

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017
6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President McCarthy called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:47 p.m. He explained that a number of Council Members were in the Wheeler Rooms where their Health Screening numbers were being checked and they would be joining the meeting shortly.

City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Kathryn Bukovsky, Scott Burns
131st District: Jack O. Banta
132nd District: John Olson, M. Evette Brantley
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Jose Casco, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Aidee Nieves
138th District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith
139th District:

A quorum was present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Complaint regarding unjust termination.

Mr. Cecil Young came forward to address the Council about his employment termination. He said that he had spoken with Council Members Holloway, McBride-Lee and Banta about his situation. He said that he was hoping that the administration would respond to his concerns. He

also said that he could not understand how the Council Members could go to church while continuing to judge people by the color of their skin.

Bob Keeley
2156 Park Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Freight/containerization forum, public-private partnerships, etc.

Mr. Bob Keeley came forward to address the Council. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to come to speak with the Council. He said that he hoped the Council Members health numbers did not increase their health screening numbers after he was finished speaking.

Mr. Keeley said that he was present to speak about the public and private partnerships where the City and a private sector organization match funds. He said that he would like to see Bridgeport receive the benefit of this type of arrangement.

He then spoke about the various NRZs and said that those in the East Side and East End should unite to get not only the Congress Street Bridge replaced, but also the Pleasure Beach Bridge. By uniting together, the NRZs could make East Bridgeport great by having a forum and working together.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City Finances.

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

Good evening members of the Bridgeport City Council. This is the second meeting of the year and the fourth of the session that began in December.

One year ago information was leaking out of City Hall about the dire financial situation in the City. As the incoming Council with a “second chance” Mayor newly installed it may have been a confusing time. It should have been a time to prioritize our problems and summon all of our resources.

Six months later, you faced angry taxpayers and voters because of the budget you passed simultaneous with a revaluation that lowered owner values in most of the City. Anger over increase in taxes? Frustration over property values dropping below mortgage balances? Many folks plainly disturbed that the school budget request for \$15 Million was not dealt with. The new administration scoured City cupboards for funds of all kinds. Perhaps that is why your Budget & Appropriations Committee was able to view two different reports last week.....one regarding grants that fund certain City activities and may still have power even though they may be 10 years old, and another that identifies capital projects by department and provides multi year accounting never seen routinely by the Council.

Governance is a shared responsibility. The Council cannot be accountable when they do not receive information. But they are responsible when they do not request, multiple times if necessary, vital information regarding City finances in order to be skilled watchdogs. I have observed that you of

necessity are fiscal watchdogs because as the State's largest City we are without a bi-partisan Board of Finance, who based on education, experience, and integrity, can be a competent and sensible first line of check and balance with any administration.

Our time is limited so take the Police Department as an example. You approved a budget for \$102 Million and before we were many months into the fall that budget increased more than 5 %. Did it tell you where the PD would be if 100 new recruits were hired (something impossible within the Fiscal Year)? Or did it say something else that perhaps you know but that the public does not?

We have an Acting Police Chief, a former Police Chief as a consultant, and former Chief Gaudett at EOS. Personally I don't know whether he was acting or a complete chief. However, what I continue to see is a PD budget that is nearing \$110 Million with total overtime, internal and external, seemingly out of control. But there is a struggle to look good in the press. One of the ten divisions of the Police Department budget called Police Administration, has no full time employees!! So where are Police Administrators hiding? Or at least where can they be identified? And what is the current number of personnel in each section today, and next month, and three months from now? Where are those numbers? And where is the listing of City employees showing the top 150 earners for 2016? And what would a list of the most recent 150 retirees from the Police Department reveal in terms of the last contract signed by the City with the Police Union? Did we ever hear that the movement of City pensions to the CT MERS plan would allow retirement income to be paid on overtime earning in as few as three years of the 25 for normal retirement? Did we learn that the City is prohibited any increase in charges to outside contractors currently to cover the new and added required pension contributions....so that the taxpayers must foot all of the increased pension payments?

Are there other surprises in the changes for the 2012-16 period that we have not learned yet? What is the City position on new contract negotiations at this time? Is it a Mayoral priority? Where are such issues discussed in your committee system?

Do you require more info? Ask for it, please. Folks in my neighborhood, some who are expert in finance, personnel management, and system change last August volunteered their time as a practical short term task force to help the Mayor with such matters. The Mayor and his advisors discussed but ultimately ignored this valuable offer without response to those taxpayers and voters. The Mayor's veto did not get a single line in the newspaper but it was yet another sign that the City is not serious about dealing with the difficulties of the status quo. Is it time to bring back the red boots? I will wait for the CAFR that should be out in days. Then we can all study what happened last year through the eyes of the auditors. Time will tell.

State Sen. Marilyn Moore

Senator Moore came forward to address the Council Member and said that she had spoken with Mr. Young earlier. She said that she had watched a series on Dr. Martin Luther King and felt that it was wrong that the Mayor was disrespecting the very people who elected him. Senator Moore also questioned whether the Mayor was really going to the Inauguration to speak with President Elect Trump as he had flaunted this on the TV. She said that she would not forget this if Mayor Ganim goes to the Inauguration and encouraged the Council Members to speak to Mayor Ganim about this.

