

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2014
6:30 PM**

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

ABSENT: Council members: Austin, Vizzo-Paniccia, Castillo, Marella,

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 16, 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	Institutionalized interagency governmental conspiracy.
Ethan Book wasn't in attendance to address the city council.	
Cecil C. Young 99 Carroll Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06607	Update on unjust termination of documents Councilman Torres gave to the Council.

Mr. Young thanked Council member Torres for following up on the information regarding his unjust termination, noting that he replied based on the evidence that was submitted to the city attorney's office. He went on to speak about the city council members taking an oath to do the right thing, noting that they were elected to respond to the public's concerns. He expressed that he loved the city, but he was troubled that to this day; he hasn't had a response regarding his unjust termination. He relayed that eighteen of the twenty council members agreed that he shouldn't be discriminated against as a former city employee for twenty-seven years. He mentioned that he's 64 years old and he believes that justice should be honored. He said he was troubled as a taxpayer and felt that he deserves a response whether they agree or not. He added that if it's found that the city wasn't justified in terminating him, then it should be stated that he's owed compensation. He recalled once again that he was at work on March 6, 2006 and he's distressed that this

fact hasn't been acknowledged – *he urged those that are interested in learning more about his complaint to go to www.cecilyoung.com*. He ended in saying that he would like the matter further investigated and that someone should tell him something.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City finances and “Sports Teams”.

City Council Comments: June 16, 2014

BOB – CITY COUNCIL- June 16, 2014

Sport is important to Bridgeporters as participants, as viewers, as business, and as a source of positive inspiration. Sport can provide many lessons, or ‘take-aways’, for those who pay attention. Tonight in Bridgeport as a matter of fact, a few moments from now, baseball legend Pete Rose, will appear as guest manager for the Bluefish.

You know that the Spurs chilled the Heat in five games to end the NBA season, the Rangers lost the Stanley Cup last week, and the Yankees, Mets and Red Sox are having .500 seasons. But... the World Cup is playing daily in Brazil and has the attention of the world. The best players and coaches are assembled to compete to discover which national team will take home the cup.

At your last meeting I spoke of “checks and balance” as the structure, organization, and tension of governance activities as they are meant to be lived. In Bridgeport we seem to have an executive branch that plays offense most of the time and a legislative branch, your Council, representing taxpayers, that fails to play for the taxpayers too often. If we used games or sport, as a metaphor to represent the Bridgeport City Council in creative tension with the Mayoral executive branch, what best fits the current scene:

- Someone from Fairfield suggested badminton where the taxpayer is the ‘birdie’ or shuttlecock that is gently hit back and forth over the net. But where is the back or forth action of the Council? Tennis suffers the same objection.
- Another person proposed croquet presuming that we have plenty of sticky wickets as well as somebody sending your ball way off course but that still seems more descriptive of Greenwich.
- A realist thought that the Council looks like a hockey team playing overtime (all season long) with two players permanently in the penalty box, a pulled goalie and the inability to get the puck out of their own zone. That has descriptive possibilities, I admit.
- Another referred to the ‘city game’, basketball, and suggested those games where the Harlem Globetrotters come to town for a charity event that is played for laughs. The Globetrotter skills, training, and rigged script make you think there is a game,

but the way they play with the officials and ignore the rules common to the sport make a joke of this as a real competition. Again, possibilities.

- Baseball as a metaphor offered more possibilities where the Council plays with no spring training or coaching support (unlike most legislative teams) although trips are taken, has occasional star performances but essentially goes completely hitless on offense. On defense the Council pitching staff is so weak that the City does not have to hit any home runs, but merely keep ignoring the Council pitching, loading the bases and walking runs in as they use the consent calendar. You do not have to steal home to score in Bridgeport, though there happen to be frequent foul balls, which many locals think personally entertaining.
- The failure of the Council in the eyes of many to stand up, use funds to support their Council activities, and to pursue common cause with Bridgeport taxpayers in engaging in creative tension with the Mayor and his advisors, had a couple folks declare that sports and games do not provide grounds for a metaphor unless as in Olympic weightlifting, it is the taxpayer, rather than the Mayoral team or the City Council who does all the work.

