

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2016
6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President McCarthy called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:48 p.m.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Martinez called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Kathryn Bukovsky, Scott Burns
131st District: Jack O. Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District:
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter
136th District: Jose Casco, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Milta Feliciano
138th District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith
139th District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2016 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Budget Decision Making.

City Council members....you are in the midst of a difficult task....appraising City services to see whether budget appropriations for City wide services are reasonable and affordable to residents.

You are basically dependent on the City administration to provide you with all info to complete your Charter tasks including passing a Capital Budget and an Operating Budget. Since your

fiscal review and monitoring throughout the fiscal year is minimal, it puts pressure on your activity in this 30-40 day period and therefore on the data and reports produced for you by the City.

The taxpaying public is provided with NO useful CAPITAL BUDGET information though your APPROVAL of bonding projects worth \$40 Million will commit taxpayers to an increased debt load. What should you be receiving, reviewing in session and sharing with the taxpaying public in a collegial manner before you vote, indeed before last week's poorly attended Capital Budget hearing? What year round assistance should you calendar so as to receive information from which you can make good decisions? If you feel that you are in a pot that is on the fire once again this year, how will you provide for next year right away? Or will you cut your Legislative budget by 50-90% of your Other Services budget because you do not need it? Or cut your Stipends in a spirit of taxpayer understanding?

Why do you fail to review some City departments? When did such a decision get made and why? This year the budget writers have not wished to change the format for your ease in review. Fair enough. But did any of you note what has been removed that would have been helpful to your operating budget task?

For years now, there has been a one page chart that accompanies the Mayor's Transmittal Letter directly in front of Accounting Policies. No chart with employee totals was included this year yet there have been several significant reformations of department management and supervision, with some employment modifications. Are there more or fewer full time City employees within this year's proposed budget? Can you tell?

Aside from BOE flat-funding with which you may have to wrestle as the largest employee numbers are located in that budget. However, when you look at the Police Department (and the ten divisions separately enumerated) the total number showing is 478 Filled and 18 Vacant. You know that the listing is not accurate because the CT Post continues to show that the Department is down over 100 personnel! And we will not get to this number in FY 2017 either. Why is the Police Administration (Code 01250) missing from page 111 with no title or employment number detail for officers provided?

Why is all personnel data for the Appropriation Summary on Narcotics and Vice also missing?

Critically important to you, why was the format provided in the FY 2015-16 presentation that included: FTE 2015, FTE 2016, Vacant, New, and Unfilled not provided for 2017 your understanding when reviewing?

Did you notice on Page 118, at the top of the page where the Police Administration totals are posted, that City expenses jumped from Actual 2015 \$27,455,025 to budgeted 2016 \$40,342,055 (where we already have spent almost \$32 Million in nine months) and the Mayor is asking for FY 2017 \$53,590,904?? Overtime, Pension Plan Normal Cost, and MERS pension amortization plus retirement payouts from City contracts place us here. Did anyone who was on the City Council several years ago realize that the cost of moving Public Safety to MERS would hit the City as it has? Isn't now the time to review all alternatives or find other dollars to cut?

On Page 87 Other Personnel Services and Fringe Benefits in the Pensions/Benefits Department with no employees listed shows an increase of \$1,160,000 but there is no narrative, no goals and certainly no successes for this department listed.

What if the State revenues decrease from what was expected two weeks ago? What if you decide additional funds must go to the BOE? Alternatively has anyone asked what would happen to each Department if they had to reduce budgets by 10%? Cost cutting?

Economic Development to taxpayers is measured by a fair and just Grand List process. I direct your attention to the data in the Tax Assessor report on page 49. Are you prepared to explain the final column for 2015-16 to your constituents with the asterisks and negative increase of \$1.08 Billion?

We continue in a “red boot era”. Time will tell.

Jorge Cruz

Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Cruz came forward and expressed his concerns about the increase in heroin overdoses, and the increase in homelessness. He said that he had spoken with Representatives Gomes and Rosario about these issues and urged the Council Members to contact their Representatives regarding this.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President McCarthy adjourned the Public Speaking Portion of the Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2016
7:00 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

PRAYER

Council President McCarthy then requested Council Member McBride-Lee to lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Council President McCarthy then requested Mr. Ed Lavernoich, the newly appointed interim director of the Office of Economic Development, to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council President McCarthy announced that the Bridgeport Boys Choir would sing the National Anthem.

