

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018
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 6:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Christina Smith, Pete Spain
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jack O. Banta
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy
136th District: Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: Karen Jackson
139th District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

Council President Nieves said that Council Member Nessah Smith was ill and Council Member Zambrano Viggiano was out of town.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Danita Gaymon
75 Hickory Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

School building issues.

Council President Nieves called Ms. Gaymon to come forward. There was no response. She called for her two more times and there was still no response.

Sarah Anderson
338 Summerfield Ave.
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Bridgeport, homeowner taxes
and schools.

Council President Nieves called Ms. Anderson to come forward. There was no response. She called for her two more times and there was still no response.

Tony Barr
141 Pennsylvania Ave., #2
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Jobs, schools and policing.

Mr. Barr came forward and announced his name and address for the record. He said that he wanted to speak about the WPCA and felt that it was wrong to have people who have worked all their lives for home ownership lose their homes

Regarding jobs, Mr. Barr said Mayor Gamin was supposed to create jobs, but no jobs have been created.

He also spoke about the policing and said that the Police Department was shooting teens in the street. He said that the Police Chief should resign because he was involved in the voting when he should not have been. He said that he wanted Mario Testo to also resign. The boy that died over Christmas got a tree. While he committed a crime but didn't deserve a grave.

Mr. Barr said that Mayor Ganim was using the City's money for his run for the Governorship. He said that Joe Ganim got a second chance, but Mr. Barr did not get the same second chance.

Jorge Cruz
251 Black Rock Ave., Apt. 2-R
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Cecil Young, community groups
and Democratic Town Committees.

Mr. Cruz came forward and stated his name and address for the record. He wished everyone a Happy New Year. He said that he was happy to see Council Member Banta back at the Council after being ill.

Mr. Cruz said that he was present to advocate for Mr. Young. Mr. Young has been coming to the Council for many years to talk about his unjust termination. When Mr. Cruz was running for the Council seat, he planned to work out something for Mr. Young. It is time for Mr. Young to receive the dignity and respect he deserves. His family, who loves and respects him, are here tonight.

The other item he wanted to speak about was the DTC because there are 9 committees. He said that everyone on the committees should step off the committees. He asked the Council Members if they were afraid to fly on their own without the DTC.

There were 43 deaths last year and the NRZs, RTC, DTC, Democrats, Republicans, NAACP and Black Lives Matters along with the black and Hispanic churches should all come together and work on this because so far they have not done so.

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Thanking Councilman Newton and
for the council members support to
look into unjust termination matter.

Mr. Young came forward and said thank you to Council Member Newton because he went to the Mayor and asked him to look into this situation. He said that he was a community activist for the last 50 years. Now he is older and can't move as quickly. He thanked EN again.

When all the Council Members were sworn in, they pledged to uphold the truth. There was no reason to terminate Mr. Young's job, no reason to terminate his medical benefits and no reason to treat him in the manner he has been. He spoke about the details of his termination and how the law was broken by both the City and the State.

He spoke about Rev. Martin Luther King and how he preached the gospel of Justice. He practiced what he preached. Mr. Young said that he had supervised a number of Bridgeport police officers by telling them what he expected them to do and there were no deaths. He thanked Council Member Newton for his efforts again.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City financial.

Mr. Lee came forward and announced his name and address for the record. He said that he was curious about how the Chambers were updated and while the lights are brighter and the sound system for the Council Members has been fixed, However, the microphone that the public uses needs to be upgraded because it keeps failing. If it does not get fixed, the Council will have to keep Council Member McCarthy and he will have to stick around to make the microphones work.

He went on to make the following statement.

Good evening members of the City Council..... (January 2, 2018)

Last month when I spoke to you I asked you to stop, look, listen, and understand the “larger picture” of the City of Bridgeport. I point to fiscal pictures because the City chooses activities that require funds, things like education for youth, safety for citizens from predation by people who have negative intent on people and property and fire safety, especially in times of severe cold. But, what priorities are used?

It would seem easy to keep these things in mind but there are many things to be counted and for which to be accountable. And when the data is not presented in a fashion that is easy for you to compare your task is more difficult. You need help that has experience, that can be trusted, and that knows how to ask questions and receive full answers.

Last month I called to your attention Pension Plan A that serves retired police and firefighters including their widows with a retirement benefit.

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
January 2, 2018

It was a Ganim1 plan from 2000 that borrowed \$350 Million and is paying it back at more than \$30 Million annually until 2029. Over \$900 Million from taxpayers was to be the cost of Ganim's plan, or so the actuaries assumed. But investment markets fall as well as rise, and assuming 8% is earned when you are earning less is kind of living a lie, hoping things will turn in your favor.

