

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 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 6:36 p.m.

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 (6:40 p.m.)
- 133rd District: Jeanette Herron, *Raymond Collette*
- 134th District: Michelle Lyons, *AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia*
- 135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee (6:40 p.m.)
- 136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Avelino Silva
- 137th District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves
- 138th District: Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman (6:45 p.m.)
- 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. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia is currently on medical leave.

Council President Nieves announced that there was a 3 minute time limit for each speaker and explained how to mute and unmute their devices.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.

NAME

SUBJECT

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City Oversight (continued).

Mr. Lee read the following statement into the record:

Greetings to each of you at the end of another beautiful late summer day. Primary Day has come and gone. Several folks who have learned the wisdom of knocking on doors to meet the voters have used their time well and will join veterans of previous Councils. You run to represent the people of your District specifically, and indirectly all of the people of the City when you gather to exercise your responsibility to cast a positive or negative vote on any issue. Thank you to other Council members for their past public service.

My Council questioning often concerns whether you receive enough factual information from the City automatically in a reasonable format, for you to vote intelligently and responsible when necessary. If you have had such a concern, now is your time to share that with the voters and City before November and keep up the pressure as you enter a new Council year. I am enjoying the work done in the City to repave many streets seriously in need. As we were pulling out of Afghanistan, a section of Fairfield Ave. between the Fairfield border and I95 looked like videos from that country. Today the surface and lining make for happiness. I mention street marking because safety as a pedestrian, cyclist or driver are assisted by clear markings completed and renewed in a timely manner. This Saturday street painting on Broad Street outside City Hall to renovate the Black Lives Matter signage that shows where City sentiments are. Come join the volunteers and lend a hand.

Some other street markings have been ignored for too many years thus allowing unsafe conditions for bikers on routes that were deemed safe paths some years ago. Fresh and distinct road signage on the asphalt underneath lets drivers know what they may encounter, especially on bike routes. Who is responsible for oversight and updating of this recreational public safety measure? Does one of your committees look at this specifically?

As I talk about the City, I find many who seek additional youth activities to be available. For 200 years we have seen lakes and ponds on the land, rivers running downhill to our deep-water port, and Long Island Sound as our City's southern border. We also through City oversight and planning have created parks and playgrounds in most neighborhoods, and in recent years the installation of "splash pads" for the youngest, especially popular in hot and humid days of June through September. We have beaches with lifeguards. There are public and private swimming pools, though not all are in operation or available to the public.

But where is a coordinated opportunity for water safety, skills and swimming programs that might overcome fear of water, drownings and offer fuller enjoyment of water activities? We have a public safety marine patrol for private boaters, but we do not find a way for safety and swimming programs for all youth to be offered as part of their community education. Does this make sense to you today? Where can the CC raise the issue and formulate a plan over the coming years to make such considerations happen? Time will tell.

Jose Lopez
2225 Main Street, Apt. C12
Bridgeport, CT 06606

City Change.

Mr. Lopez came forward and greeted the Council Members. He said that he was on the ballot for the Board of Education and was a long-time resident. He said that he was interested in beginning a dialogue about moving education forward. The Mayor's proposed budget nixed more money for the BOE. He asked how this would be helpful for the students and the future. There is a commitment to help the youth and to plan for the future. It will be important to empower the residents and everyone should think about what they can do for the future. Now is the time to step up because it takes a village to raise a child.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves adjourned Public Speaking at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 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 Newton to lead the Council in prayer.

Council Member Brown requested for a moment of silence in honor of Yvonne Brantley, the sister of Evette Brantley, who passed away last week.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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: Jeanette Herron, *Raymond Collette*
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

During the roll call, there appeared to be no response from the individuals whose names are listed in italics. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia is on medical leave.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: July 6, 2021

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED THE MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2021.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2021 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

123-20 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Ira Nachem (D) to the Zoning Board of Appeals, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

124-20 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with G.F., referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO REFER THE COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMITTEES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTIE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

122-20 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management Coronavirus Relief Fund (Fairfield County Auto Theft Task Force) (#22348), FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 122-20 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (FAIRFIELD COUNTY AUTO THEFT TASK FORCE) (#22348).**

Council Member Valle gave a brief summary and noted that Ms. DeJesus and Lt. Grech were present to answer questions.

Council Member Pereira said that she would like to know why this was not being referred to committee.

