

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020

6:30 P.M.

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Nieves called the Meeting of the City Council to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

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

During the roll call, there appeared to be no response from the individuals whose names are listed in italics.

Council President Nieves announced that there was a 3 minute time limit for each speaker.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M.

NAME

SUBJECT

Joseph Kirkland
Bridgeport Firebirds
41 Glen Place
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Bridgeport Fire Department.

Mr. Kirkland said that he was the President of the Bridgeport Firebirds and wanted to mention a few problems that were happening with the Bridgeport Fire Department and Civil Service to the Council.

Mr. Kirkland stated there was a secret society in the Fire Department called the Bridgeport firefighters for merit appointment. He stated this was a secret society with no African-American or female members. This society was formed around 1976 to prevent African-Americans from being hired or promoted in the Bridgeport Fire Department.

The City of Bridgeport bypassed to superior candidates in the appointment of the current Fire Chief, Richard Thode. Chief Dennis Ruben who was the Fire Chief for the District of Columbia and Chief Carmichael, who was a retired Deputy Chief. The administration overlooked these two qualified candidates and chose Chief Thode who only has a high school diploma and is a former member of the secret society.

Chief Thode along with Mr. David Dunn, manipulated a test so that a probationary captain, James Buck, who is also a former member of the secret society occupied the position of Captain for only four months before being promoted to Deputy Chief. This individual had not completed his probationary period as a captain before being promoted. This violates the City Charter. There were rumors that James Buck was going to be appointed as the Deputy Chief before the decision was even announced. Chief Thode then announced that he could choose whoever he wanted to fill the position.

The most current Lieutenant's exam was administered by I/O Solutions, who were expected to employ out of state experts to review and score the oral portion of the exam. Instead the grading was done by local firefighters and friends of the secret society along with Civil Service, Chief Thode and others who were on the list. Mr. Kirkland said that Chief Thode had singled out an individual to encourage who is also a Local 834 officer and was number two on the list. I/O Solutions provided the answers to the exam to a Norwalk Fire Deputy senior officer who then passed them on to a test-taker.

Mr. Kirkland said that the Firebirds would like the Council to do a formal investigation into the last Lieutenant's exam and the last Captain's exam which he did not believe were done properly.

Maria Pereira
85 Nutmeg Road
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Committee Assignments, Leadership
and Good Governance.

Councilmember Pereira said that she was the only member of the City Council that could check off all three boxes of not being affiliated with the DTC, Mayor Ganim and having zero conflicts of interest on the City Council. She said that this allows her to speak the truth to power without fear. [Inaudible comments.]

The only way that one gives an example of leadership is by showing integrity, assurance and confidence while earning the respect of others. Leaders do not retaliate against their own members who demonstrate their own independence by voting in the best interest of their constituents.

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Rather as the Council President's press release stated, there would be respect for differences. The Council President's assertions that the removal of Councilmember Pereira from the committees because of chaotic and disruptive behavior along with the threatening language towards her colleagues is false. Councilmember Pereira said that she believed Council President Nieves confused her with Councilmember Newton. Attempting to portray her as disrespectful, inappropriate only to defend Council President Nieves comments are pure propaganda. No one has been more disrespected during meetings then Councilmember Pereira has with her colleagues interrupting her when she was speaking, making snide and disparaging remarks all while Council President Nieves and the mayor allowed this inappropriate behavior. Councilmember Pereira said that quite frankly if the City Council meetings were dysfunctional it was a direct reflection on Council President Nieves' leadership or more importantly, Council President Nieves' lack of leadership. One person cannot disrupt 19 other people.

It is important to consider the broader implications that this decision would have on others which Council President Nieves is thoroughly incapable of. Council President Nieves disregarded the interest of 15,000 residents who were entitled to Councilmember Pereira's representation at the committee level. She was duly elected to serve their interests as a councilmember. Council President Nieves is showing that she is incapable of thinking about what is in the best interest of the residents because she was blinded by pettiness and vindictiveness. This is a further reflection of Council President Nieves' lack of leadership. [Inaudible comments] This demonstrates her lack of leadership skills as Council President. Council President Nieves' required Councilmember Burns to serve as her as her press secretary

Finally, not only has Councilman President Nieves chosen to disrespect Councilmember Pereira but she chose to disrespect Councilmember Pereira's 15,000 constituents. This shows a lack of leadership.

Lisa Parziale
97 Bick Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Committee Assignments, Leadership,
Good Governance and State of the
City.

Lisa Parziale- I served 14 years as Council President, plus

2 years with Mayor Mary Moran as Minority Leader

That's a total of 16 consecutive years in a leadership position serving with 4 different administrations.

Succeeding me as Council President was

Former Mayor John Fabrizi

Andre Ayala, a professional man who served Bridgeport for many years

Tom McCarthy, an attorney and Labor Relations expert who served 10 years as CP

This covers a span of of 34 years. In all that time not one of us treated our colleagues as subordinates, we were all equal in that we were elected by our constituents

There are many of you with the experience and knowledge necessary to hold the title of Council President. I can't understand how a newbie, with no experience was approved by the rest of you. Were committee assignments so important to some that you cut deals? With the many problems Bridgeport faces, she just added more by further dividing the Council with her arbitrary actions to remove and change council members from their assigned committees for reasons she concocted in her limited mindset. This is what you get when you "go along" with approving an inexperienced person.

For those of you who are as shocked as the rest of us, you can fix this. When her term as Council President Ends, if she's reelected, replace her with one among you capable of being professional, reasonable and able to understand the workings of the City Council. The City of Bridgeport deserves better, you deserve better, remember she is a Council Representative that holds no more authority than the rest of you. For those of you that care, watch every move she makes and don't allow her to push any of you around. She's a bully. If she deviates from protocol. The Charter or Council Rules, submit an action to have her removed.

