

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 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 6:41 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: Jeannette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Maria Zambrano Viggiano
137th District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves
138th District: Karen Jackson, Nessah Smith
139th District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. Council President Nieves stated that Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia was not present due to illness.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Labor Relations.

Mr. Young came forward and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He thanked Council President Nieves and went on to speak about his termination from the City of Bridgeport. Mr. Young said that he had spoken to Council Member Newton about his situation. If the Council Members were forced to go through the injustice and civil rights violations, along with being unjustly terminated, they would not like it either. Mr. Young said that he deserves a break, he deserves reparations and justice. He then spoke about the court session that he had attended in New Haven.

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
December 3, 2018

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

Who Cares for the Least of Us?? Who is our Neighbor?
(Comments to City Council 12-3-2018)

Does the Life you are living these days seem good for you? Personally I am happy for you if so. I never intend to reduce your satisfaction with life one bit. Remember two weeks ago, on the Thanksgiving holiday we stopped along with family and friends, reflected on that which we had received and extended gratitude in our own way and in our own words? It is a wonderful practice. So I want to ask you.....

Are there folks here in Bridgeport who are literally at their wit's end, who are our neighbors, some of whom are especially sought after on Election Days, but whose situation is ignored, forgotten or kept hidden most days from the rest of us. American history looks back on slave times where people of color on plantations were kept with no concern for their quality of life, education or rights as human beings. These were truly poor people, poor in opportunity, acknowledgement of rights and ability to earn a fair return on their work among other things. In the late 20th Century many urban citizens of color were kept from pursuing their human rights by being sentenced to prison in ways dissimilar to punishments for drug activities meted out to neighbors in surrounding towns for similar infractions.

Has public housing today chained those in our community to a last step before homelessness for people who were neighbors at one time? How are we currently managing public housing if our primary goal is "providing a clean and safe place to call home for ...children and families?" Those words are from Mayor Ganim in the past few days. He says he has "fought for the residents who have lived in these unsuitable conditions for a long time." Has he made this priority clear to all in the past three years? The article had to do with tearing down the Greene Homes, but elevator unsuitability for tenants has been only one continuing problem throughout the properties administered by Park City Communities (PCC) Board and staff.

PCC Chairman Cowlis Andrews agrees in the assessment of problems at the Greene Homes, but no reference to what goes on at PT Barnum, Trumbull Gardens and other properties shows the problem to solely be "elevators in continuous need of repair". Rather than spend funds on decommissioning Greene Homes and then "work towards the development of better public housing in Bridgeport". Why not do the latter work first? How many vacancies exist in each of Park City Community properties? What is the financial status of the housing authority today? Do they pay their bills on time to the WPCA and other vendors in the same manner they expect to be paid? What have the most recent Annual reports and post- inspections of properties told Bridgeport about the state of caring for the most vulnerable? Council person Castillo is liaison for this body. What has he reported in writing to you or the public? Are Section 8 tenants also HUD

and PCC clients better served than those in the apartment projects? Does anyone know? Aren't we about people first; and buildings only incidentally?

What goes on when the US Department of Justice sues Park City Communities for failure to extend reasonable accommodations to those in need? And what happens when policy, processes, and practices of PCC employees viciously target certain residents in such ways that trust in PCC is lost and homelessness seems a better alternative?? Those are questions for your serious consideration. Time will tell.

Robert Halstead

Sterling Place
Bridgeport, CT

Pequonnock Bike Trail

Mr. Halstead came forward and thanked the Council Members for sending flowers when his mother passed away recently.

Mr. Halstead said that he was not speaking in favor of the CMEC grant. Many of the City streets are not safe for biking and more money should be allocated for a safe bike path, which would involve Land Acquisition. There is funding available for this type of project. The creation of a bike path from Seaside Park to Beardsley Park would be wonderful, but the way that the path is currently planned, it is not a good plan. He reminded everyone that there had been a plan for a bike share program in 2010, but eight years later, it has not been done. Mr. Halstead then listed a potential safe bike path along an old railroad route. The currently proposed path goes through the desolate and very busy area of the City. OPM and MetroCog have approved this plan, but it makes the City look bad. The City of Waterbury spent \$10 million dollars on their bike path.

He concluded by wishing everyone to have a Merry Christmas.

Kevin Blagys

115 Harbor Avenue
Bridgeport, CT

Bike Trail

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

Hello City Council. My name is Kevin Blagys and I live at 115 Harbor Avenue in Bridgeport and am a small business owner. This is my first time speaking to the Council and I would like to thank you for your service to Bridgeport.

I am speaking tonight about the Pequonnock River Trail Bike Path. I'm asking that the proposed trail decision be delayed for further study and public input.

I am a member of the Urban Bike Tours of Bridgeport, a group organized by Bob Halstead. We do two big rides throughout Bridgeport in the spring and fall, following the Bridgeport Art Trail. It was Bob Halstead that pointed out the value of this proposed trail and I agree that alternatives to the proposed trail need to be created and the public should have another opportunity to help create alternatives.

The Pequonnock River Trail will be a fixture, an attraction and has a greater purpose of connecting Bridgeport with the surrounding communities.

