

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

November 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Mayor Craig called the meeting to order in Joint Session with the Library Trustees.

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

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Board of Aldermen

Aldermen Cavanaugh, Stewart, Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, Trisciani, Levasseur, Heath, E. Sapienza, Burkush, Barry, George-Kelly

Library Trustees

Patricia Cornell, Martha Rossignol, Vanessa Blais, Robert Lord, Joanne Barrett, Israel Piedra

The Mayor advised that nominations are in order to reappoint Patricia Cornell and Ken Snow to the Board of Trustees of the Library, term to expire October 1, 2029.

*On motion of **Alderman Stewart**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to reappoint Patricia Cornell and Ken Snow to the Board of Trustees of the Library, term to expire October 1, 2029.*

Mayor Craig advised that a motion is in order to close nominations.

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

Mayor Craig advised that unless the Board desires to suspend the rules, the nominations will lay over to the next meeting.

*There being no further business to come before the joint session, on motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to adjourn.*

Mayor Craig called the regular meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Absent: Aldermen Sharonov and Gamache

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. The Mayor 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.

Chris Boldt, Donahue, Tucker Ciandella, stated:

I am here tonight on behalf of the Diocese of Manchester concerning Item 29 on your agenda which is the amendment of the Master Development Agreement with LMG. Frankly we are here in support of that amendment because as we met with the Mayor and Aldermen Stewart, Long and Fajardo, we had expressed concerns back in August regarding the project concerning the Hartnett Lot. We had asked that Pearl Street go first and that is what the amendment is. We are anticipating and we are hopeful that the diocese will be at the table as we discuss how to make the Hartnett Lot conform with the original RFP which said there should be no reduction in the public parking available there which is so important for St. Joseph's Cathedral that is right there adjacent to the lot. I thank you for your time. I understand that there is not public input at the time the item is actually brought forward but I am here to answer any questions you may have for me at this time. I understand that is not the normal route. Thank you very much for your time.

Rachel Gagne stated:

I am here for a friend of mine who is severely handicapped and slowly dying. His landlord is taking advantage of the fact that he is so severe. The guy is almost blind. He is on housing. That is good but what he keeps doing is bouncing his rent saying it is \$109 this month and \$119 that month. Oh by the way, you don't have to pay rent because the state is going to do it. Hmmm. He is just up and down. Freddie will give

me the money and I pay the landlord. The landlord gives me the receipt. It is like you guys have to make up your mind what he owes. They say well housing keeps changing it. Housing only changes once a year, not every month and then all of the sudden you don't have to pay it? He went in the hospital two Sundays ago. He got out this past Sunday. He came home to an eviction notice on his door saying he hasn't paid rent for the past four months. He hasn't paid it because they told him the state was going to cover it and he was all set. Now you are going to evict him? The guy is in a wheelchair and has one leg. By the end of the year he will be legally blind. I mean what is going on? That is the problem. His landlord is taking full advantage of this. I need someone to help me fix this before he gets evicted for no reason. Thank you very much.

Mayor Craig asked Jessica I assume you have reached out to NH Legal Aid. That is the best resource.

Jessica Margeson replied yes but until it is a court action they can't do anything unfortunately. I am an organizer with Granite State Organizing Project. We also have a tenants' union in case anyone is interested. One thing that she was speaking about is I have noticed a big uptick in the past few months of those with housing having threats by their landlord. Yesterday there was one who threatened to do a renovation eviction if the rental increase did not get pushed through quick enough with her housing. I have noticed an uptick in that. I had three 548 petitions go through in the past two weeks. What I wanted to speak on does involve housing and does kind of involve the courts. About a month ago, the courts were only going to do 35 cases per week of evictions because of Covid they don't want that many people going through there. They are currently up to 50 per week because the backlog was getting so extreme. That is 200+ evictions per month going through. The program as we know has ended with NATRP and just recently and you would never expect this to happen but I had three clients up in Osife with the Tri-County Cap who were supposed to be in their hotel until the end of November. They got booted out early because they ran out of money at that cap. Not to scare anyone but we don't know what the end really looks like here and we are already up to a large amount of evictions weekly. I am just asking for a big push for some type of supportive housing and something to be set-up because there are no beds anywhere and to get people to beds that actually work for them being it for work and

getting back and forth or school set-up or custody agreements, lack of transportation, medical reasons...a lot of those things make it difficult for them to go outside of the city where their support system is set-up. We have a lack of housing as we all know and we have great stuff coming but we need something for right now while they still keep searching for apartments. There are just not enough on the market currently for this many people to find that many affordable. Thank you.

Dennis Higgins, homeless, stated:

I have noticed that they got everybody out of the parks which is probably better for the city and for people to enjoy the parks because you had people shooting up and doing drugs and whatnot. Luckily I am not one of those people but I see that it is not a good thing. It seems to me that where it comes from the top down and that would be you Mayor who see a lot of stuff and then you send the police over to remove people or get them out of there. Those guys do a good job. Obviously they are pretty efficient and I am sure they are given a lot of harassment from both sides. I don't understand where you want the homeless people to go. Right now you have a lot of people on the sidewalk by the shelter. I thought I saw you drive by today with the Chief maybe. I don't know where they are supposed to go. There is not enough room in the shelter for all the people that are homeless now in Manchester. Now that you have them all in one spot, there is no public bathroom anywhere. The closest one would be Market Basket or the Library when they are open. There is nothing around and that is a huge problem. The firemen are coming over in the morning to check-up on everybody. I don't think anybody works harder than the people at the Central Fire Station. That place doesn't stop. The trucks are leaving all the time. I don't think they are paid enough actually but that is between you and them. There is no place for those people to go. When you send them to rehab or whatever because people come by asking if they need help, they don't get taught how to stay off the street. There are no programs. Don't get me wrong. Being the only Republican homeless person out there, I understand that it is not your responsibility to supply everything for these people but there is no program to teach them anything about how to stay off the street. If they go to rehab they talk about how not to do drugs but then they put them right back in the same neighborhood and they didn't learn anything. They are then right back doing it because that is the only thing they know. There is no school or vocational training for anybody or take them up the

ladder to get them out. I don't know what is going on in other states but I am sure we are not doing the best. I know that. I am not saying that we have to but there is a lot of stuff that can be done. I understand the city wants to have clean sidewalks. I would want the same thing. If I wasn't homeless I would drive by and say what are these people doing and how do we get them out of there. There is more to be done and what is going on right now is not how it should be done. I don't know what else has to be done but public bathrooms are needed because you are going to have a health problem. Thank you.

