

**CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2010
6:30 pm**

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

*= *arrived late*

ABSENT: Council members: A. Ayala, Austin, Bonney, Blunt, Silva, Curwen

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:41 pm.

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, OCTOBER 4, 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

Raw sewage condition

Mr. Young mentioned that he still hasn't been contacted about the lawsuits he has filed to date.

He went on to talk about the raw sewage problem in P.T. Barnum. He relayed that the health department was supposed to check out the situation, but it hasn't been done yet. He expressed that the council members for the district should address the problem and report it so that something can be done about the odor and bacteria. He felt the problem was being ignored and it was an injustice and shameful.

He spoke again about the altercation that occurred between him and two other council members, in respect to never hearing from the Mayor about the incident. He stated that there will be a trial concerning the matter on October 17. And he also mentioned that there will be another pre-trial concerning an issue with Attorney Liskov and yet another lawsuit regarding an incident that happened on a sidewalk.

Radmila Dobrijevic
287 East Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Neighborhood Problems

City of Bridgeport
City Council Meeting
October 4, 2010

Ms. Dobrijevich spoke about the rise in crime in the neighborhood. She said she was there to ask the Mayor and the city council to request more police force and undercover detectives to address the problem. She recalled that when she reported a crime, the officer that came out barely stayed five minutes to take the information. She stressed that there wasn't enough police force and that crime on East Avenue has gone up. She also recalled that five years ago there was a big problem, but the crime issues were addressed by the Mayor who was in office at that time and the police captain. She stated that she has been damage done to her car four times, and other people in the neighborhood experienced the same type of vandalism. There are other issues, such as selling drugs and a lot of noise. She relayed that a couple of weeks ago, she was pushed off the curb and her house and car keys were taken. She stressed that there has been more disruptive behavior directed towards other residents in the area. She went on to say that she came to this country twenty years ago, because she thought she could live here peacefully. She noted other incidents of violent muggings among residents that has resulted in hospitalization for some. She strongly urged that there be more police force to protect the people in the neighborhood.

Council President McCarthy said he appreciated her speaking. He urged her to contact the council members for her district and he offered to give her the telephone numbers to contact them. He further suggested that a meeting might be arranged to address the crime problems. He also noted that there will be an additional twenty (20) police officers on the streets soon to help address the crime problems.

Ms. Dobrijevich added that she pays good taxes every year and she expects police assistance when it's needed.

Charlie Coviello
73 William Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Grants and cities employees

Mr. Coviello spoke about the collapse of the \$8 million deficit in the budget and how they are now trying to pick up the pieces.

He went on to speak about the children in the city, in regard to a grant that was signed to renew the WIC Program. He noted that the program affects 8,000 kids in the city, which begins their relationship with the government.

He further spoke about the Board of Education and how they are trying to put pre-kindergarten children into a building that is contaminated with mold and has odor conditions; he emphasized that the problem needs to be cleaned up.

In addition, he said he received a call about a robbery that occurred on Barnum Avenue and East Avenue. And on Friday morning, a young man was killed with a knife on Willow Street that was a brutal attack. He relayed that after the police left the neighborhood after the incident, the Subway located between Barnum Avenue and East Avenue was held up.

Mr. Coviello recalled that the crime problem was cleared up five years ago, but the crime element has recently resurfaced, so that's why his focus was on young people. He mentioned the numerous non-profit programs that used to serve the youth at Central High School. He said it was a program that helped those with drug and alcohol problems. The program was effective because it helped get kids clean. He stressed to the council members that they should be aware that the problem is now being carried over to the better neighborhoods, with gang activity among the youth. He said he hoped the youth program will continue to be encouraged.

The public hearing session ended at 7:05 pm.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, October 4, 2010

7:00 pm.

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

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

ABSENT: Council members: A. Ayala, Bonney, Silva

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

Prayer Reverend McCullough offered the prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance - Council member Walsh led the pledge.

**Council member Baker asked for a moment of silence for Bishop Moales that recently passed away. He thanked everyone for coming out to extend their support and condolences.*

*Council member Holloway requested a point of personal privilege. He stated that on September 4, 2010 during the Give Back the Night event; there was a young man who died in the custody of the State Police. He emphasized that there hasn't been any report submitted or information given out regarding the incident. He expressed that this was much to the distress of the family, because they don't know what happened and there's no record of the time of death or which hospital he was taken to. In addition, there is no information about an autopsy being done. He reiterated that there hasn't been any information given. He stated that to his knowledge, the Bridgeport Police aren't involved and it's a matter for the State Police. He relayed that he and Council member Baker have issued a memo regarding the matter and he received an e-mail back from Tyrone McClain indicating that information would be forthcoming, but to date, nothing has been heard. He requested that the Mayor's office contact the State Police and demand some information. He stressed that the matter shouldn't take this long and he thought the lack of information pointed to a possible cover up. He made a request again to help bring closure to the family of Mr. Israel.

Mayor Finch recalled an incident that occurred years ago, wherein it took a long time to get information and answers to what happened and the FBI was called in. He noted that he will hold a meeting on Tuesday, October 5 at 10:30 am to address the problem and he said he would make a call to the Governor and other persons that might be able to help.

Roll Call the City Clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

**Council President McCarthy announced that Council member Bonney wasn't in attendance due to a family situation he had to take care of out of town.*

He announced that Council member Silva wasn't in attendance because he was at a conference in Washington, D.C.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: September 7, 2010

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES
** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

City Council Citation: Recognizing C. Rickard & Sons for 100 years of Operations in Bridgeport.

