

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014  
SPECIAL MEETING  
6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, Torres, Banta, Taylor-Moye, Halstead, Swain, McCarthy, Austin, \*Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, McBride-Lee, Salter, DeJesus, Castillo, Paoletto, Martinez-Walker, \*Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: Martinez, Feliciano, Marella  
\*= arrived late

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:40 pm.

The city clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

*Please go to [www. SoundviewTV.org/Bridgeport](http://www.SoundviewTV.org/Bridgeport) to view or listen to the detailed comments that the speakers below addressed to the City Council on February 4, 2014.*

❖ *Statements were submitted to the city clerk's office.*

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

**Ethan Book**  
144 Coleman Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

A "to do" list stemming from the recent municipal campaign and election process.

*-comments below-*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS OF ETHAN BOOK**  
**BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**February 4, 2014**

Mr. Council President, Members of the City Council and public:

I am Ethan Book, a recent candidate for this City Council to represent the important 131<sup>st</sup> District.

In my previous comments given here on January 6<sup>th</sup>, I cited nine different matters of interest and concern expressed to me by District residents during my active campaigning. Those included matters of extremely high property taxes, a lack of jobs, the quality of education, concern about a reported City practice of discriminating against employment of persons with criminal records, an issue about tree roots breaking up the sidewalks and of poor roadway on certain streets, that there is a lack of nets on the basketball rims at Marina Village, concern of the conduct of city attorneys and again there is the issue of taxes, taxes and taxes.

There is yet another issue which was expressed to me during my campaign, that of the city practices in regulating parking. The city practices in this area have been described as predatory practices. This is coupled with the fact that in downtown Bridgeport, there are no credit card reading parking meters. Various business owners of the downtown area expressed their view that this situation discourages a healthy downtown business climate. I share these public concerns as there are clearly productive, cost-effective ways of dealing with them.

Despite these issues, there are good attractive business establishments in downtown Bridgeport. One that I call a *hidden treasure* is the Metrics Bar & Grill at 39 Canon Street. It is at a secluded location yet is near Main Street. The Haitian-born owner Pierre Desriusseau has done a superb job in providing an elegant decor which makes me feel like I'm in Europe. The international menu is top of the line gourmet. The restaurant is truly a hidden treasure!

There are other attractive businesses in downtown Bridgeport. I highlight here several.

- There is Renaissance Beauty Salon at 1120 Main Street.
- There is Backstroke Gift Boutique at 181 State Street.
- There is Miss Thelma's Restaurant at 140 Fairfield Avenue.
- There is the Paradox Weaving Workshop at the Arcade, 1001-22 Main Street.
- There is Supreme Printing at 1219 Main Street
- There is the Corporate Deli at 130 John Street, and
- There is Lafayette Hairstyling at 1012 Broad Street.

There are other good business establishments in the downtown area. These are simply several which deserve special mention.

Because of such businesses as these, *I say that there is a commercial oasis in downtown Bridgeport. The oasis can and should be larger!*

May God bless the City of Bridgeport, the State of Connecticut and our great nation!

---

Ethan Book

**Cecil C. Young**  
99 Carroll Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Unethical tactics by city and state  
officials.

Mr. Young spoke about what he claimed was an unjust termination as a former city employee for twenty-seven years. He stated that he was at work on March 16, 2006 and was terminated on March 17, 2006; however, he alleges that he was at work on March 16, 2006 - *per the documents he submitted and referenced*. He relayed that he was in the union for twenty-seven and one-half year and his medical benefits were terminated after two weeks at the time he was terminated and he was not been allowed any continued benefits, which was very distressing to him. He referred to the paperwork from his doctor and hospital and he mentioned Judge Richardson's determination on this matter. He clarified that he was terminated for not being at work, but he was adamant that he was at work. He requested that the document on the record that indicates he wasn't at work, be removed from the file, because he feels it's detrimental and he would like to be reinstated. He further requested access to all the documents from Labor Relations that outline why he was terminated. He mentioned that as elected officials, he thought that his allegations should be looked into to "right the wrong". He once again asked that this matter be reinstated for reconsideration.

