

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

November 1, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Mayor Craig called the meeting to order.

Mayor Craig called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Long.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Cavanaugh, Stewart, Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, 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.

Mary Roberge, 1023 Merrill Street, stated:

I am speaking to you tonight as a resident of Manchester and also as the adjacent neighbor to Hallsville School and I would like to take a few minutes of your time to express my thoughts about the upcoming proposals that have been presented.

Unfortunately, this building has deteriorated from lack of maintenance. There are no cameras to monitor activity to the building, as well as insufficient lighting which has made the building vulnerable to fireworks being ignited on the building grounds and recently to vandalism. I can understand why the city wants to move forward and accept a proposal to have the building occupied, maintained, and secured. I have read the two proposals that were presented in the *Union Leader* on Monday. I was intrigued by the proposed art center from Studio 550 and I did love the idea of adding greenery and plants to enhance the building and it would also help the neighborhood and I wish I had more information about this. I also understand the need for affordable housing and know that the partnership with Southern NH Services and Granite State Alliance will make this possible. My concern with this proposal is the impact that these two organizations, along with the city making the gym a city-wide community center, will

have in terms of parking and using neighborhood resources. As the adjacent neighbor, I do have concerns about people blocking my driveway so I can't leave, trash and people walking on my property, especially children who love to climb the fence, walk on the gym roof or play behind the proposed location of the Granite State Alliance offices. I think the city is in favor of accepting Southern NH Services proposal. That is my personal thought. If this is accepted, my personal thing would be a lease of five years to be renewed every five years only because I think a long-term lease leads people to become a little bit too lax. My wish list, and I do have a wish list...I have looked at the site plans at one time a while back and I would like to see where the proposed offices for the Granite State Alliance moved to the corner lot of the property on Jewett and Merrill Street and that a building elevator, if this is used for senior housing, is near the gym entrance. I would also like to know, whoever gets this property, who if I have any concerns that I can talk to. If it is a lease, I don't want to have to go back and forth between whoever is leasing the property, the city or another city department. It is very frustrating. Of course I have my wish list wish is to have a livable neighborhood for everybody. I know the building can't remain vacant and quite frankly I don't want to see it vacant but I just don't want the high traffic and I don't want people to be rude when I ask them to not block my driveway. I want to thank you all for listening to my concerns.

Ashley Poulin, 184 Oakdale Avenue, stated:

Tonight I want to ask some of you all questions since you passed the amendment to our current city ordinance 96.06 about whether or not you think our city ordinances supersede our state constitution and those statutes. The answer is no. So if you have any questions ask Emily Rice. I am going to reach out to Zube Zenet and have him write a formal letter so we can really understand what is going on here in these chairs. I am going to read 644:6 Loitering and Prowling, again from the criminal code Chapter 644 "Breaches of the Peace and Related Offenses."

I. A person commits a violation if he knowingly appears at a place, or at a time, under circumstances that warrant alarm for the safety of persons or property in the vicinity. Circumstances which may be considered in determining whether such alarm is warranted include, but are not limited to, when the actor:

- (a) Takes flight upon appearance of a law enforcement official or upon questioning by such an official.
- (b) Manifestly endeavors to conceal himself or any object.

(c) Has in his possession tools or other property which would lead a reasonable person to believe a crime was about to be perpetrated.

(d) Examines entrances to a structure which the actor has no authority or legitimate purpose to enter.

II. Prior to any arrest under this section, unless flight or other circumstances make it impossible, a law enforcement official shall afford the actor the opportunity to dispel any alarm which would otherwise be warranted, by requesting him to identify himself and give an account for his presence and conduct. Failure to identify or account for oneself, absent other circumstances, however, shall not be grounds for arrest.

So when we keep sweeping along folks and they have no space to go and they aren't actually posing a threat, your new ordinance actively violates our current state statutes so we are going to have the ACLU look into that. And since I want to make sure you all know your own watch, some of these seats weren't won by very much. Sapienza by only 183, Barry by 316. Good for you man. Gamache, 48. Pat 356. I am looking forward to seeing some new faces. Have a good night.

Dam Wright, Manchester stated:

So you have a bunch of shopping carts and tarps that are now lining the sidewalks outside the park. Is it better? Meanwhile, another one of our friends died. It was a few days after you came down for that photo op, handed out some socks and started enforcing those new rules but let's move onto the stuff that you care about; the money and the votes. You were saying that you really wish you had a place for these folks to go but you just don't know. Except two summers ago you had a long list of places to choose from. City properties and you had one that you picked out and you were talking about the services and putting together a proposal for that. Saying that you don't have a place for them when the city has plenty of places seems like you are choosing not to do that. Then when we came here the first time and begging for help to save the lives of our friends that were in the shelter, several of whom have since died in that place, you said the same thing you said two weeks ago. There is nothing you can do about the shelter except they are a business that operates in the city and despite their erroneous tax status as a non-profit, they make a lot of money here. You have regulatory power over the businesses in this city. We know that. You can regulate food vendors to the point where somebody who is trying to make homemade meals and hand them out to their needy neighbors on the sidewalks is getting a cease and desist and threatened with arrest. But you can't regulate the shelter or maybe just put in some

basic regulations that would equate to the state level restrictions against animal cruelty? That might have saved some of my friends. You are not doing everything you can. You are choosing to do exactly as much as you want to do. You are bragging about the numbers of money that you are throwing to your friends at the non-profits. You are not doing what needs to be done and again you are saying that you can't. We have been begging you for help for a long time. We have been asking for your help and we have been begging for it. I am not going to do that anymore. It hasn't gotten us anywhere. It has only made things worse. So we will get what we need elsewhere. We will go to private donors or wherever we have to. We will go to the next Board because you started to read some of those FIT numbers and 390+ in the shelter is a lot of voters. You have 116 for the unsheltered. The way they took that count...the woman who said she was going to break up all of their camps went around to see how many showed up to be counted. You might as well add a zero to that number. Then there are all of your own supporters who aren't going to take this. That is a pretty big voting block. We are not going to come ask you for anything. We are going to ask the next Board. See what happens next November.

Brandon Lemay, 36 Lynx Way, stated:

I wrote a speech tonight. I had it all typed up but I threw it out on the way here. So please forgive me if I go a little off script here. The speech that I wrote was a lambasting speech. It was going to talk about what I believe to be an ineffective and cruel ordinance that was passed this week that targeted the homeless population. I don't want to linger on that too much. I want to acknowledge the fact that after this vote, I stormed out of this building in a furious mood. I want to explain who I was thinking about that night and why I was feeling so emotional. Her name was Patricia. Patricia was a nurse. She loved her job but she had a neurological condition that prevented her from being on her feet all day. She adapted as best she could and got a desk job that she didn't like so much but it paid the bills and she kept her house. We connected a lot because she had a son named Brandon and for those of you that know me, I go by my last name Lemay but I never minded when she would call me up saying Hey Brandon. The problem is that Brandon had a substance use disorder. He was on methadone or some other drug like it that basically increases your risk of overdose if you ingest another substance. One day after his treatment Brandon got into Patricia's liquor

cabinet and he died; he overdosed. I can't tell you what exactly happened step by step but from then on Patricia had lost everything. She lost the career she loved and she lost her house and then she lost her new career. She had nowhere to go but the Families in Transition shelter on Manchester Street. She needed a mobility device and the lift there didn't work so she had to sleep in the cafeteria. She would call me frequently and say Brandon I don't want to die in here. Please don't let me die in here. I got a lot of calls. I am not going to lie. I would drink myself into a stupor after most of those calls. Brandon I don't want to die in here were the last words that Patricia said to me. She died earlier this year in that shelter. I was frustrated because the ordinance that we passed last time is not going to prevent somebody like Patricia from dying in that shelter. It doesn't. So I want all of you to understand that this is why I fight for a housing first model. Nobody should die in a homeless shelter. Nobody should be in a homeless shelter but especially not die in one. The only thing that is going to solve homelessness is right here in my pocket. Keys in your hands. Thank you.

