

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
PUBLIC SPEAKING  
MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018  
6:30 PM  
City Council Chambers, City Hall  
45 Lyon Terrace  
Bridgeport, CT**

Council President Nieves called the Public Speaking session to order at 6:42 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130<sup>th</sup> District: Christina Smith, Pete Spain  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jack Banta  
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, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Alfredo Castillo  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Karen Jackson, Nessah Smith  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Ernest Newton II, Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018 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

City Financial.

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

Good Evening Council Representatives....

Soon you will make the balance of your decisions that will affect taxpayers for 2018-19. My comments will come too late to assist tonight's vote, but attention to them currently may prove of significant help for your 2019-20 Fiscal Year decisions one year from now.

I have reviewed the CAFR, this year's budget and looked at some numbers from OPEN BUDGET the MUNIS based reporting system installed a year ago that purports to accuracy. Bridgeport spends \$24,000 annually on that system we were told. Do you know how many "hits" this system is getting monthly or annually? Do the math, please. Is that system valuable to us? I have compared data on actual checks reported by this system and while data should be identical with MUNIS from other sources, why are as many as 30% of audited categories showing sums and totals in disagreement with the Actual Budget data reported elsewhere? Can you trust the numbers?

Comparisons of Actual Expenses from each of the past 4-5 years have indicated significant opportunity to question the rise of Budgeted Expenses in many departments that have crept in and stayed in. When you are not presented such data initially, it is unfair to fault your lack of understanding of differences between Actual and Budgeted later. Perhaps that is a procedure that you might implement next year? Other cities have as many as 8 weeks to do their deliberations. Why don't you make a plan right now to spend next March, reviewing and comparing the Actual results from 2014 to 2019 and see what areas have overrun average increases, and then ask the departments for explanations? Waiting for the night when you may get a response though not a numerical justification may help you.

Trust the numbers provided to you, do you? Please turn to Revenue numbers for any monthly financial report from Finance since August, 2017 and go to Org. 01030 In Plant Printing. Those of you present last year may remember me reporting \$800, 000 of operating expenses actually, beyond what Finance was reporting to you, an average of \$160,000 per year. I do not know who checked into the facts of the situation and budgeted Printing Department with only \$10,000 revenue for the entire year, do you? Who recorded the July revenue of \$6,557 and found no other revenue for the current year in monthly report after monthly report? I don't trust the numbers. At a time when we cannot supply more necessary revenue to benefit the education of our youth, why do we maintain a Print Shop? Do yourself a favor with your budget analyst and get to the bottom of the real revenue flow, the real work produced and see if eliminating the department won't free up at least a net \$250,000 per year for priorities?

The bonding you approved to refund our bond portfolio this year was accomplished at a "present value increased expense" overall, rather than a savings as in recent years. It pushed back some debt payments into future years to allow the City some room to get to a balanced budget. But there was no PRIORITY or purpose emphasized by the Mayor that would countenance such restructuring, an overall poor practice. Debt service should proceed based on a schedule provided to you each year and not on an estimate. The same is true of the scores of accounts opened for each bonded project. Where is such a schedule? Where are current explanations? Or a quarterly report showing City progress to taxpayers?

Why does Lighthouse maintain a special fund of \$600,000, from parent fees of past years? Maintained by the City when all such revenues are needed this year? Why is the fund kept as a hidden reserve?

And if I were to show you a way to cut Police Department OT by \$2 Million to \$5 Million, would that be of interest? Not easy but entirely possible when you begin to think holistically about City needs.

Finally, how about hiring a full time fiscal watchdog reporting to Budget and Appropriations so that you may better exercise your important power in budget formation and oversight that the Charter calls you to perform? Time will tell.

**Jaysa Mellers**  
452 Summit Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06606

One school, one building.

Council President Nieves called Ms. Mellers's name. There was no response. She called it two more times. There was no response.

**Steven Auerbach**  
151 Kennedy Drive  
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Quality of life, Sacred Heart and  
Classical Academy.

Mr. Auerbach came forward and spoke about the quality of life in the North End. He said that he was not making the North End more important than any other district.

Mr. Auerbach said that the neighboring districts are now feeling the effects of SHU students living in off campus housing. He spoke about how the students were renting homes and pulling up the landscaping. On Saturday, he saw groups of students walking along the roads and knew they were going to a party. Later that day, the police came to break up the gathering. He said that while Black Rock might be the most desirable location, the North End was also a good place to live.

**Sue Yanez**  
566 Lindley Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Police actions delay, etc.

Council President Nieves called Ms. Yanez's name. There was no response. She called it two more times. There was no response.

**Jacquelyn Cauthen**  
397 Charles Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06606

D.I.V.A.S.: A pre-teen & teen  
wholistic health program and teen  
life skills coach presentation.

Council President Nieves called Ms. Cauthen's name. There was no response. She called it two more times. There was no response.

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

Termination cover-up.

Mr. Young came forward and said that he was here for the same reason he has been present for years. He said that many people have promised to help him and still nothing gets done. He displayed a letter from the union showing that the union agreed with him, a time card showing he was at work on the day in question. There is a problem with Justice. He said it was a shame that he had to keep coming back to the Council about his unjust termination. Mr. Young said that what he has been saying for the last 12 years is the truth and nothing but the truth. He then spoke about Ms. Hawkins and said that she should be disciplined. He said that the Council could ignore him but God knows what happened.

**Ledon Velez-Caldwell**  
557 Queen Street  
Bridgeport, CT

Educational funding

Mr. Caldwell of FaithActs for Education came forward and said that he was a father and a resident. He said that he had been at the Budget & Appropriations meeting on Saturday and there was a member of FaithActs in the room from start to finish. He said that he saw the struggle to give \$1 million dollars to the Board of Education. FaithActs will continue to defend education funding.

