

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2015
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President McCarthy called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Susan Brannelly, Enrique Torres
131st District: Jack O. Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: Robert Halstead
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Rev. Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: José Casco, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Milta Feliciano, Lydia Martinez
138th District: Melanie Jackson, Michael Marella
139th District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2015 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME	SUBJECT
John Marshall Lee 30 Beacon Street Bridgeport, CT 06605	Fiscal Watchdogs?

Mr. Lee read the following statement into the record:

WHAT BRIDGEPORT NEEDS? (June 1, 2015)

Do you remember hearing statements that start with....WHAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS IS A.....”good 5 cent cigar”.....or “a chicken in every pot” years before Colonel Sanders.....and today in Bridgeport: Lower taxes for those paying at the 100% level....solid

educational funding producing expected results for most students.... public safety for all based on mutual respect....some current targets?

But how do you get to any of these goals and objectives? Leadership is part of it, but so is good management including employee and volunteer education and training so that people advance in their work. Observation and evaluation on a regular basis are parts also, so that there are consequences for sub-standard activity when it flows from public funds.

Have any of you wondered why I regularly address you? Why was Cecil Young present before you regularly? Wasn't it because he believed he had an issue, an employment issue that had not been dealt with fairly and justly? He also believed that he had been shut off from any redress. So he appeared before you quite regularly, with exhibits, sometimes seeming to threaten but more often pleading for fairness and someone to listen to him. Perhaps he has found an answer to his personal issues, but he is no longer present.

Council Member Swain joined the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

In a similar way I have been here, at almost every session you hold, thankful that there is five minutes allocated to public outcry of unfair or unjust activity in Bridgeport. Many of you listen to me. You also receive my talks electronically. They are also archived and videotaped for later replay. I am happy to say that many outside this room hear what I have been saying.

You have a WATCHDOG role in this City. But you are not fully alert to threats to the public you were elected to represent, you don't do enough barking or growling, and there are more than a few who are only too ready to be petted or given a bone to chew on. Those are not WATCHDOG behaviors.

Two examples of current WATCHDOG failures in my opinion:

- In June 2013 fifteen of then Council persons requested funding with public tax dollars of over \$30,000 under the leadership and guidance of President McCarthy. Money was not taken from your Stipend account where charitable and political funding would have been prohibited by your debit card agreement. Rather money was authorized from Line Item 56180 OTHER SERVICES, paid from taxpayer funds, so that you could deliver checks to charities before the primary or election. The City received no "services" and those who presented the check to the charity received the credit, not the taxpayer. Very bad precedent you see, because Purchasing cut the checks even though the Line Item used was inappropriate for these types of SUPPORTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS and the Council never met on the matter which is why there is no notice of a meeting, agenda, or minutes. Could this happen again? Why not? Is it an illegal activity, a misappropriation of public funds? What do you think? Why don't you investigate who authorized the request by those of you who delivered such a check? Did the person have your authority to do this on your behalf? Could they do it again, for any reason?
- I am a real supporter of youth activities including sports, arts and music, travel, service projects and assistance with school work. Lighthouse is our major City youth services program. I have reported that this core youth program has not been complete and accurate in budget presentations for some years. They are identifying less than 50% of their program funding to you. Are you pleased? Is there a reason why the fees paid by parents

and families totaling \$850,000 are not reported? Don't you need them to know you widely appreciate this revenue for the sacrifice involved? Is there a reason why \$1.7 Million of grants funds are not included in a budget request presentation along with some acknowledgement that the BOE does not charge for in-kind provision of building space in 24 schools or more, year round as a "partner"?

Would a group of elected citizens like yourself be expected to look into such things after they have been reported? Would you expect some explanation and perhaps reformation might follow? Is Open, Accountable and Transparent governance part of your reason for sitting as a City Council person? Do you see a WATCHDOG role for yourself and the Council? Time will tell.

Council President McCarthy announced that there were no other speakers signed up to address the Council Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President McCarthy then adjourned the Public Speaking Portion of the Council Meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 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 7:05 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Finch requested Council Member Taylor-Moye to lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Susan Brannelly, Enrique Torres
131st District: Jack O. Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: Robert Halstead
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Rev. Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: José Casco, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Milta Feliciano, Lydia Martinez
138th District: Melanie Jackson, Michael Marella
139th District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

Council President McCarthy said that Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia had been delayed at work.

Mayoral Proclamation: In Recognition of Willie McBride who came to the aid of the City, Board of Education and Central High School following an emergency power outage that impacted the school and neighborhood.

