

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2019
6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

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

A quorum was present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Dasha Spell
284 Beechwood Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

CSMA/BOE and Community.

Ms. Dasha Spell came forward and said that last week she had spoke about the frustration she had about education. She said that she was constantly hearing that there is no money. This week she heard that the Public Safety meeting was scheduled. She said that she had not heard any kind of solution for the school's needs. She said that she was a home owner and a parent, so she is invested in her community. She had grown up in Bridgeport and remembers what it used to be like. Now Ms. Spell is tired of hearing the same thing over and over again. She spoke about

using some part of Marina Village as a community substation. The city needs to support this effort. There will be a meeting tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. She said that she was tired of hearing excuses.

Council President Nieves reminded everyone that each speaker is given five minutes to address the Council. Due to past abuses, if a speaker ignores the request to stop, the microphones will be turned off.

Johnny Ray Moore
75 Baldwin Street, 3rd Fl.
Greater Bpt. NAACP
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Greater Bridgeport NAACP hosting
a Connecticut Real Estate Foreclosure
Forum.

Mr. Moore came forward to speak about the Greater Bridgeport NAACP. He said that there was an upcoming forum on April 27th. He said that he was aware that the Council Members have constituents who are facing foreclosure, are in danger of losing their homes, or may have had their civil rights violated during the foreclosure process.

Mr. Moore spoke about the fact that Connecticut allows for out of state to come in to foreclose on properties without a title or legal ownership. He said that he wanted to bring this questionable statute into the light. He said that Connecticut was one of the state's with the highest foreclosures. While other states like California and Nevada have seen increases in property values, the State of Connecticut has seen a decrease in property values. He believes that this is because the State allows outside entities to come and take properties without showing legal ownership.

Jean Brown
397 Charles Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606

The Announcement of New “Healthy
Woman’s Collective”.

Council President Nieves called for Ms. Brown to come forward. There was no response. She called Ms. Brown’s name two more times. There was no response.

Jacquelyn Cauthen
397 Charles Street
Becoming D.I.V.A.S.
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Report on “Advancing the Empowerment
of Teen Girls to become Future Leaders”.

Ms. Cauthen said that she was happy to give everyone a final accounting of her event of Advancing the Empowerment of Girls to Become Future Leaders. They had 126 girls who came from all over including Philadelphia, New Jersey, New York and various other locations. There were about 20 Bridgeport girls who attended. They need to do a better job of letting the Bridgeport girls hear about the event. She gave a brief overview of the various things that they were able to give to the attendees.

Ms. Cauthen asked if there was a written protocol for requesting Council funding.

Maria Pereira
Board of Education
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Bassick High School.

Ms. Maria Pereira then said that she was here with Justin Parks, who is the grandson of the man who donated the 8 acres of land for Bassick High School.

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

Bridgeport Board of Education

My name is Justin Parks. I grew up in Connecticut and I am the great grandson of Edmund Chase Bassick for whom Bassick High School is named.

I was born in the Bridgeport Hospital and grew up in Fairfield.

In 1968, I joined the Army. I attended infantry officers candidate school to become a U. S. Army officer. In 1970, I was sent to Vietnam and returned with a Purple Heart for wounds received in action and a Bronze Star for valor. After finishing college and a Columbia university MBA, I retired a few years ago from a career as a marketing executive.

I am here today for two reasons.

Just so you know I spoke last week at a Board of Education meeting to request an apology to the Bassick family for a public comment made by a Board of Education member accusing my family of being involved in the slave trade.

That's ridiculous and unless there is factual evidence the Bassick family had anything to do with the slave trade, a public apology is due.

The Bassick High School

We are all aware that the Bassick High School needs rehabilitation. The question is whether or not the school should be torn down and rebuilt or just the magnificent front section of the school should be saved. The school is an architectural masterpiece.

Given that the future use of the school may involve training for various traits, it would seem that the superb architecture and interior workmanship would be a wonderful lesson for future builders.

From Charles Brilvitch, a former Bridgeport historian, "Bassick High School is a building that deserves to be preserved. It is a masterwork of neoclassic architecture from an error that many consider the pinnacle of American design prowess, building craftsmanship, and material availability and it is without doubt eligible for inclusion in

the state and national Register of Historic Places, a status that makes restoration not only eligible for special grants funding but also the Connecticut historic tax credit.

Bassick High School dates from the Beaux Arts period with the great pillared portico at the center of the building echoing the forms of the Arch of Constantine in Rome, trimmed and in the choicest Indiana limestone, and entry way designed to instill within the student or visitor a sense of the importance of the learning that goes within.

Bridgeport in the 1920s was one of the most progressive of our government and well-to-do cities in America. Its industry was cutting-edge and it had a cadre of world class industrialists determined to show the world what a manufacturing utopia could look like. This civic leadership did not live in gated enclaves far removed from the businesses they commanded-witness the opulent mansions of Clinton Avenue, cheek-by-jowl with the three-family houses of the workers the owners employed.