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

Financial Position.

*-comments below-*

City Council Comments: Tuesday February 4, 2014

Council President McCarthy, Council members, neighbors, taxpayers and citizens who may be in City Hall or the TV audience, greetings.

First I wish to note a very special document. It is a monthly financial report for the month of June 2013. It is marked final. That means that it is issued based on audited records. This is the only report of its kind issued by the Bridgeport Finance Department in over 20 years according to Tom Sherwood, OPM director in a public statement. As such this is of historic note. The Finance Director issued a Draft report for 2012 but never followed up with a Final report. No one in this body asked for one. That means that this body has never been able to study the actual revenues and actual expenses in detail for any previous year over which they have approved a budget, for two decades. What type of oversight process do you call that?

19 City Departments show overextended budget. These include Police, Fire and Emergency Operations totaling over \$8 Million. These accounts need serious study to understand the entire staffing pattern, the number of people available as opposed to unavailable due to suspension, disability of various types, etc. as well as the effect of internal relative to external overtime demands. In that regard, on the revenue side the report shows a deficit of \$503,000 for Outside Overtime Reimbursement. Why are contractors not posting a bond to assure prompt payment or make a payment before the officers are assigned to a site? Study the categories. Ask questions. Expect good answers.

There are a number of departments showing year-end surpluses for the Full Time Pay line item 51000- that exceeds \$3 Million. Budget Oversight Bridgeport, BOB for short, have previously indicated that line item 51000 had 50 or more "ghost positions" that were vacant in 2011-12 and previous years. Money that was surplus for the ghost position was spent elsewhere and now this is showing up in the Final report for 2012-13. Previous to this report you could not tell where the surplus funds were spent, though you did know that they got spent and were unavailable to refund a dividend or credit to taxpayers.

If you will look at the first revenue report, that of the Comptroller's Office you will get a pleasant surprise. Line item 41538 titled Miscellaneous Cash had revenues of \$17,427 in 2012 and was budgeted hopefully in the amount of \$ 50,000. At some point between August 2013 when the June Draft report was issued and two weeks ago when the June Final report came out, the Comptroller found over \$500,000. This is an impressive variance but there is no explanation how the CASH was encountered. Curious?

I would now direct your attention to the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2013. A wonderful bound book has been delivered to each of you as well as to the City Clerk office, however, the City has not posted this report as of 5:30 PM this evening to the Finance Department archive site though they have been in receipt of it for over five weeks now. There is so much info contained in this document that it might serve as the basis for one of the Mayor's meetings. He has not held such a meeting open

to questions and answers but each of you might do that in your own neighborhoods. Taxpayers will be interested, I think.

There is much detail about revenues and expenses as well as assets and liabilities. However there are also graphs showing trends. One on page 88 shows principal taxpayers, the top 10 so to speak, from 2004 and again in 2012. Last year in the CAFR a similar chart showed the top 10 from 2003 and 2012. Is there a reason that 2013 was not used to show taxable assessed value? Is there any adjustment to the largest City taxpayer, Wheelabrator, to their taxable assessed value or has the court case stopped the updating of practical values? How would it appear if the City expert at valuation were indicating that they cannot justify \$100 Million or more of the values at question?

And what about our own revaluation that would show values as of October 1, 2013? Previous Councils have provided funds for the past two years to pay for the five year update from October 1, 2008 and request for service has been issued and reports have been provided but notices have been stonewalled. There is a rumor that the numbers are BAD, whatever that means. If all properties are lower by the same amount there is no problem as long as you do not increase the 2014-15 budget.

However, if all neighborhood values have decreased, but perhaps some, by not as much, then those latter neighborhood values will produce larger City revenues with the higher mill rate. If such a neighborhood votes actively then that is bad political news for those in office. But failing to share the news with all the taxpayers is cowardly, isn't it? And the consequence is that some property owners, perhaps with lower absolute values will be burdened with higher taxes. Does that sound fair? Will you ask for the revaluation report? Time will tell.

