

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
MONDAY, APRIL 17, 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: 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
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 announced that Council Member Bukovsky was not present due to illness, Council Member Salter was out of town and Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia had a family emergency.

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

NAME

SUBJECT

Beth Lazar
1241 Main Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

In celebration of “Earth Day” vow to save and preserve Remington Woods as open space, the Central Park of Bridgeport.

Ms. Lazar came forward and read the following statement into the record:

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In observance of Earth Day - Save Remington Woods

Saving Remington Woods is the best way Connecticut residents, particularly Bridgeport residents can observe Earth Day. April 22nd is a day set aside to take stock of our treatment of the environment and to commit to saving and preserving Mother Earth.

Remington Woods is over 400 acres of woods on the Bridgeport Stratford border, which is home to hundreds of trees, birds, wood ducks, deer, box turtles, foxes, fresh water fish, wetlands and a lake. DuPont Corporation wants to knock down beautiful Remington Woods, killing the trees, and destroying the home of hundreds of birds and wildlife. DuPont wants to pave over Remington Woods putting up a parking lot, a major road and office buildings. There are already hundreds of vacant office buildings in Fairfield County that should be utilized instead of destroying Remington Woods.

Why save Remington Woods? Trees absorb carbon, purifying the air. The loss of Remington Woods would worsen air quality by increasing traffic and destroying trees. This added carbon in the atmosphere will contribute to the problem of climate change, global warming and asthma rates in Bridgeport. The paving over of the wetlands will increase flooding when it rains.

Friends of Remington Woods presents to the Bridgeport City Council petitions with over 700 hundred signatures, calling for the preservation of Remington Woods. Saving Remington Woods is a non-partisan issue. People who are Democrats, Republicans, Green Party and others have all signed the petition. Many people added their personal comments to the petition.

E. Melcher wrote: "Last of the open spaces, check out the aerial view -- a patch of green in a huge area of grey. Do we. Want to preserve it or destroy it?"

Cathy wrote: The preservation of open space has positive impacts to physical and economic health. Preserve these woods for the benefit of today's and tomorrow's citizens. Once it's gone, it cannot be replaced.

22 elected officials signed "Fairfield County Advocates for Open Space" Statement calling for the preservation of Remington Woods. This includes Ken Flatto, former Fairfield First Selectman, and now Bridgeport's Finance Director for Mayor Ganim's administration.

Critics of the idea of preserving Remington Woods claim that destroying the woods for development will increase Bridgeport's tax base. But tax payers will have to foot the bill to build & maintain an access road into the woods, plus pay for all the required new infrastructure into the woods such as gas, electric, water and sewage lines. It will cost the taxpayers millions of dollars, more in services than we will recoup in taxes by developing the woods.

The Bridgeport City Council should call upon the Remington Woods owners to reverse direction and instead step forward as good citizens and work forwards the preservation of

Remington Woods. DuPont has preserved land at Stratford Point and Okefenokee Swamp.

In Observation of Earth Day, Save Remington Woods. Behind me is a display of pictures of Remington Woods. All those in favor of saving Remington Woods, please stand.

Approximately 12 members of the audience stood.

James D. Smith

1465 Chopsey Hill Rd.
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Remington Woods.

Mr. Smith came forward and said that he lived in Bridgeport. He said that it would be important to protect the plant life and there has been a major crisis worldwide. The residents should do everything they can to protect the wildlife. He then quoted from the national parks about protecting the wildlife and plant life. The animals and plants are a source of food and medicine.

This is basic to our survival. People will be able to enjoy the area year after year while a business park will not be enjoyed. People of all ages will be able to enjoy the park from everywhere, just like they come to Seaside Park.

Lela Florel

1465 Chopsey Hill Rd.
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Remington Woods.

Ms. Florel came forward and thanked everyone for the opportunity to address the Council. As a child growing up on the East Side of Bridgeport, Ms. Florel said she spent every moment she could at Beardsley Park. Now, people are so disconnected from Nature, that global warming is rampant. People think that the things are not worth anything until they are destroyed. Eventually, the office park will also die and become useless. All humanity is dependent on plants and animals for food. Even science has shown that time spent in Nature reduces stress. Those recovering from surgery benefit from seeing trees. For the sake of our children and grandchildren, it is important to preserve nature. All plants and animals have intrinsic value in themselves. Trees alone preserve water, protect from wind, clean the air, provide food prevent erosion and are beautiful. As a Bridgeport resident, it will be more important to have clean air for the children.

