

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 10, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Finch asked Council Member Baker to lead those assembled in a prayer.

Council Member Walsh asked for a moment of silence for Wendall Randolph who died recently.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Finch asked Council Member Taylor Moye to lead those assembled in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Hudson called the roll. The following Council Members were present:

130th - Martin McCarthy
131st – Denise Taylor-Moye
132nd – M. Evette Brantley, Robert Walsh
133rd - Thomas McCarthy, Howard Austin
134th – AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Michelle Lyons
135th - Richard Bonney, Warren Blunt
136th - Angel dePara, Carlos Silva
137th - Lydia Martinez
138th - Robert Curwen, Richard Paoletto, Jr.
139th – Andre Baker, James Holloway

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

**56- 09 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re General Fund
Budget for Fiscal year 2010-2011 – Votes as follows**

Council Member Curwen made the following remarks:

Good evening, Mr. Mayor, members of the Bridgeport City Council, citizens of our great City.

Today I stand before you, as the speaker for the Budgets and Appropriations Committee. Six weeks ago, we embarked on a theme of consolidating departments and a smaller government. "Do more with less", which would produce cost savings.

- Balancing this budget relies on union concessions. The Budget is relying on union concessions or give backs and we urge the Mayor, his administration, and the unions to find a way to bridge this budget gap.*
- The City is anticipating the announcement from the State regarding the PILOT payments and other funding amounts.*
- With that, in this budget, we have made changes, consolidating senior services under Recreation, thus maximizing the resources for our seniors.*
- The health and medical benefits is an ever growing issue. Last year it was over \$92,000,000 and this year it is project to cost over \$100,000,000.*
- We have reduced utility and facility costs regarding the Health Department building and McLevy Hall, recommending that these be closed, the department relocated and moving towards one central governmental center.*
- Now is the time to enhance constituent services. The city will have to find creative ways of cost cutting. Taking the example of one stop permitting process that was incorporated between the Building Department, Engineering Department, Zoning Department and Fire Marshal's office, we now urge the City to apply this approach to the City Clerk, Town Clerk, Registrar of Voters and the Legislative Office, or wherever similar services would enhance cost savings, or constituent services.*
- This Committee and this Council have made investments in key department that will work thorough out the City to improve and strengthen the quality of our neighborhoods and the residents who live there.*
- The Council realizes that with the cost cutting and consolidation measure of service effort changes, there is a very real and unfortunate potential for personnel cuts. While it pains us to think that someone may be negatively affected by these changes, we hope to avoid this at all costs.*
- We encourage the administration to use modern technologies to improve the effective management. For example, the City Attorney's office has implemented a new program, Abacus, that has greatly enhanced the department. The introduction of the MUNIS system*

In the weeks and coming months, the Committee will continue to evaluate the various programs because in these economic times, it is incumbent on us to work.

Council Member Curwen then read a quote from the library ballot and stated that he did not believe that Bridgeport residents realized the effect this would have on the taxes.

Council Member dePara thanked the Committee members who showed up on a regular basis to provide the best possible budget that they could. Council member dePara said that the budget was a difficult one and hard decisions were made.

GENERAL FUND INCREASES.

Pursuant to the City Charter, the City Council shall have the power to increase any item in said budget or add new items to said budget only on a two thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the entire membership of the council.

56-09a – Budget and Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Revenue Increases

That there may be adjustments to the Mayor’s Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council’s Budget & Appropriations Committee.

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
<u>REVENUES</u>				
01250000 41512	RECLAIMED DOG	1,700	35,415	33,715
01250000 41650	PARKING VIOLATIONS	1,200,000	1,350,000	150,000
01350000 41675	BALLFIELD RENTAL	4,500	12,000	7,500
01450000 41641	PARKING REVENUES	<u>280,000</u>	<u>778,000</u>	<u>498,000</u>
	TOTAL REVENUE INCREASES	\$1,486,200	\$2,175,415	\$689,215

LEGISLATIVE INTENT REVENUE INCREASES

01250000 41512 The legislative intent is to recognize potential revenues through the inclusion of additional staff.

01250000 41650 The legislative intent is to recognize increased revenue due to changes in the outstanding parking violation collections.

01350000 41675 The legislative intent is to recognize increased revenue from the team fees for leagues.

01450000 41641 The legislative intent is to collect revenues by transferring the area garage to the state.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN THEN MOVED THE FOLLOWING:**

56-09a – Budget and Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Revenue Increases

That there may be adjustments to the Mayor’s Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council’s Budget & Appropriations Committee.