Mayor Finch, Council President McCarthy, Council members Taylor-Moye and Brantley presented the citation.

Council President McCarthy expressed that Council member Taylor-Moye requested the citation due to the type of business that should be honored in the city.

Council member Taylor-Moye expressed that she thought it would be good to give the citation to a family that has done so much in the city since 1910. She felt their appreciation should be extended to the entire family for their business operations in Bridgeport.

Council President McCarthy read the citation that expressed congratulations for 100 years of operations in Bridgeport.

The recipient of the citation, Mr. Rickard expressed his thanks for the recognition. He noted that there was a long family history of business that pertained to those still active in the business and those that passed away. He further relayed a brief history of what the family has accomplished throughout the years.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO REFER THE COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMITTEES
** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**

- 144-09** Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re Agreement with InTech Health Ventures to provide Administrative Services for the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program to covered retirees of the City and Board of Education for term of three years, referred to Contracts Committee.

- 145-09** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re Grant Submission: State Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant – Lighthouse in the Community, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

- 146-09** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re Grant Submission: State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for 2010-2011 Substance Abuse Prevention Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

- 147-09** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re Grant Submission: State Department of Public Health for 2010-2011 Local Public Health Preparedness Advisors Grant, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

- 148-09** Communication from OPED re Acceptance of Donation of portion of 305 Knowlton Street from MP Development Associates LLC, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**** 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 Walsh requested to remove item ***141-09** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: DOT TIGER II Planning/HUD Community Challenge Grant Program to fund planning activities along the Seaview Avenue transitway.

The City Clerk read the remaining consent calendar items into the record:

- *131-09** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: Contract with WorkPlace Inc. for 2010-2011 Pathway out of Poverty Grant.

- *132-09** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: State Department of Social Services for 2010-2012 Elderly Health Screening Grant.

- *133-09 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: State Department of Public Health for 2010-2013 Regional Public Health Preparedness Advisor Grant.
- *136-09 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: Housing and Urban Development for an Earmark for Family Services of Woodfield (FSW) Foreclosure Prevention Services.
- *139-09 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) – America the Beautiful Grant Program.
- *140-09 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: HUD/DOT/EPA Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program – Sustainable Communities Initiative Application.
- *141-09 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: DOT TIGER II Planning/HUD Community Challenge Grant Program to fund planning activities along the Seaview Avenue transitway. - **removed**

** **COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO APPROVE**
 ** **COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**
 ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Finch returned to the consent calendar item that was removed:

- *141-09 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re Grant Submission: DOT TIGER II Planning/HUD Community Challenge Grant Program to fund planning activities along the Seaview Avenue transitway.

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

Council member dePara stated that the item came through committee with a unanimous recommendation. He urged approval of the item.

Council member Walsh said he was confused by the grant itself. He said that Alanna Kabel sent him some information, but he had a question about the language outlined in the grant, that applied to the language that read: “*Applied for amount not to exceed \$2.4 million and \$900,000.00 that is a match of city funds*”. He said he had a question of exactly what the grant and match was?

Mayor Finch stated that President Obama's administration is trying to get agencies of the federal government to work together to move development back to the city and operate in a coordinated fashion. So the DOT, HUD and other agencies are working with the TIGER

grant that allows grants to areas where there is potential for economic development; such as Pleasure Beach, the Steel Pointe Development, the New Waltersville/Barnum School, 10-acres of the Bridgeport Housing Development, the Remit property, the GE building and Lake Success. He said this will result in the creation of an almost entirely new city, as well as the development of a second train station that will give transit access to those on the east end. Overall, there is the ability to tie into a plan that will connect to the train station. He said if they receive the grant, it will include a city match.

Ms. Kabel approached to address Council member Walsh's questions. She stated that the funding source asks for the total amount of the project, so there was a request of \$1.5 million and the city match of \$900,000.00 will come from the capital fund that will bring the total project cost to \$2.4 million. She said if they receive the award, it will be broken down as indicated.

Council member Walsh asked if they will need bond council to sign off on the grant. Ms. Kabel replied no, it's not required because the funding source only asked for a potential source for the match.

Council member Walsh said when it was originally approved, he recalled it had to be approved for some other kind of project.

Mr. Lavernoich said the \$900,000.00 was allocated in 2008 and there was a match for federal funds to account for the same type of purpose. He said he could guarantee that the bond council would approve. Mayor Finch added that the bond council will look more favorably upon a transit plan than they would a roadway plan.

Council member Walsh relayed that there was a CT Post article regarding the Rembrit property in relation to environmental conditions.

Mr. Lavernoich noted that different issues existed for both projects.

Council member Walsh asked which part of the \$2.4 million was part of the total expenditure. Mayor Finch said that information wasn't known, because they are only in the staging plan. He reiterated the purpose of the grant per President Obama's plan. He clarified that the grant hasn't been received yet, so there wasn't any certainty that the plan would be developed.

Council member Walsh commented that due to the magnitude of the project and the lack of specificity, he couldn't support approval of the item at this time. He said he would like to see more information, in terms of which individuals would economically benefit per the potential tax burden.

Council member Brantley questioned if there were houses in the area that they were talking about. Mr. Lavernoich responded that between Boston Avenue and Railroad Avenue the area isn't residential.

Mayor Finch stated that the planning grant is to achieve development along the corridor, so it's a good try to receive the grant.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH SIXTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH)**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services