

**CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 2, 2012
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Thomas McCarthy Called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Susan Brannelly, Martin McCarthy
131st District: Leticia Colon, Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: John Olson
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy
135th District: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
136th District: Carlos Silva, Angel dePara
137th District: Lydia Martinez, Manuel Ayala
138th District: Richard Paoletto, Robert Curwen
139th District: Andre Baker, James Holloway

There were fourteen members present and six members absent. A quorum was present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2010, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

**Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607**

**Update on Court Case and questions for
Council President, Thomas McCarthy
concerning case.**

Mr. Young came forward and said that there had been a great deal of injustice and that when he had inquired about the episode where he was attacked by Council Members, he was told that there was an investigation underway and that charges couldn't be filed until after that was concluded. Mr. Young then said that he was disappointed in Council President's testimony during the trial. He said that he wanted to get this matter investigated. Mr. Young stated that he had been told that there was a cover up about the attack and that there had been discussions with the prosecutor that occurred downstairs. He

said that he was going to request the Police Department for the documents on the case. He said that he was upset with the Council Member who claimed that Mr. Young had bumped her twice. He claimed that this had not occurred and asked everyone to visit his website to find out what happened that night. He said as he held an American flag upside down, that he was disappointed as an American.

Council President McCarthy then stated that Mr. Young was the only speaker signed up and asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Council at this time.

Council Member Lyons joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Mr. Clyde Nicholson, came forward to speak against the proposed curfew. He said that this curfew was being brought in through the back door. As a U.S. citizen, no one has the right to tell him that he cannot walk the streets whenever he wants to. Mr. Nicholson then spoke about the recent case of T. Martin and G. Zimmerman when a young black man was shot by a resident of a gated Florida community. He claimed this was the type of situation that would be happening in Bridgeport and that the curfew was an attempt to allow people to kill black people. He claimed that this was a violation of people's Constitutional rights. He then spoke about the fact that if someone's child was picked up repeatedly, the parents could be arrested. He pointed out that visitors to the City could be arrested for being out after curfew. Mr. Nicholson then spoke about a recent incident where a man was shot in front of his mother in the daytime. He reminded everyone that this was racism and not to be tolerated.

Council Member Bonney joined the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Mr. Amos Brown came forward and greeted the Council Members. He then recounted a version of the Biblical account of Moses and Pharaoh. According to Mr. Brown, the idea was to kill off black babies. He said that by letting guns into the communities, it was hoped that the black people would kill off themselves. By going to the houses where the guns are and taking them, the City would stop the killing. He said that the Council Members did not know how it feels and said that a young man was killed on Kossuth Street and the victim was shot with 14 rounds.

Council President McCarthy then asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Council at this time. No one else came forward.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President McCarthy closed the public speaking at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
April 2, 2012
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**CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 2, 2012
MINUTES
CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Finch called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

PRAYER

Council Member Taylor-Moye led those present in a short prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Holloway led 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, Martin McCarthy
131st District: Leticia Colon, Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: John Olson, M. Evette Brantley
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Richard Bonney, Warren Blunt
136th District: Carlos Silva, Angel dePara
137th District: Lydia Martinez, Manuel Ayala
138th District: Richard Paoletto, Robert Curwen
139th District: Andre Baker, James Holloway

CITY COUNCIL CITATION: IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERTO SANTOS

Council President McCarthy, Council Member Martinez, Council Member dePara, Council Member Ayala, Council Member Bonney along with Mayor Finch called Mr. Roberto Santos forward. Council President McCarthy announced that Mr. Santos was a

friend of Bridgeport and said that Mr. Santos had worked very hard for the veterans. Mr. Santos promptly received a standing ovation from those present.

Mayor Finch said that there were 564 names on the World War II memorial and said that those men had gone forth to defend our country. Mr. Santos served in the Reserves for two years and received his B.A. from Sacred Heart University. Now he works to provide our veterans with services. Mayor Finch then listed numerous citations that Mr. Santos had received during his time in the military and his later work in opening the Veteran's Support Center.

Mr. Robert Fuller, representing the veterans, then presented Mr. Santos with a certificate of appreciation along with a few gifts of gratitude.

