

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 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 6:55 p.m.

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, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter
136th District: José 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. Council President McCarthy apologized for the delay in starting the meeting and explained that there was a statutory matter that needed to be addressed that evening.

He also explained that six people had signed up in advance and that if any of the speakers failed to show up, then the people on the meeting sign-up sheet would be allowed to speak in the order they signed up.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 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. Nicholson came forward to speak about how he was opposed to the Federal Government deporting illegal immigrants. He spoke about purchasing a guest worker card and said that if President Trump continues to deport immigrants, he should start with his wife first. If everyone is deported, who will be left? It's time to do something about these laws that are on the books. He went on to speaking about guest workers cards and obtaining citizenship.

Council President McCarthy reminded everyone that if they signed up to speak before the Council on a particular topic, that is the topic they should address in their comments.

Ethan Book
144 Coleman Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

WPCA foreclosure practices.

Mr. Book came forward to address the Council Members. He said that last year, in January he had come forward to address the Council about WPCA foreclosures. He also addressed the Council again on January 3rd of this year regarding this matter. Since then, there appears to have been some changes. He went on to speak about some changes in the City Charter, along with mentioning a recent issue that Council Member José Casco encountered. These issues, with the WPCA including conflicting control need to be addressed.

Mr. Book went on to say that there are two types of political corruption. One type involves money and the other involves power. If there is either of these issues involved with the WPCA, then it needs to be addressed. He said that since the year 2000, there have been over 3,270 WPCA foreclosures, averaging about 250 foreclosures per year. He went on to give a series of additional figures and said that the WPCA had created a major strain on Bridgeport property owners. It is predatory foreclosing by the WPCA. This also affects the taxes. While the recent proposed amendment to the City Charter looks good, as far as it goes. But it does not fully address the problem. Mr. Book made several suggestions including having a multi-partisan ad hoc committee chaired by the City Council oversee the foreclosures. He thanked the Council Members for their attention to this issue.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Bridgeport "Hidden Figures."

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

Good evening, City Council members. Three weeks ago Kenneth Flatto, City Finance Director, sent out the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for FY 2016 as required along with his letter to us all before the 125 pages of financial statements and Notes. This annual audit is a document with much serious information that indicates trends important to taxpayers.

I have read the entire report once as I have done each year in recent years. Did you know that the State of CT sent almost \$77 Million more to Bridgeport in 2016 than in 2015? The total amount went from \$324.2 Million to \$401.0 Million and almost

90% of that increase went to increases in School Construction Grants, \$63.5 Million and Department of Education grants \$5 Million. Still awaiting the Federal audit document?

We lived through revaluation Finch style in 2013 and then again in 2015, paying over \$300,000 each time but with very few people seeing the 2013 results. Last year in the February 15, 2016 letter for the 2015 CAFR, Ken Flatto wrote: "***The City's taxable base remains steady and is demonstrating some growth with the October 1, 2013 with a Net Taxable Grand List at \$7.1 Billion.***" Four pages later in a section on "Reassessment" he told about the 2015 valuation and predicted that the Grand List was to be established on February 29, 2016. You know that it was. It lost about \$1.2 Billion of value and caused the mil rate to increase even if there had been no budget increase. But there was a budget increase and a tax increase. Why did Finance reference 2013 results? Why not latest info that was in City Hall even if not yet finalized? Where can a taxpayer see, on a regular basis what "economic development" is occurring that will grow the Grand List faster than the budget?? Is that something you can point me towards?

If the City is nearing settlement terms over the former CRRA property tax court case and a decrease in their assessment that could reduce City Grand List by \$100 Million or more, don't we wish a way to keep our eyes on such increases and decreases? Is that something you will keep in mind as you talk to each department about their budget this year? When I hear a small business tell me that they had to visit five different City offices, with very pleasant employees, but no simple way to be instructed in our City permit process, what are we to think? What encourages economic development?