Kathleen Carswell, 385 Amherst Street, stated:

I am back like a bad penny as my grandmother used to say. She also said be like a beacon, not a candle. I have quite a few issues. First, we don't need homeless pods in Manchester. I am not paying for their electricity. I can't even pay for my own. I am not paying for heat. I am sorry they are in the position they are. Why don't we use St. Casmir School; the whole school and not just a floor or two? Why can't we rehab that and use it for a second shelter? There is no reason. That school has been closed for years. My nephew who is married and lives in Maine now and in his 30's went there. That is how long that school has been empty. The other issues I have are also the Parking Department. Why can't we finance them and give them at least one other vehicle? I have called them on different occasions. They help in our neighborhood with abandoned cars. I will call them and give them the information they need and they come by and give a ticket and put a sticker on it to get it towed or whatever needs to be done but when the person is out on vacation, I have to wait a week for them to come by because there is only one vehicle in the City of Manchester. That is very disappointing. They should have at least two-three vehicles for the City of Manchester. It is a big city with many issues. I am getting tired of coming down here. This is deja vu all over again but I don't know what we have to do. I know you are not running again but please go out with a bang and not a boom. Please help us in the City of Manchester. Some of you aldermen and alderwomen and I would like to have that changed also. It would be nice for an alderwoman to be called an alderwoman and not an alderman. Please go up and talk to Governor Sununu. That would be greatly appreciated. Your voices would mean a lot more than my voice does. I will be back. Thank you.

Dam Wright, Manchester, stated:

I want to take a moment to thank Alderwomen Fajardo and George-Kelly which I have done privately but I want to do publically as well. A lot of my friends couldn't make it today. A lot of them are taking care of the sick because we have a lot of sick people with the weather and the conditions. It is pretty bad. Others just can't get here because they are trying to survive the night. It has been cold and tonight we are going to get snow and rain. That can be really rough when you are living on the sidewalk. They, as was said, don't have a place to go. You know at least when they could be in separate groupings, they weren't all on top of each other stepping on each other all the time causing more and more problems and strife for each other. They have the legal right to be on the sidewalk. I have had that discussion with the police. So what the heck happened down at the parks when you showed up and sent people down there with the bins...a lot of people by the way didn't want to take the storage because there was no answer when they asked what happens after 30 days. Next time having an answer for that might make it go a little better. Then they were given various citations for whatever it was to get them out of there. It is funny because I hear everybody talk about the crimes they commit but the crimes that are committed like that or the crimes by everybody else in this city. We don't lump all the housed people together when you are committing crimes or you are doing bad things. The homeless people have a lot of excuses for the stuff that they do – good reasons whether it's the conditions and having no place to go to the bathroom or whether we are talking about trauma from which they can only escape the pain through the use of substances. Nobody talks about all of those cars spinning around all the time that you can hear from 10 blocks away waking up babies and people sleeping on the sidewalks. We don't judge all of the housed people and try to keep you off the streets for it. I heard about fights in the parks. Yes, fights are going to happen when you are out there. Our fights are usually a hit or two and then it is over. If it is anything more than that it is broken up. No cops get called because nobody wants that. We handle that business and it is done. Not like the giant bar fights on Elm Street that end up with shoot-outs half the time. It seems to me like the homeless people are being the best neighbors they can under the circumstances that they have to deal with. Is the rest of the city being good neighbors to them? Are

you even abiding by the law anymore when you are kicking people off the sidewalk?
Something to think about.

Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

Pardon my glasses but my eyes are still healing. It is a very sad, sad situation that in the last four or five years we are coming back to a full circle. What have we really done? We spent a lot of money. I understand you have to be tough and we need to run a city but today, like I said before, I find almost every other day people that are homeless that were not a month ago basically because of their income. The rents are out of control. Here are a few examples. A person went to high school and graduated and has mental illness. We in our city took care of it and made him a very productive person in our society. He got a job. He has been living here now for 30+ years. He lost his rent because it went up to the point that even with his part-time job and Social Security he couldn't afford to pay. He is now back on the street and not getting his meds like he is supposed to. He is going back to where he was 30 years ago with mental issues. Is that what we want? A couple who are 68 and 69 who also lost their rent are retired and live on Social Security. They are too ill to actually work part-time. They are now walking our streets with carts with all of their belongings. Can we at least take care of our own? Our seniors and those with mental health issues? These are not the people that are committing the crimes. I have always fought for the homeless but I have also fought against those who are committing crimes so they don't get away with it. If the same people that get arrested time after time, and there are a few of them who know what they are doing...the emergency shelter. I am hoping that it will be ready. It wasn't last year when we needed it. The weather is getting cold. These are still human beings. The saddest thing is three years later we are still talking about bathrooms. We haven't solved that yet. Those that are not committing crimes, especially our seniors, you need to find them a place to stay. They worked in our city for years and generations. They just didn't earn enough money to survive. Please try harder. The last thing I want to say is you say our streets are safe and generally they are but we hear of too many shootings and then a killing. Our trails...I no longer will walk the trails by myself. That is not good news. Thank you.