Chris Caruso
208 Beechmont Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Committee Assignments,
Leadership, Good Governance and
State of the City.

Good evening Madame President and Members of the Common Council:

This evening, I direct my remarks to the Council President and those members involved in stripping three duly elected members (Michael DeFilippo, Maria Pereira and Michelle Lyons) of their leadership and committee assignments because of their courageous actions against unbridled corruption.

While the City is once again under federal investigation, this is no time to settle political conflicts, personality differences, and petty disputes, or to exercise one's power and authority. Rather, it's time for our City's legislative body to unite and exercise its lawful right of oversight and accountability of the Executive branch. It is no time to blindly follow the leader, or to retaliate against fellow colleagues who challenge authority or speak out against corruption.

It's time that robust debate, legislative proposals on anti-corruption ordinances or charter revisions, and the monitoring of city operations and taxpayer dollars are front and center. It's time that the Council calls on City employees to report wrong doing under the protection of whistleblower status, and to speak out against other elected and public officials (including colleagues) who have conflicts of interest that are counter to the public good and form the breeding ground of corruption.

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Some elected officials are under the ill-informed impression that if people don't talk about the corruption and the federal investigation, it will go away. Believe it or not, it's just begun. So, buckle up and get ready.

Lynn Cora
40 East Pasadena Place
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Committee Assignments,
Leadership, Good Governance and
State of the City.

Council President Nieves announced Ms. Cora was the next speaker. There was no response.

Michele Small
10 Mencil Circle
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Committee Assignments, Leadership,
Good Governance and State of the
City.

Council President Nieves announced Ms. Small was the next speaker. There was no response.

Helen Olga Losak
304 Bradley Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Committee Assignments,
Leadership, Good Governance and
State of our City.

Ms. Losak identified herself and gave her address. She said that she was the Upper East Side Watch Leader for over 20 years and served as an elected Town Committee member for the 138th District from 2016-2018. This allowed her to work directly with Maria for many years.

Maria Pereira was elected as the Council Member for the 138th District by her 15,000 constituents to represent their matters in the City Council. They need her to be reinstated to her originally assigned committees in order to represent her District in City Council matters without harassment from several City Council Members. This includes the laughing, the coughing, the overtalking and lack of acknowledgement and snickering whenever she speaks. This behavior of her fellow Council Members are highly disrespectful to us. Maria has proven to us that she is honest and ethical with a deep passion to serve all Bridgeporters fully.

Maria has perfect attendance at full City Council meetings and a 98% attendance record at Committee meetings including the ones that she is not assigned to. She does her homework and is very prepared with facts, not lies for all the City Council meetings. Maria thoroughly researches all matters and issues regarding City government operations. She has met with hundreds of 138th District constituents to resolve incidents that have occurred in the Upper East Side and around the City to make Bridgeport a better City for all. She has proven to us to be an ever present helper in City government. This is good government and leadership in action. We need more leaders like Maria Pereira in our City government.

I [inaudible] removing her from Committees as a punishment because she does not support the corrupt City government and the corrupt Democratic party machine. Maria Pereira must be restored to all her committees as an equal, duly elected member of the City Council. Thank you.

Michele Small
10 Mencil Circle
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Committee Assignments, Leadership,
Good Governance and State of the
City.

Ms. Small identified herself and gave her address. Ms. Small said that Ms. Pereira has been her representative and Ms. Small could not understand why they were taking her off the Committees when there is so much corruption and other problems going on in Bridgeport.

[Due to a severe echo during the call, many of Ms. Small's comments were inaudible.]

She speaks her mind. She is not a follower, but a leader. Ms. Small said that she did not understand why the Council Members were laughing and talking every time Maria has something to say.

Ms. Small said that Ms. Pereira had been there for her when she needed her to do something about the condo association. She has a heart of gold. Playing kids games with her is wrong. Ms. Pereira needs to be reinstated as a representative for the 138th District. This is all I have to say.

Sonia Kirkland
96 Ohio Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Committee Assignments, Leadership,
Good Governance and State of City.

Ms. Kirkland said that she wanted to address to Council President Nieves as one Puerto Rican woman to another. She said that Council President Nieves was embarrassing the Puerto Rican community. Council Member Martinez was involved in a tragedy where someone was killed and later arrested on a number of charges. Council Member Martinez was not removed from her positions. Ms. Kirkland said that they love Council Member Pereira because she helps the residents. She mentioned something about a sidewalk and someone who had been promoted. Ms. Kirkland said that anyone that messes with Council Member Pereira, messes with them. She demanded that Council Member Pereira be reinstated.

Lynn Cora
40 East Pasadena Place
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Committee Assignments, Leadership,
Good Governance and
State of the City.

Ms. Cora identified herself and gave her address. She said that she was a native resident taxpayer and retired teacher. She said that she was appalled with the reasons that were given for Council Member Pereira's removal from all Committee work. Reading the minutes, Ms. Cora said that the reasons to remove Committee members was poor attendance and not fulfilling their obligations. This is far from the truth about Maria, as everyone knows. The real reasons were stated later in the meeting. Ms. Nieves said that Maria was found to be disruptive and her inability to establish working relationships with others in committee meetings. Ms. Nieves also said that Ms. Pereira used inflammatory language and threats that were unproductive.

Ms. Cora said that it was her understand that legislative members could only be removed if they were currently under criminal investigation, which Ms. Pereira is not. The real reason for removing Ms. Pereira was she was unable to work well with others.