By the time Ganim2 returned to office less than \$70 Million of the original \$350 Million was thereto pay benefits. Taxpayers were paying an additional amount for the actuarial liability present in the form of ADDITIONAL PLAN CONTRIBUTIONS that today amount to \$15-17 Million annually and are scheduled to increase by 5% per year. The Pension Obligation Bond has about \$360 Million to be paid before 2029. But the public is paying an additional and unexpected \$250 Million or more with these necessary incremental contributions to fund Plan A. How does the Ganim1 plan from 2000 look at this point?

I am not trying to say that he is responsible for all of the risks. But I am pointing out that leaders who share only the positive parts of a story cannot be fully trusted. And if I cannot trust your statements about money, what can I trust

On December 28, just last week, Ganim2 who is running for Governor, used a recent bond sale where all politicians declared a victory, because MERS plan has accepted a \$90 Million down payment on former Plan B public safety employees. Taxpayers, it was not mentioned in the article but this is the payment for police and fire OVERTIME benefit expense. In 2015 when the City signed a contract with the Police, we had no money set aside to pay retirement benefits on overtime earnings. Actuaries had to get to work and figure how to fund it. And legislators came bragging back to the City that they saved the difference between a contribution to MERS calculated at 8% and a bond cost of 4.25% and have told us that this has a lower expense of \$2 Million annually to the City. But did they ever tell us that this recognition of "overtime" for certain personnel was to cost \$6 Million or more per year beyond the time when most current safety employees will be receiving checks?

And since the MERS plan has earned only 4.74% on average for the past ten years, while MERS is assuming 7% or more, is it likely that this plan too, like our own Pension Plan A will find the MERS actuaries returning to our City and increasing our contribution? But this is the way plans work. Actuaries look at reality. Politicians look to the best way to explain. And in this City telling the public what Labor Relations worked out has been too explosive. So, this major giveaway, specifically to provide benefits for external overtime, where life and limb are at lesser risks than on 24/7 patrol, limits the City ability to educate youth, or do other important tasks. If you had been told the entire story, shown the entire cost structure what decision would you have made? And Ganim2 has taken Ganim1 lessons in pension benefit funding and refused to acknowledge the future risks that are causing us \$15 Million problems annually today by selling us \$2 Million dollar savings? How do feel about that? How does the big picture look? Time will tell.

Jaysa Hunter
240 Linwood Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Classical Studies Magnet Academy
(CSMA)/Jewett Ave.

Ms. Hunter came forward with six other people. She said that she was the Council President for the Classical Studies Academy. There is an annex about four blocks away from the main campus. When she was campaigning for office, she said that she would be protecting the students from bullies, but that is impossible when the annex is four blocks away. Right now, grades 3 through 8 are in one building and grades K-2 are four blocks away.

The PAC president has one child at the Annex and others at the main building. Having to drop children off at two buildings and then going to work is stressful.

The children at the annex play on a concrete playground. They are more likely to be injured because of this. The Annex also has a leaking roof. There are other groups that come to the Annex, which the school rents, and the other groups use the Academy's equipment.

The first day of school was complete chaos because the students were being dropped off by the bus drivers didn't know what they were doing.

Lori Gunn-Tyler
33 Ridge Avenue
Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Gun Tyler came forward and stated her name and address for the record. The Classical Study Academy is a magnet school and the students come from all over the City to attend. The building needs work but it is a rental facility. There are cracks in the walls and the roof leaked. Roosevelt School is the oldest of all the schools that are currently being occupied as schools. It is hard to teach when the students are in an unventilated cafeteria. It is challenging as a parent to pick up the children at two different locations, attend two different assemblies, or go to the library in a different library. The two-building circumstance was supposed to be temporary and Ms. Tyler wanted to know how long it would take the City to address this issue. The Jewett Avenue seems a very reasonable solution to bring the students under one roof. She thanked those Council Members who walked through the building recently to see the conditions. She said that they looked forward to talking to the Council Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the public speaking portion at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
January 2, 2018

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. and welcomed everyone back for the new year.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim requested Rev. McBride-Lee lead those present in a prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk called the roll.

130th District: Christina Smith, Pete Spain
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jack O. Banta
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy
136th District: Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: Karen Jackson
139th District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

City Council Citations: Recognizing the “2017” City of Bridgeport Employees of the Year.

The following Bridgeport City Employees were called forward and presented with City Citations: Eric Amado, Jr.; Mark Anastasi, Esq.; Curtis Denton; Maria Pires; Fednol Presume; Lynn Simko and Amos Williams.

