

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

CALL TO ORDER

Council President McCarthy called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:53 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Assistant City Clerk Ortiz called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Susan Brannelly, Enrique Torres
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: Robert Halstead
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy
134th District: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Rev. Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter
136th District: José Casco, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Milta Feliciano, Lydia Martinez
138th District: Melanie Jackson
139th District: Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present.

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

NAME

SUBJECT

Ed Lavernoich
10 Middle Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Positive Economic Development in
Bridgeport.

Mr. Lavernoich said that he had been a City employee and left the City, but came back recently because he missed working for the City. He said that there were a number of projects that he had seen in the beginning, and he was pleased to find that these were moving forward. He thanked everyone for the solar installation and the fuel cell plant. He said that he thought that the City was doing all the right things and they should continue. He's excited to be working on these projects and they will provide jobs for the residents. He said that he does not work with the development department but works in collaboration with them.

Rosa J. Correa
56 Cloverhill Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

iPad Training Program for seniors.

Ms. Rosa Correa came forward and thanked the Council Members for the opportunity to address them. She said that she works for Career Resources in Bridgeport and is a member of the Rotary club. She was able to bring a partnership with the club and the seniors for training on iPads both in English and Spanish. This program will continue in the American Job Center so that anyone can take the training. The digital divide is not limited to the young people. Seniors and others want to be able to contact their doctors, their children and others. This is an intergenerational program and will be starting at the Annex on the 13th of July. In order for them to train the students, they need to take advantage of the programs at the Career Center. The Center prepares people for the work world. She distributed packets to the Council Members.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City Council, City finances, Questions?

Mr. Lee came forward and made the following statement:

WatchdogsBridgeport2015- City Council (and OIB) for July 6, 2015

As members of the City Council each of you independently is expected to listen to the people of your District regarding problems, issues and concerns they see. As a body, the City Council is the only “check and balance” in City governance to the Executive office. It is why so many matters must be reviewed and approved by you, especially City financial matters. You have the power to approve taxing, bonding, Operating and Capital budgets, and grant requests. You therefore have a responsibility to monitor and provide oversight on these same matters. There is no one else to do that work. It is why I call you “watchdogs”. When things are important or valuable, many people employ watchdogs to bark and alert everyone if something is not right or when there is error, mistake, or failure to be timely or complete.

In that regard let me repeat the multiple issues that fail your attention. I have seen no hackles raised, no barking and no growling as one expects.

- Operating proposed budget 2014, Lighthouse program fails to report \$850,000 of fee income saying the revenue is Not Applicable. Why? Routinely the City does not report grants income so the addition of \$1.7 Million from the State is also unstated. Does that mean that \$4.3 Million is spent on only 2800 youth year round? Who is a watchdog?
- The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2014 (CAFR14) stated on page iii ***“The City’s taxable base remains steady with the October 1, 2012 with a Net Taxable Grand List at \$7 Billion,”*** the identical comment made in CAFR2013. The 2014 CAFR should have used October 1, 2013. But City officials had seen the revaluation numbers from the Vision Appraisal work in 2013 (for which taxpayers spent \$300,000) and that report has disappeared. The City knows the Grand List is not “steady”. Why has there been no challenge? Where is the chart listing those values annually since 2003?

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
July 6, 2015

- The Monthly Financial Reports continue to be too long, too filled with data that is not necessary for monitoring, and is unused by most Council members. What effort are you making to correct this Non-GREEN activity? Will it allow you to quickly and decisively see important variances, rather than just the ones City Hall thinks are important? Responsible Watchdogs look after values!!
- Obviously you have no staff. President Thomas McCarthy three years ago caused that to happen. It handicaps you from learning more about your tasks, and performing them fairly. You have adequate money in your budget. Why do you fail to allocate it for your legitimate use? It gets spent elsewhere? Why as Watchdogs, do you not account for it?
- I have reported illegal use of taxpayer funds by 15 Council members two years ago at the end of June 2013. President McCarthy suggested that each Council member provide \$2,000 to charities of their choice by authorizing purchase orders drawing funds from the Legislative Other Services account. No vote. Neither the Council nor the City received any services but 15 Council persons misappropriated taxpayer money for charitable and political purposes in 2013. Who will be a “watchdog” to see that this precedent is not followed again?
- The City has built many new schools in the past decade. There is a School Building Committee that is chaired by the longest serving Council person, James Holloway. An average of \$100 Million per year has been spent in recent years and yet you receive no report from this committee even though you have an Education Committee. Do you term this fair and reasonable monitoring of taxpayer funds? Twenty percent of the amounts spent become debt to be repaid by City taxpayers. Where are the “watchdogs”?

