

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
PUBLIC SPEAKING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017  
6:30 PM  
City Council Chambers, City Hall  
45 Lyon Terrace  
Bridgeport, CT**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Nieves called the Public Speaking session to order at 6:35 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The City Clerk called the roll.

130<sup>th</sup> District: Christina Smith, Peter Spain  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Denese Taylor-Moye  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron  
134<sup>th</sup> District: Michelle Lyons  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Maria Zambrano Viggiano  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Karen Jackson, Nessah Smith  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.**

**Stephen M. Nelson**  
24A Stoneridge Road  
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Issues concerning the 135th District.

Council President Nieves called Mr. Nelson to come forward. There was no response. She called for him two more times and there was still no response.

**John Marshall Lee**  
30 Beacon Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Governance responsibilities of Council.

Mr. Lee came forward and made the following statement:

City of Bridgeport  
City Council  
Regular Meeting  
December 18, 2017

Ladies and Gentlemen of the City Council – welcome to public speaking in the current sessions. It is an opportunity for those who elected you to let you where the shoe is pinching, if you have not already heard. It is a time to show a “larger picture” and ask for you to look, listen and understand. Many with little or no power have given up. If you explain what your priorities and how they spend taxpayer funds you may win some listeners back to the public forum. You have many opportunities to open communication.

Council sessions are but one. Some of us speakers are quite regular in our addresses to the Council. For years I have attempted to deal with financial and governance issues. My talks usually finish with the phrase “time will tell” because progress usually does not come in leaps but at a turtle’s pace. Slow and steady. But it needs oversight. I send a copy to the City Clerk office so that it appears intact for the public reference. I am on video where the “red boots” reflecting the unbalanced position of City accounts can be seen. And I send each of you a copy on your City email.

If there is the slightest question about my subject or meaning, please reach out to me. I welcome calls from Council members. There is much to learn obviously. When it comes to large long term City issues like pensions, it is critical for you to grasp that Plan A, to fund City retirement obligations for police and fire hired previous to 1983, was created in 2000 by Joe Ganim with the City selling a promise to bond buyers that \$350 Million borrowed in that year was to be invested and earn a return to pay out all retirement benefits. NOT WHAT HAS HAPPENED! Thirty years of bond payments of \$30 Million totals \$900 Million. In 2017 we have been contributing additional amounts annually from current taxpayers of \$15 Million or more, to fund actuarial liabilities from losses to invested funds. These supplemental payments increasing by 5% may exceed \$100 Million more over the recent six year period to 2019. Although the beneficiary group is smaller than 700 individuals today, benefit payments annually are projected to average \$26-30 Million through 2026. And the actuary specifies “total contributions made during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 were insufficient to reduce the unfunded actuarial accrued liability.” In the previous report, required contribution under Public Act No. 11-61 may end in 2037, 20 years from now at \$40 Million per year. If that occurs for any reason the expense to taxpayers of this bonding plan will have exceeded \$1,250,000,000, almost four times what was put into the plan? Does the Council listen to the actuary annually or review its reports in detail?

What about the transfer of Plan B public safety retirement obligations to MERS, the CT plan? Do you remember this was authorized without a price tag shared with the public? And bonding just accomplished for \$99 Million plus interest around 4% for 26 years or so will keep that expense crowding out current needs spending for the operating budget. Is that fair or reasonable when the youth of Bridgeport see funds cut from the State and little extra is available locally?

You might look to your stipend use and symbolically lessen the number of people who travel to meetings that cost room, board, and travel, that is denied many voters and does not make its way into better legislation. At least you have not explained how it does.

Secondly, when it comes to the other LEGISLATIVE Budget account known as OTHER SERVICES you need to amend your ways. Buying ten tickets at \$50 for even the best cause and offering those tickets to other nine Council members, suggests grazing behavior by a herd of

bovines, not fair support of worthy not for profits. Create a new process. Lay it out for public comment. Live by it. And live by full reporting on your stipend accounts too. Do it right away. How does someone build up 48 gas slips in a year that is not Council related? That is more auto expense than necessary to come to meetings. Will the City send out 1099 forms for stipend money distributed with out accountability this year?

Some questions to help you see things with a taxpayer viewpoint. Please consult all of the experts used by the City whose work ends up as major costs for the City which without substantial budget reductions, hard as they may be, forces increases in revenues. Will you work to hold the line? We will be watching and commenting. Time will tell.

**Cecil C. Young**  
99 Carroll Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Matter concerning unjust  
termination.

