

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 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 6:30 p.m.

City Clerk 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, M. Evette Brantley
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Richard Salter
136th District: Jose Casco
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 Herron was home with a family member who was ill and Council Member McBride-Lee was absent due to a death in the family.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JUNE 5, 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

Unjust termination.

Mr. Young came forward and said that Rev. Lee had taken him to court over an issue. he displayed some white piece of papers that he claimed had to do with the issue.

Mr. Young then spoke about someone who had been ill but not needed an oxygen tank for a long time, but now needs the oxygen tank 24/7. He said that this was the reason that he was involved in environmental health. He said that he believed in free speech and told the Council Members that there were handouts on their desks about this issue. He said that he was an activist helping to keep the City safe.

Mr. Young then picked up a large poster and displayed it to the audience. He said that he had spoken to Senator Gomes who is the chair of the State Labor Board about this issue and requested his help in undoing the problems this caused.

Luis Luna
Make the Road CT
850 State Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Sanctuary City Resolution.

Council President McCarthy called Mr. Luna three times. There was no response.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Bridgeport – Fiscal Issues.

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

Members of the City Council, greetings to you as you review your work before summer slowdown of the 2016-17 FY which ends in 25 days.

I know that State grants to cities and school systems have not been settled in Hartford. Hopefully that will happen soon for City taxpayers and parents.

How do you feel about current year fiscal reports? Do you realize that last year when you adopted a \$552 Million budget that despite overestimating revenues in some areas, the assumption of \$9.8 million for municipal share of sales taxes was low by almost \$7.7 Million and provides a revenue surplus projected at 10 months of almost \$700,000.

Expenses are often harder to predict but there was so much conservatism used last year, particularly regarding full time salaries and benefits that it seems there is \$3.6 Million of projected less expense in the budget.

Put the two numbers together, (and I realize that it is only a projection) and you may see a surplus of \$4.3 Million at year end. Amazing isn't it, especially when you begin to review the salary and benefit accounts. It looks like at the same time the Mayor was talking (and still is) about the cut of 100 employees, the external audit figures did not verify that number. Table 17 from the 2016 CAFR released this past spring shows a decrease of only five personnel from 1346 in 2015 to 1341 in 2016.

One can seriously guess that the actual spending assumptions for this tax year where the mil rate was raised from 42.2 to 54.37 were padded too conservatively? I wonder how taxpayers will respond to those facts, don't you?

Spending upwards of \$170 Million or more of taxpayer money for public safety while City taxpayers only contribute \$63.3 Million to our school system doesn't sit well with many folks. The BOE had to really cut people and programs this year. Approaching you for the expense of renting real estate for youth programs was a necessity. Some of you have been outraged because in your own words "we gave them \$3 Million" and want them to fund the Lighthouse program. Well the BOE operates a lean educational program in my opinion and when they saw NO revenue for the 20 year period of recreation program occupation and growth, they saw that a subsidy to a relatively wealthy (and under monitored) youth program serving 3,000 City youth at best was no longer possible. The BOE has 21,000 to educate. It is not easy. But it was necessary.

I have brought the situation of \$850,000 or more family fees to Lighthouse showing as Not Applicable in the Department budget and have asked why. There have been no suitable answers, since it is genuine revenue. Not to treat it as revenue and report it publicly is to be a poor steward. It is just one more issue I have brought to your attention where revenues are produced and not shown to taxpayers.

Please recall my two reports to you on the Print Shop. Ken Flatto has not yet found the authorization for that City Department to be doing any public business. Nor has he come back with an explanation as to how purchasing orders over a five year period showed Print Shop balancing, when purchase orders in excess of Print Shop expenses were recorded exceeding \$830,000. Aren't you anxious to restore trust and confidence in the fiscal reporting you must approve? You are running for re-election. These are serious matters to the voters even if they seem less so to you.

Thank you for listening. There are likely to be major adjustments when the State returns with revenues for the City side of the budget as well as the BOE side. The Mayor and the Council need to know more about BOE operations to lower the fear about school funding. You are on the carpet tonight for learning and becoming better stewards even at this late date. Time will tell.

Maria Pereira, BOE Member
Board of Education
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Budget and Classical Studies
Academy.

Ms. Pereira came forward greeted the Council Members. She said that she would be speaking about the Classical Studies Academy and Council Member Lyons' objections to the academy. She said that in the years that the academy had been in existence, there had never been a discussion about parking or other traffic issues. She said that there were DEEP rulings over a parcel that was a toxic parcel and the emergency vehicles could not get to it. She wondered why Ms. Lyons did not express concerns about the emergency vehicles back then.

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
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Ms. Pereira then spoke about a recent article from the Connecticut Post and the information that was presented. She said that the cost to the parents was high and listed a number of problems they have overcome.

Sauda Baraka, BOE Member
85 Pinepoint Dr.
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Capital Budget for BOE –
Purchase of Jewett Center
and Bridgeport BOE Budget.