Such a man was Edgar Webb Bassick (1872-1948). Bassick was the Chairman of Peoples Savings Bank. He also had the unbending desire to make his dream a reality: a memorial to his father in the form of a beautiful, state-of-the-arts school of higher learning on the site of his family's historic Fairfield Avenue estate.

Going further back in time his father, Edmund Chase Bassick led a life worth commemorating and most worthy of imparting life lessons to young people. Born into poverty on the coast of Maine, Bassick shipped out on a commercial sailboat when barely into his teens. Traveling around the world, he found himself in far-away Australia at the age of 16. By a stroke of luck the teenager discovered the very first gold on that continent, and is single-handedly credited with starting the Australian gold Rush of 1851.

Twenty years later having lost his fortune to robbers and back in America, he had a wife and young daughter (my grandmother) and was working in a gold mine in Colorado. One day some familiar-looking rocks caught his eye. Those rocks were assayed and were very rich in gold. Bassick quickly brought up the mining claim, and in no time owned the most important goal of mine ever discovered in America.

With his first rush of income it was noted that he bought himself 20 tins of sardines, and sat eating them with his penknife just outside the general store. Soon, however, Bassick opened a large general store, where goods were given away at half their wholesale cost to the entire district. The man who had known so much misfortune was determined to share his sudden wealth with others.

Eventually, Bassick returned east and set his sights on Bridgeport, Connecticut, fairest-of-the-fair in all of New England. Bassick purchased P. T. Barnum's former home, "Lindencroft", on what was then "Millionaires Row" on Fairfield Avenue. Renaming it "Miners Rest," he added greenhouses and stables. And, always mindful of his origins, he built a development of model workers cottages along Bassick Avenue and named it Bassickville.

Bassick died in 1898. By the time his wife died in the 1920s, his son believed a great school would honor his father's name and would continue the Bassick family tradition of helping those who help themselves. He selected Bridgeport architect Ernest G. Southey. Working together, the two men created a beautiful school of higher learning.

In recent years Bridgeport has embarked on a program to revamp its educational infrastructure, to demolish its old school buildings and replace them with modern structures at tremendous expenditure of public funds. The reasoning often stated is that retrofitting old structures is problematic for architects and contractors, and that it is much more efficient to start with a clean slate and to build from the ground up. The inference is that the cities habitually low test scores are the fault of the buildings themselves; that it is next to impossible for students to learn in "antiquated facilities". That's ridiculous.

Bassick High School is a beautiful structure, in sound condition, made of materials that are your replaceable or prohibitively expensive in our day and age. The school has witnessed the coming-of-age of generations of Bridgeporters and has acquired a patina and a tradition that cannot be reproduced at any cost. It is a landmark that Bridgeport should be most honored to possess. Its demolition is unthinkable.

Please try to save as much as possible of this magnificent and historic building. Working with the current, but updated building, would be best. New is not always better. My being here this evening is not part of a Bassick family ego trip. Rather it's a request to save a building as part of Bridgeport's rich history.

By the way, I have a professional background in the entertainment industry and am actively working on creating a production that would chronicle my great grandfather's amazing life and, separately reopening the actual Bassick Gold Mine as it never even approached its full production capacity wish me luck... Thank you.

Gloria Barksdale
2612 North Avenue, #B12
Project Mother Inc.
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Summer Bootcamps for City of
Bridgeport Students & Adults.

Ms. Barksdale then spoke about her upcoming Summer Bootcamps, one of which will be held in Fairfield from June 24 thru 28. She said that most students in other countries go to school year round and this helps retain material. She then gave an overview of the program and said that the students will be given the materials and lunch. Many of the students do not know how to save or even make healthy meals. Ms. Barksdale then directed everyone's attention to the cost of the program and the materials that they will be providing.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves announced that the following Council Members had excused absences: Council Member Defilippo, Council Member McBride-Lee and Council Member Jackson. She adjourned the Public Speaking portion of the Council meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 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 7:18 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim led those present in the prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member Newton in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk called the roll.

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

A quorum was present. The following Council Members had excused absences: Council Member Defilippo, Council Member McBride-Lee and Council Member Jackson.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: March 18, 2019

**** COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 18, 2019
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 18, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEM FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

69-18 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Resolution and Temporary Construction Easement for the Installation of a Stormwater Diversion and Detention System at Beardsley Elementary School, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

69-18 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AND TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A STORMWATER DIVERSION AND DETENTION SYSTEM AT BEARDSLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 69-18 PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (SPAIN, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, LANGAN, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO, NIEVES, VALLE, N. SMITH, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (C. SMITH).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED AGENDA ITEM 69-18.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Valle spoke about the rain garden for Beardsley School. Mayor Ganim explained that this was a privately funded project sponsored by the Nature Conservancy to solve a drainage project at the school.