Mr. Santos then requested that the veterans present please stand. Approximately half of the audience present stood. He thanked the veterans for their help in starting the Center and also his family.

Following the conclusion of the presentation, Council Member Holloway was recognized by the Mayor. He said that a group of eight or nine people had attended a recent conference. Council Member Holloway said that he had been trying for a long time to change the process for allocating the Block Grant funding. Years ago, there was not a major problem because the Federal funding was sufficient. Council Member Holloway said that now that there is only 4 million in the grant, it is harder allocating funds.

Council Member Holloway pointed out that the Citizen's Union works very hard on the initial allocation, but then the staff reduces the amounts for the organizations. Then the City Council changes the number yet another time. Council Member Holloway said that it wasn't right to have the Citizen's Union to work so hard, only to have the staff change the numbers and then have the Council change the number yet again.

Mayor Finch informed Council Member Holloway that Ms. Kabel had expressed concerns about the process and would be looking into how to change this.

Council Member Brantley said that she understood Council Member Holloway's concerns and reported that now there was a request to have a Continuum of Care Committee created and then have them review the allocations.

Council President McCarthy noted that there was a Board of Education member present in the audience.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: March 5, 2012

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED THE MARCH 5, 2012 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES.**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 5, 2012 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

69-11 Communication from OPM re: Proposed Budget Modification to the FY 2011-2012 General Fund Budget: Increase Line Item 01827000 55540 BOE Tuition (\$1,522,873) and Increase the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Revenue Line Item 01863000 44520 (\$1,522,873), referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Mayor Finch then read the following letter into the record:

April 2, 2012

Dear Honorable City Council members:

In accordance with the City Charter, I am hereby presenting the Mayor's proposed 2012-2013 budget for the City of Bridgeport.

For the City of Bridgeport to succeed, we must cut, invest and generate revenues. The budget I have proposed will allow us to excel on all three of these fronts.

First, let me give you a little background. During the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, the City of Bridgeport responded by demonstrating fiscal discipline and responsibility to create a leaner, more efficient government without overburdening our residents. For four years, we've done more with less. While neighboring towns and municipalities across the country have raised taxes, the City of Bridgeport has worked hard to keep taxes level for the past three years by:

- Cutting spending
- Reducing our workforce
- Reining in police overtime
- Increasing recycling rates
- Lowering our utility costs
- Working collaboratively with nearly every labor union in the City to gain concessions.

These actions have garnered the City positive bond ratings and national awards for budget transparency. Our track record during the last four years has made us a proven leader in government efficiency. In August 2011, mayors from major cities throughout the Northeast, including Philadelphia and Providence came to Bridgeport to learn how we've accomplished this.

In the FY2012-13 budget, we will continue to take measures to save our taxpayers money.

Since I first took office in 2007, we have cut over 200 positions, contributed thousands of unpaid furlough days and saved the City's residents millions of dollars through workforce efficiency improvements. In the FY2012-13 budget, we will continue to emphasize workforce efficiencies and examine personnel costs with the help of our CitiStat department so we can continue to do more with less. In this budget, I am proposing that we eliminate 26.5 positions.

Bridgeport has been at the forefront of successful labor union negotiations. Since the beginning of my first term, we have been working collaboratively with nearly all of the City's labor unions to gain concessions to help save our taxpayers money. To date, nearly every one of our labor unions has agreed to increase its members health care premium cost sharing to 25 percent. This action alone has saved City taxpayers millions in the past two years, and we are very appreciative of the collective effort of our union members in helping to shoulder the cost of healthcare. As a result of these union concessions, the total increase in active employee's health insurance spending in the FY2012-13 budget is less than \$1 million. To give some perspective, the growth in retirees' healthcare costs in this budget is \$1.5 million. This is one-half million more than all active employees.

Additionally, we have moved Fire Pension Plan B to the state's Municipal Employee Retirement Fund (MERF). My administration has recently successfully negotiated with the Police Local 1159 for the same move to MERF. Upon final approval of this move, the City of Bridgeport will be able to close all defined benefits plans for current employees.

We also have successfully kept our wage increases to a minimum. We have more than 1,300 employees, yet we have managed to keep our growth in payroll at just 1.8% in this budget.

