

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019
6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Aidee Nieves called the called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:32 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, Michael Defilippo
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy
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.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019 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

Fiscal Governance.

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

Free the Port Authority!!! Review All of the Documents...

The Seal of the City prominently shows a three masted sailing vessel and the water and bridges emblematic of our port, one of only three deep water ports in CT. Let's look at the "port" of Bridgeport rather than "bridge history" for a change and see what has been happening behind the scenes. Actually the State of CT owns the "port" because the land under the water is technically the "port" while the land above water's edge is Bridgeport property and owned by whoever has title to the property. In 1992 the City of Bridgeport created the first Port Authority (PA), a separate and distinct body from the City itself under State law and sponsored a Commission that has State conferred powers. The Mayor appoints members (3) in addition to (2) automatic City department heads from OPED and Harbormaster.

Everyone has heard the economic advice: "buy low" and "sell high" as a path to success. Unfortunately, the minutes of the Port Authority have not been accompanied by financial records along with minutes for the past decade during which "back office financials" have been taken over by City officials. I attended an August 2016 PA meeting with a written critique of this practice, included in those Minutes after reading minutes of that time. At the meeting I asked Tom Gill whether he, as a former banker and corporate board member, found it unusual for a body to have no financial records available for such a long historical period at each meeting? Millions at risk? Millions borrowed? Waterfront property?

At the most recent PA meeting, January 2019, Ken Flatto, City Finance Director included a financial summary report that was not included with the minutes when the board voted to adjourn. Allegedly, the Summary purported to be the record of the Port Authority from (1) a time when the Carpenter/Derecktor property was acquired by the PA, continuing through a period (2) when other funds were granted to the PA and spent by the PA to remediate, enhance and develop the site, and to the point (3) where most of the PA property has been sold. Without footnotes, backup documents and more fully explained comments the Summary fails to provide a comprehensive and accurate public accounting, in my opinion.

Period 1. PA was attempting to purchase Carpenter Tech for \$2.5 Million with the power of Eminent Domain. Ganim1 stepped up to ask if the deal could be settled by adding \$6.8 Million to the offer for a total of \$9.25 Million. (Where did the money to close the deal come from fully accounted for in a Funding Agreement as was the initial \$2.5 Million? Where are appraisal documents at each step of purchase or sale? What do documents from that time to Ganim say as to professional advice?

Period 2. An additional \$6.4 Million was spent for improvements between the Ganim1 offer and title closings in 2017 and late 2018 increasing the "base" for accounting purposes to more than \$15 Million.

Period 3. The City of Bridgeport sold all of the remaining PA land during 2017 and near the close of 2018 except where the Water Street office sits for the sum of \$10.7 Million. Do you view this as an example of "buy high" and "sell low"? Or is it a loss of more than \$5 Million? How does Ganim2 financial and operational management of our port and property look today?

Why hasn't the voice of the PA, with independent legal and accounting representation for the PA itself, been heard including a formal audit for the PA? Ganim2 when he came into office in 2016 did not question the OPED payoff of a \$930,000 note to Titan Capital. Why not? If the funds came from bonded funds that the City Council gets no regular reporting on and which is targeted per each bond indenture to specific use? And today, the 2017 and 2018 closings under Ganim2 seem to complete yet another lousy deal for the City taxpayer? Where are the appraisals? Where are the closing documents? Legal expenses paid should show all opinions at each step of the way? Shouldn't actions receiving informed approval by unconflicted and independently appointed PA members with full financial representations available to them and included in Authority minutes and records be the order of the day? Time will tell.

Dasha Spell

284 Beechwood Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

CSMA/BOE.

Ms. Spell came forward and said that there were 20 members of the Council that represent the 10 districts of the City. She said that she had come to the Council and said that if the Council could not give the schools more money, could they help out with manpower. She said that there should be a way to have a City electrician help out with school electrical issues.

As the president of the Classical Studies Parents, she pointed out that Classical Studies has two buildings and there is no security at the school annex. She gave a shout out to one of the Bridgeport Police Officers who gave of his time to help provide some security for the Academy. Each student in Connecticut get allocated \$13,000, but an inmate is allocated \$50,000. Is it better to allocate funding for inmates rather than students? How long has Bridgeport received \$13,000 per students. The school to prison pipeline will continue to exist until changes are made.

Cecil Young

99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Cover-up of City Officials.