Jennifer Jenkins, Somerville Street, stated:

Last year at this time I was just released from the hospital and I got a voucher to the shelter. I had just been released from Carroll County to the hospital because I was so sick. Long story short, I was released from CMC and I went to the homeless shelter with a voucher. They let me in and as soon as I was well enough I went to Complete Labor every day to make money because that is who I am. There were 50 other people at least in the homeless shelter who did the same thing because that is who they were. Just because you live in a homeless shelter doesn't mean that you are a bad person or that you are not willing to work. At the same time, it is November. I remember walking to work for Complete Labor 100 times where I fell on my butt because I am from Florida and I didn't know anyone here in NH, not one single soul, so I slipped on the ice but I would get back up and start walking again until I slipped on the next piece of ice and then get back up and start walking again. If I didn't make it back to the shelter in time, then I had to stay outside. These people who are sleeping outside are my friends. They might not be yours and you all might think you are better than them or something but they are people just like we all are. I have two kids. My kids are 21 and 23 and they mean the world to me. My son is coming up for Christmas. I am a human being. You guys are human beings. We are all human beings. At the end of the day that is what we have to remember. God loves us all the same. I am not trying to preach here or anything but it breaks my heart to see these people outside because I know there have been times I had to sleep outside the shelter because I wasn't there in time. Actually to be quite honest it was the coldest day in February this year and they kicked me out for improper use of a locker because I didn't have all of my belongings inside my locker. I had some of them on my bed. The first time, I got a 24 hour kick out and slept in my friend's truck. A week went by and they checked my stuff and said I was good. The next day, I got a notice that said I was suspended from the shelter for 14 days again for improper use of locker. I am like what the heck. I had to be out the next day so I slept in my friend's truck. Outside it was like negative something. I had a nice warm blanket. Then I went to 1269 the next night and met this guy Pete who got me into a sober house. I now have my own apartment and I have been at my job for nine months. It was a good step but they kicked me out on the coldest night of the year and didn't care if I died or if I had anywhere to go or that I didn't know anybody up here. Something has to change because not everybody is like what you guys have pictured in your head. Some people are innocent and just victims of circumstance. Like I said already, we are

all God's children at the end of the day. He loves us all the same so just try to remember that. Thank you.

Christopher Ecklund, Manchester, stated:

I have been a resident of Manchester for 30 years and I raised two boys here. I am currently homeless. I gave up my bed tonight to be here because I couldn't get a late pass in order to speak. Lack of public bathrooms is inexcusable. There is nowhere to use a restroom in Manchester which is causing major issues on the streets. The living situation at the shelter is 100 beds for men and 38 for women. There are over 300 at least on the streets alone and the encampments that have been taken down or rather where people were bullied to get out is inexcusable. I have been intimidated, threatened and constantly harassed by the Police Department to move my belongings from this place to that place. Every time I go to the shelter there are bed bugs or lice. It is one thing after another to the staff members that violate your privacy in the bathroom. I had a woman kick in the door of my bathroom stall because I took longer than 10 minutes to go to the bathroom. I was a little bit backed up because of the medication I take. It was 2:30 AM and there was nobody waiting. Of course you can file your complaints and everything else like that but does anything get done? No. I am on Social Security disability. The rents are astronomical. I can't afford to pay for myself. First and last month's rent would take me two or three months and I would have to save every penny. I can't do that. I need to eat. I have to buy clothing and everything else like everybody else in the world. Affordable housing is an issue. It has to be done. There has to be some sort of restrooms made available for the citizens that need to go. Even just every day citizens walking around that may need to use the bathroom. I don't always have \$1 to go to a restaurant to buy a soda to use the restroom. I am a registered voter and I did vote. Thank you for representing us and doing what you are doing. It is just there have to be more solutions than what we have now. Last year the emergency shelter was a warming station meaning that people weren't allowed to sleep. There were no sleeping arrangements. You were allowed to go there and sit at a table. You could put your head down if you want but there was no place to lay down. Now we are dealing with sleep deprived homeless people and people who have been up for four or five days at a time and your lack of judgement comes into effect and you make poor decisions because you can't think straight because you haven't been given a chance to

sleep because every time you close your eyes there is a police officer in your face telling you to get out of there or somebody telling you you can't be there or you are not allowed. It is inexcusable how the city has just pushed the homeless people from everywhere they were where they were not really bothering anybody...I have been told by police officers out of sight, out of mind. So if we can't be seen we are okay but if we are visible then it is a problem. I am not going to get arrested for resisting a police officer or anything like that but there has to be a line drawn where they cooperate with us and help us get to a place where we can actually be treated like human beings and a safe place to get sleep at night and not have to worry about freezing to death or being robbed. Thank you for your time.

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

Mayor Craig stated as you have noticed, we have a large contingent of Manchester Fire Department here and I would like to call Dave Fleury and Steve DesRuisseaux forward.

Dave Fleury, Deputy Fire Chief, stated most of you are aware of the events that unfolded last November. I was the Battalion Chief that night so I saw first-hand the heroic actions carried out by the men behind me. What a lot of us don't know is there was one individual there that night who was an innocent bystander and had he not done what he did that night, that night would have turned out a lot differently and Captain Steve DesRuisseaux probably wouldn't be here tonight. I would like to call up Captain DesRuisseaux to recognize this gentleman so that this department and this city can thank him for his actions on that night.

Steve DesRuisseaux, Fire Captain, read the Resolution into the record:

City of Manchester. A Resolution.