**Maria Pereira**  
85 Nutmeg Road  
Bridgeport, CT 06610

BOE Funding.

Ms. Pereira came forward and noted that whatever came out of Saturday's Budget & Appropriations meeting was still debatable. She encouraged people to remember that this is about the children. Ms. Pereira encouraged everyone to have a roll call vote on every line item. Ms. Pereira recounted how when she was first on the Board, they forced a roll call vote on every budget item. There has to be accountability. She said that they should be voting on each and every line item.

**Ms. Jessica Martinez**  
Nobel Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Martinez came forward and said that she would be making the same statement that she had on April 21st Public Hearing. She said that she was before the Committee as an elected official, a parent and a resident. She said that she was stressed out over making \$13 million dollars in cuts. She hoped with a new City Council they would be able to start new era. She said that she was invested in never giving up. She implored to put the children first and link arms together. Together is better. She said that she did not understand how the Council Members could ignore the children of the City. Ms. Martinez said that she appreciated the 1 million dollars that the Budget Committee had allocated, but the students deserved more.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council President Nieves closed the public speaking portion at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018**

**7:00 PM**

**City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace  
Bridgeport, Connecticut**

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Council Member McBride-Lee was then asked to lead those present in prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Flatto, the Finance Director, was then asked to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The City Clerk called the roll.

130<sup>th</sup> District: Christina Smith, Pete Spain  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jack Banta  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron  
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137<sup>th</sup> District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Karen Jackson, Nessah Smith  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Ernest Newton II, Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present.

**Mayoral Proclamation: Recognizing the Heroism of Adelino Gomes in rescuing a family and others from a burning house on September 4, 2017.**

**City Council Citation: Recognizing the Heroism of Adelino Gomes in rescuing a family and others from a burning house on September 4, 2017.**

Mr. Gomes was called forward and presented with both a Mayoral and a City Council Citation recognizing his heroism.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

**Approval of City Council Minutes: April 2, 2018**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERON MOVED THE APRIL 2, 2018 COUNCIL MINUTES.**

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

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 2, 2018 COUNCIL MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President Nieves announced that Council Member Zambrano Viggiano was absent due to the birth of her son on Thursday. Council President Nieves congratulated the family on the birth of their first child.

Council President Nieves requested a moment of silence for Council Member McBride-Lee whose family had recently suffered a loss and an additional request was made for a moment of silence to acknowledge the tragic death of Mr. Christopher Mann in the early morning hours.

**\*\*COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO CONSIDER AGENDA ITEM 73-17 (A) THRU (E) AS AMENDED ON MAY 5, 2018 BY THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

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

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

Council Member Taylor-Moye, the Budget and Appropriations Co-chair, said that she would like to take a moment of personal privilege to thank all the Council Members who worked on the budget. The Budget Committee worked very hard to complete the budget. There are things that could have been done differently, but that is always the situation. She said that she would like to let all the Council Members know they have her sincere gratitude for their efforts during this budget season.

Council Member Spain said he had confirmed via email to Mr. Nkwo that the Budget and Appropriations Committee passed and that the 2018-19 Budget if enacted will not change the current mill rate of 54.37. He said that he had received written confirmation from Mr. Nkwo and Mr. Flatto earlier in the evening confirming that the Budget & Appropriations proposed 2018-19 Budget, if enacted, will not change the current mill rate of 54.37.

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 73-17 (A) REVENUE INCREASES AS AMENDED ON MAY 5, 2018 BY THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

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

Council Member Martinez requested a roll call vote. She said that she requested this because she wanted to point out that there would be an increase in the parking violations from \$25.00 to \$30.00.

She said that on May 3rd she had asked the Budget co-chair a number of questions about the budget and that she had not received an answer. She said that she wanted the questions on the record because she did not receive a response in writing as she had requested. She then said that she wanted to know about the WPCA liens and how they provide a benefit for the City when those liens go to court. Her second question was when the Mayor came into office, there was a \$20 million-dollar deficit. Council Member Martinez wanted to know where the funding came from that filled that deficit. She repeated that she had not received an answer to those two questions.

Council Member Newton said that it was his understanding that if the Council approved the budget, then the amended budget would take effect. If the Council did not approve the budget, then the Mayor's budget would go into effect.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 73-17 (A) REVENUE INCREASES AS AMENDED ON MAY 5, 2018 BY THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, SPAIN, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, MCCARTHY, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, JACKSON, N. SMITH, AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (LANGAN AND MARTINEZ).**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 73-17 (B) REVENUE DECREASES AS AMENDED ON MAY 5, 2018 BY THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

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

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

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 73-17 (C) APPROPRIATION INCREASES AS AMENDED ON MAY 5, 2018 BY THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH SECONDED.**

Council Member Martinez requested a roll call vote.

Council Member Langan said that he would like to make a motion to amend the Appropriations Increases. Mayor Ganim suggested that he wait until the final budget vote to propose his changes.

