

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

CALL TO ORDER

Council President McCarthy called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Susan Brannelly, Enrique Torres
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jack O. Banta
132nd District: Patricia Swain, Robert Halstead
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Howard Austin
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Richard Salter
136th District: Jose Casco, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Milta Feliciano
138th District: Michael Marella
139th District: James Holloway

A quorum was present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2015, 2015 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

Against the extension of Seaview Avenue.

Ms. Lazar came forward with approximately 10 other people and read the following statement into the record:

On October 19, 2015, the Bridgeport City Council passed a controversial Resolution (# 170-14) without any Public Hearing, debate or discussion. The Resolution was to use Bridgeport

taxpayers' money to fund the extension of Seaview Avenue up to and through 422 acre Remington Woods, which DuPont Corporation calls Lake Success Eco Park.

DuPont want to knock down Bridgeport's 422 acre Remington Woods and put up office buildings and a parking lot. To enable them to do this they need an access road. The Bridgeport City Council's vote on October 19 enabled DuPont to have an access road at the Bridgeport taxpayers' expense. It will cost Bridgeport Taxpayers a lot more than this initial payment in the long run because Bridgeport will also have to pay for maintenance of the road such as snow and pothole removal and lighting. Plus Bridgeport will have to pay for all the required infrastructure into the Woods such as gas, electric, water and sewage lines. It will cost Bridgeport taxpayers more in services than we will recoup in taxes by developing the Woods.

This is DuPont profiting at taxpayers' expense. This is Corporate Welfare! This is the Bridgeport City Council passing resolutions that are not in the best interest of Bridgeport residents.

Some politicians claim that knocking down the Woods and building office buildings will create jobs. Nearly 20 percent of all office buildings in Fairfield County are vacant. How are more empty office buildings going to create jobs? Existing vacant office buildings should be utilized instead of knocking down and destroying Remington Woods.

On October 19th, the City Council also passed Resolution 157-14 -- Loans for Funding Brownfield Remediation for Development. This, too, is controversial because there is no mechanism to collect on a defaulted loan. DuPont should NOT receive any of these funds in connection with Remington Woods because Remington Woods is not a brownfield, but an alive, green forest.

I, Friends of Remington Woods and hundreds of people who signed an online petition are for preserving Remington Woods. The loss of Remington Woods and the extension of Seaview Avenue would worsen air quality by increasing traffic and by destroying the air cleaning properties of trees. This added pollution and CO2 will contribute to the problems of climate change and high asthma rates in Bridgeport. Remington Woods is home to deer, foxes, the endangered box turtle, hundreds of birds and thousands of trees. If Remington Woods is destroyed, where will all these animals go to live? If Remington Woods is paved over with a road, it will cause flooding in the area when it rains.

The City Council should have never passed such a controversial resolution as the extension of Seaview Avenue without first holding a public hearing. At the very least, the City Council should discuss the issue before voting to commit Bridgeport taxpayers' money to fund a project that is detrimental to Bridgeport residents. The City Council should re-examine resolution 170-14, hold a public hearing and take a re-vote. Say NO to Corporate Welfare; Say NO to extending Seaview Avenue. Say YES to preserving Remington Woods.

Ethan Book
144 Coleman Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

The unauthorized towing of Lincoln Town
Car.

Mr. Ethan Book came forward to speak about the unauthorized seizure of his Lincoln Town car in 2010. He reviewed the details and said that he believed the towing was intentional because there was no reason to believe the vehicle was stolen, the officer was told by a neighbor that the vehicle belonged to Mr. Book, there was documentation in the vehicle which identified him as the owner, the Connecticut State convention was two weeks later. He said that once the error was discovered, there was no attempt to return the vehicle. This is larceny. The City officials knew that they were wrong, but persistently continued in their error.

Bill Coleman, Director
Neighborhood Development
999 Broad Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

BNT Mixed-Use Veterans Housing
Development - 515 West Avenue and
Thank-you to the Council.

