

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM**

**MONDAY, MAY 3, 2021**

**6:30 P.M.**

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Brown called the Public Speaking portion of the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The Assistant City Clerk Frances Ortiz called the roll.

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

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

Council President Nieves announced that there was a 3 minute time limit for each speaker.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MAY 3, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.**

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

**John Marshall Lee**  
30 Beacon Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City Spending.

Mr. Lee then read the following statement into the record.

Good evening Council members. Thank you to those of you who have attempted to get your minds around the major issues swirling in Bridgeport....corrupted Police and Personnel Department leaders ready for sentences to be carried out as consequences to pleadings in face of Federal investigations.....unsettled and court contested leadership of the Police Department when Mayoral appointment fails to follow City format.....COVID responses not uniform, but where is Health Department leadership?.....Federal and State funds larger than usual but how do they fit with what local taxpayers face this year in an efficient and effective manner (explained in detail by management?).....comments from some elected by City taxpayers that not all City employees are either qualified as to task, trained to improve, reviewed regularly by supervisors, or otherwise held responsible for their duties, or their hours, yet continue to receive health and retirement benefits above market rate.....And the City claims that PD budget increases are necessary while BOE starves relatively speaking, and City Hall includes “educational cost sharing” payments from the State of CT as “local taxpayer” funding when making erroneous comparisons.....and Finance continues to budget Revenues in recent years for IN=Plant printing from sources outside City Hall to \$10,000 reducing over several years to \$500 in the current 20-21 year but enters only 000,s where dollars belong. Where does such funding flow daily or weekly? Appear in Council reviewed data available to taxpayers? And why does Finance also continues to ignore reporting some \$800,000 of parent funding for Lighthouse annually or in the monthly revenue reports you receive, while the long time Youth Services Director tells the State of Connecticut about that funding in her reports to them? Perhaps a zero-based budget approach to review of a City Table of Organization will hold an answer to why a City restaurateur active in local politics is the last word in employment appointments where quality of experience and integrity is less important than interest in political support? Questions are raised regularly. Answers for these are ever in short supply. Whom do you trust? What happens when leaders decline to lead, but still make decisions in their darkness, according to no statement of priorities? And School Capital projects with significant State funding change direction and cost at the last moment, in the face of significant climate change challenges, with no details provided and multiple interest conflicts at risk? Time will tell.

**Maria Pereira**  
206 Bradley Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Municipal Budget.

It appears the City Council is going to approve a number for the \$500 million dollar municipal budget, an \$18 million dollar capital plan and approve a new mill rate for the real estate and motor vehicle tax without it even being on tonight’s agenda. We were just emailed all these documents two hours ago and it seems to appear that there will be an attempt to just throw it onto the agenda without any notice to the people we were elected to serve.

In addition, I want to address Council Members Burns and Newton. We have this thing called the City Council Rules, you know, the rules you and the vast majority of the City Council has voted to approve. I’ve never voted for them, yet I do my very best to adhere to them with fidelity. [Inaudible] when I raised my hand during a B&A meeting and was not recognized and told I could not speak, which I am sure you are aware are a violation of the City Council Rules you

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voted to approve. You don't have to like me, but I am your colleague and I was elected overwhelming to represent my district.

In addition, you're both well aware that the City Council Rules specifically state that Police, Fire and the EOC budgets are required to go to the Public Safety Committee and then they give recommendations to the B&A Committee. Council Member Newton announced at one of the meetings that it was going to be referred to the Public Safety. That never happened. That's a violation of the City Council Rules all of you voted for. The Mayor, this administration, the vast majority of the City Council are just lawless. This Council passes ordinances that are binding on those who serve and represent but fail to follow its own ordinances, City Council Rules and State statutes. And the problem inherently lies in the thirteen of the twenty members of the City Council and seven members of this Council either work for the City or work for the Board of Ed or have immediate family members who do. And those are major conflicts.

And last, let me say, that thirteen of the twenty members of the City Council are minority, which is just about a super majority and veto proof. Yet, year after year, our over 19,000 students, which are 48% Hispanic and 38% black have their schools and their futures shortchanged by the Mayor and this City Council who believe that's okay, including the fifteen members who are minorities and should be fighting for our Hispanic and African American students.