Council Member Martinez said that she had a problem with the health insurance figures and felt that the Council has to look into a union agreement before it is included in the budget. She added that she had issues with the amounts allocated to ITS, the cost of the telephone service, the



Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course because they utilize the course for fund raising and other events; and the line item for Supportive Contributions.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 73-17 (C) APPROPRIATION INCREASES AS AMENDED ON MAY 5, 2018 BY THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, LANGAN, MCCARTHY, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, JACKSON, N. SMITH, AND NEWTON) AND THREE (3) OPPOSED (SPAIN, BANTA, AND MARTINEZ).**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 73-17 (D) APPROPRIATION DECREASES AS AMENDED ON MAY 5, 2018 BY THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH SECONDED.**

Council Member Martinez requested a roll call vote.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 73-17 AGENDA ITEM 73-17 (D) APPROPRIATION DECREASES AS AMENDED ON MAY 5, 2018 BY THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, LANGAN, MCCARTHY, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, JACKSON, N. SMITH, AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (SPAIN AND MARTINEZ).**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 73-17 (E) GENERAL FUND BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 AS AMENDED ON MAY 5, 2018 BY THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FOR \$557,429,645.**

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

Council Member Newton commented that the City Council has the responsibility to the residents to make sure the garbage is picked up, and to make sure that the utilities work. The City cannot keep looking to the State to give the City money to fill the gaps. People have suggested cutting transportation, Public Works, the police budget, cutting the fire budget and other departments, but unlike the Board of Education, the Council has a responsibility to protect the residents. But the Council has a responsibility and when someone dies in the City, it is a Public Safety issue. The Board of Education does not provide fire protection or police protection for the residents.

For the last few years, the City has not given the schools more money. He reminded everyone that there had been a State deficit for 8 years. This has never happened before during the 17 years that he was in the State Legislature. There is no golden goose. He said that he would like to see what the Board of Education cuts, they are top heavy, and they don't have the will to cut their administration but want the City to cut police and fire.

He said that he would commend FaithActs for communicating their concerns about the kids. Council Member Newton said that he had watched the Board of Education for the last few years and pointed out that the Board of Education does not have any accountability to the City. They have done a poor job because the only people that they cut have been the little people, not the administration. He added that he would be watching. This is not the time to be irresponsible.

Council Member C. Smith noted that she was not trying to argue, but simply wanted to point out that the Board of Education had in fact cut at least one superintendent. She added that there had been members of the Board of Education that recommended that all three superintendents be cut. They have made some compromises.

Council Member Martinez thanked the Budget and Appropriations Committee for their efforts but said that she could not see any reason why they could not provide more funding to the Board of Education. Much of the information is not available to the public. If you do an FOI request, you can see the information.

As an elected official, she said that she would not speak against the Board of Education because at the end of the day, the Board of Education is about the City's youth. There is a lack of what the elected officials are providing for the students. She said that she goes to Harding and the building looks like crap. The Harding students do not have the adequate books or education that they should have. Council Member Martinez said that there was no need for the ITS Department to have \$800,000 in their budget. Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course receives money. She said that she doesn't utilize the Golf Course. There is no reason that the Board of Education should not get more money.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said as the Co-chair of Budget and Appropriations, that the Council Members worked hard to get the budget. She pointed out that while her children are not in the school system, she does have grandchildren in the schools. There is an incorrect idea going around that the Council Members were trying to take things away from the children, but in fact the Committee was trying to give things to the children. It is time to start working together.

Council Member Spain said that it is important to remember that the grand list has been flat, but both the costs of utilities and the union contracts are increasing. The Board of Education has a \$13 million-dollar deficit. During a recent four hour meeting, the Board of Education recently cut one Assistant Superintendent and 10 literacy coaches and 10 math coaches. This is shared sacrifice.

The Board of Education is accountable and they are officials who are elected by the public. The Board of Education is accountable, and whenever he asks questions, he gets the answers. Council Member Spain said that the City should start with the Legislative Department and other departments that have increases. Council Member Spain said that he wanted to cut the stipend money to go just a little bit further because this is what the voters expect.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that until the Board of Education and the City starts working together, nothing will get done. But when people blame others, nothing gets done. She added that there was no sacrifice in the lack of substitutes in May because the children will put in

different classes. She reiterated that when the Council and the Board of Education get together, they need to get something done. People keep saying that the students don't have books, so Council Member McBride-Lee went to Superintendent Johnson and asked her about it. Superintendent Johnson said that she had not heard that. It is time to work together. It is time to stop depending on the State of Connecticut.

Council Member Lyons said that she wanted to clarify about the Golf course, which brings in over \$1 million dollars to the City. She said that she had worked for the Board of Education as the Home School coordinator until her position was cut. With the taxes being so high, many houses are in foreclosure. The administration is trying to find money on both side of the street.

Council Member Lyons said that in the past, the committee would go by line by line through the department to determine needs. She added that it might be worthwhile to have a permanent financial person for the Council. Council Member Lyons said that she would be proposing that since UB pays \$71,000 to the City to offset police overtime and maybe it is time SHU does the same thing.

Council Member Lyons spoke about consolidating the schools and said that Ansonia and other towns had done this. Now it's time to work on finding a solution. FaithActs had been very diligent and she looked forward to working with them.

Council President Nieves said that for the record the budget process had been good. Everyone has the right to either say yes or no. Council President Nieves said that after the Board of Education meeting, she spoke to Mr. Weldon. Council President Nieves pointed out that everyone on the Council thinks that the children are important. But the Council has the responsibilities to the residents, too. Council President Nieves said that the Committee has to be fiscally responsible not only for this year but also in the years to come.