Ten years ago the City established an "internal service fund" for risk financing activities. We had over \$88 Million of deficit two years ago. It may be less now, but why did this year's CAFR indicate a policy change from last year when it said "deficits will be amortized over a reasonable period of 5-10 years" and this year a change in reasonable period meant "10-12 years"?

The City Fund balance, the unassigned, unreserved, and unpledged cash increased slightly last year to \$14.3 Million, however, not only is this low relative to the minimum required under City policy, but it also puts a lie to the notion that 50% of City asset land sales will go to increase the Fund Balance. City property sales were over \$6 Million and the fund balance only increased \$1.2 Million.

On page 11 there is a math error of \$100 Million that a proofreader missed. What if it were a "financial error" instead? Who would notice?

I have asked you to be watchdogs. There are no others for taxpayers in this City. Will you ask for changes in the monthly financial report to include variance recording of expenses. You will see that the City operated with budgeted employee expense variances for six months. Will anyone ask for details, like current employee lists that will be updated monthly? Time will tell.

Johnny Ray Moore
574 Union Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

In support of City Council Resolution for
Moratorium to freeze all WPCA foreclosure
actions on real estate owner's properties.

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

To the Honorable Mayor Joseph P. Ganim, the President of this City Council and to all the distinguished members of the Bridgeport City Council.

My name is Johnny Ray Moore. I am a property owner here in the City of Bridgeport. I am here this evening in support of the resolution submitted by Council Member Eneida Martinez for a moratorium to suspend all civil foreclosure actions on behalf of the WPCA for the City of Bridgeport, as well as those actions that are imminent.

The passage of this resolution for moratorium will help bring some relief to property owners of the City of Bridgeport until our State Law makers such as State Senator Marilyn Moore, State Senator Ed Gomes, and State Representative Christopher Rosario can get the bills that were introduced by our State Legislatures on February 15, 2017 approved in order to bring some uniform procedures among the WPCA municipalities with regards to how outstanding sewer liens are to be collected and how WPCA should commence foreclosure against property owners for outstanding sewer liens. Currently there is no uniformity among WPCA municipalities in the State of Connecticut with regard to WPCA civil foreclosure actions.

As a result, property owners here in the City of Bridgeport, your constituents that elected you to represent them are losing their properties at an alarming rate and/or paying high legal fees to prevent such foreclosure once there commenced compared to other WPCA municipalities throughout the State of Connecticut.

The Bridgeport WPCA foreclosures are disproportionately affecting the African-American and Hispanic communities here in the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut has commended over 1,500 foreclosure actions, with approximately 1,000 of these foreclosure actions filed in Superior Court of Fairfield County between 2014 to present. The records will show as a matter of fact, that some of these civil complaints filed in Superior Court have listed sewer liens for less than \$100.00. However, even for those property owners who did accumulate a sewer bill for \$2,000.00, one of the questions before this committee is, "Should your constituents have to lose their homes for what still amounts to be a small claims action?" If our city officials check the record, you will discover that no other WPCA municipality in any other town or city throughout the State of Connecticut have adopted such an aggressive policy in the collection of outstanding back sewer debt that the City of Bridgeport against its property owners. Even the Town of Trumbull, which shares the sewer line with the City of Bridgeport, property owners are not subject to such an aggressive sewer collection policy against its residents who may have outstanding sewer bills owned. It is my understanding that the Town of Trumbull pays its sewer bills on behalf of its property owners and the collects the money from its residents.

Why should the property owners of the City of Bridgeport, which is one of the poorest cities in the State of Connecticut, have to lose their homes over a small claim?

As a further example: the WPCA for the City of Bridgeport commenced a foreclosure action against a property located at 347 Wilmot Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut, owned by Mr. William Kirby. A complaint was filed in State Superior Court listing sewer liens for \$669.00. The Court entered a Judgment of Strict for Foreclosure with approximately \$75,000.00 of alleged equity. This property owner was disenfranchised of his property and the equity for essentially a \$600.00 bill. The City of Bridgeport is alleged to own the property.

