

CITY of BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
DECEMBER 5, 2011
6:30 PM

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, Colon, Taylor-Moye, Brantley, Olson, T. McCarthy, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, Blunt, dePara, Martinez, Paoletto, Curwen, Holloway, Baker
ABSENT: Council members: M. McCarthy, Silva, Ayala

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

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2011, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

Jimmy Gonzalez
114 Lakeside Dr.
Bridgeport, CT 06606

SUBJECT

Whittier School Property.

Mr. Gonzalez thanked the city council for allowing him to speak. He stated that he was the city's chief Animal Control Officer. He talked about bringing in (200) animals at the animal shelter. He relayed that they have had to put hundreds of animals to sleep. He further relayed that he put some thought to how they can stop the endless revolving cycle of animals through education, respecting them and through teaching crime prevention to kids. His idea is to implement a training session for youth. He noted that we owe it to animals to be their voice and promote proper pet awareness through resources and education on how to care for them. He mentioned the high euthanasia rate, noting that it could be drastically lowered by neutering and spaying pets to stop overpopulation. He also suggested a program offering animal social services. He said he obtained 1,783 signatures in favor of his suggestions. He also mentioned using the Whittier School property for the program B.A.R.K; noting that the program will help improve the city.

Nancy Esposito
105 Little Deer Road
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Proposed Animal Resource Center.

The speaker wasn't present.

Clyde Nicholson

signed up to speak prior to the meeting

Mr. Nicholson talked about the education system in Bridgeport pertaining to complaints about the Board of Education and state taking over. He mentioned the nine (9) BOE members that lost their position and he felt the new board is out of touch with reality. He said he felt that if there was a problem with a board member, they should be able to vote them out (*he noted key persons that have been fired and he questioned why*).

He went on to talk about the problem at Columbus School related to contaminants from top to bottom. He said all the furniture became damaged and contaminated during construction and there is an issue with the building being identified as a clean building; but it's not. He emphasized that parents and workers are afraid to go there. He thought they should take everything that is old in the building and destroy it, adding that he felt the best option would be to tear it down and start new. He urged the council members to pay a surprise visit to the school and talk to the teachers. He further emphasized that there may be lawsuits forthcoming due to the toxic situation.

The public speaking session was closed at 6:54 pm.

Council President McCarthy called for a caucus prior to the city council meeting at 6:56 pm.

The caucus ended at 7:01 pm.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, December 5, 2011

7:00 p.m.

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

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, Colon, Taylor-Moye, Brantley, Olson, T. McCarthy, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, Blunt, dePara, Martinez, Paoletto, Curwen, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: M. McCarthy, Silva, Ayala

Council President McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

He announced that the Mayor wouldn't attend the meeting because his father-in-law passed away.

Council President McCarthy explained that under the charter, the council president normally takes over the meeting. However, since he was the current seating council president; he said he would ask Council member Holloway to sit in for the election.

Council President McCarthy noted the reasons the following council members were absent. And he asked for a moment of silence for the persons that recently passed away.

- Council member Silva's father was ill and he was rushed to the hospital
- Council member Manuel Ayala was very ill. He asked everyone to keep him in their prayers.
- Mayor Finch's father-in-law passed away.
- Lucille Bruno passed away.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MOVED TO APPOINT COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY TO TEMPORARILY CHAIR THE MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOLDING THE ELECTION OF CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- Prayer - Council member Olson offered the prayer.
- Pledge of Allegiance- the pledge was led by Jeff Kohut.
- Roll Call - the city clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

Adoption of City Council Rules

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO ADOPT THE CITY COUNCIL RULES**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Election of City Council President

Council member Curwen asked to be recognized to speak about a young man that he said he has come to know well. He expressed that the person he was speaking about was humble, caring and warmhearted. He added that he has always acted with poise and consideration under extreme conditions while conducting city business. He further expressed that he was a good friend!

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPOINT COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS McCARTHY AS CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**

Council member Holloway asked if there were any further nominations from the floor.

