

**CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
DECEMBER 21, 2009
6:30 p.m.**

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

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

The city clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS HAVE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2009, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME	SUBJECT
Daniella Rosicclair 84 Ocean Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06605	Voice Opinion

This speaker was called to address the city council three times. She wasn't present to speak.

Representative Christopher L. Caruso Legislative Office Building, Room 5001 Hartford, CT 06106-1591	Proposed Jail
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It was announced that this speaker wouldn't address the city council tonight because he was called to the capitol.

Cecil C. Young 98 Carroll Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06607	Unethical Tactics
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Cecil Young stated that he was there to speak about the CT Post article regarding removal of one of the council members. He expressed that he liked Council member Walsh and he felt that he was one of the best they ever had. He said that in looking at what Council member Walsh said, he thought that the implication was to express what it's like to be let down for people of color. He recalled how Council member Walsh has stood up in the past for equality and other issues. In his opinion, he thought that Council member Walsh should be given a reward. He further recalled how he stood up for him through his ordeal regarding past allegations. He stressed that people of color should start to be included in what's going on.

He went on to say that he is a taxpayer and he was fed up with being ignored. He stated that the only way to be heard is to state that he was tired of being treated like a...*(he used the N word)*. Council President McCarthy admonished Mr. Young to ask him to refrain from using the "N" word language.

Mr. Young continued his tirade about being treated like a ..*(N word used again)*. He became loud and said he wanted justice, in view of the fact that he pays taxes. Council President McCarthy attempted to interject, but Mr. Young didn't acknowledge him. Council member McCarthy finally stated that his time was up to speak and he banged the gavel for him to stop speaking.

Donald F. Rainone, Ph.D.
Executive Director/CEO
Music and Arts Center for Humanity
510 Barnum Avenue, 3rd Fl.
Bridgeport, CT 06608

Music and Arts Center

This speaker wasn't present to address the city council.

Joan Rosenbaum
Board Chair
Music and Arts Center for Humanity
510 Barnum Avenue, 3rd Fl.
Bridgeport, CT 06608

Music and Arts Center

This speaker wasn't present to address the city council.

Lisa Parziale signed up this evening to address the city council.

She stated she was there with a heavy heart regarding her friendship and as the godmother of Council member Brantley's nephew. She went on to say that before Council member Brantley started passing around the message that Council member Walsh left her, she told her she was angry and upset with Council member Walsh and she asked her where the tape was. She suggested that they get together with the district leader and Council member Walsh and discuss the matter, and if an apology was warranted she would get it. She further told her that she might be disappointed at the outcome. Subsequently, Council member Brantley found out that she was correct and she then stated that she would go to Council President McCarthy.

She went on to say that she hasn't heard from Council member Brantley since that conversation. Recently, Council member Brantley called her to say that someone told her she was upset with her; but she said that wasn't true at all. She went on to recall the years that she served on the council. She further stated that the way the matter was handled

was inappropriate and the way the message was being thrown around the city and through the media was wrong.

She relayed that they also had a conversation about Council member McCarthy running for the city council. And she claimed that Council member Brantley told her that she wouldn't vote for him and that he could go back to "*picking potatoes*". She said she took this comment as a public slur. Council member Brantley spoke from her seat and chanted the words "*shame on you!*" to Ms. Parziale.

Council President McCarthy banged his gavel to maintain order and to end Ms. Parziale speaking.

The public speaking session ended at 6:57 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, December 21, 2009

7:00 pm.

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

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

* = arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

- Prayer - Council member Anderson Ayala offered the prayer.
- Pledge of Allegiance - Council member Manual Ayala led the pledge.
- Roll Call - The city clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: October 19, 2009; November 2, 2009

- ** **COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO COMBINE THE MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**
- ** **COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED**
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Correction – October 19, 2009 minutes

Under Public Speaking Session, page 1; 2nd paragraph, *where it reads:*

Council President McCarthy, 134th District stated that there have been talks with Council member Vizzo-Paniccia regarding the problem.

***should read:* Council President McCarthy, 134th District stated that there have been talks with Council member Vizzo-Paniccia and Council member Lyons regarding the problem.**

- ** **COUNCIL MEMBER T. MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 19, 2009 MINUTES AS AMENDED**

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

22-09 Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re Proposed Agreement between the City and The Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company for Group Short Term and Long Term Disability Benefits for City Employees, referred to Contracts Committee.

23-09 Communication from City Attorney re Statements of Councilperson Robert S. Walsh, 132nd District to Councilperson Mary Evette Brantley, referred to The Committee of the Whole.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED WITH NINETEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN
OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER)**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

The city clerk read the items into the record.

***01-09** Contracts Committee Report re Agreement with the State for Final Design and Permitting for the Realignment of Main Street (Route 113) at Sikorsky Memorial Airport. File No. AERO 5800-1613, State Project No. DOT 00150336PE.