Mr. Young came forward and said that he had been coming before the Council for the last 10 or 12 years because he had not received the documentation that justified his termination. He thanked Council Member Newton for attempting to address that issue. He went on to speak about Mayor Ganim and how Mayor Ganim doesn't talk to people. As a young man in his twenties, he ran for Mayor not because he wanted to be mayor but because he wanted the issues to be brought forward. He said that it would be important to respect their rights to vote, to be treated as a first-class citizen and they have the rights just like everyone else.

Mr. Young spoke about his request to the Mayor to be appointed as a liaison for the community, which the Mayor has not responded to. Now as he approaches his 69th birthday, he wants to speak power to justice. As a black African American, he said that they had put this Mayor in office and Mr. Young was asking for the documentation involving his termination. He does not want Ms. Hawkin's opinion, he wants the documentation. This is not over. Part II is yet to come.

Juan & Maria Martinez

51 Hill Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Hostile and threatening environment
due to motorcycle gang and illegal
tattoo shop.

Mr. and Mrs. Martinez and another family member came forward and read the following statement into the record:

We are writing to you in great distress and urgency in dealing with a matter that has affected our family very deeply and negatively, since the beginning of the year 2017. This is an ongoing problem and has prevented us from enjoying the property that we have worked so hard to maintain and cherish. This problem and all problems arising from this has affected our whole family both physically and mentally, and unfortunately, we feel danger just being home. My wife, Maria, has even been hospitalized from problems arising from this whole fiasco. Earlier in 2017, the commercial building next-door to our resident was rented out to a motorcycle club (gang). From the very start, the owner of the building located at 35 Hill St. in Bridgeport, sent about 8 to 10 of the would-be tenants in a very threatening, encroaching, and menacing manner to introduce or coerce us into agreeing with their presence and renting of a "room" in the commercial building. One of the statements used by one of the gang of men that arrived was "we are all registered gun permit holders and know one is going to mess with us or the street".

After more than one member saying this to our family and from our understanding, everyone was armed in the game and everyone had a gun. No hours of operation were given, and no explanation was given to us from the owners of the building or the gang as to what the room was being rented out for and to whom and why. After the first night of their presence, the gang arrived with about 30 people on motorcycles and everyone was revving their engines as loud as they possibly could, awakening us and ruining our night. This was only the beginning of the nightmare that we have had to indoor up to this point in time. It turned out that the commercial building locale was turned into a club type then you rented out by the F.L.N.Y Ryderz motorcycle gang, where a bar for alcohol was built in a residential area with no existing liquor license; rampant, volatile, and reckless parties are thrown with no permission from the building's owner; and the safety and well-being of our family and business are in jeopardy. It is impossible for the owner of the building to not know that this F.L.N.Y. Ryderz gang throws parties with reckless abandon starting from 7 PM to 7 AM; sells liquor with no permit; sells liquor to underage subjects without checking I. D's; throws garbage over our fence threatens us and targets us as a whole family.

In fact when we went to complain to the owner of the building or his representative about how the game completely breaks the noise ordinance level with their hoots, hollers, and motorcycles being revved all night and early morning parentheses (between 11 PM to 6 AM), and our fears for safety he happened to inform our family that he "did not give a S**T". Since that moment the F.L.N.Y. Gang has appeared on our street, our enjoyment of the property has dwindled to nothing along with our privacy. In fact the family business is based on the installation and furnishing of fenced building, in being so versed -we've had to install our very own 8 foot tall vinyl private type fence to try and increase our lost privacy and try in the slightest to block out some of the noise, but to no avail.

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
February 4, 2019

To date our house has been losing value, if we were to try and sell the property, we would end up losing a great sum of money, and even so are considering leaving Bridgeport for good. We as a family have lived in our residence for over 15 years and in Bridgeport for 27 years, as a family operated and owned small business established and located in Bridgeport and are seeking asylum in another township or city to rid ourselves of the vexation that has inflicted these damages to our family and business as a whole. If we were to stay here in the presence of such danger and menace, we would fear for the life of one of our family members or friends. We have contacted the Zoning Board, we have spoken to Maria Viggiano, Alfred Castillo, Chief of Police A. J. Perez, and ultimately no one want to do anything at all. This has been an ongoing problem for the past year and our cries have fallen on deaf ears.