However, one Bridgeport old-timer said that our governance can best be described as a game of “hide and go seek”. Here the Council and the public can look as hard as they wish and not find the answers to the real questions from that which is made available by the City routinely (even after FOI).

In my opinion the statement best describing the “sporting activity” most descriptive of Executive, Legislative and taxpayer citizen was the person who told me: “Imagine that the Mayor and his Cabinet had received some custom made shotguns, enough for them and a few chosen guests. In this case they invited several Council persons who are employed by the City for an afternoon of shooting skeet. They go out to a secret site where the launchers are ready to toss the “clay pigeons” (representing taxpayers) into the air and take turns trying to blast the targets while airborne. They fire the cartridges loaded with dispersing shot, and lead enough targets to shoot down most of them until all the skeet are used. Fun for all, you bet, and time to retire for food and drink, right? Maybe it will get expensed to Legislative Department – Other Services line item? How would you know? How say you? Time will tell.

John Marshall Lee

The following speakers signed up to address the city council prior to the public speaking forum:

Judge Carmen Lopez

Rules of the City Council Committee Meeting
Procedure

Judge Lopez stated that the Chairman of the Civil League Association/BOE was present. She relayed that during the last Education and Social Services Committee meeting, there were two items on the agenda for discussion. One of those items was in regard to the

Bridgeport Schools Committee, however; there was no information provided for the item. She stated that she offered to provide some information. She recalled that the city attorney stated that it wasn't possible to hear from the taxpayers or anyone else that wasn't on the committee during the meeting and she didn't agree with the city attorney's interpretation. She recalled that Council member Torres made a motion to allow the public members to speak and Council member Halstead seconded the motion. Council President McCarthy and Council member Feliciano voted in opposition and Co-chair McBride-Lee broke the tie.

Judge Lopez referred to a blue book that outlined the rules of conducting a committee meeting – *she reviewed rule#7 regarding restrictions on speaking during a meeting, which read: a) no one shall speak during a city council committee meeting or as permitted by the committee chairperson.* She emphasized that the residents that attend meetings are taxpayers and they want to be kept informed. She urged the sharing of information for the good of the public.

Clyde Nicholson

Mr. Nicholson thanked the others speakers for coming forward tonight to address the city council. He relayed that many people have complaints. He mentioned the hiring of new employees to the city's administration, noting that the Mayor spends money that doesn't make sense. He stated that the State Board of Education is interfering with the local Board of Education as it relates to the matter of charter schools, noting that other towns aren't considering charter schools. He said he felt that there is a dictatorship being run by the governor and Mayor, noting that taxpayers in Bridgeport are being ripped off. He went on to question Council President McCarthy about the new administration position that was hired for \$97k and questioned what they were hired for. Council President responded that this was a public speaking forum to allow the public to address the city council without feedback. He offered to speak to Mr. Nicholson off line. Mr. Nicholson repeated that he felt there is a dictatorship going on and not a democracy.

Hearing none, the public speaking forum ended at 7:00 pm.

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 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

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

Prayer - Council member McBride-Lee offered the prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance - Police Captain Gearing led the pledge of allegiance.

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

Council President McCarthy announced that Mayor Finch wasn't in attendance tonight, due to covering another event. He noted that he may attend the meeting later.

He announced that Council member Marella wouldn't attend the meeting and Council member Vizzo-Paniccia had a family obligation.

Mayoral Proclamation: In Recognition of Police Captain Robert Gearing for his violence reduction work within the East End and East Side Community.

Council members: Banta, Taylor-Moye, Torres, Lyons, Martinez-Walker, DeJesus, Martinez and Paoletto came forward to present the citation.

Council President McCarthy expressed that the city council always likes to point out the positive things that happen in the city, noting that there was a group present tonight that aren't honored enough; namely members of the Bridgeport Police Department. He expressed that the reality of the world is that police officers help make the city safer and due to the department and those officers that give of themselves to ensure safety for

everyone on a daily basis. He asked Police Captain Gearing and the other police officers that were present to come forward to accept the citation. He expressed that the city council was very proud of them all!