WHEREAS on the night of November 6, 2021 firefighter Captain Steve DesRuisseaux and over 100 additional firefighters responded to a third alarm fire at 10 Dutton Street; and

WHEREAS a neighbor of the property, Aaron Murrell, arrived at the scene prior to the arrival of our firefighters, and
WHEREAS Mr. Murrell informed firefighters of elderly residents who lived in the building and may be inside, and

WHEREAS as he was observing from outside Mr. Murrell noticed Captain DesRuisseaux stuck on the tip of a ladder in the back of the building which was fully involved in fire, and

WHEREAS he saw other firefighters struggling to get the heavy ladder out of the window, and

WHEREAS without hesitation Mr. Murrell ran over against extreme heat and aided in knocking the ladder to the ground, and

WHEREAS if not for the heroic actions of Mr. Murrell, Captain DesRuisseaux would not be with us today,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joyce Craig, Mayor of Manchester, do hereby recognize Aaron Murrell for his service to the City of Manchester and the Manchester Fire Department. Let Mr. Murrell's selfless actions on behalf of the people in need serve as an inspiration for us all.

s/Joyce Craig, Mayor

Captain DesRuisseaux stated I personally want to thank you.

Aaron Murrell responded I want to thank you guys for your generosity but the truth of the matter is those are the real heroes. I just have a firefighter brother and when I saw what was happening and that they needed some help, all I could see was my brother up there so I did what I had to do. These folks run into fires every single day of their lives and they never know if they are going to make it home to their families. The community and all of the aldermen in this chamber and me myself all owe them a debt of gratitude and they are the ones that deserve the standing ovation, not me. If you wouldn't mind joining me one more time to give them a standing ovation. I didn't think that I would ever run into a fire again but if I had to, I would do it again. These guys deserve all the help they can get and they need more support. If it wasn't for my family, and some of them are sitting in the audience – my mother, my father, my aunt, some of my cousins, my grandmother who just passed, my entire family and some of my neighbors by the way who alerted me and told me to run down to the fire...there were other people in the community that really deserve a lot more credit. It wasn't just me out there. I am

actually proud of our whole neighborhood. Everybody went out there to save those people. One last thing, unfortunately someone lost their life that day and although I never met their family, we need to remember that someone was lost and that family is probably still in pain right now. I couldn't save that person. I was pretty close to them but couldn't see them in the smoke. I never knew that they were there until the end but I believe that is what Captain DesRuisseaux was trying to do up there. He was trying to save that person's life. I just want everyone to remember that although this is great, it is kind of bittersweet because someone lost their life that day and I really wish I could have saved them. I know you guys can't save them all but I wish I could have. Thank you to everyone for your support and thank all of you guys for your service. Without a doubt, you risk your lives every single day and I, for one, will never forget it. You guys are the true heroes. You guys are the ones that hold this place together. You guys are the ones that pull people out of cars. You guys are the ones that run into fires. You save lives and do CPR. For all the things they do, they don't get enough money. I love you all and thank you for your support.

CONSENT AGENDA

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

2. Resolutions:

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the FY 2023 CIP 211623 NACCHO Implementing Overdose Strategies at the Local Level."

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-Nine Dollars (\$227,369) for the FY 2023 CIP 410623 Justice Assistance Grant."

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Ninety Three Thousand Dollars (\$93,000) for the FY 2023 CIP 410723 STOP Violence Against Women."

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and

appropriating funds in the amount of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) for the FY 2023 CIP 410823 Intelligence Liaison Officer Program.”

“Amending the FY 2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Four Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$490,000) for the FY 2023 CIP 410923 Substance Abuse Reduction Initiative.”

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, transferring and appropriating funds in the amount of Sixty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Nine Dollars and Two Cents (\$62,799.02) for the FY 2023 CIP 411023 Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Hundred Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Ten Dollars (\$209,910) for the FY 2023 CIP 411123 2022 Homeland Security Grant Program—Rescue Task Force.”

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Hundred Seventy Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Four Dollars (\$578,934) for the FY 2022 CIP 510222 Dorrs Pond Dam Safety Repair.”

“Amending the FY2018 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating, and transferring funds in the amount of Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Six Hundred Ninety One Dollars and Seventy Cents (\$360,691.70) for the FY 2018 CIP 711118 Traffic Signal Corridor Upgrades and FY 2023 CIP 710023 FY23 Roadway Program.”

“Amending the FY2021 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Five Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$550,000) for the FY 2022 CIP 711222 CSO Optimization/Controls.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Dollars (\$250,840) for the FY 2023 CIP 810723 2022 Homeland Security Grant—Cyber Security Network Protection.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Million Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$5,017,825) for the FY 2023 CIP 611023 2022 Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Grant Program.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000) for the FY 2023 CIP 611123 Lead-Based Paint Healthy Homes Supplemental Funding.”

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

3. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$227,369 for CIP 410623 Justice Assistance Grant be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
4. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$93,000 for CIP 410723 STOP Violence Against Women be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
5. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$40,000 for CIP 410823 Intelligence Liaison Officer Program be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
6. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$62,799.02 for CIP 411023 Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
7. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$209,910 for CIP 411123 Homeland Security Grant Program-Rescue Task Force be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
8. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$578,934 for CIP 510222 Dorrs Pond Dam Safety Repair be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
9. Recommending that the Amending Resolutions and Budget Authorizations providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$5,017,825 for CIP 611023 Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Grant Program and \$700,000 for CIP 611123 Lead-Based Paint Healthy Homes Supplemental Funding be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
10. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$360,691.70 for CIP 711118 Traffic Signal Corridor Upgrades and CIP 710023 Roadway Program be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

11. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$550,000 for CIP 711222 CSO Optimization/Controls be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
12. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$250,840 for CIP 810723 Homeland Security Grant-Cyber Security Network Protection be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
13. Recommending that the request from the Planning & Community Development Director to extend CIP 611819 Lead-Based Paint Healthy Homes Supplemental Funding until 12/31/2022 be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
14. Recommending that the summary of abatement requests submitted by Fred McNeill, Chief Engineer, be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
15. Recommending that the request from the Fire Chief to apply for ARPA funding through the NH Department of Transportation to purchase Special Events permitting software.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