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In education, this is called uncooperative. Ms. Pereira is a critical thinker and is not blindly or easily led as far too many are today. She seeks transparency and researches to find answers, all of which are good qualities for leadership. Denying Ms. Pereira voting rights on the Committees, the Council is denying Ms. Cora the right to have any say on issues that directly impact her neighborhood as well as the rest of the 138th District. The District is represented in Council, but not on the Committees where neighborhood issues are brought up by the duly elected representatives.

Ms. Cora asked if the Council Members had forgotten why the American Revolution was fought. It was over representation, which is now guaranteed in the Bill of Right and the first Ten Amendments of the Constitution. This District isn't getting full representation in Committees but only in Council. What are they getting for their high City taxes.? Instead of acting like rational, intelligent adults that many of the Council Members are, the Council Members are acting like bickering 12 year old children. Not much gets done without squeaking wheels taking the Council to task. In the past, Council Members acted like adults and got things accomplished. It's time to choose to act like adults and to get along with Maria just like teachers do with 30 squeaking wheels in a classroom.

Reinstate Council Member Pereira immediately because trying to silence her will not work. Unless she is reinstated to her committees, it will be business as usual by power hungry people. Not much has changed in Bridgeport in the past 35 years. God bless the Council, Bridgeport and Maria. And God bless America.

Adriana Christy
73 Pennsylvania Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Committee Assignments, Leadership,
Good Governance and State of the City.

Ms. Christy identified herself and gave her address. She said that her district representative was removed from all the committees and the Council. Ms. Pereira was elected by the resident of the 138th District. Ms. Christy said that she and her husband pays high taxes and Ms. Christy said that her family should have service. Ms. Pereira fights for her family and for community matters. Ms. Pereira fights with honesty and is persistent and patient about community matters. The residents can not tell Council President Nieves how to run the Council, but residents like Ms. Christy will be greatly disappointed if Council Member Pereira is not reinstated. She asks the right questions and challenges the decisions that affect everyone. She cares deeply for everyone, is hardworking and tenacious.

Christine Perez
60 Dupont Place
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Committee Assignments, Leadership
and Good Government.

Ms. Perez said that she was present to address the Council as a City resident. She said that in light of the number Federal investigations, she was disappointed that she had to discuss this subject. She said that her vote was being discounted by having Council Member Pereira removed from the Committees. She had lived in Bridgeport for the past 6 years and Bridgeport has a habit of forgiveness. There are Council Members with criminal charges in their past and one with pending criminal charges that has not been removed. Removing someone on the basis

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of not getting along with others is wrong. With all the current problems in the City, it seems rather odd that Council Member Pereira was removed from her Committees. She asked that the Council reconsider their actions. They should take time and act correctly.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves adjourned the public speaking at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020

7:00 P.M.

This meeting was conducted by teleconference.

The public was able to listen to this meeting by calling a conference line.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 7:13 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member McBride-Lee to lead the Council in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim asked City Clerk Martinez to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk called the roll.

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

During the roll call, there appeared to be no response from the individuals whose names are listed in italics.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes:

August 3, 2020; September 8, 2020 & September 21, 2020

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 3, 2020; SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 & SEPTEMBER 21, 2020.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO AMEND THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:**

City Councilwoman Michelle Lyons Statement – October 19, 2020

I making a motion to amend the September 21st minutes to reflect my actual vote from Aye vote to a nay vote because recorded incorrectly.

Reason: I did not get a chance to vote due to the process happening so fast. A row call vote was asked by City Councilwoman Evette Brantley which would have helped clarify matters but would have placed many council people in an awkward position so it did not take place. I also texted President Aidee Nieves that evening to discuss what happened she texted me back stating she would call me but never did. I then called Lydia Martinez but she it all went so fast. I did not find out what happened until the next day when I called the City Clerk's office.

To add further confusion we had a Leadership Meeting a month ago and 3 City Council people were to be reprimanded. Names I will not mention only if necessary to avoid further conflict. To keep peace I made a suggestion to President Aidee Nieves and the rest of the leadership to send a letter to all council people informing them of proper protocol which would eliminate further problems and keep things in order. We all agreed and Attorney Anastasia was working on the letter but due to city events it was never sent out. The next minute I know my name is included in committee changes and other accusations.

Due to this particular season of police issues my husband being on the Police Commission I had to abstain from any matters affecting the Police Department to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest. A statement was made to me if Michelle cannot vote on these particular issues what good is she. In the past I abstained on the Ordinance Committee regarding WPCA items because of my husband is a State Marshall and that was not a problem. All in all I still would have to abstain when coming to the entire council vote regarding WPCA and some Police Commission items.

Over the years many council people working for the city and sitting on the council had to abstain from many votes and it was never an issue.

Also, I do not use social media to insult or degrade anyone.

We all have disagreements on the council due to the many personalities, values and our own views.

I do not know why I was removed as Co-Chair of Public Safety for 13 years but left on committee. I set many agendas, missed two meeting to go on vacation, but over the years my attendance and Co-Chairs and I were never had any issues or conflicts.

In closing: I will not disagree that according to City Council rules President Aidee Nieves can change people on committees. It would have been a nice gesture if she had called to discuss these changes and especially me being a part of leadership. Each Council person should be handled separately regarding any changes and why. So in that I do not agree with the process that was done incorrectly at the September 21st Council Zoom Meeting.

I hope in the future things will be handled correctly.