Along with workforce efficiencies, we are also saving taxpayer dollars thanks to my BGreen 2020 initiative. In just two years since we announced the BGreen 2020 Greenprint, we have:

- Recorded real savings in our utility bills through a partnership with UI and Sylvania to change old-fashioned incandescent lights to LED lights in almost half of the City's decorative light poles. We're using less energy while maintaining safety and better illuminations for Bridgeport residents.
- Increased our recycling rates through a successful pilot program in the East Side and East End with recycling rewards partner RecycleBank. In September 2011, the entire City moved to single stream recycling, and in just six months our City's recycling rates have more than doubled. Recycling more means spending less money on tipping fees and healthier air for our residents to breathe.

Through continued efforts by the Mayor's Conservation Corps to educate our residents on the benefits of recycling, I believe our recycling rates will continue to increase resulting in even lower tipping fees and, most importantly, decreasing our carbon footprint.

We know that BGreen 2020 works, and we will continue to focus on sustainability projects that save our residents money.

Thanks to a climate of civility and compromise, my administration, the City Council, and the Board of Education are working together now more than ever. I encourage the Council to endorse through this budget, this new climate of civility.

Thanks to this collaboration and partnership, the City has identified measures that will help the Board of Education to address the budget gap that the Board inherited from previous leadership.

The City has agreed to:

- Take over costs and management of school crossing guards;
- Transfer the management of School Security to the Chief of Police;
- Merge school facilities under the City's budget;
- Fund a Director of School Facilities to evaluate operational improvements in building maintenance, utilities, and utilization, and,
- Take over school solid waste and recycling.

Additionally, the City will transfer the funds generated from the imminent sale of 948 Main Street to the Board of Education after staff is moved and the building is available for sale. This move also will eliminate monthly parking charges.

Through these initiatives alone, we have already provided the Board of Education with an additional \$2 million this year.

During these difficult economic times, the residents of Bridgeport have entrusted me to find ways to save the City money in order to avoid raising taxes. With record-high unemployment rates and many of our residents reeling from the effects of unscrupulous mortgage lenders, I dedicated my first four years to withstanding the challenges of our economy by making the City as efficient as possible.

Much like a boxer trains for an upcoming fight, we've spent the last four years trimming budgets, finding efficiencies and working collaboratively to get ready to face our biggest challenges. Now we are getting into the ring, and are ready to take on the fights before us.

We are ready to fight for safer neighborhoods by investing in public safety. We are ready to fight crumbling infrastructure by investing in our roads. And, we are ready to fight failing schools by investing in education.

I firmly believe that we have an unprecedented opportunity to turn our schools around:

- Connecticut has a Governor who has made education reform a statewide priority.
- Our state also has an education commissioner, Stefan Pryor, who is focused on turning around low-performing schools.
- Bridgeport currently has an apolitical Board of Education that has stabilized our system, and has created a culture of civility that I hope to see continue beyond their days in office.
- Bridgeport also has a Superintendent of Schools with a track record of success in some of the nation's largest cities.

National experts on education agree and are looking to see what we will do with this opportunity. Will we succeed or will we fail? In order for us to succeed, we must invest in education.

I am proposing an historic increase in education in the FY2012-13 budget. The City will provide the Board of Education with a \$7 million increase, coupled with an expected \$3.5 million from Governor Malloy. This is a \$10.5 million increase in funding for the Board of Education for FY2012-13. I believe this increase is necessary to reform our schools, and create an education system that can fairly educate the children of Bridgeport in this highly competitive world.

Under the leadership of our nationally renowned Superintendent of Schools, Paul Vallas, I am confident that this increase in funding will be targeted toward increasing student achievement and educational outcomes. Superintendent Vallas recently laid out his long-term vision that includes an intensive work study program, a universal curriculum, and expanding early childhood education with a “cradle to the classroom” approach. Vallas’ plan will also ensure our taxpayers hard-earned dollars are following the students.

We are also continuing to pursue our aggressive school construction and renovation plan: We have built five new schools and construction crews are hard at work on the new, \$125 million, Fairchild-Wheeler Memorial High School, which will give 1,000 Bridgeport students an opportunity to take part in a cutting-edge curriculum focusing on engineering, information technology, and conservation. We are in the planning phase for a new Harding High School, and, we are readying Roosevelt, Black Rock and Longfellow Schools for significant renovations, improvements or replacements.

