

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 26, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Finch called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

PRAYER

Reverend John Olson led those present in a short prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Silva led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Finch requested a moment of silence in memory of the victims of gun violence in the City.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Susan Brannelly, Martin McCarthy
131st District: Leticia Colon, Denise Taylor-Moye
132nd District: John Olson, M. Evette Brantley
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Richard Bonney, Warren Blunt
136th District: Carlos Silva, Angel dePara
137th District: Lydia Martinez, Manuel Ayala
138th District: Richard Paoletto, Robert Curwen
139th District: Andre Baker, James Holloway

A quorum was present. Council President Austin said that Council Member Austin was not able to attend due to a family emergency.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

97-11 Communication from Charter Revision Commission re: Final Report of the Charter Revision Commission dated July 23, 2012 for the purposes of receipt and final action pursuant to C.G.S. Section 7-19 (C) and (d), referred to Ordinance Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED AGENDA ITEM 97-11 COMMUNICATION FROM CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION RE: FINAL REPORT OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION DATED JULY 23, 2012 FOR THE PURPOSES OF RECEIPT AND FINAL ACTION PURSUANT TO C.G.S. SECTION 7-19 (C) AND (D), REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

***39-11 Joint Ordinance Committee and Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances amend Chapter 9.12 Offenses by or Against Children, Article I Curfew for Minors.**

Council Member Paoletto announced that there were some amendments to the ordinance.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 39-11 (THE CURFEW ORDINANCE) AS FOLLOWS:**

1. THE 3RD, 4TH, 6TH AND 7TH WHEREAS CLAUSES BE AND ARE AMENDED TO DELETE "AGE OF 16" AND INSERT IN ITS PLACE "AGE OF 18".

2. THE DEFINITION OF "MINOR OR JUVENILE IN SECTION 9.12.020 DEFINITIONS BE AND IS AMENDED TO READ "MINOR AND JUVENILES" MEANS ANY PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN (18) OR ANY PERSON SEVENTEEN (17) OR LESS YEARS OF AGE.

3. THE DOCUMENT BE AND IS AMENDED AS NECESSARY ELSEWHERE THROUGHOUT TO REFLECT THAT CURFEW APPLIES TO MINORS, DEFINED AS PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

Council Member Holloway said that when he was 16, he had a job and took a bus home every night from his job. He said that would be a parental issue. He said that the Council could pass all the laws that they would want but that the police department was not the ones to supervise the children. This is the job of the parents. Council Member Holloway then gave two examples where the laws were not enforced. He then asked why the Police Department should be put in jeopardy by picking up these kids. He said that he would not be voting for the ordinance unless there was a review of the law in six months. That is what should have happened to the first curfew law that was on the books.

Council Member Blunt said that he was willing to revisit this issue at a later date. He added that there were amendments to address the teens that were working. He added that the age had been adjusted to reflect the current State definition of a juvenile. Council Member Holloway replied that in this country, people on the street don't need I.D.s to be there. He said that the Council could do what they wanted, but he would not be voting for the ordinance.

Council President McCarthy said that he agreed with Council Member Holloway about it being the responsibility of the parents to know where their children are. He said that unfortunately, now it is not a perfect world and there are children who are in need. This is not about arresting children and putting them in jail. This is about getting the children in need the services they need. He said that there was a detailed plan that had been created by DCF, Rysap and other agencies along with the Council members. It is another tool in the toolbox. He added that it would be good to do a six month review. He thanked Council Member Blunt for all his hard work.

Council Member Brantley said that she was in favor of the curfew and would be voting for it. She said that when the officers encounter the teens, she would like to know that it was done with mutual respect. She said that she had requested that the Police Department come in and update the Council Members on the gang members. She pointed out that when she was young, not only did her parents know where she was, but so did the neighbors. However, last night there was an incident where the police stopped two teens and weapons were recovered. The police did not handle the situation well, and that needs to be addressed.

Council Member Martinez said that this was a tool that is being put in the parents' hands. She said that hopefully, this would help the parents. She pointed out that the DMV already has a curfew.

A roll call vote was requested.

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 39-11 PASSED WITH 16 IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, M. MCCARTHY, COLON, TAYLOR-MOYE, OLSON,**

BRANTLEY, T. MCCARTHY, LYONS, BONNEY, BLUNT, DEPARA, SILVA, AYALA, MARTINEZ, PAOLETTO, AND CURWEN); THREE AGAINST (VIZZO-PANICCIA, BAKER, AND HOLLOWAY) AND ONE ABSENT (AUSTIN).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BLUNT MOVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL WILL REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THEIR ORDINANCE AFTER IT HAS BEEN IN EFFECT FOR SIX (6) MONTHS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

Council Member Baker said that this was far beyond the simple issue being discussed and he appreciated Council Member Blunt's work in trying to make this work. However, there are many factors, such as a lack of funds, a boys club that is closed and not enough programs. There are many specialists that need to be consulted, so that the Council can be pro-active. Job training and workshops need to be done so that the City is safer for its youth. He said that he was not in favor, but would go along with a six month review.

