

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020  
6:30 P.M.**

**City Council Chambers, City Hall  
45 Lyon Terrace  
Bridgeport, CT**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Nieves called the Public Speaking Session to order.

She noted that the meeting was being recorded because there was no stenographer present.

**ROLL CALL**

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130<sup>th</sup> District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jorge Cruz, Sr.  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Marcus Brown, M. Evette Brantley  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Michael DeFilippo  
134<sup>th</sup> District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Alfredo Castillo  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. Council President noted that Council Member Herron had an excused absence.

Council President Nieves announced that five speakers had previously signed up and an additional four speakers had signed up from the floor. She reminded everyone that the public speaking rules had changed to 10 speakers for 3 minutes each and the speakers' remarks must remain germane to their stated topic.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.**

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

**Beth Lazar**  
1241 Main Street, Apt. 728  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Remington Woods being slated for  
destruction by the end of 2020.

Ms. Lazar came forward and read the following statement into the record:

I am a member of Preserve Remington Woods. I want to explain how preserving Remington Woods benefits the City of Bridgeport and the world at large. Remington Woods is an over 400 acre forest located on the Bridgeport/Stratford border. Remington Woods contains a 23 acre lake, meadows and wetlands. It is home to thousands and thousands of trees, 70 species of birds including bald eagles, and a multitude of wildlife such as deer, fox, raccoons and box turtles. The trees of the forest sequester carbon and omit oxygen. This mitigates climate change and asthma rates. The trees of the woods help prevent flooding and cool the air in the summer.

Bridgeport's Master Plan states, "Bridgeport Values Nature". A couple of the plan's priorities are rehabilitating abandoned buildings downtown and developing the waterfront, yet the latest Bridgeport zoning map has Remington woods zoned for industry! Knocking down the last urban forest is not valuing nature.

Over 23 %of the office space is vacant and or abandoned in Fairfield County. There are also a lot of vacant industrial buildings, especially on Barnum Avenue. These buildings should be rehabbed and utilized instead of destroying and killing the vibrant living community of wildlife, birds, plants and trees which is Remington Woods.

A spin-off of Dupont/Dow, the Corteva Corporation now owns Remington Woods and could start knocking it down as early as the end of this year, 2020. Corteva Corporation produces chemicals which are killing off vitally necessary pollinating bees, killing wildlife, and causing cancer in humans.

Do your part to help mitigate climate change and asthma rates. Proves that you value nature. Preserve Remington Woods. You can do this by not giving any permits to the corporations that are going to destroy the woods. Preserve Remington Woods.

**Lela Florel**  
1465 Chopsey Hill Road  
Bridgeport, CT 06606

The need to preserve Remington  
Woods as a Wildlife Nature Preserve  
with walking paths and its impact on  
the city.

Ms. Florel came forward and said that she was born and raised in Bridgeport and was a taxpayer. She said environmental considerations had become increasingly important. The destruction of the life of the planet including the oceans. She asked the Council Members not to allow the destruction of Remington Woods and become part of the world-wide problem. Destroying any part of Remington Woods would destroy the whole. The forest is a living organism like our bodies. She asked what part of our bodies would be okay to leave out. There are many different

types of wildlife there. She recounted some of the memories from her girlhood. People need nature and nature needs a place. There are 70 species of birds along with many other varieties of wildlife. Remington Woods needs to be preserved in its entirety as a wildlife preserve with walking paths for humans and wildlife alike. It contributes to the well-being to the community. She said that in the coming years, she hoped Bridgeport would show how it values nature by preserving this precious natural treasure.

**J.D. Smith**

Preserving Remington Woods.

1465 Chopsey Hill Road  
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Mr. Smith came forward and spoke about how chemicals cause cancer, kill birds and fish, and brain damage. The woods provides crucial life services 24/7 for free. He went on to speak about all the benefits the woods provide for the residents including the social benefits of reducing crime and violence, improving test scores and providing future opportunities. The trees give off oxygen, which everyone needs while cleaning up pollution. Bridgeport deserves this forest. Preserve Bridgeport's life services. Preserve Remington Woods.

