

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

October 18, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Mayor Craig called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Cavanaugh, Stewart, Long, Fajardo, Sharonov, Trisciani,
Levasseur, Heath, E. Sapienza, Burkush, Barry, Gamache, George-Kelly

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Craig advised that the purpose of the public comment session is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board. All people wishing to speak will have up to three minutes to do so and any comments must be directed to the chair.

Any resident wishing to speak will come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized and give their comments.

Dennis Higgins, 75 Manchester Street, stated:

I am homeless and not staying at the shelter. I have been staying outside lately because the shelter is not...it is a great resource but there is too much drug use going on in the bathrooms. Someone brought to light some of the things that were going to be voted on today. My biggest thing was obviously things that deal with the homelessness and that would be the umbrellas, the tarps, the shopping carts and the one bike. The bikes are something that is important to me. I actually work on bikes. I am a mechanic by trade and now that I am homeless and tools of mine have been taken, I have been working on bicycles. I know that it is not the city's job to let people work on whatever they want there but it is what it is. I don't know how you can limit people to bringing just one bike and how that would work. Because we are homeless, where are we supposed to park them? The theft rate of bicycles is pretty high. I don't know if anyone knows that but they don't last long and it is unfortunate that that is the first thing that people think about. Instead of purchasing a bike, they go and steal it. With that said, it would be like me telling you guys you can't have more than one truck or more than one car in your yard because we want to make the city green so you can't have too much stuff. The shopping carts...the supermarkets are probably really happy that you are going to

eliminate that and cut that out. They would think that is great because it costs a lot of money to have a shopping cart and the stores lose a lot of money I am sure having to replace them. It is not advertising if someone is walking down the street with a shopping cart full of stuff. Being homeless, I remember when they were cleaning out Victory Park by the library and the officers were asking me why does everyone have all of this stuff. Well where are they supposed to put it? If you get a nice pair of boots and whatnot or you have winter clothes and now it is spring, are they supposed to throw that away? As far as the tarps, that might be another thing because of the site and maybe there is an alternative for that. The umbrellas though, that is definitely something that...I have an umbrella to keep me cool in the summer and keep the rain off of me so it is not as cut and dry as it seems. None of this homeless stuff is. If you told me two years ago that I would be homeless, I would have laughed in your face. It is mental health issues and people with drug problems. It is not just you can't have this and you can't have that. This is something that we really have to put our heads together on because it is not that cut and dry. Not everyone is the same. Of course I want the city to look nice and have no crime but it is what it is. Hopefully you guys can solve this problem.

Cairnie Pourney, 294 Hampstead Road, Derry stated:

I have grown up in Manchester and have gone to every meeting that this Board has been a part of since you have been elected and I have been incredibly proud of the work that this Board has done for Manchester and have the utmost respect for you. With that said, I worry that this Board is about to pass an ordinance that seems like a measure to save face rather than bring solutions forward around homelessness in Manchester. We are currently looking for a new homeless director and trying to get ready for winter. We don't have an active count of how many homeless are in our city and we know that we have an influx of homeless in the winter. So what happens when our warming shelters are full or we don't have enough beds in our shelters and they are not allowed to bring their stuff into the parks? It is hard to see that this ordinance is anything other than an attempt to look like you are doing something rather than investing in the actual investments that are needed. We can't simply wish this problem away. I understand that nobody wants to have a huge number of homeless in our parks and everyone would prefer this not to be an issue at all but that is not the reality that we

live in. For the Board to pass this ordinance is wrong and short-sighted. I believe that we can do better than this. We can work with the state and local government to find solutions and I believe that our city deserves better than an ordinance like this. By investing in solutions that actually help more homeless get back on their feet in the long term would be so much better for our city. I urge you to listen to the alderman that actually works in this field. Erin George-Kelly from Ward 12 was elected by the residents due to many things, one being that she would provide a perspective on this issue. This is not a new problem for Manchester. This has been a problem since I grew up on the west side. We need to start investing in the creative infrastructure that is actually going to address the problem at hand, not short-sighted ordinances that put in more restrictions rather than actually trying to solve the issues. I have worked with many of you sitting up there. I went door-to-door and talked to the community on your behalf a lot about homelessness. We need to bring creative ideas forward that actually start solving this issue with programs that work on a community level and can actually get to the core of this issue. Putting in more restrictions is not the answer. I believe that each of you really wants to address this issue and I believe we have the leadership on this Board to actually do something on this issue but you have to care enough about it to do it and not just keep bringing ordinances up that make it hard for them. You are not helping get them back on their feet. You are simply making it harder for them to live. You are covering up the problem and saying okay we don't want to see you in our parks. That is not going to solve anything. They are still going to be here. You are just making their lives harder. I know that a lot of people behind me really care about this issue and they are going to hold you accountable for this vote. This is a Democratic led Board and what you do now says a lot.

Winter Trabex, 200 Hanover Street, stated:

I have lived in Manchester for the last six years and I was homeless for two of them. I have seen personally what being homeless is like and how difficult it is and I have seen the other side in having a stable residence and what that is like and how different that is. With that being said, I don't think this ordinance is going to help anything. I don't think that prohibiting shopping carts or umbrellas or more than one bicycle is going to help anything. The fact is that most homeless people don't even pay attention to the city government. They don't pay attention to the news. They will just wake up the next

morning and say oh there is this new law that I didn't know about and keep doing the same behavior. I think we need more to help people rather than punish them. I think the policy of deterrents that the city has enacted over the past few years has not been working. It has not caused the homelessness to decrease and it has not caused the situation to get any better. I think we need the case workers and the Police Department...instead of having police investigate homeless people for just existing I think we need to help people and not punish them and criminalize them. Thank you.

Vanessa Blais, 51 Ash Street, stated:

Tonight I am making a statement on behalf of the Manchester Housing Alliance. The Manchester Housing Alliance believes that the best way to address the complex issues of homelessness is a housing first model. We believe that we cannot tackle the underlying challenges that the homeless face without first making sure they have a roof over their heads. Chronic illness and disabilities are not easy to accommodate if people do not have a safe and consistent place to receive the supports that they need. It has been proven that treatments for substance use disorder are more effective when a patient does not have to worry about where they will sleep next or where they will keep their few belongings safe and out of the elements. Providing housing for the housing insecure is not only more humane, but more cost effective than the city's current methods. When considering medical care, first aid responses and other expenses still failing to address homelessness, housing first is far cheaper than the price that we are paying now. The ordinance being proposed tonight that would prohibit the use of items including tarps, umbrellas and bicycles in parks is not a solution. It is another punishment inflicted upon people who have already been failed by society. As we see rent and other costs of living increase, homelessness is on the rise and becomes even more visible to the community. This ordinance update isn't solving anything other than merely moving elsewhere the activity that you are attempting to stop. It is a knee jerk reaction without any long term solutions. The Manchester Housing Alliance requests that this Board follow the recommendations of Alderwoman Erin George-Kelly to table this ordinance amendment until we can fill the Director of Homelessness Initiatives position. We call on our leaders to pursue new, innovative, and data-driven solutions such as housing first. If we do not have the funds we need from the state or federal

government for a housing first program, we are making our commitment to you to work with you to fight for that funding. Thank you.

