

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

December 6, 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 T. Sapienza.

A moment of silence was observed with Mayor Craig asking that everyone keep the Wieczorek Family in their thoughts and prayers.

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.

Nick Lavalley, 251 Fremont Street, stated:

First I would like to take a moment just to extend my gratitude to this Board of Aldermen and Mayor Craig for your contributions to the City of Manchester. You are elected into a truly thankless position and I commend you for your willingness to serve us. Thank you very much. Tonight I wanted to speak in regards to the City's request for a proposal to advertising and marketing agencies to develop a brand strategy for Manchester. I do believe that this \$1 million effort, if put into the right hands, very well could pay dividends in attracting business while creating civic pride and community engagement here in Manchester. I do have one small concern that is a big part of our core identity that may be lost in the process. Chicago is home to deep dish pizza. Detroit is known for its Mom's Spaghetti. Manchester, NH should be synonymous with the chicken

tender. Invented at The Back Room Puritan Restaurant in 1974, the chicken tender is a celebrated menu item widely available at many Manchester locations. Now whether you prefer yours sauced in buffalo or naked dipped in duck sauce, there is no question that this strip of fried fowl is truly a part of who we are. Now although I would have to submit a formal request for a declaration to appear on an upcoming aldermanic agenda, I just wanted to go on the record tonight during public comment that on this 6th day of December in the year 2022 that there is one Manchester resident who feels that the Board of Aldermen and Mayor Craig should rightfully declare Manchester, NH the Chicken Tender Capital of the World. I want to thank you for your time and wish you a happy holiday, a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Bubba Booeey to you all. Good night.

Bryce Kaw-uh, 639 N. Bay Street, stated:

I came here tonight to talk about housing. It is not news to anyone here in the audience or in front of me that we are in a housing crisis. We have known it for a while and have had plenty of time to see its disastrous effects and I just wanted to talk about how we fix a lack of housing. For us here in Manchester, I think we fortunately already know the answer. It is pretty simple. We build more of it. A number of developers in the city have been building new market rate units and that is great and part of the puzzle. I am especially pleased with the actions this Board has taken recently. In 2021 and 2022 you have approved the construction of new affordable housing in the city and that is much needed. Unfortunately, despite this definitive progress the scale of these actions thus far is insufficient. The new units coming over the next two to three years are certainly notable and significant but it is not just yet enough to bring us to where we need to be. To summarize, we have a problem and we know how to fix it and we have taken some serious steps thus far to go in that direction. Specifically, why am I here tonight? Well what else can we do? At the last BMA meeting it sounded like the city might be headed towards a budget surplus if all goes well. That is not guaranteed I know and we will have to wait and see how that turns out but if there is a surplus, in my view there is nothing more important than for the BMA to use any excess revenue we have to solve the very real crisis impacting the city. I would ask that the BMA consider dedicating any excess revenue to the construction of more mixed income housing that specifically includes units that are designated as affordable with a capital A because a

lot of the time the developers say oh it is affordable but still it is market rate. Our city ordinance, as you know, has a procedure for this. You have used it before. It only requires 2/3 of you to change that 1/3 allocation that we normally do. If you decide not to take this action, I will probably get a tax cut. Homeowners like myself would obviously love some surprise money back in our pockets, we all do, but this would probably be a very minor amount given the amount of surplus we might see this year. It might be about \$15/person. Sure it's nice but as a resident of this city who is deeply invested in its future I would much rather see that going towards housing that the people of the city so desperately need. To complete my remarks here, when it comes time for you all to work on the budget again, I really ask that you please do all you can to insure that it includes proper consideration of all you can do to invest in the people of Manchester and bring in the resources that we need. There is still so much more we can do. Thank you.

Mayor Craig asked is there anyone else present wishing to speak.

Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

We have an opportunity in this community, in this city of ours and in our downtown to redevelop it. We got \$44 million. We have a Massachusetts law that is going to tax all the billionaires so hopefully they will come here and bring their workers with them. We have lots of housing being built but not in the portion that we need. We need more affordable housing. There is not an equal amount. If we are going to divert this crisis of homelessness, we need to at least take care of our seniors that are now being housed outside walking the streets. Every day it happens. People are actually losing their Section 8 because if you lose your housing, you lose your Section 8. We all know how hard that is to get back. Mental health. I congratulate this Board because you are finally doing things that need to be done. It is not enough. We still see mental health people who had housing and lost their housing back on the street and going backwards instead of forward. We need to make an effort for all our citizens. We can be a better community by taking care of all our citizens. One last thing, crime. I don't care if you are homeless or you have a house, if you commit a crime over and over and over again, there is no pity. For the safety of our citizens, we need to arrest them and make sure they are accounted for. Too many of our criminals are the same people which makes it

a small minority. We need to make sure that they do not rule our city. Let the officers do their work and let the courts do their work. All of you here who know someone or are a House Representative, make sure this year they redo that bail law. It was not for the betterment of Manchester or the state. Thank you and good night.