**Deolinda Ruas**

Remington Woods.

1241 Main Street, Apt. 929  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Ms. Ruas came forward and introduced herself. She said that she had lived in Bridgeport most of her life. She was present to speak about Remington Woods. As a child, she played in Remington Woods. She spoke about her early years growing up on the East Side of Bridgeport and playing in the street. While she was familiar with other parks, she was amazed by Remington Woods. She was able to see trees and grass growing apparently for miles and it was quiet and peaceful. There were no sirens or cars. She could think there. That is where she discovered that there were other things outside of herself that deserved respect. This taught her to respect herself. Ms. Ruas went on to graduate as third in her high school class and graduated from college. She would like to have the opportunity for others to experience this, particularly in a time when things are constantly being torn down. She asked the Council to please help preserve Remington Woods.

**Myron Dukes**

Orcutt Boys & Girls Club/Equality.

184 Harriet Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06608

Mr. Dukes came forward and said that he was present as a father, a concerned citizen, a small business owner and a strong pillar in the community. He loves Bridgeport and had some suggestions to help the City.

Orcutt Boys and Girls Club is very important for the City and was a special place for him. Returning to the City, he noticed a lot of dissention on the East End. He suggested that the outside sign be changed to read "Orcutt Boys and Girls" rather than "Orcutt Boys Club". This will welcome both boys and girls together.

Mr. Dukes said he would like a list of all City Ordinances for transparency. He asked whether the Orcutt Boys and Girls Club would have a working computer lab so students could come and study after school. He asked why they did not have a functioning pool. He spoke about the bacteria count at a pool that became a health hazard. Everyone talks about the level of violence, but there are no after school activities for the youth. He asked for a diversified staff and Board at the Club. There should be cameras in the facility to monitor the children because of all the sexual scandals all over the nation. He asked for more female staff members. No more showboating. There needs to be a concerted effort to revitalize and rebuild the Club.

**Eric Arabo**

Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Arabo came forward and said he was present to speak about environmental racism and preserving Remington Woods which was an important part of the city. He said that he grew up in an area that had a nature preserve for the residents to explore and enjoy. This was incredibly valuable and would not trade those experiences for anything. If the people present want to have an experience of enjoying nature and getting away from the sounds of the City, they would not be able to do that. They would have to go to another town. This is not an accident because Bridgeport has gotten the short end of the stick in so many other ways. This is because the City is poor and less white than the towns like Mr. Arabo grew up in. Environmental racism can be seen in the difference and other ones. Cities are often the ones most affected by pollution and often are the very last to receive assistance in dealing with the situation. Preserving Remington Woods could be an important step in Bridgeport's future and help the children have the same opportunities that Mr. Arabo did in experiencing nature. The looks on children's faces when they see flocks of migrating birds or watching other wildlife. This is something they should have the opportunity to experience. It is important to insure they have those experiences close to home. We need to stand up against environmental racism and helping nature. If Remington Woods is preserved in its entirety, if Bridgeport values nature, it would be doing the right thing.

**Wanda Simmons**

Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Simmons came forward and said that she was present to speak on behalf of Remington Woods. She had the pleasure of enjoying the woods and listened very carefully to those who spoke earlier and what they were advocating. This is actually about the children. She was born and raised in Bridgeport and Bridgeport's children deserve this because it is serene and allows children to relax. She said that she agrees with the Preserve Remington Woods group 100%.

Ms. Simmons then spoke about how Orcutt Boys Club has been instrumental in saving children. She is a volunteer there many nights and the children need this service.

**Linda Alford**

Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Alford came forward and said that she had just heard about the issue of Remington Woods. She was born and raised in Costa Rica and grew up with a pet iguana. Growing up, she learned about different animals and was amazed to find how many different animals are found in

Remington Woods. She hoped that everyone who was present understood that the adults have children and some of them don't know what it is to leave their television to do other things. In Costa Rica, she took the monkeys and other wildlife for granted, but now she lives in a concrete jungle. When we take ourselves away from what is really important, which is just breathing. It will be important to preserve this for the children.