This is just one example of many others that the City of Bridgeport's internal collection policies are broken that were stated on the record at the City of Bridgeport Ordinance Committee meeting held on March 22, 2016 regarding Resolution 13-15 and 14-15 regarding a two year pilot program concerning the Bridgeport WPCA liens and foreclosures. The resolution never made it out of the Ordinance Committee. As a result, property owners in the City of Bridgeport are still suffering and losing their homes unlike any other WPCA municipalities in the State of Connecticut that do not pursue in such an aggressive collection policy regarding liens and foreclosures actions against the citizens like the City of Bridgeport.

Wherefore, on behalf of the property owners of the City of Bridgeport, I, Johnny Ray Moore, Chairman of the Housing Committee for the Greater Bridgeport Branch NAACP, wholly support the Resolution for a Moratorium to suspend all foreclosure matters for the WPCA for the City of Bridgeport, and ask the City of Bridgeport to also consider having these small claims collection matters tried in the jurisdiction of our Small Claims Court, which will be more fair and equitable for all parties.

Sincerely,
Johnny Ray Moore

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Issue regarding unjust termination.

Mr. Young came forward to address the Council regarding his unjust termination. He pointed out that there were two ordained ministers on the Council and they should be addressing injustices including the problems with the WPCA and with his unjust termination. He then said that Council Member Holloway was not standing up for him and addressing his unjust termination. Mr. Young stated that he was now 70 years old. He then mentioned March 6, 2016 and said that he had spoken to the Council about this issue. Everyone should be treated equally under the law. He said that he would not let this go and that the Council should not do him any favors.

Sen. Marilyn Moore
666 Cleveland Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Personnel Salaries.

Council President McCarthy called Senator Moore forward, but there was no response. He called for Senator Moore a second and third time. There was still no response.

Mr. Odis Hart

Downtown Resident, Veteran, speaking
About Parking meter tickets for aides

Mr. Hart came forward and said that he was a downtown resident and a disabled veteran. He said that he was 70 years old and there are aides that come to take care of him. Lately, his aides have been receiving parking tickets. He went on to give the details.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President McCarthy adjourned the public speaking portion of the Council meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 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 7:07 p.m.

PRAYER

Council President McCarthy requested Council Member McBride-Lee to lead those present in prayer. Following the conclusion of her prayer, Council Member Olson then made a quick addition of prayer for the thousands of immigrants who were afraid to go out of their doors.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President McCarthy requested Council Member Brantley to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

This was followed by a rendition of the “Star Spangled Banner” by a member of the Bridgeport Boys Choir.

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, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter
136th District: José Casco, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Milta Feliciano
138th District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith
139th District: Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present.

Mayoral and City Council Citation(s): In Recognition of Johnny Vazzano of Vazzy's Restaurant for his civic contributions.

Council President McCarthy announced that Mr. Vazzano could not be present and the Mayoral and Council Citations would be delivered to him by a Council Member. He then went on to list the many times that Mr. Vazzano stepped forward to help the City.

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

Council President McCarthy then called Ms. Gonzalez forward. Council Member Martinez then spoke about Ms. Gonzalez's accomplishments and called those that had been affected by her actions to also come forward. Ms. Gonzalez then gave a brief history of her story. Following this, Ms. Gonzalez was presented with the Mayoral and City Council Citations in recognition of her accomplishments. Council President McCarthy added that there was also a State Assembly Certificate for Ms. Gonzalez, which he read aloud and presented to her at that time.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: January 17, 2017

The following correction was noted:

Page 1, under **Public Speaking Roll Call**: please change the following from:
"137th District: Aidee Nieves"

to: "137th District: Aidee Nieves, Milta Feliciano"

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO CORRECT THE JANUARY 17, 2017 AS NOTED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO CORRECT THE JANUARY 17, 2017 AS NOTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 17, 2017 MINUTES AS CORRECTED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 17, 2017 AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH "2017"

The Bridgeport Boys Choir came forward and performed two numbers, "This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land" and "Take Me to the King."

