

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021

6:30 P.M.

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Nieves called the Public Speaking portion of the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Assistant City Clerk Frances Ortiz called the roll.

- 130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
- 131st District: *Denese Taylor-Moye*, Jorge Cruz
- 132nd District: Marcus Brown, M. Evette Brantley
- 133rd District: *Michael DeFilippo*, Jeanette Herron
- 134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
- 135th District: *Rosalina Roman-Christy*, Mary McBride-Lee
- 136th District: *Alfredo Castillo*, *Avelino Silva*
- 137th District: *Maria Valle*, Aidee Nieves
- 138th District: Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman
- 139th District: Eneida Martinez, *Ernest Newton*

A quorum was present. During the roll call, there appeared to be no response from the individuals whose names are listed in italics.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.

NAME

SUBJECT

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City Employment/Finance.

Mr. Lee read the following statement into the record:

How many of the members of the City Council have been closely following the excitement caused by Federal investigators in town for months, the convening of a Grand Jury that provided widespread speculation as to what they were looking into, what they

would find, and the potential for a pathway from behavior of the accused Chief of Police, and Acting Personnel Director to the one man who supposedly is in charge of everything?

How many of you read the CT Post coverage of comments by sentencing Judge Dooley after former Chief Perez received his “year and one day” sentence, when she addressed former Director Dunn after a slight pause, saying: ”Mr. Dunn, I still don’t know why you are here.” His response to the Judge: “I don’t know either.”

Seriously Mr. Dunn? Let’s see, you have been up to your yellow pad in investigators looking for law breaking, and you have availed yourself of legal representation provided by you personally, and likely some from taxpayers as well. You have not told us this story.

But you did not appear in a court of law for a public trial by a judge or jury? And you have been talking with those Federal lawyers for months now to fashion a plea that is acceptable to them and to you. There’s more consideration for you in those dynamics than for any of us mere taxpayers who wait for truth, justice, and consequences for those who practice power supremacy on the rest of us. Was it ethical of you to fashion a slick and sure way to provide a way around the City testing procedure for Chief of Police? (And continue for a decade your own test avoidance for gain appointment to personnel leadership?)

But that is history, and you have current hijinks ongoing in the City with no official word. And this has to do with School Building Committee decisions, City land purchases with no comments about climate issues and cost increases made necessary, and a variety of elected officials who are showing up wearing other interests that may cause the appearance, at least, of serious interest conflicts?

Three minutes tonight does not provide adequate time to question you, obviously, and when I regularly ask questions, you rarely respond. Perhaps it is time? Ethics phone calls have gone unanswered for months while their site’s latest info is about items in 2018. Perhaps communication with Accountability and Integrity Tsar will draw us closer to understanding a fuller narrative? Time will tell.

Council Member Newton joined the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Maria Pereira
206 Bradley Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

WPCA.

Council Member Pereira said that she would like to welcome Mayor Ganim to the party late. They are going to fight for Federal dollars. This is disappointing. She said that they had handed out 1,000 flyers notifying businesses, homeowners and tenants as to what was done regarding the City Council voting to approve a \$395 million dollar loan. The rate payers are facing an increase between 50 to 66%. The taxpayers were outraged and Senator Blumenthal and Senator Himes had been receiving calls. The residents are not opposed to protecting Long Island Sound or public housing, but that is not the issue. The issue is protecting the people that the Council serves and ensuring the City does not see massive foreclosures. This should be tabled for 90 days so

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that the Congressional delegates have the opportunity to try for Federal funding. She said that if the money comes through, it is not because of the majority of the City Council, the administration or the WPCA. If this money comes through, it will be because of the Congressional delegation. This is sad.

The Council members are the front line before the Connecticut State legislature or the Congressional level or anyone at the Constitutional level. The vote that was taken was a real disservice to the Council's constituents.

For the record, the following Council members announced they had joined the meeting:

Council Member D. Taylor-Moye at 6:40 p.m.,

Council Member A. Castillo at 6:42 p.m.,

Council Member A. Silva at 6:42 p.m. and

Council Member Roman-Christy at 6:45 p.m.

Lynn Cora

WPCA.