I just wanted to state that all on the record because I'm not voting for this budget in any way, shape or form. And so, that's all I have to say. Thank you.

**Jessica Ortiz-Michaca**

Municipal Budget.

98 Emerald Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Ms. Ortiz-Michaca spoke about the impact of the Educational Budget. She said that she is a current resident of Bridgeport but was born and raised in Westchester County and received a great education. Her children attended the Bridgeport public schools where the teachers applied privately for grants for resources for their students. This is beyond just a job. They invest in the future. She said she was grateful for the past educators that her children had, but once decisions needed to be made for high school the options were unacceptable in terms of providing the type of education she wished to have for them. The Bridgeport public high schools did not offer the educational standards or safety that met her visions and hopes for the future. She was able to navigate the private school system with the help of friends and learned about the resources that were provided by gracious donors. Those donors made up for the gaps in the educational system. Her children were able to attend Fairfield Prep and St. Joseph's Prep, but when they entered they lacked the academic preparation and skills needed to compete with their suburban counterparts. It took almost a year of extra help, before and after school, along with summer programs to compensate for the disparities. They did not even have the basic skill required for note taking or study skills.

Ms. Ortiz-Michaca said that she had to take out a second mortgage to cover the cost of these basic educational resources which her tax dollars should have paid for. The Council are the ones who talk about Police reform and educational gaps, service to black and brown children and social reform along with justice for the community. Now is the time to put their words into

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action. While she believes in adequately funding the Police Department, but the funding of the Police Department is a major social issue. Reallocating the funding is critical. She asked what the reallocation of the Police funding do to educate the children, invest in the future and support the educators. This is the question she had for each of the elected officials. Thank you.

**Helen Olga Losak**  
304 Bradley Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06610

City of Bridgeport Budget.

Ms. Losak said she resides in the 138th District. She said as an educator, she knows the value of a good education including better jobs, better careers and fewer incarcerations. She looks at Trumbull, Stratford, Westport and Fairfield that value and invest in their educational system. This revised budget does not provide a \$2 million dollar increase for the public schools. It only provides \$1.5 million because \$500,000 is funneled to the Bridgeport Board of Education will come from the Lighthouse Program. The budget is funding staff with outrageous salary increases. Some of the union contracts specify a 2% increase however, with this budget, some will get a 6% increase.

The Bridgeport Police Department has 66 vacancies and they are being given \$107,000 for vacancies. There was a 1953 Bridgeport Post article stating there was no money for schools in the budget. Please stop shortchanging the Bridgeport Public Schools, their teachers and the over 19,000 students that attend our schools. Thank you.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Brown adjourned the public speaking at 6:49p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, MAY 3, 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 7:00 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member Brantley to lead the Council in prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

There was a request made for a moment of silence in memory of Pablo deJesus Colon who passed away recently.

**ROLL CALL**

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

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

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

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

- **March 22, 2021 (Special Meeting)**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MARCH 22, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING.**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MARCH 22, 2021 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**66-20 Request from OPED to Order a Public Hearing for May 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. re: Proposed Resolution Approving Programs for Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program Applications.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED THE ITEM.**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 66-20 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR MAY 17, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION APPROVING PROGRAMS FOR CONNECTICUT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**61-20 Communication from Tax Collector re: Refund of Excess Payments – Home Depot USA, Inc., referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**62-20 Communication from Tax Collector re: Refund of Excess Payments – Penske Leasing and Rental Co., referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**63-20 Communication from Tax Collector re: Refund of Excess Payments – Primrose Companies, Inc., referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**64-20 Communication from Tax Collector re: Refund of Excess Payments – People’s United Bank, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**65-20 Communication from Tax Collector re: Refund of Excess Payments – Seaview Bridgeport II, LLC., referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**66-20 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Approving Programs for Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program Applications, referred to Economic Community Development and Environment Committee.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THEIR APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES:**

**61-20 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – HOME DEPOT USA, INC., REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**62-20 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – PENSKE LEASING AND RENTAL CO., REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**63-20 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – PRIMROSE COMPANIES, INC., REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**64-20 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – PEOPLE’S UNITED BANK, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**65-20 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – SEAVIEW BRIDGEPORT II, LLC., REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**66-20 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION APPROVING PROGRAMS FOR CONNECTICUT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**\*108-19 Ordinance Committee Report re: Resolution requesting the City Attorney to draft amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances to Reduce Auto Theft and Break-Ins, DENIED.**

