

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM

MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021

6:30 P.M.

This meeting will be 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 (6:40 p.m.)
- 133rd District: *Michael DeFilippo*, Jeanette Herron
- 134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia (6:35 p.m.)
- 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

During the roll call, there appeared to be no response from the individuals whose names are listed in italics. The Assistant City Clerk announced that there was a quorum.

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 17, 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. You have a significant Agenda facing you tonight once again and decisions that can be made and will be made, but how do you have confidence that they will get carried out in ways you intend tonight? Where is your fail-safe or oversight capacity? How often do you go to that place and seek to check out what you are unsure of? After all, it's an election year and there is a restlessness among citizens in the public square. You are public servants.

What are Bridgeport's pressing issues of this season? Taxes, economic valuations, jobs, and how is the City at dealing? If the Mayor were so disposed, we would have a priority list to which we could refer each year and check off the accomplishments annually. But Bridgeport does not have such a reference list. And even so, interruptions occur with regularity like COVID 19 as well as four years of a twittering President who through his many words on video and twitter left us with untrustworthy news, lies and misdirection for the most part.

But locally we still attend to "personal health" and personal wealth. Got your two shots and still careful about masking and social distancing, likely, but if you have the time for a good read, try *The Premonition*, by Michael Lewis about COVID 19 and US dealings with it by some heroic people in the public health, hospital, and government-responsible hierarchy who helped save our otherwise lack of preparedness. He prompts us to look for risks outside the box. Find your issues!!

Lewis takes us from the 1918 Flu epidemic through to today with behind the scenes, factual narrative that is spell binding to me. Oversight in this story has 'observers' though not official and Lewis reminds us that "blame that had been assigned to an individual was more fairly bestowed on a situation". So, our community is not saying to you "defund the police" as some "talking heads" have advised, but rather are asking: Where is community policing or any plan of action that rebuilds public trust? What is the resolution of multiple police incidents that have called for disciplinary consequences but seem to have none? Or they fall unfairly and unequally on certain populations? And what attention has been given to ask questions "outside the box" and come up with new labor relations tactics like standard annual employee reviews for all departments to arrest grievances, employment charts and better funding strategies for subjects like overtime that are out of control issues for a decade or more? Time will tell.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Helen Olga Losak
304 Bradley Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

80 Hastings Street proposed
tasting area and lease from
Bridgeport.

Ms. Losak greeted the Council Members and said that she was speaking in opposition to the proposal by the Fifth State Distillery to lease the parcel at 80 Hasting Street for an open patio/picnic area as a tasting area. She said she was the Block Watch leader.

Ms. Losak said that she had toured the site with Council Members Pereira and Suliman along with some other community leaders. It was evident that they were planning more than just a wine tasting area. The distillery produces more than just wine. They have hard liquor including moon shine, whiskey, gin, and flavored vodka. She said that the owners had mentioned having bands, singers, DJs, and holding birthday parties, retirements and events in that area.

City of Bridgeport
City Council Meeting
Regular Meeting
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The patio is non-ADA compliant. There is no way for a disabled patron to access the patio area. The owners mentioned having up to 100 guests and serving food. The owners also mentioned that customers often enjoyed going from one brewery to another to sample the various products. Her concern is that they will be serving hard liquor and it is located in a residential neighborhood where people often work two different jobs. The residents don't need their quality of life issues disturbed. There is already an issue with the dirt bikes and ATVs, which the Police Department is addressing.

Ms. Losak said she did not need people coming into her neighborhood, getting highly intoxicated and causing fights and car accidents. On Asylum Street by Cosgrove Street, there is no off the street parking near Fifth State Distillery. Mr. Coleman said that the customers would use on street parking. The Asylum Street Transfer Station is open from 7 to 3 on Saturdays. This will create a bottle neck in the area when the customers are going to these tastings.

Ms. Losak said that her concern was that it was not a good fit for the neighborhood. They don't need the noise, the traffic congestion and it is not ADA compliant. There are concerns about having highly intoxicated people causing fights and other types of commotion in this highly residential neighborhood. She is strongly against this and would like the Council to vote no.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves adjourned the public speaking at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 17, 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

Council President Nieves called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. She said that the Mayor had a scheduling conflict.

