

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017
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 6:36 p.m.

City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Kathryn Bukovsky, Scott Burns
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jack O. Banta
132nd District: John Olson
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Richard Salter
136th District:
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Milta Feliciano
138th District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith
139th District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Clyde Nicholson
54 Wallace Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Taxes.

Mr. Clyde Nicholson came forward and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He spoke about the fact that there were no lights in a number of places in the city. A number of large old trees were being cut down by the power company and Mr. Nicholson felt this was wrong. He said that the Mayor might pull the plug on him, but he didn't care. This is a new year and the City can't allow this type of spending to go on because the taxpayers are suffering.

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
January 3, 2017

Bob Keeley
2156 Park Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Renaming/defining the City and public –
private partnerships.

Council President McCarthy called for Mr. Keeley to come forward. There was no response. He called for Mr. Keeley to come forward two more times, with no response.

Ethan Book
144 Coleman Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

WPCA foreclosures and state bonds.

Mr. Book came forward and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He then spoke about his recent campaign for office and sent emails to all the City Council Members. He said that at one point, his email account was attacked and thought it was possibly done by the Russians.

Mr. Book then went on to speak about the WPCA foreclosures and a series of emails from Mr. Epstein to Atty. Liskov. He said that in 2009, Atty. Epstein had tacked on a \$2,000 fee for doing virtually nothing when he was involved in a payment plan for a WPCA tax lien. This type of additional charge happened a number of times to different residents and later this practice was investigated. Since then, when clients complains to Mr. Book, he contacts Atty. Epstein and Atty. Epstein reduces the amount but continues to tack on this fee with all the cases he handles.

Mr. Book also spoke about a recent episode involving State Representative Steve Stafstrom who spoke about some State grant funding that he termed as "free money". There is no such thing as a free lunch. He also pointed out that State Representative Stafstrom was also employed by the same firm that was the bond counsel for the City.

Council Member Castillo and McBride Lee joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

New Year City Finances.

On Sunday January 1, 2017, the CT Post had a lengthy "news" article that allowed Mayor Ganim to speculate on his 13th year of "Bridgeport leadership" and to provide a 'selfie' grade of B+. I get neither the time nor space to share my public thoughts, so, in quick order:

Mayor Joe is a "second chance" candidate because many people who know a lot about the need for added chances trusted him to be different than the "pay to play" felonies of which he was found guilty, was sentenced, and served 7 years away from family and Bridgeport. Joe tells us in that article that he is "accountable" but he has not told us where he resides. That question has been percolating for months now. During the holidays I heard from a person at Cartright St and another on Ellsworth St, each rumored locations for the Mayor's home that he has not been seen for months in either place. This is not a case of contacting the Police Department and making a "missing person" report.

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
January 3, 2017

However, if he does not reside in Bridgeport, he would be guilty of an F, for 'faking' it or 'fooling' most of the people because the Charter calls for him to reside in the City. Better that we have a proactive Ordinance that he and all municipal public servants adhere to.

I submit a Resolution for consideration by your Ordinance Committee at their next meeting. There have been one or more questions in recent years regarding Council and/or Commission or Board out of City or district residence. This Ordinance has no expense and is but one step up on an ethical stairway to assure the public of a qualification for holding office.

RESOLUTION regarding Residency Reporting:

Whereas it is important to the State of CT to have on hand the residence of motor vehicle operators according to the “notification within 48 hours of address change” official requirement.....

Whereas it is at least equally important for Bridgeport citizens to trust that each locally elected, mayorally appointed, and/or City Council approved official resides with the City and district appropriately, as indicated by the City Charter.....

And whereas such information is regularly provided on the site of comparable CT municipalities for all to see as an honest requirement for public servants to show respect for open, accountable, transparent and honest reporting.....

Therefore, be it resolved that all municipal elected officials including the Mayor, City Council members, as well as Board and Commission members appointed by the Bridgeport Mayor provide their current residence street address of record to the Town Clerk’s office by January 31, 2017. In the future, notice of such current residence address shall be provided to the Town Clerk’s office within 30 days of such change or at least affirmed or changed annually before the end of January while such public service is pursued.

Council Member Brantley joined the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

I look forward to one or more of you to submit such a Resolution to the Ordinance Committee for its fair and substantial review and consideration. There is yet time in the month of January on your meeting two weeks from now, for me to provide an opinion on whether a B+ grading is due Mayor Ganim regarding his performance in 2016. Will you assist the sense of the Resolution see the light of day? Time will tell.

Cecil Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Mr. Young came forward and knelt down to plead with the Council Members in order to support two black delegates. He said that he had spoken with the Chief of Police, A. J. Perez about the situation. He spoke about a website that has a number of testimonies by officers. Mr. Young said that he was tired of volunteering and that he could pass the CPAC test used for the police recruits. Chief Perez would put him in a position of authority. He spoke about his early education and said that he had skipped grades on a regular basis.