Eugene Gonzales stated:

I am homeless but like I said before I didn't choose it. I work but the money that I do make pays for food and showers and it is hard for me to give up my donuts. When you guys go home and bundle up, we try to find a home. This ordinance that you have now will not solve the problem. We will have more to worry about as far as where we are going to go because we don't come single file. We bring groups with us and try to stay together. It is hard because you have one person watching your stuff while the other person goes to do stuff and it gets out of hand. The problems that we have are far worse than the problems you have. We are trying not to get robbed and picked on or whatever. You guys go home and watch tv. This ordinance that you are trying to pass will probably pass. Everybody will vote yes probably but for us we don't have a say and it is very difficult for us. The ones that are in the park, the police don't let them stay there because they are a nuisance to the public. That is what we are. You guys want to get rid of us. Where? Everywhere we go, there you are. Let us know when you are going to be there so when you get there we will be gone. It is hard. I want to go to school and I want to do something. I am 60. The things that I have done in my life...I brought up to 19 people in my house that were homeless. I didn't feel bad for them, I just wanted to help. I took advantage of them but that is okay because that was only temporary. I tried to get back on my feet again and the VA is dragging their feet. Thank you.

Brandon Lemay, 36 Lynx Way, stated:

I am here to talk about the proposed ordinance update that prohibits having more than one bike or using an umbrella in city parks. I want to ask what issue is this ordinance update trying to accomplish? Who will suffer the most as a result of it? It is the houseless. You know it is true. You know it is targeting them. It is not solving any issue. It is an attempt to make it look like you are addressing a problem with a solution that doesn't do anything productive. You can go back to your constituents and say hey I voted for an ordinance that got homeless people out of your neighborhood park, please re-elect me. Elected leaders need to show more courage and not just do the politically

expedient thing. The houseless are an easy target. The houseless don't vote in big enough numbers and they certainly don't donate to campaigns. When you want to appease the housed population, it is a high reward and a low risk to go after the houseless. This is why having a Board of 12 liberals to only 2 conservatives frustrates me so much. Aren't we on the left supposed to stand up for those who are systematically downtrodden? Don't we oppose punishing marginalized groups in favor of providing people with their basic needs? At least that is why I thought I was a Democrat. I don't know. Maybe I didn't go to the same meetings as all of you. I want real solutions, not quick remedies to get the people who hate the houseless off your backs. We need a true housing first model to solve houselessness. If we don't have the funds for a program like that, how can we work on getting Manchester those funds? We have multiple people on this Board who also serve in Concord. We have people currently running for office in Concord. I am done making excuses for all of you. I want to help my hometown address houselessness. I want to work on meaningful change with all of you. I need you to stop hurting my houseless friends and neighbors. Vote no on this ordinance proposal. Take real action via housing first instead. Thank you Alderwoman George-Kelly who opposed this ordinance in committee. Seeing courage in the face of expediency is refreshing. I hope you all do the right thing, too. Thank you.

Scott Heney stated:

I have been homeless for the past two years. Between the problems at the shelter and the shelter being at capacity I sleep outside every season. There needs to be a cap on housing or something in this city so I can actually find a place to live. I am tired of sleeping on the bridges, alleyways, and sidewalks in the middle of January. That is all I have to say. Thank you.

Ashley Poulin, 184 Oakdale Avenue, stated:

You can call me Soup Lady if you would like. That is how I organized formally when it wasn't just me the protest that you may have heard about. I helped a number of people become aware of this ordinance amendment proposal so that they would know what may directly affect them. I obviously didn't come prepared. I spent most of my day doing exactly what I do normally when I feed people soup. Thanks for not rescinding

that by the way. You and Emily Rice did a real bang up on that letter. Instead, I had candy with me and I spent the day with several friends updating them on what you all had been up to last year to. So I will ask the question again. Who are you benefitting and it is that the greatest good? This makes it more difficult for the housed. You have a little piece in here about if I am going to erect a shelter I have to prove that I am caring for a 10-year-old. What? That is so punitive and quite frankly should be embarrassing. You are not doing anything with this but causing more work for yourselves as well. You are going to waste your own funding that we send to the PD. You are going to waste your own time. I am not going to stop showing up and I am not your enemy. I want to work with you. Everyone behind me that has spoken feels the same way. Some of these people did work to get you all in those seats. How dare you not answer those voicemails. This is your job and I expect so very much better. This is our city. There are so many people who are quite frankly willing to do your jobs for you but you don't even allow syringe exchange programs because you are doing what? Exactly. You make it impossible for people like me who don't want your filthy money, we will do it ourselves. So what are you solving and who are you helping? It is shameful. I grew up in Pembroke but I have lived in Manchester for a little over four years, not quite consecutively. Two years and then a little bit of time in another city, Nashua, but I was born and raised in NH. My brother, who is active duty and deployed right now in the Navy, is moving his family up here. He has been watching this and so have all of his buddies and they say you know what, that is so messed up that his daughter, my niece, and his twin children are going to move up to this city and this is what I have to look forward to to explain to them. Come on. Come on. Do so much better. I cannot plead anymore. Find some goodness in your hearts before the holiday season when it is trendy maybe. Vote no or table this. Whatever excuse you need to come up with for your constituents to say no, do it.

Dam Wright stated:

I don't think you realize that we want the same things. You don't want these folks to have to live in these parks and have to deal with all of this. We don't want them in the parks either. They don't want to be in the parks. We all want the same thing there. It is not good for them and it is not a good look for the homeless community at all. It is not healthy for them to be out there and it is not safe out there. We all want the same

things. We all want the needles off the ground. We all want lower crime. We all want lower taxes. We all want that. This isn't going to do that. This isn't going to do that at all. This will barely even knock down the numbers in the parks. A couple of people are going to choose their carts over staying in the parks and will try to find someplace else to go. They are going to end up in places you don't want, again, just like when you chased them out of the camps and they ended up here. They are going to trade the carts for black trash bags that they can carry around. You are going to have a bunch of trash bags in the parks. Instead of people with umbrellas and everything else, they are going to use blankets or they are going to find something else or you are going to break up those little circles and kill a bunch of people. You are going to find dead bodies under those blankets. This is serious. This is bad. What we need to be doing...you can get them out of the parks. I will work with you to do that. I will work with you to get them out of the camps. Just give us a place to go. Give us a temporary safe encampment space. That's all. Give us one workable space and I will work with you to get everybody there; as many of them as we can. It is better for them and it is better for you and it is better for everything. It is the first step towards making it all better. It won't make it all better but it is the first step. We have a lot of people out there suffering who are going to suffer so much more if you don't at least vote to table this right now. How many people sitting behind me...please stand up if you are a veteran living on the streets right now? How many people came here today to beg you to please at least table this or better yet vote it down? How many people came here today for that reason? Stand up. This is a tiny fraction of the people who have to live on the streets and live with the consequences of this and the people that support them that live in homes that are also going to have to suffer the consequences of this. Please vote this down and let's get back to talking about giving them a place to go so that this doesn't have to happen anymore, including working on lowering the barriers at the shelter and more shelter options and a temporary, safe encampment space. Please. Thank you.

Kelly, 291 Cartier Street, stated:

To follow-up on what Dam said, again the encampment. I think a lot of people have gotten me wrong thinking that I just want a fun camp or something to go to. No, it is housing first but until we can do that why can't you give them a safe place to go? Why do you keep punishing them? These are human beings okay. I just don't understand

why you keep punishing them. Why won't you help them? What if it was one of your family members or somebody that perhaps you found out at a recent funeral or something that you were a lot closer to someone than you thought right. Human beings. I am urging you to vote no on this, at least until you can come up with another solution. They are not criminals. They are trying to live. They are doing the best that they can. Please help them. Stop punishing them. It is getting cold. Winter is coming again and guess what? We still don't have another shelter for them. You paid that woman for a year and a half. Round of applause that she finally left but now we need a solution. Please help them.