Council Member Blunt then read the exact language that would be included in the amendment. Council Member Holloway said that he would second that.

**** THE MOTION TO HAVE THE CITY COUNCIL WILL REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THEIR ORDINANCE AFTER IT HAS BEEN IN EFFECT FOR SIX (6) MONTHS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO THEN MOVED THAT THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE BE AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS: "EFFECTIVE DATE: THE ORDINANCE WILL BE EFFECTIVE UPON PUBLICATION."**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION REGARDING THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE ORDINANCE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO THEN MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 39-11 (THE CURFEW ORDINANCE) AS AMENDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH 18 IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, M. MCCARTHY, COLON, TAYLOR-MOYE, OLSON, BRANTLEY, T. MCCARTHY, LYONS, BONNEY, BLUNT, DEPARA, SILVA, AYALA, MARTINEZ, PAOLETTO, CURWEN, BAKER, AND HOLLOWAY); ONE AGAINST (VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

City Clerk Hudson then read the remaining items on the consent calendar.

***68-11 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 5.12 Massage Establishments and Massage Therapists.**

***92-11 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: 2012-2013 Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant for Bridgeport Health and Nutrition Education.**

***95-11 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of CT DECD – City Canvas Grant Program.**

***96-11 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State Department of Social Services for 2012-2013 Retired Senior Volunteer Program.**

***103-11 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Social Services for the Elderly Health Screening Grant Program.**

***104-11 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: 2012-2017 State of Connecticut Department of Public Health STD/TB Grant Program.**

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

***68-11 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 5.12 MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS AND MASSAGE THERAPISTS.**

***92-11 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: 2012-2013 PREVENTIVE HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT FOR BRIDGEPORT HEALTH AND NUTRITION EDUCATION.**

***95-11 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CT DECD – CITY CANVAS GRANT PROGRAM.**

***96-11 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR 2012-2013 RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM.**

***103-11 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY HEALTH SCREENING GRANT PROGRAM.**

***104-11 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: 2012-2017 STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH STD/TB GRANT PROGRAM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE LISTED ITEMS AS THE CONSENT CALENDAR PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***101-11 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Proposal to Grant Easement for Transformer on property occupied by Cesar Batalla Elementary School to facilitate Clinton Commons Affordable Housing Project, 75-101 Clinton Avenue.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 101-11 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PROPOSAL TO GRANT EASEMENT FOR TRANSFORMER ON PROPERTY OCCUPIED BY CESAR BATALLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO FACILITATE CLINTON COMMONS AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT, 75-101 CLINTON AVENUE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***94-11(PHO) Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Proposal to Exchange Certain Properties with Kuchma Corporation located at 263 Golden Hill Street (Eisenhower Center and Cabaret Theatre), 285 Golden Hill Street (Landscape rest area) and 1208 Broad Street (vacant lot corner of Elm Street). (Request for Public Hearing)**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 94-11(PHO) ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PROPOSAL TO EXCHANGE CERTAIN PROPERTIES WITH KUCHMA CORPORATION LOCATED AT 263 GOLDEN HILL STREET (EISENHOWER CENTER AND CABARET THEATRE), 285 GOLDEN HILL STREET (LANDSCAPE REST AREA) AND 1208 BROAD STREET (VACANT LOT CORNER OF ELM STREET). (REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

Council Member Holloway then spoke about some of the actions by the City of Providence, R.I. but he had never seen a private entity do something like this. The senior citizens need to have access to the pool and the gym in the Eisenhower Center. He said that he wanted to make sure that the language was in there. Council Member Curwen said that he had had many conversations about this development. The City needs to grow the properties downtown. He then thanked Mr. Kuchma for the proposed development.

Council President McCarthy said that the advertisement for the public hearing would be on August 6th and when the publications notifications would be in the newspaper.

Council Member Colon said that she had requested Mr. Kuchma has been asked to have a special meeting with the community, and that it was clear that the seniors would have access to the pool and the gym.

Council Member Brantley said that she would echo what Council Member Colon said about what would happen with the seniors when the development goes in. She said that this was just for a public hearing and that she, Council Member Martinez and Council Member Colon had quizzed Mr. Kuchma about this. Council Member Holloway said that he had asked if there was going to be a health spa and was told that it would be a health spa. He then reiterated that it should not cost the seniors a dime. Council Member Brantley asked people to come to the committee meetings to ask their questions. . Council Member Brannelly said that she also echoed Council Member Brantley's comment and said that it would be important to speak to the co-chairs of the committee rather than taking the word of someone who called on the phone. Council Member Brannelly said that the Committee discussed this for about 3 hours.

Rev. Olson said that he was glad the Council cared so much about seniors

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 94-11(PHO) ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PROPOSAL TO EXCHANGE CERTAIN PROPERTIES WITH KUCHMA CORPORATION LOCATED AT 263 GOLDEN HILL STREET**

(EISENHOWER CENTER AND CABARET THEATRE), 285 GOLDEN HILL STREET (LANDSCAPE REST AREA) AND 1208 BROAD STREET (VACANT LOT CORNER OF ELM STREET) PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council President McCarthy thanked everyone for coming out for the special meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services