John Marshall Lee, 30 Beacon Street, Bridgeport, CT 06605  
203-259-9642

*The following speaker signed up to address the City Council prior to the public speaking session:*

**Clyde Nicholson**

Mr. Nicholson requested that the city council remove item 01-13 from the agenda and table it until the zoning issue is resolved and the new Harding High School is relocated. He stated that there haven't been any public hearings or zoning hearings scheduled yet to approve the item. He mentioned the problem of cleaning up the site of contaminants, noting there is an issue of endangering the welfare of the children. He further mentioned what's going on with the property at Harding and he felt the site should be used for another purpose that could possibly help the residents of the city; such as housing for the homeless. He suggested moving Harding High School to the old Father Panik Village site, noting that there is plenty of space there. He also suggested that the space near the old Housatonic College could be used to construct a football field for use by the new Harding High School. He emphasized that they should stop playing games and it was time for the council members in the district to stand up and take responsibility and not allow this to happen. He further emphasized that there is still the issue with hazardous contaminants.

The public speaking session ended at 7:00 pm.

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

(Tuesday, January 21, 2014

Cancelled due to inclement weather)

All items carried over to

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**7:00 PM**

**City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace**

**Bridgeport, Connecticut**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, Torres, Banta, Taylor-Moye, Halstead, Swain, McCarthy, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, McBride-Lee, Salter, DeJesus, Castillo, Martinez, Feliciano, \*Marella, Paoletto, Martinez-Walker, Holloway

\*= arrived late

Council President McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Prayer - Council member McBride-Lee offered the prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance - Kristin duBay Horton led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call - the city clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

Point of Personal Privilege

Council member Holloway recalled that he was elected to the city council in 1995 and he was put on the National Energy Environmental Natural Resource Committee. He relayed however, that lately; he has been about the School Building Committee and the claim that schools are being built on contaminated soil and this isn't true. He clarified that the School Building Committee has nothing to do with the sites, noting that this is done by the D.E.E.P. and the Department of Environmental Protection and they determine the site the



school will be built on. He referred to a site in upstate New York (Love Canal) that was contaminated and resulted in people having health issues, but this isn't the case with Harding High School. He urged those persons that are complaining to contact the agencies mentioned about their complaint. He pointed out that it's difficult to find a site in Bridgeport prior to 1966 that didn't have contaminants. He repeated that the DEEP regulates what occurs on a site. He stressed that a council member(s) getting beat up for something that is out of their control and when the facts are wrong is stupid. He reiterated that the city council doesn't have any authority over where a school is built.

*Council President McCarthy made the following announcements:*

- Mayor Finch wasn't in attendance because he had a community cabinet meeting.
- Council member Vizzo-Paniccia was appointed as the National Vice Chair of Universities and Colleges Council of Cities.
- Council member McBride-Lee was named the Vice President of the IMA; as the first female vice president in its history.

Mayoral Proclamation: In Recognition of the Get Healthy Connecticut Coalition and its Partners for the "Know Your Numbers" Campaign during American Heart Month 2014.

Council President McCarthy asked the recipients to come forward to receive the citation. He expressed that the city council always tries to recognize positive in the city. He mentioned the "Know your Numbers" program that was conducted by Bridgeport Hospital to step up and say it's time to know your numbers, which can result in a healthier lifestyle in terms of know what your blood pressure and weight are. He shared that the city council took part in the program and he urged that every resident do the same.

*He read the proclamation* that outlined the importance of monitoring one's health to detect potential heart disease and diabetes.

City Council Citation: In Recognition of the Get Healthy Connecticut Coalition and its Partners for the "Know Your Numbers" Campaign during American Heart Month 2014.