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

37-16 Resolution presented by Council Member Feliciano re: Request that the Intersection of Park Street and Berkshire Avenue be designated as an “All-Way-Stop” with appropriate street signage and markings, referred to Board of Police Commission.

38-16 Resolution presented by Council Member Feliciano re: Request that a traffic study be done for the movement of the stop sign at the corner of Knowlton and Vernon Street, up to the corner of Knowlton Street and Berkshire Avenue and that a “Yield” sign be placed at the corner of Vernon and Knowlton Street to regulate the flow of traffic, referred to Board of Police Commission.

39-16 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Bukovsky and Burns re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12.16 – Street and Sidewalk Use Regulations, amend Section 12.16.150 – Removal of obstructions, snow and ice from sidewalks, referred to Ordinance Committee.

40-16 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Bukovsky and Nieves re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10.12 – Stopping, Standing and Parking Generally, Section 10.12.010 – Restrictions on stopping or parking generally – violations – Penalties – Exemption, amend Subsection A (5)(6), referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

COMMUNICATION TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE:

41-16 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Workers Compensation Settlement/Stipulate Award with Daniel Domkowski, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BUKOVSKY MOVED TO AMEND THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS FROM:**

39-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BUKOVSKY AND BURNS RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 12.16 – STREET AND SIDEWALK USE REGULATIONS, AMEND SECTION 12.16.150 – REMOVAL OF OBSTRUCTIONS, SNOW AND ICE FROM SIDEWALKS, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

AND:

40-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BUKOVSKY AND NIEVES RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 10.12 – STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING GENERALLY, SECTION 10.12.010 – RESTRICTIONS ON STOPPING OR PARKING GENERALLY – VIOLATIONS – PENALTIES – EXEMPTION, AMEND SUBSECTION A (5)(6), REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

TO:

39-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BUKOVSKY, NIEVES, LYONS AND BURNS RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 12.16 – STREET AND SIDEWALK USE REGULATIONS, AMEND SECTION 12.16.150 – REMOVAL OF OBSTRUCTIONS, SNOW AND ICE FROM SIDEWALKS, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

AND:

40-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BUKOVSKY, LYONS AND NIEVES RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 10.12 – STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING GENERALLY, SECTION 10.12.010 – RESTRICTIONS ON STOPPING OR PARKING GENERALLY – VIOLATIONS – PENALTIES – EXEMPTION, AMEND SUBSECTION A (5)(6), REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA ITEMS AS NOTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

37-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO RE: REQUEST THAT THE INTERSECTION OF PARK STREET AND BERKSHIRE AVENUE BE DESIGNATED AS AN “ALL-WAY-STOP” WITH APPROPRIATE STREET SIGNAGE AND MARKINGS, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION.

38-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO RE: REQUEST THAT A TRAFFIC STUDY BE DONE FOR THE MOVEMENT OF THE STOP SIGN AT THE CORNER OF KNOWLTON AND VERNON STREET, UP TO THE CORNER OF KNOWLTON STREET AND BERKSHIRE AVENUE AND THAT A “YIELD” SIGN BE PLACED AT THE CORNER OF VERNON AND KNOWLTON STREET TO REGULATE THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION.

39-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BUKOVSKY, NIEVES, LYONS AND BURNS RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 12.16 – STREET AND SIDEWALK USE REGULATIONS, AMEND SECTION 12.16.150 – REMOVAL

OF OBSTRUCTIONS, SNOW AND ICE FROM SIDEWALKS, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

40-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BUKOVSKY, LYONS AND NIEVES RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 10.12 – STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING GENERALLY, SECTION 10.12.010 – RESTRICTIONS ON STOPPING OR PARKING GENERALLY – VIOLATIONS – PENALTIES – EXEMPTION, AMEND SUBSECTION A (5)(6), REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

COMMUNICATION TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE:

41-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED WORKERS COMPENSATION SETTLEMENT/STIPULATE AWARD WITH DANIEL DOMKOWSKI, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

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

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

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:**

***27-16 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH VISION SERVICE PLAN (VSP) INSURANCE COMPANY.**

***32-16 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, MARITZA BOND.**

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

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

28-16 Contracts Committee Report re: Arbitration Award Contract between the Bridgeport Board of Education and the Bridgeport Education Association (BEA) for the period from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020. Discussion and possible vote to reject Arbitration Award upon a 2/3 majority vote of the members of the City Council.