Dennis Higgins, 75 Manchester Street, stated:

One of the speakers asked why the parks. I said well where would you like us to go. He said well what about down by the river or on the outskirts of town. I said well you may not believe me but the further away from town the more of the Wild Wild West it becomes where the strong overtake the weak. They were like what do you mean and I said well when you are in the park you are safe. The police drive by a lot and that is safety. You have someone you know that no matter what happens will be there whether it is the Fire Department or Police Department. As far as building a lot of shelters, I know that it is the almighty dollar but when you give them a program, say they are on drugs and you give them a program, the first thing they do is kick them right back into the same environment they were in. They have not learned any skills to keep them out of it. That is another thing that we could work on. I have a lot more to say but you guys probably want to do your thing. Thank you.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and receive and file any written documentation presented.*

PRESENTATIONS

2. Economic Impacts on EPD's Sewer Rates & CSO Program.

Tim Clougherty, Public Works Director, stated joining me today is Fred McNeil, Chief Engineer of our Environmental Protection Division. We are going to talk briefly tonight

about some background on our CSO program. We are also going to talk about the necessity and the economic impacts along with some of the ongoing work that we have going on and finally we will wrap it up with a summary and request for action items. With that, I will turn it over to Fred.

Fred McNeill, Chief Engineer, EPD, stated thank you Mayor and aldermen. EPD presented in front of this Board in February an update on our combined sewer overflow CSO project. We shared with you one of the largest construction projections this city will ever undertake. Tonight we are here to share with you the economic impacts of that program. First we are going to give you a little background on the CSO program, the necessity of this program but most importantly the economic impacts on our rates, and our ongoing CSO work, we will summarize all of that with some action items and then be happy to take any questions anyone may have. I will note that 50 years ago today, The Clean Water Act was passed. It was landmark legislation. It really led to some of the greatest engineering efforts in the past 100 years. In 1994, that federal act was amended with the CSO Control Policy. Again, it is all about river water quality. As we all know, the Merrimack River is an economic engine for the city. The City of Manchester undertook their Phase I CSO program from 1999-2009 and spent about \$58 million on the west side. From 2010-2020 we did another \$40 million worth of proactive work. If you remember, on Chestnut Street we went from Valley all the way to Bridge Street. We also did a lot of work at the wastewater treatment plant. Now we are starting our Phase II work for the next 20 years from 2020-2040 at an estimated \$338 million. Let me go into a little more detail about our Phase II CSO program. In September 2020, after literally almost 10 years of negotiations with the EPA, the City of Manchester executed a Consent Decree with the DOJ and the EPA dictating specific work totaling about \$338 million over the next 20 years. Below is a list of the main projects, the biggest one \$191 million for the Cemetery Brook, \$80 million for future separation work, \$31 million for Christian Brook work. That work is ongoing now on North Street. There is also \$22 million for the Wastewater Treatment Plant phosphorous removal. That work is ongoing at the plant. \$6 million for reporting and monitoring and \$3 million in system optimization. That work is going to be starting next month. This is literally one of the largest public works projects ever undertaken by the City of Manchester. I just want to share with you the size and scope of this project so

you can appreciate what we are undertaking. The largest single project is the Cemetery Brook Drain at \$191 million. That is going to be a two-mile-long tunnel that is going to start at the Merrimack River just south of the Queen City Bridge and go underground all the way up to Mammoth Road where the old CVS is and the rail trail. This tunnel is going to be 12' in diameter and 30' to 80' deep. You can see what we call a plan view and a map of where the tunnel will go which is right through the urban heart of the city. We are going to go up Queen City Avenue and then on the old rail trail and follow that right through the back of the Public Works Facility all the way up to Elliot Hospital which we will be just south of and then we are going to pop out on Mammoth Road at the rail trail. Again, to share the size and scope, the next slide is what we call a profile and shows the depth. As I mentioned, it is going to be 30' to 80' deep and two miles long. It is a huge civil engineering undertaking. Let me tell you as a tunnel, when we are 1.9 miles down that tunnel, we have to take all of that dirt we are digging and bring it all the way back to the opening. Again, it is a mammoth project. Why are we doing all of this work and why are we spending all of this money? Well it is the Clean Water Act compliance. This is a federal mandate and a classic example of an unfunded mandate. We all know the history here as many of us have worked on this over the past 20 years. We have gotten sporadic federal support and sporadic state support but the majority of the cost has fallen on us. This year we are getting about \$2 million in ARPA money for the CSO project. That represents about 12% of our annual cost for this. Because of this lack of support, we have to look at our sewer rates to support this. We have been working for the past few years on these rates. We came here in February and shared with you that we were projecting 9% rates in the future. Upon further evaluation, we recommend that the 9% rates start next year. We would have them for six years or until 2028 and then we will reevaluate the rate projections. I will show you some graphs where the rates are still projected to be about 20% below the state average. While we increase the rates, we are still going to leverage all of the federal resources that are available like ARPA, infrastructure and earmarks. Here is EPD's rate history from Day 1 in 1976. Frankly, this is not how we want to do rates, with these sporadic double-digit spikes. What we want to see is what we see on the far right that we implemented in 2019 that were collected starting in 2020 and that is slow and steady uniform rates. We currently have a program of five years of 4% rate increases. We are in year 3 of that. As you see on this slide, we are still currently, even implementing those 4% rate

increases for the past two years, well below the state average or 39% the state average. The state average is \$766 and we are at \$470. You can see all of the other NH communities listed that are paying more and in some cases much more than us on an annual basis. Even with the projections we have of 9% rate increases for six years, we are going to be well below the state average. We estimate we will be at least 20% below the state average in 2028 at the end of these rate increases. Other considerations. All of the costs to operate the Wastewater Treatment Plant have been increasing – chemical costs, electricity costs, and natural gas. So again we need to increase the rates to cover the program costs and debt service escalation associated both with operating the utility and implementing the CSO. We are here tonight to ask for approval to amend our sewer rate increased for 2023 and 2024 to 9% instead of 4%. We also want to implement a 9% increase for the remaining six-year period from 2025-2028. We will revisit these rates in 2027 to follow the same economic model of uniform incremental rate increases.

Alderman Long stated thank you for the presentation. So the second 9% is not added to the original 9%? You are just saying that we will be at 9% in 2023 and 2024 and then from 2025 until 2028 it will remain at 9%?

Mr. McNeill answered yes all six years will be at 9%.

Alderman Long asked do you have an actual dollar value of an average increase from 4% to 9%.

Mr. McNeill stated currently our average rate is \$470/year. Adding 5% to that will add \$42 annually so the average would be \$512. At the end of the day, in the year 2028, the average rate will be about \$778 and that would be an additional \$65/month per household. I will note that if you look at that utility at \$65/month compared to PSNH for electricity, natural gas, or Comcast, it is a very, very low rate for the service that the city provides.

Alderman Long asked what is the increase in value. In 1994 we were figuring X amount of dollars. What is the cost increase? My concern is that beyond 2028...it is hard to guesstimate the added value.

Mr. McNeill replied it is very difficult to forecast any more than five years. We have seen how much turmoil the construction industry has been in. We have tremendous problems now with supply chain and with labor shortages and with fuel costs. To project out any further than that we wouldn't feel comfortable doing.

Alderman Barry asked regarding the 9%, it is going from 4% to 9% so it is a 5% increase.

Mr. McNeill answered it is going from a 4% increase to a 9% increase.

Alderman Barry asked what would happen if we voted against going from 4% to 9%. What predicament would the city be in?

Mr. McNeill responded we would be running a negative cash flow within three or four years. Again, what we are looking to do is keep a positive cash flow for the long-term. We have a 20 year model we are working with. These rates keep us in a positive cash flow for the next 10-12 years.

Alderman Barry asked would a 3% increase put you in a good position. Why would it have to be 5%?

Mr. McNeill answered 9% is what we plugged in to make our magic number. What we try to do is go 10 years out without having any deficiencies in our cash flow.

