

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President McCarthy called the Council Meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Enrique Torres
131st District: Jack O. Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: Robert Halstead, Patricia Swain
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Rev. Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Milta Feliciano, Lydia Martinez
138th District:
139th District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS HAVE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MARCH 2 2015 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

Denise Bukovan

Housatonic Community College
900 Lafayette Blvd.
Bridgeport, CT 06604

What's Great About Bridgeport.

Ms. Bukovan came forward and spoke about the great programs, the good things that were going on in terms investment and employment. In December, the employment percentage increased, which is unusual. The Zoo, the Sound Tiger baseball team and the Blue Fish. The Webster Arena and the Cabaret are wonderful asset. She said that there was a lot do to in Bridgeport for a low cost. She said that she had been looking for a place to retire to and it looks like it might be Bridgeport.

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
March 2, 2015

There are many challenges and many benefits. Poverty next to wealth. The problems have solutions.

Jeffrey J. Carter, Minister
85 Washington Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Prostitution and drug trafficking in the neighborhood.

Council President McCarthy called for Rev. Carter to speak. There was no response.

Chris Jarrin
25 Wade Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Good things that the city has done with the recent snow blizzard and also things that affect him as a resident and business owner.

Mr. Chris Jarrin came forward to speak about how well the City handled the recent snow storms and how the businesses were growing in Bridgeport.

Council President McCarthy announced that all the speakers that had signed up in advance had now been called. He then called the first speaker on the meeting sign up list.

Scott Hughes

Replacement nominee for 138th District.

Mr. Scott Hughes came forward to speak in support about the candidate for the 138th District, Melanie Jackson.

Melanie Jackson

Introduction to the City Council.

Ms. Melanie Jackson came forward to say that she appreciated being nominated for the seat and looked forward to working with the Council Members.

Steve Auerbach
127 Glendale
Bridgeport, CT

138th Council Position

Mr. Steven Auerbach came forward and thanked everyone for serving the City. He said that he was sorry and disappointed regarding the situation with Mr. Paoletto. He added that he knows Melanie Jackson because she lives in his condo community. He then listed a number of qualities and said that he would support her in a general election, also.

Ms. Lenore Brefield
66 Washington Terrace
Bridgeport, CT

Snow

Ms. Lenora Brefield came forward She said that she had moved to the North End of Bridgeport for a better way of life. Last year there was a lot of snow and there was a request to move the cars parked on the street. She said that it would be important to give the residents more time to actually move the vehicles. This is disrespectful. The Council Members and the Mayor need to respect the residents. On Washington Terrace vehicles were ticketed and towed before the residents knew they had to move them.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President McCarthy then adjourned the Public Speaking Portion of the Council Meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015
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 7:05 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Finch requested former Council Member Evette Brantley to lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Susan Brannelly, Enrique Torres
131st District: Jack O. Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: Robert Halstead, Patricia Swain
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Rev. Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter
136th District: Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Milta Feliciano, Lydia Martinez
138th District: Michael Marella
139th District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

**REPLACEMENT OF CITY COUNCIL VACANCIES FOR THE 136TH
AND 138TH DISTRICTS.**

Mayor Finch recognized Council Member Castillo for the purposes of making a nomination.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED TO NOMINATE JOSE CASCO FOR THE 136TH DISTRICT VACANCY.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

Council President McCarthy said that he supports the nomination and requested Attorney Anastasi to come forward to give a brief overview of the process.

Atty. Anastasi noted for the record that the vacancy needs to be filled by a candidate with the following qualifications:

- 1) The appointee must have a majority vote of the Council Members of same political party as the vacancy.
- 2) The appointee must be of the same political party.
- 3) The appointee must a resident and registered voter in the District that they are representing.
- 4) By Charter, the vote must be taken by roll call.

There were no other nominations from the floor at this time.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO CLOSE THE NOMINATIONS FOR THE 136TH DISTRICT VACANCY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A roll call vote was taken.

**** THE MOTION TO NOMINATE JOSE CASCO FOR THE 136TH DISTRICT VACANCY PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Finch then requested Mr. Casco to come forward to be sworn in. He then administered the oath of office, which Mr. Casco took.