Council Member Maria Pereira came forward and read a statement into the record.

I think it is highly appropriate to open my statement with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right."

I would like to start with the Rules of the City Council which every single member voted to approve except me.

City Council Rule VIII Section 15 has been violated at every single City Council Meeting.

- It requires an Executive Summary be provided to include a substantive summary of the matter, not ridiculous comments such as "excessive use of force"
- a financial impact analysis- to include BEST REASONABLE ESTIMATES as to ALL expenditure effects of the reference if approved as requested, not ridiculous statements like "\$20,000 or more"
- and that COPIES OF ALL EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO EACH COUNCILPERSON...WHEN THE MATTER IS REFERRED BY THE FULL CITY COUNCIL TO COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW.

Rule Four states that no one can speak at City Council Meetings other than members without a majority vote of ALL the members of the City Council, yet it appears Mark Anastasi Chairs these meetings instead of Mayor Ganim whom by the way regularly appears disorientated because he clearly has not read a single document prior to the meetings themselves and is often hunched over his cellphone texting when he is responsible for presiding over an effective & organized meeting. At the last meeting we also had Lynn Haig and another associate City Attorney speak in absolute violation of this rule.

At a meeting where I made a motion to suspend the City Council Rules to add the Resolution regarding John Ricci; Mark Anastasi strolled over to tell me I had to suspend a section of the City Charter, not the Rules. Can someone explain to me how ANYONE can suspend a provision of the City Charter when it serves as our constitution and is ratified by voters?

Mayor Ganim has repeatedly attempted to end debate which can only be accomplished by a vote of the City Council, and members have repeatedly yelled out while someone has been recognized and has the floor including one member who yelled out a motion to move the question when their microphone light was not on and they had not been recognized to speak in absolute violation of City Council Rule VIII.

I had a City Council Member at the last meeting making disparaging remarks about me from both his seat and while walking by me while the meeting was in progress, in full view of the City Council President, which was in absolute violation of City Council Rule 26.

We had a City Council Member verbally attack a Public Speaker who was quite appropriate in their remarks. They were not yelling, swearing, threatening or otherwise inappropriate in their remarks. We can't verbally attack public speakers when the City Council Rule 25 states that if a public speaker behaves in that manner their speaking privileges may be revoked.

Members have repeatedly violated the City Council Rules and Robert's Rules of Order, yet the Chair(s) fails to rule them out of order which is a poor reflection on their leadership.

Quite frankly, I can go on and on about the many rule violations that have been committed since December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The bottom line is 19 members of the City Council voted to adopt the City Council Rules, which included the adoption of Robert's Rules of Order. If you recall, I stated on the record that I believed the City Council Rules had many flaws including potential violations of state law which is why I did not vote for them. Since all of you adopted them, I would hope that means you have studied them, understand them, possess a working knowledge of them, and are able to abide by them.

If you haven't, please take the time to do so.

## ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves adjourned the public speaking.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport  
City Council  
Regular Meeting  
January 21, 2020

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020**

**7:00 P.M.**

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

**Bridgeport, Connecticut**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Nieves called the meeting of the City Council to order at 7:06 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Council President Nieves requested Rev. McBride-Lee to lead those present in prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council President Nieves requested Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The City Clerk called the roll.

130<sup>th</sup> District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jorge Cruz, Sr.  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Marcus Brown, M. Evette Brantley  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Michael DeFilippo  
134<sup>th</sup> District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Alfredo Castillo  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

**Mayoral and City Council Citation(s): Recognizing the 2019 Bridgeport Fire Prevention Poster Winners Mariah Torres-Moore, Grade 5 of Blackham School and Aurora Johnson, Grade 4 of Winthrop School.**

The 2019 Bridgeport Fire Prevention Poster Winners Mariah Torres-Moore, Grade 5 of Blackham School and Aurora Johnson, Grade 4 of Winthrop School were called forward and

presented with both Mayoral and City Council Citations recognizing their contributions to Bridgeport fire safety.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

**Approval of City Council Minutes: January 6, 2020**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2020 MEETING.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Martinez stated that Council President Nieves had stated during the meeting that Council Member Martinez was absent due to the flu. Please change the record to reflect that her absence was excused.