Alderman Barry stated the problem that I have, and I have been receiving phone calls from people in reference to utility costs and the fact that everything is going up whether it be Eversource or Liberty Utilities or natural gas, everything is going up and to add this to that is just a shock to a lot of people, especially the elderly that can't afford these increases. I am having a tough time but I will certainly listen.

Mr. Clougherty stated to expand on Fred's answer a little bit more, the spreadsheet that I put up on the screen is pretty complicated but the bottom line is when you look at literally the bottom line here, this is the cash end balance for each of the fiscal years and this assumes those 9% per year rate projections. Even with those, we are looking at a negative cash balance in FY29. This is 100% due to the fact that we are going to be undertaking a \$366 million capital improvement project. In order to pay for that, we are going to be picking up \$12 million, \$12 million, \$24 million, \$24 million, and \$25 million per year in debt service. That debt service needs to be paid by our sewer fees. Those sewer fees are on the top line. Increasing \$19 million by 9% incrementally is barely getting us by. It is going to continue to barely get us by into the future. That 9% increase for those six years is really minimally where we need to be. Like Fred mentioned, we will be back here in 2027 once we have had the opportunity to put some of these projects out to bid to reevaluate where those rates should be in the future in order to cover the costs associated with the Clean Water Act federal mandate.

Alderman Barry asked so in five years when we come back, what are your thoughts. Do you think it will stay at 9% or you will be asking for another increase?

Mr. Clougherty answered to crystal ball what we know now, if things remain constant I think you are going to see consistent increases moving forward into the future. We hope, as Fred had mentioned, that they will be a little bit less than 9% but we don't know that right now. We really have to put these things out to bid and see where the majority of these costs are going to come in.

Alderman Barry stated just so that I understand and the people listening understand, the average bill that somebody gets right now monthly, is what compared to what they are going to be paying with an extra 5% increase.

Mr. McNeill replied they are currently paying \$470/year. With the 9% increase they will be paying \$512/year so it is an extra \$42/year.

Alderman Barry asked so monthly it is less than \$40 per month and you add another 5% and that is what.

Mr. McNeill responded a \$4/month increase. It is a \$42 increase totally for the entire year so if you divide that by 12 it is really \$3.50.

Alderman Barry stated I think that is the way it should be presented because it is a shock when you hear from 4% to 9%. If they are paying \$40/month now and it is going to \$44/month, I think people would understand that easier.

Mr. McNeill stated it is under a \$4/month increase.

Alderman Heath stated we are selling water to a lot of other communities. Will they share in the burden of payment for this project?

Mr. McNeill answered no. Those are two separate entities. The water that is being sold is clean, drinking water. The CSO's that we are addressing are within the confines of the boundaries of the City of Manchester. In the eyes of the EPA, those are our responsibilities.

Alderman Levasseur stated I would like to go back to the original minutes when this was proposed. My understanding was that it was going to be five years at 5%.

Mr. McNeill replied that is correct.

Alderman Levasseur stated so after the five years it is going to increase to nine. What year are we on right now? Two?

Mr. McNeill responded if you look on the lower far right column, we are in year 3 of a 5 year 4% increase. We are asking that you modify the final two years of that 4% increase and change it to 9%. After that, it will be four additional years at 9%.

Alderman Levasseur asked and the increase you are asking for now is based on costs.

Mr. McNeill answered it is based on a financial model. We have had two consultants working with us on the financial model and obviously a lot of work was put into that. We know how important it is to get this right.

Alderman Levasseur stated I would think that as people catch on to the difference between their sewer bill and their water bill, they are going to start to realize that they are going to have to cut back on water so we are probably going to end up losing revenue on the water side. When I tell people their bill is going up, they consider both of them together and not one separate from the other and that is why they are shocked. They don't realize that when they are running the water, the water is going into the sewer whether it is clean water, tap water, or shower and that is where you get your higher sewer bill. That is something to consider when you are a homeowner. My other question to you is you say this is government mandated and we are doing a really wonderful job for everybody south of us...Nashua is going to be happy as hell because they are going to be getting all of our clean water instead of our dirty water but what about above us? Is anybody else mandated above Manchester to do all of this clean water sewer work?

Mr. McNeill responded Concord was proactive and undertook the separation of their systems in the 1970's before it was mandated and none of the other communities north are...I will note that 500,000 people get their drinking water downstream from us so it is a critical aspect and that is how EPA looks at it.

Alderman Levasseur replied right but none of them have to pay for it.

Mr. McNeill stated downstream they do not.

Alderman Burkush asked is this going to solve the CSO problem that we have currently on Riverdale and in that area because I know people are going to ask me.

Mr. McNeill answered unfortunately there is a Phase III after this. These CSO's are going to be here for many, many years to come. You saw that our history started, even though we said it was 1999 it really started in 1995 right after the policy was passed.

Alderman Long asked what year does this end. In what year are you complete?

Mr. Clougherty replied 2040 and that is recognized in the Consent Decree that we entered into with the federal government.

Mayor Craig stated if the increase passes it will be effective April 1, 2023.

Mr. Clougherty stated yes.

Alderman Long moved to approve amending the sewer rates for 2023 and 2024 to 9% instead of 4% and implement a 9% increase from 2025-2028. ***Alderman Cavanaugh*** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried with Aldermen Sharonov and Levasseur duly recorded in opposition.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve Under Supervision of the Department of Highways, subject to funding

4. 50/50 Sidewalk Petitions

Residential:

- 772 Hall Street

Commercial:

- 149 S. Main Street

Information to be Received and Filed

5. Communication from Peter Chiesa, Deputy City Solicitor, providing an update on pending lawsuits against the City.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

6. Resolutions:

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Seventy Six Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Seventy-Five Cents (\$76,365.75) for the FY2023 CIP 410523 Highway Safety Grant."

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Thirty One Thousand Dollars (\$131,000) for the FY2023 CIP 410423 MHRA Community Policing."

"Amending the FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Million One Hundred and Two Thousand Dollars (\$1,102,000) for the FY2023 CIP 610723 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences at 351 Chestnut Street and FY2023 CIP 610823 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences at 351 Chestnut Street (Merrimack St. Parcel)."

"Amending the FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Million Eight Hundred and Eighty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$1,888,000) for the FY2023 CIP 610723 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences at 351 Chestnut Street, FY2023 CIP 610823 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences at 351 Chestnut Street (Merrimack St. Parcel), and FY2023 CIP 610923 Families in Transition-Family Place First Floor Renovation Project."

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

7. Recommending that the summary of abatement requests submitted by Fred McNeill, Chief Engineer, be approved.
8. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$131,000 for CIP 410423 MHRA Community Policing be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
9. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$76,365.75 for CIP 410523 Highway Safety Grant be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
10. Recommending that the Amending Resolutions and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$1,102,000 for CIP 610723 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences at 351 Chestnut Street and CIP 610823 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences at 351 Chestnut Street (Merrimack Street Parcel); as well as \$1,888,000 for CIP 610723 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences at 351 Chestnut Street, CIP 610723 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences at 351 Chestnut Street (Merrimack Street Parcel), and CIP 610923

Families in Transition-Family Place First Floor Renovation Project be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)

11. Recommending that the request from the Fire Chief to extend CIP 410821 Emergency Management Equipment and Supplies through June 30, 2027 be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
12. Recommending that the request from the Central Fleet Services Director to issue RFP's and enter into contracts for the purchase of a Fire Department Rescue Truck and Fire Engine before the start of the 2023/2024 fiscal year be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
13. Recommending that the request from the Planning & Community Development Director to apply for an InvestNH grant for an amount not to exceed \$175,000 be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

