

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2013
6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, Stafstrom, Banta, T. McCarthy, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, dePara, Silva, Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: Taylor-Moye, Brantley, Austin, Blunt, Marella

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:30 pm.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2013 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME	SUBJECT
Marilyn Middlemass 119 Hickory Street Bridgeport, CT 06610	Parking on East Main Street, alongside Beardsley Park.

The following statement was read during the Public Speaking Session:

Good Evening Members of the City Council. My name is Marilyn Middlemass. I reside at 119 Hickory Street, about a block and a half from the entrance to Beardsley Park.

For the past two years, particularly on Saturdays and Sundays, I have noticed a vast amount of vehicles parked on the shoulder on East Main Street. The shoulder I am referring to is alongside Beardsley Park. This stretch of highway is notoriously known as "dead man's curve". Through the years, there have been many fatal and near fatal crashes.

On Saturday, June 1st, my husband and I went out for a ride on our motorbikes. He is an experienced motorcycle rider, and I, a "new" scooter rider. We headed out of Bridgeport towards Trumbull on Route 127(point B). As we rounded the curve near Evers Street, we couldn't help but notice all the vehicles parked on both sides of the street and on the side street, Beverly Place (area 1). At Beverly Place, adults and children were attempting to cross the busy and cramped highway. Later, when my husband and I had stopped to take a break, we both commented that what we had seen East Main Street earlier, was "an accident waiting to happen".

We enjoyed our ride that afternoon and started to head home taking same route back. As we approached Bridgeport from Trumbull on Route 127(point A), most of the vehicles we saw earlier were still there. The only difference was traffic was now backed up and moving slowly. As we approached the area circled, between area 1 and 2 we saw there was an accident that had just occurred maybe 10 to 15 minutes earlier. (Police were on the scene).

In my motorcycle safety course, which I just recently completed, we are told that there are many factors present in the cause of the accident. While I am not aware of ALL the factors involved on June 1st, I know of at least one that could have been a contributing factor. That factor is that the parked cars limited the space and visibility on the road that day. In my class, we also talk about a “margin of safety”. I know I felt that I only had a small “margin of safety” while on that stretch of road (area 1) that day.

I like to have fun and enjoy myself as much as the next person. The question is “At what cost to all concerned?” The people who are illegally parking on that road are not only getting a “free day at the park”, literally, but they are also making that roadway unsafe for vehicles and pedestrians.

After making numerous complaints to the police, park police, and the council members who live in the area, I am here to plead with you all, do the right thing in this matter. See to it that the laws regarding parking on the shoulder of a roadway are enforced. Make sure that the city is reaping the rewards of people actually having to park inside the park. And most importantly, please do this so that we can limit the factors that contribute to the amount of accidents that continue to occur in this area. The next accident could easily be you or someone in your family.

**map was attached to the statement.*

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Fiscal Governance and Hungry Citizens.

The following statement was read during the Public Speaking Session:

Only in Bridgeport.....NOT!!

"I'm not so much a small government person as I am a good accountable responsible government person. A lot of blame belongs to the city council and the taxpayers who allowed one person to run everything with no checks and balances and take their money. The purpose of the article was to raise awareness amongst taxpayers..... and encourage you to start participating in your own city, town, school district activities. Hold politicians accountable Fiscal mismanagement is

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negligence. Fraud is a crime. In many of these cases it's hard to draw the line between stupidity and criminal complicity. I make no excuses for either of the most consistent criticisms made....(with) inspections reports of the auditors is their lack of professional skepticism. Tough to be professionally skeptical when you don't know what the hell the executives are talking about or how to get independent, objective information. "June 2013.

Does this sound too familiar? Are you wondering when I wrote this and where it was published? Well how about a tip of the hat and some applause for Francine McKenna, a contributing writer to Forbes magazine regarding a municipal bond scam in the town of Dixon. These are her recent comments in the online edition answering other readers.

What are the Bridgeport connections?

