

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2017
6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT**

CALL TO ORDER

Council Majority Leader Eneida Martinez called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:47 p.m.

An informal attendance was taken:

130th District: Kathryn Bukovsky, Scott Burns
131st District: Jack O. Banta
132nd District: M. Evette Brantley
133rd District: 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

Council Majority Leader Martinez announced that Council President McCarthy, Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia, and Council Member Holloway were at a conference in Cleveland; Council Member Olson had family obligations and Council Member Taylor-Moye had a medical emergency.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2017 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Bridgeport – Fiscal Issues.

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

Tonight is the last regular City Council meeting of the fiscal year. As we await State final deliberations on revenue to Bridgeport as a City and to Bridgeport as a BOE, it might be

appropriate to review some other fiscal issues and problems of the year and to determine what you have done about them.

1.) When the last year closed on June 30, 2016 I fully expected that the Finance Department would deliver to the taxpayer an official 2015-16 final monthly report with all line items showing, both revenue and expense, subsequent to the external audit. The audit was complete by February, but this document was not published this year. Such a report is the only way the taxpaying public can see what actual results were: over spent, under spent or misprojected. I expect that you will let Finance know that you wish to see that same report for 2016-17 when the audit is complete in January 2018?

2.) What is your reaction to the revelation that the Print Shop is producing work for the public contrary to its Mission? Was this referred to a Council Committee for study? Has the Finance Director found where either the City Council or a former City administrator authorized this “private work” for a privileged few? I provided you with a chart showing purchase records for the Printing Plant for five consecutive years. The purchases indicated more than \$800,000 of expenses, purchases, in that time more than the City reported. Is that irregular? Have you received an explanation? Which Committee is in charge of such an issue? By the way, why did you permit that department to increase their Salary and Fringe benefits by \$105,000 for the 2017-18 FY with no increase in productivity or personnel?

3.) The Port Authority debt payoff of \$900,000 with OPED funds in the last days of the Finch administration has never been addressed by the Mayor’s Office. Wasn’t that amount from bonds? Didn’t such a transfer require your approval? Doesn’t the public need an explanation? Even if you think that matters should just rest, how will this look to statewide voters when revealed in a run for statewide office in 2018? And what about a legal body like the Port Authority whose finances month in and month out are handled by City Finance, but they can produce no fiscal record since 2008? They are not even pursuing such an external audit? Their Board has been short two mayoral appointees for too long? Where is your oversight of City funds and property?

4.) Again and again Lighthouse has come to your attention this year and some of you to its defense. But where is the “special fund” that receives family fees of \$850,000 per year? Where are those dollars spent? Do you get to see any report of it during your operating or capital budget review and votes? Did you never realize that Lighthouse was actually being subsidized by the Board of Education? When their own deep digging revealed the extent to which they were bearing an expense without compensation by the City, they asked you to be fair. A rental payment certainly is wise to include in a budget when you are not operating on your own property, isn’t it?

5.) That brings us back to the issue of 21,000 youths in public schools getting your support. You may have thought you were providing them with \$3 Million, but when OPM claws back payments for services without mutual agreement between the two parties, the City and BOE, the funds that came from your funding was less than \$400K. Taxpayers of this City have supported the BOE with 2015-\$60.8M, 2016-\$63.3M, 2017-\$63.7M and in for July 1, 2017 \$63.7 M. Four years, less than 5% difference. But what have you done with the Police Department in that same time period? 2015 \$87M, 2016 \$100M, 2017- \$102M, and for next year \$105M. Almost 20% and growing? How do you defend the “serve and protect” increases for fewer than 500 employees while holding back local dollars for 21,000 youth?

- An annual report with all line items post audit?
- In Plant Printing exceeding authority and budgets?
- Port Authority operation with taxpayer assets of harbor property and without any fiscal info for 9 years?
- Lighthouse full revenue and expense reporting?
- Police Department v. Education of youth – funding?

Do you trust my numbers? If not, please challenge me with your questions. Time will tell.

Tony Barr
405 Taft Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

WPCA, tickets and guns.

Mr. Barr came forward to address the Council. He said that there were residents in the City who were losing their homes to the WPCA and losing their sense of direction. Even though they may work hard, they get nothing in return. He said that it was wrong for grandparents to be losing their homes. There are the same old people doing the same old things and playing the same old games. He wanted to know what was being done for the kids. This Council is dysfunctional and there are people who love the City. He said that he was a black man and didn't want to be called African American. He asked if the Council thought this was fair as elected officials. People are losing their entire lives.