14. Recommending that the request from Central Fleet to eliminate two (2) vacant Equipment Service Technician I (grade 12) positions, add two (2) Inventory Specialist I (grade 13) positions, and change the class specification for the Inventory Specialist I position be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
15. Recommending that the request from the Health Department to add a grant-funded Public Health Specialist III, grade 22, to their complement be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
16. Recommending that the request from the Planning & Community Development Director to reclassify a Planning Technician, grade 14, to a Community Development Support Specialist, grade 16, be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
17. Recommending that the request from the Public Works Director to reclassify the Clerk of the Works, grade 17, to a Project Coordinator, grade 18, be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
18. Recommending that the request from the Finance Director and Parking Manager to reclassify an Accounting Specialist II, grade 12, to an Administrative Services Manager, grade 16, be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
19. Recommending that the request from the Tax Collector to eliminate one (1) vacant Administrative Assistant I, grade 12, position and add one (1)

Administrative II, grade 13, position be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

20. Recommending that the following traffic regulations be approved:

NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Milford Street, north side, from William Street to a point 90 feet east

Alderman Barry

On Jewett Street, east side, from Cilley Road to a point 75 feet north

On Jewett Street, west side, from Cilley Road to a point 80 feet north

Alderman Heath

(*Unanimous vote*)

21. Recommending that the request from LNA Health Careers to use the Middle Street Lot for a health care recruiting event on October 23, 2022 from 1 PM until 4:15 PM be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
22. Recommending that the request from Millenium Running to use a portion of the Arms Lot for their Trick or Trot K road race on October 30, 2022 be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
23. Recommending that the request from ARMI BioFabUSA to use a portion of the Arms Lot on Friday, October 21 for the Build Back Better Regional Challenge award celebration be approved and that they be allowed to keep the tent up until October 28 for their additional event that was already approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
24. Recommending that the request from the Police Chief recommending an automated computer software program on the City's website to allow for a more efficient special events application process be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
26. Advising that they have approved the quote of \$6,983.31 from Clean Harbors Environmental Services to provide for the removal and disposal of abandoned campers and recreational vehicles on city streets with the funds coming out of the Police Department's FY23 budget.
(*Unanimous vote*)

*HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF **ALDERMAN LONG**,
DULY SECONDED BY **ALDERMAN BARRY**, IT WAS VOTED TO APPROVE.*

Accept and Remand Funds

3. Donation from HOPE in the amount of \$3,664.11 to the Fire Department which will be used for the warming station and other homelessness initiatives.

Alderman Long stated donations were made to HOPE under former Director Green and I wanted to just thank Northway Bank for their \$3,000 contribution. There have been initiatives to build up this funding to help the warming shelter and other aspects of homelessness and I just wanted to thank Northway Bank for their contribution as well as the other \$664.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to accept the funds and remand for the purpose intended.*

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

- 25.** Recommending that the recommendations from the Police Chief to improve the overall function and operations of snow emergencies be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

Alderman Long stated the committee went through the recommended snow emergency policy. The Chief sent us an email regarding some of the things that need to be worked out. My understanding is, Your Honor, that you and the Chief spoke and we are going to keep things the way they are. Maybe the Chief can explain what he is looking for.

Mayor Craig stated we went with Parking, DPW and Police today and everyone is in agreement with what the Chief will share.

Allen Aldenberg, Police Chief, stated with me is Lt. DiTullio who put this plan together. He heads up my Traffic Unit.

Alderman Long asked with respect to the email that you sent out, instead of trying to figure out some of these at this meeting...

Chief Aldenberg interjected we have had many discussions about the impound lots. At this point, we only have one on the east side of the city at the Derryfield parking lot. That is why we put in the proposal to put one on the west side. In discussion with some department heads, as well with the Mayor, we agreed to keep Derryfield as the main impound lot and if the need arises we would open one on the west side at Rock

Rimmon, up above the park in the lots adjacent to the ball fields. It could hold an overflow of about 50 vehicles if the need arises. Who will man those impound lots? We would like to table that for right now and continue to have the designated tow company maintain running it and taking the cash collection. We are working with Finance and Info Systems to find a way to automate the system in the next year so credit cards can be accepted but we need more time to make that happen. The last thing we need to address is we are going to need a structure at Derryfield Park. Usually the tow companies get a dilapidated camper that they put up there. Personally, it is unsightly. We need to come up with a shed and there will be an upfront cost and we need to consider that this evening. The last thing we want to keep in there is the approval of the overtime officers so I can put four additional officers out on overtime to do snow emergency parking ticket enforcement. Those are the complaints I get from many of the people on this Board. The phone calls and the emails and the texts that we receive about yes we are towing 120 to 130 cars during a snow storm but there are many cars that are out there and not in compliance with basic snow emergency parking. There is a mechanism in place if those parking tickets come in and get paid, the PD would send an invoice to Finance to pay for my overtime officers that we put on that assignment. I know that some aldermen have asked why we don't just have the officers on the midnight shift do that. I think that is an unfair ask based on the calls for service that I have coming in which are increasing every day. I already dedicate 1-2 officers on the midnight shift to deal with homeless complaints and those types of issues and to dedicate another two to do parking enforcement is going to take away from what they really should be doing which is crime reduction and making sure that people aren't breaking into your business or your home and those type of things.

Mayor Craig stated the one thing I would add is the last thing we want is for our residents to get tickets or get towed. I talked to Anna and we want to make sure that we are communicating to the residents what the process is so everyone understands what it is and working with the community health workers to translate a one-page notification to make sure that we get the information out as soon as possible before it snows. That way individuals will now when those lights come on that there is a snow emergency happening and what parking lots are available.

Chief Aldenberg stated there are also additional free parking locations for people during a snow emergency. Collectively between Lt. DiTullio's folks and DPW, our concern is although you are going to use those additional public parking lots, it is not a long-term parking solution for you. You have to be out by 9 AM once the snow emergency is cleared. We will have to work with DPW to make sure that we get those lots cleared. It is kind of what we do now. We have balanced enforcement of this with giving people more options for parking. It seems to be a consistent complaint.

Alderman Long asked so it sounds like all of the issues we had last winter we are now addressing.

Chief Aldenberg answered to a point, yes.

Alderman Long asked and you are looking for an appropriation for a shed.

Chief Aldenberg replied yes.

Alderman Long asked and four overtime officers.

Chief Aldenberg responded yes four overtime officers that would go out during a snow emergency only event. Last year I think we had five. So you would have the officers that are assigned to go out and tow and then an additional four to issue parking tickets for snow emergency parking. I would then invoice back to Finance to get the money to pay the officers.

Alderman Barry stated we are not out to punish people for parking. That is not it but we have a job to do. We have a job to do in the city. The people that work for Public Works that are out there plowing at night have to maneuver around these cars and it leaves a mess the following day when those cars are still there. If it ices up, it makes it even worse and then people complain. The other complaint I get is people think I can't park on the street so I will leave two tires on the street and two on the sidewalk. That is what we get. In Ward 10 on South Main Street we have numerous people that think it is okay to park on the sidewalks and the sidewalk plows can't get through and it is

frustrating for them. If these people thought about how frustrating it is for our city workers to do their job because they are not helping out...it is just blatant. Some of them have all four tires on the sidewalk. Even now when the weather is good they do it. Thank you. I was kind of reluctant initially about paying overtime for tickets but I think it is going to be money well spent because we are going to get the message out there and hopefully people will start learning. We, as a city, need to get the message out there during snow emergencies that you cannot park on the streets.

Chief Aldenberg stated on our end, we will message out and educate as much as we can through social media and press releases, not just on the day of a snow emergency. I am talking about starting next week and do that repetitive messaging. Do we enjoy issuing parking tickets? No I can tell you that we don't get up in the morning and say how many parking tickets can I issue today. That is not why we come to work. At the end of the day, the biggest frustration is with DPW who is trying to keep the streets clear and safe.

