

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
PUBLIC SPEAKING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2016  
6:30 PM  
City Council Chambers, City Hall  
45 Lyon Terrace  
Bridgeport, CT**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President McCarthy called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:39 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

No roll call was taken.

Attendance was taken by the secretary. The following members were present:

130<sup>th</sup> District: Kathryn Bukovsky, Scott Burns  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Denese Taylor-Moye  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: John Olson  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron  
134<sup>th</sup> District: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Michelle Lyons  
135<sup>th</sup> District:  
136<sup>th</sup> District:  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Aidee Nieves, Milta Feliciano  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith  
139<sup>th</sup> District: James Holloway

A quorum was present.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2016 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.**

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

**George Mintz**  
86 Ridgebrook Drive  
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Parks Department, Parades and City  
Services.

Mr. Mintz came forward and thanked the Office of the Mayor, the City of Bridgeport and the City Council for their support in making the Juneteenth parade the most colorful and diverse in Bridgeport.

Mr. Mintz said that the parade was held on June 11th from 12 to 2 p.m. and the parade route was 9/10th mile. He asked the Council why the Juneteenth members of the parade ended up directing traffic, lining up the floats and dealing with the crowd because there were no police barriers in place. This is not how the other parades and events are handled. He asked why things like the Public Facilities bleachers, and other amenities were not offered to the parade organizers. Mr. Mintz said that his organization was told that they had to remove all the posters and flyers but other organizations are not required to do the same thing. The police officers that had been paid for were not available. Despite the rain and the negative press coverage, the Juneteenth parade prevailed.

Mr. Mintz said that he was present to remind the Council Members that diversity is the City's strength and equality is for all. Democracy works best when it is not compromised. Bridgeport is a wonderful city, but it must insure that all the residents receive fair and equal treatment, including the Juneteenth parade. He concluded by saying that it was important not to remain silent about things that matter.

**John Marshall Lee**  
30 Beacon Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Fiscal Governance – A Road Map?

Council members, fellow citizens and taxpayers.....

It's a hot night in the summer by temperature and thank goodness not with the violence experienced in other communities. But the financial news, released for fiscal year 2016 remains disappointing. The City ended the year with a genuine deficit...that is the red boot representing the Operating Budget. And another red boot represents the City balance sheet where liabilities greatly exceed assets. The last Fiscal Year shows revenues about \$800,000 excess of budget but expenses were over budget by over \$4 Million, for a deficit around \$3.2 Million before adjustments and audit. Facing over \$9 Million of hopeful revenue budgeting that did not materialize and expenses that were due but not part of the budget, each of which the City Council reviewed and approved, show that informed oversight is necessary. Is it time to see if April 2016 decisions are working? Sale of City property provided an unplanned \$5 Million infusion to revenue.

Police and Fire Overtime exceeded large budgets by nearly \$6.2 Million even with salary savings. Something deeper is at work in the Police Department budget and it needs examination and understanding by the City Council. Nearly \$18 Million of unbudgeted line items were offset by nearly \$14.5 of city savings over the last 7 months, debt refinancing, pension partial payment deferral and some favorable news on health plan claims expense. Bottom line still shows around a \$3 Million deficit. Bring on the auditors and let's see how the responsibility for enthusiastic and unrealistic revenues plus failure to include State pension payments due in the 2016 budget brought us to this scramble and disorder.

Compliments to Ken Flatto for getting draft June 2016 reports out in a timely fashion and for providing both unaudited and audited reports for June 2015 that were undone by the Finch administration. Use actual and audited numbers from two past years in the future to balance City

figures before blithely assuming they are correct. When State revenue assumptions fail their budgeted and approved levels, make adjustments immediately.

Open, accountable, transparent, and honest process that would include public availability with hard copy and electronic data is part of good governance. Where is the State website connection announced six months ago so we can see where every City check goes? When I attend a City meeting and raise my hand to make a comment or ask a question, is it open to adjourn the meeting, and say we can talk later? Why is the taxpayer component excluded from the public record that the taxpayer is funding? Failure to listen to people who attend citizen meetings is disrespectful assuming time is available, as it is more often than not. Failure to include Bridgeport voters does not encourage attendance, and maybe the answer lies there?