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
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01450000 41641	PARKING REVENUES	280,000	778,000	498,000
TOTAL REVENUE INCREASES		\$1,486,200	\$2,175,415	\$689,215

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**

Mayor Finch said that the Committee should be very proud of what they have achieved. This is the second year of spending cuts and last year, the City of Bridgeport was the only city that actually had a smaller budget than the previous year. He asked the Council Members to remember this as they vote. Because the City is so residential, the median income is \$36,000 a year. He said that Bridgeport’s fiscal conservatism was working and that because the fund balance was maintained the City still is able to borrow funds for capital projects.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

GENERAL FUND DECREASES

Pursuant to the City Charter, the City Council Budget & Appropriations Committee reports its changes to the Council as a whole in the form of budget amendment resolution. The City Council has the power to reduce or delete any item in the budget recommended by the Mayor by a majority vote of the council members present and voting.

56-09b – Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Revenue Decreases

That there may be adjustments to the Mayor’s Recommended Budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council’s Budget & Appropriations Committee.

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
<u>REVENUES</u>				
01040000 41693	Current Taxes: Real Estate	260,449,145	259,827,614	-621,521
	Total Revenue Decreases	\$260,449,145	\$259,827,614	-\$621,521

LEGISLATIVE INTENT REVENUE DECREASES

01040000 41693 The legislative intent of reducing this revenue item is to recognize the actions to net appropriations decreases and net revenue increases.

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

GENERAL FUND DECREASES

Pursuant to the City Charter, the City Council Budget & Appropriations Committee reports its changes to the Council as a whole in the form of budget amendment resolution. The City Council has the power to reduce or delete any item in the budget recommended by the Mayor by a majority vote of the council members present and voting.

56-09b – Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Revenue Decreases

That there may be adjustments to the Mayor’s Recommended Budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council’s Budget & Appropriations Committee.

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
<u>REVENUES</u>				
01040000 41693	Current Taxes: Real Estate	260,449,145	259,827,614	-621,521
	Total Revenue Decreases	\$260,449,145	\$259,827,614	-\$621,521

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

56-09c – Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Appropriation Increases

That there may be adjustments to the Mayor's Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council's Budget & Appropriations Committee.

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>				
01055000 4055EX	City Clerk Operational Expenses	24,610	27,010	2,400
01095000 6095SS	Legislative Services Special. Services	41,186	107,436	66,250
01258000 1250PS	Police Department Personal Services	2,783,163	2,816,878	33,715
01450000 1450PS	OPED Personal Services	1,312,541	1,361,532	48,991
01450000 3450FB	OPED Fringe Benefits	312,442	323,244	10,802
01552000 1552PS	Vital Statistics Personal Services	164,104	193,056	28,952
01552000 3552FB	Vital Statistics Fringe Benefits	38,365	47,042	8,677
01558000 6558SS	Lead Program Special Services	4,500	7,200	2,700
01351000 2577PS	Aging Personal Services		218,959	218,959
01351000 2577TPS	Aging Other Personal Services		43,799	43,799
01351000 3577FB	Aging Fringe Benefits		90,124	90,124
01351000 4577EX	Aging Operational Expenses		2,553	2,553
01351000 6351SS	Aging Special Services		3,980	3,980
Total Appropriations Increases		\$4,680,911	\$5,242,813	\$561,902

LEGISLATIVE INTENT APPROPRIATION INCREASES

01055000 4055EX The legislative intent is to increase equipment to replace the City Seal and Time Stamp machines.

01095000 6095SS The legislative intent is to provide an increase for Council auditing and professional services.

01258000 1250PS The legislative intent is to provide appropriate increase for one Assistant Animal Control Officer.

01450000 1450PS, 3450FB The legislative intent is to increase the personnel budget to moved the Relocation Coordinator and all applicable benefits from the social service budget.

01552000 1552PS, 3552FB The legislative intent is to add a Typist one position to Vital Statistics

01558000 6558SS The legislative intent is to increase special services so that the Lead program staff can calibrate equipment.

01351000 2577PS ,2577TPS, 3577FB, 4577EX , 6351SS The legislative intent is to unfund the Department on Aging in Health & Social Services account and combine as program with recreation in the Parks & Recreation budget.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM**

56-09c – Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Appropriation Increases

That there may be adjustments to the Mayor’s Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council’s Budget & Appropriations Committee.

