

**CITY of BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2012
6:30 PM**

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:56 pm.

No roll call was taken.

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone present to speak –*called three times*

He stated that no speakers signed up in the city clerk's office or tonight to speak.

Hearing none, the public speaking session was closed.

The public speaking session closed at 6:57 pm.

CITY of BRIDGEPORT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2012

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

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

ABSENT: Council members: Colon, Austin, Lyons, Silva, Ayala

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Prayer - the prayer was offered by Council member Blunt.

Pledge of Allegiance – the pledge was led by Council member Olson.

Roll Call - the city clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

Moment of Silence – Council President McCarthy requested a moment of silence for Council member Austin’s brother who passed away.

Council President McCarthy called for a caucus at 7:15 pm.

The caucus ended at 7:30 pm.

Mayor Finch reconvened the meeting at 7:35 pm.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: August 6, 2012

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

141-11 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Ashley Santiago, PPA, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

142-11 Communication from OPED re: Disposition of City Owned Properties to Habitat for Humanity and Request for a Public Hearing Ordered concerning the same, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

143-11 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend to add new Chapter Disability Pension Benefits Police and Fire, referred to Ordinance Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY MOVED TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

144-11 Communication from Public Facilities re: Proposed Agreement with Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority regarding Commercial Property Clean Energy ("C-PACE") Program, **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**

Council member Holloway stated that after reading the resolution, a meeting was held on July 16. He asked if someone could address the council with additional information.

Ted Graybarz addressed the city council and stated that a series of meetings took place. They found out about the program in early July and they were told that as part of the program, they were trying to change it to a more local level. He said he initially thought that if they could get Bridgeport to be the first community involved with the program, it would be benefit. However, he found out within the last two weeks that Norwalk and Stamford are also involved in the program. He explained that the program will allow the city to be the benefactor from the state to aid economic development in the city without any financial risk.

Council member Holloway recalled that in the past, he had an issue with items being added to the agenda for immediate consideration; however, he said he read the information and he didn't have a problem with the item being on the agenda.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Finch added that due to the Ted Graybarz's hard work, the city has received a lot of recognition. In addition, due to Bill Clinton's idea, the money will be made available to the city which will help spur businesses and jobs.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

There were no items requested to be removed from the consent calendar.

The city clerk read the items into the record.

***99-11** Contracts Committee Report re: Agreement with Bridgeport City Supervisor's Association (BCSA) regarding their bargaining unit contract for the period of July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004 and July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2008.

***106-11** Contracts Committee Report re: Agreement with New England Health Care Employees Union, Local 1199 (Nurses) concerning their bargaining unit contract.

***125-11** Contracts Committee Report re: Agreement with Fairfield County Building Trades for the period of July 31, 2011 to July 31, 2015 regarding their bargaining unit contract.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED WITH FIFTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR FOR ITEMS *106-11**
and *125-11
and MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR FOR ITEM 99-11
AND ONE ABSTENTION (COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY)

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

127-11 Contracts Committee Report re: Real Property Purchase Agreement with
125 Access Road, LLC.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**

Council member Brannelly requested to schedule a public hearing on October 1, 2012 for
the items approved

**** MOTION AMENDED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING ON OCTOBER**
1, 2012

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO RESCIND THE MOTION**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING**
ON OCTOBER 1, 2012 BEFORE THE FULL CITY COUNCIL
**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTELTY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO TABLE ITEM 127-11 BEFORE**
THE FULL CITY COUNCIL
**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ADDED:

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

145-11 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Loan Agreement with State of Connecticut Department of Education, **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

COUNCIL MEMBER OLSON MOVED TO APPROVE

COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED

Superintendent Paul Vallas gave a brief presentation related to the item. He said there was a great opening to the school year. He gave some details about the forgivable loan agreement with the state regarding the allocation of \$3.5 million in the form of a forgivable loan. He explained that loan will be based on certain conditions that will center around the following:

- Local elected school board. He commented that they want to weigh in on the quality of the candidates.
- Achievement District. He commented that they have to submit certain comprehensive performance plans and all the districts that receive money are part of the plan. He said Bridgeport's plan was approved and made part of the Achievement District (based on academic accountability).
- Financial Accountability. He commented that they want access to the finances to ensure that they have a solid plan and they will now be able to view on-line where the Board of Education money is going, this resulted in establishing transparency budgeting.