Jessica Margeson, Manchester stated:

Lori Abood could not be here today. She had too much anxiety to be able to come in front of everybody tonight but she had words that she wanted to be heard. I am an organizer with the Granite State Organizing Project. With me tonight are a few of the other tenants that have a couple of words to say themselves after.

Hello my name is Lori Abood. My only family in state is my mother who would help me if she could but her strict HUD rules prevent her from being able to. My monthly income is \$1,058 from SSI. I qualify for an apartment that is no more than \$352/month. I have not been able to find any landlord able to qualify me for a rent any higher because it makes me a liability for them. Understandably so at their high rents. On December 1, I start self-pay and with my income that would only take me eight days and just a few bucks shy of a ninth day if I don't eat or spend any money on transportation. We need more affordable options now. Thank you.

This is Christine Smith who I met at the Comfort Inn working with other tenants. This year for Christine she lost her father on January 3, her grandmother on February 9 and she was the sole caregiver of her grandmother so when all of that faded away, everything went away. Her family home was put up for sale and due to the family being a bit estranged, that meant no help was there – not a home, not help, not anything

which she wasn't expecting but it would have been handy because Christine is now in the Comfort Inn. 90% of her belongings were lost in a flood in a storage unit. You are wondering why she doesn't have money from that. She was not the sole beneficiary on that insurance policy with this estranged family so she is down to 10% of her belongings. She has a month until she has to start self-paying and once again it is the struggle of affordable housing. She says I have no one and I am down to almost nothing just trying to find somewhere to start again. The affordable units available are getting harder and harder to find and now I am running out of time with the closing of the application. I am to start to self-pay December 1 which also means I will have to come up with the deposit and first month's rent to be able to move if I cannot find something and get the paperwork done ahead of time. I am on disability and now I have no way of making any little extra income needed. We need more housing options. For instance, we have one lady at the hotel who is #1 on FIT's shelter list so when she leaves in a month she has no shelter to even go to. Next is Rachel and she might be able to talk for herself. This is scary for a lot of people who have never done it before and I get it does feel like a court which they have already been through.

Hello my name is Rachel Gagne. My husband and I have lived in a one-bedroom apartment for 24 years. Our building was sold and the new owners evicted everybody out of the building. We were evicted from our apartment for renovation reasons. We had asked the new owners if we could put our stuff in storage and then come back and they said no, we want to start with fresh tenants. This eviction has been very stressful on my husband and has caused him to have a stroke which damaged his heart giving him AFIB. They have shocked his heart twice but it won't stay in rhythm. They have checked for blockages but there weren't any. They are hoping medicine might help. He also had a mild grand mal seizure that he has never had prior to this situation. He is not handling the stress of losing his house of 24 years and all of the changes. My granddaughter Zoe, who is 11 years old, is autistic and has epilepsy. It is very difficult for her because not only did she lose her home but she is not allowed to have her pets at the hotel which are her comfort support. She also has a central processing disorder so it makes it very difficult for her to understand and process what is going on. Living in the hotel is more expensive and more stressful. I can't cook normal healthy food but only food in a microwave or take-out which gets extremely expensive. I can't do laundry easily and have to go to the laundromat which again costs more money. We need to pay applications fees when looking for apartments and they run out at \$35-\$100. Everybody always assumes we have extra money when we are living in the hotel but it is the opposite. Our food stamps also go down because we don't have as much of a shelter expense when we need them the most. We need help. I start self-pay December 1. Please help me find something I can afford.

I have another family at this hotel where the daughter was born less than a year ago. She spent four days in the hospital and has only ever known the hotel in the first year of her life. They can't get out because they can't find something they can afford. We have so many great options coming but I am hoping we can create some type of solution that will get us through the next couple of years and maybe create a process to move the homeless quicker and get them into programs so we don't have these situations occurring.

Mayor Craig stated I want to mention that Charleen Michaud is here from the Welfare Department and she can talk to the folks who are here tonight.

Patrick Murphy, 134 Weston Road, stated:

I am the victim of juvenile violence. On five occasions this year my home has been vandalized by juveniles. I have learned much. The most important thing I have learned is you cannot get a police report on a juvenile crime unless you actually have video evidence of that crime in progress. I managed to acquire this and I presented it to my local resource officer. The miscreants were identified and they confessed to the juvenile resource officer. I thought I was well on my way to having my home restored to its prior condition but unfortunately this is not true. My first dealing with the resource officer was...I have approximately \$3,000 worth of damage to my home. I was offered \$100 if I would drop the charges and let things go. I didn't feel that to be equitable. I then pursued trying to obtain recourse through first the juvenile's parents maybe in a civil proceeding or at least get a police report so I could turn it into my insurance company and they in turn could act on it but you can't get a police report on a juvenile act until it has actually been successful adjudicated. Now I have spoken with the Manchester PD and I have spoken with the prosecutor's office and I have spoken with the NH Juvenile Court. The NH Juvenile Court informed me of an RSA that in essence says that once a diversion or an arraignment occurs, I would be entitled to at least the contact information, the name and address of this juvenile so that I or my insurance company would be able to pursue civil means to correct this issue but they refused. They told me that I should wait patiently for the trial to occur and if the outcome of the trial was successful at that time I would be able to get the necessary information.

Seven months passed and I was getting frustrated so I started contacting people. One of the people I contacted was my alderman. My alderman made some phone calls on my behalf and he got me in touch with a lady in records by the name of Christina. Christina unfortunately told me that since it was juvenile she could not provide me with a police report, even a redacted one, but she did confirm that there was in fact a trial pending. I then contacted the Solicitor. After contacting the Solicitor, I was told by the juvenile prosecutor's office that all charges had been dropped even though we had a video recording and a confession. I just wanted to relay my frustrations. Thank you.

*There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Stewart**, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.*

PRESENTATIONS

2. Overview of Manchester's Continuum of Care (CoC) Program.

Erin George-Kelly stated you all know me as Alderman George-Kelly but the other hat that I wear during the day is the Director of Youth & Young Adult Homeless Services at Waypoint and the current Chair of the Manchester Continuum of Care (CoC). I am going to pass it to my left and then my right so that folks can introduce themselves.

Stephanie Savard stated I am the Vice-Chair of the Continuum of Care and the Chief External Relations Officer at Families in Transition.

Todd Fleming stated I am the CIP Coordinator with the Planning Department.

