

**CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2011  
6:30 pm**

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

ABSENT: M. McCarthy, A. Ayala, Austin, Blunt, Silva, Martinez, Holloway

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:45 pm.

The Assistant City Clerk took the roll call and she announced there was a quorum.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2011, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>
Clyde Nicholson 54 Wallace Street Bridgeport, CT 06606	Guns

Mr. Nicholson mentioned that he left some information on the council members desks.

He went on to say that he was asking the city council to embrace the concept of a gun free zone and pass it into law as the first legislation in the state. He spoke about the old days when the founding fathers allowed the bearing of arms to protect families. However, today the NRA (National Rifle Association) still uses the law as a right to bear arms and he felt the definition was outdated. He further spoke about people owning AK-47's, 9-millimeters, bazookas and other artillery that presents a big problem. He commented about the hunting laws to make the point that there isn't any hunting done in this area. He emphasized that guns aren't required and he felt the only purpose for them was to kill someone. He said the owning of guns perpetuate open season on poor folks and it's a threat to have someone come out in public with a gun. He gave an example of a threat that was made with a gun against a person. He requested that within thirty days, any resident that turns in a gun will be paid for it. He expressed that the inner city communities are at great risk, because you never know who is buying the gun. In addition, the gun sellers aren't being held accountable. Overall, he felt they could push for legislation to have all guns registered, just as you would register a car. He explained the purpose was to close the gap ow owning a gun in the city and to honor everyone's well being.

Mark Trojanowski  
address not stated

Signed up to speak tonight

Mr. Trojanowski spoke about issues regarding taxes. He recalled an article in the CT Post about the \$3.5 million deficit in the state. He stated that an ordinance needed to be passed for homeowners to modify their tax payment over the course of three to five years. He said that although there may be a problem with the statute, he felt in certain situations, there could be a special dispensation for those that qualify. He explained that he was making this suggestion for residents that are in dire financial straits and who might want to modify their taxes. He further relayed problems that are associated with taxes not being paid, which often results in foreclosure and relocation for the homeowner. He said the point was to lessen the burden on the taxpayer so they can survive.

Council member dePara asked him if he had a written proposal to review that could be discussed. Mr. Trojanowski replied no, but he said he could put something together for them to look at.

The public speaking session ended at 7:00 pm.

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 7, 2011

7:00 pm.

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

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

ABSENT: Council members: M. McCarthy, A. Ayala, Austin, Silva, Martinez

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

Prayer Council member Brannelly offered the prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance Jr. Council member William Durham led the pledge.

Roll Call The assistant clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

*Council President McCarthy announced that the following council members were absent due to the following reasons:*

*Council member Silva had car trouble; Council member Austin's wife was ill; Council member Martinez was attending a conference.*

*Moment of Silence requested by Council member Brantley for: Thomas Williams who was a social work with the Department of Children and Families.*

Bridgeport Firefighters Presentation to Mayor, City Council President, Police Chief and other city officials on behalf of the Fallen Firefighters Fund.

Fire Chief Rooney stated his appreciation to all the elected officials and members of the community for showing their support and condolences during the loss of the two firefighters. He expressed that their families and the department were still grieving on a daily basis and depressed about what occurred. However, they have had great support from everyone.

*He had plaques to hand out to show the department's thanks for those who showed their support.* Chief Rooney extended a sincere heartfelt thank you to those who stepped up through the unthinkable tragedy.

*The plagues were given to the following people: Mayor Finch, Council President Thomas McCarthy (accepted on behalf of the entire city council); Elaine Ficarra, Press Secretary, Mayor's Office; Police Chief Gaudett, Renee Delfrisco, Fire Chief Rooney's Office and Fire Chief Brian Rooney - the entire city council and audience stood to acknowledge the recipients.*

Chief Rooney expressed his thanks to everyone.

Mayor Finch expressed his thanks to the fire department for holding so many successful events. He commented that he was a changed person due to the tragedy and his prayers were with them.

Council President McCarthy expressed his sentiments for all they have gone through and to those that took the time to express their gratitude to the city council.

Mayoral Citation: Pedro Soto, Landlord, who took such a personal interest in each and every resident in his building at 590 Fairfield Avenue.

Mayor Finch, Council President McCarthy and Council member Paoletto approached to present the citation to Pedro Soto.