40 East Pasadena Place
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Ms. Cora said she was upset that the Council were taking Bridgeport down a road that would end up with far reaching consequences for the residents with the WPCA bonding. The undertaking of procuring only State bonding for the development of sewer treatment without seeking additional grants to lower the cost for constituents is reprehensible. She stated that 50% of Bridgeport residents are minorities who are currently experiencing the highest unemployment and foreclosure rates in the State and the highest eviction rates in New England. Everyone is further impacted by the current increase in food and gasoline prices. Now the Council wants to increase the WPCA bill to exorbitant heights.

The residents know that there are more taxes headed their way from both the State and Federal government. Soon, those contributing to food banks and other charities will no longer be able to do so because of the high taxes in the country, the state and the City. Back in the 90's, it was noted that many long time politicians were quietly selling their rental properties and moving out of the City. Residents knew something was happening and they soon found out. The Mayor was planning to take Bridgeport down bankruptcy road. While no one denies anyone's right to sell property or move to another community, one wonders why this was suddenly happening at the same time. It showed a lack of faith in Bridgeport and possibly many may have helped take Bridgeport on that bankruptcy path due to their agendas. The Council are hurting the very people that they pledged and promised to help and the people showed everyone they believed in the Council Members by voting for them. Residents will be watching to see if history repeats itself. God bless America and God bless Bridgeport.

Jessica Ortiz-Michaca

WPCA.

98 Emerald Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Council President Nieves announced that Ms. Ortiz-Michaca was the next speaker. There was no response.

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Kate Rivera
129 Alsace Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

WPCA.

Ms. Rivera said it was crazy to think that there wasn't Federal and State funds available. The residents don't have the money and they can't pass the cost of the sewer updates. They pay the highest taxes in the State. They simply must look for other funding.

She said that there was an agenda item regarding the land at UB. It is amazing to think that the City can't educate their K-12 students and the City has no business interfering with what is going on at UB.

The City needs to fill the Health Director, the Chief of Police and the Personnel Director.

Jessica Ortiz-Michaca
98 Emerald Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

WPCA.

Ms. Ortiz-Michaca said that she has a family of seven with five children. Currently two of her children are enrolled in the schools. She is concerned about the \$395 million dollar loan to the WPCA. Her average yearly sewer bill is \$550. Now with the increase, it will be \$929.50 by 2027 and \$1,215.00 by 2023. What does this mean for her household and most homeowners? With 7 people using the bathroom, brushing teeth, taking showers, washing dishes and doing laundry, her bill will almost triple. She will not only have to worry about the WPCA, but also received a letter from her mortgage lender informing her that her mortgage would be increasing by \$169 per month due to escrow. She asked how the average family would hope to survive without facing foreclosure without these increases.

With five children going through the Bridgeport school system, she is aware of the resources available. With the amount of children per school and the number of times they go to the bathroom, it would work out to about 20,000 flushes per day. Bridgeport is the second largest school system in Connecticut. How are the schools supposed to make up this increase in utilities? They will have to limit programs and resources and staff.

At the end of the day, these increases are just hurting the average, struggling family trying to provide a safe, healthy and stable home for their children. This will force long term residents that make up the community to relocate because they can no longer afford to live in Bridgeport.

Helen Olga Losak
306 Bradley Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

WPCA.

Ms. Losak greeted the Council members and said that she was a Bridgeport homeowner. She said that Council Member Pereira had alerted her and her neighbors about the upcoming sewer upgrades. While she is not objecting to the upgrades, she does object to way it is being financed. They could have waited a few months for Congress to approve the infrastructure funding.

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The increases will be a hardship on the homeowners. Bridgeport currently has the highest foreclosures and eviction in the State. This vote shows their concern for their fellow constituents.

Kelvin Ayala

WPCA.

333 State Street, Apt. 702
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Mr. Ayala said that he agreed with the previous speakers. He said that the Council Members were aware of the American Rescue Plan funding that could be used for sewer repairs and the upcoming American Jobs Plan. Yet they voted to approve it. They should be ashamed. The Council is in charge. The Mayor, the City Attorney's Office and Ms. Mappa are not the ones that are in charge. The Council is. It shouldn't cost anything to wait a few months.

Mr. Ayala then spoke about the streets that have combined sewer and storm water pipes and said that there would be funding released in 2021. He said that they should be aware what has already been bonded and mentioned alternative methods like bioswales, permeable sidewalks, vegetation and other methods to mitigate storm water. The developers in town know about it because they are required by OPEd to give a water run off plan. Their reluctance to provide alternative mitigation plans is a red flag.

He also mentioned a Resiliency Project on the South End. The impact of that project when completed will mitigate a major portion of storm water run-off. He asked what the percentage it would diverse from the West End plant.

