

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2013
6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, *Stafstrom, Banta, Taylor-Moye, Olson, *Brantley, T. McCarthy, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, Blunt, Silva, Ayala, Martinez, Marella, *Baker, Holloway

*= arrived after roll call

ABSENT: Council member: dePara

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:35 pm.

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

Council President McCarthy stated that Council member dePara wasn't in attendance due to illness and Council member Paoletto was running late due to car trouble.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MAY 6, 2013 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Ethan Book
144 Coleman Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Election Defect.

Council President McCarthy called the named person to come forward, the speaker wasn't present.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Fiscal Governance.

The named speaker presented the following statement to: Council President McCarthy, Council Members, neighbors and friends.

I speak to you often and ask questions that seem to require answers. It is pretty obvious from the general lack of response that you are fairly comfortable with the status quo in terms of your responsibilities as Council persons and the job you accomplish. Let's take a quick ride tonight. My time is short. Ride shotgun with me as we look at the two major things you have been elected to do:

- Review issues that come before you and create ordinances for public order and safety.
- Participate in the formation of the annual budget with your vote as an important element in the process:

Most of what ends up on your agenda comes from the administration. You know that I guess, although tonight you have an item proposed by two Council persons. The routine is that you are reactive and often are starved for good reliable and necessary information to guide you in your deliberations. But you are never in doubt as to what the administration wants. You are often rushed to judgment because of City pressure. You go along with it for the most part. I wait for you to pushback on occasion. It would be responsible of you to do so.

I know that on this ride you are looking through the front window. But to drive safely, you really need to look in the mirror to see what you have passed that may have an effect on your present position and direction. By this I mean you need more attention to the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the various reports and letters attached to it. You did not scratch the surface in your meeting this year, but you did meet on it.

In this regard, the monthly reports that are habitually late, a Charter violation that you put up with, and they inform you less than they did just one year ago. You know that if you have been looking at them, but if you have not, you have no idea of whether we are headed for another deficit again this year or not. Do you care? I hope you do, because I certainly do. Another year of expenses exceeding revenues weakens the City further.

What do I mean? You just received the February monthly on April 29. Last year we learned that a \$3,800,000 deficit was projected for year end. Do you see such a report summary from Finance this year? Why not? When you turn to the Revenue and Expense pages are there any pages indicating explanations for the variances? I don't see any. Why do you sit there and not ask for what you were receiving before? Why doesn't your president act on your behalf? Now what you do have this year is a report with boxes and cross hatching to make it easier to read the numbers in the columns and for the line items. But that is a small gain for what you have lost.

Did you ever receive a final copy of the June 2012 report coincident with the CAFR? Why not if you did not? How can you assure that the actual line items that were budgeted and spent in 2012 and then reported to you in this year's proposed budget are accurate? You can't. You have to assume. But if you were to receive all the reports, in a timely manner and review them consistently you would be able to see the excess overtime that police, fire and emergency office employees are racking up month after month. Maybe you would find a reason for it. Perhaps it has to do with the change of pension formulas that include

overtime in the State MERF plan?? Will the State return to assess us more funding in the future because our employees are getting greater payouts?

Do you know? Do you care? Why not get the basic tools to do the job expected of you as a vital part of our check and balance system? Time will tell.

The following persons signed up to speak prior to the Public Speaking Session:

Cecil Young

Mr. Young spoke about coming before the city council, not just to be heard, but to bring forth important issues. He mentioned the matter of him being denied benefits, noting that he still hasn't been compensated. He stated that he was a city employee for twenty-seven years and he requested once again that the matter be looked into. He relayed that he has respect for the city council; however, he is troubled that he doesn't receive the same respect. He repeated the matter of his unjust termination that he has been trying to get resolved for the last seven years. He mentioned the good deeds that Martin Luther King tried to accomplish for minorities and he expressed that he wants to be treated with respect as a taxpayer, homeowner and former city employee. He emphasized once again that he was tired of being treated like a n*****...Council President McCarthy interjected to ask Mr. Young to refrain from using that word. Mr. Young clarified that he's not a racist and that he has respect for Council President McCarthy, but he doesn't like being treated like a n*****.