Mr. William Coleman came forward with Ms. Liz Torres, the Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust (BNT) Executive Director, to speak about the West Avenue BNT project along with about 35 supporters. He reviewed the types of projects that had been done in the area. Having housing for the homeless is important and going vertical helps with the taxes. The Tax Abatement will only last for 20 years. Citibank will be buying the 8.6 million in Tax Credits. The contract has escalators included in it so there will be payments made.

Council Member Marella joined the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Michael Jordan
Jordan Electric
463 Connecticut Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Economic Impact for Bridgeport
Businesses – BNT Development.

Mr. Michael Jordan came forward to speak about Bridgeport businesses. He said that he owns his own company in the East End. The BNT approached the NRZ and said that they would give the minority contractors to participate in the project. This is the first major housing project proposal for the East End in many, many years. He said that this was a win/win situation for Bridgeport. Anything that will ease his tax burden is a good thing. It will stabilize the East End corridor by West Avenue. He also reminded everyone that the City will start to reactive tax payments. If the City doesn't approve, what will take its place? There are many businesses that will not have an increase in their business. He said that he was excited about working on this project and wanted to keep the momentum going and keep people working.

Council Member L. Martinez joined the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

The City: strengthening our governance
weaknesses.

President McCarthy, Members of the Council and Bridgeport voters and taxpayers: This is the last time I will address this sitting group. Tomorrow brings Election Day. Much attention has been on the Mayoral race, but the face of this body, representing all the people, will change as well.

Five years ago I had fiscal concerns and began raising them. I focused on Pension Plan A that provides monthly income to public safety retirees at \$30 Million annually with withdrawals from a fund created in 2000 when \$350 Million was borrowed to be invested by the City. By 2030 more than \$800 million will have been paid. However there is less than \$100 Million of investment in the fund today. Police and Fire budgets are spending more than \$30 Million annually as repayment of Pension Bonds for fifteen more years. When the investments run out taxpayers will have the retirement income payments to fund in addition to the Pension Bond payments. Have you been a Watchdog in that process?

My attention moved to the Budget and Appropriations Committee where the Charter called for monthly reports of revenues, expenses and variances but you were receiving only 11 months of reports. Finally in 2012 the City lived up to its responsibility of showing 12 months but marked the report DRAFT. No final report until 2013 when for the first time in over two decades someone might have a 12 month view. However, in terms of monitoring, the 85 page report was cumbersome and provided more info than you require. We have advocated for an executive level report that might be useful when you looked for variances or wished to compare what trends occur over several years. Last month a 25 page finance report hit your desks. The narrative, column and headings and vacant variances need more work. Where are your Watchdog requests to improve this report to provide diligent and intelligent oversight monthly? Five member of that Committee depart. Is anyone concerned? Why is this Operating Budget report not available on the City web site by the fourth Friday of a following month for taxpayers to view?

I looked at Ordinances on Purchasing and found NO Annual Purchasing report, nor was there a triennial audit as you directed. Was it only because an internal auditor was terminated 7 years ago and no one had taken up the responsibility? Perhaps a new Ordinance Committee might see if there are other Ordinances that need work from attentive Watchdogs? Another Ordinance item refers to the City Council stipends. I believe that you have moved to a debit card system in recent years that is not authorized by the existing and unchanged Ordinance that calls for “reimbursements” of Council related expenses. Is this housework that needs attention? Can the public look at the Stipend reports? If not, why not? Trust is built slowly through Open, Accountable and Transparent governance. Are you providing that to the public today?

During the last two years I have studied the Net Taxable Grand List, revaluation process, and City control of property it owns. Would it surprise you to know that last week the City attempted to sell property it did not own; or that another property, previously owned by the City, then sold to a tax lien auction was returned by a quit claim procedure back to the City, but the City did not know about it until they were shown the deed many months later. Who is minding the store? Are our most basic records accurate and trustworthy? Are the most vital audits reported on the City website or kept from public view?