Ms. George-Kelly stated we have a lot to talk about tonight in regards to the CoC and we are going to try our hardest to get through it in a quick way and we will just take questions at the end. The objectives...I won't read them all to you but this is basically what we are trying to cover today so that everybody has kind of a foundational knowledge of what the CoC does in the city, who we are, what kind of funding comes into the city through the CoC, how that funding is used and what else is happening in the community. A Continuum of Care is a collaboration of organizations and individuals

across the community. CoC's came out of the Housing & Urban Development Department. There are CoC's all across the country. In NH, we have three of them – Greater Nashua, Manchester and then the balance of the state. Those CoC's are looked at as communities that are coming together with the goal of ending homelessness. The CoC program provides some of the funding to non-profits through a community application and it really is about getting folks together, not just homeless service providers but all organizations across the city that impact or touch the issue of homelessness together to really talk about what we can do to impact the issue of homelessness and do the work to move that forward. When we think about the CoC in Manchester, we have community partners that are made up of municipalities like members of the city, non-profits, faith-based organizations and community members. We also have folks who have lived experience in homelessness in our community as part of the leadership of the CoC and we center young people as well who have experienced homelessness in our community as part of the CoC. When we think about the responsibilities of the CoC, again these are responsibilities that HUD sort of lays out as what every CoC across the country is working on doing. The commitment and the goal of the CoC is to move forward in ending homelessness. We have a responsibility to hold meetings of the full membership which we do six times a year. So they are every other month. Those have published agendas and published minutes on the CoC website. We are responsible for making sure that we have sub-committees that address the populations that HUD has determined are the priority populations when it comes to homelessness and to develop sub-committees that address issues within our own community. These are the sub-committees we have in Manchester. Veteran's Community Care teams, a Youth & Young Adult Homelessness sub-committee, a Coordinated Entry sub-committee, a Zero Suicide sub-committee and an Outreach sub-committee. We will talk more about those on a different slide but those are the working groups of the CoC. We are also collaborating with consolidated planning jurisdictions and we are going to talk about that more and that is why Todd is here. Todd is the representative of the consolidated plan in the City of Manchester. We also have an opportunity to apply for funding from the CoC for the community of Manchester directly to HUD and that is a community application that goes in from the CoC. Some of the other things we are responsible for are making sure that we are looking at every program in the community that is funded based on HUD's system performance

measures, doing a point in time count every year, doing a housing inventory count every year, looking at longitudinal system analysis so how people move through our system of homeless services in our community, and the annual homelessness assessment report. When we continue on the responsibilities of the CoC, the other thing that we are responsible for that HUD has required of every CoC across the country is to have a coordinated entry system. So every housing program that is funded through the CoC is responsible for being part of this coordinated entry system so that any individual looking for housing is entered into the coordinated entry system and that is how beds are filled throughout the community; it is through prioritization so that the most vulnerable people are accessing the beds that become available in the community. That means that they have gone through an assessment and worked with an outreach worker or a coordinated entry worker to be assessed and put into that coordinated entry waiting list. We also are responsible for promoting and encouraging use of mainstream programs so things like City Welfare, the vouchers that come out of the Housing & Redevelopment Authority, and other programs in the community like food stamps and things like that. We have a responsibility to make sure that the people that we are providing services to have access to those things as well. I already touched on this a little bit and we will talk about it a little bit more but we also have a responsibility to complete the point in time count which happens the same night every year across the country. Again, that is a HUD mandated event. Also the needs assessment and looking at racial disparities and gaps in our systems.

Ms. Savard stated this list is the leadership team. You can see that we have a Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk. We have a designated city member seat which Todd Fleming has been in for a little while. We have members at-large. We try to get a diversity of folks that represent agencies across the city. So health systems, housing authority, various non-profits, managed care organizations and a people with lived experiences as well. This is the list of the members of the CoC. Membership is open to the public so anybody can join the CoC that has an interest in addressing homelessness in the city. This again is a diversity of both city departments that have impact with homelessness like the City Library or City Welfare, the school district, and then a diversity of non-profits, faith-based organizations and a wide variety of different sectors that touch homelessness in some way are sitting around the table for the CoC as a

whole. Erin started to talk a little bit about the sub-committees. Most of them, again, are designated by HUD. The Community Care Team is a group of providers that are coming together to talk about individuals who are high utilizers of some of the systems in the city. That might be emergency rooms, shelters, corrections and is an opportunity with a release signed for providers to talk about and think about how to help that individual to get through the system more quickly and get the support that they need. The Coordinated Entry Committee Erin described pretty well. It is a group that comes together to talk about the most vulnerable by a screening tool to help them get access to permanent supportive housing in our community. The Outreach Committee has two branches. There is the Systemic Outreach Committee that is looking at how outreach is done in the city and how to improve the systems like point in time count and the Work Group which is more the boots on the ground committee coming together on a weekly basis to really talk about outreach that is happening in the city. The Veteran's sub-committee prioritizes and looks at Veteran's homelessness. The Youth & Young Adult Committee is really focusing on the 18-25 year olds but has a special demonstration project that we will talk a little more about later that has some consultants as the current chairs. Lastly, the Zero Suicide Homeless. The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester received some funding to focus on both training providers to do better suicide risk assessment around people with lived experience in homelessness and how do we then do prevention around that. A piece of the CoC is the collaborative applicant and the collaborative applicant is designated by the CoC specifically with the primary goal of submitting the annual HUD CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity. The responsibility is to apply for the funding. For any new projects that are put in for additional services in the city and then planning funds to help implement that. The decisions about who is funded I will get into a little bit later. There is another slide around that by for the collaborative applicant, any additional responsibilities would be designated in the governance charter. For Manchester, there is not any additional collaborative applicant responsibilities. In Manchester, the current collaborative applicant is Families in Transition so primarily to get that Notice of Funding into HUD on a yearly basis.

Ms. George-Kelly stated this is my opportunity to kind of introduce a little bit about how the CoC and the Planning & Community Development Department works together. As

we noted, Todd has a seat on the leadership team. There has been a city-designated seat on the leadership team for as long as I can remember. Todd gets to serve as the liaison between the work that is happening at the CoC with mostly non-profits and the work that is happening in the Planning & Community Development Department. Some of that is because the Planning & Community Development Department is the other place in the city that HUD funding comes into. Because of that, there is a responsibility of the Planning & Community Development Department to create the consolidated plan for the city as well as annual action plans. I am going to turn it over to Todd to talk a little bit more about his role and those plans and how they intersect with the issue of homelessness in our community.

Mr. Fleming stated as Erin stated the city is an entitlement community and as such we are required to submit a consolidated plan which is a five-year plan. The last plan we did was in conjunction with the city's Master Plan. Within the consolidated plan every year the city submits an annual action plan where we are basically telling HUD how we will be spending HUD entitlement dollars that come into the city for the coming year. A big part of the consolidated planning process is to consult with the CoC to assess the needs of the homeless community. As a part of this process and the annual CIP budget process, the city determines how HUD emergency shelter grant entitlement funding will be distributed. Basically that is around \$160,000 on an annual basis. During the pandemic, we did receive quite a bit more money. Now we are back to getting \$160,000 of funding that can be directed towards homelessness initiatives. In addition to that, the city fulfills the HUD environmental review requirements for the city's entitlement projects as well as the Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) projects that Erin referred to. In the interest of collaboration, I participate in the CoC's leadership committee and serve as the liaison between the city and the agencies that participate in the CoC. I keep them informed with regard to funding that is available through the city. On an annual basis the city commits funding to the Manchester CoC agencies in conjunction with the Mayor's CIP budget process. The FY23 budget included distributions to WayPoint, Families in Transition, The Way Home, Easter Seals, and 1269 Café. We also hire the consultant that does HMIS reporting which is required for agencies to receive emergency shelter grant funds.