- **Strong Mayor form of government and City Council (CC) made up of all one party "allows one person to run everything".**
- **With 25% of CC directly employed by the City they "take their money" and do not understand the concept of conflict of interest and ignore Charter language based on a single legal opinion expressed so often it has become unchallenged.**
- **"With no checks and balances" or at least by ignoring and operating in conflict with the many that have been set out in ordinances and in the Charter, the taxpayers have allowed their City governance to be hijacked.**
- **Politicians are elected and re-elected who themselves are not accountable for their decisions. They have not been held accountable for their failures.**
- **Fiscal mismanagement is allowed to continue with failure to provide oversight.**
- **And writers on OIB have trouble understanding whether the actions of this administration are objective signs of "stupidity" or "criminal complicity".**
- **When Boards or Commissions or Council Committees fail to ask for or receive "independent objective information" when necessary, no one in the community is capable of knowing whether to trust results or just ignore and hope for the best. Where is the "professional skepticism" of the media, of taxpayers, of the auditors who have been instructed not to respond to mere taxpayers of Bridgeport?**

We, in Bridgeport are not alone in our governance mess and the potential for bankruptcy and/or revelations of felonies. Keep in mind those three standards I have raised ad nauseam for the past several years: OPEN, ACCOUNTABLE and TRANSPARENT and advise your Council and Board representatives of what they need to call for and accomplish to get us closer to those objectives. Time will tell.

John Marshall Lee (June 13 2013)

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

Cecil Young

Mr. Young spoke about the potholes not being filled on the east end of Bridgeport and the issue of homeowner's homes being taken away for not paying taxes. He mentioned this in reference to a driveways project where \$400k was spent. He stated that he was thankful for the Connecticut Post article on getting the word out about what's going in the city. He further questioned when some money is going to be spent to repair potholes throughout the city; particularly on Union Avenue. He emphasized that the city council and the Mayor need to start looking out for the residents, their concerns and the problems they face. He said the \$400k spent should be retrieved and put back to benefit the taxpayers. He stressed that it's a shame and disgrace that the people aren't being represented properly.

Clyde Nicholson

Mr. Nicholson thanked Cecil Young and John Marshall Lee for their comments. He said he was here tonight regarding the need for a police presence in P.T. Barnum, Marina Village and and the Greens Apartments, just as it was in the past in Father Panik Village. He mentioned the killings that have occurred and he agreed with Cecil Young about the \$400k that was spent on a driveways project. He questioned how much more can be done to poor folks before something is done. He strongly voiced his belief that God is looking down and "we" need to be careful; straighten up and fly right. He expressed that it's time for wrong to stop being wrong and that the \$400k spent should be spent on the issues that many residents are facing, such as taxes, joblessness, crime etc.

The public speaking session closed at 7:00 pm.

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2013

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

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

ABSENT: Council members: Taylor-Moye

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Prayer - Council member Baker offered the prayer.

Moment of Silence - Council President McCarthy asked for a moment of silence for Barbara Martire; a long-time employee and friend who recently passed away. He expressed that she was a tireless advocate of school crossing safety.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council members Marella and Vizzo-Paniccia.

Mayor Finch stated that Bridgeport was the only city in the state that has its own drum and bugle corp.

The Park City Pride Combined Drum and Bugle Corps played a song.

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

Council President Announcement - It was stated that Council member Taylor-Moye recently got out of the hospital and was unable to attend tonight.

Mayoral Proclamation: The Park City Pride Combined Drum and Bugle Corps in Recognition of their Tenth Anniversary Season of Nationally Recognized Musical and Marching Performance Excellence.

John Donovan, Director came forward to acknowledge the proclamation.

Mayor Finch, Council President McCarthy and Council members Bonney, dePara, Paoletto and Martinez approached to present the citation. Council members Marella and Vizzo-Paniccia also came forward as members of the Park City Pride Combined Drum and Bugle Corps.

Mayor Finch expressed that he was proud of each and every one. He repeated that they are the only Drum and Bugle Corps in Connecticut – *the proclamation was read and June 17, 2013 was proclaimed as Drum & Bugle Corps Day in the City of Bridgeport.*

City Council Citation: The Park City Pride Combined Drum and Bugle Corps in Recognition of their Tenth Anniversary Season of Nationally Recognized Musical and Marching Performance Excellence.

Council President McCarthy stated that when the corps began ten years ago, he was inspired when he saw them march in the parade. He recalled the massive crowds that surround the Drum and Bugle Corps when they play – *the citation was read highlighting The Park City Pride Combined Drum and Bugle Corps accomplishments through the years.*

John Donovan expressed that it has been ten years that they have performed in the city. He expressed and recognized the spirit of all those that have contributed to the success of the corps.

A beautiful medley of songs was played by the Drum and Bugle Corps.

- 45-12** Public Hearing re: Disposition of Property Located at 1136, 1144, 1148-50, 1154-56 and 1160-62 Main Street (“The Preservation Block”) and Authorizing a Partial Tax Abatement in support of the Preservation Block’s Historic Renovation and Redevelopment as a Mixed-Use Residential, Retail and Commercial Complex.