Finally what of the activity of very important committees like the City Hall Committee (that handles City property), the School Building Committee (that has \$700 Million of Capital funding in the Finch terms), the Pension Plan A Committee and others.....where are these missions promoted, their meeting agendas posted and minutes made available by modern technology?? Where are the elected City watchdogs who will see that “secret governance” becomes more public? Time will tell.

Cory Bromley
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06604

LIUNA Local 200 Tentative Agreement.

Ms. Cory Bromley came forward to speak about the LIUNA Contract and gave some background on the union, which are 89 members strong. The contract is on the Council agenda for approval. The average salary range is between \$30,000 to \$79,000 and the LIUNA union members have given back to the City. The cost of insurance has increased, but there have been significant give backs to the City. The Union has not gotten a Cost of living raise and has been supportive of the City. She said that she had heard that the LIUNA contract may not pass because of issues with the Supervisor's Union, which is separate from LIUNA. She urged the Council to support the members of LIUNA who have consistently supported the City and stepped up to the plate when asked to by the administration.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President McCarthy adjourned the public speaking portion of the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 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 7:15 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Finch then requested a member of the audience to lead those present in prayer.

At the conclusion of the Pledge, Mayor Finch asked the audience to remain standing for a moment of silence contemplation for Prophetess Gerry Claytor, who was gravely ill and in the hospital.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Finch then requested Ms. Joanne Rosseni 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: Patricia Swain, Robert Halstead
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Howard Austin
134th District: Michelle Lyons, 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, Michael Marella
139th District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: October 5, 2015:

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 5, 2015.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 5, 2015 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

- *192-14 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the Discontinuance of a Portion of Hancock Avenue, Railroad Avenue and Howard Avenue.**
- *186-14 Contracts Committee Report re: Agreement with LIUNA, Local 200 regarding the Terms and Conditions of Employment for their Membership.**
- *195-14 Contracts Committee Report re: Solar Power and System Site Agreements with CEFIA Holdings, LLC regarding the Wonderland of Ice Facility.**
- *173-14 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Mark Anthony Febres.**
- *188-14 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Eleen Shepherd.**
- *191-14 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of Tax Anticipation Notes (TANS) to Pay Current Expenses and Obligations of the City.**

Mayor Finch then asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Feliciano requested that Agenda Items 186-14; 195-14; 173-14; 188-14; and 191-14 be removed from the Consent Agenda. City Clerk Hudson then read the revised Consent Agenda into the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

***192-14 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE DISCONTINUANCE OF A PORTION OF HANCOCK AVENUE, RAILROAD AVENUE AND HOWARD AVENUE.**

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

186-14 Contracts Committee Report re: Agreement with LIUNA, Local 200 regarding the Terms and Conditions of Employment for their Membership.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE
186-14 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AGREEMENT WITH LIUNA,
LOCAL 200 REGARDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR
THEIR MEMBERSHIP.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER E. MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 186-14
CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AGREEMENT WITH LIUNA, LOCAL 200
REGARDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THEIR
MEMBERSHIP.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SALTER SECONDED.**

A Roll Call vote was requested.

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE FAILED WITH SEVEN (7) IN FAVOR (MCBRIDE-LEE,
SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, E. MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND TWELVE (12)
AGAINST (BRANNELLY, TORRES, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, HALSTEAD, SWAIN,
MCCARTHY, AUSTIN, VIZZO-PANICCIA, L. MARTINEZ, MARELLA, AND
JACKSON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION.**

The Council then voted on the original motion.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 186-14 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE
REPORT RE: AGREEMENT WITH LIUNA, LOCAL 200 REGARDING THE TERMS
AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THEIR MEMBERSHIP PASSED WITH
NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, TORRES, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE,
HALSTEAD, SWAIN, MCCARTHY, AUSTIN, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-
LEE, SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, L. MARTINEZ, JACKSON, MARELLA, E.
MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (FELICIANO).**