Council member Paoletto stated that as a city employee that works in public health, he shared that he found out that he was at risk of developing diabetes a month ago and he personally thanked the program for providing the information related to early detection, which he agreed could result in making healthier choices - *He read the citation.*

Kristin duBay Horton, Director Health Department stated that heart disease and diabetes are a reality for people that tend to be overweight. She encouraged people to take care of themselves and take advantage of the programs for early detection. She thanked Bridgeport Hospital and Stratford Health Center for helping reduce the risk factors. She noted that screenings are available throughout the city and information can found at [www.CT.gov/dph](http://www.CT.gov/dph).

Council President McCarthy expressed that Bridgeport Hospital has been a great community group in conjunction with the Get Healthy Connecticut Coalition – *a group picture was taken*.

**04-13** Public Hearing re: Greater Bridgeport Regional Solid Waste Interlocal Agreement.

Mayor Finch asked if there was anyone to speak in favor of the item.

There were none heard.

Mayor Finch asked if there was anyone to speak against the item.

There were none heard.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**13-13** Request to Order Public Hearing before Full Council for February 18, 2014 re: Proposed Resolution concerning a Ground Lease with United Illuminating Company to facilitate the construction of a Solar Electricity-Generating Facility on the Landfill near Seaside Park and the construction of a Fuel Cell Facility on Adjacent Land (Item#13-13 Pending in Contracts Committee).

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSL**

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

Approval of City Council Minutes: December 16, 2013

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN SECONDED**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

Mayor Finch asked for a motion to combine the **COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES** and **RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO COMBINE COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES and RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 17-13** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for a Youth Coastal Stewardship & Conservation Grant Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 18-13** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: The Arbor Day Foundation's TD Green Streets Grant Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 19-13** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: National Council on the Aging for the Senior SNAP Enrollment Initiative Grant Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 21-13** Communication from Port Authority re: Proposed Resolution concerning the Donation of Surplus Equipment Acquired with a Federal Grant to another Clean Vessel Act Program within the State of Connecticut, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

- 22-13** Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Extension of a Tax Incentive Agreement for the Sycamore Place Apartments, An Affordable Housing Development located at 285 Maplewood Avenue, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 23-13** Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Resolution concerning A Tax Cooperation Agreement with Housing Authority regarding Maplewood Court Apartments, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 24-13** Communication from Finance Department re: Approval of Tax Anticipation Notes to Pay Current Expenses and Obligations of the City (\$100,000,000), referred to Budget & Appropriations Committee.
- 25-13** Communication from Parks and Recreation re: Proposed Lease-Purchase Agreement with PNC Equipment Finance, LLC for a Tractor at D. Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course, referred to Contracts Committee.

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

- 16-13** Resolution presented by Council President McCarthy re: Council Review and Possible Revisions to the City’s Purchasing and Procurement Ordinance, Chapter 3.08 City Contract and Purchasing Procedures, referred to Ordinance Committee.
- 20-13** Resolution presented by Council Member Torres re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3.08 City Contracts and Purchasing Procedures, amend Section 3.08.070 Purchase of Goods and General Services, Subsection (B), referred to Ordinance Committee.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES and RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Points of Personal Privilege:**

- Council member Torres stated that he has known Cecil Young for twenty years, noting that he’s known to have integrity. He expressed that he was distressed to hear that he hasn’t had a day in court regarding his termination. He relayed that he drafted a resolution for the committee to investigate the termination of Cecil Young’s job.

- Council member Torres referred to a document that pertained to five out of fifteen council members not having the latitude for looking out for the greater good of the residents. He stated that he hoped he would be provided the information he requested. He said he hoped they could meet to discuss how to protect the integrity of the city council.

\*Council member Paoletto stated that as the Deputy Majority Leader/Sgt of Arms, items of personal privilege should be discussed either at the beginning of a meeting or at the end of a meeting according to the city council rules.

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

Mayor Finch asked if there were any items to remove from the consent calendar.