The following changes were submitted for the January 6, 2020 minutes:

Page 6, following **City Council Citation(s): Recognizing the Recipients of the 2019 City of Bridgeport “Employee of the Year” Award –**

Please add the following comment: “The employees’ names who received the 2019 “Employee of the Year” are not identified anywhere in the minutes. Certainly, the employees’ names and position that were honored should be codified in the minutes.”

The 2019 winners are:

Richard Kascak (City Attorney)  
Kim Jack (Finance)  
Francisco Rivera (EOC)  
Tamara Root (Housing/Health)  
Gloria Castillo (Lighthouse)  
Ellen Gerrity (Public Facilities)  
Kimberle Laue (Purchasing)  
John Martinsky (Tax Collector)  
Christina Resto (Town Clerk)

Page 6, Correction of Minutes from December 16, 2019, Please change:

“Page 14, **MOTION FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:** Council Member Pereira expressed concern about the number of votes that were taken regarding this matter. However, a review of the audio recording of the meeting and the written record of the vote was done and the substance and number of votes as presented in the minutes were found to be accurate.”

To: “That was not the concern I expressed on January 6th. The issues at hand is that December 16, 2019 minutes states on Page 12, last paragraph that the  
“\*\* MOTION FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION FAILED TO PASS....”  
That is not correct. The motion for immediate consideration passed unanimously.

The paragraph should read “\*\* THE RESOLUTION REGARDING THE RESIGNATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC FACILITIES, JOHN RICCI, FAILED TO PASS.”

Page 8, second to last paragraph – “Atty. Anastasi reviewed the process with her” needs to be stricken. Please replace with “Attorney Anastasi stated he could not confirm that the ordinance had been followed regarding the required letter that the City Attorney must mail to each City Council member notifying them that the City Attorney intended to settle pending litigation at a cost of below \$20,000 which triggered the 20 day notice period.”

Page 9, -- Summary of discussion on the acquisition of the Bridgeport Breakwater Lighthouse – “Council Member Pereira expressed concerns about the proposal because the 126 year old Lighthouse was located on private land, needed remediation, there was a non-profit interested in acquiring the Lighthouse at no cost to taxpayers, it was already protected as part of the National Historic Registry which meant is [sic] could not be demolished or altered in any meaningful way, and the City Council had failed to receive the required Executive Summary from the Office of Economic Development as per City Council Rule VIII Section 15.”

Please add “Ms. Haig stated that just to bring the Lighthouse up to reasonable maintenance standards it would cost between \$50,000 - \$100,000 and that funds for this project were already available in the budget.”

Page 11, First full paragraph on Settlement with Sue Ann Pavia & James Nardozzi – There was no “Court ruling” regarding non-committee members entering executive session; it was a ruling of Freedom of Information Commission.” Please substitute the language.

Page 12, The vote to approve a settlement with Leona Williams identifies Maria Pereira as voting in favor. I opposed the settlement.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO AMEND THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2020 MEETING AS PRESENTED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO AMEND THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2020 MEETING AS PRESENTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**25-19 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution regarding the Approval of the 2020-2021 Citizens’ Union Committee, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**



**27-19** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) for Dollarwise Innovation Grant (#21320), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**28-19** Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Victor Vizcarrondo, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

**29-19** Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Freddie Manning, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

**30-19** Communication from Labor Relations re: Proposed Tentative Agreement with AFSCME 1303-272 (City Attorneys) Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2018-2022, referred to Contracts Committee.