Amos Brown

Mr. Brown stated that he has been paying attention to what's going on in Bridgeport. He spoke about cameras that he thought should be installed at specific hot spots in Bridgeport to monitor crime. He said he felt they would have some control over gang related activity. He stated that if they don't get the gun bill passed, then guns will be easily purchased over the Internet. He went on to say that he didn't feel it was right that people have to move out of the city due to lack of employment and he suggested some ways that the city could save money. He clarified that he not only speaks for the youth in Bridgeport, but for the youth in other cities also.

Clyde Nicholson

Mr. Nicholson mentioned the contamination at Harding High School. He said he hoped the matter would be rectified for future generations. He went on to speak about the ban on assault weapons. He mentioned other issues that he thought were plaguing Bridgeport; such as the snow plowing issue. He questioned why the citizens are forced to pay for everything as taxpayers, noting that he didn't think a second city hall was necessary. He said it isn't fair to the taxpayers, senior citizens or homeless persons who can't afford much. He further questioned when the time comes that "we" as people get a tax break. He stated that the schools are in poor condition and the school system is failing. He further mentioned the problem with the Board of Education and the Mayor being in control of what

goes on in the city. He emphasized that it was time for the citizens to stand up and say it's enough!

George Mintz
86 Ridgebrook Drive
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Juneteenth Parade/City Government Fair.

This speaker was called to come forward at the beginning of the Public Speaking Session but he wasn't present. When he arrived late, he addressed the city council as follows:

Mr. Mintz spoke about the Juneteenth celebration of freedom in America that is held during the month of June. He stated that he has worked with the Bridgeport public school system to expose students to the event and he has sponsored small scholarships for students. He expressed that the day is a celebration of emancipation and to honor leaders in the past that were instrumental during emancipation. He noted that for the 2012 celebration, descendents of Frederick Douglas, William Garrison and Prudence Grandow who operated the first school in Connecticut during 1833 for "*colored girls*". He said this year there will be a parade with marshals from different areas in Fairfield County that he hoped would be memorable and that will encourage people to patronize local businesses. He mentioned that he would like members of the council to march in the parade and he also asked them to consider making a donation to cover parade expenses for security etc. He noted that he left information with the city clerk regarding the parade and contact information. He concluded and stated that the middle schools and high school bands would be well represented at the parade. He thanked the city council for their consideration.

The public speaking session closed at 7:05 pm.

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2013

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, Stafstrom, Banta, Taylor-Moye, Olson, Brantley, T. McCarthy, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, Blunt, Silva, Ayala, Martinez, Marella, Baker

ABSENT: Council member: dePara

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

Prayer - Council member Lyons offered the prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance - George Estrada led the pledge of allegiance.

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

Moment of Silence

Council President McCarthy requested a moment of silence for the 2-year old (Corey) that was recently hit by a car. He expressed that he is still struggling to recover at Yale Hospital and he asked that everyone send their good vibes and prayers to the family.

City Council Citation: In Recognition of The University of Bridgeport Women's Gymnastics Team for winning their 5th National Championship in a row.

Council President McCarthy stated that the city council always tries to extend a citation to a person or group that does good things in Bridgeport. He expressed that tonight they wanted to acknowledge the The University of Bridgeport Women's Gymnastics Team on their 5th National Championship. He asked the team members present to come forward to be congratulated.

The following council members came forward to present the citation to the team: Council member Banta, Bonney, Taylor-Moye.

Council President recognized the team coaches for their leadership to the team for the last three years. He mentioned that only half of the team was present tonight, due to final exams going on. However, he expressed that the entire team was being honored- *he read the names of all team members and the members that were present came forward to accept their citation.*

The proclamation was read on behalf of the entire city council with their sincerest congratulations on the 5th championship.

Coach Kevin Byron thanked the city council for the citation and for their support during the last five consecutive wins.