**\*49-20 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Marcie J. Patton, Ph.D. (D) to the Public Library Board of Directors and Reading Room.**

**\*55-20 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Rachel Rockwell (D) to the Historic District Commission as an alternate.**

**\*56-20 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of LaShea Hall (D) to the Civil Service Commission.**

**\*46-20 Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts Report re: 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 asked if any Council Member wished to have an item removed from the Consent Calendar. Council Member McCarthy requested that Agenda Item 46-20 be removed. Council

Member Pereira requested that Agenda Items 49-20, 55-20 and 56-20 be removed. The City Clerk read the remaining item into the record.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 108-19 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REDUCE AUTO THEFT AND BREAK-INS, DENIED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the following agenda items were all unanimously approved in Committee:

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

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

\*56-20 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of LaShea Hall (D) to the Civil Service Commission.

Council Member Pereira objected and said that the Charter rules require a roll call vote.

Atty. Anastasi confirmed that the City Charter requires all appointments needed to be held by roll call vote.

**49-20 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Marcie J. Patton, Ph.D. (D) to the Public Library Board of Directors and Reading Room.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 49-20 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF MARCIE J. PATTON, PH.D. (D) TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND READING ROOM.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, PEREIRA, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (DEFLIPPO).**

**55-20 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Rachel Rockwell (D) to the Historic District Commission as an alternate.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 55-20 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT**



**OF RACHEL ROCKWELL (D) TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION AS AN ALTERNATE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**56-20 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of LaShea Hall (D) to the Civil Service Commission.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA 56-20 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF LASHEA HALL (D) TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.**

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

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA 56-20 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF LASHEA HALL (D) TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, PEREIRA, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND THREE (3) OPPOSED ( DEFLIPPO, PEREIRA AND SULIMAN).**

**46-20 Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts Report re: 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.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED 46-20 JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS REPORT RE: 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.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that they had done their due diligence. She said that she had gotten verbal agreements from the developer about particular details. She thanked Council Member Newton, Council Member Cruz and others for working on this project. She said she felt it was a wonderful thing.

Council Member Newton said that he was supporting this. He said that the Budget Committee had raised the fees from \$10,000 to \$50,000 and Mr. Saffan agreed to the rental amount. He asked the Council Members to support this.

Council Member Pereira said that she would request the Council deny this item because the developer is going to sublet the sign. She wished to know if it was \$50,000 per year or per term, which is 20 years. Atty. Pacacha said the rent was \$50,000 per year.

Council Member McCarthy said that he would like clarification on the lease about the defined terms definition of Commencement date.

Atty. Pacacha said that the commencement date would be the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy.

Council Member McCarthy said that they could not hold any events until it received the Certificate of Occupancy. Atty. Pacacha said that this was correct.

Council Member Cruz said that he supported Council Member Taylor-Moye's opinions.

Council Member DeFilippo said that the City just gives the developer anything he wants. He asked why they were doing this for peanuts. This is stupid and people need to think a little bit.

Council Member Lyons said that her concern was that the Zoning Board had denied it. Atty. Pacacha said that P&Z had it on an 8-24 review and the P&Z issued an unfavorable report. He said that the P&Z strayed beyond their area of jurisdiction by opening it for public comment. The Council will need to have a super-majority vote.

Council Member Burns said that his first concern was allayed when he heard that the rent would be starting with the issuance of the C.O. His other concern was that it would be located between two other billboards.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 46-20 JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS REPORT RE: 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 FAILED TO OBTAIN A SUPER MAJORITY WITH ELEVEN (11) IN FAVOR (MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, VALLE, NIEVES, AND NEWTON) AND NINE (9) OPPOSED (BURNS, DEFLIPPO, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, SILVA, CASTILLO, PEREIRA, SULIMAN AND MARTINEZ).**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:**

**126-19 Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts Report re: Resolution Making Findings Per Connecticut City and Town Development Act (Precursor to Consideration of a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for 515 West Avenue).**

Council Member Valle said it was approved by six of the Committee with one abstention.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED AGENDA ITEM 126-19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS REPORT RE: RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS PER CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT**

**(PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION OF A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR 515 WEST AVENUE).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that this was another 15 year tax delay which is illegal and the building has been occupied 2 years. The homeowners will be getting a tax increase and the developers are protected by this PILOT.