Council Members McBride-Lee recused herself at 8:33 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION IN REGARDS TO SECTION 10-206 AND 10-210E, 4 & 9 TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Council Members, City Labor Relations Director Hawkins, Mayoral Aide Gaudett, Atty. Anastasi, and Atty. Brochu entered into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation at 8:34 p.m.

Atty. Brochu left the Executive Session at 9:00 p.m.

The Council Members and Atty. Anastasi returned to public session at 10:15 p.m. No action was taken during Executive Session.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO REJECT THE ARBITRATION AWARD CONTRACT BETWEEN THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE BRIDGEPORT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (BEA) FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1, 2017 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED.**

Council Member Herron said that one of the reasons for rejecting the arbitration award was the City of Bridgeport was expecting a significant budget shortfall. The other unions did not take any increased this year. While the Council cares about Bridgeport's children and wants to take care of them, the Council Members also have to consider the cost to the taxpayers.

Council Member Feliciano said for the record that another reason for voting against the contract was that at the first Contracts meeting when this was considered, no one from the BOE showed up to answer questions. Because of this, the meeting had to be recessed and rescheduled earlier in the evening. Now the item is up for a Council vote. Council Member Feliciano said that she was not in the business of making quick decisions when it comes to making decisions about taxpayers' money.

The second reason for rejecting this was there were several questions in regard to the health care sharing costs with the BOE union members are paying only 20% of the premium cost sharing when everyone else is paying 25%. These questions were not answered by the appropriate BOE staff because they were not present. The Chief Financial Officer was not present to tell the Committee what the financial impact of the 3% increase would be on the budget.

She went on to say that the BOE was concerned about the retention of teachers. The teachers come to Bridgeport for five or six years and then leave for other communities. This means that teacher retention is not a critical component.

Council Member Lyons said that there had been discussions about arbitration and grievances in refer to the contracts. Her concern was the fact that the City is paying a lower salary for the

teachers than the surrounding communities. That puts major pressure on the City. She said that when the BOE comes to the City Council for extra money, she will be voting no on the City Budget if the money is not covered in the BOE budget. She said that the BOE needs to create individual school budgets, so the Council Members can see what is being spent.

Council Member Brantley said that she hopes that the BOE takes these comments serious. She said that she has seen substitute teachers making major, life-long decisions about students, particularly in Special Education. These students are being affected by these decisions. The question is who is teaching our children and how committed those teachers are to them. She said she would like to see the teachers stay in Bridgeport and to see the teachers stop treating the students like second class citizens.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she agrees with Council Members Lyons and Brantley regarding these issues. The BOE has been failing the students. Voting against the contract will make a change, but voting for the contract might make a change.

Council Member Olson said that he has been around the City a long time and everything that is being said has been said again and again. The BOE is not perfect, but the ECS system is also broken. The City is not getting the funding that it should from the State. It's time to take care of business and we'll all figure out how to pay for it.

Council President McCarthy explained that the motion on the floor was to reject the contract. A "yes" vote would be to reject the contract. A "no" vote will approve the contract. A roll call vote was taken.

**** THE MOTION TO REJECT THE ARBITRATION AWARD CONTRACT BETWEEN THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE BRIDGEPORT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (BEA) FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1, 2017 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020 FAILED TO PASS WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (HERRON, CASCO, FELICIANO, PAOLETTO AND SMITH) AND ELEVEN (11) OPPOSED (BUKOVSKY, BURNS, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, OLSON, MCCARTHY, LYONS, SALTER, CASTILLO, AND NIEVES).**

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
February 21, 2017