The Council has been led down the wrong road and are not asking the proper questions from the professionals in the room. They need their own legal counsel.

Mr. Ayala said that the Mayor should be ashamed of himself for leading the Council and the elected officials of the City of Bridgeport by chiming in on this issue.

Michele Smalls

WPCA.

10 Mencil Circle
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Ms. Smalls said that she would like to thank Council Member DeFilippo, Council Member Brown, and Council Member Castillo for voting against the WPCA loan. The rest of the Council should be ashamed of themselves. By 2027, there will be a 50% increase in the WPCA charges. This is ridiculous for the Council to put the residents in this situation. Have they exhausted every State and Federal grant before putting this on the resident. Bridgeport has the highest crime rate, the highest taxes and the highest evictions.

Chris Caruso
208 Beechmont Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

WPCA.

Council Member Pereira stated that Mr. Caruso had informed her that he had withdrawn his request to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves adjourned the public speaking at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021

7:00 P.M.

This meeting was conducted by teleconference.

The public was able to listen to this meeting by calling a conference line.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 7:10 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member McBride-Lee to lead the Council in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member Newton to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jorge Cruz
132nd District: Marcus Brown, M. Evette Brantley
133rd District: Michael DeFilippo, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Avelino Silva
137th District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves
138th District: Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman
139th District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

46-20 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution seeking Approval of a Lease of City Property on the Site of the Former Pequonnock Apartments to allow the installation of a Digital Billboard to support the Harbor Yard Amphitheater Project.

Mayor Ganim announced that he was opening a hearing on the Proposed Resolution seeking Approval of a Lease of City Property on the Site of the Former Pequonnock Apartments to allow the installation of a Digital Billboard to support the Harbor Yard Amphitheater Project at 7:14 p.m.

Council Member Newton said that they had just concluded a Joint Meeting with ECD&E and Contracts. He explained that Atty. Pacacha was present to speak about the item and that the item has to go for additional approvals.

Mr. Kelvin Ayala addressed the Council regarding the parcel. He said that the City had taken two decades to gain control over the parcel and he wished to know why they would allow a private lessee to use it for advertisement. This goes against the Master Plan. It is a prime parcel. The OPED staff should be ashamed of themselves and it is not the best use of the land. CT DOT has plans and the plans have to be approved by the State. OPED should know better. Mr. Saffan is a tenant on City property. Doing anything that would jeopardize an RFP is wrong.

Council Member Newton said that the sign was not on the property where they want to put the future development.

Council Member Pereira said that she agreed with Mr. Ayala 100%. She said that she did not know how they were having a hearing on an amended lease that was amended five minutes before this meeting started and had not been made public. It is a violation of the law and Governor's Executive Order 7B. She said that this was a lawless administration and she would be contacting Hartford about this.

Council Member Brantley stated that the concerns that Council Member Pereira had expressed had been addressed in the prior meeting.

Mayor Ganim asked if there was anyone else who wished to speak. Hearing none, he closed the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING(S) TO BE ORDERED BY THE FULL COUNCIL:

58-20 Request from OPED to Order a Public Hearing for May 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Lease Agreement for a portion of 80 Hastings Street to allow for an Outdoor Tasting and Picnic Area for Fifth State Distillery.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED AGENDA ITEM 58-20 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR MAY 17, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR A PORTION OF 80 HASTINGS STREET TO ALLOW FOR AN OUTDOOR TASTING AND PICNIC AREA FOR FIFTH STATE DISTILLERY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she did not know how the Council could have a hearing before they have sent it to the Committee. This is not transparent and is dishonest.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 58-20 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR MAY 17, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR A PORTION OF 80 HASTINGS STREET TO ALLOW FOR AN OUTDOOR TASTING AND PICNIC AREA FOR FIFTH STATE DISTILLERY PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

59-20 Request from OPED to Order a Public Hearing for May 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing Disposition of Four (4) City-Owned Properties.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 59-20 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR MAY 17, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DISPOSITION OF FOUR (4) CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira repeated her earlier statement that she did not know how the Council could have a hearing before they have sent it to the Committee. This is not transparent and is dishonest.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 59-20 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR MAY 17, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DISPOSITION OF FOUR (4) CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: March 15, 2021

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED THE MINUTES FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING FOR MARCH 15, 2021.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO AMEND THE MINUTES AS FOLLOWS:**

Pete Spain
280 Grovers Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605

WPCA Sanitation
Infrastructure.