Bridgeport has been cut up by highways and this is a chance to make up for that and make a real contribution.

The two public hearings on this were March 2, 2015 and March 26, 2015, three years ago.

The trail is called the Pequonnock River Trail but only follows or crosses the River in 2 areas.

Sharing the road with vehicles is a last resort. But this plan follows busy roads without divided bike lanes.

The Trail will bring economic value to the City by providing a safe trail that could be shared with a walking trail with Historical information kiosks along the way telling Bridgeport history.

Make this trail ore than what is proposed, make it a signature of where Bridgeport has been and where it is going . Please do not settle on the proposed Pequonnock River Trail.

Claude Young

First Avenue
Stamford, CT

Rails to Trails Grant

Mr. Claude Young came forward to speak about the Rails to Trails program. This is about a cultural change for the City. He said that he had been involved in the Trails System which is intended to run from Greenwich to Rhode Island and from Bridgeport to Massachusetts. He said that the bike share program was supposed to be self-sustaining but there is no real plan for that. He spoke about the build out of the trail system and pointed out that a simple change would provide a safer trail.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the public speaking portion at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

Mayor Ganim called the meeting of the City Council to order at 7:15 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member Lyons open the meeting with a prayer.

Council Member McBride-Lee requested a moment of silence for a recent death that occurred on Saturday.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim requested that Council Member Smith 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: Jeannette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Maria Zambrano Viggiano
137th District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves
138th District: Karen Jackson, Nessah Smith
139th District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: November 5, 2018

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION TO APPROVE MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

01-18 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with NM PPA Maxine Gordon, et al, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

02-18 Communication from Public Facilities re: Proposed Agreement with ENCON regarding Solar Roof Panels on the Cart Barn located at Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course, referred to Contracts Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

01-18 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH NM PPA MAXINE GORDON, ET AL, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

02-18 COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC FACILITIES RE: PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH ENCON REGARDING SOLAR ROOF PANELS ON THE CART BARN LOCATED AT FAIRCHILD WHEELER GOLF COURSE, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***198-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Horace Jennings, et al.**

***202-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Workers' Compensation Settlement with the Estate of Carney Freddino.**

***149-17 Education and Social Services Committee Report re: Resolution requesting the Establishment of a Bullying Prevention Task Force in the Bridgeport Public School District, DENIED.**

***175-17 Education and Social Services Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing Bridgeport Board of Education to provide a Safe School Climate and to report bullying, harassment, discrimination and intimidation, DENIED.**

***185-17 Education and Social Services Committee Report re: Grant Application Authorizations for School Construction Work at Luis Munoz Marin School located at 479 Helen Street for Roof Replacement.**

***195-17 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Amendments to the FY 2019-2023 Capital Plan Budget for Approval of Additional Capital Project Authorization.**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Members who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Newton requested that Agenda Item 198-17 be removed from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Jackson requested 195-17 be removed from the Consent Calendar.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

***202-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: WORKERS' COMPENSATION SETTLEMENT WITH THE ESTATE OF CARNEY FREDDINO.**

***149-17 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BULLYING PREVENTION TASK FORCE IN THE BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, DENIED.**

***175-17 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE A SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATE AND TO REPORT BULLYING, HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION AND INTIMIDATION, DENIED.**

***185-17 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORIZATIONS FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION WORK AT LUIS MUNOZ MARIN SCHOOL LOCATED AT 479 HELEN STREET FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

198-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Horace Jennings, et al.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH MOVED THE ITEM.
** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Newton said that he needed clarification because he found it hard to vote on settlements because the rules now only allow the members of the Committee to attend the Executive Session. Previously, the Council Members were allowed to attend the Executive Session in order to express their concerns and then excuse themselves. He asked Atty. Anastasi to clarify this.

Mayor Ganim asked Atty. Anastasi to provide a written opinion. Mayor Ganim asked if the Council Members were comfortable voting on this now.

Council Member Lyons said that she agreed with Council Member Newton about voting on something that the Council Members have no knowledge of. For years, the Council Members were allowed to attend Executive Sessions, but they are not allowed to anymore.

Council Member Newton said that he wanted clarification on this but they would have an executive session and then bring it back to a vote.

195-17 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Amendments to the FY 2019-2023 Capital Plan Budget for Approval of Additional Capital Project Authorization.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Jackson said that she was not allowed to debate this at the Budget and Appropriations Committee she was not allowed to speak because she was asking too many questions. She then cited Council Rule #7.

Only members of the City Council may speak on any matter before the Council at a Council meeting unless by a majority vote of all the members of the City Council, or at a duly scheduled Public Hearing. At City Council committee meetings only members of the particular committee may first speak on any matter pending before the committee. Thereafter, any other City Council person in attendance may speak as of right. No other persons may speak at a committee meeting except at a duly scheduled Public Hearing or as permitted by the Councilperson chairing the meeting when in the exercise of the chairperson's discretion it is deemed to be in the best interest of the committee to do so. When a member is about to speak in debate he shall respectfully address the presiding officer; shall confine himself to the question under debate and avoid personalities or imputing to any member improper motives. No member shall speak more than once on a question until each member choosing to speak shall have spoken. It shall be unnecessary for a member to rise from his seat either to be recognized or to speak.