Superintendent Vallas clarified that what the state was demanding in no way deviates from the plan that the BOE has put together over the past six months. He further relayed some of the projects planned for school improvements. Overall, he stated that he was comfortable with the proposal and there haven't been any surprises. He thanked the city council for their support and for providing the necessary additional funding.

Council member Curwen mentioned the \$1 million deficit. He questioned if they reach the three conditions, has the documentation already been provided to the state. Superintendent Vallas replied yes. He said they submitted financial and academic plans ahead of time as justification for receiving the loan.

Council member Curwen asked if the repayment schedule would come with benchmarks and if there are existing conditions that apply for years two and three. Superintendent Vallas stated that in laying out the 5-year plan; as part of the Achievement District, the plan has all the benchmarks needed to comply. He said it's a comprehensive plan for the

next five years and the state commissioner would ensure that they are in compliance and he will be the person that lays out the benchmarks.

Council member Curwen questioned how this will affect the charter revision if the Mayor gets to select the Board of Education members; he wanted to know if it would affect the loan agreement. Mayor Finch said he didn't think it would affect the loan agreement. He clarified that the BOE board will be nominated by qualification and approved by the city council.

Superintendent Vallas clarified that the BOE is obligated to repay the loan out of their budget, so they will have to comply.

Mayor Finch relayed that it will be crucial to continue on the path of reform to do the right thing for the kids.

Council member dePara asked if the city or the BOE would receive advance notice of partial funding. Superintendent Vallas said he wasn't sure but he would find out.

Council member dePara asked if there was any repayment schedule drafted. Superintendent Vallas said they were working to set aside funds and if they aren't successful raising the amount anticipated, the goal is to build a reserve of \$1 to 2 million to cover the payments if necessary.

Council member dePara asked Superintendent Vallas to submit the information back to Council President McCarthy when it's available. Superintendent Vallas agreed he would.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH THIRTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND TWO VOTES IN OPPOSITON (COUNCIL MEMBERS: BAKER and BRANTLEY)**

New business:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA
** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 128-11 RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION TO PURSUE A RUNWAY SAFETY AREA AT THE END OF THE AIRPORT'S RUNWAY 6/24
** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED**

Council member Olson stated that he would like more information before voting on the item.

Mayor Finch stated that by the year 2015, all airports have to implement EMASS. He further explained that the runway will stay where it is, but it will be extended 200 ft. to 300 ft. to mitigate safety.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 134-11 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE: STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR 2007-2013 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT (SNAP)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PUROSE OF ADDING THREE (3) ITEMS TO THE AGENDA**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO COMBINE AND APPROVE THREE (3) ITEMS AS AMENDED 131-11; 132-11 AND 133-11 MODIFICATION TO THE FY 2013-2017 FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PLAN CONCERNING CITY PROJECTS**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

Council member Baker asked why they were putting so much money into the airport.

Council member T. McCarthy stated that he sits on the Airport Commission. He explained that the runway needs to be repaved and the FAA (Federal Aviation Association) won't pay for it. He further explained that if it's not repaved, the less traffic the airport will see. And when the safety zone goes in, take-offs and landings will advance; additionally, when the quality of the runway advances, then they will draw more people to the airport. He clarified that the airport has never made a profit and the project will allow a safer runway and landing and this will ultimately attract more people and revenue.

Council member Brantley echoed Council member McCarthy, noting that the safety issue is very important.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER)**

Other business:

Council member dePara relayed that the following information was distributed to the council member's seat:

- Budget booklet
- Current financial reports

He stated that if questions arise, they should contact the committee co-chairs.

Mayor Finch announced that Council member Paoletto would act as a representative to the Homeland Security Advisory Board.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services