**195-14 Contracts Committee Report re: Solar Power and System Site Agreements with
CEFIA Holdings, LLC regarding the Wonderland of Ice Facility.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM
195-14 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SOLAR POWER AND SYSTEM
SITE AGREEMENTS WITH CEFIA HOLDINGS, LLC REGARDING THE
WONDERLAND OF ICE FACILITY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**173-14 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation
with Mark Anthony Febres.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM
173-14 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT
OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH MARK ANTHONY FEBRES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

188-14 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Eleen Shepherd.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 188-14 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH ELEEN SHEPHERD.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

191-14 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of Tax Anticipation Notes (TANS) to Pay Current Expenses and Obligations of the City.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 191-14 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES (TANS) TO PAY CURRENT EXPENSES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 191-14 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES (TANS) TO PAY CURRENT EXPENSES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

A Roll Call Vote was requested.

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE PASSED WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (TORRES, HALSTEAD, SWAIN, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, FELICIANO, JACKSON, E. MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND EIGHT (8) AGAINST (BRANNELLY, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, MCCARTHY, AUSTIN, VIZZO-PANICCIA, L. MARTINEZ, AND MARELLA).**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

183-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing an Affordable Housing Tax Incentive Agreement in Support of the Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust Redevelopment Project, Located at 515 West Avenue.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 183-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE BRIDGEPORT**

NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT, LOCATED AT 515 WEST AVENUE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

Council Member Holloway said that all of a sudden individuals are saying that this or that legislation needed to be passed. He said that there had been a meeting where the minority contractors had been invited to meet to learn how minority contractors could bid on the City projects. During the campaign, he saw houses that had been empty because of the taxes and the mortgages. Between the taxes and the mortgages, people cannot afford to live in Bridgeport. After seeing all the vacant houses around, Council Member Holloway said he can't vote for this item in good conscious and give a 20 year tax abatement while other people are losing their homes. He related a story about a woman who was widowed but could no longer afford to live in Bridgeport. People are having foreclosures happen every day. It is important to represent everyone in Bridgeport.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 183-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE BRIDGEPORT NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT, LOCATED AT 515 WEST AVENUE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HALSTEAD SECONDED.**

A Roll Call Vote was requested.

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE PASSED WITH TEN (10) IN FAVOR (TORRES, HALSTEAD, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASTILLO, FELICIANO, JACKSON, E. MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND EIGHT (8) AGAINST (BRANNELLY, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, SWAIN, MCCARTHY, AUSTIN, VIZZO-PANICCIA, L. MARTINEZ, AND MARELLA) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (CASCO).**

152-14 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Approval of a New Job Classification with NAGE Local RI-200 for Senior Housing Code Inspector/Enforcement Officer.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER E. MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 152-14 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF A NEW JOB CLASSIFICATION WITH NAGE LOCAL RI-200 FOR SENIOR HOUSING CODE INSPECTOR/ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SALTER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE PASSED WITH TEN (10) IN FAVOR (TORRES, HALSTEAD, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASTILLO, FELICIANO, JACKSON, E. MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND EIGHT (8) AGAINST (BRANNELLY, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, SWAIN, MCCARTHY, AUSTIN, VIZZO-PANICCIA, L. MARTINEZ, AND MARELLA) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (CASCO).**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

185-14 Contracts Committee Report re: Agreement with Bridgeport City Supervisor's Association regarding the Terms and Conditions of Employment for their Membership.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 185-14 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AGREEMENT WITH BRIDGEPORT CITY SUPERVISOR'S ASSOCIATION REGARDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THEIR MEMBERSHIP.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER E. MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

A Roll Call Vote was requested.