Council Member Lyons said that she did not agree with 15 year terms but would agree with a 10 year term.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 126-19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS REPORT RE: RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS PER CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT (PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION OF A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR 515 WEST AVENUE) PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, PEREIRA, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON), FOUR (4) OPPOSED (PEREIRA, DEFLIPPO, LYONS AND SULIMAN) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (TAYLOR-MOYE).**

**127-19 Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts Report re: Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for 515 West Avenue.**

Council Member Valle said this item was approved by six of the Committee with one abstention.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 127-19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR 515 WEST AVENUE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that they were giving them the 15 year tax abatement and a 7 year Enterprise Zone variance.

Council President Nieves said that the issue was this submission was made three and a half years ago and got delayed in OPED. This is not being done illegally, there was a change of administration and now they are trying to rectify this situation.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 127-19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR 515 WEST AVENUE PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, SILVA, VALLE,**

**NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON), THREE (3) OPPOSED (PEREIRA, DEFLIPPO AND LYONS) AND TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (CRUZ AND TAYLOR-MOYE).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA FROM THE CT. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR REFERRAL (ITEM #68-20).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO REFER THE ITEM TO THE EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO REFER THE ITEM TO THE EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFLIPPO, LYONS VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD THE FY2021-2022 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND FY2021-2022 CAPITAL BUDGET TO THE AGENDA.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD THE FY2021-2022 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND FY2021-2022 CAPITAL BUDGET TO THE AGENDA PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (PEREIRA AND DEFILIPPO). (ITEM #41-20)**

Council Member Burns gave a brief overview of the process and said there would be four votes.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY2021-2022 GENERAL FUND REVENUE INCREASES (A) AS PRESENTED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Brown said that the revenue for the billboard was included in the revenues but the Council just denied the motion. Discussion followed.

Council Member Pereira said that with Parking Violations should be increased by \$50,000.

Council Member Burns said that the budget was being cut by 10.5 mills and he was pleased with it. The vehicle taxes were also being reduced. They are adding \$2 million to the BOE MBR. They are looking at ways of starting reform and creating a Human Resources/Social Service unit.

The City Council needs more support, so the Council has set aside \$90,000 for contracted services. This is the beginning of the shift in how the services are delivered to the residents. Council Member Newton said that he was thankful for the Committee members. He said that they were cutting the mill rate and they were able to work together with the BOE in a way that they were not able to do before. They cut funding from the PD to create the Social Service Department to assist the Police in particular calls. People claim Bridgeport has the highest mill rate, but Hartford, Waterbury and other cities have a higher mill rate.

Council Member Newton said that for at least 15 years, the East End properties were underwater, but now he could sell his property and actually get something for it. The COVID assistance for renters and landlords will help. He asked the Council to support this budget.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that this was perhaps the second or third time she would be voting against the budget. She was pleased to see the cut in the mill rate but felt that they could have decreased more. Bringing up the race and ethnicity every time is wrong. The Council represents the entire City. She can't whole-heartedly support this budget and so will be voting no.

Council Member Lyons said that she was not on the Budget Committee and only missed four meetings. She thanked everyone working on this, but may not be voting in favor of the budget.

Council Member Pereira said that the way that they took the funding from the Police was wrong. She said that they could have reduced the mill rate by another 3 mills and listed last year's revenues. This is not a tax decrease, it is an increase.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY2021-2022 GENERAL FUND REVENUE INCREASES (A) AS PRESENTED PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, PEREIRA AND DEFLIPPO).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY2021-2022 GENERAL FUND DECREASES (B) AS PRESENTED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY2021-2022 GENERAL FUND DECREASES (B) AS PRESENTED PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, PEREIRA AND DEFLIPPO).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY2021-2022 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE INCREASES (C) AS PRESENTED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY2021-2022 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE INCREASES (C) AS PRESENTED PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR**

**(BURNS, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND SIX (6) OPPOSED (MCCARTHY, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, CASTILLO, PEREIRA AND DEFLIPPO).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE FY2021-2022 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE DECREASES (D) AS PRESENTED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that the constant statements that the BOE was getting an additional \$2 million. The Lighthouse was getting \$1.5 million and this needs to be on the record.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that people need to vote their heart and had concerns about the PILOT programs.