Council member Olson read a statement in relation to there being only three persons being representative of minority residents in the city: Ernest Newton, Liza Parziale and ____ (didn't get third person)? He asked the council to consider one of the three Bridgeport representatives for city council president in the next election.

A roll call vote was taken for the appointment of city council president:

- ** MOTION PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR.**
****Let it be noted that there were three council members absent from the vote.***

Council President McCarthy as elected; took the chair to continue conducting the meeting.

Council President McCarthy thanked everyone for voting for him. He expressed a special thank you to Council member Curwen for his kind words.

He reminded the public that watch the city council meeting that all twenty (20) members are volunteers. He expressed that all of them devote a lot of time and hard work for the city with pride. He thanked everyone for their support.

Appointment of City Council Standing Committees

Council President McCarthy explained it was a big task to balance many factors involved in appointing the council members to the committees; based on the district and representation in the minority/majority groups. He said he also took into account what committee member would excel at serving on one of the committees. He said he tried to accommodate everyone - *he read the listing of appointed committees as follows:*

COMMITTEES OF THE CITY COUNCIL 2011-2012

First two named Councilmembers serve as Co-Chairmen

Committee on Budget and Appropriations

Councilmembers: Curwen, DePara, Brannelly, Martinez, Vizzo-Paniccia, Silva, , Austin,

Committee on Ordinances

Councilmembers: Paoletto, Blunt, Martinez, Curwen, Austin, Martin McCarthy, Bonney.

Committee on Public Safety and Transportation

Councilmembers: Lyons, Colon, Taylor-Moye, DePara, Baker, Olson, Paoletto.

Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment

Councilmembers: Martinez, Brantley, Blunt, Curwen, Lyons, Colon, Martin McCarthy.

Committee on Miscellaneous Matters

Councilmembers: Vizzo-Paniccia, Baker, Taylor-Moye, Brannelly, Ayala, Brantley, Colon.

Committee on Contracts

Councilmembers: Silva, Brannelly, Brantley, Holloway, Vizzo-Paniccia, DePara, Paoletto.

Committee on Education and Social Services

Councilmembers: Taylor-Moye, Martin McCarthy, Olson, Ayala, Baker, Silva, Bonney.

Council President McCarthy explained that they were trying to get more than three people into leadership roles – *he read the listing that outlined the Leadership and Liaisons as follows:*

LEADERSHIP

CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Thomas C. McCarthy

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE: Richard Bonney

MAJORITY LEADER: Angel M. DePara, Jr.

****A) DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER/SGT OF ARMS: Richard M. Paoletto***

****B) DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER: Denese Taylor-Moye***

****C) DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER: Lydia N. Martinez***

****New Position: Appointed on December 6, 2011***

LIAISONS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Liaison to the Chamber of Commerce: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

Liaison to Fire Commission: Martin C. McCarthy

Liaison to Harbor Commission: Denese Taylor-Moye

Liaison to Housing Authority: Leticia Colon

Liaison to the Library Board: Susan T. Brannelly

Liaison to Parks Commission: Carlos Silva

Liaison to Police Commission: Angel M. dePara, Jr.

Liaison to Port Authority: M. Evette Brantley

Liaison to WPCA: Richard Bonney

Liaison to Zoo: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

Liaison to Historic Commission: John W. Olson

SCHOOL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Holloway, Curwen, Martinez

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS 2011-2012**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia made a request to have the list reprinted and redistributed to reflect the correct spelling of her name.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: October 17, 2011

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES
** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED WITH FIFTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND TWO
ABSTENTIONS (COUNCIL MEMBERS: *COLON AND *OLSON)**

** = Council members newly elected and not present at the previous city council meeting.*

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

- 01-11 Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re: Proposed Tentative Agreement with NAGE, National Association of Government Employees, Local RI-200 concerning their collective bargaining unit agreement, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 02-11 Communication from Finance Department re: Resolution Affirming and Approving Financing in the amount of \$44,000,000 for the Design, Rehabilitation, Upgrading and Construction of Various Improvements to the Combined Sewer Overflow Facilities, referred to Budget & Appropriations Committee.
- 03-11 Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Request to Appoint Twenty New Members to the 2012-2014 Citizen's Union Membership, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 04-11 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with John Gale, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 05-11 Communication from OPED re: Resolution regarding the Acquisition of 115 Virginia Avenue from the State of Connecticut, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 06-11 Communication from Finance Department re: Approval of Additional Capital Project Authorization to the 2012-2016 Capital Plan – Columbus & Longfellow School Projects (2,700,000), referred to Budget & Appropriations Committee.