16. Advising that the request from the HR Director to increase the labor grade for the Compensation Manager position from a 20 to a 21 was received and filed.
(Unanimous vote)
17. Advising that the request from the HR Director to increase the labor grade for the Human Resources Analyst position from a 20 to a 21 was received and filed.
(Unanimous vote)
18. Advising that the request from the Tax Collector to reclassify the Customer Service Representative III's, grade 13, to Municipal Collections Clerks, grade 14, was received and filed.
(Unanimous vote)
19. Advising that the request from the Water Works Director to increase labor grades as follows:
 - Water Works Director from a 28 to a 29
 - Water Works Deputy Director of Water Distribution from a 25 to a 27
 - Water Works Deputy Director of Water Treatment & Supply from a 25 to a 27
 - Water Works Deputy Director of Finance & Administration from a 25 to a 27was received and filed.
(Unanimous vote)

21. Recommending that the request from the HR Director to amend ordinance Section 33.081 Sick Leave be approved and referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review.
(Unanimous vote)
22. Recommending that the request from the HR Director to amend ordinance Section 33.079 Vacations be approved and referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review.
(Unanimous vote)
23. Recommending that the request from the Water Works Director to revise the class specification for the Water Distribution Manager and add that position to the list of exempt positions eligible for overtime pay be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
24. Recommending that the request from the Water Works Director to eliminate one (1) Watershed Maintenance Worker I, grade 13, and add one (1) Watershed Patrol Officer, grade 17, be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

25. Recommending that the following traffic regulations be approved:
METERS - 2 HOURS
On Hanover Street, north side, from Pine Street to Union Street Alderman Long
(Note: Will require two new pay-to-park kiosks.)
NO PARKING ANYTIME
On Lebel Avenue, north side, from the north side of Roycraft Road to a point 60 feet south
On Roycraft Road, east side, from the east side of Lebel Avenue to a point 60 feet west
Alderman Sapienza
On Jewett Street, east side, from Cilley Road to a point 120 feet north
Alderman Heath
30-MINUTE PARKING
On Wilson Street, west side, from Harvard Street South Back to a point 50 feet north
Alderman Heath
RESCIND NO PARKING MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
On Hanover Street, north side, from Pine Street to Union Street (ORD 10613)
Alderman Long
RESCIND NO PARKING ANYTIME
On Jewett Street, east side, from Cilley Road to a point 75 feet north (ORD 10806)
Alderman Heath
(Unanimous vote)

26. Recommending that the request from the Traffic Engineer to include the estimated cost of adding a crosswalk on NH Route 28 Bypass be included in their CIP request for FY24 be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

*HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF **ALDERMAN LONG**, DULY SECONDED BY **ALDERMAN HEATH**, THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS APPROVED.*

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

20. Recommending that the request from the Public Works Director to reclassify an Applications Developer/Analyst, grade 19, to an Application Developer/Analyst II, grade 20, be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

Alderman Cavanaugh stated in committee we did approve this but it should be going from a grade 19 to a grade 21. I would like to try to fix it here tonight otherwise we have to send it back to committee. The discussion we had that night was to go from a 19 to a 21.

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to amend the report to reclassify from a grade 19 to a grade 21.*

REGULAR BUSINESS

27. Communication from Chris Wellington advising the Board of his resignation from the Housing Commission.

*On motion of **Alderman Stewart**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to accept the resignation with regret.*

28. Confirmations:
Planning Board
John Goeman from alternate to regular member, term to expire May 1, 2024
Parks & Recreation Commission
Colin Manning as a regular member, term to expire July 1, 2025
Art Commission
Kathy Daneman as a regular member, term to expire December 1, 2024

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

Housing Commission

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

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

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman E. Sapienza**, it was voted to confirm the nomination as presented.*

29. Communication from Jeff Belanger, Planning & Community Development Director, regarding a proposed amendment to the Master Development Agreement (MDA) with the Lansing Melbourne Group for the Pearl and Hartnett lots.

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

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

Sharon Wickens, Finance Officer, stated the FY23 general fund expenditure and revenue forecast as of 11/18/22 based on department head estimates is as follows. The current projected general fund operating surplus for FY23 is \$1,645,000. The operating surplus is comprised of an expenditure surplus of \$1,645,000, a revenue deficit of \$38,000 and the use of \$38,000 in American Rescue Plan Revenue Replacement Funds. The revenue deficit is primarily parking. The current projection for parking is that it will be short or would have been short of budget by \$1.4 - \$1.5 million. With the FY23 tax rate, we pulled it down \$365,000 but it is still projected to be short. This was pulled down because we have about \$1.1 million in ARPA funds. We don't have \$1.4 or \$1.5 million. We didn't think it would be that high. You probably can't see it on the second page of my projections because parking revenue is on the Finance line and the Finance line is doing very well in interest income so it is offsetting the parking deficit now. I would imagine that as we go on we will need to use ARPA funds to make up the parking deficit because we have other concerns that will be coming up. I have spoken with Director Clougherty of Public Works several times regarding fuel costs. We

are looking to possibly exceed budget. We are not sure by how much yet but we are talking with the consultants. He has had me sit in on a few calls but we expect that the fuel line will go over. Also, I won't feel comfortable with health care until we are in February or March only because I want to know that Covid didn't put a wrench in our wheel this year like it did last year. Those are my comments on the revenues. I don't know if anybody has any questions on that. I am also reporting eight retirements through November 11 compared with seventeen at this same time a year ago. Severance paid through November 11 amounts to \$425,384 compared to \$640,465 a year ago. The severance reserve account is anticipated to have a balance of \$1,249,322 after all related entries have been posted. I am also submitting the departmental overtime report and the summary of department severance paid through October 31.