Council member Paoletto requested to remove **\*03-13** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Executive Session Discussion and Potential Action as Appropriate with respect to Certain Litigation specifically the Pending Appeal concerning the Stratford ZBA's Granting of a Variance for the New Access Way Constructed by Mark IV Construction Co. Inc. on Sikorsky Memorial Airport Property.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia requested to remove **\*12-13** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Resolution Approving the 2014-2016 Bridgeport Citizens' Union Committee.

Council member Torres requested to remove **\*01-13** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Application for Waiver to Extend Driveway Width (4) Entrances located at the New Harding High School on Bond Street.

**\*11-13** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Microgrid Design and Installation Grant for Critical Facilities.

The city clerk read the remaining consent calendar items into the record.

**\*01-13** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Application for Waiver to Extend Driveway Width (4) Entrances located at the New Harding High School on Bond Street. - *removed*

**\*03-13** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Executive Session Discussion and Potential Action as Appropriate with respect to Certain Litigation specifically the Pending Appeal concerning the Stratford ZBA's Granting of a Variance for the New Access Way Constructed by Mark IV Construction Co. Inc. on Sikorsky Memorial Airport Property. - *removed*

**\*09-13(PHO)** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Public Hearing Ordered for February 18, 2014: re Disposition and Redevelopment of City-Owned Property located at 1752 Barnum Avenue.

**\*10-13(PHO)** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Public Hearing Ordered for February 18, 2014: re Disposition and Redevelopment of City-Owned Property located at 431-435 & 445-449 Kossuth Street.

**\*11-13** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Microgrid Design and Installation Grant for Critical Facilities. - *removed*

**\*15-13** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for America the Beautiful Grant.

**\*06-13** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Joseph Diaz.

**\*12-13** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Resolution Approving the 2014-2016 Bridgeport Citizens' Union Committee. – *removed*

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council President McCarthy made a request to push the following item to the end of the agenda for the purpose of conducting the executive session.

- \*03-13** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Executive Session Discussion and Potential Action as Appropriate with respect to Certain Litigation specifically the Pending Appeal concerning the Stratford ZBA's Granting of a Variance for the New Access Way Constructed by Mark IV Construction Co. Inc. on Sikorsky Memorial Airport Property. - *removed*

Mayor Finch returned to item **\*01-13** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Application for Waiver to Extend Driveway Width (4) Entrances located at the New Harding High School on Bond Street. - *removed*

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

Council member Torres stated that he removed the item to begin the discussion about the water that travels alongside the property that is close to the woods. He stated that he was told that all types of toxins are in the water including lead that could pose a potential health hazard to the students. He said that he agreed with Clyde Nicholson that the site could be used for an industrial use rather than a school use.

Council President McCarthy clarified that the width of the driveway was the only item they were taking up on the agenda tonight. He relayed that the width being widened is needed for buses and emergency vehicles. He stated that if the item isn't approved, the driveway width will be narrower, which could pose a hazard for emergency vehicles.

Council member Lyons stated that this matter was a Public Safety Transportation Committee item. She recalled that the regulations and rules will be revised and updated for driveway width requirements to accommodate buses and emergency vehicles. She repeated that the driveway width was the only matter they were voting on tonight.

Council member Holloway stated that the city council currently has a rule that a driveway can be built commercially at 30 feet and anything beyond that size has to go through the council for approval. He commented that the item had nothing to do with the waterway that sits 30 feet beyond the driveway and he didn't feel the waterway should be an issue, noting that it's a DEP issue.

Council member Torres stated that his comments had to do with a strategic matter, not because he doesn't like students; but because he has an issue with the school being built on the site. Council member Holloway responded that the football field has been played on at Harding High School for years and he emphasized once again that any site built prior to 1966 is probably contaminated. He questioned why anyone should beat up on Harding, noting that Roosevelt School and Longfellow also had the same problem.

Council member McBride-Lee stated that although the school sites may have been contaminated prior to building them, she had a problem with the statement that other school properties are probably contaminated. She questioned why something wasn't done prior to building on these sites.