Council Member Casco joined the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED TO NOMINATE MELANIE JACKSON FOR THE 138TH DISTRICT VACANCY.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

There were no other nominations from the floor at this time.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO CLOSE THE NOMINATIONS FOR THE 138TH DISTRICT VACANCY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A roll call vote was taken.

**** THE MOTION TO NOMINATE MELANIE JACKSON FOR THE 138TH DISTRICT VACANCY PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Finch then requested Ms. Jackson to come forward to be sworn in. He then administered the oath of office, which Ms. Jackson took.

Council Member Jackson joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Council President McCarthy then welcomed the Council Members.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES IN ORDER TO CHANGE THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President McCarthy then announced the following Committee assignments.

Ordinance - Co-chair, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia.
Jose Casco, member.

Public Safety and Transportation – Co-chair, Denese Taylor-Moye
Melanie Jackson, member.

ECDCE - Jose Casco, member

Contracts - Co-Chair, Milta Feliciano
Melanie Jackson, member.

Education and Social Services – Co-Chair James Holloway
Jose Casco

Deputy Majority Leader/Sgt. at Arms - Michael Marella

Deputy Majority Leader - Eneida Martinez

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH 18 IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, TORRES, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, SWAIN, MCCARTHY, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, L. MARTINEZ, FELICIANO, MARELLA, JACKSON, E. MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND ONE OPPOSED (HALSTEAD).**

Mayoral Proclamation: In Recognition of Bridgeport resident Germar Terrell Gardner on receiving a Screen Actors Guild Award for his work on the hit show “Orange is the New Black”.

City Council Citation: In Recognition of Bridgeport resident Germar Terrell Gardner on receiving a Screen Actors Guild Award for his work on the hit show “Orange is the New Black”.

Council President McCarthy briefly spoke about how Mr. Gardner has a role in the television series “Orange is the New Black”. Mayor Finch then presented Mr. Gardner with a Mayoral Proclamation and Council President McCarthy presented Mr. Gardner with a City Council Citation.

Mr. Gardner said that he was grateful to know that the City was aware of his work and appreciates it.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Approval of City Council Minutes: January 5, 2015

Council President McCarthy said that he had spoken to both Mr. Casco and Ms. Jackson and they would be abstaining from the votes.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES MOVED THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 5, 2015.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 5, 2015 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

Council Member Halstead then said that Agenda Item 48-14 was in his District and that it was important for City Council Members to be involved with project that were taking place in their district.

Council President McCarthy requested that Agenda Item 53-14 be removed from the list of items to be referred to Committee in order to have this item for immediate consideration.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

44-14 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: STATE REIMBURSEMENT OF LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING TAX FOR THE GRAND LIST OF 2013, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

45-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH HADASSAH NIGHTINGALE, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

46-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH TERESA FRANZ, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

47-14 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: ASSIGNMENT OF TAX LIENS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

48-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR GRANT PROGRAM (#15209), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

49-14 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION OF REDEVELOPMENT PROPERTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOWER EAST END MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND REQUEST TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE SAME, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

50-14 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 560 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE, UNIT #9, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

51-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FORMULA (JAG) VIOLENT CRIME PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM (#15216), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

52-14 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 115 WASHINGTON AVENUE “WASHINGTON HEIGHTS SENIOR APARTMENTS”, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS LISTED TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 53-14.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 53-14 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORIZATIONS FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR THE PARTIAL ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT BASSICK HIGH SCHOOL.**

Council President McCarthy explained that the Council had previously approved this item more than a year ago. Because of this, the State has requested a re-affirmation of the project. He added that the roof project needs to be done soon and urged the Council Members to support the item.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED.**

Council Member Halstead said he was on the Selection Committee for the architectural firm. He said that there was some discussion regarding the Observatory Roof. Council Member Halstead asked if the Observatory Roof had been included in the scope of the project. The project manager for the Bassick Roof project came forward and said that the Observatory Roof Replacement/Repair was an alternate for the project.