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Unjust termination.

Mr. Young came forward to address the Council. He spoke about the Council and said that he was very sorry about the issue with Rev. McBride-Lee but said he was 67 years old and always sees things and say something about them. He then waved a packet of papers and said that they were the evidence that the City of Bridgeport had unjustly terminated him. He said that people were crying for help. Mr. Young then went on to give the details of the issue and said that those who have the positions of authority should help others. Everyone is equal under God. He said that he had family that needed to be supported. Council Majority Leader Martinez said that Mr. Young's time was up but Mr. Young ignored her statement and continued to talk about a family member who needed help just to get up out of bed.

Clyde Nicholson
54 Wallace Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Jobs.

Mr. Clyde Nicholson yielded his time to Ms. Carmen Lopez, a resident and taxpayer of Bridgeport. She said that on Saturday the paper had published a notice of hearing about the parking fines. However, the Mayor went ahead and changed the parking fines before the hearing was held and before the Council could approve it. She waved a copy of the paper and said that the Mayor had then cancelled the hearing. Chapter 9 of the City Charter addresses this and all the Council Members should have a copy of the Charter. It needs to be published at least three days but this was published on Saturday and that is two days.

City of Bridgeport
City Council
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Ms. Lopez said that she was sorry that Council Member Taylor-Moye was not present because she and Council Member Banta had submitted the request on Wednesday. She also noted that the Mayor was not present at the meeting and that the City Attorney was handling the matter. She said that someone had messed up.

Ms. Lopez then went on to speak about Contracts Committee and how they were given very little time to review some contracts.

Kelvin Ayala
997 Main Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Parking Meters.

Mr. Ayala came forward and said that there was no way he could follow up on Ms. Lopez's speech.

He said that he was here to speak about the parking meters. He said that the meters were a symbol of many of the problems that Bridgeport have. It talks about the morality of the City where the people who come downtown and end up with a large ticket without due process. As Bridgeporters and business owners, they are constantly chasing the ghost of what Bridgeport used to be. He asked some of the business owners to stand up and approximately 12 people did. These are the future of downtown, he said. If they leave, there is no downtown Bridgeport. Meters have been a problem for the business owners. He said that the business owners were survivors despite the difficulty of trying to do business in downtown Bridgeport. Putting in meters does not help a city that is not thriving. Parking is a key issue. He spoke about the Parking Authority and said that if the business community does not take action, they might as well pack up and go home because there will be nothing left.

Wanda Simmons
80 Sixth Street
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Libraries.

Ms. Wanda Simmons came forward to speak about the libraries. She said that she was not sure if people knew that the hours have been cut. The children are out of school and the library is a necessity. She spoke about the staff members that had left and need to be replaced. She wanted to know what that Council would do about replacing the missing staff members.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Majority Leader Martinez adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services.

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
June 19, 2017

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 19, 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 7:47 p.m.

PRAYER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim then requested Council Member Feliciano 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: M. Evette Brantley
133rd District: Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Jose Casco
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Milta Feliciano
138th District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith
139th District: Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: May 15, 2017 and May 25, 2017 (Special Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 15, 2017 REGULAR MEETING AND MAY 25, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 15, 2017 REGULAR MEETING AND MAY 25, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO COMBINE THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES ALONG WITH THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS:**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

87-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH AIXA G. ACEVEDO, ET AL, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

88-16 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH EXACT CAPITAL GROUP, LLC REGARDING THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE POLI-MAJESTIC THEATRES AND THE SAVOY HOTEL, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

89-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT FOR FY 2017 RESPONSIBLE GROWTH AND TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PROJECT #18331), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

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

86-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY RE: REQUEST THAT THE INSTALLATION OF “NO THROUGH TRAFFIC” SIGNS BE INSTALLED ON SEAVIEW AVENUE AND CENTRAL AVENUE AT THE DEKALB AVENUE, DEFOREST AVENUE AND ADAM STREET INTERSECTIONS, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION.

