

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
PUBLIC SPEAKING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016  
6:30 PM  
City Council Chambers, City Hall  
45 Lyon Terrace  
Bridgeport, CT**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President McCarthy called the Public Session to order at 6:35 p.m.

City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

The following members were present:

130<sup>th</sup> District: Kathryn Bukovsky  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jack O. Banta  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: John Olson, M. Evette Brantley  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron  
134<sup>th</sup> District: Michelle Lyons  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Jose Casco, Alfredo Castillo  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Aidee Nieves  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present. Council President McCarthy announced that Council Member Burns, Vizzo-Paniccia and Feliciano were not able to attend due to family obligations.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.**

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

Ernest E. Newton  
190 Read Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Purchasing Ordinance.

Mr. Newton came forward and said that he would like to speak about the Purchasing Ordinance. He said that he had come forward a few months earlier regarding the transfer Station and the fact that he could not be hired because he had committed a crime. He said that he did not want to see that happen to anyone else. Mr. Newton said that he would like to thank Council Member

Martinez and the Ordinance Committee for adjusting the Ordinances and clarifying the issues around felons. This was about fairness. Today, once the Council votes on this, the Ordinance will change for the better.

**Bob Keeley**  
2156 Park Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Renaming/defining the City and public –  
private partnerships.

Council President McCarthy said that Mr. Keeley was not able to attend the meeting and that Mr. Charles Covello would be reading a letter from Mr. Keeley.

Mr. Covello came forward and read the following statement into the record:

After having spent a lifetime working with and for Bridgeport people, especially poor families, and their kids, I now find myself deeply pained by the ever growing lack of caring for Bridgeport families and their problems from our elected officials. I am more afraid for the future of our visionless city than I have ever been.

I was sincerely hoping that things would be different in Bridgeport after the results of the last municipal election. I thought we could begin to define collectively who and what we as a community are presently or who and what we want to be.

Unfortunately, my hopes were soon dashed when our new administration re-introduced political machine patronage and as a result losing out on hundreds of millions of dollars in federal and state grants, without even applying, overseeing a sad public housing/mixed income federally funded debacle, not recapturing formerly funded city bridges, located in the inner city, and not working to find key funding flowing into the city, resulting in a large tax increase. I do not believe that some of our elected officials tell the truth. Even as our city has become so violent, all these elected officials offer is a press release and a photo opportunity for themselves to indulge in. The Federal Government, State of Connecticut and the private sector need to step in, form a partnership with our city representatives and residents, stamp out the local patronage in which unqualified personnel hiring practices are literally costing Bridgeport residents and families much needed monies to make living life easier in this City. It has become ugly, when I have to fight adults in City Hall just to help kids from “Orcutt”, to release old money to fix our roof. We are only as strong a community as our weakest link. I will continue to fight our weakest links (Mayor’s Office-Planning Offices-State and Federal elected officials) in order to help Bridgeport families and kids. Other non-profits and resident groups have stated to me that we need to act differently than in the past, for our residents to be afforded the same opportunities, as other town/city residents enjoy. Bridgeport’s system of government is broken and city planning efforts have proven catastrophic. We must invest in spending on infrastructure, leading to a special Pleasure Beach, (can you imagine New York without the Statue of Liberty?), a beautiful waterfront and a gorgeous Remington Woods (can you imagine New York without Central Park?). Infrastructure monies will be available in the 2017 legislative session. Someone please wake City Hall up and ask what would make Bridgeport unique and special given the proper money to spend. For once, let’s design a system where our families are at the center of our planning efforts. This will make the difference as ideas will flow from residents to local elected officials, up to State elected officials, and then to Federal elected

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officials, as well as to private financing partnership opportunities. First, we need to reach consensus on who we are as a community. Next we need to devise a blueprint for change and not rely on City Hall to lead us further into our downward spiral.

Sincerely,  
Bob Keeley  
City of Bridgeport resident.

Council President McCarthy called Mr. John Marshall Lee forward to speak.