Council Member Pereira announced that she had submitted a number of edits for the minutes as follows:

City Council Meeting Minute Edits Monday, August 3, 2020

Page 12 –112-19- Should read, “Council member Pereira said that this would take \$93,000 of off the rolls and some of the delinquent taxes were as **recent** as 2017... “

Page 14- 115-19- Fourth paragraph should state “Council member Pereira stated that Robert’s Rules of Order requires that the person who introduced the resolution speak on it first.”

Fifth paragraph – should state, ”Since the resolution passed in the Public Safety Committee the legislature passed a significant police reform bill, therefore we need to read the bill to ensure the resolution does not conflict with new bill.” **Delete “She said that moving something forward before it was studied.”**

Page 19- Motion for Immediate Consideration of Resolution 152-19 – The actual votes cast for the Immediate Consideration is missing on Page 19; however there are two votes back to back on Page 23. The second cluster of votes on Page 23 related to resolution 152-19 is the actual vote approving Immediate Consideration as I was the only one that voted no to the Motion for Immediate Consideration.

Page 22 – Motion to Amend Resolution 152-19 was not seconded by Alfredo Castillo. It was seconded by Mike Defilippo.

City Council Meeting Minute Edits Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Roll Call: Matthew McCarthy was initially on the call but departed as he was out-of-state. (Listed as absent)

Denese Taylor-Moye arrived at 7:11 PM

Mary-Evette Brantley arrived at 7:12 PM

Marcy McBride Lee- arrived at 7:23 PM (Zoning Meeting)

Rosalina Roman-Christy – arrived at 7:23 PM (Zoning Meeting)

Alfredo Castillo- arrived at 7:10 PM (Listed as absent)

Avelino Silva arrived at 7:27 (Listed as Absent)

Page 2 – Motion to Table the Minutes of June 18th Public Hearing does not identify the individuals that made and seconded the motion. Matthew McCarthy was on the call for this vote

but not listed as voting. Denese Taylor-Moye & Evette Brantley were not yet on the call but are identified as voting.

Page 2 – Motion to approve the July 28, 2020 Special Meeting does not identify who made and seconded the motion.

Page 7- Motion on 144-19 does not identify McCarthy as casting a vote although he voted on the following motion; therefore he was present for 144-19

Page 7- Councilwoman Maria Pereira was recognized by the Chair and was reading the following prepared statement into the record: **“Mr. Chair, I will be requesting a roll call vote on this matter. Just since 2013, the following issues regarding being a “bona-fide” resident of a district/and or Bridgeport have arisen.”**

- 1) State Representative Christina Ayala was arrested and prosecuted for representing and voting in a municipal and state district she did not reside in. She pleaded guilty to a felony and received one year suspended.**
- 2) Senator Andres Ayala was being investigated by the SEEC for registering to vote at 9 different addresses in ten years and whether he resided in the 23rd Senate District. Governor Malloy suddenly moved him into the position of Director of DMV prior to his taking his oath of office for his second senate term**
- 3) Civil Service Chair Eleanor Guedes was found to have registered to vote in a suburban town while serving on the Civil Service Commission**
- 4) 136th City Councilman Richard DeJesus was investigated by the SEEC for voting and representing the 136th District while residing in the 138th District. He resigned his seat on the City Council**
- 5) Board of Education Member Jessica Martinez is currently being investigated for serving on the 137th District Town Committee and voting in the 137th District while residing in the 136th District**
- 6) Mayor Ganim has utilized 5 different addresses from August 2015 –November 2019**
- 7) The SEEC just issued a finding that Board of Education member Chris Taylor was not residing in Bridgeport from at least December 2016-October 2019 which means he ran for office in Bridgeport illegally and is serving on the school board illegally and...”**

Councilman Ernest Newton and Councilwoman Eneida Martinez interrupted Councilwoman Pereira as did the Chair directing Councilwoman Pereira submit her statement to the City Clerk for the record.

Page 7- The motion to deny 36-19- Resolution concerning Municipal Code of Ordinance Section 2.02.080- Residency Reporting of all municipal Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions identifies City Council President Aidee Nieves as voting against the denial. She voted in favor. Castillo is not identified as voting which is incorrect.

Page 9 – The motion to approve 140-19 & 141-19 does not identify Castillo as voting which is incorrect.

Page 10- First paragraph should read, “Councilwoman Pereira stated all Zoning is required to do is to scan the two page application, not drawings/plans, to the respective city council members within three business days of receipt.” This will give City Council members plenty of notice of prospective businesses or projects being proposed in their district so that they can have time to organize in opposition or in favor.”

Page 10- Alfredo Castillo is not identified as voting which is incorrect.

Page 10 – Second paragraph, second sentence should read, “**Councilwoman Pereira stated that if there were excess bond funds due to a project being abandoned, another revenue source was located, or there were unspent funds at the completion of a project; the City Council must be notified within 30 days so that the City Council can either utilize those funds to pay down bonded debt or reallocate the funds to another Capital project....**”

Pages 12- Please add, “Councilwoman Pereira repeatedly objected that the Chair was recognizing other City Councilmembers although it was her resolution and stated, “**Per Robert’s Rules of Order, the individual(s) who introduce the resolution speak on the resolution first.**”

City Council Meeting Minute Edits Monday, September 21, 2020

Roll Call: Eneida Martinez is identified as absent, however she and Evette Brantley arrived at 7:05 PM

Page 6 – Second Paragraph – Alfredo Castillo did not second the motion for immediate consideration. It was seconded by Mike Defilippo

Page 6- Third Paragraph -The sentence should read, “Council Member Brown reminded everyone that this item would have to pass by two-thirds.”

Page 9 - First Paragraph – the sentence should read, “... but there were several positions receiving 4-8% raises in 2020-2021 in violation of the ordinance.”