PRAYER

Council President Nieves asked Council Member McBride-Lee to lead the Council in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Nieves asked Council Member Burns to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The Assistant City Clerk 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.

Council Member McCarthy requested that his fellow Council Members forward the name of any interested resident that would be willing to serve on the Harbor Commission.

Council Member Newton said that he wished to thank members of the Council who showed their support regarding the random shooting at Newfield Park. He also thanked the Governor, the

Mayor and Senator Blumenthal for coming out. He said that both he and Council Member Martinez appreciated this.

Council President Nieves announced that the Council was going to hold hearings on three items. She reviewed the process.

58-20 Public Hearing 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 MCCARTHY MOVED TO TABLE BOTH THE PUBLIC HEARING AND THE CONSENT CALENDAR FOR AGENDA ITEM 58-20 DUE THE FACT THAT THE PLANNING AND ZONING WOULD BE HOLDING AN 8-24 HEARING ON THE ITEM ON JUNE 1ST.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that there were a number of members of the public present to speak about this matter.

Council President Nieves stated that there had been a motion to table and a second. There is no discussion following a motion to table.

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 58-20 FOR BOTH THE PUBLIC HEARING AND THE CONSENT CALENDAR DUE THE FACT THAT THE PLANNING AND ZONING WOULD BE HOLDING AN 8-24 HEARING ON THE ITEM ON JUNE 1ST PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, VIZZO-PANICCA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (PEREIRA AND LYONS).**

A member of the public stated that she was opposed and that there needed to be discussion.

Council President Nieves stated the vote had already been taken. The resident stated that this was about the children.

59-20 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing Disposition of Four (4) City-Owned Properties.

Council President asked if there was anyone present in favor or opposed to Agenda Item 59-20 Proposed Resolution Authorizing Disposition of Four (4) City-Owned Properties. She said that the Council Members would have the opportunity to address the issue on the floor and she was reserving the time for the public to speak.

Council Member Pereira objected and said that a public hearing was for every single person.

Council President Nieves asked again if there was anyone present who wished to speak in favor or against the item.

Ms. Carmen Ramos said that she was opposed to the Fifth State Distillery. Council President Nieves announced that the item had been tabled and the Council was now holding a hearing on Agenda Item 59-20.

Council President Nieves announced that there was no one present who wished to speak in favor or against the item.

There was an additional outburst from a member of the public claiming that this was against the law and the speaker was directing her comments directly to Mayor Ganim. She added that she was disgusted with all of the Council Members.

66-20 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Approving Programs for Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program Applications.

There was no one present who wished to speak in favor or against the item.

Council President Nieves closed the Council public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

• April 5, 2021

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2021.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that this was disgraceful and she was an elected official. She demanded to know who was muting her. Council President Nieves said she did not know who was hosting the meeting.

**** 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.”

Council Member Pereira also submitted the following correction:

Page 11 –Ninth Paragraph, third sentence - Should read, “ She was concerned that none of these WPCA members thought to reach out to both our congressional and state delegation to seek funding to offset the \$610,000,000 needed for the sewer plant upgrades in order to protect overburdened ratepayers from 50 -117% rate increases by 2033.

Council Member Pereira said that Jack Hennessey had emailed Pete Spain requesting that the minutes be amended to state on the record that Pete Spain was in favor of the \$395 million dollar loan. Council Member Pereira repeated that Jack Hennessey specifically asked him to correct those minutes.

Council President Nieves replied this was not mentioned in the minutes. Mr. Spain submitted his amendment request and there was no mention of the State Rep.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE MINUTES PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, PEREIRA, SULIMAN AND MARTINEZ) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (BROWN AND NEWTON).**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

69-20 Communication from WPCA re: Proposed Water Pollution Control Authority Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

70-20 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Klyde Jacques, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

72-20 Communication from Tax Collector re: Municipal Suspense Tax Book, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

73-20 Communication from Finance re: Proposed Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

74-20 Communication from Finance re: Proposed Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Refund Certain General Obligation Bonds, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

75-20 Communication from Finance re: Proposed Approval of Tax Anticipation Notes (TANS) To Pay Current Expenses and Obligations of the City – FY2022, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