You have heard these same comments more than once. The questions are reasonable and should not be tough to answer. Please be prepared to hear these questions during the campaign for the benefit of Bridgeport’s future. That is the governance role that your work as “watchdogs” is meant to address. Are you doing the job? Can you answer the questions above? Have you even tried to? Time will tell.

Freddy Salgado

575 Ellsworth Street, Apt. 113
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Festival Colombiano happening in July
at Seaside Park.

Mr. Fred Salgado came forward to speak about the Festival Colombiano that will be held on July 19th in Seaside Park. He invited everyone to come to the festival and said he was trying to bring people to Bridgeport.

Ms. Claudia Emilario

Ms. Emilario, a Bridgeport resident, came forward to speak about school security. She said that as a parent, she wanted more security and appreciated what has already been done.

Mr. Nick Felix

Mr. Felix came forward to speak, about School Resource Officers and School security. He said that the SRO's work hard to help the students be successful. The Community needs positive

relationships like the SROs provide for the students. This is how the community should be served. The school security has improved and now the school administration knows who are in the buildings and why they are there. He thanked them for all that they have done to keep the schools safer. The Bridgeport Police Department has to have strength, courage and a serving heart to do their jobs every day.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President McCarthy adjourned the public speaking session at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2015

7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Finch then requested Council Member Susan Brannelly to lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Finch then requested Council Member Torres 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, Enrique Torres
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: Robert Halstead
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy
134th District: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Richard Salter, Rev. Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Josè Casco, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Milta Feliciano, Lydia Martinez
138th District: Melanie Jackson
139th District: Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present.

Council President McCarthy said that Council Member Banta was en route to the meeting. Council Member Swain had a death in her family, Council Member Austin is ill, Council

Member Lyons and Marella are out of town and Council Member Holloway had a schedule conflict.

Mayor Finch requested a Moment of silence for the following five people who recently passed away: Pauline A. Mize, Sikorsky Airport Manager; Jack Hurley; Kevin Sutherland, Jim Himes former aide; Alberto Negroni, and Victor Marella, Council Member Michael Marella's brother.

All those present stood for a moment of silence in memory of those named.

RECESS

Council President McCarthy requested a Recess at 7:41 p.m. The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: May 18, 2015.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON MOVED THE MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2015.
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2015 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayoral Proclamation: Honoring Radio Cumbre Broadcasting Co-founder, President and CEO Pablo de Jesus Colon, Jr. on being among the inaugural class of the “Connecticut Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame.”

Mayor Finch spoke about Radio Cumbre Broadcasting's President and CEO Pablo de Jesus Colon, Jr. and said that he was inaugurated in to the Connecticut Broadcaster Association Hall of Fame.

Council President McCarthy said that he would like everyone to know that when all the radios were off the air because of a hurricane, Radio Cumbre was able to keep broadcasting and Council President McCarthy said that he was convinced, Radio Cumbre saved lives that day.

Mayor Finch then said that Mr. Colon was a radio broadcaster who started with his own radio show and then was able to develop it into a full radio station. He gave the timeline and said Mr. Colon would be inducted in the Connecticut Broadcaster Association Hall of Fame on October 20th. The Mayor then read the Mayoral Proclamation.

City Council Citation: Honoring Radio Cumbre Broadcasting Co-founder, President and CEO Pablo de Jesus Colon, Jr. on being among the inaugural class of the “Connecticut Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame.”

Council President McCarthy then read the City Council Citation for Mr. Colon. The Mayor then announced an event on Thursday night for Mr. Colon. All are invited.

Council President Appointment of Special Committee for Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).

Council President McCarthy explained that the Recess was for clarification regarding the CDBG rules for voting. He said that half of the City Council was removed from voting eligibility. In order to facilitate this, a special committee was created.

