that this agenda item was one of the largest development projects involving a blighted property in Bridgeport. Council President McCarthy clarified that a “yes” vote was in favor of tabling the item, while a “no” vote was actually an approval of the item.

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 153-13 FAILED TO PASS WITH THREE (3) IN FAVOR (TORRES, FELICIANO AND DEJESUS) AND SIXTEEN (16) AGAINST (BRANNELLY, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, MCCARTHY, AUSTIN, VIZZO-PANICCIA, CASTILLO, MARTINEZ, SWAIN, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, MARELLA, PAOLETTO, MARTINEZ-WALKER AND HOLLOWAY).**

Council Member Torres then spoke about the reasons he was not in favor of the project and the fact that the residents of Bridgeport would indirectly be subsidizing this project through the tax abatement.

Council Member Holloway then about the economic status of the City and how this project will help the City overall.

Council Member Martinez said that she was happy to see this building being demolished and developed.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she agreed with Council Member Holloway and that the things that were wrong with the City needed to be addressed. She said that regarding Council

Member Torres' earlier remarks about the lower income residents needing more services, that many different residents from all income levels need services and this should be continued.

Council President McCarthy said these parcels of land were extremely important in the development of the area and the City was trying to actively solve the problems. The building on the Cherry Street parcel is empty, broken down and costs the City of Bridgeport in many different ways. It will be very important to let the people who drive through Bridgeport to know that the City is open for business and that there is growth happening in the City.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that the property owners and the residents need to have this project move forward. Both the rich and the poor deserve services.

Council Member Lyons said even with the tax abatements, the projects will bring jobs to Bridgeport. When people travel through Bridgeport, either by car on 95 or by train, this building is what they see.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 153-13 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE CHERRY STREET ADAPTIVE REUSE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, MCCARTHY, AUSTIN, VIZZO-PANICCIA, CASTILLO, MARTINEZ, SWAIN, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, MARELLA, PAOLETTO, MARTINEZ-WALKER AND HOLLOWAY) AND THREE (3) AGAINST (TORRES, FELICIANO AND DEJESUS).**

Mayor Finch then said that these types of projects often took years to bring forward because of easement issues and other legal complications. However, this project will help the tax base grow. The City now has the world's second largest fuel cell facility, and Steel Point moving forward, along with other projects. The projects that were approved by the Council at this meeting are worth hundred of millions of dollars. These projects will benefit the contractors, the people who come to live in the apartments, the local merchants and so many others who may never know what the Council approved in this meeting. He thanked the Council for moving these items forward.

Discussion re: Road Improvements by Public Facilities Director, Jorge Garcia.

Mr. Garcia came forward and distributed copies of a document with photographs showing the various methods of road repair, which include Maintenance, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction. Mr. Robert Kennedy came forward and spoke about how the City is now handling the road maintenance and repair. Mr. Garcia then explained that these new practices will include and micro sealing, use of the pothole killer and Hot-In-Place (HIP) paving, which allow pot holes to be filled even in winter. The asphalt reclaimer actually recycles the asphalt milled from the road and prepares it for reapplication. This will significantly reduce the cost of asphalt purchased by the City from asphalt plants.

Mayor Finch then congratulated Public Facilities for the pothole killer and all the work that has been done on the roads by the department. Council President McCarthy also expressed his appreciation, which was followed by a round of applause for Mr. Garcia.

Council Member McBride-Lee then said that her neighbors became very excited when the trucks arrived on her street and they are planning on throwing a party, to which the road crew is invited. Council Member Martinez-Walker said expressed her appreciation for the work that has been done. She said that she had watched the crews work and they were saving the City money and making things easier for the resident. Council Member Torres also spoke about how the road repairs were a benefit to the City. Council Member Lyons expressed her appreciation for the department's work, along with Council Member Paoletto, who wished to participate in the praise fest, by thanking the various administrators by name from his heart because they work so hard to get the job done. Council Member Brannelly commented that she appreciated all the improvements that the department recently made. She recounted how the department crews had come out at night to take care of a paving problem for her neighbors and how much this impressed everyone.

Mayor Finch then presented the department administrators with "Be Green" medallions. Mayor Finch said that one of the largest piling of milling in the old landfill could be recycled by the reclaimer. This will be saving the environment and saving the City.

Council Member Lyons then personally thanked Mr. Kennedy for all his help.
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ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services