

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION  
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2015  
6:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President McCarthy called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:45 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130<sup>th</sup> District: Enrique Torres  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jack O. Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Robert Halstead, Patricia Swain  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy, Howard Austin  
134<sup>th</sup> District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Richard Salter  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Alfredo Castillo  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Milta Feliciano, Lydia Martinez  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Richard Paoletto  
139<sup>th</sup> District: James Holloway

A quorum was present.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS HAVE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2014 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.**

John Marshall Lee  
30 Beacon Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Fiscal Review 2014.

Good evening Council members, elected leaders of our municipal legislature, stewards of the funds provided by taxpayers! Happy New Year to you and your families!

A CT Post reporter recently indicated that an important issue facing you this evening will be about the renaming of streets, the need for such coming when one member of the community feels that an individual is deemed worthy of such an honor. It is probably also a worthy subject

so that streets and avenues in the City have a name, commonly understood by all public safety officials and the public they vow to serve. Let us be safe and secure.

My purpose is to raise issues that continue to exist indicating weakness and the inclination towards sickness in City governance and thus to the community at large:

- Money issues are always important. But if issues are too complex, presented poorly or inaccurately, or untimely, then things slide by, unreviewed, unmonitored, poorly understood and likely supportive of inefficiency or even illegality. As an example, the audit of 2013 released about one year ago indicated that in that fiscal year \$500,000 of excess revenue showed up as Cash- Miscellaneous in the Comptroller's revenue budget. Did any of you raise the question as to its source or whether it would repeat itself? Revenue is good. Is there harm in the question?
- That same external audit revealed that 15 Council members in June 2013 with the guidance of their leadership had requested purchase orders totaling nearly \$30,000 for City taxpayer funds to be sent to non-profit organizations. It was a primary year and an election year. There exist no agenda, minutes or official City meeting records. That would appear to make this an illegal action in sending funds from the "Legislative – Other Services" account for which no services were received by the City. Why has there been no response to this behavior?
- Where is your answer for taxpayer funds exceeding a half million dollars spent in hasty fashion for a roadway in Stratford CT as well as separate legal expenses while your Council President sits on that Commission with the Mayor? Is there a final report?
- City Council stipends are authorized by Ordinance it is true. But the system in action for two years is other than Ordinance. The City no longer reimburses. It advances funds. Taxpayers do not trust the system, nor should they when you tabled two years ago, a review and restatement of such an Ordinance. You operate extra legally and wonder why taxpayers object? When will you become legal?
- This past year in the name of economic development you have granted special taxing plans or abatement agreements to certain owners, many of whom reside outside Bridgeport. Each deal you make, whether for ten years or forty years, forces City "full" taxpayers to make up the dollars that will be lost per your agreement. Current taxpayers are forced to subsidize each project though they are never shown the amount of the subsidy, individually or cumulatively. Can you show your District what an average homeowner pays extra in taxes because of the total of subsidies? Do you even have that information when you vote?
- Each month you receive a financial report of some 80-90 pages that most of you do not read, and the minority of Council members who scan it, register no concern on any issues. Nine months ago I indicated a method for making such a report more GREEN, by cutting its size by 75% to the same categories you review at budget time and ignoring the Board of Education budget except for less than six line items as their own report is on line and includes the number of employees per department as well as grant revenues, details which you as Council members do not receive regarding City departments. Are you afraid to know what is truly happening about taxpayer money? Don't you know that you are responsible for inaction?

Within the next week or so, I expect that you will receive the Comprehensive Annual Financial Review from the external auditors as well as the final audited June, 2014 monthly financial report. What news resides there for taxpayers unhappy with October 2008 property valuations? Will you hold special meetings where responses will be available to questions raised? If you don't do this on a city-wide basis, will you do so within your District? Time will tell.

There was no one else signed up to address the Council at this time.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council President McCarthy then adjourned the Public Speaking Portion of the Council Meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2015**  
**7:00 PM**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Finch called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Pastor Jarvis Tracey of the Faith and Hope Apostolic Ministries led those present in a short prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Finch then requested Council Member Feliciano to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130<sup>th</sup> District: Enrique Torres  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jack O. Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Robert Halstead, Patricia Swain  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy, Howard Austin  
134<sup>th</sup> District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Richard DeJesus, Alfredo Castillo  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Lydia Martinez, Milta Feliciano  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Richard Paoletto, Michael Marella  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present. Council President McCarthy said that Council Member Brannelly was not able to attend the meeting.

**Mayoral Proclamation: Honoring retired Bridgeport Police Lieutenant David Daniels III for more than 25 years of dedicated service to the community.**

**City Council Citation: Honoring retired Bridgeport Police Lieutenant David Daniels III for more than 25 years of dedicated service to the community.**

Council President McCarthy called Lt. David Daniels forward. Council Member McBride-Lee then spoke about how Lt. Daniels was a valuable asset to the community. She thanked him for all the work that he had done for the community. Mayor Finch then presented retired Lieutenant Daniels with a proclamation and Council President McCarthy presented Lt. Daniels with a Council Citation.