Ms. George-Kelly stated some of the other specific activities of the Manchester CoC are the ones that you see up here in this infographic. As you can see, like Todd just talked about, the one in the lower left is providing information to the city as requested to assist with the consolidated plan really working on conducting gaps analysis and homeless needs and services assessments. Some of those things are activities that HUD requires of the CoC but doesn't necessarily provide funding for so we work really hard to try to figure out funding in other ways. We did a recent community needs assessment focused on youth and young adult homelessness. That was funded by the NH Charitable Foundation in order to be able to make that happen. We talked a little bit about the coordinated entry system so developing and maintaining the coordinated entry system is part of our responsibilities making sure there is a streamlined way that people come into homeless services and get connected based on prioritization to beds that they are eligible for. We also work on creating information and distributing information about outreach, prevention and housing strategies as we submit in the HUD NOFO that Stephanie was talking about. The annual point in time count. We are responsible for making that happen. I know that some of you have participated in that and know what it is but it is a count of unsheltered individuals in the community. The way that the point in time count happens...I think there is a lot of mystery around the point in time count but it happens in a variety of ways. Outreach workers count people that they are seeing during the day out in encampments or they know are literally homeless in the community and collect data on those individuals. They are all given a unique id so that the information isn't duplicated. We collect the data about individuals that are staying in emergency shelters the night of the point in time count. We also collect the information that is collected on the street. I know that I have participated in the point in time count for many years and have seen many of you come together in the middle of the night to walk the streets of Manchester and really count every individual that we see. If they are out at 2 AM in the city, it is usually because they don't have another place to be. We know that the annual point in time count is an undercount of the true homelessness that we see in our city because it happens in the third week of January but again it is a HUD mandate that it happens at that time and not something that we have control over. The last thing up on this slide is about working with the ESG recipient on strategic allocation of ESG funds. That is where the Planning & Community Development Department comes in really thinking about how the ESG funds, that

emergency solutions grant funding that comes into the city, aligns with really looking at the issue of ending homelessness and contributes to that goal.

Ms. Savard stated ideally if we had a really robust system to be able to respond to prevent and end homelessness, this is the system that would be created. We would have coordinated entry in place which we do have and then assessment of where they are at and then bring them to whatever direction of the system that needs to happen so prevention, diversion, things like rental assistance, utility assistance, outreach, emergency and crisis response, access to emergency shelters for whatever population they fall into or transitional housing and then housing solutions; those non-time limited affordable housing or those that have supportive services provided with it. So really having access to any and all of these services would make for an ideal system that generally all of the agencies work hard to do but we know that we have greater need even in just the housing category alone in order to meet the needs of those who are homeless.

Ms. George-Kelly stated I think it is important to note that when we talk about ending homelessness we don't actually mean that there will never be a homeless individual again in the City of Manchester. What it really means is that there are enough of these services that exist that homelessness will be rare. When it happens it will be brief and for any individual experiencing homelessness that it will be one time and they don't continue to access this system and then relapse back into homelessness. In order for that to truly happen in the City of Manchester, we would have to have the resources and funding to support all of this across the board.

Ms. Savard stated we wanted to clarify what the CoC funding from HUD actually funds. There are really three primary categories that the funding can be allotted to. It is transitional housing which is meant for individuals or families to successfully move on to permanent housing for usually a period of up to 24 months with supportive services attached to that. There is permanent supportive housing which is meant to have no time limit to it. It is designated for someone in the family that has a disability, either the head of household or others, that has a documented disability and supportive services are also attached to provide stability for the long-term. Rapid rehousing is the third

category and that typically emphasizes a housing search in the community, relocation services in the community and usually up to about a 24-month time period of supportive services and rental subsidy. It does not pay for emergency sheltering but really focusing on these types of housing to help people transition to.

Ms. George-Kelly stated I think it is really important to note that HUD and the funding that comes in from HUD into the CoC is not allowed to be allocated to emergency shelter. It is not one of the eligible projects that we as a city could ever apply for to HUD through the CoC.

Ms. Savard stated this digs a little deeper into what the eligibility is for folks to come into those three different types of housing that we talked about. Usually it is around definitions of literally homeless or imminent risk for transitional. For permanent it is a little bit more complex. It is not only being literally homeless but having a disability that is documented and long-term. Some permanent supportive housings either have dedicated or prioritized units specifically for chronically homeless. Chronically homeless by HUD is a very intricate definition that looks at both length of time homelessness and disability. For rapid rehousing, you do have to literally be homeless. There sometimes has to be a slide rule to figure out who is eligible for what unit because it is so specific and HUD mandated across the board.

Ms. George-Kelly stated I think it is important to note that when we talk about permanent supportive housing it truly is permanent. So if somebody moves in when they are 25 years old, they have the ability to stay in that unit that is funded through HUD dollars, for the rest of their life or if they choose to move on. So when we look at the number of units in our community that are funded through HUD, some of those are full and will be full for the next 30 years or for the foreseeable future.

Ms. Savard stated this slide emphasizes that point. This identifies how many units in the Manchester CoC are allotted to transitional, rapid rehousing and permanent support and the number of people that we served in the 2020-2021 operating year, as well as the total funding to the five organizations. I do want to highlight the YWCA. That was a new project that came into the city just this past year. They just started implementing

the 11 units of rapid rehousing specifically for survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault. We don't have numbers served yet because they are just implementing it but it was a new project brought into the city that the YWCA applied for through the CoC.

Ms. George-Kelly stated I think it is also important to note that this is not all of what is happening in the city. It is just what is funded through the HUD NOFO. For WayPoint where I work, this is one project that is funded through the HUD NOFO and we have about seven other projects in the community that don't receive this kind of funding.

Ms. Savard stated it is also important to note that for Easter Seals and Families in Transition, these are multiple projects with many units. For FIT, I think it is 10 or 11 different projects with a total of units that is much higher than what you are seeing as well as Easter Seals having three or four projects as well. Just to explain the ranking and scoring of the projects each year, the CoC brings together an ad-hoc ranking and scoring committee yearly. It can be anybody coming from the general assembly of the CoC. The goal is that it wouldn't have any members who obviously are receiving funding be a part of the scoring and ranking. The committee looks at what the current HUD NOFO is asking for, priority areas and creates a scoring tool annually. Then you can see this list that really highlights what are the factors that are being looked at to score each project. Things like program utilization, are they full, are they spending all the money that has been received, are they in compliance with reporting requirements, etc. So making sure that they are appropriately using the funding that is coming into the city specifically to address what HUD is asking it to be used for.

Ms. George-Kelly stated to go a little further into the ranking and scoring, when we put out the NOFO, anybody in the community can apply for projects and they are ranked using this ranking system. Anybody who is applying is not allowed to be on the ranking committee because that would be a conflict like me getting up there and ranking myself. That doesn't make any sense. We open it up to the general assembly and that is one of the reasons why our membership of the CoC is much greater than just those who are receiving funding. They provide this kind of service and expertise to the CoC. When they get scored, they then get prioritized and the highest score goes to the top. We then prioritize the projects for the community and submit that application saying here are

our 12 projects in the City of Manchester from the highest priority to the bottom and submit it to HUD and ask them to fund it. HUD will start the funding from the top and go down.

Ms. Savard stated we should also say that annually there is a little bit of money that is a bonus project but we are competing with the rest of the nation. Domestic violence projects tend to have been a pretty repetitive bonus project recently like the one that the Y already was awarded. They did just submit another one to expand their program in the last NOFO round. We won't find out about that until March 2023. They also have a very small bonus project that is much harder to win and a very small amount of money. Sometimes it is like \$70,000 and it has been difficult to apply. We do continue to always submit an application in the hopes of being awarded that. As Erin mentioned, there are projects that are outside of the CoC HUD funding. This chart shows a demonstration of the emergency shelter beds that are in the city for both adults and families, the winter beds that are allotted for this coming year, transitional housing, rapid rehousing and permanent. Again, all of these are funded through a variety of sources – city funds, state general funds through state grant and aid, federal home investment partnership programs and foundations, donors and agency fundraising.

