

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019
6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Pro Tem Taylor-Moye called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Christina Smith, Pete Spain
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan
133rd District:
134th District:
135th District:
136th District: Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Maria Valle
138th District:
139th District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was not present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 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

Before beginning his remarks, Mr. Lee asked for clarification on whether or not a quorum was needed for public speaking. Council President Pro Tem Taylor-Moye replied that no quorum was needed. Mr. Lee explained that the reason he had asked was because there were students from a government class present in the audience and he wanted to hear the Council Member confirm that a quorum was not needed.

Council President Nieves, neighbors (2-19-19)

I see myself as a watchdog on general purpose governance issues including finances. With the Mayor looking outside normal channels for some “wise men from afar”, I have returned to my talks with you. I raise ten issues that Guidepost might look at and provide the taxpayer with an honest and accurate answer. A return for taxpayers...answers...some old....some new!

- 1) Where did the last City administration find funds for the \$400,000 “unbudgeted” Moutinho personal driveway when the court indicated the City was responsible? And how much were the legal costs?
- 2) Former OPED head Kooris noted the taking of \$900,000 from OPED bonded funds. They were used to repay a Port Authority debt for which OPED was not responsible? Who approved each step of the transaction? Was the use of bond funds illegal? Were funds replaced? From where? Where are full appraisals and financials for last decade?
- 3) The City Council annually approves a Capital Budget that provides scant detail to taxpayers about extent of project, timelines, etc. They are asked for approval when bonds are to be marketed to provide funds for the budget. Why does Council have no regular report on all Capital Funds received until fully expended with project complete? Operating budget provides monthly reports. Capital can be quarterly?
- 4) Where can you locate Mayoral vision with legislative priorities for a fiscal year? The Mayor’s annual City report does not put order into his annual budget document, nor does he review at year end when surpluses occur that taxpayers believe are the result of the exaggerated mil rate from 2016 relative to initial budget overstaffing each year.
- 5) Why do “acting manager” positions in the City continue beyond time limits? Why are exams not researched and held? Why is the person responsible for such action, the Civil Service director, still “acting” after all these years? Why was the Civil Service process led by a commission chair who was unqualified by residence or voting according to the Charter from serving?
- 6) Police Department claims that there is an ongoing annual personnel evaluation that serves as a base to make promotions, training assignments and other personnel decision. Is there any evidence of this activity year in and year out, in PD files? Where does “community policing” become defined and understood by all, especially developing youth in the poorest sections of the City? The PD gets publicity for implementing cameras, body protection, new software and shot-spotter technology. When are modern policing “best practices” introduced and evaluated?
- 7) In mid-January the Finance Department releases the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the previous Fiscal Year ending 6/30. No public gathering is called by government to study trends or news from a given year. The vendor, an accounting group, does not appear to explain or answer questions about the likely “Hits, Runs and Errors” of the closed year. The vendor is precluded from answering questions from the public by their City contract.
- 8) Citizens can serve 200 voluntary positions on a variety of more than 25 Boards and Commissions with appointments made by the Mayor, an extenuation of the “strong Mayor” form of government. Even with a political appointee in charge of shepherding

those bodies, vacancies still exist, initial orientation and training are not in evidence and evaluations are not routine.

At this point, Council President Pro Tem Taylor-Moye told Mr. Lee his speaking time was almost up. Mr. Lee said that he had been speaking at the Council Meetings for years and never had this problem before. Council President Pro Tem Taylor-Moye told Mr. Lee to finish his remarks.

9) In-Plant Printing is a City Department that provides a variety of print materials for City departments as well as outside members of the public. The public pays revenue that is not recorded accurately like the City Clerk and Town Clerk offices. The Finance Officer is aware of a discrepancy of \$800,000 that I reported two years ago between the expenses that show in the CAFR and actual Purchasing totals over a five year period where Finance reported balance. That is a \$160,000 per year discrepancy. Perhaps Guidepost would like to review the numbers?

10) Oversight? Checks and balance? Internal Audit? Look at the City Department table of organization. It's on the chart directly below the Finance Department, and it has been there for years. Hypocrisy or humor? Ask Guidepost to investigate?

Time will tell.

At the conclusion of Mr. Lee's remarks, Council President Pro Tem Taylor-Moye apologized to Mr. Lee for the misunderstanding. Mr. Lee accepted Council President Pro Tem Taylor-Moye's apology.

Dasha Spell

284 Beechwood Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

CSMA/BOE.

Ms. Dasha Spell came forward and said that she had numbers for the Council about the cost of education. She said that when they add up all the outside costs, there was over \$26 million spent before it even reached the Bridgeport Students. She asked how much the City Council had given the BOE last year. Her concern was that they did not continue to educate the students, but if they go to jail, they get a good education. This is not fair to the regular students.

Cecil Young

99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Cover-up of city officials.

Mr. Young said that he wanted to thank Council Member Ernie Newton for his efforts regarding Mr. Young's dismissal. Mr. Young mentioned that when he sees people waiting for food he wonders why they aren't given jobs. How can they raise a family with so little? This issue isn't about him, but about righting a wrong.