Lt. Daniels thanked everyone involved and said that he was pleased to serve the City.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

**Approval of City Council Minutes: November 3, 2014 (Tabled on 12/15/14) and November 17, 2014.**

Council President McCarthy stated that Council Member Halstead wished to amend the minutes and requested that following statement be read into the record as part of the motion to amend.

**November 3, 2014 -**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO AMEND THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 2014 TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT THAT COUNCIL MEMBER HALSTEAD READ INTO THE RECORD AS FOLLOWS:**

**“ROBERT HALSTEAD QUESTIONED THE PURPOSE OF A GRANT BEING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL FROM CENTRAL GRANTS THAT STATED BASICALLY IT WAS A HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT TO SORT OUT CITY DOCUMENTS. MS. GUPTA, CENTRAL GRANTS DIRECTOR WAS CALLED TO THE PODIUM TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE. HALSTEAD ASKED HER IF THIS WAS THE HISTORIC GRANT FROM THE STATE UNDER PUBLIC ACT 228 THAT WAS TO BE USED IN PART FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION. MS. GUPTA ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVE. HALSTEAD ASKED IF THIS HISTORIC GRANT WOULD BE USED TO PRESERVE HISTORIC DOCUMENT. MS. GUPTA REPLIED NEGATIVE. HALSTEAD SPOKE THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS FUNDING SHOULD BE USED FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND SUGGESTED THAT PART OF ITS USE BE APPLIED TO PRESERVATION OF OLD MAPS IN THE ENGINEERING OFFICE AND ASKED IF MS. GUPTA COULD LOOK INTO USING PART OF THIS GRANT FOR THAT PURPOSE. MS. GUPTA REPLIED THAT SHE WOULD LOOK INTO IT.”**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HALSTEAD SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO AMEND THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 2014 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 2014 AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 2014 AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**November 17, 2014 –**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2014 AS SUBMITTED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Finch then said that Council Member Holloway would like to address the Council as a matter of personal privilege.

Council Member Holloway said that every year a number of universities bestow honorary degrees on individuals who did not attend their schools. He said that when an honorary street name is bestowed on a street, it can be changed later. There are a number of different signs on the street signs that have been designated as honorary streets. He then spoke about a particular stretch of streets that had been changed after being given an honorary designation. He said that there were no rules for designing sections of streets with honorary designations. He said that while he might not agree with this, he believed it was the right of the communities to do this.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ITEMS LISTED BELOW TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES.**

**12-14 COMMUNICATION FROM OPEd RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING THE PERMANENT RENAMING OF ANN STREET IN STEEL POINT TO “BASS PRO WAY”, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**13-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL (ATB) GRANT PROGRAM, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**14-14 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS AND BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION RE: PROPOSED PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH EXPRESS SCRIPTS INSURANCE COMPANY, INC. FOR THE**

**PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2014 TO DECEMBER 31, 2016, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**15-14 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS AND BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION RE: PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH EXPRESS SCRIPTS INSURANCE COMPANY, INC. REGARDING MEDICARE PART-D EMPLOYER-ONLY SPONSORED GROUP WAIVER PLAN PRESCRIPTION DRUG SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2016, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**16-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT FOR THE NUTMEG NETWORK GRANT PROGRAM, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**18-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED DESIGN-BUILD AGREEMENT CONCERNING STREETScape PROJECTS, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**19-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION FOR TD GREEN STREETS GRANT PROGRAM (#15347), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**20-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR) TRANCHE 2 APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING (#15463), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**21-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH WILLIAM FELICIANO, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**22-14 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CAPITAL FUNDING FOR THE HISTORIC RENOVATION OF THE MARY AND ELIZA FREEMAN HOMES LOCATED AT 354 AND 360 MAIN STREET, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**23-14 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT FOR CRESCENT CROSSINGS II PROJECT, A MIXED-INCOME AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT LOCATED AT 252 HALLETT STREET AND REQUEST TO ORDER A PUBLIC**

**HEARING RELATIVE TO THE SAME, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM BE REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE BOARD, COMMISSION, ETC.**

**17-14 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BANTA AND TAYLOR-MOYE RE: REQUEST TO DESIGNATE AN AREA SUFFICIENT FOR THREE (3) MOTOR VEHICLES IN FRONT OF THE SOUTH END YMCA LOCATED AT 650 PARK AVENUE AS BEING “NO PARKING/NO STANDING, DROP OFF/PICK-UP ONLY, 7:30 A.M. – 9:30 A.M./3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.”, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):**

**\*02-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: FY 2014-2015 Medical Reserve Corps Capacity Building Award (#15397).**

**\*06-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for a Historic Brownfield Revitalization Program (#15409).**

Mayor Finch then asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. When there was no response, he asked a second time. Hearing no response, the two items on the Consent Calendar were put forward for consideration.

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS FOLLOWS:**

**\*02-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: FY 2014-2015 MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS CAPACITY BUILDING AWARD (#15397).**

**\*06-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR A HISTORIC BROWNFIELD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM (#15409).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED.**

Mayor Finch commented that Channel 12 News had recently done an article on a new park in Bridgeport. He explained that Channel 12 had been given a preview of the park and it had not been officially opened at this time. The official opening will be done later in the year.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO ADJOURN PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services