We have a lawyer representing us because it seems that we need legal counsel and presents. We are disappointed, scared, tired, discontented, dissatisfied, and exasperated because of these circumstances and feel we have nowhere to turn in no one to help us in our time of dire need.

Dr. Dennis Williams
Bridgeport Family Health
1381 Reservoir Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

The change of Yaremich Drive to a one-way street without any community input.

Dr. Williams came forward and said that he was a family physician in Bridgeport. He said that there were negative consequences from the recent change of Yaremich Drive into a one-way street. He said that it was clear that people did not care about the residents.

He displayed a photo of the property which is where the North End Clinic was Located on Yaremich Drive which he purchased in 2006. He spoke about how many of his patients were from the Trumbull Gardens complex.

Dr. Williams then said that the Police Commissioner had approved changing Yaremich Drive to a one-way Street, but the Engineering Department had strong concerns about the change. Now his patients park on Reservoir Drive. His patients need access to his parking lot. There have been three major accidents on Soundview Avenue in the last two months.

Dr. Williams said he was told that the Council was able to change the street back to a two-way street. He then asked the Council Members to request that the Police Commission to reconsider their decision. This is about the safety of the patients.

Gloria Barksdale
Project MOTHER, Inc.
2612 North Ave., #B12
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Project MOTHER, Inc.

Ms. Barksdale came forward and said that she had been a resident for six months. She moved to Bridgeport from Fairfax County, Virginia. She said that she was the key person for a non-profit group called Project MOTHER (**M**illennium **O**pportunity **T**o **H**eal, **E**ducate & **R**ehabilitate) which helps women become economically empowered. She then gave a brief overview of the information sheet she had distributed to the Council Members (See attached).

Ms. Barksdale said that 42% of women were unemployed and about 23% had less than a high school education. This program assists women to break the glass ceiling. She began as a school teacher and has kept up with the information technology in order to assist and empower women.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves adjourned the Public Speaking portion of the Council meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019**

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 7:14 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member Newton to lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim requested that City Clerk Lydia Martinez 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, Michael Defilippo
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy
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: January 7, 2019

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 7, 2019.
** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.
** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 7, 2019 AS
SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
February 4, 2019

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

19-18 Communication from Tax Collector re: Refund of Excess Payments – 250 Fifth Street LLC., referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

20-18 Communication from Housing & Community Development re: Proposed Resolution regarding the 2019-2020 Citizen’s Participation Plan, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

22-18 Communication from Health & Social Services re: Proposed MPH Fieldwork Education Agreement with Sacred Heart University, referred to Contracts Committee.

23-18 Communication from City Attorney re: Twenty Day Notice to Settle Pending Litigation Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130 with Peter Gordon, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

24-18 Communication from Engineering re: Proposed Resolution regarding the Acceptance of Easements on 39 Pine Street and 450 Wordin Avenue and the Subordination of Easements in SCG’s ELURs, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

26-18 Communication from Central Grants re: State of Connecticut Department of Public Health for Preventative Health Block Grant (19605), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

27-18 Communication from Central Grants re: State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, Preventative Health Block Grant – Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention: Hypertension Project (#19609), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

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

21-18 Resolution presented by Council Member Lyons re: Proposed request that the intersection of Queen Street and Ardmore Street be designated as an “All-Way” Stop with appropriate signage and stop lines painted on road surface, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO COMBINE AND APPROVE THE COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES WITH THE RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***27-17 Ordinance Committee Report re: Request that the Civil Service Commission amend Rule XV of the Rules of the Civil Service Commission regarding residency points.**

***12-18 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) FY 2018 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Operations and Safety (Project #19210, #19211 & #19212).**

***14-18 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for an Urban Act Grant to Provide Capital Improvements at Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport.**

***08-18 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Ramon Colon.**

***18-18 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Robin Favello.**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Members who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. No one made a request to remove an item.

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

***27-17 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REQUEST THAT THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION AMEND RULE XV OF THE RULES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION REGARDING RESIDENCY POINTS.**

***12-18 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) FY 2018 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS (AFG) OPERATIONS AND SAFETY (PROJECT #19210, #19211 & #19212).**

***14-18 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (DECD) FOR AN URBAN ACT GRANT TO PROVIDE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AT IGOR I. SIKORSKY MEMORIAL AIRPORT.**

***08-18 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH RAMON COLON.**

***18-18 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE:
SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH ROBIN FAVELLO.**

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

ITEM FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

25-18 Resolution presented by Council Member Brown re: Proposed resolution Implementing a Tax Deferment Program for Federal Employees affected by the Government Shutdown Pursuant to HB 5765, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 25-18.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Spain said that while he was in favor of this but wanted to ask about the emergency nature of the request. He said that Council Member Brown's request was submitted on the 24th and the shut-down ended on the 25th. He asked if they had heard from their constituents.