**Mr. John Marshall Lee** came forward to read the following statement into the record:

Message to City Council gathered December 19, 2016

Within the past two weeks Dr. Bartley Danielson, a Professor at North Carolina State University shared results of his study of 100 US metropolitan areas. By looking at census data for families with children 0-4 and 5-9 his findings showed that middle-class families whose children reach school age relocated out of areas with poor performing schools. And Bridgeport is identified as the City with the highest rate of 'family flight'. Again we see the City with a # 1 ranking out of 100 areas!

I have watched flight take place among young homeowners with infants. Large taxes, reduced home values, and private school tuition is not realistic for them. And we have just seen what the latest tax jump, which you approved with little budget reduction as fiscal watchdogs, is doing to our senior population. They find that our safeguards are of little practical significance to them.

In many places Mayor Ganim's election was seen to usher in not only a "second chance" for him to sit in that seat, receive the compensation and photo-ops, but also a chance for the City to have honest, open, accountable and transparent governance. Speaking directly to you, as one observer, I suggest that not much has changed in the last year.

"Our worst enemies are not the ignorant and the simple, however cruel. Our worst enemies are the intelligent and the corrupt." Have you ever read or heard that quote before? Are you satisfied with City plans? Can you articulate them and measure resolutions you review by City priorities? What are they? Where are they posted by the Mayor or by the President of your Council?

As a Council member, are you tired of seeing #1 ranking for highly property taxed cities? Or as ranking high for communities where students depart school without earning a diploma? Why do so many Bridgeport youth enter kindergarten with little alphabet knowledge, no sense of sounds, and limited oral vocabulary and expect them to meet State reading standards 10 months later? When they start behind, or later slip behind, do they receive saving support? I know that you are not the Board of Education, but you are the group that did not respond in any material sense to the \$15 Million gap told to you last year, aren't you?

We coach youth that 95% of success in life comes from showing up, on time, dressed to play. I am sure that you have heard that hopeful statement. Perhaps some of you even live by it. However, if we consider the meetings that are not held by your sub-committees where new ideas

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might be solicited from tax-paying voter citizens, but you don't? And some meetings are not held because something else is more important to the majority of your members? Or what about the meetings that waste time of fellow members who show up on time and must wait for the fourth member? Where is your representation of the people?

How many have you held meetings in your neighborhoods about the problems and concerns of the people there? It has worked in a couple places already. Do you respect your hard working, taxpaying owners and renters who elected you? Do you have enough personal time for them? As you reflect on my questions that are deadly serious, set aside your anger at me, please. I am not out to skewer one or two persons. I am out to ask you to admit or deny your responsibility to the public for creating better City governance.

*Council Member McBride-Lee joined the meeting at 6:47 p.m.*

You may be only one person, but you have a voice, and you can listen, and you have financial resources of stipends and operating expense fund that you have not used wisely along with the Council calendar. Why delay? Some people are getting the benefits of City dollar resources, but so many are not, and in so many serious but unnecessary ways. You are big brother or sister fiscally to the Board of Education. You left them to survive alone last year, and for many years past, by having no priorities except those coming out in staggered fashion (or out of public eye) from the Mayor's office. And he was the one who talked about accountability, wasn't he?

Again I repeat the quote: "Our worst enemies here are not the ignorant and the simple, however cruel, our worst enemies are the intelligent and the corrupt." When you stand in the way of better governance, annually, what type of enemy of the public are you? Time will tell.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council President McCarthy adjourned the public speaking portion of the Council meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016**

**7:00 PM**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member Lyons lead those present in prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member Brantley to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

The following members were present:

130<sup>th</sup> District: Kathryn Bukovsky  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jack O. Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: M. Evette Brantley, John Olson  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeannette Herron  
134<sup>th</sup> District: Michelle Lyons  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Richard Salter  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Jose Casco, Alfredo Castillo,  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Aidee Nieves  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

Council President McCarthy announced that Council Member Burns, Vizzo-Paniccia and Feliciano were not able to attend due to family obligations.

Council Member McBride-Lee thanked everyone for the flowers and cards regarding the recent passing of her brother.