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE PASSED WITH ELEVEN (11) IN FAVOR (TORRES, HALSTEAD, SWAIN, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, FELICIANO, JACKSON AND E. MARTINEZ) AND SEVEN (7) AGAINST (BRANNELLY, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, AUSTIN, VIZZO-PANICCIA, L. MARTINEZ, AND MARELLA) AND TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MCCARTHY AND HOLLOWAY).**

98-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing an Affordable Housing Tax Incentive Agreement for Crescent Crossing II, A Mixed-Income Affordable Housing Development Located at 252 Hallett Street.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 98-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT FOR CRESCENT CROSSING II, A MIXED-INCOME AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT LOCATED AT 252 HALLETT STREET.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER E. MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

A Roll Call Vote was requested.

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE PASSED WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (TORRES, HALSTEAD, SWAIN, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, FELICIANO, JACKSON, E. MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND EIGHT (8) AGAINST (BRANNELLY, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, MCCARTHY, AUSTIN, VIZZO-PANICCIA, L. MARTINEZ, AND MARELLA.)**

168-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: (Ref. #396-93; 130-95; 279-98 & #154-13) Resolution regarding Amendment #5 to the West End Municipal Development Plan (the "MDP") to allow for Residential Adaptive Reuse Development along Railroad Avenue and to Establish 1565 and 1535 Railroad Avenue as Disposition Parcels under the MDP.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 168-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #396-93; 130-95; 279-98 & #154-13) RESOLUTION REGARDING AMENDMENT #5 TO THE WEST END MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (THE “MDP”) TO ALLOW FOR RESIDENTIAL ADAPTIVE REUSE DEVELOPMENT ALONG RAILROAD AVENUE AND TO ESTABLISH 1565 AND 1535 RAILROAD AVENUE AS DISPOSITION PARCELS UNDER THE MDP.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 168-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #396-93; 130-95; 279-98 & #154-13) RESOLUTION REGARDING AMENDMENT #5 TO THE WEST END MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (THE “MDP”) TO ALLOW FOR RESIDENTIAL ADAPTIVE REUSE DEVELOPMENT ALONG RAILROAD AVENUE AND TO ESTABLISH 1565 AND 1535 RAILROAD AVENUE AS DISPOSITION PARCELS UNDER THE MDP.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER E. MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

A Roll Call Vote was requested.

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE FAILED TO PASS WITH NINE (9) IN FAVOR (TORRES, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASTILLO, FELICIANO, JACKSON, E. MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND ELEVEN (11) AGAINST (BRANNELLY, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, HALSTEAD, SWAIN, MCCARTHY, AUSTIN, VIZZO-PANICIA, L. MARTINEZ, CASCO, AND MARELLA.)**

The Council then voted on the original motion.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 168-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #396-93; 130-95; 279-98 & #154-13) RESOLUTION REGARDING AMENDMENT #5 TO THE WEST END MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (THE “MDP”) TO ALLOW FOR RESIDENTIAL ADAPTIVE REUSE DEVELOPMENT ALONG RAILROAD AVENUE AND TO ESTABLISH 1565 AND 1535 RAILROAD AVENUE AS DISPOSITION PARCELS UNDER THE MDP PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President McCarthy asked for a point of personal privilege. He then explained that if the TANs were not approved, the City would not have the cash to continue to operate after November 24th. He requested that the item be removed from the table and reconsidered.

Council Member Holloway said that too was Council President McCarthy’s job to be on top of these things. He said that Council President McCarthy should have come to the Council to explain the impact of this to the Council Members. Council President McCarthy replied that a motion to table takes precedence over everything else.

Council Member Swain said that in the Budget & Appropriations meeting it was put to the committee that this was to help the incoming Finance Director with the cash flow. She added

that the minutes did not include any mention of the fact that the City would run out of cash in November.

Council Member Brannelly asked Ms. Kelly-Lenz to come forward to speak. Mayor Finch said that this could not be debated without a motion to reconsider.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN MOVED TO RECONSIDER AGENDA ITEM 191-14 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES (TANS) TO PAY CURRENT EXPENSES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

A question was raised as to whether Council Member Brannelly could second the motion to reconsider. Attorney Anastasi said that she could.