Mayor Craig asked do you have a cost for the structure.

Greg DiTullio, Lieutenant, stated we got an estimate of approximately \$5,000.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Fajardo**, it was voted to amend the report of the committee to also take \$5,000 out of contingency for a tow shed at the Derryfield impound lot, have the tow companies continue to maintain the impound lot for another year, approve overtime for four officers during snow emergencies, and add additional parking lots for residents to use for snow emergencies throughout the city.*

Mayor Craig stated just to be clear, this team is going to continue working on the items that were in our packet for next year which are identifying internal staff to manage the lot or lots going forward, allowing the capability to accept debit or credit cards for payment, and another possible structure.

REGULAR BUSINESS

27. Confirmations:
Office of Youth Services
Gloria Mukendi as a regular member to replace Hassan Essa, term to expire January 1, 2024
Karen Meteyer as a regular member, term to expire January 1, 2025
Police Commission
Gene Brown as a regular member, term to expire September 15, 2025

*On motion of **Alderman Trisciani**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to confirm the nominations.*

28. Communication from Ryan Cashin, Fire Chief, requesting authorization to apply for three grants from the state.

*On motion of **Alderman Levasseur**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to approve.*

Mayor Craig asked are there any matches for these grants.

Ryan Cashin, Fire Chief, replied no.

29. Budget projections to be submitted by Sharon Wickens, Finance Officer, if available.

Sharon Wickens, Finance Officer, stated the fiscal year 2023 general fund expenditure and revenue forecast, as of 10/18/22 based on department head estimates is as follows. Projected general fund operating surplus is \$1,561,500. This surplus is comprised of an expenditure surplus of \$852,500, a revenue deficit of \$364,500 and the use of \$364,500 in American Rescue Plan Revenue Replacement funds. The revenue deficit being reported is solely related to parking. Parking revenues continue to lag pre-pandemic collections. The downshift in parking demand caused by Covid-19 has made only slight gains over the last three years. Current expectation for this year is that the parking revenue line is going to continue a very slow recovery. Any gain made in parking revenue will decrease the need for ARPA funds. The forecasted surplus also includes \$709,000 from the contingency account. Two things I didn't address in my letter to the Board that I want to comment on were two line items last year that were

very concerning as we went through the fiscal year and that was auto registrations and health insurance. Auto registrations through the first quarter are slightly above budget. There were a lot of fleets that made payments in the first quarter so we are watching it closely but at least it is above budget through the first quarter. That is also the same for health insurance. It is trending slightly above budget. We did find that health insurance really ticked up in December so again it is something that we are watching closely. Finance, HR and USI meet at least once a month to see what is happening. There were also seven retirements through October 15 compared to ten this same time a year ago. Severance paid through October 15 amounts to \$384,924 compared to \$422,309 a year ago. The severance reserve account is anticipated to have a balance of \$1,289,782 after all the related entries have been posted. I also attached departmental overtime reports and a summary of severance paid by department.

Alderman Levasseur asked are there any ideas or solutions regarding the parking revenue. I know it is commercial based but we have had a lot of residents move downtown. I would think that would make up the difference.

Ms. Wickens stated I have been working with Chris. It sounds odd but you almost have to hire...we are looking at possibly hiring a PCO or two because the more people that are out there, the more revenue you generate. The meters are pretty much flat. What is really down is violations which is a terrible thing but that is what is down and permit parking. There are a lot of units going up. Brady-Sullivan is building some apartments and we are talking about putting some affordable housing on Pearl Street and Hartnett. These should generate some permits but it is just not there yet.

Alderman Levasseur stated we are talking about building a new parking garage here. If we are not bringing in any revenue, I am starting to get nervous about this next project.

Ms. Wickens responded with the parking garage, the developer as part of the agreement would be purchasing parking spaces and the leases would be 50 years long. So they are going to purchase these spaces and pay for them and that is quite hefty. It is probably well over ½ of what would be in this parking garage. We will get those permits and unfortunately the revenue that we will receive will go into the TIF because

that is what is going to pay for the garage but we will sell those spaces. There is no doubt in my mind that we will sell them and probably pay the garage off sooner. If you look at Derry, they did this type of thing and they put a TIF on their entire downtown and paid their parking garage off in 13 years. I am not saying that is what will happen but there is a decent chance that we will pay it off early.

Alderman Levasseur asked when will the bond be paid off on the civic center.

Ms. Wickens replied I believe it is 2030 or 2031.

Mayor Craig asked have you considered varying the hours of the PCO's.

Ms. Wickens answered I don't know about that. I will have to talk to Chris.

*On motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman E. Sapienza**, it was voted to recess the meeting to allow the Committee on Finance to meet.*

Mayor Craig called the meeting back to order.

32. Report(s) of the Committee on Finance, if available.

The Committee on Finance respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that Resolutions:

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Seventy Six Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Seventy-Five Cents (\$76,365.75) for the FY2023 CIP 410523 Highway Safety Grant."

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Thirty One Thousand Dollars (\$131,000) for the FY2023 CIP 410423 MHRA Community Policing."

"Amending the FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Million One Hundred and Two Thousand Dollars (\$1,102,000) for the FY2023 CIP 610723 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences at 351 Chestnut Street and FY2023 CIP 610823 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences at 351 Chestnut Street (Merrimack St. Parcel)."

"Amending the FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Million Eight Hundred and Eighty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$1,888,000) for the FY2023 CIP 610723 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences at 351 Chestnut Street, FY2023 CIP 610823 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences at 351 Chestnut Street (Merrimack St. Parcel), and FY2023 CIP 610923 Families in Transition-Family Place First Floor Renovation Project."

"Authorizing the utilization of excess revenues from the Manchester School District Fiscal Year 2023 budget revenue estimates for a supplemental appropriation of \$3,230,310 to the Manchester School District pursuant to Section 6.05 (a) of the City Charter in Fiscal Year 2023."

ought to pass and be Enrolled.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to accept the report and adopt its recommendation.*

- 33.** Report(s) of the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment & Revenue Administration, if available.

There were none.

- 34.** Report of the Committee on Bills on Second Reading, if available.

The Committee on Bills on Second Reading respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that Ordinance Amendment:

"Amending Section 96.06 Behavior by adding new language in Subsection (E) Camp and adding new Subsections (K) Shopping Carts and (L) Bicycles."

ought to pass and be referred to the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment & Revenue Administration.

Alderman Levasseur moved to accept the report and adopt its recommendation.

Alderman E. Sapienza duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Long asked the motion is on accepting the report correct.

Matthew Normand, City Clerk, responded that is the question before the Board right now. That report includes a referral to the Committee on Accounts. I understand that

you want to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its third and final reading and ordain this evening. Is that correct?

Alderman Long replied yes. Would this be the time to do that?

City Clerk Normand responded yes.

Alderman Long moved to suspend the rules, place the ordinance on its third and final reading without referral to committee and ordain. ***Alderman Levasseur*** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman George-Kelly stated as we have heard from many of the citizens and residents of Manchester, I am asking my fellow aldermen to consider voting this down. I think we really need to consider the fact that we are putting ordinances on the books that are inadvertently criminalizing being unhoused in our community. We need to continue to move forward as a city and put pressure on the state to partner with us to truly find a way to intervene and be able to solve the issue of unhoused literally homeless individuals in our community and this is not the way to do it.

