

**CITY of BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012  
6:30 PM**

**ATTENDANCE:** Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, Taylor-Moye, Olson, Brantley, T. McCarthy, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Blunt, dePara, Silva, Ayala, Martinez, Curwen, Baker, Holloway

**ABSENT:** Council members: Bonney, Colon, Paoletto

City Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:45 pm.

**ROLL CALL:** the city clerk took the roll call and she announced there was a quorum.

Council President McCarthy announced that there weren't any speakers that signed up to speak.

The public hearing session closed at 6:48 pm.

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012**

**7:00 PM**

**City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace**

**Bridgeport, Connecticut**

**ATTENDANCE:** Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, Taylor-Moye, Olson, Brantley, T. McCarthy, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Blunt, dePara, Silva, Ayala, Martinez, Curwen, Baker, Holloway

**ABSENT:** Council members: Bonney, Colon, Paoletto

Mayor Finch called the public speaking session to order at 7:10 pm.

Prayer - Council member Olson offered the prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance - Council member Brannelly led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call - the city clerk took the roll call and she announced there was a quorum.

Moment of Silence - Council President McCarthy requested a moment of silence for Council member Bonney's sister that passed away.

Council President McCarthy made the following announcements for the council members that weren't present:

Council member Paoletto had a last minute emergency

Council member Colon had a last minute commitment

Council member Bonney was out of town in Youngstown, Ohio to attend his sister's funeral.

Council member Brantley asked for a moment of silence for Whitney Houston who recently passed away. She expressed that Ms. Houston added a lot of splendor with her singing.

## ADDED: Addendum Items

City Council Citation: In Recognition of Alfredo Serrano for his Act of Heroism.

Council President McCarthy stated that many times in this city, the press only focuses on the bad things that go on. He recalled that Mr. Serrano witnessed a 78 year old woman being stabbed and no one stepped up to help her. He stopped the attack by covering her body and he took the wounds to his own body, which resulted in him saving her life – *the audience and entire city council gave Mr. Serrano a standing ovation to acknowledge his courage.*

Mayoral Proclamation: Presented to Alfredo Serrano for his Act of Heroism.

Mayor Finch expressed that he has seen Mr. Serrano around in the neighborhood and he was very proud of him – *he read the proclamation to honor Mr. Serrano's act of heroism.*

Mr. Serrano thanked the Mayor and the city council for the citation. He expressed that it wasn't fair for a 78 year old woman to be stabbed. He said he didn't do what he did for the recognition, but he did it because he thought it was the right thing to do!

Council President McCarthy made a request to hold a brief caucus.

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO HOLD A CAUCUS**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The city council members left council chambers for the purpose of holding a caucus at 7:15 pm.

The caucus ended at 7:50 pm.

Mayor Finch reconvened the meeting at 7:55 pm.

**ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:**

**03-11 (S)** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Amendment to Resolution #03-11 re: 2012-2014 Bridgeport Citizens' Union Committee slate as nominated by members on January 3, 2012, to appoint Efrain Ramos to fill vacant position in the 135<sup>th</sup> District, **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

Approval of City Council Minutes: January 17, 2012

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**53-11** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Consolidated Plan 2008-2013 PY 38 Annual Action Plan: Community Development Block Grant Program (CDGB), 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.

**54-11** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut DECD, Regional Brownfield Development Grant to be used for the Development of a Brownfield Geographic Information System (GIS), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**55-11** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut DECD, Regional Brownfield Development Grant to be used for Environmental Remediation and Site Work at 148 and 220 Waterview Avenue, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

- 56-11**      Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: 2011 Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.
- 57-11**      Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: 2012 United States Conference of Mayors' Dollar Wi\$e Innovation Grant Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 58-11**      Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: United States Soccer Foundation for the 2012 Soccer Foundation Annual Sports Lighting Grant Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 59-11**      Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: State Department of Social Services for Social Services Block Grant Extension for a six month period of April 2012 – September 2012, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 60-11**      Communication from Public Facilities re: Proposed Amendment to the Discovery Museum Lease Agreement, referred to Contracts Committee.

**\*\*                    COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

**\*\*                    COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**

**\*\*                    MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):**

Mayor Finch asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent calendar.

There were none heard.

The city clerk read the consent calendar items into the record:

- \*45-11        Contracts Committee Report re: Lease Agreement with United States of America, Federal Aviation Administration re: Lease No. DTFAEN-11-L-00095.
- \*47-11        Budget & Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Refund Certain General Obligation Bonds.
- \*48-11        Budget & Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of Tax Anticipation Notes to Pay Current Expenses and Obligations of the City (\$110,000,000).
- \*50-11        Budget & Appropriations Committee Report re: Budget Modification for FY 2011-2012 Civil Service Budget From: Advertising Budget Line 01070000-53705 (\$25,000) To: Management Services Line 01070000-56165 (\$25,000).

\*\*            **COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO APPROVE**

\*\*            **COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**

\*\*            **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:**

- 38-11        Contracts Committee Report re: Lease and Option to Purchase Agreement for 485 Howard Avenue to be used by the Police Department.

\*\*            **COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY MOVED TO TABLE TO THE FULL CITY COUNCIL**

Council member T. McCarthy withdrew the motion to allow Council member Holloway a personal privilege.

Council member Holloway recalled that years ago, he met Sadie Jones and her husband. Mr. & Mrs. Jones had two jobs for twenty plus years and they had a small house located on the east end. Unfortunately, Mr. Jones lost his part time and full time jobs due to the economy and the taxes on their house started rising. Eventually, Mr. Jones passed away and his wife was left with the household bills. One of the bills was for \$800.00 from WPCA and she was told by her neighbors that they also received a high tax bill. Mrs. Jones contacted WPCA and she was told that the bill consisted of the water that is flushed into

the sewer system. She made a choice not to pay the WPCA bill to pay her property taxes instead; but the taxes got too high and her house was foreclosed on. He clarified that his point was that if Mrs. Jones was unable to pay her taxes and her home was foreclosed on, then the rule should apply to everyone. He emphasized that whoever is in charge of the WPCA assesses the tax liens and then homes are subsequently foreclosed on. He questioned why the city should pay \$156k for a building that is worth \$750k. He said that was the reason he was looking to table the item.

Council member Brannelly stated that she understood that many people are facing difficulties paying their taxes and that there are foreclosures all over the country. However, she relayed that the police department employees deserve a decent place to work. She explained that the property in question scored the highest during the RFP process and the current owner of the property owes back taxes. She further clarified that the deal is that there won't be any deal until all the taxes are paid. She said she was looking to move forward with the property agreement. She said the agreement pertains to a lease with an option to purchase and the language will be tweaked before the agreement is in place. She stressed that no one is receiving a tax break.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY MOVED TO TABLE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

New business:

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO COMMITTEE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO REFER RE: PROPOSED  
SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF JERILYN  
SEDELNIK V. COB TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED (#61-11 OFF THE FLOOR)  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## ADJOURNMENT

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services