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

71-20 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Valle & Nieves re: Proposed request for the Installation of a Streetlight on Utility Pole #6365 located at 1259 Kossuth Street, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO COMBINE AND REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

69-20 COMMUNICATION FROM WPCA RE: PROPOSED WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

70-20 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH KLYDE JACQUES, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

72-20 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

73-20 COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE RE: PROPOSED APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

74-20 COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE RE: PROPOSED APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO REFUND CERTAIN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

75-20 COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE RE: PROPOSED APPROVAL OF TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES (TANS) TO PAY CURRENT EXPENSES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY – FY2022, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

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

71-20 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) VALLE & NIEVES RE: PROPOSED REQUEST FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A STREETLIGHT ON UTILITY POLE #6365 LOCATED AT 1259 KOSSUTH STREET, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Lyons said that she wished to abstain from Agenda Item 69-20.

Council Member Pereira said that she was opposed to the WPCA because of the rate increase. She said she did not know why this was being referred to Committee.

Council Member Newton explained it was not being referred to Committee. He pointed out that the WPCA was simply required to submit the report to the Council. Council Member Newton noted that Atty. Anastasi was present on the call and could verify this.

Atty. Anastasi said that there were a number of informational things that the City Clerk would place on the agenda. This item would be included in that category.

Council Member Pereira said that she did not understand why they were not just filed by the City Clerk. Atty. Anastasi said that they were required to officially present them to the Council.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION FROM AGENDA ITEM 69-20 (LYONS).**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***33-20 Contracts Committee Report re: Professional Services Agreement with Marshall K. Robinson for a Ballistics Expert in the Police Department.**

***60-20 Contracts Committee Report re: (Ref. #119-13) First Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and License Agreement with Sacred Heart University, Inc. from August 2014.**

***58-20 Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts Report re: 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 President Nieves asked if any Council Member wished to have an item removed from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested the removal of Agenda Item 60-20.

Council Member Pereira asked about the status of Agenda Item 58-20. Council President Nieves replied that it had been tabled until the Planning and Zoning Board held their 8-24 hearing.

Council Member Pereira requested the removal of Agenda Item 33-20.

33-20 Contracts Committee Report re: Professional Services Agreement with Marshall K. Robinson for a Ballistics Expert in the Police Department.

Council Member Herron said that as one of the Co-Chairs of the Contracts Committee, this item had been discussed by the Committee and unanimously approved.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 33-20 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MARSHALL K. ROBINSON FOR A BALLISTICS EXPERT IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

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

Council Member Pereira said this was a complete violation of the Purchasing Ordinance. It needs to be a quality-based selection process. [Inaudible] She said they were told the individual was 81 years old and the only one who knows the system because he set it up. She added that it was important to be clear that everyone was replaceable and there were graveyards filled with people who thought that they were not replaceable. An 81-year-old individual who is the only one who understands the database is not good because something could happen to that individual. This in no way qualifies for a qualified purchase and not going out to bid. She stated that she was opposed to this.

Council Member Newton said that the Police Department had explained that the individual was qualified and also would have him train an officer in the Department. The Department feels that he is competent and they can not discriminate his age. He said that by training someone in the Department, they would not have to find an outside contractor.

Council Member Cruz said that he agreed with Council Member Newton. He said that the City was behind on the times and they need a ballistic expert. He mentioned the recent shootings at a nightclub and during a baseball game. He said that OSHA would never allow discrimination on age or disability.

Council Member Herron said she agreed. Mentioning those who are in the cemetery is uncalled for. This individual was highly recommended and she was not going to allow age discrimination. The Police Department has promised to train two officers to keep the work in house.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she agreed with Council Member Newton, Council Member Cruz and Council Member Herron. This gentleman is there when he is needed and discrimination against someone for their age is wrong.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she would be voting in favor of the individual, who might end up outliving the Council because no one knows what the future holds. The Council Members should not be speaking negatively about residents. The Police Department trusts him and that is enough. If he was asking for more money, there would be problems.