Mayor Finch expressed that Council member Paoletto was the first one to call him about Mr. Soto. He recalled the fatal fire that occurred in a single occupancy dwelling on Fairfield Avenue that was a very sad day and a life was lost. He further expressed that when a tragedy occurs, it's usually the Red Cross that steps in to help, but in this case, Mr. Soto found shelter for all thirty-three (33) families to go to. He went on to say that he was told how Mr. Soto treats people like family and in this incident, he helped to get the dislocated tenants back on their feet – *he read the citation and announced that February 7 would be recognized as "Pedro Soto Day"!*

Mr. Soto expressed his gratitude for the citation. He stated the importance of finding homes for the homeless,

Council member Paoletto commented that he has inspected Mr. Soto's buildings through the years. And he stated how well he takes care of his properties and he wished that other property owners did the same.

City Council Citation: Vazzy's Brick Oven Restaurant for Outstanding Generosity to the Bridgeport Community.

Council member Curwen stated that every day we are confronted with the wants and needs in a community. He said it's the unsung heroes that you never hear about, such as John Pizanno, who has donated generously to various entities in Bridgeport on an annual basis. He expressed that these types of persons deserve to be recognized, because they help keep the city going – *Council President McCarthy read the citation.*

Mr. Pizanno thanked everyone for recognizing his contributions to the city.

*Mayor Finch invited the Junior Council members who were present to sit up front to observe the meeting.*

Personal Privilege – Council member Holloway stated that it was the first week of Black History Month. He recalled that the first night he stepped into city hall during 1978, he saw pictures of people that were of African American and Latino heritage but have since been taken down. He requested to have the wall of heritage pictures put back up. Mayor Finch stated that the request should be communicated to the City Hall Committee.

Mayor Finch spoke about the \$300 million cut that equates to 7.5% to CDBG. He noted that there is a large number of programs that will be affected. He urged everyone involved in block grants to get involved and speak up. He relayed that the purpose of block grants is to address and aid various problems that affect the city. He stressed that they need to reach out to their constituents and business leaders to help save CDBG funds. - *he read an excerpt from an article that outlined the 7.5% cut. Once again, he urged everyone to make a statement and speak up.*

Council member Holloway stated that many municipalities don't need block grant money, however, Bridgeport does. He mentioned that a conference will be held on February 16 regarding the matter and he suggested that there should be real dialogue concerning the matter. He said he planned to attend to speak up about the need for the monies and he emphasized that they all need to go hard to push for the funds.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

- 23-10** Communication from Tax Collector, re Refund of Excess Payments, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 24-10** Communication from OPED, re Proposed Lease-Purchase Agreement for 485 Howard Avenue to be used by the Police Department pursuant to RFP results, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 25-10** Communication from OPED, re PILOT Agreement with POKO Partners in collaboration with Alpha Community Services for the Clinton Commons Project, a 33 unit affordable housing project, at 75-101 Clinton Avenue and ordering Public Hearing relative to the same, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 26-10** Communication from OPED, re Approval of Sycamore Housing Associates LLP as the Purchaser and Developer of Sycamore Place Apartments, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

- 27-10** Communication from OPED, re Proposed Lease Agreement with Gloria P. Sancho for 1335 East Main Street to be used by the Police Department for the East Side Precinct, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 28-10** Communication from Mayor, re Proposed Assignment of Arena Operating Agreement from Centerplace to Sound Tiger Entity, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 29-10** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development, re Grant Submission: U.S. Department of Energy EPA – 2010 LEAP (Local Energy Assurance Plans for Connecticut Municipalities) Grant Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 30-10** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development, re Grant Submission: Connecticut Department of Public Health for 2011 Lead Poisoning Prevention – Education Outreach Grant, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:  
 \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED  
 \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

Mayor Finch asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent calendar.

Council member T. McCarthy requested to remove item **\*21-10** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re [Ref # 13-09 & 13-09(S)] Reaffirmation and Appointment of Members to the 2010-2012 Citizen’s Union.

Council member Walsh requested to remove item **\*18-10** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: U.S. EPA 2010 Greenscaper Grant Program.

The Assistant City Clerk read the remaining items into the record:

- \*08-10** Ordinance Committee Report re Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances amended to add new Chapter 2.79 Bridgeport Regional Council of Elected Officials.
- \*161-09(PHO)** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Public Hearing Ordered for February 22, 2011 regarding Disposition of City Owned Properties to Habitat for Humanity.
- \*164-09(PHO)** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Public Hearing Ordered for February 22, 2011 regarding

Development, Lease and Use Agreement with M.O.V.E. Yacht Club for the re-development of 148-220 Waterview Avenue.