Council Member Langan explained that the Line Item for Supportive Contributions was used to give donations to various City events or to give to community organizations.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LANGAN MOVED TO CUT THE FOLLOWING LINE ITEMS:**

**LINE ITEM FOR SUPPORTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS (#01620000-59500)  
FROM \$400,000 TO \$200,000;  
LINE ITEM SUPPORTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS (#01610000-59500)  
FROM \$137,000 TO \$34,250;  
LINE ITEM SUPPORTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS (#1450000-59500)  
FROM \$110,000 TO \$27,500; AND  
LINE ITEM POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL EXPENSES  
(#010250) FROM \$2,385,629 TO THE 2016 ACTUAL OF \$1,550,649  
FOR A TOTAL DECREASE OF \$1,220,230.**

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

Council Member Newton asked Council Member Langan if he knew what kind of effect this would have on any of the departments. Council Member Langan said that after reviewing the Supportive Contributions in Open Checkbook, it appears that the Supportive Contributions go to community organizations. He said that when he checked with the various community organizations, the majority of the Supportive Contribution funding goes to paying for Police presence. He said that he was not familiar with the line item for Police Operational Expenses, which is why he made the choice to reduce it to the number allocated in 2016.

Council Member Newton said that the home owners need to get something from the City and they need something to do. He spoke about having people coming to downtown Bridgeport and actually participate in City life.

Council Member Banta said that he agreed that it was important to work on the image of the City. He reminded everyone that they need to give a reason for cutting budgets. He noted that he would be voting against cutting the Legislative Stipend because both he and Council Member Taylor-Moye have used that money to help constituents who have lost their homes because of fire or flood. It's also important to remember that this money comes from the taxpayers and they deserve to have a quality of life.

Council Member Herron said that she would like to clarify that when the Budget Committee started out, Supportive Contributions was listed as \$652,000 and they had cut it to \$400,000. The City is giving assistance to the community programs. It is important for the City to continue to help the various programs.

Council Member Langan said that he respected everyone on the Council and his intention was not to cut people or positions. The thing about Supporting Contributions that troubles him is that they are distributed by the departments. There is no public oversight for that funding and the only way to find out about it is through Open Checkbook. There already is CDBG funding for community organizations. He said that he wasn't suggesting that this be zeroed out. There would still be money for the big events. If his motion passes, Council Member Langan said that he would like to increase the Board of Education with the \$1,220,230.

Council Member Langan said that he agreed with Council Member Newton's statement about not depending on the State. Connecticut is basically a white state and Bridgeport is a colored municipality. Bridgeport will never get funding, so Bridgeport has to stand up for itself. The best path is education.

Council Member C. Smith said that she had initially wanted to eliminate the full amount for Supportive Contributions. As the head of a non-profit, she said it is a constant struggle to find funding. She said that she understood that she had to compromise and understands that the other Council Members had different reasons to want the Supportive Contributions to remain. Council Member C. Smith suggested that allocations above a certain threshold should come before the full Council so everyone knows where the money is going.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO REDUCE THE ABOVE LINE ITEMS BY THE AMOUNTS INDICATED FAILED TO PASS WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (SPAIN, BROWN,**

**LANGAN, LYONS, AND MARTINEZ) AND FOURTEEN (14) AGAINST (C. SMITH, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, MCCARTHY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, JACKSON, N. SMITH, AND NEWTON).**

Council Member Langan said that since the proposal failed, he could not make his second motion. The Mayor agreed this was so.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 73-17 (E) GENERAL FUND BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 AS AMENDED ON MAY 5, 2018 BY THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FOR \$557,429,645 PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, MCCARTHY, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, JACKSON, N. SMITH, AND NEWTON) AND THREE (3) OPPOSED (SPAIN, LANGAN, AND MARTINEZ).**

The Mayor thanked the Council Members for their hard work and noted that they had made appropriate changes. It was difficult to set priorities, but they managed it.

Mayor Ganim announced that he had to leave for another meeting.

*Council President Nieves assumed the chairmanship.*

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**96-17 Communication from Fire Department re: Proposed Request by the Fire Chief Pursuant to and in accordance with C.G.S. §7-430 and their Collective Bargain Agreement, Fire Fighters Local 834 that Francisco Rivera having or soon to attain the age of sixty-five years or more to remain employed by the City for another year, referred to Joint Committee on Contracts and Public Safety and Transportation.**

**97-17 Communication from Fire Department re: Proposed Request by the Fire Chief Pursuant to and in accordance with C.G.S. §7-430 and their Collective Bargain Agreement, Fire Fighters Local 834 that Peter Mosley having or soon to attain the age of sixty-five years or more to remain employed by the City for another year, referred to Joint Committee on Contracts and Public Safety and Transportation.**

**98-17 Communication from OPED re: Proposed “2018” Neighborhood Assistance Act Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.**

**99-17 Communication from City Attorney re: Twenty Day Notice to Settle Pending Litigation Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130 with Georgina Picariellopena, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**

**100-17** Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Paul Percudani, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

**101-17** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Pool Safety Grant Program (#19269), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

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

**102-17** Resolution presented by Council Member Jackson re: Proposed resolution requesting the installation of signs that read “No Parking Anytime at Risk of Towing” and that cameras and floodlights be installed for the prevention of crime and illegal dumping in the alleyways of Remington and Dover Street, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

**103-17** Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Banta & Taylor-Moye re: Proposed resolution requesting that the installation of proper speed limit signs be posted in areas located at Seaside Village, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO MOVED TO COMBINE THE COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES AND THE RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC. FOR APPROVAL.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED.**

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

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):**

**\*10-17** Ordinance Committee Report re: 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.

**\*76-17** Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3.12 – Equal Opportunity Requirements for Contractors, amend Section 3.12.130 – Minority Business Enterprise Program.

**\*20-17** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution requesting that the residents of Bridgeport who have a criminal history be allowed the opportunity to obtain a copy of their criminal record at no cost.

**\*32-17** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: MOU with the Federal Highway Administration, CT State Historic Preservation Office, CT Department of Transportation and CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection regarding Route 127 Safety Improvements at Evers Street, Federal Aid Project No. 0127(001); State Project No. 15-335.