Mr. Spain urged everyone to vote in favor regarding Agenda Item 24-20 for upgrading the sewer processing plants. There has been a major change and progressive leadership at the WPCA along with the support of many of the City Council Members. He noted that the State representatives were also in support of the infrastructure projects. He added that there were also unprecedented amounts of Federal funding grants for infrastructure. Allowing the Harbor and shoreline of Bridgeport to become polluted is not right. He added that if the Council denied this vote, the cost will simply increase and the City could possibly lose their place in line for Federal Funding.

Mr. Spain submitted the following edits to his comments:

“Mr. Spain urged everyone to vote in favor regarding Agenda Item 24-20 for upgrading the sewer processing plants. He pointed to "3 major POSITIVES" that we have going for us today:

1. First -- Technical leadership at the WPCA.
2. Second -- Excellent Political leadership.
3. Third -- Likely the largest pool of funding sources available to do this project in a generation.

Allowing the Harbor and shoreline of Bridgeport to become polluted is not right. He added that if the Council denied this vote, the cost would simply increase and the City could possibly lose their place in line for Federal Funding.”

It was noted that the minutes that were being considered for approval were from the March 15, 2021 Council meeting. Mr. Spain’s comments occurred at the **April 5, 2021** Council Meeting.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO WITHDREW HER MOTION TO AMEND THE MINUTES.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING FOR MARCH 15, 2021 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

54-20 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Public Health – Vaccine Equity Partnership Funding (VEPF), FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED CONSIDER 54-20 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH – VACCINE EQUITY PARTNERSHIP FUNDING (VEPF), FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE 54-20 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH – VACCINE EQUITY PARTNERSHIP FUNDING (VEPF), FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION
** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she never approves of these items because the contract the Mayor and his staff are authorized to sign the documents without Council approval, however she would make an exception this time.

Council Member Burns asked if they had any details about how this would be done. Ms. DeJesus said Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that they did not know how much they would be receiving in terms of the allocation. It is set up to close the gaps in vaccination and includes partnership with community providing. There will be door to door canvassing and setting up clinics in various zip code areas.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

48-20 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Marcus Stewart, et al, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

49-20 Communication from Library re: Appointment of Marcie J. Patton, PH.D. (D) to the Public Library Board of Directors and Reading Room, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

55-20 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Rachel Rockwell (D) to the Historic District Commission as an alternate, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

56-20 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of LaShea Hall (D) to the Civil Service Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

58-20 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Lease Agreement for a portion of 80 Hastings Street to allow for an Outdoor Tasting and Picnic Area for Fifth State Distillery, referred to Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts.

59-20 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing Disposition of Four (4) City-Owned Properties, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:

50-20 Resolution presented by Council Member Cruz & Co-sponsor Taylor-Moye re: Proposed resolution requesting that a Speed Hump Pilot Program Study be conducted for the Installation of speed humps located on Black Rock Avenue and Lewis Street, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

51-20 Resolution presented by Council Member Cruz & Co-sponsor Taylor-Moye re: Proposed resolution requesting that Cottage Street from Iranistan Avenue and Park Avenue be designated as a “One-Way” with the placement of appropriate signage, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

52-20 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Newton & Martinez re: Proposed Resolution for a Policy to Prevent the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) Foreclosure Crisis as State and Federal COVID-19 Pandemic Foreclosure Moratoriums Expire, referred to Ordinance Committee.

53-20 Resolution presented by Council Member Cruz & Co-sponsor Castillo re: Proposed resolution for the Education and Social Services Committee to create a task force to review and recommend specific strategies to acquire the charter and assets of the University of Bridgeport, referred to Education and Social Services.

57-20 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Burns & Nieves re: Proposed submission of the Bridgeport Task Force on Public Safety regarding recommendations and summary, referred to Joint Committee on Budget and Appropriations and Public Safety and Transportation.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO CONSOLIDATE AND REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

48-20 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH MARCUS STEWART, ET AL, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

49-20 COMMUNICATION FROM LIBRARY RE: APPOINTMENT OF MARCIE J. PATTON, PH.D. (D) TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND READING ROOM, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

55-20 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF RACHEL ROCKWELL (D) TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION AS AN ALTERNATE, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

56-20 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF LASHEA HALL (D) TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

58-20 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR A PORTION OF 80 HASTINGS STREET TO ALLOW FOR AN OUTDOOR TASTING AND PICNIC AREA FOR FIFTH STATE DISTILLERY, REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS.

