

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION  
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2014  
6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, Torres, Banta, Taylor-Moye, Halstead, McCarthy, McBride-Lee, Salter, DeJesus, Martinez, Paoletto, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: Swain, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Feliciano, Marella, Martinez-Walker

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:40 pm.

*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 June 2, 2014.*

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2014 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>
<b>Ethan Book</b> 144 Coleman Street Bridgeport, CT 06604	City Council Stipends, conflicts of interest and Legislative Department "Other Services"

*Mr. Book's comments are highlighted below:*

- Stipends and alleged misuse among council members.
- Conflicts of interest, per the Ordinance. He stated that four council members (McCarthy, Paoletto, Holloway and Feliciano) voted for the budget and alleged that this exceeded lawful authority.
- Comments regarding governmental conspiracy.
- Mr. Book demanded that Council President McCarthy relinquish what he felt were overlapping roles for the good of public interest.

❖ *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*

*The following speaker wasn't on the agenda and signed up to address the city council prior to the public speaking forum:*

**David Goodman**  
746 Harral Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Goodman stated taxes have been raised, people are losing businesses and jobs; yet thousands were spent on constructing a driveway in Stratford and the administration has hired new people. He stressed that he doesn't see any council members in the community. He said he had a big problem with the Labor Board in Hartford that our tax dollars go to, noting that there are problems with WPCA contracts. He questioned why everything is so hush hush in the city. He emphasized that property taxes have been raised and it's not fair for those on a fixed income, noting that most people in the city pay some type of tax, whether they are homeowners, renters or pay property tax. He also questioned why children aren't given the right education. He stressed the matter pertained to equal opportunity in the city and not a matter of race. He said they need to fix the inner circle problems and the public schools should be receiving more than what they are currently receiving. He further questioned whether police officers make enough to risk getting shot or stabbed and he commented that he didn't think so; yet the city can't give contractors their proper share of contracts.

**John Marshall Lee**

### **City Council Comments: June 2, 2014**

Good evening Council President McCarthy, elected representatives of the people and Bridgeport citizens and friends.....

I believe that most of you at some time or other in your career in school studied the structures, the processes and the way we govern ourselves municipally. Along the way I am willing to bet that you heard the term: "checks and balance", indeed it may have appeared on a quiz or test, it is that basic.

As you proceeded from school to an occupation and established your own life and residence, perhaps you may have thought about checks and balance in reference to our system of municipal governance. Where do you see it existing today? Is it healthy and robust? Or has it been steadily dismantled, compromised, and limited to the advantage of one or more parties in power? And, since you represent citizen-taxpayers, how is it working out for them, to have their voices heard, their causes addressed and practical solutions enacted? Where does the City Council stand in the creative tension of checks and balance?

Here in Bridgeport I see very little checking and no balancing whatsoever, in my opinion. You have seen some good City workers terminated and several years later after hearings and legal expenses you have had to vote for taxpayer dollars paid from somewhere unbudgeted, to provide a settlement

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to them. In fact you have such a situation on your agenda tonight. Other workers have been terminated and their positions abolished making the City less able to deal with risk management or the Council less able to perform its tasks. Two positions that come to immediate mind are Internal Auditor and Legislative Assistant(s).

If you have read the City Charter you will realize that you have two responsibilities: you make the regulations that cover many City activities that are called Ordinances. You also are a vital part of the budget process. But what if you pass an Ordinance and one or more parts of it are not carried out? What then? Do you have a duty to review Ordinances on a regular basis and monitor your legislation? Has that been happening? I can assure you that the Purchasing Ordinances that are more than ten years old identified duties including annual reporting and triennial audits to the City Internal Auditor. Those duties have not been performed since you made the law. How can that happen? And budgets once passed, do you have any responsibility for oversight, monitoring, being aware of what is happening or not?? The public assumes so, but Budget and Appropriations Committee is not performing at that level, if measured solely by the two most familiar documents: the monthly financial reports and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). How many of you have seen any purchasing reports in the past three years? What might they tell you that might inform you to ask good questions and expect comprehensive responses from the administration? Would you believe that three areas: WPCA, Construction Management Services and Grants (excluding the BOE) total nearly \$200 Million over the past three years? Do you know that you are provided no reports on those expenditures after approving them initially? Why not?

First you may be surprised to find that the City spends closer to \$700 Million each year than the \$500 Million of the operating budget. That happens because there is a good deal of borrowed and grant money in excess of routine operational items paid for by taxpayers. At some point they cross your desk in a rushed fashion, with less data than many wish, but very little opposition as would happen if you believed in your “check and balance” responsibilities.