Council Member Burns said that they were adding \$2 million to the MBR in a year when the BOE was getting 9 figures from the State.

Council Member Newton said that he was told that the BOE was only getting \$1.5. But they were getting \$2 million in the MBR and also helping with the BOE vehicles with \$25,

**\*\*THE MOTION TO APPROVE FY2021-2022 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE DECREASES (D) AS PRESENTED FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND FIVE (5) OPPOSED (DEFLIPPO VIZZO-PANICCIA, CASTILLO, PEREIRA AND SULIMAN).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE ENTIRE FY 2021/20211BUDGET AS PRESENTED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she had spent time studying the budget and found \$1,9 million in the Supervisor's salaries and positions listed in the budget that don't exist. She said that they were supported to follow the union increases.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO AMEND THE FY2021/2022 BUDGET BY INCREASING THE BOE BUDGET BY \$1,937,013 TO RECTIFY THE AMOUNT AND ELIMINATED THE CITY POSITIONS AS LISTED:**

			(3 years)					Required			Contract/Ord Correct			Amount/			Savings			Notes				
			% Increase/Compared	% Increase/Compared	Account #	Object Code	Object/Description	FY 2021 Budget	FY 2022 Budget	Dollar Difference	Proposed % Increase	Civ/Ord % Increase	% Increase	Contract Correct	Ord Salary	Total								
Department	2021	2019																						
Office of the Mayor	4.80%	10.60%	1001000	51000	Mayor's Community Liaison	74,285	\$80,000	\$5,715	7.60%	2%			\$1,486	\$75,771	\$4,229									
FINANCE DIVISION																								
Central Grants	5.00%	9.00%																						
Comptrollers Office	-3%	23.00%	1010000	51000	Special Projects Coordinator	80,101	87,333	\$7,232	9.00%	2%			\$1,602	\$81,703	\$5,630									
			1010000	51000	Accountant	81,044	85,024	\$3,980	5.00%	2%			\$1,620	\$82,664	\$2,460									
			1010000	51000	Capital Projects Fixed Assets	88,783	90,539	\$1,776	2.00%	0%			\$0	\$0	\$0									
Finance Department	5.30%	19.00%	1015000	51000	Director of Finance	134,340	142,177	\$7,837	6%	2%			\$2,687	\$137,027	\$5,100									
Print Shop	4.00%	16.00%	1030000	51000	Pressman	64,037	67,956	\$3,919	6%	2%			\$1,281	\$65,813	\$2,143									
					Printer	64,037	67,956	\$3,919	6%	2%			\$1,281	\$65,813	\$2,143									
					Annex Mail Carrier (35 hrs)	33,414	33,414	\$0	\$0	2%			\$0	\$0	\$0							Only PT Annex Mail Courier in Ordinance 2.36.010 \$23,743		
Purchasing	8.00%	8%																						
Tax Collector	4.00%	14%	1040000	51000	Accounting Clerk II	56,288	59,101	\$3,813	0	3%			\$1,639	\$56,497	\$2,154									
			1040000	51000	Accountant	\$88,003	\$90,210	\$2,207	2.50%	2%			\$1,760	\$89,763	\$447									
Tax Assessor	-17.50%	32%	1041000	51000	PT Special Project Coordinator	\$38,161	\$38,161	\$0	\$0	0%			\$0	\$0	\$0							No such "PT" position exists in the Supervisors Union nor Ordinance 2.36.010		