Alderman Barry stated this is another one that is a tough decision for me. I have sympathy for people that are homeless. I really do and I know there are quite a few of them that are suffering from mental illness through no fault of their own. The problem that I have is I have received numerous phone calls over the years from people that work and live close to the parks in the City of Manchester, especially in the downtown area, who try to go there and mind their own business and are just working people and people that live next to these parks that go there to try to enjoy the day and they continuously get confronted. They see fights, not just physical but also verbal fights amongst the homeless people there. It is frustrating. It is a tough thing for them to go through. They won't even go to the parks anymore and these parks are for everyone. They weren't established to take care of our homeless problem. They were put in place for people to enjoy and when we start getting phone calls, as I am sure other aldermen on this Board and the Mayor's Office get...we continue to get phone calls about people who just don't know how to behave. I know we can't put everyone under the same

umbrella, no pun intended, but it is unfortunate. When you go in there and you walk and you are confronted or you want to sit on a bench and you see fights going on or when you see people defecating in the parks or you see used needles on the ground...also after these homeless people vacate the parks our city crews unfortunately have to maintain these parks. They can't cut the grass or fix the irrigation if there is a problem with it. They just can't do it. Again, it is a tough position for me to be in because I do sympathize with people who are homeless and I wish we had a solution. I know some came here and spoke tonight and asked if there was a place that we could designate for them to go to. I can't think of any. If they can, let me know. Thank you.

Alderman Long stated first of all, we are not evicting the homeless from the parks. A homeless person is a member of the public and more than welcome to sit in the parks. I am tired of the elderly people that I get calls from that cannot go in our parks because they are afraid. Some people may think they have nothing to fear. The fact that they are afraid is all I need to hear and the same with families who have no green space where they are living. They won't go to the parks because of fear also. Whether that fear is a perception or not, if they fear that then that is good enough for me. My goal is to get these parks back to public use. Homeless are more than welcome to be in those parks and enjoy the day as any member of the public is. To look at this as criminalizing the homeless is not the case. By the way, we were successful in taking 72 of our neighbors out of the parks to get them help – 72 of them and we continue to do that and we will continue to do that. We also invested today, \$3.8 million in affordable housing. To say that we are not doing anything is just not the reality. It is not the reality. We are doing what we can do. Would I love to have a place for them? I would. I really would. I think that would be the most humane. I would like that. However, how do we get that? The City of Manchester cannot afford that. We can't afford that. Pressure the state. We have been pressuring the state forever. The same with the county. My objective is to get these parks back to where the public can use them in peace and the homeless are more than welcome to use them in peace like every other member of the public. By the way, you can have an umbrella. It is just not these types of umbrellas. You can bring an umbrella in the park.

Alderman Levasseur stated each aldermen has really spoken very well and I understand Alderman George-Kelly's thought process. I honestly wish the people who came up and spoke had stayed through this evening. I was very impressed with the tone and what they had to say. It is hard to not be sympathetic to their plea. They basically just said they don't think that this will have any effect. Whether or not it has any effect or whether or not the Manchester Police or our new park rangers will be able to do anything about it or with it, time will tell. I have seen many ordinance violations over the last 10 years right in front of our faces without anybody doing anything about it. We will see if this actually does anything. Of course, I will do anything I can to support our police and our parks for many reasons. What I would have really liked to have said to their faces while they were sitting here in front of me is how you can do this to a neighbor...if somebody did this to your own personal private lawn and defecated on it or put a needle in their arm or drank beer on your lawn, you would call the police but for some reason it is okay that it is not on your own lawn at your house and just in the parks. I have driven down Hanover Street for many years on my way to work and the things that I have seen are beyond appalling. Cracker Barrel was a great site for them. It cost the owner of that property \$40,000 out of his own bank account to clean it up. Colonial Village was a beautiful site along the river and they destroyed it and the Colonial Village people don't want to pay for the clean-up of what those people did to a private property so now the city has to sue them to clean it up. Our city, our taxpayers, our departments have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars cleaning up the places where we have allowed them to stay. The Mayor, who has been more supportive than anyone on this Board, has bent over backwards and taken more...people have come in here and said things to her that are inhumane what they have called her. She put bathrooms for them in Veteran's Park. What did they do to those? Did they defecate in the toilet? No they defecated on the floor. They drank the sanitizer. They stole all of the toilet paper. Even among their own population they didn't have the respect for themselves for what they have been given. Under the bridge they gave them a fenced in camp. They gave them everything. They brought them food and brought them health services and the Fire Department showed up every day to make sure that they had everything they needed. They started a fire and they burned the place down. How much time and energy and money did it cost us to clean up that mess? There are people who are terrified to walk on our trails after the murder down in Ward 9. Jim

Burkush spends his days, weeks and months cleaning that place up but people are afraid to walk down there. Why? Because the people that we have helped the most, the people that we have opened our doors to, the people that have come here from all around this state, good ole Manchester has been taken advantage of and they have abused us and they have abused themselves and they have abused our parks. Nobody is more sympathetic...I have been a restaurant owner in downtown since 1986. Nobody has given more money to the homeless or fed them more than I have; none. Every day I brought whatever we had left over to the soup kitchen. We have had our hand out and given everything. This community continues to give but people have had enough. The businesses have had enough. The aldermen finally have had enough. The police have had enough because they have to take it on the chin every day because they just can't seem to get it under control. I don't even know how the Fire Department does it. Think of the resources that we spend every single day to take care of these people and what do they do? If they turned around and kept the park clean and put the garbage in the garbage where it belongs, if they didn't litter and if they didn't sleep everywhere and if they didn't defecate and urinate in our parks and on our streets and terrorize people and panhandle, then this community would probably still be more than willing to continue to hand out and hand out and give more and do more but the city has had enough and I have had enough but I had enough a long time ago because I knew this was where it was going to go. The more free stuff you give, the more free stuff they want. The more services you offer the more services they want. If you go and house 150 more of these people, 150 more are going to show up. It is never going to end. Whatever we can do to put a stop to this, we need to do it because it is not going to stop until we, the people in charge and the people in power, put a stop to it. Thank you.

Alderman Trisciani stated I think one of the things we also heard is a lot of times when people have so many belongings with them it is really because they have no place to put them. This is everything they have that is with them. I know this has been talked about in the past and I don't know if any additional thought has been given to storage options or solutions to help people with a place to safely store their items so they are not getting stolen and they don't have to have a shopping cart full of stuff with them every minute of the day because we have safe places for them.

Mayor Craig replied yes. DPW has committed to providing storage for individuals who need it.

Alderman Fajardo stated I agree with much of what my colleague said in terms of the amount of resources and time and energy that we spend on trying to address this issue. I would just argue that that time and resources and money might be better spent in a more upstream fashion. I would also add that my concern is that this set of changes to the ordinances isn't making it go away. It is just moving it to another area. My hope is that...I am pretty sure that this will pass tonight. I am going to vote against it but I think it will pass. I hope this Board will continue to remain open to more discussion. To say that we have all had enough...I don't really know what that accomplishes for the community and everyone in it.

Alderman Stewart stated I do agree with Alderman Fajardo that this is not going to solve the problem. It is at best a tactical response to the issue. I will be supporting it tonight because I do think it will help make the parks more welcoming and friendly to everyone here in the community and to those elderly people that Alderman Long spoke about and others who live in apartments and don't have green space themselves to enjoy. I think we are fooling ourselves if we think it is going to have a long-term effect. We know it is not. It is tactical and what is needed is a better strategy. The challenges I see is we really have no single entity that has accountability for homelessness in Manchester. That is a big, complex challenge that we have. Everybody has a piece it seems. Various city departments have a piece of it and the state has a little tiny bit of it and you are right that we have been asking forever for more adequate help from them which hasn't come, a lot of non-profits have a piece as do faith-based institutions but no one is accountable for homelessness in Manchester. To me, I think that is part of the biggest challenge that we face.

Mayor Craig stated we do have the Continuum of Care in Manchester and I believe Alderman George-Kelly is the Chair of that. Technically, they are the entity responsible for the collaborate effort to address homelessness in the City of Manchester. It may make sense to have the CoC...I know at one point they came before this Board and let us know what they are doing. They have limited funds of less than \$2 million/year.