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>				
01055000 4055EX	City Clerk Operational Expenses	24,610	27,010	2,400
01095000 6095SS	Legislative Services Special. Services	41,186	107,436	66,250
01258000 1250PS	Police Department Personal Services	2,783,163	2,816,878	33,715
01450000 1450PS	OPED Personal Services	1,312,541	1,361,532	48,991
01450000 3450FB	OPED Fringe Benefits	312,442	323,244	10,802
01552000 1552PS	Vital Statistics Personal Services	164,104	193,056	28,952
01552000 3552FB	Vital Statistics Fringe Benefits	38,365	47,042	8,677
01558000 6558SS	Lead Program Special Services	4,500	7,200	2,700
01351000 2577PS	Aging Personal Services		218,959	218,959
01351000 2577TPS	Aging Other Personal Services		43,799	43,799
01351000 3577FB	Aging Fringe Benefits		90,124	90,124
01351000 4577EX	Aging Operational Expenses		2,553	2,553
01351000 6351SS	Aging Special Services		3,980	3,980
Total Appropriations Increases		\$4,680,911	\$5,242,813	\$561,902

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

56-09d – Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Appropriation Increases

That there may be adjustments to the Mayor’s Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council’s Budget & Appropriations Committee.

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>				
01310000 431EX	Maintenance Operational Expense	\$4,355,000	\$4,280,00	-\$75,000
01577000 1577PS	Aging Personal Service	\$218,959		-\$218,959

01577000 257TPS Aging Other Personal Services	\$43,799		-\$43,799
01577000 3577FB Aging Fringe Benefits	\$90,124		- \$90,124
01577000 4577EX Aging Operational Expense	\$2,553		-\$2,553
01577000 6577SS Aging Special Services	\$3,980		-\$3,980
01585000 1585PS Social Services Personal Services	\$110,714	\$61,723	-\$48,991
01585000 3585FB Social Service Fringe Benefits	\$26,846	\$16,044	-\$10,802
Total Appropriations Decreases	\$4,851,975	\$4,357,757	-\$494,208

LEGISLATIVE INTENT APPROPRIATION DECREASES

01310000 431EX The legislative intent is to reduce electricity expense with the desire for the administration to relocate all divisions of the Health & Social Services Department out of 752 East Main Street.

01577000 1577PS, 257TPS, 3577FB, 4577EX, 6577SS The legislative intent is to unfund the Department on Aging in the Health & Social Services account and combine the program with recreation in the Parks & Recreation budget. This is a new organization in Parks and Rec.

01585000 1585PS, 3585FB The legislative intent is to decrease the personnel budget to move the Relocation Coordinator and all applicable benefits from the social service budget to OPED.

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

56-09d – Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Appropriation Increases

That there may be adjustments to the Mayor’s Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council’s Budget & Appropriations Committee.

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>				
01310000 431EX	Maintenance Operational Expense	\$4,355,000	\$4,280,00	-\$75,000
01577000 1577PS	Aging Personal Service	\$218,959		-\$218,959
01577000 257TPS	Aging Other Personal Services	\$43,799		-\$43,799
01577000 3577FB	Aging Fringe Benefits	\$90,124		- \$90,124
01577000 4577EX	Aging Operational Expense	\$2,553		-\$2,553
01577000 6577SS	Aging Special Services	\$3,980		-\$3,980
01585000 1585PS	Social Services Personal Services	\$110,714	\$61,723	-\$48,991
01585000 3585FB	Social Service Fringe Benefits	\$26,846	\$16,044	-\$10,802
	Total Appropriations Decreases	\$4,851,975	\$4,357,757	-\$494,208

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

56-09e – BAC Vote of REFERENDUM MANDATED LIBRARY TAX REVENUE

That there may be adjustments to the Mayor’s Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council’s Budget & Appropriations Committee.

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
<u>REVENUES</u>				
01040000 41694	One Mil Library Tax		6,723,003	6,723,003
	LIBRARY MANDATED REVENUE INCREASE		\$6,723,003	\$6,723,003

VOTER REFERENDUM MANDATE

01040000 41694 This increase revenue is to recognize as mandated by the result of a referendum ballot passed in the November 2009 election. The ballot question mandates that a one mil tax be levied to establish and maintain a free public library and reading room. This amount could not be determined until the budget is adopted and value of one mil determined.

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

56-09e – BAC Vote of REFERENDUM MANDATED LIBRARY TAX REVENUE

That there may be adjustments to the Mayor’s Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council’s Budget & Appropriations Committee.

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
<u>REVENUES</u>				
01040000 41694	One Mil Library Tax		6,723,003	6,723,003
	LIBRARY MANDATED REVENUE INCREASE		\$6,723,003	\$6,723,003

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**56-09f – BAC Vote of REFERENDUM MANDATED LIBRARY TAX
APPROPRIATION**

That there may be adjustments to the Mayor's Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council's Budget & Appropriations Committee.