Ms. George-Kelly stated I think it is important to note that over the last year the city has dug really deeply into the issue of youth and young adult homelessness. We have done two specific things in that area. We have published a community needs assessment of youth and young adult homelessness after a lot of work in the community to gather that data and really understand the issue in our community. From that, we worked with young people with lived experience of homelessness in our community to develop a coordinated community plan. This plan, if we wanted to prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness in Manchester, spells out what we would need to do to make that happen. All of this work happened because the CoC applied for something called the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program grant which brought \$1.2 million into the city to address the issue of youth and young adult homelessness. The first part of that grant...10% had to be spent on the planning so these were required things that needed to happen in order to get the other money released from HUD. These are HUD approved documents that happened in the community and after that we were able to put

out an RFP in the community and request organizations to step up and apply for project funding. That allowed us to fund some of the projects that were in the coordinated community plan. Again, we did that in a very similar way developing a scoring and ranking committee that had young people with lived experience in homelessness on the forefront of the decision making in that committee. From that, there are three new projects that are being lifted in the community and these are two year grants right now. They are renewable over time through the community NOFO. WayPoint will be lifting two projects. One of them is a Youth Navigation project which will be a one-stop shop for any young person experiencing homelessness or housing instability to be able to access services and really get connected. The Youth Navigation case manager will be doing an assessment with them and putting them into the coordinated entry system and connecting them directly to the right services to make sure that there is a swift entry into the system and that they are immediately connected with appropriate resources. Rapid rehousing. Again, this is a program that is a housing first model. It is very much about prioritizing the most vulnerable young people, ages 18-25, and providing apartment units for those young people. Through the YHTP grant, we are able to extend our services to them so we will be able to provide rental assistance and supportive services for up to 36 months for those young people so that they really have the opportunity to move towards stability. The Home, which was formerly The Home for Little Wanderers, is coming into our community to launch a project for the first time. They have a lot of experience in homeless youth work in Boston and have entered into NH primarily before this contracting services with the NH Child Welfare Department. They applied for and received funding for a transitional housing program in Manchester and they will be launching that program as well. So that was the CoC in a very large nutshell.

Mayor Craig stated thank you for your time and going through all that is going on with the CoC and the collaborative efforts. I think it shows the Board and the public all of the work that is happening within the City of Manchester and the housing options that are available even though we know it is not enough.

Alderman Long stated thank you. This is very helpful. It helps clear up some thoughts that I had. How long has the CoC existed in Manchester?

Ms. Savard stated I have been at FIT since 1996 and it was coming into existence right about there. So 1996 or 1997.

Alderman Long asked since then has there been a five-year plan. Is the requirement to come up with a five-year plan?

Mr. Fleming answered yes. Every five years we have to do another HUD consolidated plan.

Alderman Long asked is there somewhere I could look at the results of those plans to see if there were any gaps identified or...

Mr. Fleming interjected the consolidated plan has a lot of different things in it. One of the sections deals with homelessness and that is available on our web page. I would be happy to send you a link or I could email you a copy of it.

Alderman Long asked are there any phone contact apps that could reach people or does the CoC reach out to homeless people with an app. Are there any apps used to check-in? Have you given any consideration to that?

Ms. George-Kelly answered we have thought about it as part of the lifting the Youth Navigation Program because it is one of the things that the young people with lived experience recommended. It is not something that we have done yet. I do think that there is a lot of...I know from frontline experience that there is a lot of texting and connecting over different social media sites. I know that WhatsApp is used often to connect with people. It really is about being creative and trying to find innovative ways to stay in touch with people who are transient and often moving around.

Alderman Stewart stated thank you for the very educational and informational presentation. It is great to see so many community partners at the table talking about this. You have a lot of committees and a lot of activities. I am curious to know...Stephanie you mentioned the CoC really being in existence for 25+ years and I am curious in that time in addition to all of the activities that have taken place, the

money that has been distributed and the units that have been created, do you have data on the results. What have they been? Have we been able to reduce homelessness and is the CoC responsible for any outcomes? Is there any accountability to actually reducing homelessness or are you just allocating funding to various different programs?

Ms. Savard responded HUD has a few different performance measures that they look at. Reducing homelessness is one but they also look at things like first time homelessness and trying to reduce those numbers, increasing people's income or access to employment. They are really looking at not just the larger system but also the individuals that are coming into the system. When I say that I mean specifically the projects that are funded out of HUD. Our Homeless Management Information System has the ability to look at those performance metrics. Ironically, they just went through a data software change. They are saying in January they will be able to start to have performance dashboards that will be specific to Manchester as well as the other two CoC's. They say that it will include anybody who puts into HMIS. So it is not just the HUD funded ones. We will be able to have more public information of that data that ICA, which is the organization that manages this HMIS system, will have available to us hopefully starting in the new year. I literally just talked about it today with them. We should be able to see that soon.

Alderman Fajardo stated I jotted down a bunch of notes. I would like a couple of clarifications. \$160,000 is the amount coming in through CIP?

Mr. Fleming replied typically that is the annual amount of emergency shelter grant funding that we receive from HUD. We also receive other funding like Community Development Block Grant funds of about \$1.7 million and HOME funds of around \$800,000. I did not mention the HOME funds in our presentation but we utilize those funds for tenant-based rental assistance programs as well as developing affordable housing units.

Alderman Fajardo stated if I understand this correctly, there is a ranking system used as part of the NOFO process and then...is the consolidated plan...help me understand how the action plan and the consolidated plan work together.

Mr. Fleming answered as part of the CoC receiving funding through the NOFO process, those projects have to be consistent with the city's consolidated plan. That is a HUD requirement. The CoC applies directly for that funding. I think last year, and you guys can correct me if I am wrong, it was around \$1.5 million for 14 projects.

Alderman Fajardo stated and the consolidated plan originates in the city. I am curious what the inputs are for that if that is what is directing how the funds are distributed in line with the ranking system.

Mr. Fleming replied as it relates to homelessness, there is a section within our consolidated plan that is basically an assessment of the current beds that we have in the city. The annual action plan also has a similar section where it says as a city what are you doing to address homelessness.

Alderman Fajardo asked can you answer that. I am curious to know if we know, and I think maybe you were asking a similar question Alderman Long about impacts. I am curious as to how that consolidated plan addresses literal homelessness here.

Mr. Fleming answered as a part of our requirements to HUD we also have to submit an annual performance report. Basically within that report there are sections that state the performance measurement like how many homeless individuals were served during that year. We just committed our Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) for FY22 and that is available on our website.

Alderman Fajardo stated I am curious on slide 14 you laid out the optimal system that would be required by any municipality to create the impact that we need. I am curious as to what you think it would cost to achieve that optimal system.

Ms. George-Kelly replied I don't know that we have a number. I don't know that we could say what it costs to address all of this because it really means that we have prevention services in place that are preventing people from experiencing homelessness all the way to enough emergency crisis response that is in a variety of

different ways so that it meets the needs of every individual experiencing homelessness all the way to the housing solutions. If you think about when you looked at the slides about the new projects for young people, things like rapid rehousing programs are extremely expensive because we are working with a young person who is extremely vulnerable and extremely at risk of fatality on the street based on untreated mental health issues or untreated substance use issues and often times medical issues and providing them rental assistance for 36 months to help them really move to stability. That is a really costly program. To be able to invest in this would be millions of dollars.

Ms. Savard stated I would also add that the coordinated entry system is actually an unfunded mandate by HUD. Right now there are three organizations that are doing coordinated entry with no funding behind it to pay for the staffing to actually provide those assessments and make sure that people are accessing the system that is needed. Even that most important piece to having access to what is available is currently unfunded.

Alderman Fajardo asked and that is absorbed through the organizations.

Ms. Savard answered yes.

Mayor Craig stated I think one thing that may be helpful to everyone is a side-by-side. Todd I think you may be the best person to do this and I am sorry but what has been funded through the CoC for this fiscal year and then what the Board has funded through the CIP process so collectively we can see what the impact has been both with the federal dollars that have come in through this Board and the federal dollars that have come in through the CoC.

Ms. George-Kelly stated we can do that.