In addition to building and renovating schools, we are also going to focus on beautifying, cleaning and improving our schools’ campuses.

Our proposed investment in education also includes a \$140,000 increase in funding for our award-winning Lighthouse Afterschool Program - a program that this Council has fought hard to preserve through thick and thin.

With this budget, I am also proposing that the City of Bridgeport continues its investment in Public Safety. With the help of federal grants, we will add 20 new police officers to join the ranks in the coming year. In addition to the 25 new police officers who were sworn in last fall, after rigorous training in the academy with an unprecedented focus on community engagement, this will be 45 new officers protecting and serving the City of Bridgeport. Federal grants are also helping us add 18 new firefighters to the Bridgeport Fire Department. Our investment in

public safety also includes technology and equipment improvements for our Police and Fire Departments as well as our Emergency Operations and Communications Centers.

In addition to education and public safety, we have also made investing in the City's infrastructure a priority. Building on our successful Bridgeport@Work initiative, which began last summer, we will continue to focus our efforts on street paving, roadway improvements, sidewalk replacements, parks improvements and beautification projects that will provide for recreational opportunities and help divert storm water which will increase the City's sustainability and attractiveness for our growing population.

We are reclaiming and revitalizing our neighborhoods. For example, this summer we will unveil the fountain at the intersection of Fairfield Avenue and State Street Extension. The fountain will no longer be inactive. It will be alive and will pay tribute to aviation pioneer Gustav Whitehead.

Our efforts to recapture the waterfront and give our residents more access is also reflected in this budget. Our City's waterfront is its most underutilized resource. Generations of Bridgeport residents have been unable to enjoy the waterfront because it has been blocked off by Jersey barriers and barbed wire fences. Bringing the people to the water, by investing in the City's aggressive waterfront recapture initiative will increase property values, enhance neighborhoods and attract development, and the tax dollars that brings.

To see an example of what we've already accomplished on this front, look no further than Knowlton Street, where we are in the process of creating a new five-acre waterfront park on the East Side. This park has already had a very visible impact on the surrounding neighborhood. The owners of a long derelict building on Knowlton Street facing the park have begun cleaning up their property and are planning to open a deli. Couple this with the improvements made in this neighborhood thanks to Habitat for Humanity, Achievement First and the Gallery @ 305K, and we have a thriving community in the Knowlton Park neighborhood. Thank you to the Acme Shear Company along with Pedro Wasmer and Mark Tillinger for their cooperation in helping us recapture the waterfront on Knowlton Street.

Additionally, our aggressive approach to recapturing the waterfront will also bring residents back to Pleasure Beach. We are reconstructing the

docks and procuring vessels to bring Bridgeport residents back this beautiful park.

The City of Bridgeport is also strengthening its commitment to cleaning up neighborhoods, fining lax property owners, and demolishing vacant and abandoned structures. Property owners who allow their buildings to fall into disrepair or neglect will be fined, and we will take a tougher stance on collecting fines through a special initiative in our City Attorney's office. We want to make the City a cleaner place, and that starts with keeping property owners accountable for their buildings so they do not become a drag on neighborhood property values. I am passionate about going after outside investors who come into Bridgeport and do not keep up their properties as well as I keep up my property or the rest of our residents keep up their property.

I believe that these investments in education, public safety and infrastructure are necessary for the future of our City. Better schools, safer neighborhoods and a 21st century green infrastructure are in our future, thanks to the budget I have proposed.

While it is not strictly an investment there is also a \$10.5 million cost in this budget that the City is shouldering in legacy spending. Pensions for retirees continue to be an impediment to fiscal sustainability. While this is very difficult for middle-income taxpayers who are fitting the bill, Bridgeport unlike many other municipalities is addressing our pension obligations now to better position ourselves for the future.