Page 12 – Amendment to Agenda Item 132-19 – After the second, the next sentence should read, “both Council members Mike Defilippo & Maria Pereira objected to the Mayor Chairing the meeting for this item as the termination of all taxpayer funded criminal defense attorneys directly impacted him.

Page 13 – Final Paragraph – Should read, “Council Member Pereira said that CT state statute requires state and municipal officers and employees to be indemnified in civil actions not criminal. Every single retainer agreement states that each criminal defense attorney is representing each high level municipal officer and employee in a criminal investigation. Guidepost Solutions has already been paid \$320,000 for subpoena compliance and their invoices show they have conducted extensive data mining of hard drives, laptops, cellphones and more.

Page 14 – Delete the first sentence at the top of the page. In the same paragraph delete “criminal” and add Freedom of Information Commission.

Page 17- Second to last paragraph - The first sentence should read, “Council member Pereira asked why was she removed as Liaison to the WPCA when she had a 96% attendance record and was well prepared for their meetings. “ The third sentence should state, “Council member Pereira asked was she just removed from every committee.” Council President Nieves stated “yes.” Councilwoman Pereira stated, “What could possibly be the basis for her removal when she had the best attendance of every City Councilmember and was more prepared and well-researched than her colleagues. City Council President responded with, “well, you don’t work well with others.”

Page 17- Last Paragraph -Remove Defilippo and Lyons as voting in favor of new committee assignments. Castillo also told me he did not vote in favor of this motion.

Council Member DeFilippo said that he did not vote to remove himself from Budget and Appropriations and it was a nasty move by Council President Nieves. Mayor Gamin requested Council Member DeFilippo refrain from the inappropriate language. Council Member DeFilippo replied that he had not sworn and repeated his adjective describing Council President Nieves’ moves three more times.

Council Member Newton said when the vote was taken, he paid particular attention. He said that he was watching the names of those on the call and everyone was present. When the call for the votes in opposition was made, only one person said they were against which was Council Member Pereira. When people don’t respond, it is assumed that they are not against the item. He said that he did not understand why they were having this discussion. Council Member Newton said that if the situation was that serious, they could have gotten someone from the prevailing side to bring up the issue again for discussion. The vote was taken and it is over.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the audio was breaking up and she was not clear on the reasons why the removal was being done. In the past, Committee members have been changed by the Council President. She said that she was not consulted on being placed on the Education Committee and did not want it. She said she had sent several emails to Council President Nieves about that. The situation has gotten out of hand. She added that she has sent other emails to the Mayor and was waiting for responses.

Council President Nieves clarified that on September 21st, she had made a motion to add something to the agenda and there was a second. She also made the motion regarding the changes and there which also had a second. The only person who had spoken about the item was Council Member Pereira.

She requested everyone mute their devices so there is no crosstalk, which causes confusion.

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 3, 2020; SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 & SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 FAILED TO PASS DUE TO THE LACK OF A SECOND.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 3, 2020; SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 & SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 AS SUBMITTED PASSED WITH ELEVEN (11) IN FAVOR (TAYLOR-MOYE, CRUZ, BRANTLEY, BROWN, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, VALLE, NIEVES, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND EIGHT (8) OPPOSED (BURNS, MCCARTHY, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, PEREIRA, SILVA, VIZZO-PANICCIA AND ROMAN-CHRISTY).**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

184-19 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: United States Department of Justice – Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention FY 2020 Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children (#20214), FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED AGENDA ITEM 184-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION FY 2020 SECOND CHANCE ACT ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF INCARCERATED PARENTS AND THEIR MINOR CHILDREN (#20214), FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

Council President Nieves said for the record that due to timing and COVID issues, it was not presented to the Committee and it would help Second Chance Families.

Council Member Burns asked Ms. DeJesus to fill them in a bit more on the grant details. Ms. DeJesus said that there was no matching funds required and Mr. Earl Bloodworth was present to answer questions.

Council Member Burns asked Mr. Bloodworth how the funds would be dispersed. Mr. Bloodworth said that Career Resources would be partnering and he gave a brief overview on the program.

Council Member Pereira said that before items were discussed, the Charter requires a 2/3rd vote for immediate consideration. Mayor Ganim said that he was not sure it required a vote. Council Member Pereira said that the Council needed to vote on Immediate Consideration. Mayor Ganim said that they had already moved for immediate consideration.

Council Member Pereira called the question.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 184-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION FY 2020 SECOND CHANCE ACT ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF INCARCERATED PARENTS AND THEIR MINOR CHILDREN (#20214) PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, LYONS,**

VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, VALLE, NIEVES, PEREIRA, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE ABSTENTION (BROWN).

Council Member Brown said he would abstain due to a conflict of interest.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 184-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION FY 2020 SECOND CHANCE ACT ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF INCARCERATED PARENTS AND THEIR MINOR CHILDREN (#20214)
** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Newton thanked the Council for including MIRA in the budget. This has allowed them to seek outside grants which assist the children and spouses of the second chance candidates. Council Member Newton said for the record that he does not stand to benefit from this grant, which is why he did not abstain from voting.

Council Member Castillo said it was good but these grants help the fathers returning to the community, but they need jobs. He said for the record no one from Bridgeport is working on these projects. He said that he would support this grant.

Council Member Brantley said that she supports this grant and thanked everyone who has worked on it. There are a number of returning fathers who do find jobs. This is a necessary program to help them reconnect with their families.

Council Member Pereira asked about the third page of the application. She asked about the two part time outreach employees. [Inaudible] Ms. DeJesus said that they would be city employees.

Council Member Pereira asked about the MIRA portion of the program. Mr. Bloodworth replied and explained how the program would work.