Ms. Baraka came forward and greeted the Council Members. She said that she was present to speak about the children and parents who were in the public schools. She asked the Council to reconsider the decision not to purchase the property on Capital Avenue for the Classical Studies Academy. It is frustrating for the BOE to have to lease property and this property would be a win/win for the district and the City. She then spoke about the area where the pick ups and drop offs could be done safely. She said that it would cost approximately \$8 million for this project and would be worth it. She repeated her request for them to reconsider their decision regarding this. Bridgeport is the most under funded city in the State and Ms. Baraka then listed the costs and allocations for the BOE. She asked the Council to consider the future of the students and the City.

Howard Gardner, BOE Member
5 Cartright Street, Unit 8G
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Budget and Jewett Avenue 2
Complex.

Mr. Gardner came forward and greeted the Council Members. He said that he knows many of the Council Members on a personal level and appreciated them as intelligent, thoughtful people. However, regarding this issue, there seems to be a disconnect. He said that the Council is showing a lack of leadership and that the Council often rubber stamps the suggestions given by the Council President.

Regarding the District budget, the Council seems to think that the BOE has enough money, but Bridgeport also has a very high level of poverty. He spoke about the paraprofessionals and guidance counselors. The Council Members need to be informed and need to do their research.

Mr. Gardner going to set the record straight about the \$3.1 million dollars. he said that the budget was filled with smoke and mirrors. The City just moved some allocation from the City side to the BOE. He said that Mr. Lee's red boots were actually black boots.

Mr. Gardner then challenged the Council President to have the Executive branch of the administration to come to the table to discuss a possible solution.

Council Member Brantley joined the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Alberto Benajel
Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Benajel came forward and greeted the Council Members. He said that all that he is hearing is a shame because everyone should be thinking about the children and the City. He repeated this statement twice. Mr. Benajel then named a number of Council Members who were Latino and said that he appreciated everything they do for the Latino community. It is important to keep the parents informed.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President McCarthy closed the public speaking portion of the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 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 7:15 p.m.

PRAYER

Council President McCarthy requested that Council Member Taylor-Moye lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President McCarthy then requested all the Junior Council Members to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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, M. Evette Brantley
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Richard Salter
136th District: Jose Casco
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 Herron was home with a family member who was ill and Council Member McBride-Lee was absent due to a death in the family.

Council Member Martinez said that she would like a point of personal privilege to address the fact that there were audio recordings being made while speakers were making personal attacks against Council Members.

Council Member Martinez also said that at Harding there were numerous issues such as holes in the walls and other problems which is why they were thinking about dealing with that first rather than the Classical Studies Academy. She said that there appears to be a control issue in the BOE.

Council Member Lyons said that she would like to thank Council Member Martinez for her support. She then thanked the support of her district regarding this decision.

Council Member Brantley gave a shout out for the anti-gun violence rally this past week-end, There was a wonderful job done about addressing the gun violence. There was a circle of love and the children were out at the rally. It is important to let the young people know there is an epidemic in the City and there are alternatives to the violence.

Council Member Feliciano said that she would like to speak on behalf of George Cruz and others about the anti-gun violence march this past weekend. It was very well attended and hopefully in the future there will be more organizations like this in the future. She thanked the City Council Members who were able to attend.

Council Member Olson then spoke about the educational issues with the schools. He said that the calls he has received is a sad reflection of the poor relationship that exists between the BOE and the administration.

Council President McCarthy said that he just wanted to clarify that the \$3.1 million for the BOE was in addition to the \$4 million for the BOE that the Council Members had to extract from the budget. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were cut from other areas to fill the hole.

Presentation(s) by “Junior City Council Program” Participants regarding their experiences learning about Government and Public Office followed by the awarding of Certificates of Achievement.

Council President McCarthy requested that the students who had participated in the Junior Council Member program come forward. As the students were assembling, Council President McCarthy commented that these students had done a terrific job. When the program started, many of the students did not show up for the Council meetings, but this particular group of students had shown up for the meetings, asked questions and listened carefully.

- 130th District: Daniel Bukovsky, Adian Smith
- 131st District: Jade Hines, Susana Franco
- 132nd District: Yulette Woods, Brianna Wray
- 133rd District: Sadira Plummer, Brianna Davis
- 134th District: Alyssa Rodriguez, Jose Cruz
- 135th District: Tairique Soares, Amaya Rodriguez, Fernando Mitre
- 136th District: Amanda Richards, Zhiwi Liang
- 137th District: Miranda Nthala, Nicholas Maldonado

138th District: Jalen Crawley, Ashawnie Powell
139th District: Briana Serrano, Alejandro Serrano

Council President McCarthy then presented each one of the Junior Council Members with Certificates of Achievement with the exception of one of the Junior Council Members. Council Member Bukovsky then presented her son, Daniel Bukovsky, with his certificate.

City Council Citation(s): In Recognition of My Brother's Keeper "Agents of Change" Leadership and Violence Prevention Program Graduates.

Council President McCarthy then called the representatives from "My Brother's Keeper" forward. He then spoke about how this group has been the solution for those youth who are facing the decisions every single day. Two groups have graduated from this organization. These are Bridgeport youth who have said "No" to the wrong path and "Yes" to the right path.

Council President McCarthy then presented the representatives from "My Brother's Keeper" with City Council Citations. Three of the participants then came forward and spoke about how the program had affected them in a positive way.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL.