- 07-11 Communication from Finance Department re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds - To Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects (2,700,000), referred to Budget & Appropriations Committee.
- 08-11 Communication from Tax Collector, re: Refund of Excess Payments, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 09-11 Communication from City Clerk re: Certification of Oath of Office of City Council Members, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.
- 10-11 Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: 2011-2014 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 11-11 Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: 2011-2012 Youth Service Bureau Grant, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 12-11 Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: 2011-2012 Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Program Grant, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 14-11 Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: US Conference of Mayor's Childhood Obesity Prevention Grant, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 17-11 Communication from City Attorney re: Resolution Concerning Photo-Voltaic Electric Generation Facilities at Blackham School and Central High School referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 18-11 Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.36, amend Section 2.36.010, Officers' and Unaffiliated Employee Salaries, referred to Ordinance Committee.
- 19-11 Communication from Ethics Commission re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.38, Code of Ethics, referred to Ordinance Committee.
- 20-11 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Employment Contract with Chief of Police, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 21-11 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Employment Contract with Fire Chief, referred to Contracts Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER
COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

15-11 Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: State Department of Public Health for 2012-2015 Syringe Exchange Program Grant, **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

Ms. McGoldrick relayed the urgency pertaining to the approval for the 2012-2015 syringe exchange program. She stated that the item should have been on the last agenda, but there was an oversight, so that's why it was on the agenda tonight. She stated that the funding was for the vehicle that delivers the syringes, for contracted staff persons and vehicle fuel. There is no city match.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

16-11 Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: 2012-2014 State of Connecticut Department of Public Health-Healthy Homes Program, **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

Ms. McGoldrick explained that the grant is federal money given to the state to be divided among various communities. She said the CDC (Center for Disease Control) was asking them to spend the funds quickly. The grant will be used for education and outreach for the healthy homes initiative; which involves energy efficiency, mold damage, inspections and remediation. There is no city match.

Council member Bonney asked what the dollar figure was. Ms. McGoldrick said the figure was \$50k per year, over a three-year period for a total of \$150k.

**** COUNCIL MEMBR PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBRE COLON SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council President McCarthy thanked Ms. McGoldrick for getting the information to the city council quickly.

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

13-11 Resolution presented by Council Member Paoletto re Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Section 15.12.250 Rental Conditions-Certificate of Apartment Occupancy, referred to Ordinance Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

New Business:

**** COUNCIL MEMBR CURWEN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE
PURPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO COMMITTEE
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO REFER RE: ITEM RELATED TO
STIPEND EXPENSES REIMBURSEMENT TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
(ITEM # 22-11)
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER OLSON MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE
PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER OLSON MOVED TO ADD AN ITEM FOR IMMEDIATE
CONSIDERATION RE: LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REQUESTED FROM THE
COURT (ITEM# 23-11)
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

****IT WAS STATED THAT ALL SEVENTEEN CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT
WOULD SPONSOR THE RESOLUTION.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY***

December 5, 2011 – Bridgeport City Council Resolution

WHEREAS a proposal has been made that the City of Bridgeport be no longer a part of the Fourth United States Congressional District; and,

WHEREAS a proposal has been made to include the City of Bridgeport in the Fifth United States Congressional District; and,

WHEREAS the City of Bridgeport's Mayor William Finch is opposed to such proposals,

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Bridgeport opposes the above mentioned proposals, and expresses its desire to remain a part of the Fourth Congressional District, and that further City Council wishes to make known its desire to all appropriate state bodies and legislators.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER OLSON MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- Council President announced that Council member Martin McCarthy wasn't present because he was on vacation.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services