Council Member Pereira asked why they couldn't teleconference with the inmates and use the money for other programs. Mr. Bloodworth said that the prisons do not have the technology. Council Member Brantley said that there were many institutions where children were involved were working towards in- person visits.

Council Member McCarthy asked for an overview of the partnership. Ms. DeJesus spoke but her response was inaudible.

Council Member Cruz thanked Mr. Bloodworth for his work with MIRA. He pointed out that the grant funding was not coming from the resident taxpayers. It is important to keep the family relationships solid. He asked his fellow Council Members to support the item. He thanked Career Resources for their partnership.

Council Member Newton said that Career Resources, the City of Bridgeport and other resources, people are being trained and are working. He said that he had done four consecutive job placements that were successful at City Hall. It connects fathers with their children.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 184-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION FY 2020 SECOND CHANCE ACT ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF INCARCERATED PARENTS AND THEIR MINOR CHILDREN (#20214) PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, VALLE, NIEVES, PEREIRA, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON); ONE (1) OPPOSED (DEFILIPPO) AND ONE ABSTENTION (BROWN).**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

177-19 Communication from Library re: Reappointment of James E. O’Donnell to the Public Library Board of Directors and Reading Room, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

178-19 Communication from Library re: Reappointment of Hon. William Holden to the Public Library Board of Directors and Reading Room, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

179-19 Communication from Library re: Reappointment of Kenya Osborne-Gant to the Public Library Board of Directors and Reading Room, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

180-19 Communication from Library re: Reappointment of Donald W. Greenberg to the Public Library Board of Directors and Reading Room, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

181-19 Communication from Library re: Reappointment of Denise Clemons to the Public Library Board of Directors and Reading Room, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

182-19 Communication from Library re: Reappointment of Jeanette Munoz Allam to the Public Library Board of Directors and Reading Room, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

183-19 Communication from City Clerk re: Items Pending before City Council Committees Pursuant to City Council Rules Ch. XIII (11), ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

185-19 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Court Support Services Division – Youth Violence Prevention Initiative (#21399), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

186-19 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of John M. Klein (R) to the Water Pollution Control Authority, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

187-19 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Ira Nachem (D) to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Alternate, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

190-19 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Kai Starn (D) to the Energy Improvement District, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

191-19 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of David Chard (D) to the Harbor Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

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

188-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Brown; Co-sponsor(s) Brantley & Burns re: Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.98 – Historic District Commission, referred to Ordinance Committee.

189-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Brown; Co-sponsor(s) Brantley & Burns re: Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 12.32 – Historic Districts, referred to Ordinance Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO CONSOLIDATE AND REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

177-19 COMMUNICATION FROM LIBRARY RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF JAMES E. O'DONNELL TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND READING ROOM, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

178-19 COMMUNICATION FROM LIBRARY RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF HON. WILLIAM HOLDEN TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND READING ROOM, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

179-19 COMMUNICATION FROM LIBRARY RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF KENYA OSBORNE-GANT TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND READING ROOM, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

180-19 COMMUNICATION FROM LIBRARY RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF DONALD W. GREENBERG TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND READING ROOM, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

181-19 COMMUNICATION FROM LIBRARY RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF DENISE CLEMONS TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND READING ROOM, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

182-19 COMMUNICATION FROM LIBRARY RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF JEANETTE MUNOZ ALLAM TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND READING ROOM, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

183-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY CLERK RE: ITEMS PENDING BEFORE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES PURSUANT TO CITY COUNCIL RULES CH. XIII (11), ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

185-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION – YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE (#21399), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

186-19 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF JOHN M. KLEIN (R) TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

187-19 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF IRA NACHEM (D) TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AS AN ALTERNATE, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

190-19 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF KAI STARN (D) TO THE ENERGY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

191-19 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF DAVID CHARD (D) TO THE HARBOR COMMISSION, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

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

188-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BROWN; CO-SPONSOR(S) BRANTLEY & BURNS RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 2.98 – HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

189-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) BROWN; CO-SPONSOR(S) BRANTLEY & BURNS RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 12.32 – HISTORIC DISTRICTS, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***154-19 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 Dennis Rodgerson having or soon to attain the age of sixty-five years or more to remain employed by the City for another year.**

***161-19 Contracts Committee Report re: Resolution for the University – Agency Affiliation Agreement regarding Social Work Field Placement with Sacred Heart University, Inc.**

***162-19 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution regarding 2020 Sidewalk Repair Pilot Program.**

***164-19 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: U.S. Department of Justice FY 2020 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program (#21312).**

Mayor Ganim asked if any Council Member wished to have an item removed from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Pereira requested the following Agenda Items: 162-19, 154-19, and 168-19 be removed from the Consent Calendar.

City Clerk Martinez read the remaining items into the record as the Consent Calendar.

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

161-19 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY – AGENCY AFFILIATION AGREEMENT REGARDING SOCIAL WORK FIELD PLACEMENT WITH SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY, INC.

164-19 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FY 2020 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM (#21312).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS READ PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

***162-19 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING 2020 SIDEWALK REPAIR PILOT PROGRAM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA 162-19 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING 2020 SIDEWALK REPAIR PILOT PROGRAM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she obtained a signed copy of the contract dated in February 2017. She said that it had expired in February 2020. The Purchasing guidelines require it to go back out to bid. She said that there were extensive Committee minutes indicating that it was going back out to bid. No subsequent bids were ever presented to the Committee. She asked how the Committee could bring the item out of Committee when there were no bids submitted. She said that she was trying to understand how this was legal.

