

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, MAY 19, 2014
6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, Torres, Taylor-Moye, Halstead, Swain, Austin, Paoletto

ABSENT: Council members: Banta, McCarthy, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, McBride-Lee, Salter, DeJesus, Castillo, Martinez, Feliciano, Marella, Martinez-Walker, Holloway

President Pro Tempore Taylor-Moye called the public speaking session to order at 6:35 pm.

Pro Tempore Taylor-Moye announced that each speaker would have 5-minutes to address the council members that were present.

**There was no quorum of the city council.*

**=quorum not required to conduct the public speaking forum.*

Please go to [www. SoundviewTV.org/Bridgeport](http://www.SoundviewTV.org/Bridgeport) to view or listen to the detailed comments that the speakers below addressed to the City Council on May 19, 2014.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014 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

Stipends for the City Council Members

Mr. Book's comments regarding stipends for the City Council members are highlighted below:

- Stipends pertaining to Council members Taylor-Moye and Banta from the 131st district. It was stated that this matter pertained to council related business used for personal consumption.
- He alleged criminal larceny, embezzlement and criminal conspiracy - *various Connecticut statutes were cited and read pertaining to the matter.*
- He questioned who authorized, what he alleges were "schemes".
- He questioned how to deal with these issues if they're not addressed by the city council.

Mr. Book stated that the council members should stay tuned for future follow up.

❖ *Statement may be submitted to the city clerk's office – or go to www.SoundviewTV.org/Bridgeport to view or listen to the detailed comments*

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Council Member Torres speaking about unjust termination

Mr. Young stated that it was a shame and disgrace that issues that are brought forward aren't highlighted more in the media. He stressed that the public shouldn't have to constantly ask what is being done with taxpayer dollars. He said he would like to see the stipends that are received by the council members used to give back to the community.

He went on to commend Council member Torres for bringing his issue forward regarding his unjust termination. He repeated that it was a shame that taxpayers are constantly being ignored. He mentioned the matter of many residents not being able to maintain payment of high property taxes. He said that he hoped the new Assistant City Attorney will be more effective addressing public concerns. He questioned why whistle blowers aren't responded to and he strongly emphasized that the Council President and council members should take the time to respond to residents concerns. He questioned where all the council members were tonight. He stressed that we're all tax abiding citizens and he commended those council members who do stand up to the Mayor to voice their opinions regarding the betterment of residents in the city.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Stipends

Comments to City Council – Stipends: a review is due by you (5-19-14)

Ordinance – Stipends are considered reimbursements for expenses incurred while pursuing your duties.....The big picture as you approved budget items this year.....

- 50% of Stipend funds in past two years have not been spent by the 20 Council persons....
- And during the past few years less than 10% of Other Services line item has been spent, legally or illegally by the Council members....
- That has left you with some \$150,000 as potential reductions to save taxpayers tax payments and you have failed to do so. Why?
- Just about 100% of revenues that the City has received have been spent by this administration.....so your failure to trim your line items shows your wonderful cooperation with the administration.....rather than with your fellow taxpayers.

Do you find those troublesome words? Are they harsh on your ears? I am sorry but things are not as easy in many homes or businesses as they are in City Hall obviously. When a question is asked of me in my business, I must supply an answer. A handful of you have on occasion come forward to ask a question of me. That is good. I know there is some listening going on. But as for the rest of

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you, when the curtain comes down, as it is likely to do, there is no place for you to hide. What do I mean by that?

Ordinance update.....Do any of you realize that on September 25, 2012 #22-11 Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.06 Common Council, amend Section 2.06.040 Reimbursement of Council Member's Expenses (stipends) was addressed? Council Member Curwen moved to Table. Council President McCarthy seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ordinance members present to vote were Paoletto, Marty McCarthy, Curwen, Bonney, and Blunt. The last four are no longer part of the Council. Non-Ordinance members in attendance were Brannelly and Council President McCarthy. In addition past members de Para and Olson were present.

So the matter has been TABLED for nearly two years.

- While a new UNAUTHORIZED system is in place.
- With Debit cards that provide funds before they are expended
- And a reporting system that does not require a statement of purpose for the expenditure by the Council member
- And the newer system does not integrate expenditures for travel, hotel, meals away from home, etc. on trips to municipal meetings.
- And the system seems to therefore be treating all expenses as non-taxable whereas that was not the conclusion of previous operating legal opinion
- And individual Council persons have exceeded the \$9,000 ceiling in recent years although that could not happen in a healthy reimbursement program
- And the past Council member who moved to table 22-11 twenty months ago left the Council with over \$2,000 owed to the program from such an overage. Has it been returned?
- Do you care about voter funds at all?

And a close look at more than one set of reimbursements over a year provide no reasonable assurance that such stipend provided by a debit card transaction is reimbursing a Council expense. A debit card user signs an acknowledgement that funds cannot be used for charitable or political purpose, but your report does not make it obvious that it is not for personal use either. Why not? Will you clean up this poorly operating mechanism? Whether you are using this or not personally, the public needs to be clear that Council behavior is OPEN, ACCOUNTABLE and TRANSPARENT. Step up and put the item on the Ordinance Committee agenda and eliminate my comments about your negative behavior in taking care of business. Someone may have already referred this to the IRS. The Feds have much more authority, power and interest in securing every last tax dollar that is due than I do. Clean up your act, please, and do so quickly. Time will tell.