Charles Coviello

Mr. Coviello said that he was present to address the Council. He said that he wanted to encourage the Council Members to speak to their State Representatives. He spoke about State legislation that addresses youth services in inner cities. He encouraged people to write in to their representatives about this issue. He said that the juvenile jail downtown should be shut down and it was a bureaucratic nightmare. The building could be used for youth services. By closing the downtown juvenile jail, the City might be able to provide more funding for the schools. The City should choose Yale over Jail.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President McCarthy adjourned the public speaking portion of the Council meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017**

7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member Olson lead those present in prayer. Council Member Olson did so and included a tribute to former Council Member Warren Blunt who passed away on December 30th, 2016.

Council Member Brantley then requested a moment of silence in memory of former Council Member Warren Blunt, who had always been a gentleman and had helped so many different people. She said that former Council Member Warren Blunt had loved jazz and poetry. Council Member Brantley announced that she would like to read a poem by Langston Hughes, another jazz and poetry lover, called Motte Poem:

play it cool
I dig all jive
That's the reason
I stay alive
My motto
As I live and learn
Is dig and be dug in return

She said that the last line summed up former Council Member Warren Blunt's life, and encouraged everyone to follow his example.

Mayor Ganim then requested a moment of silence in memory of the late Warren Blunt.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

The following members were present:

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

A quorum was present.

Mayor Ganim said that there were a number of Council Members who wished to speak about former Council Member Blunt.

Council Member McBride Lee said that she had known former Council Member Blunt and said that he had occupied the chair she now sits in. She said that she would like to recognize him by moving from her chair and sitting on another chair by the Council Members. The former Council Member Blunt's chair at the podium was then draped in a red and black material

Council President McCarthy said that former Council Member Blunt had worked hard to pass the curfew for the youth and gathered the social services, the police and various other parties together to pass the ordinance. He was a gentleman and a scholar. He made himself go to school and acquiring degrees until he was the Director of Environmental Health. Former Council Member Blunt was always working to improve himself. Council President McCarthy said that former Council Member Blunt made an impact and encouraged all those who were present to follow his example. Council President McCarthy said that he was proud to be known as Former Council Member Blunt's friend.

Council Member Lyons said that he never got excited and always remained calm. He was totally a perfect gentleman and would be greatly missed. His laugh will be missed. Council Member Lyons said that she was privileged to have known him and to have been his friend.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that he was a wonderful friend who had words of encouragement for everyone. She called on his assistance many times about deplorable conditions and he always followed up. He was always empowering someone else and will be sadly missed.

Council Member Paoletto said that he served after former Council Member Blunt's term ended but knew him when Council Member Paoletto 's father was serving on the Council. During some tough times for the Paoletto family, former Council Member Blunt was there for the family.

Mayor Ganim said that former Council Member Blunt was someone who touched so many lives. Everyone will remember him and his smile fondly. The services will be held on Saturday and everyone should reflect on during the days until the service.

Mayoral and City Council Citation(s): Recognizing Barbara Yvette Gonzalez for her civic contributions.

This presentation will be held at another time.

Mayoral and City Council Citation(s): Recognizing Shaneese Pettway for the heroic action taken despite her injuries to save three children during a tragic fire on January 3, 2016.

Council Member Martinez came forward and called Shaneese Pettway for her actions during a tragic fire exactly one year ago. Council Member Martinez said that they would not forget her actions during that fire when she saved three children, despite the loss of her own child.

Council President then presented Ms. Pettway with a City Council Citation.

Council Member Martinez then read a poem in memory of Sincere Pettway, who passed away that day. Ms. Pettway then thanked everyone for their support and prayers during the time when she lost Sincere.

Council President asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Sincere.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: December 5, 2016

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2016.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2016 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO COMBINE BOTH THE COMMUNICATIONS AND THE RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES AND MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

13-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL

CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH WILFREDO TORRES, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

14-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH TANILLE WALKER, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

15-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: INNOVATION PLACES IMPLEMENTATION GRANT APPLICATION TO CTNEXT, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO REFER AN ITEM INVOLVING A TECHNICAL UPDATE TO THE ANAEROBIC DIGESTER PROJECT TO THE ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. ITEM #16-16 (Ref. #36-15)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO REFER AN ITEM INVOLVING A TECHNICAL UPDATE TO THE RESOLUTION BY THE BRIDGEPORT CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO RECEIVE BROWNFIELDS GRANT FUNDING IN SUPPORT OF THE ANAEROBIC DIGESTER PROJECT TO THE ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President McCarthy announced that Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia was not present at the meeting due to illness.

Council Member Olson asked the Mayor about the massive tree cutting that UI was doing around the City. He wished to know if these trees would be replaced by UI and whether or not UI had the City's permission to cut down all these trees, some of which are 100 years old. Mayor Ganim said that Mr. Gaudett would be the point person for this issue and would follow up with Council Member Olson.

Council Member Feliciano said that she would like to take a moment to thank all the Council Members for their support during her loss of a family member in December. She deeply appreciated all the flowers and prayers from that time. She also mentioned her appreciation of the grief counselor that the City provided.

Council Member McBride Lee announced that former Council Member Blunt's service would be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 7, 2017 at Mount Aery Baptist Church on Frank Street in Bridgeport.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service