Council member Martinez-Walker thanked everyone for attending tonight. She expressed that Police Captain Gearing has taken the position in the east end and east side with a focus on being family oriented. She highlighted that Police Captain Gearing attends family gatherings and he works hard during the process of and investigation – *she read the proclamation that outlined gratitude for his services and dedication to the city.*

City Council Citation: In Recognition of Police Captain Robert Gearing for his violence reduction work within the East End and East Side Community.

Council President McCarthy read the citation.

Police Captain Gearing expressed that he was very humble in accepting the citation. He thanked the entire city council, as well as the residents of the east end and east side for their cooperation. He relayed that it's a daily thing to stay on top of things to help make Bridgeport safer by police officers that patrol a community and who are in the front line. He accepted the citation on behalf of all those that participate in the team effort and he thanked the city council once again for the recognition.

Council President McCarthy acknowledged a fellow police officer that was present who will be moving on to take a position as a detective.

Mayoral Proclamation: The True Riders Motorcycle Club in Recognition of their charitable work and the 15th Year of "The Kids Fun Day".

Council President McCarthy stated that when we hear about motorcycle clubs, it's not always a good image. However, in this case; he stated that he has known members of the True Riders for years and they are passionate about their organization and what they do.

Council member Martinez-Walker stated that the purpose of the citation was to honor the services and work the True Riders do in the city, noting that they are passionate, caring and they do what it takes to keep the community where it needs to be. She mentioned a few of the services they provide to the community, such as the soup kitchen, feeding the homeless and cleaning up Knowlton Park. She applauded all the members of the True Riders for their services.

City Council Citation: The True Riders Motorcycle Club in Recognition of their charitable work and the 15th Year of "The Kids Fun Day".

Council President McCarthy read the proclamation and presented the citation.

A member of the True Riders spoke on behalf of the group to express that it has been a pleasure to accept the citation.

69-13 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution concerning the Disposition of City-Owned Property located at 38 Luther Street.

Council President asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the item. There were none heard.

Council President asked if there was anyone present to speak against the item. There were none heard.

Hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

78-13 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution concerning the Disposition of City-Owned Property located at 63 Waldorf Avenue to Habitat for Humanity.

Council President asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the item.

Reverend Wright, 64 North Avenue stated that he was in support.

Council President asked if there was anyone present to speak against the item. There were none heard.

Hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: May 12, 2014 (Special Meeting)

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ-WALKER SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

110-13 Communication from Mayor re: Proposed Resolution Adopting The Greater Bridgeport Regional Council (GBRC) Multi-Jurisdiction Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan 2014 Update, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

111-13 Communication from City Attorney re: Twenty Day Notice to Settle Pending Litigation Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130 with Lucinda Carson, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

- 112-13** Communication from City Attorney re: Twenty Day Notice to Settle Pending Litigation Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130 with Lamar Powell, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

- 113-13** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: United States Department of Justice FY 2014 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Local Solicitation Program, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

- 115-13** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Agreement with the City of Norwalk for the Port Security Grant Program, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

- 117-13** Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Alfred Yazbak (D) to the WPCA Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

- 118-13** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: 2014 Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ-WALKER SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

- 116-13** Communication from OPM re: Proposed Budget Modification to the FY 2013-2014 General Fund Budget: Increase Appropriation for the Board of Education (\$1,200,000) **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

Tom Sherwood addressed the council to relay that the request was for a budget modification that will close out the agreement with the Board of Education for reallocation. He explained that they were asking to raise the revenue side of the equation to comply with the MBR.

Council member Torres stated that they already voted on the budget and closed it. He questioned if the item equates to spending more money. Mr. Sherwood clarified that the increase pertains to this year that will close in two weeks. He further explained that it's

necessary on the state side to modify the revenue to recognize the \$1.2 million by the state and they will award the appropriation to make the entry to spend the money in the time line. He added that the \$1.2 million will go towards what's necessary to the MBR and it fully complies with the statute.

Council President McCarthy asked what the urgency was of the timeline. Mr. Sherwood replied that it's necessary to have the account set up for the year it's appropriated for.

