

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
CITY of BRIDGEPORT
MAY 2, 2011
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, Taylor-Moye, Brantley, Walsh, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, M. Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: A. Ayala, T. McCarthy, Austin, Blunt, Silva, Curwen

Majority Leader Council member Bonney called the public speaking session to order at 6:42 pm.

The city clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

Council member Bonney asked if there were any speakers to be heard
Hearing none

The public speaking session was closed at 6:44 pm.

**There weren't any speakers that previously signed up to address the city council, nor were there any persons present that requested to speak the night of the session.*

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, May 2, 2011

7:00 p.m.

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

ATTENDANCE: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, Taylor-Moye, Brantley, Walsh, Austin, Lyons Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, dePara, M. Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Curwen, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: A. Ayala. T. McCarthy, Blunt, Silva

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Prayer -the prayer was offered by Council member Brantley.

Pledge of Allegiance -the pledge was led by John a member of the AFL-CIO Labor Union

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

Mayoral Proclamation: Recognizing "The Words on Wheels Poetry Kids."

Mayor Finch approached the front of council chambers with Council member Bonney and the City Clerk Fleeta Hudson to present the proclamation.

Mayor Finch invited the youth and the leaders of the program forward to be recognized by the reading of the proclamation. He stated that it was the city's goal to become a cleaner Bridgeport for the betterment of the skies and air. He expressed that there was a poetry contest that students from local schools participated in. The contest was sponsored by General Electric and the Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority for grades 4 through 12. Each student submitted original poetry that was recited at the Poetry Slam on April 6, 2011 and out of two-hundred and thirty entries; forty-six entries were selected. *Mayor Finch read the proclamation and declared May 2, 2011 "Wheels on Poetry Day"!*

One of the teachers stated that all the students worked hard and she was proud of them. She further thanked GE and GBTA for sponsoring the contest.

Mayor Finch requested all the parents present to stand up to be recognized.

He expressed how important it is for parents to get involved in the student's school activities, noting that it helps them succeed. He thanked all the students for a great job done.

A group picture was taken and it was noted that a large majority of the poetry contestants were girls; it was noted that boys also participated.

Mayor Finch announced that Council President McCarthy and Council member A. Ayala were ill and not able to attend the meeting tonight.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: April 4, 2011

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES
** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS
TO COMMITTEES:
** COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH SECONDED**

- 69-10** Communication from Mayor re Reappointment of Peter J. Holecz (R) to the Harbor Commission referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 70-10** Communication from Mayor re Appointment of Susan Tabachnick (D) to the Stratfield Historic District Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 71-10** Communication from Mayor re Appointment of Susan Richter (R) to the Historic District Commission #1, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 72-10** Communication from Mayor re Appointment of Gail Stephen (D) as an alternate to the Historic District Commission #1, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 73-10** Communication from Human Services re Grant Submission: 2011 Neighborhood Assistance Act, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 74-10** Communication from OPED re Proposed Sales and Leasing Agreement with AMS Real Estate, LLC, referred to Contracts Committee.

- 75-10** Communication from Public Facilities re Parks Master Planning Services: MNB124105 (Professional Services Agreement) with Sasaki Associates, Inc., referred to Contracts Committee.
- 76-10** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re Grant Submission: State of Connecticut OPM – 2011 Municipal Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Grant Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 77-10** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re Grant Submission: State of Connecticut DEP – 2011 Funding for the Development of Public Open Space along the Pequonnock River and for the Improvement of Washington Park, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 78-10** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re Grant Submission: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration Ferry Boat Discretionary Grant, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- ** 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.

Council member Brannelly made a request to remove the following items:

- *43-10** Budget Committee Report re Five-Year Capital Plan for Fiscal Years 2012-2016 (as amended).
- *46-10** Budget Committee Report re Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects (\$64,655,000).

The city clerk read the remaining items into the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

- *20-10** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Disposition and Redevelopment of City Owned Properties located at 167 Steuben Street and 95 Gilmore Street former Waltersville School.
- *45-10** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: 2011 Medical Reserve Corps Grant.

- *63-10 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re Bridgeport City Council support of the collective bargaining rights of workers in the State of Wisconsin.
- *43-10 Budget Committee Report re Five-Year Capital Plan for Fiscal Years 2012-2016 (as amended). - *removed*
- *46-10 Budget Committee Report re Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects (\$64,655,000). - *removed*

** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Mayor returned to the consent calendar to take up the item that was removed *43-10 Budget Committee Report re Five-Year Capital Plan for Fiscal Years 2012-2016 (as amended).

** **COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO AMEND THE ITEM FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING TWO FEASIBILITY STUDIES TO BE CONDUCTED**

** **COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN**

****It was stated that each feasibility would cost \$200k each for a total of \$400k***

Council member Baker asked if for clarification if they were adding the east end library. Council member Curwen replied yes.

Council member Walsh asked why the libraries couldn't conduct the study at their own cost. He recalled that the city already gave them a special mill rate.

Council member Brannelly explained that the funds will come out of the libraries budget, but the items need to be approved out of the capital plan.

Council member Baker requested additional information regarding the items. He wanted to find out exactly where the money was coming from. Council member Curwen explained that the amounts requested were only for the purpose of the feasibility studies and not for bonding the actual projects. He further explained that the studies were required to determine the extent of the work to be done. He clarified that the feasibility studies would be done for the east end and east side libraries.

Council member Martinez expressed that the east end and east side have been waiting for a nice library for years. She thanked everyone involved in initiating the project.

** **MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND TWO VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS: BAKER and WALSH)**

** **COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM *43-10 Budget Committee Report re Five-Year Capital Plan for Fiscal Years 2012-2016 (as amended).**

** **COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH FIFTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH)**

***46-10** Budget Committee Report re Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects (\$64,655,000).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO AMEND FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING TWO PROJECTS FOR THE EAST END LIBRARY and THE EAST SIDE LIBRARY FEASIBILITY STUDIES AT A COST OF \$65,550,000.00**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND TWO VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS: BAKER and WALSH)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

Council member Walsh stated that he objected to the wording in the resolution. He said that every time the city council approves an item, they give away the power that is supported in the city charter. He emphasized that he had a problem with spending \$65 million when they cry poverty for other matters that plague the city. He felt it would be ill spent money for the city and for city employees. He stated that he would vote against the item.

Council member Baker felt the matter was equivalent to irresponsible spending from a financial standpoint for the City of Bridgeport.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND TWO VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS: BAKER and WALSH)**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

57-10 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re State Reimbursement of Low and Moderate Income Housing Tax.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia updated that the item passed in committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH FIFTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION (COUNCIL MEMBER M. AYALA)**

****It was stated that Council member M. Ayala also abstained from the vote during the Miscellaneous Matters Committee meeting.***

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED**

Council member Holloway asked if the item couldn't be added to the agenda through the regular process. Council member Paoletto said no. He explained that the item would be taken up during the Contracts Committee meeting scheduled next week.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER THE FOLLOWING
ITEM TO THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT
of AGREEMENT between the TOWN of STRATFORD and the CITY of
BRIDGEPORT and THEIR RESPECTIVE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
AUTHORITIES (ITEM # 79-10)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBR BRANNELLY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services