You represent those who voted for you in a much larger way than you imagine today. You are community stewards. You are part of divided governing powers, the executive and the legislative, and if you fail then the community fails along with you, when you fail to check in order to assure that balance is the outcome. You have a duty to protect our citizens: the ones who work as city employees, different classes of citizens like the young with their future ahead of them needing good preparation as well as those who are older and need some assistance as life gets complicated with changes they face. Finally, you need to face the reality of City taxpayers whose incomes if increasing are not doing so net of inflation on their real purchases including rising property taxes. We are counting on you to exert your power. Time will tell.

John Marshall Lee

*The following speaker wasn't on the agenda and signed up to address the city council prior to the public speaking forum:*

**Cecil C. Young**  
99 Carroll Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Mr. Young thanked Council member Torres for passing his information on to the city council and the city attorney's office regarding his unjust termination. He stressed that he had a right to be respected and due process. He questioned what he had to do to get the matter resolved, noting that he worked for the city for twenty-seven years. He recalled that the information indicated that he was terminated for not coming to work, but he was adamant that he was at work on March 16, 2006 and he had a doctor's note to indicate that. He requested that the council look at the information was submitted and act accordingly and justly. He questioned why his rights aren't being honored and he further stressed that the matter wasn't about black or white, but about right and wrong. He stated that the city council should practice what they preach and he felt his rights are still being violated just as they were for people during slavery. He expressed that it's a new day and he's not walking away from this rights being violated.

Hearing none, the public speaking forum ended.

The public speaking session ended at 7:00 pm.

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2014**

**7:00 PM**

**City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace**

**Bridgeport, Connecticut**

**ATTENDANCE:** Council members: Brannelly, Torres, Banta, Taylor-Moye, Halstead, Swain, McCarthy, Lyons, McBride-Lee, Salter, DeJesus, Castillo, Martinez, Feliciano, Marella, Paoletto, Martinez-Walker, Holloway

**ABSENT:** Council members: Austin, Vizzo-Paniccia

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm.

Prayer - Council member Martinez-Walker offered the prayer.

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

Moment of Silence - Mayor Finch asked for a moment of silence for two former city employees: Para Rosario and Bob Petro who recently passed away.

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

**United Way Presentation:** re Collective Impact

Mayor Finch introduced Rina Bakalar, Consultant for the United Way Collective Impact Initiative.

Ms. Bakalar highlighted aspects of the Collective Impact Initiative. She stated that the initiative was gearing up in Bridgeport. She referred to the folder that was distributed that

contained some basic information launching the initiative in Bridgeport – *she stated that anyone that is interested; could contact her to engage in a discussion and learn more.*

She went on to say that the initiative will be an opportunity for the community leaders, neighbors, residents, parents, faith leaders etc. to come together and build a civic infrastructure for children and families. The initiative will involve identifying a select group of outcomes from cradle to career that will position people for success. Those involved in the initiative have agreed how to measure progress from year to year and everyone has been engaged to roll up their sleeves to accomplish that outcome and align efforts for improvement, noting that it will be done until the goals are met. She further stated that this is a national movement that began in Cincinnati and it has been a framework model that is evidenced based and has been proven when agreed outcomes for the children are met. She added that the United Way Collective Impact Initiative will support development of: staffing, funding and technical resources. She urged more discussion if anyone is interested in getting involved to please contact her.

#### Council President Appointment of a Special Committee for Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Approval

Council President McCarthy explained the rationale regarding this item. He stated that HUD changed the rules regarding conflict of interest. He recalled that the previous format was messy and cumbersome. He further stated that they couldn't get a quorum to approve the funding due to conflicts of interest among some of the council members. So outside counsel advised the administration and they recommended that they create a one-time special committee for the purpose of voting on the PY 40 -CDBG Funding Allocations.

Council President stated that the following council members will serve on the Special Committee:

- Council member Banta; Co-chair
- Council member DeJesus; Co-chair
- Council member Austin
- Council member Brannelly
- Council member Paoletto
- Council member Salter
- Council member Castillo

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED**

Council President McCarthy clarified that only the following council members would be authorized to vote, noting that all other council members must abstain:

- Council members: Brannelly, Torres, McCarthy, Austin, Banta, Swain, DeJesus, Salter, Halstead, Holloway, Castillo, Paoletto.

A roll call vote was taken.

