

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2017

7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim stated that Council Member Martinez was not present due to a death in the family. He requested Council Member Olson lead those present in prayer.

Council Member Olson announced that there should be a moment of silence for Council Member Martinez's family member and also for someone else who had lost a sister. At the conclusion of the moment of silence, Council Member Olson led those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

Assistant City Clerk Frances Ortiz 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: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Michelle Lyons
135th District: Richard Salter
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Jose Casco
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Milta Feliciano
138th District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith
139th District: James Holloway

A quorum was present.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

59-16 (A-E) Mayoral Veto dated May 18, 2017 re: General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 as adopted by City Council on May 8, 2017 (Special Meeting).

Mayor Ganim said that the meeting was focused on one item, the budget. He said that he had submitted a letter regarding his veto of the budget to the City Clerk as required by the Charter. He spoke about his reasons for vetoing the Council adopted version of the budget, which had to do with the lack of a viable balanced State budget. Mayor Ganim said that it appeared that the State would not move the teacher's retirement obligations over to the towns. However, there is no good news about a viable State budget. He went on to give the details of the recent meeting in Hartford that he had attended earlier in the day.

He then requested the Assistant City Clerk read the following letter into the record:

May 18, 2017

To the Honorable Thomas McCarthy
City Council President
City of Bridgeport

President McCarthy and Honorable Members of the City Council,

In accordance with the authority vested in me as Mayor pursuant to Chapter 9, Section 5(g) of the Charter of the City of Bridgeport, I am hereby transmitting this message to inform you that I hereby veto all of the line-item amendments that the City Council made and adopted on May 8, 2017 to the "Mayor's Proposed FY 2017-2018 Budget." Attached, please find the Mayoral veto package.

This veto will extend the budgeting process timeline as prescribed by Charter. It is not my intention in executing this veto to make any policy statements or to express substantive disagreement with the Council's budget changes, but rather to provide additional time to collect as much information as possible about the State's FY 2017-2018 Budget before finalizing the City's budget and mill rate.

The latest information that we have received from Hartford indicates that the Governor's newly proposed budget seems to be more than \$20 million short in revenues as compared to the Council's adopted budget, while allocating over \$30 million of new aid to the Bridgeport Board of Education. All of the executive and legislative proposals recommend cutting MRSA aid to the cities drastically or in its entirety, which would have a devastating impact on our fiscal condition. As the situation evolves in Hartford, we will continue to keep you informed.

I ask that the City Council President exercise his Charter authority under Section 59g) and call a meeting of the Council no later than seven days after receipt of this message to consider this veto and take action as appropriate.

Sincerely
[Signed]
Joseph P. Ganim
Mayor

Council Member Holloway said that the taxpayers in the City were in dire need of relief. He said that last week he had driven around Black Rock and there were at least 15 homes up for sale and a few businesses that had closed. Between the WPCA and the city taxes, the Bridgeport residents were the highest taxed citizen in the State of Connecticut. This needs to be addressed.

Council President McCarthy reviewed the fact that there would be four votes taken, one on each of the sections of the budget. A “yes” vote would be in favor of overriding the Mayor’s Veto and a “no” vote would be to sustain the Mayor’s veto.

The votes would be taken in the following order:

Resolution A would be for Budget Revenue Increases
Resolution B would be for Budget Revenue Decreases
Resolution C would be for Budget Appropriation Increases
Resolution D would be for Budget Appropriation Decreases

A fifth vote (E) would be taken to approve overriding the Mayor’s Veto on the entire budget.

59-16 (A) Mayoral Veto dated May 18, 2017 re: General Fund Budget Revenue Increases for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 as adopted by City Council on May 8, 2017 (Special Meeting).

A roll call vote was requested.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO OVERRULE THE MAYORAL VETO DATED MAY 18, 2017 RE: GENERAL FUND BUDGET REVENUE INCREASES (A) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 AS ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL ON MAY 8, 2017.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

Mayor Ganim said that there was an increase in appropriation increases. He noted that the BOE was being given more money but also cautioned everyone that the BOE had announced they might close the Lighthouse program.

Council President McCarthy said that he was disgusted with the fact that the BOE would use the Lighthouse program as a bargaining chip because it saves children's lives.

Council Member Olson reminded everyone that the BOE was a separate entity and they will figure out something to make sure the Lighthouse program continues.

Council Member Brantley said that she echoes the Council President's sentiments. The program is a nationally recognized program and that it is critical that the children have a safe place to be

and to learn. She said that she had recently attended a Lighthouse program and that it was phenomenal. It will be important to continue the program.

Council Member Lyons said that she was in agreement with the other Council Members. She said that she had worked in the Lighthouse program and donated her time. There are many single parent households and those parents need support. It's a good thing when people can donate their time and she went on to speak about how she was able to help the students perform a play. Maybe it is time to make some sacrifices from the top of the BOE rather than having the students lose out.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

59-16 (B) Mayoral Veto dated May 18, 2017 re: General Fund Budget Revenue Decreases for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 as adopted by City Council on May 8, 2017 (Special Meeting).

A roll call vote was requested.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO OVERRULE THE MAYORAL VETO DATED MAY 18, 2017 RE: GENERAL FUND BUDGET REVENUE DECREASES (B) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 AS ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL ON MAY 8, 2017.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

59-16 (C) Mayoral Veto dated May 18, 2017 re: General Fund Budget Appropriation Increases for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 as adopted by City Council on May 8, 2017 (Special Meeting).

A roll call vote was requested.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO OVERRULE THE MAYORAL VETO DATED MAY 18, 2017 RE: GENERAL FUND BUDGET APPROPRIATION INCREASES (C) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 AS ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL ON MAY 8, 2017.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

59-16 (D) Mayoral Veto dated May 18, 2017 re: General Fund Budget Appropriation Decreases for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 as adopted by City Council on May 8, 2017 (Special Meeting).

A roll call vote was requested.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO OVERRULE THE MAYORAL VETO DATED MAY 18, 2017 RE: GENERAL FUND BUDGET APPROPRIATION DECREASES (D) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 AS ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL ON MAY 8, 2017.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

59-16 (E) Mayoral Veto dated May 18, 2017 re: General Fund Budget Appropriation Decreases for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 as adopted by City Council on May 8, 2017 (Special Meeting).

A roll call vote was requested.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO OVERRULE THE MAYORAL VETO DATED MAY 18, 2017 RE: GENERAL FUND BUDGET (E) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 AS AMENDED AND ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL ON MAY 8, 2017.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Olson said that he was pleased that the Mayor would be initiating municipal identification cards to undocumented immigrants in the near future.

Council Member Brantley said that she wanted to recognize that May is National Foster and Adoption Month. She encouraged everyone to do what they could to support fostering and adoption.

Council Member Herron thanked everyone and wanted to reach out to the constituents and thank them for their input and support.

Council Member Nieves said that it would be important to reach out to make sure everyone knows that the extra money that was allocated to the BOE was given to help the students. She also said that people should call their State Representatives and ask them to support SB2, which involves the funding for the ECS Program.

Council President McCarthy announced there would be a special meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 1st to vote on the mill rate.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Special Meeting
May 25, 2017