Council Member Silva said that this individual's experience is valuable. The City has many positions that need qualified individuals. His concern is having someone trained for this position.

Council Member Martinez said that she was in favor of supporting the service agreement of Mr. Robinson. His age should not be a Council concern, particularly after all the shootings in the last few days. With all due respect to this gentleman, she will be voting in support of the item.

Council Member Brantley requested a roll call vote in order to show the individual who was supporting him.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 33-20 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MARSHALL K. ROBINSON FOR A BALLISTICS EXPERT IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

60-20 Contracts Committee Report re: (Ref. #119-13) First Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and License Agreement with Sacred Heart University, Inc. from August 2014.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 60-20 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #119-13) FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) AND LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY, INC. FROM AUGUST 2014.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would be voting against this item.

Council Member Lyons said that she voiced her comments at the meeting and she was disappointed that she did not receive a phone call about this.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 60-20 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #119-13) FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) AND LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY, INC. FROM AUGUST 2014 PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, PEREIRA, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

42-20 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program (#21210 & #21483).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE SAID THAT SHE WOULD LIKE TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 42-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) PROGRAM (#21210 & #21483) AND SEND IT BACK TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 42-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) PROGRAM (#21210 & #21483) AND SEND IT BACK TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

Council Member Valle said that there were some corrections that needed to be made and this was the reason they were sending the item back to Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ADD A MATTER REGARDING A POSSIBLE ACTION TO RESCIND THE MAY 3, 2021 VOTE TO DENY 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 BY FAILURE TO ACHIEVE A REQUIRED 2/3RD VOTE BASED ON FAILURE OF THE ITEM TO RECEIVE A FAVORABLE REPORT FROM THE CITY'S PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND IF RESCINDED, TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION ON THE MATTER BUT NOT LIMITED TO A VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM BY THE REQUISITE 2/3RDS MAJORITY.**

Council Member Burns said that this was to reconsider a vote on the billboard.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that this was being added to the agenda without advance notice. Council President Nieves said that she had sent out a notice earlier in the day. Several Council Members stated that they had not received the email.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEFILIPPO MOVED TO TABLE THE MOTION TO ADD A MATTER REGARDING A POSSIBLE ACTION TO RESCIND THE MAY 3, 2021 VOTE TO DENY 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 BY FAILURE TO ACHIEVE A REQUIRED 2/3RD VOTE BASED ON FAILURE OF THE ITEM TO RECEIVE A FAVORABLE REPORT FROM THE CITY'S PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND IF RESCINDED, TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION ON THE MATTER BUT NOT LIMITED TO A VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM BY THE REQUISITE 2/3RDS MAJORITY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Brown said that it was not on the agenda and therefore could not be tabled.

Council Member Newton explained that anyone who was on the prevailing side could bring a vote back for reconsideration. He reminded everyone that he had brought an item back before the Council a few months earlier without prior notification. There is nothing in the rules that required him to give advanced notice other than the fact that the item to reconsider had to be presented at the next Council Meeting.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that Council Member Newton was correct and that was the process that was followed when there was an item to be reconsidered. Council Member Taylor-Moye said that Council Member Burns had done his due diligence and there were other Council Members who had reconsidered the matter.

Council Member Cruz said that he and Council Member Taylor-Moye had set up a meeting with Mr. Saffan and Mr. Bruce Barrett. There was an agreement to relocate the sign 100 feet further away. This is the opposite of when the City was giving more money to the Amphitheater. This will generate revenue.

Council Member Brantley requested a roll call vote.

**** THE MOTION TO ADD A MATTER REGARDING A POSSIBLE ACTION TO RESCIND THE MAY 3, 2021 VOTE TO DENY 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 BY FAILURE TO ACHIEVE A REQUIRED 2/3RD VOTE BASED ON FAILURE OF THE ITEM TO RECEIVE A FAVORABLE REPORT FROM THE CITY'S PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND IF RESCINDED, TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION ON THE MATTER BUT NOT LIMITED TO A VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM BY THE REQUISITE 2/3RDS MAJORITY PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (DEFILIPPO AND PEREIRA).

****COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO RESCIND THE MAY 3, 2021 VOTE ON 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.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that the sign would need to meet the required zoning regulation. Council Member Burns said that it meets the State requirement but does not meet the City requirement. It has to go before Zoning for approval.

Council Member Pereira said that it would have to wait for a year before going back to Zoning.

Atty. Pacacha said that this was not a site plan review, only for an 8-24 review and there was no prohibition on it coming back for a review.

Council Member Lyons asked why they were not waiting for what P&Z would decide.

Atty. Pacacha said that the City Council was only one step in the process and waiting for P&Z would just delay the process. This was just for a lease to the project if the operator obtains a permit.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked what the difference between the distillery and the sign was. She wished to know why the sign has to go back but the distillery doesn't.

Atty. Anastasi said that the Council had received a report but the body had disagreed. This is just a necessary step in order to obtain the other permits required.

Atty. Pacacha said that the OPED often enters into LDAs before the developers have received their permits. Otherwise, it is not in their best interest to spend money only to have the Council deny the application.

Council Member Newton reminded everyone that in the contract, it states that a billboard would be included. This is a binding, legal agreement.

Atty. Pacacha said that the City has a binding, legal contract. However, the legal agreement was to entertain a request for a billboard. The billboard is in the City's best interest since it would increase ticket sales. The Council is not approving a billboard, but simply stating that if the developer meets all of the requirements, they would consider a lease.

Council Member Pereira spoke about Chapter 126. Her comments were inaudible.

Atty. Anastasi said that if Council Member Pereira was speaking about an 8-24 review, the item has already been reviewed by P&Z and the Council is required approve it by a 2/3rd vote. It is going back to the P&Z regarding change in the distance between billboards.

Council Member Pereira said that it needs another 8-24 report.

Atty. Pacacha said that the sole role of the P&Z Commission was to determine whether it was consistence with the Master Plan.

Council Member Pereira objected because the proposal was being changed by the distance between signs. Atty. Pacacha said that there was no authority behind that statement.

Council Member DeFilippo said that the contract required them to pay money to the City, which they haven't done. It is wrong to approve something before it has been permitted.

Atty. Anastasi said that it does not make sense for a developer to pursue permits and applications without an LDA.

Council Member DeFilippo said that the developers know what specs they have to meet.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOTIONED TO MOVE THE QUESTION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO MOVED THE QUESTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** THE MOTION TO RESCIND THE MAY 3, 2021 VOTE ON 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 PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN AND NEWTON) AND FIVE (5) OPPOSED (DEFILIPPO, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, PEREIRA AND MARTINEZ).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO AMEND 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.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Burns noted that the location and language had been championed by Council Member McCarthy and the sign was moved to a more compliant location.

Council Member Pereira this in no way conforms to the regulation and she will be at the Planning and Zoning to state her objections. She stated that she did not know why the City does so much to appease Mr. Saffan who takes advantage of the Bridgeport taxpayers.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED QUESTION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND 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 PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (DEFILIPPO, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS AND PEREIRA).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED 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 AS AMENDED.**

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

**** THE MOTION TO 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 AS AMENDED PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (DEFILIPPO, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS AND PEREIRA).**

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Council Member Burns said that there was still one more item to consider.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY WITHDREW HER MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

Council Member Burns said that there was one more item being added to the agenda.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA REGARDING ARA RESCUE MONEY TO BE REFERRED TO THE BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. (ITEM #76-20)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira asked for clarification and if it was related to the \$115,000. She said that she did not have a single document about this. Council Member Burns said that would discuss in Committee. Council Member Pereira said that there was a proposal about the funding and potential items. Council Member Burns said that he had just gotten a copy. Council Member Pereira said that it was in Council Member Burns' possession but no one else had a copy. This was withholding information.

Council Member Newton said that the item would be presented to the Committee.

**** THE MOTION TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA REGARDING ARA RESCUE MONEY TO BE REFERRED TO THE BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO REFER AN ITEM REGARDING THE ARA MONEY TO THE BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

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

Council Member Pereira said that the amount was \$110,000 and the withholding the document was done intentionally.

**** THE MOTION TO REFER AN ITEM REGARDING THE ARA MONEY TO THE BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Telesco Secretarial Services