Alderman Levasseur stated last year we went through this same exact speech. It is like being on Ground Hog Day every day with this Board. It was for a good reason. I don't think anybody is doing anything wrong. Last year I brought it up about the same time when you started giving us very quiet but strong warnings. I can tell you are a little bit stressed about where we are going. The question I will ask now is what are we going to do about it now? We are in November. I think we brought this up last year in January. Then we got to March and April and getting ready to do budgets and I mentioned a hiring freeze. I don't want to wait until February, March or April. Do we have to start initiating anything now as far as...we just voted on a two-step raise for somebody and I noticed in the agenda there were a lot of requests for step increases and they were kicked back because we are now doing a study. I wasn't aware of that but it was on this agenda. There were a lot of requests for a lot of step increases. I don't know how tight we are but you need to tell us now what we need to do as far as hiring freezes. I don't think when we put this budget together we knew that oil was going to get to the price that it is and we didn't know that gas was going to get to the price it is. I hate to be the one that always has to sound the alarm bells for us. If you are comfortable...you really walked us through it very carefully last year and we made it because you were able to project...I mean you didn't see the health line coming so that was a big boomerang for us but looking at it now with a year's experience under your belt going through it, what are we going to be...do you have any projection for April or May? Are you nervous? I

don't know how much we have left in contingency but we are going to have to go into that for oil or if we have a bad snow year, etc. Is there anything we should be doing now?

Ms. Wickens answered I really don't know what is going to happen in the winter with health care. We do have a reserve. We had a lot of problems last year. Remember that the auto registration revenue number was a nightmare to try to work through on top of this. Auto registrations are doing very well. They are not crazy above budget but definitely not a problem. I am really not sure what we are looking at for fuel costs. I know that there are various contracts for different types of fuel. I will have to talk with Director Clougherty again but there are a couple of contracts that expire in December and those are the ones that when they renew we will have a better idea of what we are looking at for fuel costs. We are in a good place right now. Interest income is going to beat budget by at least \$1 million. That takes care of parking a little bit and we have the ARPA funds. We have \$1.6 million surplus right now. We are in such a better place than last year. We do have some wrenches just like you identified. We definitely have some wrenches that we have to look at and I don't want to wait until February or March to talk about them which is why I am talking about them now. If I see anything, you can bet that I am going to be in front of you telling you.

Alderman Levasseur asked regarding ARPA funds, do we have half of what we had last year or are we lower.

Ms. Wickens responded last year when we closed the budget we used \$2.7 million in ARPA funds. We have about \$1.1 million left in revenue replacement funds. Now we could probably get a little bit more if there are projects that haven't been completed and the money isn't needed. I am sure everybody is going to say they need the money but we could push it to revenue replacement.

Alderman Levasseur asked but we didn't have the interest income last year like we have now. Why do we have interest income this year?

Ms. Wickens replied because the interest rates are like...we are investing right now at 4%. Last year it was .10%. It was awful plus we just had a bond sale so we had a lot of money come in. The money went to the projects but we had been paying for those projects as they were being used before we went out to bond with general fund money. Now we have a little bit of money to invest. It will be at least \$1 million but it could be \$1.5 million that we beat the budget by. We are doing very, very well and those interest rates are not going to come down. We are in a better place than we were last year.

Mayor Craig stated job requests are still coming to my office for sign-off as well so that hasn't changed.

Alderman Levasseur stated it is just better to get ahead of it so we aren't in crunch time.

Alderman Barry stated Sharon you sent us a letter in regards to the DRA. Can you speak about that? My understanding is that our tax rate is a little lower than what we anticipated.

Ms. Wickens answered the tax rate is \$.06 lower than what the aldermen had approved in the budget. That was \$18.30/\$1,000 and it is now \$18.24. That is mostly because there was more valuation that came in than what you had used in the budget. I think you used \$70 million and I believe it came in at \$135 million. It was pretty big. We also had a very pleasant surprise with the county tax. The county tax was going up and we all knew this. I got a letter saying it was going to go up but it is based on the equalized assessed valuation of a community so Manchester's went down. I thought it was wrong when I saw it. We don't want to be Nashua whose bill is well over \$13 million. Ours is just over \$12 million. We did do very well. I do have a couple of revenue adjustments that need to be made and I sent those to you. The cable TV fee is one. When we got our first quarter payment in, it is at the level of FY11. It is just terrible. If that same payment comes in for the next three quarters, we will be short, even after pulling it down \$132,000. I did bring it down to what we collected last year. I don't think we are going to hit it but it is not a crazy amount. There is also the worker's compensation reimbursement. For the second injury fund we get money from the state. It is if somebody is working somewhere else, not the city, and they get hurt and then a few

years down the road we hire them. If they are hurt again and it is the same injury, we get reimbursed for our worker's compensation having to pay for it. That is going to be much less than what we had budgeted. Then we have the parking revenue. The permits are down. People aren't buying them. There is no waiting list. It is just down.

Mayor Craig asked so the rate went from \$18.30 to \$18.24.

Ms. Wickens answered yes. Bob Gagne was kind enough to send me a sheet on the median tax bill and the difference between \$18.30 and \$18.24. It is only \$18.27 but it is a difference. The difference between last year's rate and this year's rate is about \$170 on the whole bill.

Alderman Levasseur asked how much did it go up from last year. Was it \$.60 per \$1,000?

Ms. Wickens replied about that yes.

Alderman Levasseur asked and it was projected to go \$.66.

Ms. Wickens responded the tax cap was 3.57% and it ended up at 3.16%.

Alderman Cavanaugh asked so it is below the tax cap. That is a great point alderman. Thank you for bringing that up.

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Stewart**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to recess the meeting to allow the Committee on Finance to meet.*

Mayor Craig called the meeting back to order.

33. 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 Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the FY 2023 CIP 211623 NACCHO Implementing Overdose Strategies at the Local Level.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-Nine Dollars (\$227,369) for the FY 2023 CIP 410623 Justice Assistance Grant.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Ninety Three Thousand Dollars (\$93,000) for the FY 2023 CIP 410723 STOP Violence Against Women.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) for the FY 2023 CIP 410823 Intelligence Liaison Officer Program.”