Ms. DeJesus said that they need to have the Council's approval in order to meet the details of the grant.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO CONSIDER AGENDA ITEM 122-20 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (FAIRFIELD COUNTY AUTO THEFT TASK FORCE) (#22348), FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED AGENDA ITEM 122-20 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (FAIRFIELD COUNTY AUTO THEFT TASK FORCE) (#22348).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira asked how many officers were going to be on the task force. Lt. Grech said that it would be between 4 to 7 officers. Council Member Pereira asked if those officers would be pulled off patrol. Lt. Grech said that they would not be pulled off patrol.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 122-20 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (FAIRFIELD COUNTY AUTO THEFT TASK FORCE) (#22348) PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Collette joined the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***99-20 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Department of Justice – BJA FY21 Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center Integration Initiative (#22338).**

***100-20 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Connecticut Department of Transportation – Local Bridge Program – Woodrow Avenue Bridge (#0C203).**

***101-20 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: U.S. Department of Justice FY 2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance.**

Mayor Ganim asked if any Council Member wished to have an item removed from the Consent Calendar.

Council Member Pereira requested all three agenda items be removed from the Consent Calendar.

99-20 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Department of Justice – BJA FY21 Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center Integration Initiative (#22338).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED AGENDA ITEM 99-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – BJA FY21 LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CRIME GUN INTELLIGENCE CENTER INTEGRATION INITIATIVE (#22338).
** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Valle stated that this item had been presented in Committee and had been approved by an unanimous vote.

Council Member Pereira said that she had not received any information on the item, so she was opposing it. Council Member Pereira added that based on her previous statements, she wished to make it clear for the record that she was opposing the application not because of the substance of the application but because there is language in every one of these resolutions, it allows the Mayor and/or any of his designees to sign any contract or agreement without coming to the Contracts Committee.

Council Member Newton said that he would like to thank everyone who supported this grant.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 99-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – BJA FY21 LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CRIME GUN INTELLIGENCE CENTER INTEGRATION INITIATIVE (#22338) PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, COLLETTE, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

100-20 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Connecticut Department of Transportation – Local Bridge Program – Woodrow Avenue Bridge (#0C203).

Council Member Valle stated that this item had been presented in Committee and had been approved by an unanimous vote.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED AGENDA ITEM 100-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM – WOODROW AVENUE BRIDGE (#0C203).
** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Burns said that he had a question about the matching funds. Ms. DeJesus said that the matching amount would be \$450,000.

Council Member Roman-Christie said that this bridge was in her district and was part of the serious flooding issues in that area.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 100-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM – WOODROW AVENUE BRIDGE (#0C203) PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, COLLETTE, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

Council Member Pereira noted that there was no dollar amount listed on the documentation and based on her previous statements, she wished to make it clear for the record that she was opposing the application not because of the substance of the application but because there is language in every one of these resolutions, it allows the Mayor and/or any of his designees to sign any contract or agreement without coming to the Contracts Committee.

101-20 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: U.S. Department of Justice FY 2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance.

Council Member Valle stated that this item had been presented in Committee and had been approved by an unanimous vote.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 101-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FY 2021 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTIE SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said based on her previous statements, she wished to make it clear for the record that she was opposing the application not because of the substance of the application but because there is language in every one of these resolutions, it allows the Mayor and/or any of his designees to sign any contract or agreement without coming to the Contracts Committee.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 101-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FY 2021 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, COLLETTE, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO ADD AN ITEM REGARDING THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S APPOINTMENTS TO FILL THE VACANCIES OR THE RE-ASSIGNMENT OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES APPOINTMENTS CREATED BY THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCIL MEMBER DEFILIPPO WITH COUNCIL MEMBER COLLETTE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira asked what Committees Council Member Collette was being appointed to. Mayor Ganim reminded everyone that this was just a motion to add the item to the agenda.

**** THE MOTION TO ADD AN ITEM REGARDING THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS TO FILL THE VACANCIES OR THE RE-ASSIGNMENT OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS CREATED BY THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCIL MEMBER DEFILIPPO WITH COUNCIL MEMBER COLLETTE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President Nieves said that pursuant to Council Rule 12 and some scheduling conflicts, she would be making some Committee changes.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED THAT PURSUANT TO COUNCIL RULE 12 THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE CHANGES WILL BE MADE:**

ORDINANCES: REMOVE COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA, ADD COUNCIL MEMBER COLLETTE

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS: REMOVE COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO, ADD COUNCIL MEMBER COLLETTE

CONTRACTS COMMITTEE: REMOVE COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO, ADD COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: REMOVE COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO, ADD COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ

HOUSING AUTHORITY: REMOVE COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that it appears that Council Member Castillo had been removed from every position. She said that there was another Council Member who was facing multiple charges. This is not equitable or fair.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE RE-ASSIGNMENTS AS PRESENTED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, COLLETTE, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (PEREIRA, CRUZ).**

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services