Atty. Trachtenburg said that she appreciates the attention that Council Member Pereira gives to the contracts. The contract was put on hold inappropriately by the City Atty. Trachtenburg has an obligation to the City as a whole. Discussion about the details followed.

Council Member Newton said that there was an opinion received earlier in the day that opined that if they did not honor the contract, the City could be liable. Atty. Trachtenburg said that she would like to address the concerns. The City has breached a contract and they are trying to repair that breach and fix something that the City did wrong.

Council Member Burns asked about the contract from the residents' viewpoint. He asked if they were obligated to honor the contract. Atty. Trachtenburg said that they were not.

Council President Nieves said that when they had tabled the sidewalks in Public Safety Committee, the DPW Director and Ms. Lambert were there in order to restructure the program due to concerns about overpricing. Council President Nieves said that her concern was the price but G. Pic has decided to honor the price. It is a choice program. Since they unilaterally suspended the contract, they have to honor the contract.

Council Member Brantley said she would like to see the project move forward. She initiated the program and likes the program. She said she heard negative reports and was tired of having outside contractors picked. The program should be closely monitored to make sure that everyone is treated fairly.

Council Member McCarthy asked that the contract expired or on hold. Atty. Trachtenburg said that it was not expired because the City had not fulfilled their obligations on their end of the contract.

Council Member Lyons said that she wanted to clarify that Council President Nieves was correct in what she said regarding the April minutes for the Public Safety Committee.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA 162-19 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING 2020 SIDEWALK REPAIR PILOT PROGRAM PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, BROWN, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, VALLE, NIEVES, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (DEFILIPPO AND PEREIRA).**

Council President Nieves said that Council Member Suliman was out of the country.

154-19 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 Dennis Rodgeron having or soon to attain the age of sixty-five years or more to remain employed by the City for another year.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 154-19 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 DENNIS RODGERSON 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 Pereira said that she did not believe this was the correct item. She said that it as not about an individual firefighter. Discussion followed.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 154-19 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 DENNIS RODGERSON HAVING OR SOON TO ATTAIN THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OR MORE TO REMAIN EMPLOYED BY THE CITY FOR ANOTHER YEAR PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, BROWN, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, MCBRIDE-LEE, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND FIVE (5) OPPOSED (LYONS, PEREIRA, ROMAN-CHRISTY, VALLE AND VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

***168-19 Contracts Committee Report re: Settlement of Municipal Prohibited Practice Matter Pending before the State Labor Board MPP 33,523 relating to a Tentative Agreement between Bridgeport Firefighters Local 834 and City of Bridgeport concerning Firefighters working beyond the Age of 65.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 168-19 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF MUNICIPAL PROHIBITED PRACTICE MATTER PENDING BEFORE THE STATE LABOR BOARD MPP 33,523 RELATING TO A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRIDGEPORT**

**FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 834 AND CITY OF BRIDGEPORT CONCERNING
FIREFIGHTERS WORKING BEYOND THE AGE OF 65.**

Council Member Herron said that this was something that came before the Committee in Executive Session. Atty. Mitola said that union contract allows Firefighters to remain at work until the age of 70. He gave the details of the MOU. He said that the Council has the agreement before them that would allow the Firefighters to remain on the job until the age of 68.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that the State Statute indicated that age 70 was illegal. She then read a portion of the contract regarding the issue which prevents anyone from introducing anything into the contract. She said that the Council would not be able to deny a firefighter the right to remain at work.

Atty. Mitola said that it was about the upcoming negotiations. He added that he did not believe the City Council had the right to deny a firefighter the right to work to the age of 68. Those who will be grandfathered will have the right to work to age 70. Atty. Mitola said that the goal was to reduce the retirement age from 70 to 68. Discussion followed.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 168-19 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE
REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF MUNICIPAL PROHIBITED PRACTICE MATTER
PENDING BEFORE THE STATE LABOR BOARD MPP 33,523 RELATING TO A
TENTATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRIDGEPORT FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 834
AND CITY OF BRIDGEPORT CONCERNING FIREFIGHTERS WORKING BEYOND
THE AGE OF 65**

**PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-
MOYE, BRANTLEY, BROWN, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, MCBRIDE-LEE, SILVA,
CASTILLO, NIEVES, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND FIVE (5) OPPOSED (LYONS,
PEREIRA, ROMAN-CHRISTY, VALLE AND VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

**156-19 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Honorary Naming of John
Street as “Joseph J. Kaliko Way” with appropriate signage placed on the intersecting
corners along John Street from Water Street to Fairfield Avenue, DENIED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED TO APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON 156-19 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
REPORT RE: HONORARY NAMING OF JOHN STREET AS “JOSEPH J. KALIKO
WAY” WITH APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE PLACED ON THE INTERSECTING
CORNERS ALONG JOHN STREET FROM WATER STREET TO FAIRFIELD
AVENUE, DENIED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she had asked the Committee for information and asked if she would receive that information soon. Council Member Valle said that Council Member Brown was supposed to prepare something for this meeting. She added that this item was also in Ordinance Committee. Discussion followed.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that Mr. Kaliko had provided housing for some people of color and also provided wheelchairs for some and financed a ballet program for her school.

Council Member Herron said that this was one of the first times that they were honoring someone who was still alive. There were other honorees who had passed on and she would like to see this approved.

Council Member Pereira said that this was in no way against Mr. Kaliko, but it was confusing for the EOC and people who are not familiar with the area. That is a public safety issue. She suggested that they name one of the new libraries after him.

Council Member Newton said that in committee, the item was denied. If the Council Members vote no, they are voting to support the item.