**\*80-17 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Proposed Request by the Fire Chief Pursuant to and in accordance with C.G.S. §7-430 and their Collective Bargain Agreement, Fire Fighters Local 834 that Robert Whitbread having or soon to attain the age of sixty-five years or more to remain employed by the City for another year be referred to the Joint Committee on Contracts and Public Safety and Transportation.**

**\*81-17 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Proposed Request by the Fire Chief Pursuant to and in accordance with C.G.S. §7-430 and their Collective Bargain Agreement, Fire Fighters Local 834 that Daniel Magri having or soon to attain the age of sixty-five years or more to remain employed by the City for another year be referred to the Joint Committee on Contracts and Public Safety and Transportation.**

**\*82-17 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Proposed Request by the Fire Chief Pursuant to and in accordance with C.G.S. §7-430 and their Collective Bargain Agreement, Fire Fighters Local 834 that Kevin Higgins having or soon to attain the age of sixty-five years or more to remain employed by the City for another year be referred to the Joint Committee on Contracts and Public Safety and Transportation.**

**\*83-17 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Proposed Request by the Fire Chief Pursuant to and in accordance with C.G.S. §7-430 and their Collective Bargain Agreement, Fire Fighters Local 834 that Clayton Jurgens having or soon to attain the age of sixty-five years or more to remain employed by the City for another year be referred to the Joint Committee on Contracts and Public Safety and Transportation.**

**\*88-17 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Honorary naming of a portion of Calhoun Street between Lexington Avenue and Pequonnock Street as “Val Esteves Way” with appropriate signage being placed at the requested corners.**

**\*74-17 Contracts Committee Report re: Assignment of Tax Liens for Fiscal Year 2018.**

**\*03-17 (B) Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Disposition of City-Owned Property located at 347 Wilmot Avenue by Auction, Sale to Abutter or by Sale to Community Based Housing Development Corporations.**

**\*77-17 (PHO) Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: (Ref. #396-93; 130-95; 279-98; 154-13 & 168-14) Public Hearing Ordered for May 21, 2018: Amendment #6 to the West End Municipal Development Plan and Authorizing the Transfer and Redevelopment of 340 Cherry Street and 1565 Railroad Avenue.**

**\*14-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the donation from WorldVentures Foundation, Nancy Lieberman Charities and Sport Court concerning the Dream Court Donation for Beechwood Park.**

**\*79-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Cesar August Cordero (D) to the Planning & Zoning Commission as an alternate.**

**\*87-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Lonnie Dervil Trotman and Nicole Trotman.**

**\*89-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Sandra D. Carmichael (D) to the Ethics Commission.**

**\*59-17 Joint Committee on Miscellaneous Matters and Budget & Appropriations Report re: Petition from Reverend Francis Asante re: Tax Abatement for Victory Bible Church International located at 850 Norman Street.**

Council President Nieves 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 20-17; 74-17 and 79-17 be removed from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested that Agenda Item 10-17 and 88-17 be removed from the Consent Calendar.

**10-17 Ordinance Committee Report re: 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.**

Council Member Newton said that the City Attorney's Office was supposed to have an opinion ready and Council Member Newton said that he had received notification that the opinion was ready, but no one has had time to read it yet.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO TABLE 10-17 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: 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.**

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

**\*\* THE MOTION TO TABLE THE ITEM BY THE FULL COUNCIL PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member N. Smith requested that Agenda Item 59-17 be removed from the Consent Calendar.

**20-17 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution requesting that the residents of Bridgeport who have a criminal history be allowed the opportunity to obtain a copy of their criminal record at no cost.**

Council Member Martinez said that the reason she was pulling the item from the Consent Calendar was because they had yet to receive a legal opinion on the resolution. Atty. Bohannon has been informed of this. Once the legal opinion is received, Council Member Martinez said that she may withdraw it based on the information in the legal opinion.



**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 20-17 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE RESIDENTS OF BRIDGEPORT WHO HAVE A CRIMINAL HISTORY BE ALLOWED THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THEIR CRIMINAL RECORD AT NO COST AND REFER IT BACK TO COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

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

**74-17 Contracts Committee Report re: Assignment of Tax Liens for Fiscal Year 2018.**

Council Member Martinez said that she had attended the Contracts meeting and that she understood that there were some liens that were to up for approval. Council Member Martinez said that she felt that the entire Council should review them so that they know what they are approving.

Council Member Newton said that the Committee had tabled the item and were given some recommendations. He said that some of the liens on the list were for \$20. Council Member Newton said that they had suggested that if an outstanding amount was under a certain threshold, it did not make sense to look at how the City collects the outstanding amounts. This was included in the budget the Council just passed. He said that if anyone had any questions, they should come to the office to look at the documents.

Council Member Herron said that it was very difficult to get a quorum but they critiqued every entry on that list carefully.

Council Member Martinez said that she did not understand how someone could include something in the budget that had not been voted out of committee.

**79-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Cesar August Cordero (D) to the Planning & Zoning Commission as an alternate.**

Council Member Martinez said that she had reviewed Chapter 5, Section 10 of the Charter that reads:

All elections or appointments to any office or position by the city council or of any board established by this charter or by ordinance, shall be by roll call vote; and the person receiving a majority of the whole, with the limitations herein provided, shall be elected. In case of a tie vote for any officer to be elected by the city council or by any board, the mayor shall have the casting vote.

She noted that this was not being followed and because of that, Council Member Martinez said that she was going to request a roll call vote when the item was up for approval.