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

**26-19** Resolution presented by Council President Nieves re: Proposed resolution for the endorsement of the FY20 Regional Performance Incentive Program re: Grant Application by the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCog) to the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management for a Regional Electronic Content Management System, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED COMBINE AND REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**25-19** COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE 2020-2021 CITIZENS' UNION COMMITTEE, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

**27-19** COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS (USCM) FOR DOLLARWISE INNOVATION GRANT (#21320), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

**28-19** COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH VICTOR VIZCARRONDO, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

**29-19** COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH FREDDIE MANNING, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

**30-19** COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS RE: PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH AFSCME 1303-272 (CITY ATTORNEYS) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR 2018-2022, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

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

**26-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE FY20 REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM RE: GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CONNECTICUT METROPOLITAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (METROCOG) TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT FOR A REGIONAL ELECTRONIC CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that there was a labor agreement with AFSCME and she wished to have a summary of all potential costs and expenses incurred by approving that contract. This was not provided. She said that the attorney was required by the rules to be present at the meeting and have the documentation distributed electronically at every regular Council meeting. She said that she wanted this to be clear on the record. It is an extensive contract with large salaries involved. The Council Members should have this documentation because they are required to have it.

Council President Nieves explained that they could not discuss the item in its entirety, but only discuss the fact that it was being referred to the Committee. She added that Council Member Pereira was correct and that she would inform the City Attorneys that they needed to abide by the rules.

Council Member Pereira then asked about the two legal settlements. Council President Nieves said that this should be discussed in Committee. Council Member Pereira said that the total cost should be given to the Council Members. She said that she wanted the rules to be followed. Council President Nieves said that this was duly noted and would be informing the City Attorney's Office to add the information into the transmittal letters.

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

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

**\*19-19 Contracts Committee Report re: 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 Manuel Firpi having or soon to attain the age of sixty-five years or more to remain employed by the City for another year.**

Council President Nieves asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Brown and Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested that the item be removed from the Consent Calendar.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**19-19 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: 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 MANUEL FIRPI HAVING OR SOON TO ATTAIN THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OR MORE TO REMAIN EMPLOYED BY THE CITY FOR ANOTHER YEAR.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Brown said that the State Statutes requires that firefighters or police officers be approved for additional service once they reach the age of 65. He asked if this was the first time that the firefighter was receiving an extension.

Council Member Newton said that this was the second request for an extension from this firefighter. State statute allows the firefighters and police officers to request three extensions. He noted that the State law could allow for a rejection.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she was being consistent with her previous votes against this issue and had nothing to do with the firefighter.

Council Member Pereira said she was on the Committee and it has been stated in that meeting that the Council had to approve the request, but she pulled the State Statute and it is not required to approve it. The Council may approve the request up to three times, but the firefighter has to undergo a complete physical. She said that she had asked the firefighter if he could carry a 200 pound victim, and he replied that he could. However, he noted that at a fire, he would be directing the apparatus and the rescue efforts. She said for that reason, she was approving the request.

Council Member Lyons said that she had abstained from voting on this issue. She would be voting no on this issue.

Council Member Cruz said he had been at the Contracts Committee and was having a problem since this was the second request for an extension by the individual. It is important to create new positions for firefighters. The practice of giving extension after extension is not good.

Council Member Roman-Christy said that she had been told about this but had not seen this in any other City contract. For that reason, she would be voting no.

Council Member Newton reminded everyone that if the Council Members denied the request, the position would not be filled until the next test for the position would be given. Most of the firefighters who were requesting extensions were in administration.

Council Member Burns said that he was on the Contracts Committee and that the firefighter had quite a bit of experience. He added that this individual was quite committed and wished to continue to serve. He said that he would be voting in favor of this.

Council Member Cruz said he appreciated Council Member Newton's perspective but felt if the firefighter retired, someone else would move into the position. It is time to consider positions for other firefighters.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM 19-19 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: 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 MANUEL FIRPI HAVING OR SOON TO ATTAIN THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OR MORE TO REMAIN EMPLOYED BY THE CITY FOR ANOTHER YEAR PASSED WITH TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, PEREIRA, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND SIX (6) AGAINST (CRUZ, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY AND VALLE).**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:**

**11-19 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Honorary Street Naming of Logan and Carrie Streets as "Reverend Dr. Sulton Stack, Jr. Way".**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED THE ITEM.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Lyons said that there had been a significant amount of discussion on this issue including the cost, having multiple signs on the same post and whether emergency services would have difficulty with the numerous signs. These were some of the reasons why this did not have a unanimous approval.