Council President McCarthy then announced that the Special Committee for Community Development Block Grant Program would be co-chaired by Council Member Lydia Martinez and Council Member Jack Banta. The members of the Committee will be Council Member Castillo, Council Member Swain, Council Member Casco, Council Member Jackson, and Council Member Holloway.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPOINT THE FOLLOWING NAMED COUNCIL MEMBERS TO THE NEWLY FORMED SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG):**

**COUNCIL MEMBER LYDIA MARTINEZ – CO-CHAIR
COUNCIL MEMBER JACK BANTA – CO-CHAIR
COUNCIL MEMBER A. CASTILLO,
COUNCIL MEMBER P. SWAIN,
COUNCIL MEMBER J. CASCO,
COUNCIL MEMBER M. JACKSON, AND
COUNCIL MEMBER J. HOLLOWAY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH THIRTEEN IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, TORRES, TAYLOR-MOYE, MCCARTHY, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, L, MARTINEZ, FELICIANO, JACKSON, AND E. MARTINEZ) AND ONE OPPOSED (HALSTEAD).**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

106-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH JOSE MOURA, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

107-14 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE DISPOSITION AND REDEVELOPMENT OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 138 CLIFFORD STREET AND REQUEST TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE SAME, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

108-14 COMMUNICATION FROM ENGINEERING RE: LETTER OF COMMITMENT – TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS ON WASHINGTON AVENUE UTILIZING STATE FUNDING, STATE PROJECT NO. 15-365, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

110-14 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING SUPPORT FOR THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM: URBAN (STP) REALIGNMENT OF LAFAYETTE CIRCLE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BI-DIRECTIONAL TRAFFIC ON FAIRFIELD AVENUE FROM PARK AVENUE TO LAFAYETTE SQUARE, (PROJECT #15-358), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

111-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: 2014 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE (PROJECT #16332), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

112-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: 2015 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) PORT SECURITY GRANT (PROJECT #16389-TRAINING, #16390-CAMERAS AND #16388 SUSTAINMENT), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

113-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: 2014 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY – SAFE ASLEEP PROGRAM (PROJECT #16279), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

114-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: 2014 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT - EQUIPMENT (PROJECT #16345), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

115-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: 2014 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT – FIRE STATION ALERTING SYSTEM (PROJECT #16346), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

116-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 13.12 PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR COGENERATION SYSTEMS INCORPORATED INTO A MICROGRID AND

SERVING MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

117-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: 2015 HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) LEAD FOR BRIDGEPORT LEAD FREE FAMILIES PROGRAM (PROJECT #16372), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

118-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR BEST PRACTICES IN TOBACCO USE PREVENTION AND CONTROL GRANT PROGRAM (PROJECT #16460), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

119-14 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING THE RESILIENT BRIDGEPORT PROJECT TO REDUCE FLOOD RISK FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE PUBLIC HOUSING STOCK IN THE CITY'S SOUTH END/BLACK ROCK HARBOR AREA, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

120-14 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: GRANT AGREEMENT: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE P.T. BARNUM RAIL STATION CONCEPTUAL DESIGN (15%), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

121-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: 2015 ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION CULTURE OF HEALTH PRIZE, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

122-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: FY 2015-2018 STATE PREVENTIVE HEALTH & HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (FARMERS' MARKET) (PROJECT #16605), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

123-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR YSB ENHANCEMENT GRANT (PROJECT #16540), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

124-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU GRANT (PROJECT #16532), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

- ** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEM FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:**

109-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CAO RE: PROPOSED AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE ACCEPTANCE OF FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) GRANT OFFER FOR AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (AIP) PROJECT NO. 3-09-0002-032-2015 AT I.I. SIKORSKY MEMORIAL AIRPORT IN STRATFORD FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED.**

Council President McCarthy gave a brief overview of the airport safety project and said that the Federal Government had just sent the grant application to the Airport recently.

Ms. Teri Brown came forward to speak about the project and the repaving project.

Council Member Torres asked for clarification about the need for immediate action. He wished to know why this was not presented at the last Economic and Community Development Committee meeting. Ms. Brown said that the grant had only been received recently. Council Member Torres asked if the FAA had only given the Airport five weeks to reply. Ms. Brown said this was so.

Council Member Halstead said that two years ago, the Council had approved a project grant application without checking the details. It was later discovered that it had included the paving of a private driveway. Council Member Halstead said that nothing comes back to Bridgeport from the airport. He objected because the City was not allocating funding for a roof on Bassick High School but was doing this project.