Council President McCarthy expressed that the city council and the city of Bridgeport were proud of what the team does and how they represent the state and the country. He wished them continued success.

A group picture was taken with the team, coaches and the entire city council.

Council President McCarthy called for a caucus at 7:25 pm.

The caucus ended at 7:55 pm.

Council President McCarthy reconvened the meeting at 8:00 pm.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: April 1, 2013

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

- ** **COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO COMBINE AND REFER COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES and RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:**
 - ** **COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED**
- 64-12** Communication from WPCA re: WPCA'S Fiscal 2013-2014 Proposed Budget, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**
- 65-12** Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re: Proposed Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim with Wilmer Carde, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 66-12** Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re: Proposed Agreement with United Healthcare Insurance Company to provide Medicare-D Prescription Drug Benefits for Medicare-Eligible Police and Fire Retirees for the period of January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 67-12** Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re: Proposed Agreement with Joseph G. Pulitano Insurance Agency, Inc. to market Long-Term Insurance to Employees and Retirees of the City and Board of Education for the period of May 15, 2013 – December 31, 2014, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 68-12** Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Andrea L. Townsend (D) to the Ethics Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 69-12** Communication from OPED re: Proposed Request for the Discontinuance of a Portion of School Street as a part of the Black Rock Elementary School Expansion Project, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

- 70-12** Communication from Health & Social Services re: Grant Submission: 2013 Neighborhood Assistance Act, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 71-12** Communication from OPED re: (Ref. #151-11) Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Disposition of Property located at 1163 and 1149 Main Street in the Downtown North Redevelopment Area and Ordering a Public Hearing relative to the same, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 72-12** Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution concerning the Disposition of Properties in the Jayson-Newfield Block in the Downtown North Redevelopment Area and Authorizing a Tax Incentive Agreement in support of the Jayson-Newfield Block's Historic Renovation and Redevelopment as a Mixed-Use Residential, Retail and Commercial Complex and Ordering a Public Hearing relative to the same, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 74-12** Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution concerning the Lease Agreement with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation re: I-95 Rights of Way Properties at the Intersection of South and Myrtle Avenues for Roosevelt School Construction, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 75-12** Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Theresa Timpanelli, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 76-12** Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for the Rehabilitation of Augustana Homes at 525 Palisade Avenue, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:

- 73-12** Resolution presented by Council Members Banta and Taylor-Moye re: Request that a Streetlight be Installed on Utility Pole #3117 located in front of 57-59 Milne Street, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia requested to remove item *44-12

Mayor Finch asked the city clerk to read the consent calendar. The consent calendar was read by the city clerk.

***44-12** Joint Committee on Ordinances and Public Safety & Transportation Report re: (Ref. #39-11) Informational Session Meeting to Review Chapter 9.12 Offenses by or Against Children, Article I Curfew for Minors Ordinance. – *removed from consent calendar*

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED**

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia stated that the item was pulled from the consent calendar for the purpose of thanking the Ordinance Committee, Public Safety & Transportation Committee and Council member Blunt for the time they put in addressing the curfew and for receiving updates from the Chief of Police Gaudet and Sergeant Dickerson. Overall, she said they received a general consensus that the curfew was being well received by the community.

Council member Lyons thanked the Ordinance Committee and Public Safety & Transportation Committee for their work addressing the matter. She stated that the matter will be reviewed again in six months to gauge how well the ordinance has taken its place. She also thanked the police department for submitting the updated reports.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***35-12** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Land Acquisition Agreement for a Portion of the General Electric Property located on Boston Avenue for the purpose of constructing a new high school.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked for details about the land acquisition, in terms of the funding source and the exact location of the school. She stated that she wanted to ensure that all was accounted for in the budget.

Mayor Finch responded and said that the new high school will be multiple times more efficient and in line with environmental design standards for lighting and lower heating bills. In terms of the location, he said the location was determined to be the most efficient use of the land and it was felt that taxation would be higher and better use at this location. He mentioned further details that will be included, such as the river that will be restored with significant green space along the river. He added that the use will be situated in the middle of the property, but he wasn't sure what the other property uses would be yet. However, he said the city was actively working with General Electric to determine that and the matter will be debated for a while with all parties involved and agreed upon.