Council Member Lyons asked for clarification on this. She said that they had put a hold on honorary street namings. Council Member Lyons said that they had put in suggestions and she mentioned a public park downtown that could be given named in his honor.

Council Member Martinez said that Mr. Kaliko was on the line and listening. She said that she was in full support of honoring Mr. Kaliko with the honorary street name. This should not cause any issues with the other street names.

Council Member Silva said that this item was a denial coming out of Committee. A vote of Yes supports the denial while a No is opposed to the denial.

Council Member Brantley said she did not want to belabor this issue. Since Mr. Kaliko is alive, it would be an honor and after this, stop the honorary naming program.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said no one has come up with a plan before. This is the one time she believes that Mr. Kaliko's name should be honored.

Council Member Brown said that there had been a moratorium that was before the Ordinance Committee and had been tabled in order to create a plan. He said that he had sat down with Council Member Valle and Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia to discuss honorary street namings and the concerns the EOC and Fire Department have. He said that he was asking the Council to support this item in order to give the Ordinance Committee time to work out some issues. Council Member Brown said that the new ordinance would have a sign that was different in size and color. Mr. Kaliko's name could be submitted again.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE PUBLIC SAFETY'S COMMITTEE DENIAL OF AGENDA ITEM 156-19 RE: HONORARY NAMING OF JOHN STREET AS "JOSEPH J. KALIKO WAY" WITH APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE PLACED ON THE INTERSECTING CORNERS ALONG JOHN STREET FROM WATER STREET TO FAIRFIELD AVENUE FAILED TO PASS WITH EIGHT (8) IN FAVOR (BURNS, BROWN, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, ROMAN-CHRISTY, NIEVES, VALLE AND PEREIRA) AND ELEVEN (11) AGAINST (MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE,**

DEFILIPPO, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, SILVA, CASTILLO, MARTINEZ, NEWTON AND BRANTLEY).

Atty. Anastasi said that it would not be a bad thing to take an affirmative vote and he would clarify the issue tomorrow in writing. It is a precedent in lieu of proper legal advice.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 156-19 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: HONORARY NAMING OF JOHN STREET AS “JOSEPH J. KALIKO WAY” WITH APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE PLACED ON THE INTERSECTING CORNERS ALONG JOHN STREET FROM WATER STREET TO FAIRFIELD AVENUE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 156-19 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: HONORARY NAMING OF JOHN STREET AS “JOSEPH J. KALIKO WAY” WITH APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE PLACED ON THE INTERSECTING CORNERS ALONG JOHN STREET FROM WATER STREET TO FAIRFIELD AVENUE PASSED WITH TEN (10) IN FAVOR (MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, SILVA, CASTILLO, MARTINEZ, NEWTON AND BRANTLEY), AND NINE (9) AGAINST (BURNS, BROWN, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, ROMAN-CHRISTY, NIEVES, VALLE AND PEREIRA).**

176-19 Contracts Committee Report re: Lease Agreement with Marlin Business Services Corp. regarding Office Equipment for the City Attorney’s Office.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 176-19 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: LEASE AGREEMENT WITH MARLIN BUSINESS SERVICES CORP. REGARDING OFFICE EQUIPMENT FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that it was for 20m desktop printers and 3 industrial printers for the City Attorney’s Office. This deprives the negotiating powers for the City, not in the interest of taxpayers. She said that it dilutes the purchasing power and so she would not be supporting it.

Council Member McCarthy asked if it had gone out to bid. Atty. Trachtenburg said that it had come off the State Bid List. Mayor Ganim said that the State issues a bid list with favorable pricing. Council Member McCarthy asked if the City gets to see the lowest bids. Atty. Trachtenburg said that they did not.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would be voting against this because in the past they wanted to consolidate this.

Council Member Castillo said that that the City Attorney’s Office has a contract. He said that in the future, there will be a better plan. Atty. Trachtenburg said that they discussed this at length. Council Member Pereira said that the snickering and laughter was inappropriate.

Council Member Valle said that the shouting back and forth was disrespectful. She said that she was sick and tired of this. Regarding 176-19, she was voting against this because they need to start working on this now.

Council Member Herron said that they had discussed this years ago. This is a Canon contract and the price was a good price for three years. However, the more departments that utilize the service the better the price would be.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 176-19 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: LEASE AGREEMENT WITH MARLIN BUSINESS SERVICES CORP. REGARDING OFFICE EQUIPMENT FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND FIVE (5) OPPOSED (PEREIRA, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, DEFILIPPO AND VALLE).**

Council Member Roman-Christy asked for a point of personal privilege. Council Member Roman-Christy said that she wanted to add her name as opposed to the minutes.

Council Member Herron said that she had concerns about people speaking over one another, confusing votes and amendments. Things that happen tonight should not have happened. Everyone on the Council is an elected official and an adult. She said that she was saddened and hurt by this and not sure how much more they could take. This was very disturbing to her.

Council Member Lyons agreed with Council Member Herron and Council Member Valle. She thanked Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia for mentioning the audio on the September 21st meeting. She suggested roll call votes which might ease some stress. Council Member Lyons said that her niece was named the Medical Nurse for 2020 for Bridgeport Hospital. Bridgeport Hospital has been a major benefit during the epidemic.

Council President Nieves said that the Council Members were struggling to hear what was being said. She said that she had spoken to some of the chairs about decorum. The only person who should be unmuted all the time is Council Member Taylor-Moye, because her computer does not have a camera. The behavior today was not respectful. The laughter is not funny. She thanked Council Member Roman-Christy for clarifying her vote change.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
City Council Meeting
Regular Meeting
October 19, 2020