

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MARCH 1, 2010
6:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, A. Ayala, Taylor-Moye, *Brantley, Walsh, T. McCarthy, Austin, Vizzo-Paniccia, dePara, Silva, M. Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Curwen, Baker, Holloway
* = arrived after roll call

ABSENT: Council members: Bonney, Blunt

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.

Council President McCarthy announced that generally, public speaking is done at the podium, but the microphone was broken, so speakers had to speak where the microphone was set up near Council member M. Ayala's seat.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS HAVE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME	SUBJECT
Ted Meekins President East End Community Council 1149 Stratford Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06607	Health Director Issue

Mr. Meekins stated that he was a police officer for thirty years. He expressed that he was very aware of what goes on in Bridgeport. He recalled that he sued the city a couple of times due to discrimination in hiring black officers.

He went on to speak about Mayor Finch's administration in reference to the only top black executive that being Dr. Marian Evans and one other person. He stated that now that Dr. Evans has been removed, he felt she was unjustly singled out by being discharged from her position without proper notice. He had a problem that she wasn't given a letter or recommendation from the Mayor that would allow her to move on and this was the first time that this has happened, because others were given letters of recommendation that allowed them to move on. He further stated that Dr. Evans made the health department a real health department. She dealt with childhood obesity, the problem of lead poisoning and she brought health fairs to the community to address health problems. And she spoke

out about toxic water sources. Overall, he said that we lost a great person and people in the community have no sympathy for what Finch did and they are asking to at least provide her with a letter of recommendation to move on.

Carolyn B. Nah
44 Lewis Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Dismissal of Dr. Evans, Health Dept.

Ms. Nah stated that she has been a resident of Bridgeport for 43 years. She recalled that she was before the council two weeks ago to speak about the situation with Dr. Evans, and since then, she has received vicious attacks, one from the Tax Collector's Office indicating that she owes two years liens on her bail bondsman license. She was notified that she owes \$266.00. She relayed that if anything, the Tax Collector owed her approximately \$3,000.00. She further spoke about the tax assessment increase on her condominium. She stressed that she was there to warn everyone that they are barking up the wrong tree. She exclaimed that she will not let Mayor Finch attach or lynch her. She further stressed that she always paid her taxes and she will not put up with the slave mentality tactics directed towards her. She clarified that she's a retired federal employee and will not tolerate any attacks on her. She was adamant that it seems she's the only one that received these types of notices. She expressed that these tactics are slave plantation antics. She shared her personal family history of experiencing racism through the generations and she warned Mayor Finch that he will not get away with it.

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Unethical tactics used by City Officials

Mr. Young showed a photo of a bucket of human waste in the basement of P.T. Barnum apartments. He said he brought the matter before the housing authority to address the matter of nothing being done about it.

He went on to speak about a letter from the Secretary of State office to find out the status of his termination, because he was unjustly terminated. He recalled the years that he walked all over Stratford Avenue as a community activist and worked in the city for years. He further relayed the circumstances of when he was terminated and he repeated the story that although Dr. Evans was unjustly terminated, he felt that she should have been terminated for what she did to him just because he spoke out about toxic piles on the east side and kids getting ill. He stressed that he never got terminated for not being at work. He urged the city council to consider giving Dr. Evans a letter of recommendation, so she can move forward.

Connie Johnson

Topic not identified – signed up to speak tonight

Ms. Johnson said she would address the spiritual side of what was going on. She recalled the times she attended health fairs and she expressed that wherever Dr. Evans was taking the city health wise was a spiritual journey. She thought that what she was seeing was corrupt and where it's going is going to lead the City of Bridgeport with a cloud over the city, and the youth and mental health industry are going to face drastic measures, because it goes against everything that Dr. Evans believed. Overall, she felt they should put the appropriate person in position to lead the city the right way.

Pierre d'Haiti

Haiti earthquake update – adoption of city

Mr. d'Haiti gave an update about Haiti and what the City of Bridgeport has done in regard to relief efforts. He said he met with (700) leaders throughout the country and he expressed that what Bridgeport has done, is what he was hoping other cities would follow, which is the adoption of a city in Haiti. He explained that they are encouraging people to go to Haiti and help the people rebuild. He thanked everyone for what the city has done to date.