Mayoral and City Council Citation(s): In Recognition of Dan Braccio for his dedication and involvement during a career of providing reentry services to Bridgeport residents.

Mr. Braccio was called forward and presented with both Mayoral and City Council Citations recognizing his contributions to City residents.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: December 12, 2017 (Special Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 12, 2017 CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 12, 2017 CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATION TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

28-17 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Gregory Walker, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

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

27-17 Resolution presented by Council Member Newton re: Proposed residency resolution concerning the hiring of city residents to fill “open competitive” employment positions, referred to Ordinance Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO COMBINE BOTH THE COMMUNICATION TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES AND THE RESOLUTION TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC. FOR APPROVAL.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMUNICATION TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES AND THE RESOLUTION TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTER 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 Martinez requested that Agenda Item 03-17 be removed. The City Clerk then read the remaining agenda items into the record.

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

***02-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH LESLIE ROSE.**

***15-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH PEDRO MARTINEZ.**

***16-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH HENRY CARTAGENA.**

***17-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH FELIX RUIZ.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PRESENTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

03-17 (PHO) Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Public Hearing Ordered for January 16, 2018: Disposition of Certain City-Owned Properties (5) by Auction, Sale to Abutter or by Sale to Community Based Housing Development Corporations.

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member McBride-Lee to speak about the item and let everyone know why this was removed from the Consent Calendar. Council Member McBride-Lee said that both she and Council Member Valle, who are the Co-chairs of the Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee did not know why the item was removed from the Consent Calendar. Council Member McCarthy pointed out that the item was simply for scheduling a public hearing.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 03-17 (PHO) ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PUBLIC HEARING ORDERED FOR JANUARY 16, 2018: DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES (5) BY AUCTION, SALE TO ABUTTER OR BY SALE TO COMMUNITY BASED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Martinez said that she wanted to send this item back to the Committee because she would like to see more information about the properties and the clearance documents. At the Ordinance Meeting, there was a discussion regarding the auction of a property that the City did not own. Before these properties are auctioned off, the Committee wants to see the clearance of tax liens.

Council Member Valle asked Mr. Coleman to speak on this item. Mr. Coleman said that he would be happy if it was sent back to the Committee. Council Member McBride-Lee said that she agreed with everything that had been said. However, she said that she felt that something should have been said to the co-chairs before pulling the item. It is just a matter of respect.

Council Member Lyons thanked Council Member Martinez and Council Member McBride-Lee. She said that the subject was brought up at the Ordinance Committee. The property was not in her district but she was on Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee during the last Council. This will be discussed at the next Ordinance meeting, along with the WPCA foreclosures.

Council Member Martinez said that she wanted to clarify the issue because any Committee member has the right to address these concerns. She was not able to attend the most recent Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee because she was at another meeting. She said that she had the right to bring a matter to the Council without going to the co-chairs. Council Member McBride-Lee reiterated her earlier statement that she felt that either of the co-chairs should have been aware of the fact it was being pulled.

Council Member McCarthy reminded everyone that once the public hearing is held, the item would go back to the Committee before coming before the full Council for final approval.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 03-17 (PHO) ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PUBLIC HEARING ORDERED FOR JANUARY 16, 2018: DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES (5) BY AUCTION, SALE TO ABUTTER OR BY SALE TO COMMUNITY BASED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD 2 ITEMS TO THE AGENDA: THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RULES AND THE SECOND TO REFER AN ITEM TO THE RULES COMMITTEE.
** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO CREATE THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RULES AND APPOINT THE MEMBERS OF THAT COMMITTEE.
** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President Nieves said that pursuant to City Council Rule 18: the following Council Members were appointed to the Special Committee on Rules:

Thomas McCarthy, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Pete Spain, Kyle Langan, Denese Taylor-Moye, Michelle Lyons, Jeanette Herron, Jack O. Banta and Maria Valle.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

Council Member Newton asked if the Council Members would be able to make recommendations Council President Nieves said that all Council Members were encouraged to attend and participate. This was done in response to Council Member Spain's request a few weeks ago.

**** THE MOTION CREATING THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RULES AND APPOINTING THE MEMBERS OF THAT COMMITTEE AS STATED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO REFER THE REVIEW AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS OF THE COUNCIL RULES AS ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 2, 2017 TO THE NEW COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, SPAIN, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, LANGAN, MCCARTHY, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, JACKSON, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE ABSTENTION (ROMAN-CHRISTY). (ITEM #29-17)**

Council Member Martinez said that she wanted to correct something. She noted that there was no police present at the last two committee meetings and was no officer was present at the Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service