Mr. Young spoke about how he was terminated on March 17th even though he showed up for work on March 16th. He said that if there was an unjust termination, it has to be dealt with.

He said that the Council had violated his rights and if the past administration had done something wrong, it needs to be addressed. Council Member Newton asked the staff to look at the situation and if Mr. Young was saying something wrong, they should call him out. He said that this should be clear in black and white. The City can't come before Council and present the evidence because they don't have it.

Clyde Nicholson
396 Madison Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Stop the Killing.

Mr. Nicholson said that the last time he was present, he asked the Council to make Bridgeport a gun free zone. He said that there already had been five deaths in the City due to guns this year. Tonight, he was asking the Council to come up with some kind of idea to deal with the problem. The Council is elected to make laws and to see that they are enforced. Kids are dying here in Bridgeport. He said that he was tired of going to funerals. If the Council doesn't do anything about this, nothing will happen. It will be important to talk to the ministers, to go to the churches and have a night of prayer. He said that there are people who won't let their kids go to the park because they are afraid their children will be shot.

Mr. Nicholson then called Mr. Jorge Cruz forward to address the Council.

Mr. Jorge Cruz came forward and said that the City needs this to be done because there have been five deaths already in the City. He was asking all his friends to come together in each and every District and stop these killings.

Robert Foley
272 Brewster Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Bridgeport History.

Mr. Foley asked what comes to mind when people hear the name Bridgeport. The City needs a lot of help. They need to change the image of the City. Businesses need to be able to come to the City and open up. He asked what they could do to improve the image of Bridgeport. One way would be to help people connect with the history of Bridgeport, which is not very well known.

One historical aspect might be talking about Little Liberia. There was a map of Bridgeport that had the residences that were labeled with the owner's name. Every house in the City was labeled except for Little Liberia. One of the former historians tracked down all the owners for the homes in Little Liberia. Now they have a completed map and people should be talking about it.

The City was First in Flight before the Wright Brothers. Not only that, but many people do not know about George Washington's Spy in Black Rock. People might not realize that if it was not for Washington's Spy, Caleb Brewster, the country might still be under British rule. Caleb Brewster played a major role in the American Revolution. People just don't know about this even though he is studied in the Pentagon.

Jacquelyn Cauthen
397 Charles Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Women's History Month - Teen
Conference, March 16, 2019.

Ms. Cauthen came forward and said that she had distributed copies of information for the Council Members that included schedule of events for the upcoming Teen Conference on March 16, 2019. The luncheon will have a mentor at each of the 24 tables. The mentors will be talking to the girls about history and women's roles in it. The girls need to pre-register. If every Council Member told five teenaged girls, it would be helpful. She said that when she was a teen, she was pregnant and people put her "in a box". She then read a poem she had written about the various labels that people put on people.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Pro Tem Taylor-Moye adjourned the Public Speaking portion of the Council meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 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 7:09 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member McBride-Lee lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim requested that City Clerk 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
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan
133rd District: Jeannette Herron, Michael Defilippo
134th District: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves
138th District: Nessah Smith
139th District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. Council President Nieves announced that Council Member Lyons was not able to attend the meeting and Council Member Zambrano Viggiano was ill. She added that Council Member Roman-Christy and Council Member Jackson were attending the Police Commission meeting.

Mayoral Proclamation and City Council Citation: Recognizing businessman Willie McBride, Jr. of WC McBride Electrical Contractors, LLC during Black History Month for his contributions to the community.

Mr. McBride, the owner of WC McBride Electrical Contractors was called forward and presented with both Mayoral and City Council Citations recognizing their contributions to the City. He was then presented with Mayoral and City Council Citations.

Mayoral Proclamation and City Council Citation: Recognizing businessman W. Tom McMillian of M.F.X.A. Construction and Management, LLC during Black History Month for his contributions to the community.

Mr. McMillian was called forward and presented with both Mayoral and City Council Citations recognizing his contributions to the City. He was then presented with Mayoral and City Council Citations.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Approval of City Council Minutes: January 22, 2019

Council Member Brown requested that the following be added to the minutes following the Adjournment:

“Mayoral Proclamation and City Council Citation: Recognizing State Heroine Prudence Crandell and her first African American Student Sarah Harris for defying racial discrimination in education in 19th Century Connecticut.”

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SPAIN MOVED THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2019 AS AMENDED.**

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

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

32-18 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution to Adopt Plan of Conservation & Development – Plan of Bridgeport, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

33-18 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Land Development Agreement (LDA) for the Mixed-Use Development of “Congress Plaza Commons” located on the corner of Main Street and Congress Street and Request to Order a Public Hearing Relative to the Same, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

34-18 Communication from Tax Collector re: Proposed Assignment of Tax Liens for Fiscal Year 2019, referred to Contracts Committee.

37-18 Communication from OPED/Housing & Community Development re: (Ref. #108-17) Proposed Substantial Amendment to the City’s Consolidated Plan for Housing & Community Development, referred to Special Committee on CDBG Program.

38-18 Communication from Labor Relations re: Proposed Tentative Agreement with Bridgeport City Supervisor’s Association (BCSA) regarding their Bargaining Contract, referred to Contracts Committee.