Council President McCarthy stated that the city council also appreciated the work that has been done.

Ken Celestin

Haiti earthquake update

Mr. Celestin thanked everyone for all they have done for Haiti to date. He noted that he realized the city council is busy with other things. And although CNN and ABC are no longer there to report on what is happening in Haiti, they are still faced with so much to do. He spoke about the situation and the need for continued help. He asked that we not forget them and stand by them.

Council President McCarthy stated that the city made a commitment and they will not be forgotten.

The public speaking session ended at 7:10 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 1, 2010

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, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Blunt, dePara, Silva, M. Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Curwen, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: Bonney

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

Prayer -Reverend Stack offered the prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance -the Brownies troupe visiting tonight led the pledge.

Mayor Finch expressed that the brownies were young girls and ladies that are doing something positive and proud of earning their badges. He invited them to come back in the near future. He also noted that they are currently selling cookies.

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

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: February 1, 2010

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL MEMBR PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS and RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED**

- 40-09** Communication from Black Rock NRZ re Black Rock NRZ Operations Report for July through December 2009, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**
- 41-09** Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re Proposed tentative agreement with Nurses, Local 1199, concerning the terms and conditions of employment, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 42-09** Communication from Mayor re Appointment of Lizette Garay (D) to Ethics Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:

- 43-09** Resolution presented by Council Members Taylor-Moye and Anderson Ayala re Request that Railroad Avenue northbound, adjacent to the Metro North Railroad, be ceremonially recognized and honorary named: William and Grace Kenney Boulevard, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

The city clerk read the item into the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**

- *32-09** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: American Institute of Architecture (AIA) Sustainable Assessment Team Program.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Other Business:

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia stated that the regularly scheduled Miscellaneous Matters Committee meeting was last Monday, but due to her being ill and no quorum, the meeting was rescheduled for tonight.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING ITEM 28-09 PROPOSED REVISION TO CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION RULE IV FEES TO THE AGENDA**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICIA MOVED TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE NEW FEES OF \$35.00 FOR RESIDENTS AND \$135.00 FOR NON-RESIDENTS**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

Council member Walsh thanked the committee who agreed to establish the new rates. He said it was easy to substantiate the \$100.00 difference in relation to the other taxes residents pay and it was good not to be seen as over pricing.

Council member T. McCarthy agreed the committee did a nice job.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

◆ Council member Vizzo-Paniccia reminded everyone about **Wednesday, March 3, 2010** at 1:30 p.m. - BRBC luncheon at the Holiday Inn.

◆ **Thursday, March 25, 2010** Annual Bridgeport Day – they will leave at 7:30 a.m. From Housatonic Community College and arrive back by 3:30 p.m.; breakfast and lunch will be served.

Mayor Finch noted that Bridgeport Day was important, due to the hospital cuts and he urged everyone to attend.

Mayor Finch updated that there would be an event held at the Bridgeport Library on Broad Street at 1:00 p.m. In the Fine Arts Department for “unveiling green initiative”!

◆ Council President McCarthy updated that the diversity training will be rescheduled.

◆ Council members Vizzo-Paniccia and T. McCarthy were named to UCC.

◆ Council member Vizzo-Paniccia was asked to serve on the Public Safety & Crime Prevention committee (National League of Cities).

- ◆ Council member Curwen updated about the St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on March 17, 2010; he noted if anyone was interested in participating to let him know.
- ◆ Council member Martinez made note of the earthquake in Chile. She noted that hopefully, they could get together and do something for the people there.

Council member Baker noted that there were a couple of issues going on in the city per the calls he has received from constituents. He urged everyone to be more aware of what's going on in the city and their district.

Council member Brantley stated that she would like to see the Mayor more often at the public speaking sessions. She felt this would allow residents to speak and be heard by the Mayor.

She also asked that Council President McCarthy set up a meeting to discuss issues going on in the community.

Mayor Finch excused himself for not attending the public speaking session tonight due to another obligation. He noted however that he would make a better attempt to attend the public speaking sessions in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. AYALA MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services