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
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APPROPRIATIONS

01700000 6700SS Library Special Services			6,723,003	6,723,003
LIBRARY MANDATED APPROPRIATED INCREASE			\$6,723,003	\$6,723,003

VOTER REFERENDUM MANDATE

01700000 6700SS Per the November 2009 voter referendum mandate, one mil is levied and provided to the Libraries. The appropriation will be place in the Other Services line until a formal line item budget is delivered to the Director of Policy and Management by the Library Board.

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

56-09f – BAC Vote of REFERENDUM MANDATED LIBRARY TAX APPROPRIATION

That there may be adjustments to the Mayor's Proposed budget for general fund purposes as detailed by the City Council's Budget & Appropriations Committee.

ORG APPROP	DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED	CHANGE
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APPROPRIATIONS

01700000 6700SS Library Special Services			6,723,003	6,723,003
LIBRARY MANDATED APPROPRIATED INCREASE			\$6,723,003	\$6,723,003

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

g. General Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2010-2011 as amended

59-09g – Budget & Appropriations Committee Vote of General Fund Budget

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED THE FOLLOWING:**

OVERALL TOTAL

DESCRIPTION	MAYOR PROPOSED	COUNCIL ADOPTED INCREASES	COUNCIL ADOPTED DECREASES	COUNCIL ADOPTED BUDGET
<u>REVENUES</u>				
ALL OTHER GENERAL FUND	\$4,62,580,618	\$689,215	\$621,521	\$462,648,312
ONE MIL LIBRARY TAX		<u>6,723,003</u>		\$6,723,003
TOTAL COUNCIL ADOPTED REVENUES				\$469,371,315
<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>				
ALL OTHER GENERAL FUND	\$4,62,580,618	\$689,215	\$621,521	\$462,648,312
ONE MIL LIBRARY TAX		<u>6,723,003</u>		\$6,723,003
TOTAL COUNCIL ADOPTED APPROPRIATIONS				\$469,371,315
NET BUDGET SURPLUS/ (SHORTAGE)		127,313	127,313	

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

Council Member Walsh stated that he would be voting for the budget but wished to make a few comments. He praised the mayor for stating that he would not be accepting any increase in his salary. He then urged the Council members to go further than this by removing contract language that would mandate unaffiliated employees and permanent remove this. He applauded the Mayor for the reduction of take home cars, but added that all City vehicles should have the City Seal clearly displayed for transparency.

He then added that he disagreed with the Mayor about the Capital budget. He urged the Mayor to live by his own policy that he wanted the Council to live by in re-establishing the fund balance. There is still a 1.3 million dollar shortfall and there mostly be no increase in the fund balance, which will put the City in the same positions next year.

Council Member Walsh then stated that he felt that the Economic Development should be cut because there has been no economic development in Fairfield County. He said that he had recommended this to the Budget and Appropriation Committee. He went on to list other options such as a four day work week for City Hall. He also questioned the idea of having firefighters work overtime rather than having new hires.

Council Member Walsh then said that he felt that the Library referendum did not require the taxes to be raised, but for the funding to be set aside from the overall collection.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that as a point of clarification said that there was an error in stating the Total Appropriations. The mayor then stated the correct amount.

Council President McCarthy said that he was away for much of the budget process and was very impressed with all the hard work. He commended the co-chairs for organizing the budget process, He said that he agreed with Council member Walsh's statement that this was an awful budget. But Bridgeport finds a way to do it and maintaining the services. Aside from the Library, there will be no increase in taxes.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that as a member of the Budget & Appropriations Committee that she would like submit an updated list of items that were discussed.

Council Member Curwen then said that it has not been easy process and that this was the 11th year he had done this. There were countless hours that were put in by the Committee members that took them away from their families. He thanked Council Member Baker for showing up for every meeting and the other Council Members who attended when they could. He also thanked Mr. Sherwood for handling all the details.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE 59-09G – BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE VOTE OF GENERAL FUND BUDGET PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President McCarthy said that Council Manuel Ayala's brother had passed away and Council Member Andres Ayala was driving the family to the airport.

Mayor Finch said that he agreed with Council Member Walsh about the fact that the budget was balanced and if there were no union concessions there would be staff lay offs.

Council Member McCarthy asked for a moment of silence for Chris Caruso's mother, who has passed away recently. The Council Members then stood and observed a moment of silence.

Council Member Brantley said that there had been a number of losses, including Attorney Lyons who had passed away on Thursday. The Council Members then stood and observed a moment of silence in memory of Atty. Lyons.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Special Meeting
May 10, 2010
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