Mayor Finch said that the Council had never debated the need for TANS before and noted that in the past, the City Council had approved the use of TANS both in the spring and fall. This year, the Finance Department only requested the TANS in the fall.

Council Member Austin left the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Council Member E. Martinez said that a 2/3rd vote was needed to suspend the rules. City Attorney Anastasi said that this was not a suspension of the rules, but a reconsideration of a vote.

Ms. Kelly-Lenz came forward and said that the TANS have been done for the last 7 years. These are Tax Anticipation Notes to ensure that there was sufficient cash flow for the City until the next tax date arrives. In the past the City needed to take out two TANS a year, but now the City is monitoring the cash flow much more carefully. This will affect not only the payroll, but also debt service.

Council Member Brannelly then read a quote from the October 26, 2015 Budget and Appropriation Minutes as follows:

Ms. Kelly-Lenz pointed out that the City did not have to borrow in the spring as they have in the past. She then explained how the TANS work and why the City needs to do them. Because of the significant debt service payment coming in January, she felt that it was good to have the funds available. There is also the change of administration coming up and she is not in office, the newcomers might not be aware of the cash flow pattern.

Mr. Stafstrom then explained why the Committee was being requested to authorize this TAN.

Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that the City had a Triple A rating on the short term loans. Mr. Stafstrom said that Ms. Kelly-Lenz has done an incredible job in reducing the amount the City needs to borrow, but the bond agency monitors to insure the City does not borrow

more than it should. He added that the City would run out of cash in the third week in November unless the bonds are sold.

Council Member Swain asked about the tax collection process. Ms. Kelly-Lenz explained that mortgage companies often don't pay until the very last moment, and sometimes the end of the fiscal year is on a week-end and that means the residents can pay on the first business day following that. This way, the incoming Finance Director will have the funds available.

Ms. Kelly-Lenz then gave an overview of why TANs were needed.

Council Member Salter said that he had been told that if the department when the budget cut, then the departments would find the money. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that this was about the payroll for the police, fire, BOE and all the other departments along with the debt service.

Council Member Holloway repeated his earlier statement that it was Council President McCarthy's job to inform the Council Members that this resolution needed to be passed. He said that he was a constituent. It is wrong to come to the Council Members after the vote, and tell them to support the measure. Council President McCarthy only has himself to blame for this problem. Council President McCarthy replied that he would not blame himself. Council Member Brannelly added that no one had any idea that it would be tabled.

Council Member McBride-Lee then said that she agreed with Council Member Holloway and the Council Members should have been informed about how important this item was. There have been items passed that Council Member McBride-Lee did not agree with.

Council Member Marella said that he believed that there was a misunderstanding. This was not something being added to the budget, but it was a cash flow issue. Either the City employees would be laid off or the City would have to find the money someplace, but there is no money. This is about cash flow.

Council Member Feliciano said that she was at the Budget & Appropriations meeting and mentioned an email about the TANs. The Budget & Appropriations Committee should have been told about this months ago. This was irresponsible.

Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that she had reduced the amount of borrowing from 95 million to 50 million and that she had been able to manage without asking for a TAN in the spring.

Council Member Torres asked how long this was known about. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that it was about 2 weeks. Council Member Torres said that this was a shell game that has been going on for a long time and he was angry about how her staff has been withholding the information. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that she was offended by that accusation. Council Member Torres said that he had the floor. He said that he had no idea whether what she was saying was true. He wished to know why wasn't a special meeting called before the last second. Either way, the Council is being played as a fool.

Council Member Taylor-Moye thanked Ms. Kelly-Lenz and said that this would affect the City and its employees. The Council is supposed to be representing all the residents. She said that she was not going to vote against something that would harm the City. The Council Members know what is right and wrong.

Council Member Swain said that the reason for the TANs was much clearer to her now. She said that she did not remember the conversation that was recorded in the minutes.