59-20 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DISPOSITION OF FOUR (4) CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

**RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS,
COMMISSIONS, ETC.:**

50-20 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ & CO-SPONSOR TAYLOR-MOYE RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT A SPEED HUMP PILOT PROGRAM STUDY BE CONDUCTED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SPEED HUMPS LOCATED ON BLACK ROCK AVENUE AND LEWIS STREET, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

51-20 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ & CO-SPONSOR TAYLOR-MOYE RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT COTTAGE STREET FROM IRANISTAN AVENUE AND PARK AVENUE BE DESIGNATED AS A “ONE-WAY” WITH THE PLACEMENT OF APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

52-20 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) NEWTON & MARTINEZ RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR A POLICY TO PREVENT THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY (WPCA) FORECLOSURE CRISIS AS STATE AND FEDERAL COVID-19 PANDEMIC FORECLOSURE MORATORIUMS EXPIRE, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

57-20 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BURNS & NIEVES RE: PROPOSED SUBMISSION OF THE BRIDGEPORT TASK FORCE ON PUBLIC SAFETY REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUMMARY, REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

53-20 Resolution presented by Council Member Cruz & Co-sponsor Castillo re: Proposed resolution for the Education and Social Services Committee to create a task force

to review and recommend specific strategies to acquire the charter and assets of the University of Bridgeport, referred to Education and Social Services.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 53-20 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ & CO-SPONSOR CASTILLO RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR THE EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND SPECIFIC STRATEGIES TO ACQUIRE THE CHARTER AND ASSETS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT, REFERRED TO EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES.**

**** THERE WAS A SECOND.**

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she had spoken to her fellow co-Council Member about this. She said that she was not in agreement with other Council Members coming into her District and putting proposals on the table without speaking to her. UB has been a private entity and the City should not be interfering with UB. She attended three meetings and expressed her concerns.

Council Member Castillo said that the reason that this resolution was created to discuss possibly taking over UB after the Moonies. He said that he had a letter from Bertram stating that the University was in good standing but later it came out that UB was going to merge with SHU. He said that they should have a task force in order to understand what is going on at the campus. Goodwin is a two year university and UB is a four year college. Housatonic is a two year college. As elected officials, they simply want to know what is going on. He claimed that Council Member Cruz and Council Member Taylor-Moye had not been told about it. He was not trying to take over anything.

Council Member Cruz said it was not surprising how quick everyone was to shoot this down. There are people who are spreading conspiracy theories because they want a casino. He is against casinos because they create addictions.

Council Member Cruz said that Goodwin College and SHU went behind everyone's back to merge. He asked them to come to a meeting, but they would not come because they had already signed an agreement. If the loan to Goodwin college is not approved, UB will be in trouble. Shame on his colleagues who aren't supporting this. Why couldn't the City bond \$30 million for UB. He said that they were deceived and were still being deceived. He asked why they couldn't have this conversation. If Goodwin doesn't get the loan, the students and professors will be left behind.

Council Member Newton said that in all his years both in the City and State, UB has been a private institution. He said that the resolution had a much wider focus than just a task force. He has never seen the City buy a private institution. There is more to it than setting up a task force. Maybe UB didn't notify the City, it's a private institution. The City has no jurisdiction as to what UB does with its property. For people to think the City Council has that kind of power is wrong. The City Attorney gave opinions and made a ruling that the Council should withdraw this resolution. The resolution makes it sound like the City would purchase UB.

Council Member Pereira said that the motion was for immediate consideration, not to debate the substance of the resolution. There had been a request for a roll call vote.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that Council Member Newton has mentioned many of her points about private entities, businesses and property. Resolution needs to be in letter form because it doesn't appear that everyone is in support.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she did not support this because it is a private institution and the City should not be involved. It should not be on the agenda. UB was not obligated to inform the City of their actions.

Council Member McCarthy said that Goodwin offers graduate programs and therefore is a four year college.

The resolution states that they want to acquire the charter and the assets. The City had no business running UB. People need to be careful because they can get into trouble.