Council President McCarthy made it clear that they can not build on the property unless it is cleaned up according to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) standards. He clarified that General Electric has the responsibility to clean up the property (Harding High School). He stated that he would put in a request to have a representative from General Electric attend the committee meeting to make a presentation regarding the matter.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR, TWO VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS: HALSTEAD and TORRES) and ONE ABSTENTION (\*COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY)**

***\*employed with the Department of Public Facilities***

Mayor Finch returned to the following item **\*11-13** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Microgrid Design and Installation Grant for Critical Facilities. - *removed*

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED**

Council member Torres stated that he removed the item because of the proposed construction in the park. He stated that if the location was reconsidered, he would vote otherwise.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND TWO VOTES IN OPPOSITION ((COUNCIL MEMBERS: HALSTEAD and TORRES)**

Mayor Finch returned to the following item **\*12-13** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Resolution Approving the 2014-2016 Bridgeport Citizens' Union Committee. - *removed*

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO AMEND THE 2014-2016 BRIDGEPORT CITIZENS' UNION NOMINATION OF NAMES BY SUBSTITUTION – SUBMITTED TO THE CITY CLERK  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE 2014-2016 BRIDGEPORT CITIZENS' UNION ROSTER  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**



## UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

**04-13** Contracts Committee Report re: Greater Bridgeport Regional Solid Waste Interlocal Agreement.

Council member DeJesus stated that all the committee members' questions were addressed in committee.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DEJESUS MOVED TO APPROVE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Finch returned to item **\*03-13** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Executive Session Discussion and Potential Action as Appropriate with respect to Certain Litigation specifically the Pending Appeal concerning the Stratford ZBA's Granting of a Variance for the New Access Way Constructed by Mark IV Construction Co. Inc. on Sikorsky Memorial Airport Property. – *removed*

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

Council President McCarthy updated that there is a pending lawsuit regarding this item. He asked that City Attorney Anastasi do his presentation first and then the city council will enter into executive session to discuss the matter further.

City Attorney Anastasi stated he would give a brief presentation for item \*03-13. He recalled the proposed settlement that was unanimously approved. He said he would make a public presentation and then they will enter into executive session to discuss details of the settlement.

He continued and said he was there on behalf of the city attorney's office. He noted that Pauline Mize, Sikorsky Manager was present for questions and also Attorney Edwin Schmidt to answer questions.

*City Attorney Anastasi's presentation comments are highlighted below:*

- There has been ongoing litigation with the Town of Stratford for close to two decades to address the matter of extending the safety area on the runway. It's a \$40-\$50 million project and there have been litigation costs of \$500k.
- There is a partnership between the Federal Aviation Association (FAA), CT Department of Transportation (DOT), Town of Stratford and the City of Bridgeport to add a safety zone at the end of Runway-624 by constructing an E-mass system – *he referred to the map layout of the E-mass system*
- The fatality that occurred on the runway was during the 1990's and that's the reason for the safety zone.

- Referred to the permit dated November 14, 2013 that was issued by the CT DEP for the project to move forward.
- Referred to the permit denoting a yellow line where the old access way was located. It will be a 6-month to 1-year removal project.
- The city is obligated to provide a number of parcels.
- Referred to layout #6 of the driveway to Mr. Moutinho's property. The city constructed other parcels serviced by the access way.
- Referred to a document dated January 7, 2014 indicating that the Airport Commission voted unanimously to recommend the settlement that is being present to the city council tonight.
- Referred to the motion voted upon by the Airport Commission – ***he respectfully requested that during the executive session to give the details of the settlement parameters.*** The reason for the executive session was due to the litigation details.