Clyde Nicholson
54 Wallace Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Taxes.

Mr. Nicholson said that there was an on-going situation in Bridgeport with two murders and a third person shot in the back. Mr. Nicholson said that he hoped the shooting victim would pull through. He then mentioned the JFK assassination, the RFK assassination, and the MLK assassination and asked how much gun violence was enough. There is no time to play games.

President-elect Trump is talking about sending the Muslims back to their home countries, but if that is the way that immigrants will be treated, we should all go back to the countries that we came from. If President-elect Trump took an intelligence test, he would be graded as a fool. Trump will not bring jobs to Bridgeport. He disrespected John Lewis.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President McCarthy adjourned the public speaking portion of the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

Council President McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

PRAYER

Council President McCarthy requested that Council Member McBride-Lee led those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President McCarthy then requested that Ct. State Senators Ed Gomes and Marilyn Moore along with CT Representative Ezequiel Santiago to lead 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
132nd District: John Olson, M. Evette Brantley
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
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:

A quorum was present.

Mayoral Proclamation and City Council Citation: In Recognition of the Get Healthy CT Coalition and the Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes Task Force for increasing health screening awareness and declaring February, 2017 as “Know Your Numbers Month” in the City.

Council President McCarthy called the representatives from St. Vincent’s and Bridgeport Hospital’s joint Get Healthy CT Coalition and the Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes Task Force forward.

He spoke about how the Council Members were receiving health screenings and then presented the representatives with the City Council Citation and the Mayoral Proclamation, recognizing their contribution to the City.

Mayoral and City Council Citation(s): Recognizing Araceliz Gomes of Bridgeport as recipient of the 2016 “John S. Martinez Leadership Scholarship” from the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators.

Council President McCarthy called Ms. Araceliz Gomes forward in recognition of her receiving the 2016 “John S. Martinez Leadership Scholarship” from the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators. CT Representative Ezequiel Santiago Ezekiel Santiago and presented the scholarship check to Ms. Gomes and Council President McCarthy presented her with the City Council Citation. Ms. Gomes thanked those involved in helping her achieve this scholarship.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: December 19, 2016

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2016.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2016 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member McBride-Lee then requested a point of personal privilege. She then stated that she would be going to Washington, D.C. on Saturday, January 21, 2017 to participate in the Women’s March on Washington with other local residents. 22,000 women are expected to participate in order to make a statement. Too many people have suffered, shed blood and died to lose the rights that people have. Council Member McBride-Lee noted that President-elect Trump disrespected Senator Lewis. She concluded by requesting those present to pray for the safety of all who will be attending Saturday’s march and that the event will go smoothly for all involved.

Council Member Brantley also noted that there would be a similar Women’s March held in Stamford, CT for those who could not go to D.C.

Council President McCarthy announced that Council Member Denese Taylor-Moye was absent due to her being in the hospital.

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:**

17-16 COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD OF EDUCATION RE: GRANT APPLICATION AND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION WORK AT THE ANNA BAUM SKANE SCHOOL LOCATED AT 2977 MADISON AVENUE FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT, REFERRED TO EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

18-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH SHELDON WILLIAMS, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

19-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH ANTONIO LOSTAUNAU, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

20-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH GARY ROSE, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

22-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR THE OPIOID INITIATIVE GRANT (#17295), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

23-16 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 15.08 – BUILDING PERMITS AND FEES, AMEND SECTION 15.08.010 – BUILDING PERMITS AND RELATED FEES, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

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

21-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BANTA AND TAYLOR-MOYE RE: PROPOSED REQUEST THAT IMMEDIATE ENFORCEMENT STEPS BE TAKEN TO ELIMINATE THE ILLEGAL DUMPING IN THE ALLEYWAY THAT RUNS BETWEEN SEELEY STREET AND IRANISTAN AVENUE AND THAT A PILOT REVITALIZATION PROJECT BE DEVELOPED, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

24-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BUKOVSKY, BURNS AND LYONS RE: PROPOSED REQUEST REGARDING RESIDENCY REPORTING FOR ALL MUNICIPAL ELECTED OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BUKOVSKY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR) CONTINUED:

Council President McCarthy asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Hearing none, Council President McCarthy requested that the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar into the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

***47-15 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF VALERIE QUARLES (D) TO THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION.**

***02-16 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) FOR FY 2016 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS (AFG) VEHICLE ACQUISITION (PROJECT #17228).**

***03-16 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) FOR FY 2016 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS (AFG) OPERATIONS AND SAFETY (PROJECT #17210, #17211 AND #17281).**

***10-16 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: LEARY FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President McCarthy noted that there were two additional items that had not been brought forward for a vote.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

26-16 COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (FHWA) EARMARK, CT 115, CONSTRUCTION OF INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION FACILITY IN BRIDGEPORT, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

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

25-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO RE: PROPOSED REQUEST THAT ON-STREET PARKING BANS ALONG THE PORTION OF BANK STREET BETWEEN MAIN STREET AND BROAD STREET BE REMOVED WITH THE POSTING OF APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE OR THE INSTALLATION OF METERS ALONG BANK STREET IN ORDER TO CREATE MORE ON-STREET PARKING SPACES, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NIEVES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ADJOURN PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services