Ethan Book

144 Coleman Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Cities at the heart of economic rebound.

Mr. Ethan Book came forward to address the Council Members and Junior Council Members. He said that the Connecticut Post had published an editorial written by Representative Steve Stafstrom about Cities at the heart of economic rebound. While Representative Stafstrom was correct regarding many points, Mr. Book said that he disagreed with Rep. Stafstrom about the mill rate since in Fairfield, it is 25 while Bridgeport has one in the high 30's. He thanked the Council for their time. He pointed out that the Fairfield Town council is smaller and also has

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both Republicans and Democrats on it. Bridgeport has 20 members of the Council, all of whom are Democrats.

Wanda Simmons
80 Sixth Street
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Pleasure Beach Bridge.

Ms. Simmons then addressed the Council Members and read the following statement into the record:

Today, the City of Bridgeport East End Community Council unanimously endorsed the design and reconstruction of the historic Pleasure Beach Bridge, located in the East End section of Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The Bridge has long served as a gateway to the beautiful Pleasure Beach, its historical value to the many families and travelers that have enjoyed Pleasure Beach and the citywide entertainment it provided for many decades.

The East End Community believes in order to reopen Pleasure Beach for tourism and Bridgeport Economic Development, the Pleasure Beach Bridge must be repaired first to connect the community of Bridgeport to the Beach. This is a TOP priority for the East End as well as the City of Bridgeport.

The time has come for Bridgeport State Legislation to lobby and secure the Bi-annual Bonding monies for this top Economic Development Project. The time is now. State bonding for new lights on Stratford Avenue and Connecticut Avenue, which are State Highways, should also be included with the bonding package.

Jeanette Harris
715 Pearl Harbor Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Remington Woods.

Ms. Jeanette Harris came forward to address the Council, She said that Ms. Lazar has started out talking about Remington Woods. In view of that, Ms. Harris then read an original poem she had written about Remington Woods.

REMINGTON WOODS.

Oh, the beautiful smell of fresh concrete
and the fumes from sweet molten tar
all the buildings and roads
replacing wildlife and toads
and street lights impersonating stars.

What money has brought
what progress has built
as we battle the “dis-eases of men”
what Nature has grown
and man’s overthrown

can never, will never be seen again.

Where once within a grassy wood
Living flora and fauna grew free
Now men in their eyes
See a more beautiful prize
Forgetting that only God can make a tree.

Extinction? Extinction.

Can that word be applied to a place and that place in particular, a place called Remington Woods?

Perhaps not in the way the dictionary defines it or as it applies to animals and plant life, but to erase a natural resource, which can never be replaced, then that resource becomes extinct.

By changing, depleting, destroying its natural beauty and replacing it with buildings, roads, cars, traffic, fumes, people, paid vacations, stressed out workers who would prefer to find a little peace and quiet, who pay large sums of money to “get away from it all”, to travel someplace where “birds still sing”, where they can hear the sound of water lapping against the shore or the sound of a brook bubbling over the rocks, where the breezes blow gently through the trees, where children and families and individuals can appreciate unspoiled natural beauty, getting away from the busyness of a congested environment, Remington Woods is that place.

Why deny that? Don't take this paradise and turn it into a parking lot. Don't let the dream of jobs and other things blind you into removing the irreplaceable. No tinsel town for us or our children, or our children's children.

I ask you, I implore you, I beg you.

It would be different if you could have an “interchangeable environment”, where you could build factories, and office buildings and then change them back to the natural wooded areas, but you can't.

Do not destroy the irreplaceable. Do not destroy Remington Woods.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President McCarthy adjourned the public speaking portion of the Council meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

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**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 17, 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 7:09 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member McBride-Lee to lead those present in prayer.

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: 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
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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 announced that Council Member Bukovsky was not present due to illness, Council Member Salter was out of town and Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia had a family emergency.

Council President McCarthy then requested that there be a moment of silence in honor of Betty Pfriem, a well-known Bridgeport philanthropist. He went on to list a number of activities she engaged in that benefited the Bridgeport community.

Council Member McBride-Lee also requested that people remember a seven-year-old child that had recently passed away.

Council Member Paoletto requested that everyone also remember Barbara Powell, who was a member of the Bridgeport Democratic Town Committee for over 30 years and worked for the Bridgeport Nutrition Center.

Council Member Olson requested that everyone also remember all the refugees fleeing from hostile situations.

A moment of silence in honor of these requests followed.

Council Member Martinez then brought Mr. Germaine Smith to speak about recent fund raising efforts.

Council Member Brantley publicly thanked the Public Facilities department for the wonderful conditions that the parks were in.

Mayor Ganim announced there would be a rally at the Cardinal Sheen Center at 9:30 a.m. to show support for protecting the CDBG funding.

Mayoral and City Council Citation(s): Recognizing the Achievement First Bridgeport Academy Girls Basketball Team as Champions of the Bridgeport Parks and Recreation/Board of Education Athletics Middle School Girls Basketball League.