- \*01-10** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: State Department of Social Services for 2010-2011 Social Services Block Grant.
- \*02-10** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: Department of Housing and Urban Development for 2011-2014 Bridgeport Lead Free Families Grant (BLFF).
- \*05-10** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: State Department of Social Services for 2010-2012 Retired Volunteer Program Grant.
- \*16-10** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: State Department of Public Health and The Connecticut Association of Directors of Health (CADH) for 2010-2011 Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Contract.
- \*18-10** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: U.S. EPA 2010 Greenscaper Grant Program. - *removed*
- \*166-09** Contracts Committee Report re State Lobbying Services Agreement.
- \*11-10** Contracts Committee Report re Supplement No. 1 to Lease Agreement No. DTFANE-06-L-00025 with USA, Federal Aviation Administration ATCT/AFS for space at Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport.
- \*21-10** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re [Ref # 13-09 & 13-09(S)] Reaffirmation and Appointment of Members to the 2010-2012 Citizen's Union. - *removed*

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Finch returned to the items that were removed:

- \*18-10** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: U.S. EPA 2010 Greenscaper Grant Program.

Council member Walsh questioned the co-chair of the committee to ask about the federal government dropping the grant match of \$10k. He asked if there was any city money going towards the position. Council member dePara said no, the money is coming from the city

side to the match. He stated that the scope of the position hadn't been discussed during committee. Council member Walsh acknowledged that he was satisfied with the answer.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**\*21-10** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re [Ref # 13-09 & 13-09(S)] Reaffirmation and Appointment of Members to the 2010-2012 Citizen's Union.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER T. MCCARTHY MOVED TO AMEND THE ITEM FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF REPLACING A COMMITTEE MEMBER THAT  
RESIGNED WITH A NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

Approval of City Council Minutes: January 3, 2011

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER M. AYALA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:**

**129-09** Contracts Committee Report re Lease and Option to Purchase Agreement with Four Kids Enterprise, LLC for property located at 485 Howard Avenue to be used by the Police Department. **DENIED**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**88-09** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re Amendment to the City Council Rules of Order- New Rule XXX – SURPLUS CITY PROPERTY SALES.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

Council member Walsh thanked the committee for finally adding the item to the agenda. He said he hoped his colleagues would support the item. He further noted the importance of everyone getting the best deal.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### **160-09** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re Refund of Excess Payments.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia stated this item was on the agenda due to the questions regarding the amount that was refunded to Harbor Yard Arena. The reason for the refund was that the properties were over assessed. She noted that the first check was issued in the amount of \$10,448.46 and the second check was issued in the amount of \$10,021.46. The amounts were adjusted by the new Tax Assessor and the Tax Collector.

Council member Walsh asked if there was any further explanation for the over assessment. Council member Vizzo-Paniccia stated the properties were double taxed per the PILOT agreement, the problem was found that they were over taxed and that was the reason for the refunds.

Council member Walsh said he has seen a number of stop judgments against the city from the prior assessment, but he thought in this case, there was an arrangement. He had a concern that there are more of these types of properties out there and he felt it will be a big problem down the line.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **Other Business:**

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

Council member Paoletto explained the item pertained to a proposed amendment of the Inter-municipal Agreement with the Town of Trumbull concerning the Fairchild Wheeler Memorial High School.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER THE MATTER OF INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF TRUMBULL CONCERNING THE FAIRCHILD WHEELER MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE (ITEM # 31-10)**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PUPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO REFER RE: LAWSUIT BRYAN CASIO vs. THE CITY of BRIDGEPORT TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE TO BE TAKEN UP AT THE NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETING (ITEM # 33-10)**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO REFER RE: RESOLUTION TO HONOR FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS LIEUTENANT STEVEN VELASQUEZ AND FIREFIGHTER MICHEL BAIK BY INCLUDING THEIR NAMES ON THE STREET SIGN AT THE INTERSECTION OF OCEAN TERRACE AND OSBORNE STREET, ADJACENT TO THEIR FIREHOUSE 7 & 11 TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (ITEM # 32-10)**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Council member Lyons thanked everyone for their support during her surgery and recovery. She stated that it's the end of her surgery, through God's grace!*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services