Council member Brantley stated that there was much discussion where the school would be located. And the property was determined to be the best site that will include athletic sports tracks. She stated the location of the school won't pose any significant problems to

the residents in the area. She said there will be several environmental tests conducted to look at the site for contaminants that must be cleared away before any construction is done. And there will also be a public hearing scheduled. She commented that the committee is looking forward to the school being built due to the need in the area. She urged everyone to attend the public hearing and she emphasized that the safety of the children is their primary concern.

Mayor Finch stated that they didn't find any safety concerns whatsoever. He recalled that they lost funding twice in the past and the students have been located at temporary sites for a while and he would like to move forward to place the students permanently.

Council President McCarthy concurred that the students deserve a new school and he said the project was fully supported by him as a great thing for the city.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the surrounding neighbors and senior housing residence has been informed about the project. She explained that she asked the question due to the night sport games that will be held and potential problems that lighting may cause. She further relayed that she hoped the Board of Education would keep the old school name.

Mayor Finch stated that Connecticut has the most restrictive brown field regulations that he felt were too stringent. He said the regulations are being looked at for modification to allow more development in the city. He thanked General Electric for donating the land to the city.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia said she hoped they could market the other land portion to get the best rates and to also obtain some compensation from the non-profits that may go in.

Council member Lyons stated that letters would go out to the abutting neighbors to make them aware of the project. She relayed that many issues were reviewed and discussed to ensure that the project is constructed with good insight.

Council member Martinez stated that she was pleased the kids on the east side were being represented at Harding. She expressed that she was glad that General Electric donated the land for building the school. She further noted that the current school is in bad shape. She said it's also a good project, because the students and their families can now stay in the community. Overall, she said she was happy with the notification to the parents and students and she didn't feel the project would pose any impact to the residents of the area.

Council member Brantley reiterated that notices would go out to the community. She said she was sure that there wouldn't be any impact to the residents in the area. She thanked General Electric for donating the land. She further commented that there may be a name change of the school, but they are still in discussion about that. Mayor Finch stated that the suggestion of naming the school the Barack Obama High School would be a great motivator for the students. Council member Olson agreed that it was time for a name change.

Council member Olson commented that he hoped some of the major non-profits in the city would stand up to recognize that the city spends a great deal of money for their services.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Other business:

Mayor Finch announced that on Tuesday, May 7 at 10:00 am at Curiale School; the city would be accepting a check from Scotts Miracle Gro.

Council President announced that Council member dePara was absent due to illness.

New business:

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE STATE TAX ABATEMENT REIMBURSEMENT (ITEM # 64-12)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

Kelly Lenz addressed the city council to explain that the item pertained to a 4-year Master Assistance Agreement by and between The State of Connecticut and City of Bridgeport. Re: DECD Project Name: Seaview Gardens/Union Village. She briefly explained the basis of the abatement, noting that the matter was time sensitive because the state is setting their budget. She stated that there is no out of pocket expense to the city and the reimbursement is for the benefit of the residents.

It was stated that the following council members would abstain from the vote: Council members: Brantley, Olson, Ayala and Paoletto.

Council member Olson commented that he had an issue with items coming forward for approval at the eleventh hour.

Mayor Finch clarified that abstaining from a vote should only apply if there is a financial conflict of interest. Council President McCarthy clarified that if a family member of a council member has a financial interest, then an abstention should apply.

- ** MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND FOUR ABSTENTIONS (COUNCIL MEMBERS: BRANTLEY, OLSON, AYALA, PAOLETTO)**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 43-12 THE PROPOSED BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS REPORT FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN (CP) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014-2018 (AS AMENDED)**

Council member Brannelly gave a brief update regarding the item.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED**

*Council member Stafstrom stated he would abstain from voting on the Land Acquisition portion of the report.

- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- Council member Brannelly gave a brief update about her visit to the cell fuel energy plant.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services