Council Member Martinez said that there were individuals who were not being referred to the other Committees because the Ethics Commission does not have a full board. She said that she

was questioning how this particular individual was able to move forward when last week, the Ethics Board did not have a full board.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that as Co-chair of the Miscellaneous Matters Committee, Agenda Items 79-18 and Agenda Item 89-17 were approved by the Committee in order to move the City forward by filling the vacant positions on the Boards and Commissions. At the next Miscellaneous Matters meeting, there will be several appointments up for review. The applicants have already been reviewed by the Police Department and the Tax Collector's Office.

Council Member Lyons said that she was on the Public Safety Committee and every time that they were scheduled to have a meeting, the Ethics Commission was not able to approve any of the appointments due to lack of quorum. She went on to say that the candidate was appointed by the Mayor's Office and has been serving for some time.

Council Member Martinez reiterated her earlier statement that the Council was not following the Charter by holding a roll call vote on the appointments.

Council Member Martinez also announced that she would like to have the record reflect that they had not received any ruling from the Ethics Commission about the certain appointments that can be made at the Mayor's discretion. The Council has been waiting for the WPCA Board, the Police Commission and other Boards to be updated. It is ironic that there are individuals who are being proposed for other Boards, but the City can't find candidates for the Ethics Commission. She said that she wanted a roll call vote for these individuals who have mysteriously been able to bypass the Ethics Commission. Council Member Martinez said that she would like to see the ruling from the Ethics Commission about this.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that all documentation for Board and Commission appointments that is reviewed by the Ethics Committee has to be reviewed at the Ethics Commission meeting due to the confidential nature of the information on the documents. She said that the Miscellaneous Matters Committee also interviews the candidates, so any Council Member who wished to participate could do so by attending the Miscellaneous Matters meetings.

Council Member Lyons said that the Council should follow the process whenever possible.

A roll call vote was taken.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 79-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF CESAR AUGUST CORDERO (D) TO THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION AS AN ALTERNATE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH SECONDED.**

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

**89-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Sandra D. Carmichael (D) to the Ethics Commission.**

A roll call vote was taken.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 89-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF SANDRA D. CARMICHAEL (D) TO THE ETHICS COMMISSION.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH SECONDED.**

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

**20-17 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution requesting that the residents of Bridgeport who have a criminal history be allowed the opportunity to obtain a copy of their criminal record at no cost. CONT'D**

Council President Nieves noted that they had not voted on Agenda Item 20-17 yet.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 20-17 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE RESIDENTS OF BRIDGEPORT WHO HAVE A CRIMINAL HISTORY BE ALLOWED THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THEIR CRIMINAL RECORD AT NO COST AND REFER IT BACK TO COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

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

**74-17 Contracts Committee Report re: Assignment of Tax Liens for Fiscal Year 2018. CONT'D**

Council President Nieves noted that they had not voted on Agenda Item 74-17 yet.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 74-17 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: ASSIGNMENT OF TAX LIENS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.**

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

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

**88-17 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Honorary naming of a portion of Calhoun Street between Lexington Avenue and Pequonnock Street as “Val Esteves Way” with appropriate signage being placed at the requested corners.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that regarding this type of signage, she always looks for some policy and procedure along with information on the individual. She said that she has not voted in favor of any type of honorary sign since she started on the Council in 2004.

Council Member Lyons said that in the future she would like to suggest that the Council consider having a small scholarship in honor of the various individuals or perhaps putting a small plaque placed somewhere. This would allow everyone to benefit.

Council Member Valle said that as she drives through the City, she sees these plaques. She said that when she first served on the Council in 2007, she wondered what would be the best way to honor someone who had been significant in the City's life. She suggested that the schools were always looking for ways to pay for school books and what better way was there but to honor the individuals through some type of donation program.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said she had brought this up in 2004 and that this would bring the community together as a whole. Other Council Members have come to her privately and told her that they agreed with her but would not say so on the Council floor. The Council needs to get together and come up with a policy about this.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that it was very difficult to get scholarships for young people going to college. Talk is cheap and a sign is just a sign. People would benefit from a scholarship.

Council Member N. Smith said that she had received requests for renaming a street for people without a reason. She said that it is important that these individuals have contributed to the community.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that when people come to her to ask about signage, they come with the information about the individual. She mentioned a recent honorary street naming and how many people turned out for the ceremony. She pointed out that this signage was important for the historical aspect of those who had contributed to the City.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 88-17 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: HONORARY NAMING OF A PORTION OF CALHOUN STREET BETWEEN LEXINGTON AVENUE AND PEQUONNOCK STREET AS "VAL ESTEVES WAY" WITH APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE BEING PLACED AT THE REQUESTED CORNERS.**

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

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA 88-17 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: HONORARY NAMING OF A PORTION OF CALHOUN STREET BETWEEN LEXINGTON AVENUE AND PEQUONNOCK STREET AS "VAL ESTEVES WAY" WITH APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE BEING PLACED AT THE REQUESTED CORNERS PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, SPAIN, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, LANGAN, MCCARTHY, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, N. SMITH, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (BROWN, VIZZO-PANICCIA, VALLE, AND JACKSON).**

**59-17 Joint Committee on Miscellaneous Matters and Budget & Appropriations Report re: Petition from Reverend Francis Asante re: Tax Abatement for Victory Bible Church International located at 850 Norman Street.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH MOVED TO REMOVE AGENDA ITEM 59-17 JOINT COMMITTEE ON MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS AND BUDGET &**

**APPROPRIATIONS REPORT RE: PETITION FROM REVEREND FRANCIS ASANTE  
RE: TAX ABATEMENT FOR VICTORY BIBLE CHURCH INTERNATIONAL  
LOCATED AT 850 NORMAN STREET AND REFER THIS BACK TO COMMITTEE.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

Council Member Langan asked for the reason why it was being tabled back to Committee. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that there was not enough information at the Committee meeting because the City Attorney and the Tax Assessor were unable to attend the Committee meeting. She had all the information she was able to gather about the situation and the Committee decided to vote it out of Committee. However, Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the Committee Members need to hear from the City Attorney's Office and the Tax Assessor on this.