We are also committed to increasing the City of Bridgeport's revenues through our aggressive efforts to reach delinquent taxpayers through the following collection methods:

- Continuing our motor vehicles booting program.
- Selling real estate tax liens.
- Increasing cooperation between Tax Collector, Tax Assessor and City Attorney to collect delinquent tax laws.
- Targeting scofflaws, primarily residents who illegally register their cars outside the City of Bridgeport to avoid paying their fair share of taxes to the City, and causing higher taxes to be levied on the rest of us who are obeying the law. Catching these law breakers is a priority of this administration through the Bridgeport Police Department.

We will also generate revenue to the City by expanding our taxbase through economic development efforts to attract new businesses and residents.

Economic development initiatives, which will increase our tax base, create jobs and opportunities, are moving forward in throughout the City. We are specifically focused on the following projects:

- **The Downtown Village District (Downtown North):**

This is the next chapter in Downtown's revitalization. This six-acre neighborhood has generated significant interest in investors who share our vision for development. That vision is laid out in the City's Master Plan, which calls for preserving our historic buildings, creating shops, restaurants and apartments, attracting the creative class, and continuing to grow an exciting sense of place for our Downtown.

- **Steelpointe Harbor:**

Thanks to an \$11 million TIGER grant from the federal government for infrastructure work on Steelpointe Harbor, shovels will be in the ground and work on the peninsula will begin this year, laying the foundation for this game-changing development project.

- **East Bridgeport Development Corridor:**

This transit-oriented development corridor encompasses the former General Electric plant on Boston Avenue, and extends to the former DuPont property (Remington Woods) – all together a vast tract of over 700 acres. As we speak, the former GE and Remington Woods sites, two parcels critical to this corridor, are being cleaned at zero cost to taxpayers. A feasibility study will soon be underway for the much needed P.T. Barnum Train Station, a second train station for Bridgeport, which will be a major priority of this corridor.

In addition to generating revenues for the City through aggressive tax collection and economic development, I am also proposing that we generate the revenue necessary to make an historic investment in our education system, public safety, and infrastructure through a 2.7 mill increase. For the average resident in Bridgeport who currently pays \$6,200 in taxes, this equals a \$424 increase, roughly \$35 per month. As a homeowner myself, I understand that this is not easy. I can, however ensure Bridgeport residents that this increase will be wisely invested to stabilize and grow our City. It is also worth noting, that the bulk of this 2.7 mill increase is attributed to our pension obligations.

I have proven to you over the last four years, that I will spend your tax dollars with the utmost responsibility. The City of Bridgeport will do everything in our power to ensure that your tax dollars are being used properly to invest in our collective future.

Sincerely,
Bill Finch
Mayor

- 70-11 Communication from Mayor re: Proposed General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.**
- 71-11 Communication from Public Facilities re: Proposed Professional Service Agreement with BL Companies for Design Services related to Downtown Intermodal Urban Design Enhancement & Implementation, referred to Contracts Committee.**
- 72-11 Communication from Public Facilities re: Proposed Agreement with Constellation New Energy, Inc. regarding Detailed Energy Audit Services, referred to Contracts Committee.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE:**

- 69-11 COMMUNICATION FROM OPM RE: PROPOSED BUDGET MODIFICATION TO THE FY 2011-2012 GENERAL FUND BUDGET: INCREASE LINE ITEM 01827000 55540 BOE TUITION (\$1,522,873) AND INCREASE THE EDUCATION COST SHARING (ECS) REVENUE LINE ITEM 01863000 44520 (\$1,522,873), REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**
- 70-11 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

**71-11 COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC FACILITIES RE:
PROPOSED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH
BL COMPANIES FOR DESIGN SERVICES RELATED TO
DOWNTOWN INTERMODAL URBAN DESIGN
ENHANCEMENT & IMPLEMENTATION, REFERRED TO
CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**72-11 COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC FACILITIES RE:
PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH CONSTELLATION NEW
ENERGY, INC. REGARDING DETAILED ENERGY AUDIT
SERVICES, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***60-11 Contracts Committee Report re: Amendment to the Discovery Museum
Lease Agreement.**

***62-11 Contracts Committee Report re: Agreement with the National
Development Council regarding Community and Economic
Development Advisement.**

***54-11 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee
Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut DECD Regional
Brownfield Development Grant to be used for Brownfield Geographic
Information System (GIS).**

