

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2014  
6:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President McCarthy called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:37 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130<sup>th</sup> District: Rick Torres  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jack O. Banta  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Patricia Swain, Robert Halstead  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy  
134<sup>th</sup> District:  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Rev. Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter  
136<sup>th</sup> District:  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Lydia Martinez, Milta Feliciano  
138<sup>th</sup> District:  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS HAVE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2014 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.**

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

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

City Council and Financial Matters

**Council President McCarthy, Council representatives, City Clerk Hudson and my  
Bridgeport neighbors and friends.....**

Today is November 17, 2014 and tonight is the halfway mark of a two year representation marathon. Let's look at where you are, from where I sit:

- I see no sign of action within the Council to secure regular professional expertise and assistance to help you in your legislative duties. You do not lack resources. Page 11 of your Monthly Financial Analysis September, 2014 shows that you budgeted \$93,500 for Other Services and have spent only \$500 through three months. This is an account from which you have spent at most \$5,000 in recent years. However in June 2013 15 Council members allocated almost \$30,000 of taxpayer money without holding a meeting, keeping minutes or expecting any record to show the public what was done. It was done in the face of knowledge that your own Stipend accounts could not be used for Charitable or Political purposes. Fifteen members still had the audacity to misappropriate public money. You have listened to me speak of this at least four times this year. Has anyone bothered to discuss a Council response?
- The City Clerk provides assistance to you by keeping track of “Items Pending before City Council Committees Pursuant to City Council Rules Ch.XIII (11). The most recent notice was presented to you by City Clerk, Fleeta Hudson on November 3, 2014. There are about 10 items pending in the seven committees but they will carry over into the next year. What concerns me is the subject of last year’s report from the City Clerk offered to the Council on October 7, 2013. There were 18 items listed there. They died there if they were not re-introduced in your session. Most of them were not. One of these items is #22-11 introduced on 12/5/2011 Off the Floor regarding a proposed Resolution to Review for Council Member Expense Reimbursement (Stipends). Former Council member Robert Curwen introduced the subject. It was tabled by B&A on 12/28/11, tabled again on 2/28 12, but approved by Committee on 5/22/12. The Council tabled the resolution and returned it to B&A on 6/4/12 and the Committee tabled it again on 9/25/2012. With the close of last year’s Council the matter died. What does that mean practically?
- I believe if you read the current Stipend Ordinance approved many years ago, you will find that it calls for a reimbursement of funds not to exceed \$9,000 to Council representatives for expenses incurred and accounted for in performance of their duties. I suspect you already understand that a different administrative format has replaced the reimbursement with a debit card “quarterly advance” system. The new system has not made public oversight any easier. Nor have the records revealed to date made many taxpayers trust that the Ordinance intent is being followed. Open, accountable and transparent records should be the order of the day unless the Council wants to explain why the system should be private. What person in the City has the responsibility for oversight to assure that rules, such as they may be, are met?
- A halfway point in a journey is a good time to discern whether time is not too late to act on matters, indeed to invite members of the public to your Committee meetings to listen to your discussions, and even, perhaps, be invited to briefly address them. Within sixty days the external audit of City and Education budgets including Grants should be public. The June 2014 FINAL monthly financial report will also become available for only the second time in more than 20 year. Will you hold a meeting to discuss any findings in that document? Keep in mind that I have raised a question from 2013 Revenues on where the Comptroller discovered over \$500,000 of Miscellaneous Cash as well as how the Council appropriated \$30,000 of taxpayer funds from the Other Services account for checks to local charities in a primary and election year?

And then the CAFR itself will be in print. Will you hold a review with the public of this report? Will the public begin to learn as you also must about the debt, pension plan and other post employment benefits obligations of the City? What might the reports show this year? What is the trend? Time will tell.