Council Member Brown said that he did not want anyone to think his lack of support was due to what someone said. The resolution said that the City would acquire the charter and the assets. He said that when a business next to him was sold, it was a private deal. He will support any negative action that Goodwin and UB may do, but to assume that there is deceitful actions going on before it happens.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she had expressed her feelings to Council Member Cruz. Goodwin did not come to her or to Council Member Cruz about what they were doing. She wasn't told about the meetings that were going on and it was totally unfair. She was not respected by others.

**** THE MOTION FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 53-20 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ & CO-SPONSOR CASTILLO RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR THE EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND SPECIFIC STRATEGIES TO ACQUIRE THE CHARTER AND ASSETS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT, REFERRED TO EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, NIEVES, VALLE, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND FIVE (5) OPPOSED (CRUZ, CASTILLO, PEREIRA, SULIMAN AND DEFILIPPO).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO DENY THE RESOLUTION FOR THE REASONS STATED IN THE OPINION LETTER ISSUED BY THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO DENY AGENDA ITEM 53-20 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ & CO-SPONSOR CASTILLO RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR THE EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE TO**

CREATE A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND SPECIFIC STRATEGIES TO ACQUIRE THE CHARTER AND ASSETS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT, REFERRED TO EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES PASSED WITH PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (CRUZ, PEREIRA).

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***35-20 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services – State Opioid Response Grant Program (#21258).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 35-20 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES – STATE OPIOID RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM (#21258).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 35-20 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES – STATE OPIOID RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM (#21258) WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON); ONE (1) ABSTENTION (CRUZ) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

36-20 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program (ACRGP).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED AGENDA ITEM 36-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) – AIRPORT CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM (ACRGP).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira stated that she was opposed to the last paragraph of the contract which give the Mayor and his staff authority to sign agreements without Council approval.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 36-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S.**

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) – AIRPORT CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM (ACRGP) PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).

37-20 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: The Justice Center – Project Safe Neighborhoods (#21485).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED AGENDA ITEM 37-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: THE JUSTICE CENTER – PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS (#21485).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira stated that she was opposed to the last paragraph of the contract which give the Mayor and his staff authority to sign agreements without Council approval.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 37-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: THE JUSTICE CENTER – PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS (#21485) PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

44-20 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: The Sikorsky Memorial Airport Environmental Assessment Acceptance of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grants.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED AGENDA ITEM 44-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: THE SIKORSKY MEMORIAL AIRPORT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACCEPTANCE OF FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) GRANTS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira stated that she was opposed to the last paragraph of the contract which give the Mayor and his staff authority to sign agreements without Council approval.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 44-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: THE SIKORSKY MEMORIAL AIRPORT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACCEPTANCE OF FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) GRANTS PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

39-20 Contracts Committee Report re: Partial Release Agreement with Connecticut Green Bank regarding the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Program from 2012.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 39-20 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PARTIAL RELEASE AGREEMENT WITH CONNECTICUT GREEN BANK REGARDING THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (C-PACE) PROGRAM FROM 2012.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

40-20 Contracts Committee Report re: Tentative Agreement with American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 1522, Council 4 regarding their Collective Bargaining Agreement, DENIED.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO REJECT THE NEGATIVE REPORT AND APPROVE THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (AFSCME) LOCAL 1522, COUNCIL 4 REGARDING THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member McCarthy said that there had been an issue about the figures. The OPM Director was on the call to clarify the questions.

Mr. Nkwo said that OPM submits the financial analysis to the Council. The spreadsheet indicates the increase percentage for the contract.

Council Member Pereira said that it wasn't a minor discrepancy. The report said that it was \$4.6 million but Mr. Nkwo said that it was \$2.1 million. People are paid a lot of money to do their job and having a mistake of this magnitude is not acceptable.

Council Member Newton said that Mr. Nkwo has said at the budget meeting that he knows what the contracts were and he budgets for the increases. Those who have been on Contracts know that the money is already allocated.