Council member Lyons asked if the Board of Education would be receiving the \$1.2 million. Mr. Sherwood said yes, they will receive it within the next week. He explained that it's a one time grant only, noting that the allocation for future years is expected to be in the amount of \$700k.

Council member Torres asked if they under-funded for fiscal year 2014-2015. Mr. Sherwood said no and explained that they wouldn't release the funding until the local board approved it, noting that it's crucial to ensure compliance.

It was stated that two votes would be required to approve the item: a) a vote to approve the item for Immediate Consideration and b) to vote on the actual item.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO CONSIDER THE ITEM FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

Council President asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent calendar.

Council member Torres removed item ***108-13** Contracts Committee Report re: Professional Services Agreement with Blum Shapiro Consulting, LLC for the Purpose of Conducting an Examination of the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Statements.

The city clerk read the remaining items into the record:

- *68-13 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for an Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG).
- *74-13 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Request that Logan Street be given the Honorary Designation of Bishop Zebedee Stewart Boulevard by adding his name above the street Signage on Logan Street.
- *81-13 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: 2013 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Fire Prevention & Safety Grant.
- *94-13 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: 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.
- *72-13 Contracts Committee Report re: Approval for Sewerage Services to a Proposed Dormitory to be Constructed by Sacred Heart University on its Park Avenue Campus located in Fairfield.
- *108-13 Contracts Committee Report re: Professional Services Agreement with Blum Shapiro Consulting, LLC for the Purpose of Conducting an Examination of the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Statements. - *removed*
- *93-13 Budget & Appropriations Committee Report re: Municipal Suspense Tax Book.

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

** **COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council President McCarthy returned to item *108-13 Contracts Committee Report re: Professional Services Agreement with Blum Shapiro Consulting, LLC for the Purpose of Conducting an Examination of the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Statements.

** **COUNCIL MEMBER DEJESUS MOVED TO APPROVE**

** **COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

Council member Torres questioned if this was a repetitive contract for bonding. He stated that his question pertained to whether or not the city is putting it out to bid on a yearly basis. Ms. Lenz, Tax Assessor responded that they don't bid out yearly. She explained that the contract duration is three to five years and then they put it back out to bid, as was the case with this contract. She stated that the period of the contract is over, so that's t he

reason the item is on the agenda for approval. She added that the current contract is the second term for the firm Blum Shapiro Consulting, LLC. She stated that references and the top five firms are generally requested for the bidding process and two different towns were polled.

Council member Torres asked if there was any effort to attempt to find a minority contractor. Ms. Lenz said only four firms actually submitted a bid.

Council member Salter asked if they had an internal auditor, would it be necessary to go out to bid for another firm. Ms. Lenz said they would still need a third party, noting that she wasn't aware of the city having an internal auditor.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

100-13 Contracts Committee Report re: Professional Services Agreement with Behavioral Health Consultants, LLC for EAP Services.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEJESUS MOVED TO APPROVE**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED WITH FIFTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE**
***ABSTENTION**

****Let it be noted that Council President McCarthy abstained from the vote during committee and for this vote. It was stated that he presided over the item, but he didn't participate in the vote.***

101-13 Contracts Committee Report re: 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.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEJESUS MOVED TO APPROVE**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED WITH FIFTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE**
***ABSTENTION**

****Let it be noted that Council President McCarthy abstained from the vote during committee and for this vote. It was stated that he presided over the item, but he didn't participate in the vote.***

114-13 Special Committee Report re: (Ref. #47-12) Discontinuance of a Portion of Bank Street (between Main Street and Middle Street): Approved on May 20, 2013.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ-WALKER SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

After the vote was taken, Council members Banta and Halstead made brief comments regarding the purpose of the discontinuance.

New business:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEJESUS MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEJESUS MOVED TO REFER RE: PROPOSED MOU AND LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN SHU AND COB/PARKS COMMISSION**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (ITEM #119-13)**

Other announcements:

Council President McCarthy acknowledged members of the audience: John Badgley, former NBA star and Judge Padcliff.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services