John Marshall Lee

- ❖ *The following speaker signed up to address the city council prior to the public speaking session: Statement may be submitted to the city clerk's office – or go to [www. SoundviewTV.org/Bridgeport](http://www.SoundviewTV.org/Bridgeport) to view or listen to the detailed comments*

Mario Cardeno spoke on behalf of the Connecticut Air & Space Center. He recalled that he was told by Council President McCarthy that if the item was on the agenda tonight he would be allowed to speak about item *58-13 Hangar Lease Agreement that was on the agenda tonight under Matters to be Acted Upon (Consent Calendar). City Attorney Anastasi advised Pro Tempore Taylor-Moye who relayed that the public doesn't have the right to participate during a regular city council meeting unless the full city council body takes a vote to allow it. He clarified that the speaker would need to address the city council during the public speaking forum. He further stated that there was some miscommunication and he explained that if there was a city council public speaking session scheduled, then the speaker would be allowed to address the city council.

Mr. Cardeno stated that he would continue and address the council during the public speaking forum. He mentioned how much they have accomplished on Sniffens Lane in Stratford. He referred to the hangar lease agreement that began during 2011. He stated that a restoration specialist performed the repairs and learned restoration techniques, noting that the Corsair is now situated on the landing gear and the enormous engine is ready to be installed. He expressed that they had dedicated volunteers that participated in fundraisers and sold t-shirts at Captain's Cove. He mentioned that they applied for a block grant and to date has received a \$60k grant and they are still soliciting grants for the project. He relayed that they moved many yards of rubbish from the hangar area and cleaned it up a second time. He mentioned that the number of people working on the project has done so without pay and the twenty (20) dedicated volunteers have worked on the project for three years. He relayed that a term of 2 ½ years was agreed upon for the hangar lease and now that they are at the final step, they were told that the city wants to review the project in five years, to address the matter related to whether or not the city will pay the utilities. He further relayed that the project will result in a museum quality fully restored hangar. He commented that he hoped the Mayor and the City Council would have more respect to reconsider the lease that was agreed upon long ago. He concluded and extended an invitation to the city council members to tour the facility to fully understand what the Connecticut Air & Space Center is all about.

Hearing none, the public speaking forum ended.

The public speaking session ended at 7:00 pm.

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 19, 2014

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, Torres, Taylor-Moye, Halstead, Swain, Austin, Vizzo-Paniccia, Salter, Marella, Paoletto, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: Banta, McCarthy, Lyons, McBride-Lee, DeJesus, Castillo, Martinez, Feliciano, Martinez-Walker

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

Prayer - Council member Marella offered the prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance - Council member Salter led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call - the City Clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: April 21, 2014

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

87-13 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Marian Evans, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

- 88-13** Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Maura Crossin (D) to the Port Authority Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

- 89-13** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) 2014 Lead Safe for Kids Sake Grant Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

- 90-13** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: United States Environmental Protection Agency Targeted Brownfield Assessment (TBA) Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

- 91-13** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Housing's (DOH) Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Tranche 1-Application for Public Facilities, Infrastructure and Planning, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

- 92-13** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) for Water Quality Bio-filtration and Best Management Practices Implementation at Beardsley Zoo, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

- 93-13** Communication from Tax Collector re: Municipal Suspense Tax Book, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED**

Council member Torres referred to item 87-13 and stated that it seemed the situation related to a liability issue as it pertained to this item. City Attorney Anastasi clarified that the item was amended and the litigation issue was only against the City of Bridgeport at this time with no named individual defendants.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH TEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES)**

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

- 94-13** Resolution presented by Council Members Banta and Taylor-Moye re: Proposed Request that Gregory Street be given the Honorary Designation of Bishop J.C. White Boulevard by adding his name above the street Signage

on the Corner of Gregory and Lafayette Streets, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***58-13** Contracts Committee Report re: Hangar Lease Agreement with the Connecticut Aerospace Hall of Fame and Museum, Inc. for the Location of the Connecticut Air & Space Center at Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport.

***84-13** Contracts Committee Report re: Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation.

***85-13** Contracts Committee Report re: Resolution to Authorize and Approve the Transfer of Title from the State of Connecticut to the City for Water Street between Stratford Avenue and State Street in Furtherance of the City's Downtown Intermodal Streetscape Project.

***55-13** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Disposition and Redevelopment of City-Owned Property Located at 143 Fifth Street.

***56-13** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Disposition and Redevelopment of City-Owned Properties to Habitat for Humanity.

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

Council member Austin removed item *58-13 Contracts Committee Report re: Hangar Lease Agreement with the Connecticut Aerospace Hall of Fame and Museum, Inc. for the Location of the Connecticut Air & Space Center at Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport.

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

Council member Halstead asked if the item pertained to a property transfer. The city engineer Jon Urquidi responded that the item was solely for the building itself and all the roadways will still be state owned and mandated.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH TEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION
*(COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY)**

****abstention stated due to being a Public Facilities Department employee.***

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN MOVED TO REFER ITEM *58-13 Contracts Committee Report re: Hangar Lease Agreement with the Connecticut Aerospace Hall of Fame and Museum, Inc. for the Location of the Connecticut Air & Space Center at Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport. BACK TO THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF NEGOTIATING THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Finch called for a 10-minute recess for the purpose of taking up the matter of re: CDBG/HUD presentation by the city attorney. It was stated that the council members would be required to sign exclusions related to the matter.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO RECESS**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting recessed at 7:15 pm.

The recess ended at 7:30 pm.

Mayor Finch reconvened the meeting at 7:30 pm.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AND REFERRING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED TO REFER RE: CITY TO DELIVER SERVICES FROM THAT LOCATION THAT THE CITY ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) AS PART OF THE BIDDING PROCESS THAT REFLECTS THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB MISSION SO THAT THE SITE CONTINUES TO PROVIDE**

**FOR THE SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, PHYSICAL AND MORAL BETTERMENT OF
BRIDGEPORT'S GIRLS AND BOYS**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (ITEM # 95-13)**

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services