Mayor Finch said that Mr. McBride had stepped up when there was a power failure at Central High School and fixed the problem.

Mayor Finch read the Mayoral Proclamation aloud and announced that June 1st was Willie McBride Day in Bridgeport. He then presented Mr. McBride with a Mayoral Proclamation.

City Council Citation: In Recognition of Willie McBride who came to the aid of the City, Board of Education and Central High School following an emergency power outage that impacted the school and neighborhood.

Council President McCarthy then spoke about how Mr. McBride was a Bridgeport native and how hard he has worked for the City. Council President McCarthy read aloud the City Council Citation to those who were present. He then presented Mr. McBride with a City Council Citation certificate.

Mr. McBride then briefly spoke and thanked everyone for their recognition.

Mayor Finch said that he had just returned from the Village Initiative Project (VIP) and gave a brief overview of the meeting.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL.

Approval of City Council Minutes: April 20, 2015.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED THE MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2015.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 20, 2015 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

99-14 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS' (OJP) AND BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (BJA) EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM (PROJECT #16321), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

100-14 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.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

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

***33-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing the Disposition of certain City-Owned Properties by Auction, Sale to Abutter or by Sale to Community Based Housing Development Corporations.**

***49-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing the Acquisition and Disposition of Redevelopment Property in Accordance with the Lower East End Municipal Development Plan.**

***76-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: 2015 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program.**

***82-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: National Audubon Society, Inc. for a "Wildlife Guards 2015" Grant Program.**

***80-14 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Reappointment of Reginald F. Walker (D) to the Planning & Zoning Commission.**

***81-14 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Leticia Colon (D) to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Alternate.**

Council Member Holloway said that he wished to discuss Agenda Item 33-14. Council Member E. Martinez added that she would like to discuss Agenda Item 49-14.

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

***76-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: 2015 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT PROGRAM.**

***82-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC. FOR A "WILDLIFE GUARDS 2015" GRANT PROGRAM.**

***80-14 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF REGINALD F. WALKER (D) TO THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION.**

***81-14 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF LETICIA COLON (D) TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AS AN ALTERNATE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Council then considered Agenda Item 33-14.

33-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing the Disposition of certain City-Owned Properties by Auction, Sale to Abutter or by Sale to Community Based Housing Development Corporations.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED AGENDA ITEM *33-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES BY AUCTION, SALE TO ABUTTER OR BY SALE TO COMMUNITY BASED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

Council Member Holloway said that giving land to developers was not the answer. Giving the parcel to a church because they won't be paying taxes on it. He said that if the abutters were offered the land and did not want it, then it should go to auction.

Mr. Coleman, from OPED, came forward and explained that the statement was written in the manner that it was in order to allow the City the flexibility to offer the land to the abutters first and then put up for auction. The staff member who handles these items usually reaches out to the abutter personally. Council Member Holloway said that some parcels are too small for building and if an abutter wants it then it can be added to the tax rolls.

Mayor Finch asked if there would be a problem if the item was tabled. Mr. Coleman said that he would not have a problem with this. Mr. Coleman said that both Council Member Lyons and Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia had requested modifications to one parcel, which were made.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 33-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT**

COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES BY AUCTION, SALE TO ABUTTER OR BY SALE TO COMMUNITY BASED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Council Members then considered Agenda Item 49-14.

49-14 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing the Acquisition and Disposition of Redevelopment Property in Accordance with the Lower East End Municipal Development Plan.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED AGENDA ITEM 49-14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION OF REDEVELOPMENT PROPERTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOWER EAST END MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED.**

Council Member E. Martinez asked Mr. Coleman to come forward to speak about the changes to the Municipal Plan. Mr. Coleman came forward to address the various issues including the removal of the reference to the Bridgeport Redevelopment Agency and the removal of reference to eminent domain.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

79-14 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Reappointment of James W. Giles (D) to the Parks Commission.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 79-14.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

101-14 Communication from Mayor re: Setting of the Mill Rate for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 101-14.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

102-14 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Workers Compensation Stipulation with Michael Meade, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 101-14.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President McCarthy requested a point of personal privilege, which the Mayor granted. Council President McCarthy then read off the names of several Council Members that he need to speak to following the conclusion of the Council meeting.

Council President McCarthy then announced that it was Council Member E. Martinez's birthday. Those present then sang Happy Birthday to Council Member E. Martinez.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services