Alderman Barry stated there were a few people that spoke in our public comment portion that are staying at the Comfort Inn who are going to be homeless shortly. I am hoping that under new business we will be able to speak with Charleen from Welfare and Donna Lee Lozeau who is here tonight. Is this something that you guys are looking

at that you could or would help out with; the people that are staying at the Comfort Inn? I know there are quite a few of them. I know some are from Manchester and some are from outside of Manchester. Hopefully we can coordinate and find them something because those are truly homeless families that need our assistance.

Ms. George-Kelly stated anybody that is staying in a hotel is considered homeless. If they are staying in hotel because they are living their long-term, they would be considered homeless and could be entered into coordinated entry. The hope is that every single one of those families or individuals is connected to an outreach worker or case manager or coordinated entry access point in the city so that there is an assessment done and then they are put on the prioritization list so when units become available they are being prioritized for that. I will also say that there has been some emergency rental assistance money that has come into the state because of the pandemic that has allowed some funding for hotels to be paid for long periods of time that is very quickly coming to an end. It is going to put a significant demand on the homeless services systems and as we know, the capacity for housing that we have already in the community does not meet the need.

Alderman Barry stated my understanding is that their money is going to be running out in the next couple of weeks. Hopefully everybody is coordinating to work with these people, especially if they are families. When these landlords see these big dollar signs they are raising their rents and it makes it impossible for people to afford to live there because it is either I pay for an apartment and not eat and they don't have any money for utilities and so on. Hopefully we can all coordinate to help them.

Ms. George-Kelly stated yes so Southern NH Services has been the organization in our community that has been able to put that money out to individuals and families. They are working really hard to make sure that individuals and families are not relapsing back into homelessness as a result of this money ending and connecting all of them to the appropriate services whether that is coordinated entry or city welfare or other entities in the community that can be the warm hand off so that this doesn't become another literal homelessness crisis in our community.

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept BMA Minutes

3. Minutes from the October 4 BMA and Finance meetings.

Accept and Remand Funds

4. Donation of \$100 from the city employees to the Bob Powers Food Pantry.

Information to be Received and Filed

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

6. Advising that the update on the Revolving Loan Fund has been accepted.
(Unanimous vote)
7. Advising that the Finance Department reports:
 - Accounts receivable over 90 days
 - Aging report
 - Outstanding receivableshave been accepted.
(Unanimous vote)
8. Advising that the Financial Report for the first three months of FY23 has been accepted.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND BUILDINGS

9. Recommending that the request from Mayor Craig to rename Barrister Lane to Chief Thomas J. King Lane be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Sapienza who was absent)
10. Recommending that the request from the Water Works Director to enter into a five-year lease agreement with Youngsville Athletic Association d/b/a Granite Heat Baseball Club for a four-acre parcel of land located on the west side of Route 28 By-Pass across from Front Park be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Sapienza who was absent)

11. Recommending that Ordinance Amendment:

“An Ordinance amending Chapter 150 Housing Code, Sections 150.067 and 150.068 of the City of Manchester Code of Ordinances to address Insects, Rodents, Vermin and Other Pests.”

be approved and referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review.

(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Sapienza who was absent)

12. Recommending that the request from Senator D’Allesandro to name the entry into Prout Park after the late Brigadier General Richard Vercauteren be approved.

(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Sapienza who was absent)

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AIRPORT ACTIVITIES

13. Recommending that the request from the Airport Director to utilize \$250,000 from the Economic Development Special Revenue Account and \$100,000 from the Manchester Development Corporation as a local match for the Small Community Air Service Development (SCASD) Grant be approved.

(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Sharonov who was absent)

*Having read the consent agenda, on motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to approve.*

REGULAR BUSINESS

14. Nominations:

Planning Board

John Goeman from alternate to regular member, term to expire 5/1/2024

Parks & Recreation Commission

Colin Manning as a regular member, term to expire 7/1/2025

Art Commission

Kathy Daneman as a regular member, term to expire 12/1/2024

Randall Nielsen as an alternate member to replace Kathy Daneman, term to expire 12/1/2024

Housing Commission

Kate Marquis from an alternate to a regular member, term to expire 1/1/2025

Ashley Marcoux as an alternate member to replace Kate Marquis, term to expire 1/1/2025

(Note: Pursuant to Rule 20 of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, these nominations will layover to the next meeting of the Board.)

15. Communication from Michael Reed, Stebbins Commercial Properties LLC, requesting an extension of the P&S Buyer Due Diligence Period for the Wellington Hill properties until December 31, 2022 and approval of a fourth amendment to the Purchase & Sales Agreement.

Alderman Levasseur moved to approve. Alderman Stewart duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Long asked is this the last one.

Michael Reed, Stebbins Commercial Properties, stated as you know there was an action of quiet title. Of the 82 titles, I think we have 78 at this point. There are four more pending. One in California that has been resolved with a payment and there are four others. I think we have approximately 20-25 days left and then if you refer to the correspondence from John Bosen and Associates, I believe a motion for final default judgement in the proposed agreement will be filed with the court and that should be done by the end of November. That decree will then be recorded in the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds and at that point we should have clear insurable marketable title and be ready to close on the 31st. The \$175,000 deposit is now non-refundable. The buyer has expended close to \$500,000 on site civil and legal so he is in this thing up to his eyeballs so to speak.

Mayor Craig called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

16. Communication from Superintendent Gillis requesting acknowledgment that the Manchester School District's Board of School Committee (BOSC) is responsible for the care and control of all school building properties indefinitely, until such property is no longer needed for public school purposes as determined by the BOSC.

Alderman Levasseur moved to approve. Alderman Long duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Long stated in reading the letter sent from the Department of Education, it says in part "maintain undisturbed use and possession of each building undergoing ESSER funding construction for the useful life of the construction or 50 years". Are we

held to that? I am thinking if there is a school shut down within the life of the construction or within 50 years ESSER funds would have to be refunded.

Mayor Craig responded it says or, not and.

Alderman Long replied it says life of the construction or 50 years. What I am saying is if there is a school that is not in their possession that is under the life of the construction they did, how does that work? Does the ESSER funding have to be refunded back to them? I just want to know...it is not just a plain yes it is under their jurisdiction until they are done with it and then it comes to us. That is in our charter. This is different.

Mayor Craig stated I don't have an answer but if it were "and" it would be concerning to me but it is "or". So life of construction or 50 years. I guess I just don't know what the definition of life of construction is.

Alderman Long responded saying or 50 years is even worse because...

Mayor Craig interjected it is this or that not and.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I would like a clarification. We are voting on Item 16 as it is stated in our agenda. We are not voting on every other thing in the packet. We are just simply acknowledging what already exists right?

Mayor Craig answered correct.

Emily Rice, Solicitor, stated yes.

Alderman Long asked what does that mean. That means whatever else is in our packet we don't weigh in on? It is just simply what the charter says?

Mayor Craig stated we had this conversation and unfortunately the state is requiring the school district to go through this process in order to get reimbursed for ESSER funds. So yes what is in the charter is what we agree to but the state is requesting that the city

provide written documentation to the school district of what is in front of us for them to get reimbursed for the ventilation projects that they used ESSER funds to implement.

Alderman Long stated in that letter it won't have that the life of construction or 50 years. It will just say with respect to our charter the district retains control of school buildings until they are not in use anymore? That will be the letter that we send to the state?

Mayor Craig stated it is the request on page 103 to the Board.

Matthew Normand, City Clerk, stated the motion they are asking for is on page 104 and that is what is on your agenda.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated perhaps we should have the letter here that we are going to send to the state so we can vote on that. It sounds like I am authorizing a letter that I haven't seen.

City Clerk Normand stated it is my understanding that the school board is asking for this vote. The motion requested is identified on page 104 and the DOE's letter is on page 105 regarding why this is before you tonight. When we put the motion that this Board makes on the letter from Jen Gillis, the school board will send that up to the state. It will say that the Board's motion was to affirm that the BOSC is responsible for those buildings indefinitely until they are no longer in use.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked so that is the actual language on page 104.