*City Attorney Anastasi continued to discuss the following details:*

- E-mass system as outlined in the document that was distributed.
- Phase-I of the project and Phase-II. The runway will be repaved and once the E-mass system is completed and the roadway completed, the runways will be upgraded.
- 1973 Title Search for the property; noted that the grantor reserved access easement outlined in document #5 – reference page 2 – *as read and reviewed.*
- Removal of the access way and the timeline for construction - *as reviewed and outlined in the document.*
- Referred to document #6 that outlined the utility easement.
- Access way relocation performed by Marks Construction at a cost of \$339k -*as reviewed.*
- Recalled that the city attorney's office worked closely with the Ordinance Committee per the procurement process – *the bids were reviewed.*
- Reviewed the motions and appeals that were filed – *as outlined and read.*
- Airport Commission approved the proposed settlement on January 7, 2014 – *as read and reviewed.*
- Will file the appropriate documents with the Town of Stratford on February 7, 2014.
- CT DOT will advertise bids for the first phase of the project on March 5, 2014.

Pauline Mize, Sikorsky Manager gave a brief presentation pertaining to the item as follows:

- Reviewed the economic viability, noting that out of ninety-one (91) employees; twenty (20) of them are residents of Bridgeport. Commented that there are direct and indirect benefits to the city.
- The amount of money the FAA has earmarked for the project, noted that the FAA doesn't normally allocate \$43 million to an airport project; so it's crucial to understand the importance of the project not only to Bridgeport, but also for the surrounding region.

Council President McCarthy asked what will happen if they closed the airport and put up condominiums for example. Ms. Mize responded that government funding is 90% of the project and state funding is 5%. Over a course of time, the FAA put in a lot of time and the document reads that if the airport closes for any reason, the money must be given back from the sales that profited the airport.

*Questions from the council members have been summarized below:*

*Council member Torres asked the following questions and requested the following information:*

- Is relevant data associated to the project available for review **response** City Attorney Anastasi told the committee and the council president that that information couldn't be given as a quorum; it was clarified that only one council member could request the information.
- Transfer of easement details
- Document that explains the selection process and to remove the easement
- Reason for the termination of John Ricci

**Responses:**

- City Attorney Anastasi clarified that he will not comment on the termination of John Ricci.
- There is no obligation or timeline to provide access.
- He will not discuss labor relations matters in public.

Council member Torres asked again about access to information relevant to the movement of the easement. Attorney Anastasi reiterated that he would provide the information that is of public matter, but **not** the information related to labor relations.

Mayor Finch recapped that Council member Torres made a request to see the test bids from the other construction companies. He stated that he told him that if the information was available, he could have it. Attorney Anastasi stated there were initial quotes by Julian Construction and BJ Construction/New Haven and two independent price analyses.

Council member Torres clarified and repeated that he requested **all** the information relevant to the movement of the easement. Mayor Finch clarified and explained that the easement was taken for public interest and it had to be replaced, he emphasized that that matter was as simple as that, in that it became a public project for public land.

Attorney Anastasi stated that there was a difference in timelines and the city needed to move forward and decisions were made.

Council member Lyons recalled that she asked for an Excel sheet. She said that although she appreciated the information that was provided, she was told by Ms. Mize that there was no comprehensive study available. She suggested that due to all the questions still

being asked, she recommended tabling the item and sending the matter back to committee. She further suggested that the item should go before the Contracts Committee.

Ms. Mize stated that she is not a skilled economist, noting that the information requested involved detailed technical data. She clarified that all the information she had contained employee data.

Council President McCarthy stated that the information that Council member Torres requested should be easy information to share. He suggested that Attorney Anastasi just reply and say **yes to** agree to provide the information. He further addressed Council member Torres to say that he needed to be more specific of the information he was looking for related to the easement. He suggested that he visit the city attorney's office to through the boxes of information to fulfill his request.

Attorney Anastasi stated that the deadline was this Friday to submit the documents to the Town of Stratford to get on the ZBA agenda. He noted that on March 5 the Raymark road removal will take place.