90-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BANTA AND TAYLOR-MOYE, CO-SPONSOR(S): BURNS, FELICIANO, HERRON, CASCO, BRANTLEY, HOLLOWAY & NIEVES RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO TERMINATE THE CONTRACT WITH LAZ PARKING LTD. LLC, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

91-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BANTA AND TAYLOR-MOYE, CO-SPONSOR(S): BURNS, FELICIANO, HERRON, CASCO,

BRANTLEY, HOLLOWAY & NIEVES RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR A 12-MONTH MORATORIUM ON PARKING METER COLLECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

Council Member Lyons said that she wished to amend Agenda Item 90-16 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Banta and Taylor-Moye, Co-sponsor(s): Burns, Feliciano, Herron, Casco, Brantley, Holloway & Nieves re: Proposed resolution to terminate the contract with LAZ Parking LTD. LLC, referred to Contracts Committee.; and Agenda Item 91-16 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Banta and Taylor-Moye, Co-sponsor(s): Burns, Feliciano, Herron, Casco, Brantley, Holloway & Nieves re: Proposed resolution for a 12-Month Moratorium on Parking Meter Collections and Enforcement, referred to Contracts Committee by adding her name as a co-sponsor.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES ALONG WITH THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AS AMENDED:**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

87-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH AIXA G. ACEVEDO, ET AL, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

88-16 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH EXACT CAPITAL GROUP, LLC REGARDING THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE POLI-MAJESTIC THEATRES AND THE SAVOY HOTEL, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

89-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT FOR FY 2017 RESPONSIBLE GROWTH AND TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PROJECT #18331), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

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

86-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY RE: REQUEST THAT THE INSTALLATION OF “NO THROUGH TRAFFIC” SIGNS BE INSTALLED ON SEAVIEW AVENUE AND CENTRAL AVENUE AT THE DEKALB AVENUE, DEFOREST AVENUE AND ADAM STREET INTERSECTIONS, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION.

90-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BANTA AND TAYLOR-MOYE, CO-SPONSOR(S): BURNS, LYONS, FELICIANO, HERRON,

CASCO, BRANTLEY, HOLLOWAY & NIEVES RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO TERMINATE THE CONTRACT WITH LAZ PARKING LTD. LLC, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

91-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BANTA AND TAYLOR-MOYE, CO-SPONSOR(S): BURNS, LYONS, FELICIANO, HERRON, CASCO, BRANTLEY, HOLLOWAY & NIEVES RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR A 12-MONTH MORATORIUM ON PARKING METER COLLECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

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

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

***72-16 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH EXPRESS SCRIPTS, INC. FOR THE TERM OF OCTOBER 1, 2016 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2019.**

***81-16 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE HARTFORD LIFE AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY FOR SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM DISABILITY BENEFITS FOR THE PERIOD OF AUGUST 1, 2017 THROUGH JULY 31, 2019.**

***84-16 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President Appointment of Special Committee for Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).

Due to the absence of the Council President and the Council President Pro Tempore, Council Majority Leader Martinez read the Appointment of Special Committee for Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) into the record.

Milta Feliciano, Co-Chair; Mary McBride-Lee, Co-Chair
Aidee Nieves, Anthony Paoletto, Jack Banta, Jose Casco and Kathryn Bukovsky

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

Council Member Brantley said for the record that she would be voting in favor of the measure, but added she would be speaking to the Council President regarding the fact that some of the Council Members did not qualify and she would like to know what changed from last year, when she did qualify.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG) PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEM FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

92-16 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Title 10 – Vehicles and Traffic including but not limited to Chapters 10.12 and 10.16, referred FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

Council Member Feliciano said that based on a number of factors, she would like to refer this item back to the Ordinance Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 92-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 10 – VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CHAPTERS 10.12 AND 10.16, REFERRED FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

TO: 92-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 10 – VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CHAPTERS 10.12 AND 10.16, REFERRED TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 92-16 AS AMENDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATION TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

93-16 Communication from Housing and Community Development re: Program Year 43 Annual Action Plan: Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), Homeless Emergency Solutions Grant Program (HESG), HOME Investment Partnership Program,

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program (HOPWA), referred to Special Committee on CDBG Program.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 93-16 COMMUNICATION FROM HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RE: PROGRAM YEAR 43 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG), HOMELESS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM (HESG), HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM, HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS PROGRAM (HOPWA), REFERRED TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CDBG PROGRAM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

92-16 Public Hearing re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Title 10 – Vehicles and Traffic including but not limited to Chapters 10.12 and 10.16.

Mayor Ganim called the public hearing on Agenda Item 92-12 to order at 8:05 p.m.

Ms. Carmen Lopez came forward and said that as she understood that the Council had voted to refer this back to Committee. She said that she had spoken earlier and that she did not think that it was good to make an immediate consideration. She pointed out that a Charter decision requires three days.