Council Member Brown said he had been consistently voting against this type of honorary naming since he had been on the Council. He does not know the individual and while the individual was probably very worthy, he would be voting against this item.

Council Member Pereira said that she had several concerns which had been stated in Committee. She said that having multiple street signs could be confusing to emergency services. Secondly, on the new MapQuest, someone who might be visiting would not know the difference between the honorary naming and the actual street name. The street signs are very confusing and should be done in memory of someone who has made significant contributions and should be done in a different color.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said since she had started on the Council, she had been against honorary street naming for the deceased or the living. She said she would like to see another method of honoring the various individuals. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would be voting against this.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said she had heard from many people about the issue and why they should or should not be there. No one had ever complained about the signs but if this is

something that the Council Members wish to change in the resolution, they should do so without an honorary naming being on the agenda.

Council Member Brantley requested the question be moved.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION FAILED TO PASS WITH EIGHT (8) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, CASTILLO AND VALLE) AND TEN (10) OPPOSED (BROWN, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, NIEVES, SULIMAN, PEREIRA, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON).**

Council Member McBride-Lee said she had nothing against Dr. Stack, but felt this issue needs to be addressed. She said on the maps, the honorary names will not come up. If the Council Members want to change, they should change the practice. But those who have contributed to the community should be recognized.

Council President Nieves noted that there was a proposed ordinance about this issue.

Council Member Brantley then spoke about the fact that she knew Rev. Stack and mentioned his impact on the community. She asked how they would determine what was significant or historical. She pointed out there were many streets named after individuals who no one remembers. If this is done, it needs to be done correctly, by making a complete name change.

Council Member Lyons said that as the Co-chair, she asked that anyone with questions to please to send her their questions. Secondly, she asked for clarification on abstentions.

Attorney Bohannon came forward and directed everyone to Rule 10 of the December 2, 2019 revised City Council Rules, which reads that no member shall be excused on voting on any question unless he is personally interested in the result except by unanimous consent. The Council Members should familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Bridgeport Code of Ordinances and Code of Ethics. When a Council Member abstains from voting, they should state generally the nature of the conflict of interest justifying such abstention. No member shall be permitted under any circumstances whatsoever, to vote after the decision.

Council member Lyons said that she had previously abstained and wanted clarification.

Council Member Newton said that he did not understand how people could sit in the Chambers and object. He said that there were streets in the City named after people and he had no idea as to who these individuals were. He gave an example of changing Stratford Avenue's name.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said this is not the first time she had said no to a proposed honorary naming and there was no issues with the individual involved. There are many different views and perspectives. She said that there was confusion with the number of signs. She reiterated that she had voted no on honorary namings for people she had known all her life. This is not personal.

During the roll call vote, there was a discussion regarding whether not having the information was an acceptable reason for an abstention. Council President Nieves checked with Atty. Bohannon and said that Council Member Pereira would have to justify her abstention. She pointed out that Council Member Pereira was not financially conflicted and did not have a personal reason. Council Member Pereira said that this was not how the U.S. Congress handled abstentions. This was a violation of State Law.

Council President Nieves said that the Council should not start a precedent of abstaining for lack of information. Council Member Pereira made several comments about this that were inaudible on the recording.

Atty. Bohannon came forward and said the Council should be in compliance with their own rules. Council Member Pereira said this was a violation of the law. Discussion followed, most of which was inaudible on the recording.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 11-19 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: HONORARY STREET NAMING OF LOGAN AND CARRIE STREETS AS “REVEREND DR. SULTON STACK, JR. WAY” PASSED WITH ELEVEN (11) IN FAVOR (CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND SEVEN (7) OPPOSED (BURNS, MCCARTHY, BROWN, VIZZO-PANICCIA, VALLE, PEREIRA, AND SULIMAN).**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services