“Amending the FY 2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Four Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$490,000) for the FY 2023 CIP 410923 Substance Abuse Reduction Initiative.”

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, transferring and appropriating funds in the amount of Sixty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Nine Dollars and Two Cents (\$62,799.02) for the FY 2023 CIP 411023 Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Hundred Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Ten Dollars (\$209,910) for the FY 2023 CIP 411123 2022 Homeland Security Grant Program—Rescue Task Force.”

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Hundred Seventy Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Four Dollars (\$578,934) for the FY 2022 CIP 510222 Dorrs Pond Dam Safety Repair.”

“Amending the FY2018 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating, and transferring funds in the amount of Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Six Hundred Ninety One Dollars and Seventy Cents (\$360,691.70) for the FY 2018 CIP 711118 Traffic Signal Corridor Upgrades and FY 2023 CIP 710023 FY23 Roadway Program.”

“Amending the FY2021 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Five Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$550,000) for the FY 2022 CIP 711222 CSO Optimization/Controls.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Dollars (\$250,840) for the FY 2023 CIP 810723 2022 Homeland Security Grant—Cyber Security Network Protection.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Million Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$5,017,825) for the FY 2023 CIP 611023 2022 Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Grant Program.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000) for the FY 2023 CIP 611123 Lead-Based Paint Healthy Homes Supplemental Funding.”

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

34. Report(s) of the Committee on Administration/Information Systems, if available.

There were none.

35. Report(s) of the Committee on Joint School Buildings, if available.

There were none.

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

The Committee on Lands & Buildings respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from Mayor Craig to enter into a contract with Mike Reed of Stebbins Commercial Properties for the lease of the Manchester Transportation Center be approved.

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

The Committee on Lands & Buildings respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration that the request from North & South Construction Services for a revocable license to add an ADA accessible ramp and landing at 1211 Elm Street be approved.

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

Alderman Levasseur asked regarding the bus terminal, do we need to declare that surplus or can we do it under new business.

Mayor Craig responded we don't have to do it tonight.

37. Resolutions:

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the FY 2023 CIP 211623 NACCHO Implementing Overdose Strategies at the Local Level."

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-Nine Dollars (\$227,369) for the FY 2023 CIP 410623 Justice Assistance Grant."

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Ninety Three Thousand Dollars (\$93,000) for the FY 2023 CIP 410723 STOP Violence Against Women."

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) for the FY 2023 CIP 410823 Intelligence Liaison Officer Program."

"Amending the FY 2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Four Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$490,000) for the FY 2023 CIP 410923 Substance Abuse Reduction Initiative."

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“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Million Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$5,017,825) for the FY 2023 CIP 611023 2022 Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Grant Program.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000) for the FY 2023 CIP 611123 Lead-Based Paint Healthy Homes Supplemental Funding.”

*On motion of **Alderman George-Kelly**, duly seconded by **Alderman Trisciani**, it was voted to waive the reading by titles only.*

*On motion of **Alderman Fajardo**, duly seconded by **Alderman Trisciani**, it was voted that the Resolutions ought to pass and be Enrolled.*

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Heath stated I wanted to remind people of the meeting tomorrow night at 6 PM at Hallsville School. We will have Southern NH Services there as well as the Granite State Children's Alliance so folks can come and hear about the next step for Hallsville School.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I am still waiting on copies of the pay scale with all the steps. I still haven't gotten it and I would like to see it.

Lisa Drabik, HR Director, asked are you looking for something different than the wage scales that I emailed to all of you.

Alderman E. Sapienza answered yes different than that. The one with all of the steps clearly listed.

Ms. Drabik stated I would be happy to have a conversation with you after just to clarify.

Alderman E. Sapienza replied there is nothing to clarify. We met a couple of times. I still...it is getting frustrating. I asked for the scale that includes all the steps and to date I haven't gotten it but yet we have approved spending \$750,000 for this consultant. I just think we should have a clear understanding of where we currently stand and we don't have it.

Mayor Craig asked can you give an example of what you are looking for because I think there is a disconnect. She did send information out to the Board. I am not sure if you responded.

Alderman E. Sapienza answered I did. I was told there are more steps but they are not listed on there and I asked why and they said it would take a lot of work. All of the steps are not on what we received in the email. They are not on there.

Ms. Drabik stated if I can clarify, I think the confusion might be that there are 13 regular steps and then the additional steps on the second page for each grade are the longevity

steps for an additional 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 years, etc. That is why they are listed as AL on the wage scales.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated there are also some five year intervals within those 13 years. That is what I was told. If we can just get those clearly listed.

Mayor Craig replied she just said those are listed on the second page.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated there was no second page. I don't want to go back and forth all night. If we can just get the steps clearly and plainly listed that would be terrific.

Mayor Craig asked can you resend what you sent and if that is not what he is looking for we can get to the bottom of it. Take a peek at page 2.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I did and in fact I was told they would send it with all the steps but I still don't have it.

Alderman Trisciani stated I just want to let everybody know that in conjunction with NeighborWorks and the Center City Neighborhood Watch Group there is a coat drive on Saturday, November 19 from 10 AM until noon where anybody who needs coats or winter accessories can get one for free. We are going to be in the parking lot on the corner of Spruce and Union Streets directly across from NeighborWorks at 373 Union Street.

Alderman Long stated I want to thank the Clerk's Office on the election. It was absolutely wild and they stood out. I want the public to know that what is going on at the State House isn't a reflection on what happened within the city. They did their due diligence. Thank you JoAnn and Matt and the rest of the office.