Accountability is a matter of setting a plan based on announced priorities and then living up to them. Is there an alternative City definition? However if you have asked the City for employee data listing all employees by department and position, showing compensation and full time or part time status (including grants and seasonal payrolls) how can you trust the budget document? Include vacancies, but without such a list, how can you verify? How do you trust? And if “price tags” relating to matters for your referral or approval are not included with narratives, how is the public able to trust that you are looking out for spending their money?

Transparency is another matter. It should be simple and understood by many. Is that true of the Labor Relations Department 2012 contract with the Police Department completed three years late with post-retirement expenses still not provided to the public in terms of annual payments? What happened to \$950,000 of OPED Capital funds that paid a note for the Non-City Department, the Port Authority? Was the Council consulted? Do you care? What do you understand about your funds transfer authority with the City? Where does this matter rest today? Ask for the story please.

Finally, there seem to be a number of departments with cash revenues which do not show them. Why is that? Lighthouse with self-stated \$850,000 of fees is a question that was asked. Is there an answer for the fee and tax paying public? In the past month you allocated \$250,000 for youth summer programs. How many programs put in requests and for how much? Who was awarded funds, for how much, and how many youth are assisted?

School funding? Helping K and pre-K to become readers? One hundred police hires? Where are metrics posted? Time will tell.

**David M. Walker**  
37 Beacon Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City Finances.

Mr. Walker came forward and said that he was a co-founder of the Citizens Working for a Better Bridgeport and said that he had been before the Council about financial matters previously. Mr. Walker listed a number of financial obligations and pointed out that the City has one of the highest rates of taxes in the country. The recent 29.7% tax increase will harm the City because the businesses will not locate in Bridgeport. The City’s tax base has declined while the spending is out of control. Neighboring towns have lower tax rates, and better schools. He said that there

needs to be a financial oversight board. He suggested that the board be modeled on the Federal Budget Oversight group that is working on the financial situation in Puerto Rico. The future of the City is in the hands of the Council.

**Douglass Taft Davidoff**  
114 State Street, Apt. 202  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

City Council Process (Oath).

Council President McCarthy called Mr. Davidoff to come forward to speak. There was no response. He called for Mr. Davidoff to come forward two more times. There was no response.

*Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined the meeting at 6:48 p.m.*

**Peter D. Spain, MPH**  
280 Grovers Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Finance Oversight Boards – The NYC  
Example.

Mr. Spain came forward and said spoke about his qualification. He asked if Bridgeport was in a financial death spiral. He said that if that was so, he did not know how the City would avoid bankruptcy without harming everyone. He suggested that a group of outside financial experts be called to examine the finances. Washington D.C. Has a Control Board that looks at every item. Bridgeport has Mr. David Walker and Mr. Walker has offered his expertise to the City.

*Council Member Salter joined the meeting at 6:51 p.m.*

**Mary-Jane Foster**  
40 Anchorage Drive  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Taxes.

Ms. Foster said that with the 29.7% increase in the mill rate, everyone lost value, not just the North End or Black Rock. Everyone is in this together. It is time to look at the situation and have an honest and open conversation. She said that after tax increase follows tax increase, something has to be done. She said that the solution will require transparency, patience and time. The City cannot sustain where they are right now. If it is the formation of financial oversight board, then let them do their job and guide the City back on to firm ground.