Council Member Herron said that she agreed with Council Member Brown and noted that the government may shut down on the 15th again. It is time to be pro-active.

Council Member Langan said that he agreed but pointed out that the taxes were due on February 1st, which has already passed. He asked Council Member Brown how this would work.

Council Member Brown then read the following statement in to the record:

HB 5765 allows municipalities to differ the local taxes of all those affected by the shutdown beginning on December 22, 2018 and gives them sixty (60) day deferment of payment without risk of interest or penalty. Although the Federal government shutdown was ended on January 25, 2019 due to a temporary deal between Congress and the President, delaying local tax payment is still helpful to the affected employees because many of them went without pay for many weeks at a time, making it difficult for many of them to pay their bills in a timely manner. The intent of the state legislation was to give these affected taxpayers additional time (60 days) to make their payments to local government without being penalized. After 60 days expires, full payment is due to the City.

This item is being submitted for immediate consideration because tax payments were due January 31, 2019. The only way for this resolution to have a real impact on affected taxpayers is for the tax collector to implement this program immediately. Sending this resolution to the committee will unnecessarily delay the relief that HB 5765 and this resolution seeks to provide to affected taxpayers.

Council Member Zambrano Viggiano said that she had concerns about how many taxpayers were affected. She said that she didn't know if there were any government workers living in Bridgeport. She also said it would be hard to justify those who might have been laid off or furloughed. This is admirable, but she felt it was not fair.

Council Member Brown said that the resolution was only made for Federal workers who were still employed but not allowed to work. There are over thousands of Federal employees in Connecticut and it would be unrealistic to think that there aren't any in Bridgeport.

Council Member Newton said that he was going to side with Council Member Brown because this is the job of the Council to step up to the plate and help those who can't help themselves. If the Council can provide relief for the residents, then they should do it. What would have any Council Member done if their job had been stalled like this and they couldn't pay their mortgage.

Council President Nieves said that she agreed with this resolution and Council Member Brown asked about the immediate consideration because it impacts families that live in Bridgeport. There are families who live paycheck to paycheck -- and they should be supported by the Council. This is not something that happens all the time and the taxes were due on the 31st. This will prevent them from accruing interest.

Council Member Lyons said that she normally doesn't advocate for immediate consideration but sending it to Committee, but that would delay it another month. This is not City money, and the people still have to pay their taxes. This is a temporary program for people to pay their bills. This is about individual families, not the City.

Council Member Zambrano Viggiano said that she had acknowledged the national crisis but wanted to know how the Tax Collector would handle this. She repeated her earlier concerns about supporting one category of workers over another.

Mr. Gaudett said that if the item passes, a document will be sent to the Council Members on how the process will be handled.

Council Member Langan said that this was well intentioned but took the point that there were no Interest loans available but pointed out that the companies that were contracted to the Federal government were the ones that would be affected the most.

Council Member Newton asked if the legislation could be amended to include the third-party vendors. Mr. Gaudett said the third-party vendors were not covered by the State legislation.

Mr. Gaudett reminded everyone that 11 votes would be needed to approve the item for immediate consideration.

**** THE MOTION FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 25-18 PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, LANGAN, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, LYONS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, JACKSON, N. SMITH, AND NEWTON) AND THREE AGAINST (SPAIN, BANTA AND ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 25-18 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTING A TAX DEFERMENT PROGRAM FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AFFECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN PURSUANT TO HB 5765.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 25-18 PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, LANGAN, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, LYONS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, JACKSON, N. SMITH, AND NEWTON) AND THREE AGAINST (SPAIN, BANTA AND ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO).**

Council President Nieves stated that Council Member Martinez was not present due to the fact she was recovering from surgery and Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia was not able to attend the meeting due to illness.

Council President Nieves then spoke about an upcoming four-day conference that Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia and City Clerk Martinez had been able to arrange which will showcase Bridgeport.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services