Mayor Craig stated there is a Ward 9 community meeting tomorrow night at the fire station at 670 Somerville Street. Thanksgiving Day is right around the corner and I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and remind you that City Hall will be closed on Thursday. Small Business Saturday is coming up on November 26 all day in downtown

Manchester. Please visit all of the small businesses who rely on us to keep them going. The winter parking and snow emergency rules are in your packet and will be posted online. They begin December 1 and run through April 15. A couple of things that I want to address that came up in public comment. One is that all of the mayors are talking and are concerned about keeping individuals who are living in hotels in hotels and how that funding is coming through. We have reached out to the Governor's Office to talk to him about that and his office has connected us to Taylor Caswell so we are waiting to hear about a meeting with him to find out more about what is happening at the state level. There was concern about the county court system that was raised this evening. Emily, I am not sure if you have any feedback in terms of the housing courts but that is not the jurisdiction of the City of Manchester. I know Alderman Long that you sit on the county commission and together maybe we can advocate for them to be taking these cases quicker if possible. I believe they are running into staffing shortages as well. If you have any information that you can share with the public on what is going on there that would be great.

Emily Rice, Solicitor, replied I am afraid that I don't other than the general proposition that the courts are experiencing the same staffing and resource challenges. I am not offering that by way of an excuse just by way of an explanation.

Mayor Craig stated there were also concerns raised about the high rents in the City of Manchester and I absolutely agree with that assessment. Unfortunately, the City of Manchester and the state do not have rent control so we are not in a position where we can tell landlords what to charge their tenants. It is supply and demand and as we know the inventory right now for apartments is very low. I can say that the Welfare Department has worked extremely hard building relationships with landlords throughout the city to provide reasonable rents and a program that we implemented here using ARPA dollars providing landlords money to make renovations to their apartments, a condition of that money is for them to keep those apartments at affordable rates. Just know that the city is doing all it can to assist but unfortunately we cannot tell landlords what to charge their tenants. For those individuals who are having issues with their landlords, we always recommend that they reach out to Legal Aid for assistance.

Alderman Levasseur stated you say it is unfortunate that we cannot tell landlords what to charge. It would be nice if you could tell Home Depot not to charge \$300 for a toilet or the gas company not to triple their gas rates or the oil company not to jack up their prices. Some of these apartments include heat and guess who pays for the heat? The landlord does. A lot of these apartments also have lights in the hallways or out on the garages or in front of the building so they have to pay for that. The taxes keep going up. If you even look at the cost of a stupid little thing like a 2 x 4 or you look at the cost of plywood...if you look at the costs that these landlords are under, I don't know how anybody can be building houses right now and making a profit. I look at all of these construction projects that started out. You can talk to Stebbins. I bet their costs have gone up 300%. Landlords seem to get a bad name. They provide the housing and they have to be able to pay their bills, pay their taxes and...just the cost of what I saw the other day for an electrician two years ago was \$1,000. They are now at \$5,000 and the work has to be done. Who is paying for it? The landlords are. How are they paying for it? They are paying for it by getting their rent so they can stay in business and stay alive and afford to keep their properties. It is not as bad as what everybody...I don't think landlords just say I can't wait to go up \$1,000 a month on a rent when they are looking at the guy who was shoveling their driveway for \$40 who is now up to \$80 or plowing their parking lots that was \$300 and is now \$700 because the other guys that are plowing their costs have gone up. So everything is going up. You hear that our oil prices are going up from the city and they are going to be coming to us to get money from contingency because it has gone through the roof. Yes, the prices have gone up. Boston is \$5,000/month for an apartment. We are still around \$2,000 or maybe a little more or less depending on where you get it. What I can't understand is why there are not enough apartments. I don't think the population has grown by that much in this city.

Mayor Craig stated it is a state-wide issue; the lack of housing.

Alderman Levasseur stated but we have gone from 1.2 million to 1.3 million and that is 100,000 more people. I just don't understand why there is a lack of...you and I know and we all know that when there are another 1,000 units downtown in another two years that may drive down...if demand goes down the prices will have to come down because they are going to have to compete. Just be careful. Landlords shouldn't be getting

these nasty reputations. They went through Covid and couldn't kick anybody out for four or six months and weren't getting paid rent. A lot of these landlords are on the edge of trying to make a living too. Let's keep that in mind please.

Mayor Craig stated rents right now are high. I am a landlord. I am not speaking negatively about landlords. For me, it is more important to keep the tenants that I have in my apartment for a long period of time but not all landlords feel that way and it is a fact that some landlords in this city, in the state and throughout the country are artificially increasing rents and people can't keep up with the rent and they are out of a house. That is unfortunate.

Alderman Levasseur stated I will tell you that I tried a year ago...anybody that has a commercial property that was willing to turn it into a residential property if we would have just waived the impact fee for those people we probably would have gotten more of these places on the market. I am in the same situation where I have a commercial property, mixed use, first floor law office and want to turn it into an apartment.

Alderman Long and I sat on the Planning Board many times together and guys would come in here and get charged \$6,000 to \$12,000 for permit fees and impact fees and all of these other licenses to turn a commercial property that was a dentist office. All they were doing is adding a kitchen and they have to put \$12,000 into the place never mind the cost of the conversion. There was an opportunity for the government to help these people and you shunned that idea and you shouldn't have because any opportunity we can get to turn small little commercial properties or these big buildings that we have sitting here empty into residential they should get a break. A lot of them do but it doesn't seem like the small guys ever do.

Alderman Long stated there seems to be a perception out there with regard to the storage for homeless people that after 30 days we are going to take their belongings. Tell me that is not the case.

Alderman Trisciani stated I did speak with Mark Gomez at Parks & Recreation and while we can only hold for 30 days we have started making arrangements with a local facility who will offer some free storage to extend that time.

Alderman Long asked so their storage units aren't going to be taken.

Alderman Trisciani answered no we are working on that and I was actually informed last night at a meeting that there is a gentleman who was finally able to move inside and I believe he is sleeping on his brother's sofa now and the main factor for that was because we could store his items and he didn't have to bring everything with him where his brother didn't have storage. We are working on it.

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Trisciani**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, 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