Mayor Finch asked if there was anyone to speak for or against the item.
Hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

- 71-12** Public Hearing re: (Ref. #151-11) Disposition of Property Located at 1163 and 1149 Main Street in the Downtown North Redevelopment Area.

Mayor Finch asked if there was anyone to speak for or against the item.
Hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

- 72-12** Public Hearing re: 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.

Mayor Finch asked if there was anyone to speak for or against the item.

John Marshall Lee asked if there was any information available regarding these public hearings. Mayor Finch stated that if anyone would like more details regarding the items, they could refer to back issues of the Connecticut Post or contact the Office of Planning and Economic Development.

Hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: May 20, 2013

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

*Council President McCarthy called for a caucus at 7:25 pm.
The caucus ended at 8:15 pm.*

Mayor Finch reconvened the meeting at 8:16 pm.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

- 99-12** Communication from City Attorney re: Twenty Day Notice to Settle Pending Litigation Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130: Victor Foster, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**
- 100-12** Communication from City Attorney re: Twenty Day Notice to Settle Pending Litigation Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130: Marisol Cubero, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**
- 101-12** Communication from City Attorney re: Twenty Day Notice to Settle Pending Litigation Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130: Martha Valencia, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**
- 102-12** Communication from Tax Assessor re: Proposed Agreement with Vision Government Solutions, Inc. for the Reappraisal and Revaluation of Taxable, Real and Exempt Property Located within the corporate limits of the City, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 103-12** Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Margot Reynolds (U) to the Food Policy Council, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

- 104-12 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Esperina Baptiste (U) to the Food Policy Council, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 105-12 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Christine Stafstrom (D) to the Food Policy Council, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 106-12 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Fred Kaskowitz (D) to the Food Policy Council, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 107-12 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Audrey M. Barr (D) to the Food Policy Council, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 109-12 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Releasing the City's Rights of Reversion over certain Properties and Authorizing the City to Accept a Donation of Property to further Redevelopment of the East End, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

** **COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**
 ** **COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**
 ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

- 108-12 Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: (Ref. #103-11) Grant Submission: re State Of Connecticut Department of Aging for Elderly Health Screening Grant. **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

Council President McCarthy explained that there was a request to add this item to the agenda for immediate consideration. The request was due to the name of the agency being changed on the form by the State of Connecticut; considered a minor change.

** **COUNCIL PRESIDENT MOVED TO WAIVE THE REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE**
 ** **COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED**
 ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

** **COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE**
 ** **COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED**
 ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council member dePara asked for details of the contract. Ms. McGoldrick, Central Grants gave a brief explanation and stated that the reason for immediate consideration was due to the expiration date of the contract.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

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

Council member Stafstrom requested to remove item ***95-12** Budget & Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Refund Certain General Obligation Bonds.

The city clerk read the remaining consent calendar items into the record.

***66-12** Contracts Committee Report re: 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.

***67-12** Contracts Committee Report re: 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.

***78-12** Budget & Appropriations Committee Report re: Municipal Suspense Tax Book.

***95-12** Budget & Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Refund Certain General Obligation Bonds. - *removed*

***96-12(PHO)** Budget & Appropriations Committee Report re: Public Hearing Ordered for July 1, 2013: Approval of Revenue Bonds concerning the Jewish Home Project, Series 2013.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Finch returned to the consent calendar item ***95-12** Budget & Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Refund Certain General Obligation Bonds.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED**

Council member Stafstrom stated that he would abstain from voting on the item.

Council member Holloway questioned why Council member Stafstrom removed the item from the consent calendar. Council member Stafstrom clarified that the item needed to be

removed from the consent calendar so that he could abstain from the vote. Council member Holloway explained that he just needed to abstain from the vote before the item was carried for a vote.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION (COUNCIL MEMBER STAFSTROM)**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

68-12 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Andrea L. Townsend (D) to the Ethics Commission.

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

New business:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ORDERING A PUBLIC HEARING**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING RE: ITEM 69-12 FOOD COUNCIL POLICY ON JULY 1, 2013**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Council member Vizzo-Paniccia requested that any information regarding the Food Council Policy be forwarded to her by the city clerk.

General announcements:

Council President McCarthy announced that there will only be one meeting held during the months of July and August.

Council member Olson asked for a personal privilege. He stated that reputations could potentially be damaged from the Mayor to the city council members regarding the truth from legislative bodies and the claim of gross malfeasance that is allegedly claimed by the public, per their comments and concerns.

Mayor Finch responded that this is a serious issue and it is being investigated. He urged everyone to support the investigative process. He stated that as soon as they gather all the information, the matter will be commented on and any necessary action will be taken.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services