Mayor Ganim joined the meeting at 7:13 p.m. and assumed the role of Chair at that time.

Performance by the Bridgeport Boys Choir

The Bridgeport Boys Choir then performed three additional songs for those present.

Mayoral Proclamations and City Council Citations: Honoring the Bridgeport Boys Choir for the hard work of its members in improving their self-esteem, realizing their creative potential and transforming their community and lives through music.

Council President McCarthy then called the members of the Bridgeport Boys Choir forward to commend them on their work. Council President McCarthy presented everyone involved with certificates.

Mayor Ganim also read a Proclamation declaring April 18th Bridgeport Boys Choir Day and congratulated all the members of the choir.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Martinez called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Kathryn Bukovsky, Scott Burns
131st District: Jack O. Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: M. Evette Brantley
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter
136th District: Jose Casco, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Milta Feliciano
138th District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith
139th District: Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: February 29, 2016 (Special Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BUKOVSKY MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 29, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING.
** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.
** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 29, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE COMMITTEES:**

96-15 COMMUNICATION FROM HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RE: PROGRAM YEAR 42 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG), HOMELESS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM (HESG), HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM, HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS PROGRAM (HOPWA), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

97-15 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 134 LOGAN STREET TO ABUTTER AND REQUEST TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE SAME, REFERRED TO

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

98-15 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH RAFAEL FELICIANO, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

99-15 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LAWSUIT AND AGREEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH THE TOWN OF TRUMBULL, WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY, REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE OF MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS AND CONTRACTS.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***64-15 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Disposition of City-Owned Property located at 48 Trowel Street.**

***66-15 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Disposition of City-Owned Properties located within the Seaview Avenue Industrial Park.**

***90-15 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: (Ref. #55-14 & #29-15) Resolution Authorizing Capital Improvements and Allocation of Bond Proceeds for the Crescent Crossing Phase 1B.**

***54-15 Contracts Committee Report re: Assignment of Tax Liens for Fiscal Year 2016.**

***75-15 Contracts Committee Report re: Professional Services Agreement with Beacon Retiree Benefits Group, LLC.**

DELETED:

***90-15 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: (Ref. #55-14 & #29-15) Resolution Authorizing Capital Improvements and Allocation of Bond Proceeds for the Crescent Crossing Phase 1B.**

ADDED:

***90-15 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: (Ref. #55-14 & #29-15) Resolution Authorizing Capital Improvements and Allocation of Bond Proceeds for the Crescent Crossing Phase 1B, FOR REFERRAL TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

Mayor Ganim then asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Lyons requested that Agenda Item 64-15 be removed from the Consent Calendar.

City Clerk Martinez read the remaining items into the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

***66-15 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: DISPOSITION OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES LOCATED WITHIN THE SEAVIEW AVENUE INDUSTRIAL PARK.**

***90-15 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #55-14 & #29-15) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND ALLOCATION OF BOND PROCEEDS FOR THE CRESCENT CROSSING PHASE 1B.**

***54-15 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: ASSIGNMENT OF TAX LIENS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016.**

***75-15 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BEACON RETIREE BENEFITS GROUP, LLC.**

DELETED:

***90-15 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #55-14 & #29-15) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND ALLOCATION OF BOND PROCEEDS FOR THE CRESCENT CROSSING PHASE 1B.**

ADDED:

***90-15 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #55-14 & #29-15) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND ALLOCATION OF BOND PROCEEDS FOR THE CRESCENT CROSSING PHASE 1B, FOR REFERRAL TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***64-15 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report
re: Disposition of City-Owned Property located at 48 Trowel Street.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO SEND AGENDA ITEM *64-15
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE REPORT RE: DISPOSITION OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY
LOCATED AT 48 TROWEL STREET BACK TO COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Ganim said that it was a challenge to finalize the CDBG process for the administration but that there was still time to do so and the administration was working on selecting the Citizen's Union participants.

Council Member Martinez said that she appreciated the fact that the Mayor had a 5 p.m. Open Door Policy for any Council Member to come in to discuss City District business.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ADJOURN PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services