Approval of City Council Minutes: May 1, 2017 and May 8, 2017 (Special Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR MAY 1, 2017 REGULAR MEETING AND MAY 8, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED.**

The following addition was noted for the May 1, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes:

Page 16, following paragraph 3, please insert the following text:

“Council Member Smith requested a moment of silence for Jamie R. Butler, 72, who passed away recently.”

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR MAY 1, 2017 REGULAR MEETING AND MAY 8, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

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

81-16 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS AND BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION RE: PROPOSED AGREEMENT REGARDING THE CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE WITH THE HARTFORD LIFE AND

ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY FOR SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM DISABILITY BENEFITS FOR THE PERIOD OF AUGUST 1, 2017 – JULY 31, 2019, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

82-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH JESSE HAMPTON, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

83-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH CARLOS BAEZ, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

84-16 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

85-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH MTM FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR) CONTINUED:

***71-16 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.02 – Administrative Regulations Generally, amend to add new Section 2.02.080 – Residency reporting of all municipal elected officials, board and commission members.**

***55-16 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Program – Bus Purchase (Project #17230).**

***64-16 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program (Project #18372).**

***65-16 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: 2017 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program.**

***70-16 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: (Ref. #119-15) Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of Rental Space for the**

Downtown Design Center as part of the Federal Coastal Resiliency Projects – 7 Middle Street.

***74-16 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging (SWCAA) Title III Funding Older Americans Act Grant Program – Bridgeport Senior Center Recreation Activities Program (Project #18533).**

***75-16 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging (SWCAA) Title III Funding Older Americans Act Grant Program – Elderly Hispanic Program (Project #18270).**

***76-16 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Connecticut State Library FY 2018 Targeted Grant for Historic Documents Preservation Program (Project #18213).**

***84-15 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Kristen Alvanson (D) to the Stratfield Historic District Commission.**

***78-16 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the 2017-2018 Citizen’s Union Participation Plan.**

***79-16 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Workers’ Compensation Stipulation with Aida Remele.**

Council President McCarthy asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Martinez requested Agenda Items 71-16 be removed from the Consent Calendar. Council President McCarthy requested that the City Clerk read the remaining Consent Calendar items into the record.

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

***55-16 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION SECTION 5310 PROGRAM – BUS PURCHASE (PROJECT #17230).**

***64-16 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) LEAD-BASED PAINT HAZARD CONTROL PROGRAM (PROJECT #18372).**

***65-16 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: 2017 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT PROGRAM.**

***70-16 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #119-15) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF RENTAL SPACE FOR THE DOWNTOWN DESIGN CENTER AS PART OF THE FEDERAL COASTAL RESILIENCY PROJECTS – 7 MIDDLE STREET.**

***74-16 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING (SWCAA) TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM – BRIDGEPORT SENIOR CENTER RECREATION ACTIVITIES PROGRAM (PROJECT #18533).**

***75-16 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING (SWCAA) TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM – ELDERLY HISPANIC PROGRAM (PROJECT #18270).**

***76-16 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY FY 2018 TARGETED GRANT FOR HISTORIC DOCUMENTS PRESERVATION PROGRAM (PROJECT #18213).**

***84-15 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF KRISTEN ALVANSON (D) TO THE STRATFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION.**

***78-16 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE 2017-2018 CITIZEN’S UNION PARTICIPATION PLAN.**

***79-16 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: WORKERS’ COMPENSATION STIPULATION WITH AIDA REMELE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***71-16 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.02 – Administrative Regulations Generally, amend to add new Section 2.02.080 – Residency reporting of all municipal elected officials, board and commission members.**

Council Member Martinez said that she would like to refer the item back to the committee and allow the public to have some input on this matter.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO SEND AGENDA ITEM 71-16 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2.02 – ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS GENERALLY, AMEND TO ADD NEW SECTION 2.02.080 – RESIDENCY REPORTING OF ALL MUNICIPAL ELECTED OFFICIALS, BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS BACK TO COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BUKOVSKY SECONDED.**

Council Member Olson asked why. Council Member Martinez replied that the Council Members would have some time to read the full amendment and also hear from the public.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE SENDING AGENDA ITEM 71-16 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2.02 – ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS GENERALLY, AMEND TO ADD NEW SECTION 2.02.080 – RESIDENCY REPORTING OF ALL MUNICIPAL ELECTED OFFICIALS, BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS BACK TO COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BUKOVSKY, BURNS, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, MCCARTHY, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCA, SALTER, CASCO, NIEVES, FELICIANO, SMITH AND MARTINEZ) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (OLSON AND PAOLETTO).**

Council President McCarthy announced the time and date that the Fire Chief Thode would be swearing in the new class of Firefighters.

Council President McCarthy also gave the time and date be a meeting about community dialogue.

Council Member Brantley asked if everyone had been contacted about the meetings. Council President McCarthy said that notifications had been sent out. Council Member Feliciano asked about this and said that an email had been sent out to the Council Members advising them to advertise it on social media. A brief discussion followed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
June 5, 2017