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**MOTION PASSED WITH NINE VOTES IN FAVOR AND TWO VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS: TORRES AND HALSTEAD)**

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

Approval of City Council Minutes: May 5, 2014

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Personal Privilege – Council member Torres requested. He questioned the opinion from City Attorney Anastasi of whether the nine (9) votes made a majority vote, to question if it was a valid vote for those council members that recused. City Attorney Anastasi clarified that they need a majority of the quorum, not the entire city council body. And there were nine (9) votes which constitutes a legal vote. He further clarified that an abstention is not considered to be recused, because the council members who didn't vote; weren't allowed to vote due to the conflict of interest.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

- 98-13** Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Tania Mayen (D) to the Harbor Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 99-13** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: KaBOOM! Community Partner Playground Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 100-13** Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re: Proposed Professional Services Agreement with Behavioral Health Consultants, LLC for EAP Services, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 101-13** Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re: Proposed Agreement with PMA Management Corporation of New England (PMAMCNE) for Third Party Claims Administrative Services Pertaining to the Workers' Compensation Program for the City and Board of Education, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 102-13** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: FY 2012 U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency Port Security City of Stamford Grant Subrecipient Agreement, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**103-13** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency Port Security Grant Program, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES CONTINUED:**

**104-13** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Division of Emergency and Homeland Security State Homeland Security Grant Program, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**106-13** Communication from Superintendent of Schools re: Grant Submission: Proposed Resolution for the Creation of a Replacement Roofing Project at Thomas Hooker School, referred to Education and Social Services Committee.

**107-13** Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Rosa J. Correa (R) to the Planning & Zoning Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

**108-13** Communication from Finance Department re: Proposed Professional Services Agreement with Blum Shapiro Consulting, LLC for the Purpose of Conducting an Examination of the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Statements, referred to Contracts Committee.

**109-13** Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for the Security Building in Downtown North, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**\*\* 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 Torres requested to remove item **\*87-13** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Marian Evans.

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

- \*69-13(PHO) Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Public Hearing Ordered for June 16, 2014: re Disposition of City-Owned Property Located at 38 Luther Street.
- \*75-13 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Transportation for Dial-A-Ride Municipal Matching Grant Program for the Elderly.
- \*76-13 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: FY 2013 Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for Public Health Program.
- \*77-13 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: 2014 Neighborhood Assistance Act.
- \*78-13(PHO) Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Public Hearing Ordered for June 16, 2014: re Disposition of City-Owned Property Located at 63 Waldorf Avenue to Habitat for Humanity.
- \*82-13 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services for Tobacco Retailer Education and Inspection Program.
- \*87-13 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Marian Evans. - *removed*
- \*88-13 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Maura Crossin (D) to the Port Authority Commission.
- \*86-13 Education and Social Services Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Education for 2014 Early Childhood Bond Funds.

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

\*\* **COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

\*\* **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Finch returned to item \*87-13 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Marian Evans

\*\* **COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN MOVED TO APPROVE**

\*\* **COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED**

It was stated that the council would need to enter into executive session to discuss details of the litigation. *It was noted that Attorney Betsy Edwards and City Attorney Anastasi would attend the executive session.*

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH FIFTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND TWO VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS: PAOLETTO, HOLLOWAY)**

***Note: Council member Martinez stepped away during this vote, therefore her vote to enter into executive session wasn't recorded.***

The city council entered into executive session at 7:50 pm.

*Council member Holloway left the meeting before the executive session ended at 8:00pm.*

The city council came out of executive session at 8:15 pm.

Mayor Finch reconvened the meeting at 8:18 pm.

He returned to **ITEM\*87-13** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Marian Evans.

A roll call vote was taken.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND TWO VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS: TORRES AND HALSTEAD)**

***\*Let it be noted that Council member Holloway left the meeting before the vote was taken, therefore his vote wasn't recorded.***

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

**96-13** Resolution presented by Council Members Martinez and Feliciano re: Proposed Request for the Installation of Two Signs designating "15 Minute Parking" Adjacent to 1001 East Main Street, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

**97-13** Resolution presented by Council Members Martinez and Feliciano re: Proposed Request to designate Pleasant Street as a "One Way Street" with Appropriate Signage placed at the Entrance of Street, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO REFER RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:**

**105-13** Communication from Mayor re: Setting of the Mill Rate for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND TWO VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS: TORRES, LYONS)**

Announcement – Council President McCarthy that it was Council member Martinez-Walker’s birthday this past weekend – *the entire council sang Happy Birthday!*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services