That is their task. Their goal is to address homelessness and to keep people out of homelessness. I think it would be helpful for this Board and the community to hear about the efforts they are working on. I just want to mention a couple of things and answer a couple of questions that came up during public comment. One was the numbers. The last point in time count, which we know is not perfect, had 397 sheltered individuals in Manchester. They are homeless but they are sheltered. There are 116 who are unsheltered. That is from the most recent PIT count. The total is 513. The 397 that are sheltered could be in a shelter, transitional housing, or couch surfing. It is not a stable housing environment. We mentioned housing first a lot and I totally agree that that is something we need to move forward with. My office recently had a conversation with a developer who has done housing first in a number of communities throughout the country. They are a for profit entity but they buy hotels and they know how to renovate them very efficiently. They have a non-profit partner that they work with if the community doesn't have a non-profit partner. I have mentioned it a number of times but our non-profits here in the city are maxed out. They can't take on additional responsibilities so I am not sure if this will work out. Know that we are having these conversations and looking at every option that we can. We have also talked to the National Alliance to End Homelessness to see if they would be interested in helping the city identify the gaps in services. I think it was Alderman Long or Alderman Stewart who mentioned the non-profits in the City of Manchester. People believe that the City of Manchester provides shelter and we don't. It is a non-profit, Families in Transition, that provides the shelter in the city. They are funded by the state. So the city does not have the authority to tell the shelter what to do. We have a partnership with them and we work with them but if you want changes at the shelter, you should work with the state or the shelter to make those changes happen. That is the same with every non-profit in the City of Manchester. We provide minimal dollars through CIP, not tax dollars, but through federal funds that come into the city to assist the non-profit partners that we have. Lastly, we are continuing, and I say we because there are city departments and also non-profits, who are going out on a daily basis doing outreach to individuals in parks that are unhoused. That includes the Fire Department Squad 1, City Welfare, the Community Response Unit which is the Health Department and the Police Department, Families in Transition, Manchester Mental Health, HOPE for NH, Waypoint, and for the veterans who are homeless, Harbor Care is an entity that has housing for veterans.

There are a lot of partners here and a lot of work underway. I wish I could say that we could end homelessness tomorrow but it is a long-term complex issue. To Alderman Long's comment, this Board has invested about \$11 million over the last three years to housing and renovating housing in the city. We have about 2,000 new units in progress with 300-400 affordable units. That is progress but we are not going to have it tomorrow. Just know that this Board is working hard. We don't like seeing individuals who are unhoused. We are working and doing what we can to address it collectively.

City Clerk Normand stated the motion on the floor is to accept the report, suspend the rules placing the ordinance on its third and final reading and ordain. Alderman Sharonov requested a roll call vote. Aldermen Sharonov, Trisciani, Levasseur, Heath, E. Sapienza, Burkush, Barry, Gamache, Cavanaugh, Stewart, and Long voted yea. Aldermen George-Kelly and Fajardo voted nay. The motion carried.

35. Report(s) of the Committee on Lands & Buildings, if available.

There were none.

36. Resolutions:

"Authorizing the utilization of excess revenues from the Manchester School District Fiscal Year 2023 budget revenue estimates for a supplemental appropriation of \$3,230,310 to the Manchester School District pursuant to Section 6.05 (a) of the City Charter in Fiscal Year 2023."

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Seventy Six Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Seventy-Five Cents (\$76,365.75) for the FY2023 CIP 410523 Highway Safety Grant."

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Thirty One Thousand Dollars (\$131,000) for the FY2023 CIP 410423 MHRA Community Policing."

"Amending the FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Million One Hundred and Two Thousand Dollars (\$1,102,000) for the FY2023 CIP 610723 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences at 351 Chestnut Street and FY2023 CIP 610823 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences at 351 Chestnut Street (Merrimack St. Parcel)."

"Amending the FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Million Eight Hundred and Eighty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$1,888,000) for the FY2023 CIP 610723 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences at 351 Chestnut Street, FY2023 CIP 610823 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences at 351 Chestnut Street (Merrimack St. Parcel), and FY2023 CIP 610923 Families in Transition-Family Place First Floor Renovation Project."

*On motion of **Alderman Stewart**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to waive the reading by titles only.*

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Sharonov**, it was voted that the Resolutions be Enrolled.*

37. Ordinance:

"Amending Section 33.026 (Community Development Support Specialist) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to Ordain.*

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I have some questions for the Police Chief. I want to get some clarification regarding private land owners and the homeless. If a private land owner has a homeless person on their property, what they would do is call the police correct and say I have a homeless person on my property and I want them removed and obviously keep their alderman in the loop but what would the police reaction be to that?

Allen Aldenberg, Police Chief, replied they should tell them to get off their property and if they refuse to they can call the police. We will come up to the residence. If we can determine quite easily that it is your property and privately owned, the person will be removed from the property. If they refuse to leave the property, they will be arrested for criminal trespassing. If they return, they will get arrested again for criminal trespassing. I am sure the Solicitor may have something to add on that but it is pretty simple. Private

property obviously is an easy solution. You own the property so they cannot be on your property.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked what about if there is a camp left behind. Let's say the homeless person is gone but there is a bunch of stuff left behind and the private land owner wants that removed? Can they call the police for a stand-by for security reasons?

Chief Aldenberg asked to do what.

Alderman E. Sapienza answered to have the stuff removed. Say the private homeowner hires a contractor to remove everything.

Chief Aldenberg responded if it is a small amount of property, the property owner can dispose of it on their own. If it is a large amount and it is going to take hours and they have to hire someone to come out and pick everything up then we could work with the property owner to have some police presence or maybe they would have to hire an officer to be present while it is done.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated okay so they might have to hire an officer.

Chief Aldenberg replied if it is going to take 10 hours, I can't put a route car out there for 10 hours.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated okay thank you.

Alderman Stewart stated I want to remind everyone that coming up on Saturday, October 29 we are going to have the Howloween Pawrade. This is a dog costume parade. It is 10 AM at Livingston Park. You can learn more at my aldermanic Facebook page, [Facebook.com/ElectWillStewart](https://www.facebook.com/ElectWillStewart). It is going to be fun.

Mayor Craig stated the Build Back Better Regional Challenge Community Celebration is this Friday, 10/21 from 12 PM until 2 PM in Arms Park. I encourage you all to attend.

Honor Flight New England is this Sunday, 10/23. The send-off is at 7:15 AM at the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport. A reminder that the downtown Trick-or-Treat and Fall Festival is Friday, 10/28 from 3 PM until 6:30 PM and then city-wide Trick-or-Treat is 10/31 from 6 PM until 8 PM.

TABLED ITEMS

39. Ordinance Amendments:

"Amending Sections 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Project Coordinator) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Sections 33.025 & 33.026 (Compensation Manager) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Sections 33.025 & 33.026 (Human Resources Analyst) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Sections 33.025 & 33.026 (Water Works Director) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Sections 33.025 & 33.026 (Water Works Deputy Director-Finance and Administration) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Sections 33.025 & 33.026 (Water Works Deputy Director-Water Treatment and Supply) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Sections 33.025 & 33.026 (Water Works Deputy Director-Water Distribution) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

These items remained on the table.

Alderman Long moved to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(d) for consideration of property acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community. **Alderman Fajardo** duly seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Cavanaugh, Stewart, Long, Fajardo, Sharonov, Trisciani, Levasseur, Heath, E. Sapienza, Burkush, Barry, Gamache and George-Kelly voted yea. The motion carried.

Mayor Craig called the meeting back to order.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to seal the minutes.*

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Stewart**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Normand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

City Clerk