City Clerk Normand answered correct.

Mayor Craig called for a vote. *There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

17. Communication from the Manchester Development Corporation Board of Directors requesting the following:
- Close the Manchester Small Business Recovery Loan Fund;
 - Commit \$250,000 from the Economic Development Special Revenue Account in support of the Manchester-Boston Region Airport's Small Community Air Service Development (SCASD) Grant; and
 - Ratify and approve the MDC vote to commit \$100,000 in support of the SCASD Grant with \$30,807 coming from interest earned on MDC assets and loans

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

18. Communication from Jeff Belanger, Planning & Community Development Director, regarding the disposition of the former Hallsville School property.

Alderman Trisciani asked does this really have to go back before Lands & Buildings or can we suspend the rules.

Mayor Craig stated if there is no discussion, I would accept a motion to approve and a motion to suspend Section 34.25 which requires any lease over five years to go to Lands & Buildings to be deemed surplus. If we suspend that, we would be deeming it surplus tonight.

***Alderman Long** moved to approve, suspend Section 34.25 and deem the property surplus. **Alderman Trisciani** duly seconded the motion.*

Alderman Levasseur stated the other party that submitted a bid, have they had any communication with the city after they realized they were not included in the discussions. Only one applicant was invited back and two actually sent in bids. I am just wondering if they called and said if we had been given an opportunity to talk to the Board in non-public...that they would have had the same opportunity and possibly increased their bid or something?

Jeff Belanger, Director, Planning & Community Development, answered I don't know if that specific discussion occurred but I know we have been in contact with them. We spoke to them today and they are aware of generally what is going on.

Alderman Levasseur asked were they upset that they were not included.

Mr. Belanger replied no.

Alderman Levasseur asked why did they call or why did you have a conversation with them.

Mr. Belanger responded we spoke to them to update them.

Alderman Levasseur asked to let them know they didn't get it.

Mr. Belanger answered well the vote hasn't been taken yet but we updated them on tonight's meeting and generally what is happening.

Mayor Craig called for a vote. *The motion carried with Alderman Levasseur being duly recorded in opposition.*

19. Report(s) of the Committee on Community Improvement, if available.

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that grant funds from the Center for Disease Control & Prevention in the amount of \$300,000 be accepted.

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

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that a request from the Department of Public Works to apply for a Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation grant from the Department of Transportation be approved.

*On motion of **Alderman Stewart**, duly seconded by **Alderman George-Kelly**, it was voted to accept the report and adopt its recommendation.*

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the grant funds from the NH Department of Safety in the amount of \$490,000 be accepted.

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

20. Report(s) of the Committee on Public Safety, Health & Traffic, if available.

There were none.

21. Report(s) of the Committee on Human Resources/Insurance, if available.

The Committee on Human Resources/Insurance respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that a request from the Airport Director to add one (1) Business Administrator, Grade 20, to his complement be approved.

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

The Committee on Human Resources/Insurance respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that a request from the Tax Collector for a Grade 21, Step 4 starting salary for the newly promoted Deputy Tax Collector be approved.

Alderman T. Sapienza moved to accept the report and adopt its recommendation.

Alderman George-Kelly duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Levasseur asked can they cover this in their budget.

Mayor Craig answered yes.

Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Sharonov being duly recorded in opposition.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I have a question for the Solicitor. Does the city prosecutor have a Victim Rights Advocate similar to Hillsborough County?

Solicitor Rice replied we don't employ an advocate but there is an advocate employed full-time by the Police Department and then there are three advocates working in the Domestic Violence Unit.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked so the Victim Rights Advocate, not including domestic violence, falls under the Police Department.

Solicitor Rice answered that is correct.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked is that a full-time position.

Solicitor Rice replied yes I believe so.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked what is that person's name.

Allen Aldenberg, Police Chief, replied Rashida Mohamed.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked what about non-domestic violence. I am asking in reference to the last speaker tonight.

Chief Aldenberg stated that is a juvenile matter so that is sensitive. I have an in-house Domestic Violence Victim Advocate that is employed full-time. Like the Solicitor said, there are an additional three advocates over at the district court that fall under my complement as well. If you are talking about a victim advocate that would be assigned over at the Hillsborough County Attorney's Office or through the NH Attorney General's Office depending on the case. If the AG's have the case in the instance of a homicide, then they assign a victim advocate. The county attorney will do the same for cases at their level.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I have one follow-up and it is probably for the both of you. Is dropping the charges without consulting the victim something that normally happens or not? It seems odd that that would happen.

Chief Aldenberg responded I think what you are referencing again is a very delicate issue. We are talking about a juvenile in reference to the individual that came up earlier and spoke. Again I would speak with you privately about that because there are some...I am not going to say anything further because I don't want to cross a line that I shouldn't cross.

Alderman Barry stated Charleen I know you are here and Donna thank you for hanging around. Can you come up and address what is going on at the Comfort Inn and maybe at other hotels in the city? My understanding is that it is people and I don't know if they were evicted or just left because they couldn't afford the rent because the landlords increased. I just want to know what the status is with those people staying there and what the city and state are going to do about it whether it be state or federal funding that is hopefully available.

Charleen Michaud, Welfare Director, stated I will let Donna Lee start as this is their program, the ERAP Program, and then I can address how we are going to meet the unmet needs.

Donna Lee Lozeau, Southern NH Services, stated I would be happy to try to answer the best that I can and I would also like to thank Alderman George-Kelly for mentioning the work that we are trying to do. Hotels are particularly difficult. As you can imagine, there is a mix of people that are at various stages of readiness for housing and we have a fair amount of hotels in Manchester that have been willing to work with us. When you heard the news that we were no longer taking new applications, that is because when funds were reallocated across the nation NH had asked for additional funds and we found out on October 20 that NH was not selected. The first thing that needed to happen was we stopped taking new applications because we didn't want to set people up to expect something that we couldn't then deliver on. You may have heard me say publically that

we anticipate that for the five community actions statewide for all the applications pending in our queue we anticipate we will be able to cover those costs. We don't know that for certain because until we touch each application we don't know how much the request is. One of the challenges that you will see, and I can't be specific about specific individuals, but if people are receiving notice or finding out that November 1 or December 1 or whatever it might be that they will no longer have their costs covered, it relates to whether or not they put their recertification application in prior to that deadline. When people put in an application for this program, we pay back their arrearages and then we pay rent perspective. So we will pay three months in advance once they are caught up. There is a limit in ERA 1 for 15 months and in ERA 2 for 18 months. Once they hit that limit, we can't help them. If they have their maximum authorized amount of funding that they are eligible for, we can't provide more rental assistance. If, even in spite of prompting, they did not get their recertification application in before we stopped taking new applications, they are not eligible. We have done a lot of things working together to try to make sure that we can kind of catch them. So a warm hand off with Welfare. In addition, we are putting together what we are calling a Wrap Around Team of staff from individual organizations that work with this population to see if we can case manage them safely. We are also trying to find out if there is something we can do that will allow us to get folks through the winter. I don't know that we will be able to come up with something that meets all of the criteria necessary to be able to do that but we are working diligently to try to do that.

Alderman Barry asked how many families or people are we talking about. I always heard about the Comfort Inn because it is in ward 10 and I have received a few phone calls but throughout the city because we are concerned about Manchester, how many families are we talking about and also where are they from?