Council Member Martinez then read a brief biography about Jimmie W. Jones, whose story she was familiar with and announced that there was an item on the consent calendar naming Bishop Avenue as "Jimmie W. Jones Way".

Council Member Lyons said that she would like to thank Council Member Brantley, Council President McCarthy and all the others who honored her on behalf of her retirement from the Board of Education. She spoke about how rewarding the work that she had done with her students was to her.

Council President McCarthy asked for a moment of silence in honor Council Member McBride-Lee brother.

**Mayoral Proclamation and City Council Citation: In Recognition of Frances M. Rabinowitz, Interim Superintendent of Schools, for her meritorious services and accomplishments during her tenure in the City.**

Council President McCarthy requested that Mrs. Rabinowitz and her family come forward to receive the City Citation. Council President McCarthy then spoke about Ms. Rabinowitz's contributions to the City in her work leading the Public School System. He and all the Council Members present gave Ms. Rabinowitz a standing ovation and presented her with a City Council Citation.

Mayor Ganim concurred with all that Council President McCarthy had said and announced that December 19th, 2016 was Frances M. Rabinowitz Day in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He then presented her with the Mayoral Proclamation.

**Mayoral Citation(s) and City Council Citation(s): Recognizing the Members of the League of Urban Gentlemen (L.U.G.) for creating positive change with events and donations for the homeless and children, while working to improve the lives of young urban males.**

Council President McCarthy greeted all those present from League of Urban Gentlemen (L.U.G.) and thanked them for all the work they have done for the homeless and children, while working to improve the lives of young urban males. Council President McCarthy presented them with a City Council Citation of appreciation.

Mayor Ganim concurred with all that Council President McCarthy had said and distributed Mayoral Citations to those present.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

**Approval of City Council Minutes: November 21, 2016**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2016.**

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

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2016 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

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

**08-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH EDWIN QUILES, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

**09-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH LUCILA A. FORD, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

**10-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: LEARY FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION GRANT PROGRAM, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**11-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT, CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION FOR THE PROJECT LONGEVITY GRANT, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

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

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

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

Mayor Ganim then asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove the item from the Consent Calendar for discussion. No one wished to remove the item. City Clerk Martinez read the item into the record.

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

**\*216-15 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 3.08 – CITY CONTRACTS AND PURCHASING PROCEDURES, AMEND SECTION 3.08.070 – PURCHASING PROCEDURE.**

**\*218-15 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: HONORARY DESIGNATION OF "JIMMIE W. JONES WAY" BE CREATED WITH APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE ON BISHOP AVENUE AT THE INTERSECTION OF CONNECTICUT AVENUE AND BARNUM AVENUE.**

**\*93-15 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: MASTER STATE/MUNICIPALITY AGREEMENT FOR THE READJUSTMENT, RELOCATION AND/OR REMOVAL OF MUNICIPAL FACILITIES ON HIGHWAY PROJECTS.**

**\*196-15 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH STIRLING BENEFITS, INC.**

**\*199-15 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SIXTH AMENDMENT TO STADIUM LICENSE, MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS AGREEMENT WITH PAST TIME PARTNERS, LLC., OWNER OF THE BRIDGEPORT BLUEFISH PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL TEAM.**

**\*213-15 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION RE: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) MASTER MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT FOR DESIGN PROJECTS.**

**\*214-15 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION RE: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) MASTER MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT FOR RIGHTS OF WAY ACTIVITIES.**

**\*215-15 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION RE: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) MASTER MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.**

**\*227-15 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH GIS, INC., BOWNE AE&T GROUP AND PRIME AE FOR ON-CALL GIS SERVICES.**

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

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

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:**

**228-15 Contracts Committee Report re: Professional Services Agreement with Freeman Companies regarding the Black Rock Streetscape Project for Design and Engineering Services, DENIED.**

Council Member Bukovsky said that while she was not on the committee but would like to speak on the item. She said that this had been proposed in 2010 and unfortunately, there were some issues with the original application to the State.