Treasury	9.40%	34%	1045000	51000	Accountant	\$85,681	\$89,763	\$4,082	5%	2%			\$1,714	\$87,395	\$2,368									
<b>TOTAL</b>					Office Equipment	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000	100%	N/A			N/A	\$5,000	\$15,000							No reference of specialized equipment or any equipment in Goals		
																						\$189,539		
City Attorney	2.00%	-13%	1060000	51000	Secretarial Assistant	45,943	\$51,250	\$5,307	12%	3%			\$1,378	\$47,306	\$3,924							LY 44 982 Increase in 2021. Earning \$40,961 in 2020. \$51,250 equates to a 25% increase or \$10,289 in 2 yrs.		
					Contracted Salaries	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0	\$0	\$0								Retirees receiving \$90,000-\$100,000 Pensions. Retirees can only work FT & they are all working FT as "consultants"	
																						\$309,924		
City Service	26.40%	45.00%	7070000	51000	Personnel Trainee	\$0	\$54,012	\$54,012	100%				\$0	\$54,012	\$54,012								New Personnel Examiner in Supervisor's Union. Personnel Trainee position is unfilled & does not exist in Ordinance 2.3	
Benefits/Human Resources	8%	9%	1075000	51000	Benefits Manager	\$93,360	\$109,621	\$17,261	19.00%	2%			\$1,847	\$94,207	\$15,414									
			1075000	51000	Human Resource Manager	\$93,856	\$106,024	\$32,168	34.00%	2%			\$1,827	\$95,463	\$30,561									
			1075000	53610	Training Services	\$30,000	\$50,000	\$20,000	66.00%	N/A				\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0							\$50,000 for Training 11 employees is excessive. BPP Has \$45,000 for 434 positions	
																						\$65,975		
Labor Relations	5%	14%	1085000	51000	Labor Management Coordinator	\$57,836	\$72,438	\$14,602	25.00%	2%			\$1,735	\$59,571	\$12,867								Ordinance 2.36.010 Range \$ 71,018 - \$85,611. Position filled in 2021 at \$57,836777	
Town Clerk	2%	14%																						
Legislative Department	35%	57%	1095000	51099	Contracted Salaries	\$90,000	\$0	\$90,000	100%	N/A			\$0	\$0	\$90,000									
			1095000	51402	City Council Stipends	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$0	0%	0%				\$135,000	\$135,000	\$45,000								
																						\$135,000		
Office of Policy & Mgmt.	5%	34%	11000000	51000	Director OPM	\$34,340	\$142,127	\$7,787	6%	2%			\$2,687	\$137,027	\$5,100								Earning \$126,592 in 2019. \$142,127 equates to a 12% raise over 3 years totaling \$15,535 in raises	
Information Technology	9.20%	16%	1106000	51000	ITS Director	\$31,698	\$143,877	\$6,179	4%	2%			\$2,753	\$140,451	\$3,426									
					Senior Specialist	\$2,148	\$81,000	\$9,452	13%	3%			\$2,164	\$74,312	\$7,288									This position is not in the Supervisors Union or Ordinance 2.36.010
					Special Project Mgr. GIS	\$82,394	\$84,041	\$1,647	2%	0%			\$0	\$0	\$84,041	\$84,041							This position is vacant and is not in the Supervisors Union or Ordinance 2.36.010. Only a Spec. Project Coordinator is in f	
																						\$94,755		