Ms. Michaud replied Donna Lee has provided me information in terms of how many families are we looking at right now who are in Manchester hotels that are losing their hotel assistance in November. We have just 28 households that are currently in Manchester hotels that are going to be losing their assistance this month. Of that 28, only 8 of them are Manchester residents. The other 20 will be referred back to their town of origin for services there. The NH Local Welfare Administrator's Association

actually revised our ethics agreement this year to address this very issue. We saw this coming. In order to protect, so to speak, the communities such as Manchester who have hotels we have made adjustments to that ethics resolution. So Donna Lee has provided my office with the eight names of households that are Manchester residents. We have contact information for six of those households. We have attempted to reach out to all of those. We have successfully contacted five. We left a message for the sixth but they have not called us back yet. Some of those individuals that we have contacted have already arranged for some alternative housing. Some have located permanent housing. There is one I know who will be staying with a family member. I think there are going to be three that we anticipate are going to need our help and we will be working with them to bring them into our office before they lose that assistance. I anticipate, again, that we will be looking to help them maintain their housing in the hotel. Our program is just like ERAP. It is an eligibility program. There is different eligibility so they will need to make the adjustment to our eligibility requirements, which are stricter than the ERAP. For example, when somebody applies with us and they have a source of income they need to demonstrate to us how they are using that. We will need to see that it is being used to meet their basic needs. So somebody where under this program they may not have needed to use a portion of their own money to cover their hotel, if they have a source of income we would require them to use what they can towards their hotel expense. What local welfare does is it serves to meet whatever gap there is. For example, if somebody's household expenses, their basic needs cost \$2,000 and all they have in income is \$1,000 what they are generally for is that missing gap.

Ms. Lozeau stated if I could just add, I think one of the important things for people to understand is it was pretty clear that if it was an emergency program that it would end at some point. For a fair amount of people, to have the rules that were not as strict as you are hearing the director describe, it gave them an opportunity to what I call get a do over; to not have the baggage on their back of months of back rent for whatever reason, months of utility arrearages and all of those things and to really be able to put aside some of their income and try to move forward. We have a fair amount as I had told the Mayor that signed up for our workforce programs and our trainings and apprenticeships and things to get them where they want to go. Then there are a fair amount of people who are always going to need our help whether it is the city or the state or our agency.

They are always going to need some sort of help. Then there are the folks kind of in the middle. I am very hopeful that the middle folks get out there and take some of those jobs that we are all trying to fill.

Ms. Michaud stated another thing to keep in mind is that over the last year and a half or almost two years now that this program has existed, we have saved a lot of money in the Welfare budget as a result. We are below budget right now. I anticipate that we are going to have funding to cover what we need to cover. Certainly if we don't I will have to come before this Board to ask for more money but right now I think we are in good shape to address the emergency needs that we are going to see coming in during the next few months.

Mayor Craig stated the ultimate goal is to keep these individuals housed and working together to make sure they stay housed.

Alderman Long stated so that is November. How much ahead are we? So when will you start addressing the people in December? The third or fourth week of November?

Ms. Michaud answered our office always deals with the crisis at hand. Right now we are focusing on those individuals who are going to be losing their assistance in November. I am sure that Donna Lee will be giving me a list of who is going to be losing assistance in December ahead of time and again we will be reaching out to those individuals as well. Again, their workers have been informing people of our services and advising them to reach out to us as well. Those calls are starting to come in as well.

Alderman Long asked is there anyone that is not from Manchester that is staying in Manchester. Is that an alternative?

Ms. Lozeau replied I want to make sure that everyone understands that one of the things that happened during this program is we can't turn people away because they got a hotel in Manchester but they live in Nashua. We have done our best to prioritize the people in Manchester, particularly those with children in the school system and those

sorts of things but there are a fair amount of Manchester folks that are in Nashua hotels because we ran out of hotels in Manchester and there are folks from Nashua that are in Manchester. That is why as the director mentioned, they revised their ethical agreement. I have provided to all of the welfare directors that we are dealing with a list showing their folks and we are not making sure they are able to work together and say okay these are my guys and those are your guys however that may work.

Alderman Long asked so statutorily we are okay and there are no anticipated issues with saying you are from Chichester so you are going back to Chichester and the local welfare there is responsible.

Ms. Michaud answered if somebody from Chichester is currently in a Manchester hotel, they would be directed back to Chichester. Chichester can still continue to pay for the hotel here in Manchester. It would be their responsibility to do that. People are always going to move around but we as welfare administrators work out those nitty gritty details in terms of who is somebody's liability. Ultimately if there is a conflict or if a welfare director does not take responsibility, they are the responsibility of the town they are physically in.

Alderman Barry asked Charleen is it possible to give us a monthly update so we know where we are at. At least for a short period of time?

Ms. Michaud asked would you like a monthly update in terms of our budget. What specifically would you like?

Alderman Barry answered what is going on in the hotels with how many families are still there and how many have you found housing for.

Mayor Craig stated I think that could be a component but I think your office, Charleen, is probably going to be reached out to more so now than ever and I think it would be good for this Board to understand the different types of calls you are receiving and how you are helping individuals so we know where the issues are as well.

Alderman Long stated we just want to get a heads up if there is a bottleneck somewhere and you need relief. The more heads up we get, the better so we can anticipate getting what you just gave us on a monthly basis so we are made aware.

Mayor Craig stated the question of affordable housing came up and I just wanted to mention from memory the affordable housing that is underway in the city right now. It is about 300 units in process. There are approximately 186 affordable units going in in the former police station, Sheehan-Phinney and across the street from that. There are another 28 units that were identified through InvestNH. Those are in various locations, mostly in the downtown area. There are roughly 140 units between the Pearl and Hartnett lots. There are 48 units at Kelley Falls, 28 units at Hallsville and then 12 at Radburn. That doesn't include the non-profits Erin that you mentioned with the YWCA, 1269 Café, WayPoint, FIT and Helping Hands that are increasing some housing units as well. So there are about 300 in progress and 1,900 in total throughout the state right now.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked are those all affordable housing meaning income restricted.

Mayor Craig answered yes. In your packet the first item is regarding the Manchester Transportation Center located at 119 Canal Street. As you know, that building has been vacant for a number of years even before Covid. The number of buses that go through there is really limited. I spoke to Mike Whitten earlier today and he has confirmed that he can handle the routes at Veteran's Park so he can continue with the limited bus service that we have. I did verify with the City Clerk, Solicitor, Manchester Transit Authority, DPW, Planning & Community Development and MEDO that the city can, in fact, lease this building. I am requesting that this Board refer this opportunity of leasing that building to L&B which meets in a few weeks along with a contract for Mike Reed of Stebbins Commercial Property to lease the building.

*On motion of **Alderman T. Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman Trisciani**, it was voted to refer the lease of the Manchester Transportation Center to the Committee on*

Lands & Buildings along with the contract for Mike Reed of Stebbins Commercial Property.

Alderman Trisciani stated so we are referring this to L&B just to review a contract with Mike Reed that is probably a standard boiler plate contract. Do we need to refer that to L&B to then come back here which just drags the process out by a month?

Alderman T. Sapienza stated we have a process to follow.

Mayor Craig stated Election Day is next Tuesday, 11/8. Polls are open from 6 AM until 7 PM. The City Clerk's Office is open on Election Day but City Hall is closed. You can find your polling location on the Manchester website. The Veteran's Day Parade is on Friday, 11/11. Again, City Hall will be closed. The parade is at 10:30 AM and taps will be played at 11 AM outside of City Hall.

TABLED ITEMS

City Clerk Normand stated the first ordinance amendment was approved by the Board already regarding the Project Coordinator. The others were received and filed in committee tonight so those can be received and filed.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to remove the items from the table.*

22. 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."

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to ordain the ordinance regarding the Project Coordinator.*

*On motion of **Alderman Barry**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to receive and file the remaining ordinances.*

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman George-Kelly**, duly seconded by **Alderman Barry**, 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