The Mayor and Council President McCarthy called the Achievement First Bridgeport Academy Girls Basketball Team forward. Council President McCarthy read the City Council Citation. Mayor Ganim then presented the team members with Mayoral Citations and congratulated them on their exemplary program of extracurricular activities provided to students. Several of the team members came forward to express their appreciation.

Council Member Holloway left the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Mayoral and City Council Citation(s): Recognizing the James J. Curiale Boys Basketball Team as Champions of the Bridgeport Parks and Recreation/Board of Education Athletics Middle School Boys Basketball League.

The Mayor and Council President McCarthy called the James J. Curiale Boys Basketball Team members forward. Council President McCarthy read the City Council Citation. Mayor Ganim then presented the team members with Mayoral Citations and congratulated them on their exemplary program of extracurricular activities provided to students. Several of the team members came forward to express their appreciation.

42-16 Public Hearing re: Disposition of Six (6) City-Owned Properties by Auction, Sale to Abutter or by Sale to Community Based Housing Development Corporations.

Mayor Ganim opened the public hearing at 7:38 p.m. He asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak about these properties. No one came forward. Mayor Ganim repeated his request two more times.

Council Member Olson asked if there was anyone present from the staff to explain these items. Atty. Anastasi came forward and gave a brief overview of properties and why they were slated for auction:

- 33 Washington Place -- sell
- 59 Highland Avenue -- sell
- 156 North Washington Avenue – sell
- 280 Grandview Avenue – sell
- 377 Nichols Street – sell
- 120, 148, 160 & 174 Bishop Avenue (a.k.a. 1225 Connecticut Ave.) – RFP

He stated that all the properties had been previously published in Connecticut Post on April 7, 2017 and April 14, 2017 as required.

Council Member Olson requested that the information be sent to the Council Members.

Council Member Feliciano said that the properties were items that were to be auctioned off. She outlined the process.

Council Member Lyons said that in the past she had requested for research on appraisals and WPCA charges. This has been done by the staff.

Mayor Ganim asked if there were any others present who wished to speak on the item. Hearing none, Mayor Ganim closed public hearing on Agenda Item 42-16: regarding the disposition of Six (6) City-Owned Properties by Auction, Sale to Abutter or by Sale to Community Based Housing Development Corporations at 7:42 p.m.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: March 20, 2017

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 20, 2017 MINUTES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 20 2017 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PRESENTATION FROM THE BRIDGEPORT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. Frank Borres, a Chamber representative, came forward and said that he was not only a Bridgeport resident, but also a business owner. He then gave a brief overview of the relationship between the GBRC and the Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce. He then distributed copies of a document, that listed all the exciting things that were happening in Bridgeport.

Mr. Borres went on to give an overview of what the Chamber does and how they work to bring businesses into Bridgeport. He said that the Chamber feels that that the budget is quite a serious undertaking and felt that last year's decision to have a consultant to come in for oversight was excellent.

Mr. Borres then spoke about an upcoming campaign on April 22nd. The goal is to make Bridgeport a great, beautiful place for everyone.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

60-16 Communication from WPCA re: Proposed Water Pollution Control Authority Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

61-16 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.98 – Historic District Commission, referred to Ordinance Committee.

62-16 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention FY 2017 Safe and Thriving Communities – Planning and Collaboration (Project #18252), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

63-16 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management for the Police and Youth Program Grant (Project #18278), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

64-16 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program (Project #18372), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

60-16 COMMUNICATION FROM WPCA RE: PROPOSED WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

61-16 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 2.98 – HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

62-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION FY 2017 SAFE AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES – PLANNING AND COLLABORATION (PROJECT #18252), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

63-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT FOR THE POLICE AND YOUTH PROGRAM GRANT (PROJECT #18278), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

64-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) LEAD-BASED PAINT HAZARD CONTROL PROGRAM (PROJECT #18372), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AGENDA ITEM No. 58-16 (Ref. #37-12 & 96-15) CDBG PROGRAM PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CITY’S CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (2013-2018) AND PY42 ANNUAL PLAN, INCLUDING FUND BALANCE FROM FY2012.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President McCarthy announced that a Special CDBG Committee had been formed to review the CDBG funding.

The following Council Members then recused themselves from the meeting at 7:54 p.m. due to potential conflicts of interest: Jeannette Herron, Michelle Lyons, Mary McBride-Lee, and Eneida Martinez.

No. 58-16 (Ref. #37-12 & 96-15) CDBG Program Proposed Amendment to the City’s Consolidated Plan for Housing & Community Development (2013-2018) and PY42 Annual Plan, including fund balance from FY2012.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM NO. 58-16 (REF. #37-12 & 96-15) CDBG PROGRAM PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CITY’S CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (2013-2018) AND PY42 ANNUAL PLAN, INCLUDING FUND BALANCE FROM FY2012.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service