Council Member Langan said that there had been a robust discussion regarding this issue at the Committee meeting and confirmed that the Tax Assessor was not present at the meeting. No one from the City Attorney's Office was present either. He pointed out that there was no one from the City Attorney's Office or the Tax Assessor's Office present at the Council meeting to speak on this issue.

Council Member Langan said when the City Attorney's Office or the Tax Assessor's Office are not in attendance to present information, Victory Bible Church is accumulating more fines. The City departments are not doing their job. This is a disagreement between the City Tax Assessor and the Victory Bible Church. He said that the Church had provided all their documentation regarding their side of the story about what happened. He said that he believed that mistakes were made on both sides of issue. He gave a summary about how a church purchased another church and ended up with a tax assessment of \$20,000. The City Attorney's Office or the Tax Assessor's Office have had numerous opportunities to present their side of the story, but this has not happened.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she also has a church and when someone comes from another state, it can be very confusing. She said that she did not think they needed additional information. While the Rev. Asante did make mistakes, it was evident that he was trying. She said she did not understand why they would recognize that the Church was tax exempt for 2018, but would not do so for 2016. She said that she had gone to her attorney to work on the form that she received.

Council Member Lyons said that while she was not at the meeting, she did make some calls about this. It took about six months to process this. She said that Council Member Martinez had mentioned that there had been many times when the City Attorney's Office or the Tax Assessor's Office are not in attendance to present information at the Committee meetings. They should be there because these are principals and procedures that should be followed.

Council President Nieves said that she had some points of clarification from the City Attorney's Office.

Deputy City Attorney Bohannon came forward and read the following statement into the record:

This matter is being recommended to be sent back by Attorney Mark Anastasi who was not at the last meeting. Regarding 59-17, there is no legal basis for granting the request being made as per Connecticut General Statutes 12-127, which requires the recommendation and support of the Tax Assessor, which is lacking. Connecticut General Statutes 12-97 and 12-93 pertain only to exemptions with compliance. Attorney Anastasi would like to address the Committee on those issues.

Council Member Newton said that the City should be ashamed of itself for sending this individual through all this. He added that not only was the church being asked to pay the principal, but also the interest on the assessment. Council Member Newton asked about whether the authority to do this and said that he would like to hear from City Attorneys about this. It is not Rev Asante's fault that the City Attorney and the Tax Assessor were not at the meeting, that's the City's fault.

Council Member Newton said that this had happened to his Committee when they were considering tax liens, also. There was no one there from the City Attorney's Office. This is a procedural issue. He referred back to Agenda Item 10-17, which has to be tabled because the Committee had not received the legal opinion in a timely manner.

Council Member C. Smith asked whether they could legally use some funding from Supportive Contributions.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had the various documents in print with her at the Committee meeting. She said that she had had a conference with them earlier that day. It is important to look at what is right and what is wrong. People need to come to the Committee meetings to hear the discussion and get the information.

Council Member Langan said he understands that some Council Members have pointed out that a deadline is a deadline, but the church is approved as a 501(c)3 non-profit. The City recognizes that they are a non-profit. The church was previously a Roman Catholic Church, which did not pay taxes.

Council Member Langan said that Rev. Asante was not allowed to speak, so he would read part of the Reverend's statement.

Good evening Mayor Ganim and City Council Members gathered here today. My name is Reverend Asante and I am president and pastor of Victory Bible Church International which has been in Connecticut for about six years and has been serving the Bridgeport community for the last three and a half years. I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about our issue regarding the tax abatement of \$21,642 dollars which has been assessed by the City on the property which we purchased on Norman Avenue into 2016. We respectfully request an abatement as we have no means to pay this amount and we are also a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization. VBCI has a small congregation including children with very limited resources. We purchased the property from a building fund which we had accumulated over 10 years to continue spreading the Gospel in Bridgeport and through commitment through community outreach activities such as food, clothes,

coats back to school items and other supplies. We also plan to continue our music lessons for the youth as well as the literacy and counseling services. We paid no taxes on acquisition because it was our understand that the property, which had never been taxed before was tax exempt and we were a similar, qualifying church doing other similar charitable activities. Our intention with the purchase was to utilize part of the building for services and other activities and slowly renovate the property as we have done before in the past. We quickly realized that it was not feasible or safe for the congregation, especially the children, because of the building's condition. We therefore applied for our building permits so the building could be refurbished properly and quickly returned to use. At the end, there were myriad problems with the Building Department which has resulted in part in the situation that we are in today. First, we were told that we could not apply for the permit because we did not own the property. Next, we were advised that the City could not find the original blueprint of the building. After an unsuccessful search for the blueprint, we were asked to get an architect to redraw the original floor plans for the City. Next, we needed to apply for variances. Then the designs were not supposed to be presented to the Building Department first, but to the Fire Department. The Fire Marshal advised us that the plans needed to be revised because of the building code changes for sprinklers. That change in design cost us \$42,000, which was not in our budget. After that, the detailed sprinkler design needed to be re-incorporated into the plans. The Building Department finally issued the permit on September 22, 2017, almost a year after we had begun the process. We also applied for a tax exemption from the Tax Assessor during this period, unaware of the 90-day filing deadline. Our application for tax exemption was filed late and not accepted by the Tax Assessor, who denied our application, saying no statutory base for our church to be classified as its own property, referred us to the Board of Assessment Appeals, who denied our application because what we needed was a Tax Exemption and there was no tax policy designed to recommend it. Despite assurances that we should not worry, there was a meeting with the Tax Assessor to show that the interior was a shell and that we would be considered for assessment approval, we received a tax bill of \$21,642 dollars from the 2016 Grand List, which we did not have the capacity to pay. The assessment represents 45% of our receipts of \$48,216, We are now in a vicious cycle as follows: the City will place a lien on the property for the amount owed. Since we are unable to pay the amount, the church building will be sold to fulfill the obligation and we will have to abandon all our hopes, plans and programs for the area, not to mention the huge debt on our hands from the contractor and other vendors. Also, despite the fact that the Tax Assessor has granted us an exemption in 2017, it will be no good if we don't exist anymore because of this obligation. We apologize for any violations made out of ignorance and humbly and respectfully request that you consider our request favorably. We promise that we will serve the Bridgeport Community.