Police Dept.	6.80%	1251000	51000	Asst. Special Project Mgr.	\$109,758	\$170,191	\$60,433	2%			\$2,195	\$111,953	<b>\$58,238</b>	One of the two existing positions is already vacant. Eliminate the vacancy. Adding in Steve Auerbach
				Executive Secretary	\$64,023	\$67,442	\$3,419	2%			\$1,280	\$65,303	<b>\$2,139</b>	
				Police Patrol									<b>\$500,000</b>	43 vacancies, LV 17 vacancies, \$756,000 for BOC + additional \$500,000 totals \$1,256,000 or 3.7% of \$33,650,770 Patrol Div. Budget
														2021 - 428 BPD Positions w/ 42 vacancies, 17 in Patrol, 2022 - 434 BPD Positions w/ 70 vacancies, 43 in Patrol
														2021 - 7 Detention Officers & added one totaling 8 w/ 6 vacancies 2022 - 8 w/ 5 vacancies
														2020 Actual Other Personnel Services Only Exceeded \$11,864,750 OT Budget by \$364,672
														2019 Actual Other Personnel Services Only Exceeded OT Budget by \$456,085
													<b>\$460,377</b>	
Fire Department	5%	1276000	51000	Fire Lieutenant	\$971,400	\$1,050,350	\$80,950	0%			\$0	\$971,400	<b>\$80,500</b>	Adding a 13th Lieutenant Position in Unassigned.
Emergency Operations	2.60%	1290000	51000	Public Safety TCO	2,395,542	\$2,527,068	\$131,526	5%	3%		\$71,866	\$2,467,411	<b>\$275,000</b>	6 vacancies, LV vacancies 5, Eliminate 5 positions which have been vacant for 3 years, LV 8.2% increase in salaries, TV 5.4% increase in salaries
Public Facilities Admin.	1.00%	1300000	51000	Payroll Comp. Coordinator	\$56,808	\$63,073	\$6,265	11%			\$1,704	\$58,312	<b>\$4,761</b>	
Municipal Garage	Flat	26.40%	1305000	Garage Clerk	\$43,468	\$47,799	\$4,331	10%	3%		\$1,304	\$44,772	<b>\$3,027</b>	
				Manager Municipal Garage	\$77,741	\$95,776	\$18,035	23%	2%		\$1,555	\$79,296	<b>\$16,480</b>	
				Equipment Mechanic Foreman	\$62,701	\$72,819	\$10,118	16%	2%		\$1,254	\$63,955	<b>\$8,864</b>	
Facilities Maintenance	2.60%	1310000	51000	PT Painter	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000	100%	0%		\$0	\$0	<b>\$25,000</b>	Adding a PT Painter position for Kevin Marks who is retired and receiving a full pension
Roadway Maintenance	7.70%	-1.50%	1320000	Asst. Special Project Coordinator	\$0	\$61,359	\$61,359	100%	0%		\$0	\$0	<b>\$61,359</b>	No such position of "Asst. Special Projects Coordinator" in Supervisor's Union or Ordinance 2.36.010
				Public Works Foreman I	\$195,863	\$208,674	\$12,991	6.60%	2%		\$3,917	\$199,780	<b>\$8,894</b>	3 Positions
Sanitation Recycling	5.70%	1335000	51000	Supervisor of District Ops.	\$85,700	\$91,020	\$5,250	6%	2%		\$1,714	\$87,414	<b>\$3,606</b>	
				Public Works Foreman I	\$59,295	\$62,925	\$3,630	6%	2%		\$1,186	\$60,481	<b>\$1,814</b>	
Boardley Zoo	3.50%	1341000	51000	Senior Zoo Keeper	\$119,750	\$124,215	\$4,465	4.00%	2%		\$2,395	\$122,145	<b>\$2,070</b>	2 positions
				Green Houseman	\$45,953	\$48,249	\$2,296	5.00%	2%		\$1,049	\$47,002	<b>\$1,247</b>	
Recreation Programs	7.90%	2.60%	135000	Equipment Mechanic Foreman	\$67,277	\$70,229	\$3,452	5.00%	2%		\$1,346	\$68,623	<b>\$2,106</b>	LV received \$3,222 Raise at 5%
Parks Maintenance	5.30%	12.00%	1356000	Public Works Foreman I	\$66,623	\$69,558	\$3,035	4.50%	2%		\$1,330	\$67,853	<b>\$1,705</b>	LV received \$6,042 Raise at 10%
Shorely Airport	-21.00%	16.70%	1375000	Accounting Clerk (35 Hours)	\$50,450	\$55,195	\$4,745	9.40%	3%		\$1,514	\$51,964	<b>\$3,231</b>	LV reduced salary by 5,782.
Engineering	1%	37.50%	1385000	Engineering Amd I (35 Hours)	\$44,366	\$47,247	\$3,081	7%	3%		\$1,330	\$45,696	<b>\$1,551</b>	LV received \$1,773 at 4%. Received a 3% raise year prior as well.
													<b>\$145,715</b>	
													<b>\$1,937,013</b>	To increase the BOC Budget Account # 0001663



**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Newton said that this was brought up during the budget hearings and Mr. Nkwo explained these increases several times. He said that it was totally wrong and in all fairness, Mr. Nkwo should be allowed to explain in rebuttal.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that they should spend the money on security for the Mayor. She said that she was concerned about the Mayor's safety.