*Council Member Brantley joined the meeting at 6:56 p.m.*

**Jim Fox**  
Bridgeport, CT

Financial Oversight Board

Mr. Jim Fox came forward and said that Mayor Ganim had some suggestions. He suggested that a question be added to the ballot for the establishment of a financial oversight board. Next year, the elected Board of Finance would be in place with a single mission. Fairfield does it and

it works. Mr. Fox then spoke about some of the problems such as a Stratford driveway and the two SUVs that were purchased for the Port Authority.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council President McCarthy adjourned the Public Speaking Portion of the Council Meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2016**

**7:00 PM**

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

**Bridgeport, Connecticut**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member McBride-Lee lead those present in prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Ganim requested City Clerk Lydia Martinez to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

The following members were present:

130<sup>th</sup> District: Kathryn Bukovsky, Scott Burns  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Denese Taylor-Moye  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: John Olson, M. Evette Brantley  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron  
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: Alfredo Castillo  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Aidee Nieves, Milta Feliciano  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

Approval of City Council Minutes: June 1, 2016 (Public Hearing) and June 6, 2016

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 1, 2016 PUBLIC HEARING AND JUNE 6, 2016 MEETING.  
\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 1, 2016 PUBLIC HEARING AND JUNE 6, 2016 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO COMBINE AND REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

**167-15 COMMUNICATION FROM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: OMNIBUS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) TO THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE CITY OF STAMFORD FOR THE STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**168-15 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH THOMAS FLYNN, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

**171-15 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS RE: (REF. #73-14) PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, LOCAL RI-200 (NAGE) REGARDING THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT AGREEMENT, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**172-15 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS RE: (REF. #185-14) PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH BRIDGEPORT CITY SUPERVISOR'S ASSOCIATION (BCSA) REGARDING THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT AGREEMENT, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**PETITIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**173-15 PETITION FROM KATHLEEN MAHER, BARNUM MUSEUM RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ("DECD") FOR THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE HISTORIC BARNUM MUSEUM LOCATED AT 820 MAIN STREET, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**174-15 PETITION FROM KATHLEEN MAHER, BARNUM MUSEUM RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (“DECD”) HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE (“SHPO”) GRANT FOR THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE HISTORIC BARNUM MUSEUM LOCATED AT 820 MAIN STREET, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

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

**169-15 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE AND LYONS RE: REQUEST THAT JAMES STREET BETWEEN HARRAL AND WASHINGTON AVENUES BE GIVEN THE HONORARY DESIGNATION OF “OFFICER GERALD T. DIJOSEPH WAY” WITH APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**170-15 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BURNS AND BUKOVSKY RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 3 REVENUE AND FINANCE, AMEND TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 3.70 SURCHARGE ON THE ADMISSION CHARGE AT WEBSTER BANK ARENA AND THE BALLPARK AT HARBOR YARD, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

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

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

Mayor Ganim then asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. No one wished to remove any items from the Consent Calendar.

City Clerk Martinez read the following items into the record:

**\*103-15 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Bureau of Justice Assistance Smart Policing Initiative (Project #17338).**

**\*104-15 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: FEMA Fiscal Year 2016 Port Security Grant Program (Project #17388 #17389, #17390 and #17391).**

**\*138-15 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: 2015 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Program (Project #17332).**

**\*139-15 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: 2015 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for Personal Protective Equipment and Cylinder Purchase (Project #17345).**

**\*163-15 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Upper East Side Public Library Construction Grant Application to Connecticut State Library (Project #17268).**

**\*149-15 Education and Social Services Committee Report: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Early Childhood Department for the School Readiness Grant Program to Provide Preschool Spaces for Children that are three and four years old who reside in the City for the Period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**\*103-15 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE SMART POLICING INITIATIVE (PROJECT #17338).**

**\*104-15 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: FEMA FISCAL YEAR 2016 PORT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (PROJECT #17388 #17389, #17390 AND #17391).**

**\*138-15 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: 2015 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) – STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM (PROJECT #17332).**

**\*139-15 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: 2015 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) – ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) FOR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND CYLINDER PURCHASE (PROJECT #17345).**

**\*163-15 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: UPPER EAST SIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT APPLICATION TO CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY (PROJECT #17268).**

**\*149-15 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEPARTMENT FOR THE SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE PRESCHOOL SPACES FOR CHILDREN THAT ARE THREE AND FOUR YEARS OLD WHO RESIDE IN THE CITY FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017.**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services.