Council Member Jackson said that she was not allowed to ask questions or make comments. Council Member Jackson said that she had been told that she was not allowed to tell the Board of Education what to do.

Council Member Jackson said that she wanted to introduce a resolution about rebuilding Bassick High School. She said that she wanted to see something in writing and was only told about it

verbally. Council Member Jackson said she had submitted a plan for renovating it with a football field.

Council Member Zambrano Viggiano said that Council Member Jackson was a valid member of the Council and had been allowed to speak a number of times that night. The Council Members who were Committee members had come to a basic consensus about the issue. Council Member Zambrano Viggiano said that the Committee had heard from many of the stakeholders. Council Member Zambrano Viggiano said that the building was over 100 years old and that there were teachers who could not go into certain classrooms because of respirator problems.

Council Member Zambrano Viggiano said that Council Member Jackson was welcomed at Budget and Appropriations and has been very active at the Committee. However, she was sorry that Council Member Jackson felt this way.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she was in concurrence with Council Member Zambrano Viggiano's statement and was sorry that Council Member Jackson felt the way she did.

Council Member Jackson said that the Council Rules were violated and there was no 2/3rd vote, so she has still not been answered. She said that Harding needed to be addressed and there was crab grass in the lawn. The sewer lines have problems.

Council Member Jackson said that she wanted to read a document titled "Rebuild Bassick High School as a Campus, Focused on the Original Building" into the record. (See attached 3-page document).

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, SPAIN, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, LANGAN, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, N. SMITH AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) AGAINST (JACKSON).**

MATTER TO BE ACTED UPON:

193-17 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Spain said that he would like clarification on the term "new". Council President Nieves said that the purpose of putting this into resolution would clarify that this project would not include a renovation and the entire structure would be demolished and built new construction.

Mr. John Stafstrom, the City's Bond Counsel, came forward and explained that this was renovation, "as new" renovations, but this proposal would be all new construction.

Council Member Langan said that he was looking for clarification on what the State would reimburse. In the past, he had heard that the State was in favor of a new buildings. Mr. Ken Flatto, the City's Financial Director, came forward and said that the State had indicated to him that new construction would be less expensive than renovating.

Council Member Langan said that he did not feel that he had enough time to review all the documentation. He said that what he was hearing from the Bassick community that they want a new structure. The two-structure plan was not workable. It will also be important to support the upgrade for Winfield Park.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, LANGAN, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, N. SMITH AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) AGAINST (SPAIN AND JACKSON).**

ADOPTION OF CITY COUNCIL RULES

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED THE ADOPTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL RULES WITH THE CONDITION THAT THE COMMITTEE ON RULES CONTINUE TO REVIEW THE EXISTING RULES.**

Council Member Nieves said that there were some rules that were still in Committee. Rather than make the changes piece meal, the Committee will present the entire updated document to the Council.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPOINTMENT OF CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED THE APPOINTMENT OF CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES TO REMAIN AS THEY ARE CURRENTLY ASSIGNED.
** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

Council Member Newton said that he would hope that people would show up when the meetings were scheduled.

Council Member Jackson said that as a Council Member she would be attending the majority of Committee meetings.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Ganim said that there was a discussion for renewing a contract for a City Lobbyists. Mayor Ganim said that the contract with the City Lobbyist was up for renewal.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM REGARDING THE PROPOSED STATE LOBBYING SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT AND REYNOLDS STRATEGY GROUP, LLC., TO THE AGENDA FOR REFERRAL TO THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.
** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Proposed State Lobbying Service Agreement between the City of Bridgeport and Reynolds Strategy Group, LLC.

Council Member Herron said that she had been on the Council for 3 years and Kevin Reynolds has done a fantastic job. She said that it would be good to be consistent.

Council Member Spain asked why this was an issue if there wasn't a problem.

Council Member Lyons said that in the past, the lobbyist would come in to talk about what is going on in Hartford. She would like to see it done again.

Council Member Newton said that this was his first year on the Council and he would like to see some proof that the lobbyist were doing their job for Bridgeport.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO REFER PROPOSED STATE LOBBYING SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT AND REYNOLDS STRATEGY GROUP, LLC TO THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.
** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #03-18)**

Mayor Ganim left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING AGENDA ITEM 198-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH HORACE JENNINGS, ET AL.
** COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH SECONDED.**

The Council Members and Atty. Anastasi entered into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.

Council Member Brown left the Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.

Atty. Anastasi left Executive Session at 8:37 p.m.

Council Member Brown returned to Executive Session at 8:37 p.m.

The Council returned to Public Session at 8:45 p.m.

Council President Nieves assumed the chairmanship.

198-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Horace Jennings, et al. CONT'D.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 198-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH HORACE JENNINGS, ET AL.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM REGARDING A PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF LONNIE BLACKWELL V. THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, ET AL.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO REFER AN ITEM REGARDING A PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF LONNIE BLACKWELL V. THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, ET AL. TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #04-18)**

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service