**** THE MOTION TO REJECT AGENDA ITEM 40-20 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (AFSCME) LOCAL 1522, COUNCIL 4 REGARDING THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT, DENIED PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR ((BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, PEREIRA, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (LYONS AND HERRON).**

Council Member Newton explained that the Council had just voted to reject the Committee's denial.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ACCEPT AGENDA ITEM 40-20 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (AFSCME) LOCAL 1522, COUNCIL 4 REGARDING THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR APPROVAL.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA ITEM 40-20 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (AFSCME) LOCAL 1522, COUNCIL 4 REGARDING THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR ((BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, PEREIRA, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (LYONS AND HERRON).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA REGARDING A REFERRAL OF AN AMENDMENT REGARDING AN SHU SCORE BOARD.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO REFER AN AMENDMENT ITEM INVOLVING A SHU SCORE BOARD TO THE PARKS COMMISSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #60-20 Ref. #119-13)
(OFF THE FLOOR)**

Council Member McBride-Lee said that during the Budget Committee the Co-chairs had laid down some ground rules regarding the Council Members' conduct. She said that she was sad in church because the people who are coming before the Commission should not be disrespected by the Council Members. Asking a question is one thing, but putting people down is wrong and saying the staff aren't doing their job is wrong. She said that Mr. Nkwo was doing a great job and his job is very challenging. There are some that can't count to 20 but think they can do his job better than Mr. Nkwo can. It is important to be respectful. Being disrespectful is uncalled for, and unnecessary.

Mayor Ganim said that the Department Heads have to provide information but they should not be abused. The best way to move things forward is to have respectful dialogue.

The Council then moved to consider the CDBG funding. Due to conflicts of interest, the following Council Members left the meeting: Council Member Burns, Council Member Brantley, Council Member Lyons, Council Member Suliman and Council Member Newton.

23-20 Special Committee on CDBG Report re: Program Year 47 Annual Action Plan: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); Homeless Emergency Solutions Grant (HESG); HOME Investment Partnership and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 23-20 SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CDBG REPORT RE: PROGRAM YEAR 47 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG); HOMELESS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (HESG); HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that the Federal law requires that the manual states that it goes to ECD&E to hold two hearings, followed by meetings. She listed the remaining process required under Federal Law and would like clarification.

Council President Nieves said that there were public hearings, and deliberations were held along with opportunity for the public to give input.

Council Member Pereira added that ESG and HOPWA decisions were made by a group that was not lawful.

Council Member Pereira asked when ECD&E complied with the regulations in the Policy and Procedures.

Ms. Miller said that the items were brought before the ECD&E Committee but there were too many conflicts.

Council Member Pereira said that under Federal Law, it must be followed to the letter of the law.

Council Member Pereira said that the applications were to be filed by February 12th. The Orcutt Boys and Girls Club were informed that his application was not eligible because he only had two bids. St. Mark's Daycare was also disqualified for the same reason. The McGiveney Center only submitted two bids.

Ms. Miller said that when the McGiveney staff had sent their application they realized they had sent it in with a duplicate form. They immediately contacted her They tried to upload the third one, but were unable to. They delivered the form to Ms. Miller and she tried to upload it. It did upload, but only the staff was able to see the corrected form.

Council President Nieves said that Ms. Miller had explained this issue adequately during the meetings.

Council Member Pereira said that she would be filing with the State Attorney General about this.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO MAKE A MINOR ALLOCATION ADJUSTMENT AS FOLLOWS:**

**DECREASE MAYOR'S CONSERVATION CORPS BY \$5,000
INCREASE ACCESS EDUCATION BY \$5,000**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Valle asked Council Member Brown to explain. Council Member Brown said that they had spoken about STEM education and these were keys to success for black and brown communities. Students often go on to pursue degrees in the STEM areas. He said that he felt \$20,000 was an appropriate amount.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that the STEM program has worked well in her community and in the PT community. She said that the students in the public housing were benefiting through this type of program. They were engaged with the curriculum and happy. She support this change.

Council Member DeFilippo said that he would hope people would reconsider giving a basketball program some money. Things got blurred when they started taking kids to Derby, but that was because of COVID.

Council Member DeFilippo asked the Committee to reconsider Orcutt funding.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked if the Conservation Corps was geared for young people. Ms. Miller said that they hire low income youth in the City during the spring and summer. Council Member McBride-Lee said that she did not see how they should cut jobs for low income youth.

Council Member Pereira said that the program that Council Member DeFilippo spoke about was given \$10,000. She said for the record that the STEM program is run by a family member of Council Member Brantley and Council Member Pereira wanted to place that on the record.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the changes that were being recommended to the Committee or given to Council President Nieves and the co-chairs.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that Orcutt Boys and Girls Club had a recent sale. She wished to know where the funding from that sale went.

Council Member Brown said that he wished to address Council Member Pereira's comments about his Co-council Member whose family member runs the program. Council Members are often friends. However, what they are pushing for economic freedom and education for Bridgeport's students.