There were no other members of the public that wished to address the Council at this time.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council President McCarthy closed the public speaking portion of the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2014**

**7:00 PM**

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

**Bridgeport, Connecticut**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Finch called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Council Member Swain led those present in a short prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Finch then requested the new City Clerk staff member to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130<sup>th</sup> District: Susan Brannelly, Rick Torres  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jack Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Patricia Swain, Robert Halstead  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy  
134<sup>th</sup> District:  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Richard DeJesus, Alfredo Castillo  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Lydia Martinez, Milta Feliciano  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Michael Marella  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present.

Mayor Finch stated that Council Member Brannelly had requested a moment of silence in recognition of the passing of Probate Judge John P. Maiocco, Jr., a lifelong Bridgeport resident, former Council President and State Representative, who passed away on November 14, 2014.

Following the conclusion of the moment of silence, Council President McCarthy announced that Council Member Lyons had a family emergency, Council Member Paoletto's son was in a car accident but was okay and Council Member Austin was in the hospital. Mayor Finch then spoke about Mr. Murphy who had a recent heart attack and was also hospitalized.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

**Approval of City Council Minutes: October 6, 2014.**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED THE OCTOBER 6, 2014 MINUTES.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

Council Member Swain stated that on the October 6, 2014 Agenda Item 167-13 Resolution presented by Council Member Torres re: Request that the City Establishes a Moratorium on Tax Abatements, Expansions and or Proliferations of any Not-For-Profit Organization, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee was included in the Resolutions to be referred to Boards, Commissions, etc. and should have been included in with the items to be referred to Committees."

The following correction was noted:

Council Member Swain stated Item# 167-13 was listed properly on the City Council Agenda of October 6, 2014 since the item was a resolution.

**\*\*COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO AMEND THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2014.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO AMEND THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2014 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 6, 2014 MINUTES AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**187-13 Communication from Finance Department re: Proposed Resolution Affirming and Approving Financing in the amount of \$90,370,000.00 for the Design, Rehabilitation, Upgrading and Construction of Various Renovations and Improvements to the East Side and West Side Waste Water Treatment Plants, referred to Budget & Appropriations Committee.**

**188-13 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Mary Pooser, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**187-13 COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE DEPARTMENT RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AFFIRMING AND APPROVING FINANCING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$90,370,000.00 FOR THE DESIGN, REHABILITATION, UPGRADING AND CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EAST SIDE AND WEST SIDE WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANTS, REFERRED TO BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

**188-13 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH MARY POOSER, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

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

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

**PETITIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE:**

**189-13 Petition from Helen K. Pothanszky re: Tax Abatement for Properties Located at 59 and 83 Primrose Avenue, referred to Joint Committee on Budget & Appropriations and Miscellaneous Matters.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA MOVED AGENDA ITEM 189-13 PETITION FROM HELEN K. POTHANSZKY RE: TAX ABATEMENT FOR PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 59 AND 83 PRIMROSE AVENUE, REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE.**

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

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

Mayor Finch stated that there were two items added to the agenda for the Consent Calendar. He then asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. When there was no response, he asked a second time. Hearing no response, the two items on the Consent Calendar were put forward for consideration.

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

**\*178-13 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant Program.**

**\*184-13 Contracts Committee Report re: Agreement with United American Insurance Company for a Group Medicare Supplement Insurance Plan for Medicare-Eligible Retirees of the City and Board of Education Employees for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**\*178-13 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT (OPM) TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM.**

**\*184-13 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AGREEMENT WITH UNITED AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY FOR A GROUP MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE PLAN FOR MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREES OF THE CITY AND BOARD OF EDUCATION EMPLOYEES FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015.**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO BE REFERRED TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN MOVED TO REFER A PROPOSED WORKERS COMPENSATION STIPULATION W/ CLAIMANT STEVE ISAAC TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #190-13)**

Council President McCarthy wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He then announced that November 16th was Council Member DeJesus' birthday. The Council Members wished Council Member DeJesus a Happy Birthday in the traditional way.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services