Mr. Young came forward and introduced himself. He congratulated all the new Council Members. He said that for the last 12 years, he was trying to get things right. The City took his job and then the State covered up what the City did. Mr. Young said that he had not worked for 12 years and it has hurt his family. He claimed that he had been in school and spent a major portion of that time in the Principal's Office or a closet because of difficulties. This was wrong, just as the fact that his medical benefits and position were taken from him. He said that he deserves justice and the City Attorney should have stopped his unjust termination. Mr. Young demanded to know why this has gone on so long. The City Attorney should work for all the residents, not just the administration. He concluded his remarks by wishing everyone God's blessing a "Merry Christmas".

**Dasha Spell**  
144 Golden Hill Street, #406  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Classical Studies Magnet Academy  
(CSMA)/BOE.

Ms. Spell came forward with a number of people holding large signs showing information about the Classical Studies Magnet Academy.

In July of 2017, a resolution was presented to the Council about the purchase of property at Jewett Avenue. She then read the resolution and asked the Council to reconsider their decision not to purchase the property. She pointed out that all the Council Members were sitting in a newly renovated Council Chamber with nice name tags. While this is under the Board of Education, the funding comes from the City Council. It costs \$73,000 to rent the current two buildings, one of which has a leaking roof.

She said that this Friday, December 22nd, she was inviting everyone to come to the Buildings for a walk through. She gave a shout out to Marcus Brown for coming to tour the exterior of the property.

**Jaysa Hunter**  
240 Linwood Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Classical Studies Magnet Academy  
(CSMA)/Jewett Ave.

City of Bridgeport  
City Council  
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December 18, 2017

Ms. Hunter came forward and said that she was the Student Council President for the Classical Studies Academy. She said that she was hoping that the Jewett Avenue property would become the Classical Studies Academy. With two buildings four blocks away from one another, it becomes difficult to move forward. This makes the school handicapped.

Part of her campaign was to address the bullying that goes on, but she has never met the students in the Annex. The school shouldn't be a franchise, they should be united under one banner. The principal is located in the main building and the Vice principal has to oversee the students in the Annex.

Ms. Hunter said that there were some concerns about busing interrupting the traffic in the North End. She pointed out that the building was previously a school and there were buses there before.

Ms. Hunter pointed out that it would be difficult to bring the students from two different locations. She added that she would like to point out that the public uses the Annex on the weekend and often breaks the office equipment like the copiers. She wanted to know what the point was.

**Danita Gaymon**  
240 Linwood Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Classical Studies Magnet Academy  
(CSMA)/Jewett Ave.

Ms. Gaymon came forward and said that she was the mother of 7-year-old triplets. She said that it was her son who was hurt on the playground, which is asphalt. She said that she was born and raised in Stamford, so she didn't understand why the school was not in the same building. She described how frightened her son was when he got hurt.

Every day, the parking area and outside areas have to be swept because people come into the area at night and leave drug paraphernalia. They also have to carefully check the buildings to make sure it is secured. The parents want their children to succeed. But the staff is working with old rooms and the heat is not working properly.

Having two buildings means that they have to have two Christmas parties, and two of everything. She said that everyone needed to open their hearts for this.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council President Nieves closed the public speaking portion at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 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 7:07 p.m.

**PRAYER.**

Mayor Ganim requested that a local rabbi come forward and lead those present in a prayer.

Following the conclusion of the prayer, there were a number of requests made for moments of silence in memory of Bridgeport residents who had recently passed away. All those present stood respectfully in silence in memory of those named.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Ganim then requested City Clerk Lydia Martinez to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES: DECEMBER 4, 2017.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2017 MEETING.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2017 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

**11-17                    COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY  
DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO**

**MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH PUTERSON REVEUS, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

**12-17 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH MARIE GREFFIN, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

**14-17 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE WORLDVENTURES FOUNDATION, NANCY LIEBERMAN CHARITIES AND SPORT COURT FOR DREAM COURT DONATION AT BEECHWOOD PARK, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**15-17 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH PEDRO MARTINEZ, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**16-17 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH HENRY CARTAGENA, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**17-17 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH FELIX RUIZ, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**18-17 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION FOR AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT (FY17-FY22), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

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

**10-17 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, SMALL AND MINORITY BUSINESS RESOURCE OFFICE AND PURCHASING DEPARTMENT WORK WITH THE CITY COUNCIL TO DEVELOP LANGUAGE CONCERNING THE HIRING OF CITY RESIDENTS AND EX-FELONS, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.**