Regarding Council Member McBride-Lee said that she was not married to the idea of reducing the Mayor's Conservation Corps, and would welcome another suggestion.

Council Member Cruz asked if they could help the two disqualified applicants. Ms. Miller said that they could not approve funding for the disqualified applications.

Ms. Miller said that the Orcutt did not get Public Service funding, because they did not submit some documentation. The Public Facilities was for an elevator but it was a historic building. They needed architectural plans and these had been requested.

Council Member Valle said that she understood the STEM program. She said that the Committee had voted on certain amounts to allocate to the applicants. She asked why these things were being changed now. The ECD&E co-chairs were not contacted. This is not fair.

Council President Nieves said that she understood and explained that the Senior Centers did not apply this year.

Council Member Martinez said that this question was for Ms. Miller. She asked to see a copy of the requirement for three bids. She said that she believes that it was implemented to make sure that some projects were not overbid or underbid. However, she did not think it was a requirement for disqualification. Council Member Martinez said that she believed the Daycare should have received some funding.

Ms. Miller said that St. Mark's missed the original deadline for technical assistance. She said that she had made herself available for a second assistance. The three quotes were not a Federal requirement. This was put into place because some agencies had not been asking for enough money for the project. Ms. Miller said that she had spoken with the head of the agency and she had not received the quotes.

Council Member Castillo said that he would like to help the Orcutt Boys Club and his focus is on the kids. He asked about following up on the process regarding last year's CDBG funding for the elevator. He needs approval from the Historical Association. He spoke about how the pool was not functional and one of the contractors were going to bid on it.

Ms. Miller said that the conversation with Mr. Keeley and Mr. Nelson was that they were focused on the cameras and repairing front steps. She said that she had spoken with Charles about the bid which was over \$900,000 and it would be easier to get approval from SHPO (Connecticut's State Historic Preservation Office). The Orcutt staff were asked to put together a project management plan and it was never done. Ms. Miller said that there was another project that SHPO had denied a project because it did not meet their requirements. The staff had to redesign the project.

Ms. Miller said that the last three applications were for the same thing. Council Member Castillo said that Ms. Miller was insulting his intelligence. The application was for the pool pump. He said that he would like to see how they could move the project forward.

Council President Nieves said that Ms. Miller had spoken to Mr. Keeley and Mr. Nelson had stated that they wanted to fix the steps and the security cameras. They are the operators of the facility.

Council Member Herron said that when she was first on the Council, there was a bidding process and then another department director eliminated. Ms. Miller brought the process back.

Council Member Herron said that she had some concerns about all these changes and objections that were not brought up during the meetings.

Council Member Pereira said that she would like to know when the McGivney Center received the document. Council President Nieves said that Ms. Miller had received the document. Council Member Pereira had several questions about how the document was delivered and when it was dated. She said that she would be making a comprehensive complaint and this would be part of it.

Council Member McCarthy said that he did not know what to say and requested not to be included on this again due to the bickering. They should leave it up to Citizen's Union and not be involved.

**** THE MOTION TO MAKE A MINOR ALLOCATION ADJUSTMENT AS FOLLOWS:**

**DECREASE MAYOR'S CONSERVATION CORPS BY \$5,000
INCREASE ACCESS EDUCATION BY \$5,000**

PASSED WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (NIEVES, CRUZ, HERRON, TAYLOR-MOYE, CASTILLO, VIZZO-PANICCIA, VALLE, SILVA, MCCARTHY, MARTINEZ, BROWN AND DEFILIPPO) AND THREE (3) OPPOSED (MCBRIDE-LEE, PEREIRA AND ROMAN-CHRISTY).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 23-20 SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CDBG REPORT RE: PROGRAM YEAR 47 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG); HOMELESS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (HESG); HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA) AS AMENDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 23-20 SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CDBG REPORT RE: PROGRAM YEAR 47 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG); HOMELESS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (HESG); HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA) AS AMENDED PASSED WITH THIRTEEN (13) IN FAVOR (NIEVES, CRUZ, HERRON, TAYLOR-MOYE, CASTILLO, VIZZO-PANICCIA, VALLE, ROMAN-CHRISTY SILVA, MCCARTHY, MARTINEZ, BROWN AND DEFILIPPO) AND TWO(2) OPPOSED (MCBRIDE-LEE, AND PEREIRA).**

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services