**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BUKOVSKY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 228-15, THEREBY REJECTING THE CONTRACTS RECOMMENDATION OF DENIAL.**

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

Council Member Holloway said that he would like say something positive, but would like to point out that Black Rock was not the only section that leads to downtown.

Council Member Banta said that he was in support of this item. With the new train station, it would be important to have the area looking well-kept.

Council Member Brantley said that she would like to echo her colleagues and support this item. People have worked very hard to get this project moved through the process. She said that she could not wait to see the project completed.

Council Member Lyons said that she hoped that all parts of the City would get to be where they need to be. This is money from the State, so she would be supporting this.

Council Member Paoletto said that he was on the Contracts committee and supported it then and would support it now. He said that if the State Representatives aren't bringing the money, then the City needs to change the Representatives, not the planning.

Council President McCarthy said that he would like to thank everyone who has worked on this and recognized State Representative Steve Stafstrom. Mayor Ganim called Representative Stafstrom forward to address the Council.

Representative Stafstrom came forward and spoke about the project and how it would benefit Bridgeport.

Council Member Olson asked for clarification on what a YES vote would mean. Mayor Ganim explained that a YES vote would be to approve the project and a NO vote would be to support the Contracts Committee recommendation of a denial.

Council Member Castillo said that he would like to support Black Rock, but everyone needed to pull together for the benefit of the City.

Council Member Holloway said that the Congress Street bridge on the East side has been down for a number of years and the traffic on the East Side has been very heavy. He thanked Representative Stafstrom for his work, but that the Bridge needs to be fixed so that the traffic flows through the East Side.

Council Member Casco asked Mr. Coleman to come forward and speak about the item. Mr. Coleman said that this would be used to put in crosswalks and more shelter in the station. He said that this was a chance to see public dollars support public dollars.

Council Member Nieves said that she was in support of the reject and all the gateways to the city were important. She also noted that the Congress Street Bridge was an important part of the East Side and traffic was horrible with only one bridge open.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH FREEMAN COMPANIES REGARDING THE BLACK ROCK STREETScape PROJECT FOR DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SERVICES PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO REFER TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS A “RESOLUTION REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF A FORMAL SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PALESTINIAN CITY OF BETHLEHEM”.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED. (ITEM #12-16)**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER INTO CAUCUS.**

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

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

The Council Members entered into caucus at 7:55 p.m.

*Mayor Ganim left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.*

*Council Member Holloway and Council Member Bukovsky left the meeting at 8:26 p.m.*

The remaining Council Members returned from Caucus at 8:32 p.m. Council President McCarthy chaired the remainder of the meeting.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**200-15 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Rosalina Roman Christy to the Library Board of Directors.**

Council President McCarthy explained that the Council had gone into caucus to discuss the minority party representation on the Library Board. There were seven members of the Board from the Democratic Party, but State law only allows six members from any given party.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF ROSALINA ROMAN CHRISTY TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING ON JUNE 30, 2017.**

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

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

**201-15 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Donald W. Greenberg to the Library Board of Directors.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO DENY THE APPOINTMENT OF DONALD W. GREENBERG TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

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

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

**202-15 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Kenya Osborne-Gant to the Library Board of Directors.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF KENYA OSBORNE-GANT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING ON JUNE 30, 2019.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH SECONDED.**

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

**203-15 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Reappointment of Attorney James E. O'Donnell to the Library Board of Directors.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF ATTORNEY JAMES E. O'DONNELL TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING ON JUNE 30, 2019.**

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

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

**204-15 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Reappointment of Judge William Holden to the Library Board of Directors.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JUDGE WILLIAM HOLDEN TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING ON JUNE 30, 2019.**

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

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

**205-15 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Phylicia R. Brown to the Library Board of Directors.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF PHYLICIA R. BROWN TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING ON JUNE 30, 2017.**

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

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

Council President McCarthy was asked why the various appointments had terms that expired at different times. He explained that it was so that the various terms would be staggered and the Board would only be appointing or re-appointing new three members at a time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Service