39-18 Communication from Labor Relations re: Proposed Tentative Agreement with LIUNA Local 1224 regarding their Bargaining Contract, referred to Contracts Committee.

40-18 Communication from Labor Relations re: Proposed Tentative Agreement with Bridgeport Building Trades Council regarding their Bargaining Contract, referred to Contracts Committee.

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

28-18 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Jackson & Langan re: Proposed resolution requesting a ban on Synthetic Pesticides and Pesticides with Inert Ingredients on City-Owned Properties, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

29-18 Resolution presented by Council Member Jackson re: Proposed resolution in Support of Proposed Bill No. 6918 to Expand Ages for Minors to be Employed, referred to Education and Social Services Committee.

30-18 Resolution presented by Council Member Jackson re: Proposed resolution requesting that the Board of Education implement Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Services, referred to Education and Social Services Committee.

31-18 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Newton & Martinez re: Proposed resolution requesting that the Intersection of Clermont Avenue and Ridgefield Avenue be designated as an “All-Way” Stop with appropriate signage and stop lines painted on road surface, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

35-18 Resolution presented by Council Member Jackson re: Proposed resolution requesting that the City Attorney’s Office draft an amendment to City Ordinance Chapter 3.70 – Event Admissions Surcharge, referred to Ordinance Committee.

36-18 Resolution presented by Council Member Jackson re: Proposed resolution requesting the General Assembly to enhance collection of Remote or E-commerce Sales Taxes, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Council Member Newton requested that Agenda Item 33-18 be referred to a Joint Committee composed of the Contracts Committee and the Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

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

32-18 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO ADOPT PLAN OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT – PLAN OF BRIDGEPORT, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

34-18 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT OF TAX LIENS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

37-18 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED/HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RE: (REF. #108-17) PROPOSED SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE CITY’S CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, REFERRED TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CDBG PROGRAM.

38-18 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS RE: PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH BRIDGEPORT CITY SUPERVISOR’S ASSOCIATION (BCSA) REGARDING THEIR BARGAINING CONTRACT, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

39-18 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS RE: PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH LIUNA LOCAL 1224 REGARDING THEIR BARGAINING CONTRACT, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

40-18 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS RE: PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH BRIDGEPORT BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL REGARDING THEIR BARGAINING CONTRACT, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

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

28-18 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) JACKSON & LANGAN RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING A BAN ON SYNTHETIC PESTICIDES AND PESTICIDES WITH INERT INGREDIENTS ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

29-18 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED BILL NO. 6918 TO EXPAND AGES FOR MINORS TO BE EMPLOYED, REFERRED TO EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

30-18 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IMPLEMENT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) SERVICES, REFERRED TO EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

31-18 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) NEWTON & MARTINEZ RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE INTERSECTION OF CLERMONT AVENUE AND RIDGEFIELD AVENUE BE DESIGNATED AS AN “ALL-WAY” STOP WITH APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE AND STOP LINES PAINTED ON ROAD SURFACE, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

35-18 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE DRAFT AN AMENDMENT TO CITY ORDINANCE CHAPTER 3.70 – EVENT ADMISSIONS SURCHARGE, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

36-18 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ENHANCE COLLECTION OF REMOTE OR E-COMMERCE SALES TAXES, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

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

33-18 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Land Development Agreement (LDA) for the Mixed-Use Development of “Congress Plaza Commons” located on the corner of Main Street and Congress Street and Request to Order a Public Hearing Relative to the Same, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO REFER AGENDA ITEM 33-18 TO A JOINT COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE AND THE ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested that the Committee Members receive a copy of the Land Disposition Agreement (LDA) in advance for review.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR AGENDA ITEM 33-18 ON MARCH 4, 2019 AT 7 P.M. DURING FULL COUNCIL MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Herron left the meeting at 7:45 p.m. A quorum was still present.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***196-17 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Resolution requesting the Purchasing Director to provide information on the Department of Public Facilities purchases.**

Mayor Ganim pointed out that there was only one item on the Consent Calendar. City Clerk Martinez then read the item into the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LANGAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

196-17 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE PURCHASING DIRECTOR TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC FACILITIES PURCHASES.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Following the approval of the Consent Calendar, Mayor Ganim acknowledged the presence of the Government students in the audience. He asked Council Member Newton to speak briefly on Agenda Item 31-18, which involves the installation of four stop signs at the Intersection of Clermont and Ridgefield Avenues.

Council Member Newton explained that after the request was made, the Engineering Department went out to inspect the intersection. They determined that the area had poor sight lines and recommended that the Police Commission approve the installation of stop signs. Council Members Jackson and Roman-Christy were attending the Police Commission meeting, which was underway concurrently with the Council Meeting.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia announced that National League of Cities will be holding an event in Bridgeport on July 24th. Through the 27th. She gave the details of the event and encouraged everyone to mark their calendar.

City Clerk Martinez said that a representative from the National League of Cities came to Bridgeport to review the city as a conference site. The representative was very pleased with what he saw.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Service