Mr. Drew Goldsman came forward to speak about the project and said that there was severe sedimentation at the school. He said that this project was privately funded and that they hoped to complete the project during the summer while school is not in session.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia thanked the Nature Conservancy responsible for doing this. She asked about a being held harmless clause in the contract. Atty. Anastasi indicated that it was on page 3 of the agreement.

Council Member Spain thanked the Nature Conservancy for doing this project.

Council Member Zambrano Viggiano thanked the Nature Conservancy said that there was a packet of information about this included in the Council Members' mailing.

Council Member C. Smith said that she wanted to express her support but abstained from the vote because she works with the Nature Conservancy in her job.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 69-18 PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (SPAIN, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, LANGAN, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO, NIEVES, VALLE, N. SMITH, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (C. SMITH).**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

65-18 Communication from WPCA re: Proposed Water Pollution Control Authority Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

66-18 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 Robert Whitbread having or soon to attain the age of sixty-five years or more to remain employed by the City for another year, referred to Contracts Committee.

67-18 Communication from City Attorney re: Twenty Day Notice to Settle Pending Litigation Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130 with Enrique Burgos, et al, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

68-18 Communication from City Attorney re: Twenty Day Notice to Settle Pending Litigation Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130 with Edward Jones, Jr., ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

70-18 Communication from Housing and Community Development re: Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan: Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), Homeless Emergency Solutions Grant Program (HESG), HOME Investment Partnership Program and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program (HOPWA), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO REFER THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMITTEES:**

65-18 COMMUNICATION FROM WPCA RE: PROPOSED WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

66-18 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 ROBERT WHITBREAD HAVING OR SOON TO ATTAIN THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OR MORE TO REMAIN

EMPLOYED BY THE CITY FOR ANOTHER YEAR, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

67-18 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH ENRIQUE BURGOS, ET AL, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

68-18 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH EDWARD JONES, JR., ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

70-18 COMMUNICATION FROM HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RE: PROGRAM YEAR 45 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG), HOMELESS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM (HESG), HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS PROGRAM (HOPWA), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***46-18 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (FY18-FY23) Speed and Aggressive Driving Enforcement (#19323-#23323), Click It or Ticket Enforcement (#19326-#23326) and Distracted Driving – High Visibility Enforcement (#19327-#23327).**

***55-18 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Agreement with WSP USA Inc. for Consulting Engineering Services for the Design of Park Avenue Traffic Signal Upgrade, utilizing Funding from the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program, State Project: 15-376 and Federal Aid Project: 1015(136).**

***52-18 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of the De-Authorization of Projects Previously Approved for Bonding Authority.**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Members who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Langan requested that Agenda Item 52-18 be removed.

City Clerk Martinez then read the remaining items into the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:**

***46-18 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FY18-FY23) SPEED AND AGGRESSIVE DRIVING ENFORCEMENT (#19323-#23323), CLICK IT OR TICKET ENFORCEMENT (#19326-#23326) AND DISTRACTED DRIVING – HIGH VISIBILITY ENFORCEMENT (#19327-#23327).**

***55-18 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AGREEMENT WITH WSP USA INC. FOR CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN OF PARK AVENUE TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADE, UTILIZING FUNDING FROM THE CONGESTION MITIGATION AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) PROGRAM, STATE PROJECT: 15-376 AND FEDERAL AID PROJECT: 1015(136).**

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

52-18 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of the De-Authorization of Projects Previously Approved for Bonding Authority.

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

Council Member Langan said that he hoped that he could get some clarification on the use of funding for bonding. He asked if the money was being de-authorized and then re-authorized for Harding High School. Council Member Zambrano Viggiano said that there was a portion of funding left from one of the schools and it was being moved to another project in the same category, which is Harding High School.

Council Member Langan wished to know if the administration has to come to the Council any time that money is bonded for a school improvement project and they want to move the money. Mr. Flatto came forward and explained that the funding was being re-allocated to another school project and that this was within the policy guidelines.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTER TO BE ACTED UPON:

17-18 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution requesting a Clean Slate Hiring Policy for the City of Bridgeport for referral to Civil Service Commission.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Newton said that he wanted to bring something to the Council's attention that he was challenged to take a drug test. He said that as of June 26th, it will be 24 years since he has taken a drink or a drug. He said that he was standing up to bullies. However, he said that it is important to allow people to move forward after they make a mistake. He said that he took up the challenge and wanted everyone to know about this.

Council Member Taylor-Moye thanked Council Member Newton for his passion regarding this. She said that he was the man.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President Nieves thanked all the Council Members that had reached out to her following the death of her uncle.

Mayor Ganim announced a moment of silence for Council President Nieves's uncle. Council Member Newton also requested a moment of silence for another well-known Bridgeport resident who had recently passed away.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services