Council Member Langan said that they were a church, were operating as church. He added that the Tax Assessor had actually suggested they follow this course of action.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO REMOVE AGENDA ITEM 59-17 JOINT COMMITTEE ON MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS AND BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS REPORT RE: PETITION FROM REVEREND FRANCIS ASANTE RE: TAX ABATEMENT FOR**

**VICTORY BIBLE CHURCH INTERNATIONAL LOCATED AT 850 NORMAN STREET AND REFER THIS BACK TO COMMITTEE PASSED WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, TAYLOR-MOYE, MCCARTHY, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, N. SMITH, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND SEVEN (7) OPPOSED (SPAIN, BANTA, BROWN, LANGAN, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN CHRISTY, AND JACKSON).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH MOVED TO SEND AGENDA ITEM 59-17 JOINT COMMITTEE ON MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS AND BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS REPORT RE: PETITION FROM REVEREND FRANCIS ASANTE RE: TAX ABATEMENT FOR VICTORY BIBLE CHURCH INTERNATIONAL LOCATED AT 850 NORMAN STREET AND REFER THIS BACK TO COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO SEND AGENDA ITEM 59-17 JOINT COMMITTEE ON MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS AND BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS REPORT RE: PETITION FROM REVEREND FRANCIS ASANTE RE: TAX ABATEMENT FOR VICTORY BIBLE CHURCH INTERNATIONAL LOCATED AT 850 NORMAN STREET AND REFER THIS BACK TO COMMITTEE PASSED WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, TAYLOR-MOYE, MCCARTHY, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, N. SMITH, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND SEVEN (7) OPPOSED (SPAIN, BANTA, BROWN, LANGAN, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN CHRISTY, AND JACKSON).**

Council President Nieves announced that the Consent Calendar needed to be voted on at this time. The City Clerk then read the remaining items into the record.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**\*76-17 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 3.12 – EQUAL OPPORTUNITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTORS, AMEND SECTION 3.12.130 – MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM.**

**\*32-17 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: MOU WITH THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, CT STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE, CT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND CT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REGARDING ROUTE 127 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT EVERS STREET, FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. 0127(001); STATE PROJECT NO. 15-335.**

**\*80-17 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PROPOSED REQUEST BY THE FIRE CHIEF PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH C.G.S. §7-430 AND THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAIN**



**AGREEMENT, FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 834 THAT ROBERT WHITBREAD HAVING OR SOON TO ATTAIN THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OR MORE TO REMAIN EMPLOYED BY THE CITY FOR ANOTHER YEAR BE REFERRED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION.**

**\*81-17 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PROPOSED REQUEST BY THE FIRE CHIEF PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH C.G.S. §7-430 AND THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAIN AGREEMENT, FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 834 THAT DANIEL MAGRI HAVING OR SOON TO ATTAIN THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OR MORE TO REMAIN EMPLOYED BY THE CITY FOR ANOTHER YEAR BE REFERRED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION.**

**\*82-17 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PROPOSED REQUEST BY THE FIRE CHIEF PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH C.G.S. §7-430 AND THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAIN AGREEMENT, FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 834 THAT KEVIN HIGGINS HAVING OR SOON TO ATTAIN THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OR MORE TO REMAIN EMPLOYED BY THE CITY FOR ANOTHER YEAR BE REFERRED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION.**

**\*83-17 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PROPOSED REQUEST BY THE FIRE CHIEF PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH C.G.S. §7-430 AND THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAIN AGREEMENT, FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 834 THAT CLAYTON JURGENS HAVING OR SOON TO ATTAIN THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OR MORE TO REMAIN EMPLOYED BY THE CITY FOR ANOTHER YEAR BE REFERRED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION.**

**\*03-17 (B) ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: DISPOSITION OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 347 WILMOT AVENUE BY AUCTION, SALE TO ABUTTER OR BY SALE TO COMMUNITY BASED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS.**

**\*77-17 (PHO) ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #396-93; 130-95; 279-98; 154-13 & 168-14) PUBLIC HEARING ORDERED FOR MAY 21, 2018: AMENDMENT #6 TO THE WEST END MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER AND REDEVELOPMENT OF 340 CHERRY STREET AND 1565 RAILROAD AVENUE.**

**\*14-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE:  
RESOLUTION REGARDING THE DONATION FROM WORLDVENTURES  
FOUNDATION, NANCY LIEBERMAN CHARITIES AND SPORT COURT  
CONCERNING THE DREAM COURT DONATION FOR BEECHWOOD PARK.**

**\*87-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE:  
SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH LONNIE DERVIL  
TROTMAN AND NICOLE TROTMAN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Service