Council Member Brannelly asked that the Airport administration to give an overview of the project and what the City's portion of the project. Ms. Brown came forward and gave the details.

Council Member Torres asked about the contract. Ms. Brown and Mr. Ford said that the contract had been done, but not signed. Mayor Finch said that Congress and the FAA wanted this safety zone because of the crash that had happened in 1997 at the Sikorsky Airport. All the other airports have now included safety zones except for Sikorsky Airport because of difficulty with

the relocation of the State road and coordination between the two towns. CAO Nunn came forward and also spoke about the project details.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***62-14 (PHO) Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Public Hearing Ordered for August 3, 2015: Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) with Wakeman Boys and Girls Club to enter into a Development Agreement and Long-Term Lease for the Redevelopment and Operation of Madison Avenue Boys and Girls Club at 595 Madison Avenue.**

***91-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Program for the purchase of a bus to be used by the Department of Veterans Affairs (Project #16230).**

***92-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging (SWCAA) Title III Funding Older Americans Act Grant Program (Project #16270).**

***93-14 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Refund of Excess Payments.**

***102-14 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Workers Compensation Stipulation with Michael Meade.**

Mayor Finch then asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. No one request any of the items to be removed. Assistant City Clerk Ortiz read the Consent Calendar.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

***62-14 (PHO) ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PUBLIC HEARING ORDERED FOR AUGUST 3, 2015: MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (“MOA”) WITH WAKEMAN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB TO ENTER INTO A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AND LONG-TERM LEASE FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF MADISON AVENUE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB AT 595 MADISON AVENUE.**

***91-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION SECTION 5310 PROGRAM FOR THE**

PURCHASE OF A BUS TO BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (PROJECT #16230).

***92-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING (SWCAA) TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM (PROJECT #16270).**

***93-14 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS.**

***102-14 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: WORKERS COMPENSATION STIPULATION WITH MICHAEL MEADE.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 62-14 (PHO); 92-14; 93-14; AND 102-14 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AND AGENDA ITEM 91-14 PASSED WITH THIRTEEN IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, TORRES, TAYLOR-MOYE, MCCARTHY, HALSTEAD VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, L, MARTINEZ, , JACKSON, AND E. MARTINEZ) AND ONE OPPOSED (FELICIANO).**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

87-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection for an Urban Green & Community Garden Initiative Grant (Project #15352).

Council Member Halstead said that he would like to amend the item so that the improvements can be made, The group will be able to run the gardens, but not improvements. He said that he objected to granting the funding because Urban Roots had been given \$90,000 and did not spend the funding, which was then returned.

A brief discussion followed about the procedure for amending the motion.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE THE GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR AN URBAN GREEN & COMMUNITY GARDEN INITIATIVE GRANT (PROJECT #15352).**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HALSTEAD MOVED TO AMEND THE APPROVAL OF THE GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR AN URBAN GREEN & COMMUNITY GARDEN INITIATIVE GRANT (PROJECT #15352) EXCEPT FOR THE FOUR (4) EAST END GARDENS LOCATED AT: 146 CHARLES STREET; 617 PEMBROKE STREET, 126 ARCTIC STREET AND 507 ARCTIC STREET.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES SECONDED.**

Council Member Brannelly said that she did not know much about the community gardens.

Ms. Christina Smith, the Grants Director, came forward to speak about GVI (Green Village Initiative) came forward. She explained that the previous management group, Urban Roots, had gone under GVI because Urban Roots did not have the capacity to handle the grant funding.

Mayor Finch asked what the City's best interest would be in excluding the four East Side gardens. Ms. Smith replied that she did not know if it would impact the grant funding by eliminating the four gardens.

Council President McCarthy said that he would like to have all the options on the table. He said that he was against the motion.

Council Member Halstead said that he objected to giving the funding to an Urban Roots that didn't spend the funding the first time. The work of 35 years has been undone. Because Urban Roots disbanded, the City needs to keep these gardens. Now the same group is coming in under a different name. He repeated several times that there was a big pile of garbage at Arctic street, which is not being gardened. Another one has been overgrown. He said that the gardens didn't need the funding, so the funding should not be taken at all.

One of the representatives said Urban Roots was a small group and there were only six people who were volunteers. The East end was neglected to the fact that there was a small group. Now there is a paid staff and more volunteers. Discussion followed.