Council Member L. Martinez said that she remembers the days when the Council was present until late at night. She said that she would like to respect everyone.

Council Member Halstead said that he appreciated the candor and passion but also thought that Ms. Kelly-Lenz had done her job.

Council Member Lyons said that she had not said too much during the conversation. One issue was due to the Council itself. Regarding the tax abatement when the people say they don't know where the funds are coming from. The Council should have more respect for the issues. She said that this obviously was a top priority.

Council Member Feliciano said that she wanted to state every time the Council is here, there are deadlines that have to be met. The Council needs to stop this. The Council Members are being asked to pass something like this without all the information.

Council Member Feliciano asked if Ms. Kelly-Lenz could provide the Council Members with the information for the need for borrowing. Council Member Feliciano said that half the time she didn't come to the meetings. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that she and Mr. Sherwood alternate attending the meetings.

Mayor Finch asked if a special meeting would be possible. Council President McCarthy said that a special meeting was possible, but once it is approved, then the Bond Counsel has to sell the bonds, which may take time. This is why the item is so important. He said that this request had followed the process and was not unusual. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that once they request to borrow, the City has to prove that they have a need for the funds. There is accountability for the money.

Council Member E. Martinez said she wanted to call the question. The Mayor announced that the vote would be on whether to reconsider Agenda Item 191-14.

**** THE MOTION TO RECONSIDER AGENDA ITEM 191-14 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES (TANS) TO PAY CURRENT EXPENSES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, TORRES, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, HALSTEAD, SWAIN, MCCARTHY, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, MARELLA, JACKSON, AND E. MARTINEZ) AND TWO (2) AGAINST (FELICIANO AND HOLLOWAY).**

The Mayor then stated that the next vote would be on Agenda Item 191-14.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 191-14 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES (TANS) TO PAY CURRENT EXPENSES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

Council Member Holloway said that the Council Members represent districts where the residents complain about their recycling not being picked up or going to the Tax Office and saying the line was too long. He repeated that this should have been brought to all the Council Members before the Council Meeting.

Council President McCarthy repeated that in the instance, a special meeting will not be possible because it needs to be approved on November 4th so the bonds could be sold in time.

Mayor Finch said that the Council had never turned down any of his requests for support. This issue of TANs has become mundane. He pointed out that Ms. Kelly-Lenz has worked very hard to improve the City's credit rating and reduce the debt. This apparently has become political issue. He said that he never brought anything to the City that wasn't in the best interest of the City. He added that Ms. Kelly-Lenz would be going into a bigger job because of her excellent job here in the City. There was apparently a mix up in understanding about the difference between the Budget and Finance. The budget is set, but this is just cash management. He urged the Council to keep this civil. Ms. Kelly-Lenz is trying to do the best for the City and to make sure the police, fire and various other employees receive their pay.

Council Member Halstead said that he did not think things were going that well in the City.

Council Member Feliciano said that she had one more comment. She did not think this was about the election. She repeated that the Council was uninformed and had nothing to do with the management. Council Member Feliciano asked if there was a way to reduce the spending to get to November 24th. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said that it would shut down the payroll. Council Member Feliciano said that she understood this, but wanted to know if there were other expenses that could be reduced. Ms. Kelly-Lenz said there wasn't.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 191-14 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES (TANS) TO PAY CURRENT EXPENSES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, TORRES, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, HALSTEAD, SWAIN, MCCARTHY, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, MARELLA, JACKSON, AND E. MARTINEZ) AND TWO (2) AGAINST (FELICIANO AND HOLLOWAY).**

Council President McCarthy then requested that the Mayor and the City Clerk come forward to be presented with certificates of appreciation. Council President McCarthy then presented Mayor Finch with a certificate of appreciation from the Council.

Council President McCarthy said that Ms Hudson had served for 44 years and had been the longest record of service in the State. He presented her with a certificate of appreciation from the Council and Assistant City Clerk; Frances Ortiz presented Ms. Hudson with flowers.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services