**13-17 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING TERM LIMITS FOR CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**19-17 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE RE: PROPOSED REQUEST THAT THE HONORARY DESIGNATION OF “BISHOP IVORY HOLDEN’S WAY” WITH APPROPRIATE STREET SIGNAGE BE PLACED AT THE CORNER OF CLINTON AND NORTH AVENUES, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**20-17 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AND THE MIRA DEPARTMENT DEVELOP A POLICY REGARDING A NO-COST RECORD CHECK FOR CITY RESIDENTS, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**21-17 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE TO CREATE AN ORDINANCE THAT REQUIRES THE WPCA TO IMPLEMENT A CUSTOMER MEDIATION PROGRAM FOR LIENS AND FORECLOSURES, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.**

**22-17 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF DANIEL S. ROACH (D) TO THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**23-17 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH J. LARCHEVEQUE (R) TO THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**24-17 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW CUMINOTTO, JR. (D) TO THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**25-17 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF THOMAS A. LYONS (D) TO THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**26-17 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF EDWIN P. FARROW (U) TO THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LANGAN SECONDED.**

Council Member Langan explained that the Council was referring the various items to various committees where the actual work is done. He encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Public Safety Committee meeting to discuss the Mayor’s reappointments to the Police Commission.

Council Member Spain said that he would be at the meeting on the 3rd and asked Mayor Ganim if anyone else had submitted application for the Board of Police Commissioners. Mayor Ganim said that there were probably some additional applications. He added that a discussion regarding this should really take place at the committee meeting rather than on the Council floor.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO REFER THE ABOVE LISTED ITEMS TO THEIR VARIOUS COMMITTEES PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ROLL CALL**

The City Clerk called the roll.

130<sup>th</sup> District: Christina Smith, Peter Spain  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Denese Taylor-Moye  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron  
134<sup>th</sup> District: Michelle Lyons  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Maria Zambrano Viggiano  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Karen Jackson, Nessah Smith  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

**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. Council Member Lyons requested Agenda Item 01-17 be removed.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**\*04-17 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT REGARDING USE OF FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2016 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FUNDING AND CUSTODIAL OWNERSHIP OF REGIONAL ASSETS IN DEMHS REGION 1.**

**\*05-17 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: MASTER POLE ATTACHMENT AGREEMENT FOR MUNICIPAL ATTACHMENTS WITH THE UNITED ILLUMINATING (UI) COMPANY AND FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**



**01-17 Education and Social Services Committee Report re: Grant Application Authorization for School Construction work to be done at Bassick High School located at 1181 Fairfield Avenue to renovate as new.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER C. SMITH MOVED THE ITEM.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SPAIN SECONDED.**

Council Member C. Smith then gave an overview of the grant for the proposed project at Bassick. She said that the State would eventually cover at least 78.9% of the project costs and bonded funding previously approved.

Council Member Lyons said that she was very involved with the project and moving it forward. The bonding has been approved. It is important to have neighborhood schools. She noted that both John Winthrop and the Beardsley schools that need renovations, also. All schools need to be taken care of, regardless of where the students attend school. She encouraged people to tour the various schools that need repairs and renovations.

Council Member Brown said that he heard his colleague say that each school deserves the remodeling as long as it will to stay in its respective spaces. To Council Member Brown this means that Bassick deserves the renovation because the new building will remain where it is currently is, but the Classical Studies Academy doesn't deserve funding because it will be moving into someone else's space.

Council Member Jackson said that she would like this to be separated out because Mr. Flatto made several conflicting statements about the Bassick bonding at the Budget and Appropriations meeting. She said that the Bassick project had been listed on the Capital budget but that does not mean the project will actually take place. She said that she wanted a separate vote on this issue. Mayor Ganim said that the item had been separated out and was about to be voted on.

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Newton said that he had been coming to the meeting for a long time and that all Cecil Young wants is to have his issues addressed. It is the job of the legislators to help people. Mr. Young has been coming to the Council for twelve years. Mayor Ganim said that he would have the administration review this.

**Mayoral and City Council Citation(s): In Recognition of Recording Artist and Music Writer, Deon Earl Maurice Kipping for being a beacon and positive example to the young people of Bridgeport.**

Council Member McBride Lee called Mr. Kipping forward and spoke about his accomplishments.

Council President Nieves announced that Council Member Banta was absent due to illness, and Council Member Castillo and Vizzo-Paniccia were absent due to schedule conflicts.

Mr. Kipping was then presented with both Mayoral and City Council Citations recognizing his contributions. Following this, Mr. Kipping performed a song “Long Time Coming” for those present.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NIEVES MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Service