Council Member Salter asked if the observatory roof was included in the total replacement of the roof. The Project Manager said that it was included as an alternate. Estimates on the cost of replacing the observatory roof and for repairing the roof will be provided. Discussion followed about the details.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 53-14 - COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORIZATIONS FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR THE PARTIAL ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT BASSICK HIGH SCHOOL, REFERRED TO EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

12-14 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the renaming of Ann Street in Steel Point to “Bass Pro Drive” permanently.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER L. MARTINEZ MOVED AGENDA ITEM 12-14 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE RENAMING OF ANN STREET IN STEEL POINT TO “BASS PRO DRIVE” PERMANENTLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

Council Member Salter asked if the change of the street name was permanent. He wished to know what would happen if Bass Pro moved out. The Mayor pointed out that if the store closed, it would only take 11 votes to change it back to Ann Street. Council Member Holloway said that there were no houses on the street and that the Council could name it whatever they wanted.

Council Member Halstead asked if there would be a highway sign saying “Bass Pro Drive”. He was told that the City Council was only changing the name of the local street. He repeated his question. Mayor Finch said that decision would be up to the State DOT.

Council Member Banta said that when Bass Pro opens a store in any municipality, they request that the municipality change the name of the drive. He said that he thought it was a very good idea.

Council Member L. Martinez said that because there were no houses or other businesses in the area, this is a good thing to do.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH 18 IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, TORRES, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, SWAIN, MCCARTHY, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, L. MARTINEZ, FELICIANO, MARELLA, JACKSON, E. MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND ONE OPPOSED (HALSTEAD).**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***26-14 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Lillian Wade (D) to the Parks Commission.**

***32-14 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Approval of Class Specification (Job Descriptions) for Vital Records Department regarding Vital Records Customer Service Clerk (Class Code 1265) and Vital Records Senior Customer Service Clerk (Class Code 1264).**

***35-14 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Reappointment of Cruz O. Rosa (R) to the Parks Commission.**

Mayor Finch then asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

***26-14 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF LILLIAN WADE (D) TO THE PARKS COMMISSION.**

***32-14 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF CLASS SPECIFICATION (JOB DESCRIPTIONS) FOR VITAL RECORDS DEPARTMENT REGARDING VITAL RECORDS CUSTOMER SERVICE CLERK (CLASS CODE 1265) AND VITAL RECORDS SENIOR CUSTOMER SERVICE CLERK (CLASS CODE 1264).**

***35-14 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF CRUZ O. ROSA (R) TO THE PARKS COMMISSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER L. MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

21-14 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with William Feliciano.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 21-14.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

Council Member Halstead stated that he would be voting against the item for a number of reasons, which he then began to list. Atty. Anastasi reminded him that the item involved pending litigation and could only be discussed in Executive Session. Council Member Halstead repeated that he would be voting against the item.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH 18 IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, TORRES, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, SWAIN, MCCARTHY, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, L. MARTINEZ, FELICIANO, MARELLA, JACKSON, E. MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND ONE OPPOSED (HALSTEAD).**

38-14 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Rachel Cunningham (D) to the Water Pollution Control Authority.

****COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN MOVED AGENDA ITEM 38-14 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF RACHEL CUNNINGHAM (D) TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President McCarthy said that there were two items that needed to be added to the agenda.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO REFER AN ITEM TO THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO REFER THE FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PLAN TO THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO REFER THE FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PLAN TO THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #55-14)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO REFER AN ITEM TO THE POLICE COMMISSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED.**

THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO REFER A RESOLUTION TO MAKE SCHOOL STREET BY BLACK ROCK SCHOOL INTO A ONE WAY STREET TO THE POLICE COMMISSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED.**

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #54-14)

Council Member Brannelly asked for and was granted a point of personal privilege. She then congratulated Council President McCarthy who was recently honored by a group with a Legacy Award.

Mayor Finch then recognized one of the members of the audience who is a Rhode Island State Senator and present at the meeting.

Council President McCarthy then noted that Mayor Finch had recently been recognized by the EPA for his actions. The Mayor spoke briefly about the event.

Council President McCarthy said that former Council Members Blunt, Brantley and DeJesus had been present in the audience for part of the meeting. He thanked everyone for their attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION TO ADJOURN PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services