She then referred to the fact that she had asked the Contract Committee a question and that she had never been given the information. Ms. Lopez went on point out several details of the contract that had been changed from the original draft in November to the current June 1st one. This is a very disrespectful to the Council and she encouraged the Council not to let the Mayor do this. She said that last year, the Council had been rushed through this because they only had 24 hours to consider it. She said that she would support an independent board.

Mr. George Cruz came forward and said that now the Council was realizing how the contract was hitting everyone in the wallet. He spoke about the details. He said that this was a disgrace to think they could change the City Charter so quickly. People can't find a place to park.

A business owner who also lives in downtown Bridgeport came forward and said that she moved to downtown Bridgeport because she loves the area. She added that she was pleased to be part of the DSS until this past month. There is not one sign that says what the parking rules are. There is nothing that says "No Standing" nor are there any hours posted. She said that she had gotten a ticket on 4:30 p.m. On a Saturday afternoon. It is driving the customers away. There should be a moratorium on the tickets so that the businesses can get their clients back. She said that people were starting to come to Bridgeport because of the tourism but if they get \$40 tickets for being a minute or two late, they won't come anymore.

Another resident came forward and said that he had known someone who used to come to Bridgeport but the woman had pointed out that in Trumbull you can park and shop until you drop for free. He listed a number of other places where you can park without paying. The businesses are paying taxes and it is unfair to have residents charged property taxes, vehicle taxes and then

add another tax. The resident said that Mayor Ganim does not own Bridgeport and Bridgeport will be here long after Mayor Ganim is gone. Do unto others as they would have them done unto. He said that it was time to stand and say that this was enough and this was too much. He said that it was a criminal offense to charge some old lady who is simply trying park, find her glasses, and figure out what the meter says, because by the time she does that, her five minutes are up. Once she gets that ticket, she won't come back to Bridgeport.

Mr. John Marshall Lee said that he had moved his office to downtown Bridgeport and got his first ticket on February 28th. He said that he looks at the numbers differently than the Council Members. He then reviewed the figures about the meters and the meter violations. He said that he had not seen the contract and it would be important to find out what was happening. This has caused the City more money along with agitation and suggested that perhaps it would be good to allow the public to comment. that would show respect for the tax payer. He said that he was unhappy that they passed this without due consideration.

Ms. Callie Heilmann came forward and said that she was a Bridgeport resident, a teacher and a business owner. Ms. Heilmann said that she had founded Bridgeport Generation Now! in 2016 and also founded Hartford Prints! an urban goods store and letterpress studio located in Hartford.

She asked how it was that in 2013 Bridgeport had parking meters that only took quarters. The City paid for some parking studies that cost a lot of money. There was one done in 2011 and another one done in 2014. Both studies recommended a Parking Authority and she wanted to know where the Parking Authority was.

The first question Ms. Heilmann had was why the Mayor was in such a rush to pass this legislation when the business owners have been talking about this for years. She added another question about whether the contract was properly executed. She went on to give several details about the issue.

Ms. Heilmann said that the residents knew that LAZ was receiving a percentage of the fines and so was another group. She wondered if this was an incentive for more tickets but those who were financially struggling, it is a hardship.

Mr. Tom Brown came forward and said that he had received \$260 in tickets. He gave the details about the situation to the Council and said that this wasn't right.

A Fairfield Avenue property owner came forward and said that it was a problem and that as a building owner, he had lost tenants on the second and third floor. The fines have discouraged people from coming to downtown Bridgeport. Downtown needs to be a friendly area. They shouldn't be ticketed for not moving their cars when they should have. They should have affordable parking and without fear of paying a large fine, without fear of not being able to do what they need to do. He spoke about a recent parking experience when he parked and spent two hours shopping and the cost of the parking was \$10.00. That's not a problem. He asked the Council to think of the clients and the businesses downtown that would bring Bridgeport back to where it was.

A resident named Hazel came forward and said that she had moved back to Bridgeport and felt that this whole thing was stupid. She said that she wanted to know what they were thinking. She said that they had waited for the Mayor and said that they were taking notes. Ms. Hazel said that instead of parking where there are meters, they would be parking where there are no meters. The businesses are owned by people who work hard but now she could see what was coming from comments on Facebook. "Don't go to Bridgeport. I went there, parked and ended up with a ticket. " That's 40 bucks gone. The Council needs to figure out what they are going to do. It is unfriendly and it is just total insanity.