Council Member L. Martinez said that she had been meeting for a number of months about this issue with the GVI and gave a brief overview of the situation. One small garden on Ogden Street was a plot that was gardened by a woman who passed away from cancer. Council Member L. Martinez said that she would like to see that garden continue with the woman's name. She then

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that regarding the garden on Ridge Avenue, that the GVI had done a wonderful job and got the community involved along with the children. If they can do the same thing on the East side, she would be very happy.

Council Member Torres asked about the issue with Arctic Street. One of the representatives gave a brief explanation and said that a pick up will be scheduled. Council Member Torres then asked if GVI was in agreement that there should be a focus on the four neglected East Side gardens. One of the representatives gave an overview. Council Member Torres asked the representative would have a dialogue with Council Member Halstead. The representative would be more than happy to discuss the issue with him.

Mayor Finch asked about the amount of money raised. The representative replied that with the 30 school gardens, along with several other gardens, the group raised over \$100,000.

Council Member Halstead said that he had been involved in the community gardening project since the 1980's. There are always excuses and reasons why the gardens are being neglected. He said that he had spoken with Council Member Casco about reaching out to the Hispanic Community about the gardens. He said that he heard more excuses. School gardens are not

community gardens. He added that one garden had been there for 25 years. The gardens had been surviving for almost 30 years because the community is strong. He said that someone had mentioned East Main Street, but there was no garden there. By approving this resolution, the City would just be giving more money to the small group of six people who did not perform as they were supposed to previously.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the discussion was a bit off track and the question needed to be moved. Business should be business and personal issues and agendas should be put aside

Council Member Halstead said that this was not about his personal agenda.

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND THE APPROVAL OF THE GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR AN URBAN GREEN & COMMUNITY GARDEN INITIATIVE GRANT (PROJECT #15352) EXCEPT FOR THE 4 EAST END GARDENS FAILED TO PASS WITH ONE IN FAVOR (HALSTEAD) AND THIRTEEN AGAINST (BRANNELLY, TORRES, TAYLOR-MOYE, MCCARTHY, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, L, MARTINEZ, FELICIANO, JACKSON, AND E. MARTINEZ).**

Council Member Halstead said that people who have not been able to perform should not be given the funding. They have never been approved by the Contract committee.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR AN URBAN GREEN & COMMUNITY GARDEN INITIATIVE GRANT (PROJECT #15352) PASSED WITH THIRTEEN IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, TORRES, TAYLOR-MOYE, MCCARTHY, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, L, MARTINEZ, FELICIANO, JACKSON, AND E. MARTINEZ) AND ONE OPPOSED (HALSTEAD).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM FOR REFERRAL TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO REFERRAL TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REGARDING THE FOLLOWING TWO REAPPOINTMENTS:**

ROBERT L. MORTON TO BE REAPPOINTED TO THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, (ITEM #125-14)

AND

CHARLES MCNEILL TO BE REAPPOINTED TO THE HARBOR COMMISSION (ITEM # 126-14)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia then requested a point of personal privilege. She said that she had previously listed a number of individuals that were being inducted into the Drum and Bugle Corps World Hall of Fame in Rochester, N.Y. She said that following additional names were being included in the event: Mr. Kenton Clarke, Mr. Michael “Mikey” Kelly and Mr. John Ratzenberger.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM FOR REFERRAL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO REFER THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT RUSSO III TO THE FIRE COMMISSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM # 127-14)**

Council Member L. Martinez announced that there would be a parade held on Sunday, July 12, 2015 and invited all the Council Members to march in it. There will also be an event on Saturday that the Council Members are invited to attend, also.

Mayor Finch said that former Council Member Robert Curwen had been in town for the 25th anniversary of the North End prison fire when everyone was evacuated safely. He said that Mr. Curwen sent his best wishes to the Council Members.

Council President McCarthy reminded everyone that there was only one Council meeting scheduled for July and August.

Mayor Finch then spoke about an upcoming event on July 9th that the Council Members were invited to attend. Emails were previously sent out about it.

Council Member Casco then spoke about an upcoming event on July 11th that everyone was invited to attend.

Mayor Finch commented that the Columbus School work was progressing and the school looked beautiful.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION TO ADJOURN PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services