Mayor Finch stated that currently, the condition of the airport runway is not safe. He emphasized that this could result in blood on "their" hands if they don't act expeditiously. He recalled the tragic incident that occurred during the 1990's and he mentioned that this is the last airport in the United States to implement mandatory safety improvements due to the tragedy that occurred. He stressed that people's lives are in the city council's hands and he relayed the horrific injuries that one of the victim's experienced. He stated that the only option if they want to continue operating the airport is to accept the settlement and move forward with the improvements.

Council member Halstead stated that he wasn't comfortable with only the information that they were given tonight. He asked if the \$43 million cost is itemized and how they came up with that amount. Mayor Finch stated that the pollution on the site is the city's responsibility to clean up, which amounts to \$6 million for the environmental clean up out of the \$43 million and the balance of the \$43 million is split between the safety zone installation and the airport runway narrowing.

Ms. Mize reviewed the project phases as follows:

- Phase-A will consist of the relocation of the runway and the E-Mass system installation – *it was noted that all come with labor costs.*
- Phase-B will consist of project refurbishment, the runway re-cabled and the lighting system.
- *It was noted that all DOT documentation for Phase-A is available on the city's website.*

Council member Torres commented that Ms. Mize has been professional and terrific in terms of providing information. He stated that there is an opportunity to approve the project and improve the runway. And he emphasized that he's glad they will have access

to review easement information. He relayed that at this point, it's best to move and pass the item to ensure that they don't jeopardize safety.

Council President McCarthy relayed that what was in front of the council is the matter related to whether or not they will pay the \$65k to continue and not risk the \$43 million project that is essential for the airport to remain open. He cautioned that if the matter is delayed, there will be a cut off. He emphasized that the E-mass system has to be constructed and if it's delayed and not done by the deadline, the airport will close. He further relayed other repercussions they are looking at if the airport closes.

He urged the council members to put the matter in perspective and he further relayed that the matter has gone through the city council process and was passed. In addition, all the information has been out there and available and the matter has been open and transparent. He clarified that the only information that hasn't been transparent is related to the lawsuit settlement.

Attorney Anastasi responded to the possibility of the airport closing down. He relayed that there are tenants on the airport property to consider.

Mayor Finch thanked everyone present for all the discussion regarding this item.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH THE FOLLOWING PERSONS PRESENT: CITY ATTORNEY MARK ANASTASI; PAULINE MIZE, SIKORSKY MANAGER; ATTORNEY EDWIN SCHMIDT, MAYOR FINCH AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The city council entered into executive session at 9:30 pm.

The city council came out of executive session at 10:15 pm.

**\*03-13** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Executive Session Discussion and Potential Action as Appropriate with respect to Certain Litigation specifically the Pending Appeal concerning the Stratford ZBA's Granting of a Variance for the New Access Way Constructed by Mark IV Construction Co. Inc. on Sikorsky Memorial Airport Property.

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE, AUTHORIZE, EMPOWER AND DIRECT THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE AIRPORT MANAGER TO ENTER INTO FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF ALL PENDING LITIGATION CONCERNING THE RELOCATION OF THE ACCESS WAY FROM /OFF OF ROUTE #113 TO OFF OF SNIFFENS LANE, STRATFORD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITONS AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND IN ACCORDANCE**

WITH THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE CITY'S AIRPORT  
COMMISSION ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 7, 2014

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND  
THREE VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS: LYONS,  
McBRIDE-LEE and SALTER)**

**04-13** Contracts Committee Report re: Greater Bridgeport Regional Solid Waste  
Interlocal Agreement.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DEJESUS MOVED TO RECONSIDER ITEM 04-13  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DEJESUS MOVED TO AMEND THE COMMITTEE REPORT BY  
SUBSTITUTION AS AMENDED AND REVISED BY THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

*\*City Attorney Anastasi explained that the amended version was approved by the  
Inter-Local Group.*

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DEJESUS MOVED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Other business:**

Council President McCarthy reminded everyone that another storm is coming on  
Wednesday and next Monday and Tuesday. He noted that everyone should pay attention  
to their emails for possible cancellation of meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport  
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