***10-09(A)** Contracts Committee Report re Amended and Restated Agreement – Deferred Compensation Plan under I.R.C. Section 457.

***10-09(B)** Contracts Committee Report re Amended and Restated Agreement – Section 401(a) Money Purchase Pension Plan.

***04-09** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: 2009-2012 State Department of Public Health for a STD/TB Control Program Grant.

***05-09** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: 2009-2010 State Department of Public Health for a Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention – Education Outreach Program.

***17-09** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re (REF. # 125-08) Modification of the Development Program for the former Webster School.

***18-09** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Agreement to Fix Assessment for Certain Units within 800 Seaview Avenue. - **removed from the consent calendar**

Council member Holloway requested to remove item ***18-09** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Agreement to Fix Assessment for Certain Units within 800 Seaview Avenue.

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

The agenda returned to item ***18-09** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Agreement to Fix Assessment for Certain Units within 800 Seaview Avenue.

Council member Curwen stated that the chairman of the committee should speak on this item first. He stated the matter went before the committee and it passed unanimously.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA SECONDED**

Council member Holloway stated that he spoke to Bill Coleman, OPED project director and he updated him on what was going on. He asked Mr. Coleman to address the city council.

Mr. Coleman briefly updated on this matter as it was discussed during the ECDE meeting held on December 15, 2009; regarding assessment of the taxes for this project.

Council member Holloway stated that several project in Bridgeport have been given tax breaks to the buyer, not the developer. He further noted how other proposed projects in the city were handled. He said that his position was that they needed to make sure that the buyer is the recipient of the tax break and a tax break for the developer is not part of the deal. Mr. Coleman concurred that was correct.

Mr. Coleman said it was important to point out that the resolution pertains to new owners only and the property can't be transferred.

Council member Holloway further asked if a tax break was spelled out in the agreement. Mr. Coleman stated that a 7-year rate would apply and assessed accordingly. He further explained how this would affect the developer. If they aren't selling units, the developer gets a tax incentive to sell the units and down payment assistance will be offered.

Council member Holloway asked about the price of materials for construction. He questioned why other units weren't being built now. Mr. Coleman stated there were still a number of units to sell and construct.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

Council member Curwen asked what the details of the communication was.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia read the title of the item: **02-09 Proposed settlement of claim re Music and Arts Center for Humanity, Inc. regarding Termination of Lease.**

She stated that a Miscellaneous Matters Committee meeting was held tonight regarding the termination of the lease for MACH.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia noted that the matter was discussed in committee and the item was approved and passed for a settlement of \$60k.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**

Council member Curwen questioned where the money was coming from to settle the claim.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia stated that in regard to the the e-mail sent, it was sent out to request that all council members attend the meeting for an update on the matter. She relayed that the city will pay out \$60,000.00 to MACH. She further noted that similar types of settlements often come before the Miscellaneous Matters Committee, brought before the committee through the city attorney's office.

Council member Holloway asked City Attorney Anastasi to explain the terms of the settlement. Attorney Anastasi said the monetary settlement wasn't confidential. He added that the matter involved the early termination of a lease. He suggested that they enter into executive session if they required further details.

Council member Holloway asked if the city terminated the lease or if MACH backed out of the lease. Attorney Anastasi said the settlement was worked out between both parties. He reiterated that any other confidential details should be discussed in executive session.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MADE A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The city council members moved into executive session at 7:35 p.m.

The city council members came out of executive session at 7:40 p.m.

Mayor Finch recalled the motion that was on the floor to approve item 02-09 Proposed settlement of claim re Music and Arts Center for Humanity, Inc. regarding Termination of Lease.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED WITH NINETEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN
OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER)**

**Council member Vizzo-Paniccia reminded the council members that they needed to sign the paperwork regarding this item.*

Other business:

◆ Council President McCarthy acknowledged Maria Periera as the new Board of Education President.

◆ Council members: T. McCarthy, Silva and Bonney approached the front of council chambers to recognize the new council members. He presented them with their City of Bridgeport badges and pins. He extended a welcome and friendship to the new members. And he expressed that he wished them luck in the hard work that they will begin to take on.

◆ *The new council members that were recognized are as follows:
Council member Lydia Martinez
Council member Manual Ayala
Council member Anderson Ayala
Council member Martin McCarthy*

Council President McCarthy further welcomed the new city council members on behalf of the city council. He noted that there was a lot of work to be done and he was happy to have them serve on the city council.

Council President wished Happy Holidays to everyone!

Mayor Finch stated that MACH has worked diligently with the children in the city, in regard to encouraging excitement about learning. He said he was happy to have worked out a settlement with them. He thanked them for their patience. - *there was applause from the audience members!*

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Finch wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah!

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services