***55-11 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee
Report re: State of Connecticut DECD Regional Brownfield
Development Grant to be used for Environmental and Site work at 148
and 220 Waterview Avenue.**

***57-11 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee
Report re: Grant Submission: 2012 United States Conference of
Mayors' Dollarwise Grant Program.**

***58-11 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee
Report re: Grant Submission: United States Soccer Foundation for the
2012 Soccer Foundation Annual Sports Lighting Grant Program.**

- *59-11 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State Department of Social Services for Social Services Block Grant Extension for a six month period of April 2012 – September 2012.**
- *42-11 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: State Reimbursement of Low and Moderate Income Housing Tax for the Grand List of 2010.**
- *43-11 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Refund of Excess Payments.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTY MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- *60-11 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE DISCOVERY MUSEUM LEASE AGREEMENT.**
- *62-11 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL REGARDING COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISEMENT.**
- *54-11 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DECD REGIONAL BROWNFIELD DEVELOPMENT GRANT TO BE USED FOR BROWNFIELD GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS).**
- *55-11 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DECD REGIONAL BROWNFIELD DEVELOPMENT GRANT TO BE USED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SITE WORK AT 148 AND 220 WATERVIEW AVENUE.**
- *57-11 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: 2012 UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS' DOLLARWISE GRANT PROGRAM.**

- *58-11 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: UNITED STATES SOCCER FOUNDATION FOR THE 2012 SOCCER FOUNDATION ANNUAL SPORTS LIGHTING GRANT PROGRAM.**
- *59-11 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT EXTENSION FOR A SIX MONTH PERIOD OF APRIL 2012 – SEPTEMBER 2012.**
- *42-11 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: STATE REIMBURSEMENT OF LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING TAX FOR THE GRANT LIST OF 2010.**
- *43-11 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

27-11 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: DEEP Community Gardens Grant Program.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER COLON MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

27-11 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEEP COMMUNITY GARDENS GRANT PROGRAM.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER OLSEN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO CONSIDER A RESOLUTION FROM THE FLOOR.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Rev. Olson then presented the following resolution to the Council from the floor:

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ABOLISHMENT OF THE LAW
AUTHORIZING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN CONNECTICUT.**

**WHEREAS THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS CONSIDERING A
PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH THE USE OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT,**

**AND WHEREAS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE IS
RECOMMENDING PASSAGE OF THE PROPOSAL,**

**AND WHEREAS GOVERNOR DANIEL MALLOY HAS PUBLICLY STATED
HIS INTENTION TO APPROVE SUCH A PROPOSAL IF ENACTED BY THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY,**

**NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE
BRIDGEPORT CITY COUNCIL BY VOTE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE THEIR
SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AT THE
APRIL 16, 2012 CITY COUNCIL MEETING.**

**AND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL WISHES TO CONVEY ITS SENTIMENT
TO THE BRIDGEPORT MEMBERS OF THE CONNECTICUT HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES AND THE CONNECTICUT STATE SENATE.**

**RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY JOHN W. OLSON, BRIDGEPORT CITY
COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE 132ND DISTRICT.**

Council President McCarthy asked if this item was being referred to Committee. Mayor Finch pointed out that the General Assembly was adjourning on May 2nd. Discussion followed regarding the protocol on 2/3rd majority needed for an emergency vote on a resolution off the floor. Mayor Finch said that there would need to be a second vote to waive the referral. It was pointed out that this would be a non-binding resolution. Mayor Finch said that this was different than signing an individual letter of support because it would be making a statement about the City of Bridgeport.

Council President McCarthy suggested tabling this item until the next meeting, so that the Council Members could have an opportunity to speak with their constituents and consider the resolution.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO TABLE THE
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ABOLISHMENT OF THE LAW**

AUTHORIZING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN CONNECTICUT TO THE APRIL 16TH COUNCIL MEETING. (ITEM #73-11)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Finch then pointed out that by waiting two weeks for the next meeting, it would not be an emergency. Council President McCarthy disagreed. Rev. Olsen said that Capital Punishment was an emergency.

Council Member Curwen said that he and Council Member dePara would begin reviewing the Mayor's proposed budget tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BLUNT SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services