Mr. Rob Mathews came forward and started to speak about the cost of the meters, but there was a great deal of audience cross talk. He then listed a number of figures about the numbers of parking violations that were issues. He said that there were 15 tickets out 100 but it had dropped to 7 out of 100. He said that 1% of the population was getting most of the tickets because they just don't care.

A resident named Gabriel came forward and said that he was a professor. He said that the Council Members don't use the meters because they can park underground for free. He said that he spent \$3.00 just to park for 30 minutes because the meters were not registering his quarters. He said that he had seen meters zero down when cars move too close to them. This has hurt the businesses. He said that he has clients that have to come to see him and they should not have to pay to park or to pay for tickets. This destroys morale. He asked who was on the side of businesses. He said that he busted his tail to become a doctor and the technology was very flawed.

Ms. Gloria Brown said that if the Council Members don't straighten this out, they won't have a job in six months. She said that the City needs the tax revenue, but they are losing businesses. She said that she pays a lot of taxes. She said that she is handicapped and that the meters weren't working right. People do not have money to give away. She then said that they should not ask what the country should do for them, but what they could do for their country. She said that when she is told something, she believes it. She concluded by saying shame on the Council for letting this get out of hand.

Ms. Maria Pereira came forward and said that there was difficulty parking. She spoke about the downtown McDonald's and pointed out that parents with small children have a lot to unload. She said that people wanted an app or better technology. Ms. Peirera said that the people who were running this were doing it because of who they know. She named the person who was running the parking meters and pointed out that the meter installation cost half a million dollars. She added that the representative from the company who came to speak about their concerns was disrespectful to the resident. She then asked Ms. Lopez to run for Mayor because she was honest.

A representative from Laz Parking came forward to address some of the concerns. Most of his remarks were inaudible due to the audience cross talk.

Mr. Scott Fisher then came forward and said that he was a business owner. He said that he works hard. The DSS has worked hard to get rid of the drug dealers and to bring businesses in

but the parking meters are scaring customers away. He said that his t-shirt reads " welcome to Bridgeport, That will be 40 dollars."

Another young lady came forward and said that if the meters are full, you have to move your car or get a ticket. After living in the City for 32 years, she is tired of paying \$90 to parking in a lot and has to run back and forth. Most people want to stay here but Bridgeport is pushing them away.

Mayor Ganim said that if there were particular meters not functioning they need to report it.

Another resident came forward and said that the parking meters were absurd. He said that he is now shopping on line because he doesn't want to take the chance that he would get a ticket. he said that they needed to empower themselves. He stated he is not pro-Bridgeport, but pro-people.

Mr. Kelvin Ayala came forward and said that the Council Member are listening to the residents and there was a blatant disconnect between the Mayor's Office and the residents. He said that he was offended by the Mayor's actions and the complete lack of respect for the residents and businesses. He said that they have been trying to get a Parking Authority for the City for many years. He said that when he spoke to Mr. Adams, he expressed his feelings. He said that when the ordinance changes were put in on Saturday for a change on Monday was wrong. He said that they had raised the fines from \$35.00 to \$40.00. They may have video and all this technology, but the people are avoiding coming to Bridgeport because of the fines. He said that he had tried to get the Council Members to do something with no success.

Another young man named Wilson came forward to express his concerns about the parking issues.

Mayor Ganim thanked everyone for coming out and said that he had been taking notes. He said that he had been downtown and gotten some feedback from the business owners also.

Mayor Ganim asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Council at this time. No one came forward. He asked a second time. Hearing none, Mayor Ganim closed the public hearing on Agenda Item 92-16 at 9:17 p.m.

Council Member Lyons said that she would like to thank the Council for sending this item back to the Ordinance Committee.

Council Member Martinez announced that Council President McCarthy, Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia, and Council Member Holloway were at a conference in Cleveland; Council Member Olson had family obligations and Council Member Taylor-Moye had a medical emergency. She requested a moment of silence for Council Member Taylor-Moye.

Council Member Brantley thanked the staff and administration for coming to the public hearing and listening to the residents' concerns.

Council Member McBride-Lee thanked everyone who came out to present their concerns. She said that she would like to connect with those who had received parking tickets and discuss the matter.

Council Member Brantley requested that the audience remember the Jeter and McKnight families also during the moment of silence as they mourn the loss of Rakeem McKnight. She added that she had just received a text from Council Member Taylor-Moye, who remains in the hospital, awaiting test results.

Mayor Ganim and those present all stood to observe a moment of silence as requested.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services