Council Member Herron said that she wants to hear from Mr. Nkwo. The Budget Committee met over and over time and they kept being told they didn't know what they were doing. She is tired of the innuendos. It is immoral and improper. It is improper to yell out during the meetings. There isn't only one person out there that talks to their constituents. If there were 6 or 10 constituents at the meetings, that would be a lot.

Council Member McCarthy said that he went through the list submitted by Council Member Pereira. This should have been submitted last week. He could not support this because he got it an hour before the meeting and while he might agree with some of the items, he can't agree with it all. If they are comparing cities, compare it with New Haven.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO AMEND THE FY2021/2022 BUDGET BY INCREASING THE BOE BUDGET BY \$1,937,013 TO RECTIFY THE AMOUNT AND ELIMINATED THE CITY POSITIONS FAILED TO PASS WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (DEFLIPPO, CASTILLO, PEREIRA, SULIMAN AND LYONS) AND FIFTEEN (15) AGAINST (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON)**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ENTIRE FY 2021/20211 BUDGET AS PRESENTED PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND SIX (6) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, DEFLIPPO, CASTILLO, PEREIRA AND SULIMAN).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED THE FY 2021/2022 CAPITAL BUDGET AS PRESENTED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED. (ITEM #25-20)**

Council Member Burns said that this was the lowest Bonding Request in the last six years. He said that the acknowledged that the Federal Funding helped.

Council Member Newton agreed with Council Member Burns and thanked Superintendent Testani for coordinating with the City, so that the City could bond for the roof replacements.

Council Member McCarthy said that working through the Capital budget is dealing with the long term debt and that the CARES Act helps with this. He encouraged everyone to support the Capital Budget.

Council Member Pereira said that city owned buildings have to go out to bond. She then spoke about the \$500,000 for the Black Rock parking lot.

Council Member Cruz gave a shout out for the Co-chairs and Council Member McCarthy. He learned a great deal. Everything he requested, he received.

**\*\*THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY 2021/2022 CAPITAL BUDGET AS PRESENTED PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND FIVE (5) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA, PEREIRA, CASTILLO, DEFLIPPO, SULIMAN.)**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AND ITEM TO ADJUST THE MILL RATE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

Mayor Ganim said that he would support the work of the Council.

**\*\*THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AND ITEM TO ADJUST THE MILL RATE PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA, PEREIRA, DEFLIPPO AND SULIMAN.)**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADJUST THE MILL RATE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADJUST THE MILL RATE PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFLIPPO LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA). (ITEM #67-20)**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO SET THE NEW MILL RATE FOR 2021/2022 AT 43.45 FOR REAL PROPERTY AND MOTOR VEHICLES.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that the mill rate could be dropped by 3 mills.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO SET THE NEW MILL RATE FOR 2021/2022 AT 43.45 FOR REAL PROPERTY AND MOTOR VEHICLES PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN**

**FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND SIX (6) OPPOSED (PEREIRA, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, SULIMAN, DEFLIPPO AND CASTILLO).**

Mayor Ganim said that he was turning the meeting over the Council President Nieves. The Council has worked hard on the budget and cutting almost 11 mills from the tax rate was a yeoman's job.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that the Co-chairs did a great job. While they didn't agree on everything, they worked together.

Council Member Burns thanked the Committee for their work and diligence. They get paid absolutely nothing for this. Could it be better? Yes, but it is not a perfect process.

Council Member Lyons confirmed that her last vote was a no. She thanked the Budget Committee.

Council Member Newton said for the record that many people who voted against the budget today did not come to the budget committee meetings. It is easy to make things political, everyone is responsible.

Council President Nieves said that the level of disrespect to the constituents has been disgusting. The mockery of all the hard work is awful. Many constituents have been happy with the proposed budget. Making faces about that budget is disrespectful. This Council has incrementally increased the money to the BOE and addressed the disparities to the minorities. They should be happy and hold their heads up. The same people that stand in front of the press saying they helped, they didn't vote for it. Everyone has a life.

Council President Nieves said that the Council Members need to really examine their motives for being on the Council. Council Member Pereira was there at every meeting and even though her suggestions may have not passed, she was there. Please respect the City.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services