Derek Moaratty, Homeless, stated:

Back in 2021, 39 people passed away in our city during the winter. In 2020, 51 people passed away in our city on the streets due to the cold weather. We have a shelter that has 138 beds and an overnight warming station that provides 50 seats that you cannot sleep in or put your head down on or get any sort of actual rest in. That is 188 people out of the roughly 700 people that are homeless in this city. What about the other 512 people? What about them? We are not going to do anything to make sure that they are allotted a safe place to go and get out of the cold and keep their lives? In 2016 we had roughly 200 homeless people. Now we have about 700. I would estimate about 60% out of them came here for Safe Station and because there was no aftercare program provided, they were thrown back out onto the streets where obviously they are going to relapse because they are surrounded by mind altering substances. If you sit at the barbershop long enough, you are going to get a haircut. You know what I am saying? It is a situation that was created on the city's behalf. I just feel that as citizens and as humane people we need to address this and address it properly and not just create laws and ordinances so we can incarcerate people for just trying to survive. By no means am I insinuating that the majority of the homeless community are angels. I understand that and I am not going to sit here and represent them as such, however, they are still humans and they still need a place where they can go to get out of the cold and survive through the winter. That is all I have to say.

Kelly McAndrew, 290 Cartier Street, stated:

Good evening everyone. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I apologize for my appearance tonight. Between the holidays and actually having a life, I completely forgot about tonight's meeting. Normally I would dress for the occasion but sometimes we don't all have that privilege like the 50 plus people who are freezing and living outside of our shelter now. So again, Joyce, where are our encampments? Do you really think that these self-made encampments outside of the shelter is the best

way to represent Manchester? Because quite frankly it is an embarrassment. I would think that any normal person with ethics would agree. I have a few questions that I know I will never get a straight answer to but perhaps it will put a small thought in your heads as you try to nestle in your warm and cozy beds tonight. Where can I get something to eat today? Where can I go to the bathroom? Where can I get some medical attention without having insurance? Where can I get treated like a human being and not an outcast? Certainly not here in Manchester. I am pretty sure that the only time you will have these thoughts is tonight because you are never asked to do any of them. I heard a rumor...are you even looking at me? I am talking to you. Again, she is not looking at me. I heard a rumor that you will not be running for re-election and applause to that. That is the best thing I have heard in about three years. If that is the truth, please do at least one thing for this city that you can actually be proud of and come up with an encampment. Merry Christmas.

Mayor Craig stated Kelly if you want to wait, we will answer your questions if you care to hear the answers.

Dennis Higgins, Homeless, stated:

I just wanted to say thank you to the Fire Department and Police Department for the way they have been treating us. I know not everyone may agree with that but I don't think I want their job at all, especially the Police Department. It is a thankless task. The Fire Department get praised all the time but the police officers I don't think get much praise at all from anybody. We are all down at the homeless shelter, FIT. Public bathrooms was one of the things I have talked about more than once. If it was in the middle of summer, I think we would have a health hazard right now and something would be going on. When you had the parade, you had restrooms at Veteran's Park. I believe there were about 20 of them down there. That was a great help. I didn't know if you did it on purpose or it was just for the event. One of the main things is everyone seems to be really afraid that if the snow flies at any moment they can get rolled up and thrown out of where the encampment is. That is a huge concern for everybody. It is not enough just being homeless and trying to get work and trying to do the right thing. The constant worrying about...again I understand that it is not the city's responsibility to house everyone in the city. That is not how it goes. You can't keep building homeless

shelters. Why don't we just make the whole state a homeless shelter and when that is full we will make the next state a homeless shelter and so on until no one is doing anything. I get that. It is a thing. They are afraid that they are going to get rolled up when it snows. I get that the plows have to come by and someone said well what if we shovel off the walkway? That doesn't really matter. They have to be able to do it whether we are there or not. I get that too but the fact is that there are no reassurances or anything. If you do get everybody off of the sidewalk, where do they go? You just got them all contained and if I was the police or fire I would think that would be a good thing because now I have everybody right here and I don't have to drive all over town looking for whatnot. That is a huge thing; not knowing what is going to happen at any minute. Like I said, the police are doing a great job keeping the sidewalks clear. I know it is an eyesore. Of course it is. I am sure you get emails and photos, all of you, every day saying what a disgrace this is. It is what it is. I mean homelessness is not a pretty thing. It never was. It is not supposed to be. I was in a little scrap today and that is why I was late. I was trying to help somebody get away from some people. This is what happens. It is what it is. I don't know what you guys have planned or whatnot. Building more homeless shelters is not the answer. Maybe we need more because the city has gotten larger but as far as just endless shelters, no. Obviously that doesn't work. Public bathrooms are huge. In looking at the welfare of people, that is something that we need really bad. Thanks for listening. I hope you guys all have a good night. Be safe.

Ashley Poulin, Oakdale Avenue, stated:

I am here to talk about us making the front page guys. The *Union Leader*. The article published on 12/4 by Mark Hayward was titled "Winter is Coming. Is the City Ready to Take Care of the Homeless". I am only going to focus on a few points so please read it for yourself. It is current events and we are front page. The tents are legal Mark notes. Police monitor the sidewalk area frequently and enforce laws it is noted in the article. I wonder which laws? We will get back to that. The tents can't take over the sidewalk or block passage. Mayoral Spokesman Hannah Chisolm said a foot is also wide enough for passage but tenter Dennis Higgins said he tries to keep enough distance for a wheelchair to get by. Note that houseless folks are more ADA compliant than the city requires. Mark goes on to ask in his article how long will these tents be legal?

Currently we have an ordinance that says the city will only enforce no camping when an overnight shelter is available. Allow me to read this very ordinance for you here now. It is ordinance Section 130.13 Camping in Public Spaces. Section B. Enforcement. "The Manchester Police shall enforce this camping section only when the individual is on public property and there is an available overnight shelter. The term available overnight shelter shall mean that person can, at the time of citation, go to a local homeless shelter, that said shelter has an available overnight space for the individual at no charge to the person, and that said available overnight space will be available to that person upon their arrival." At the end of this it clearly states, "a police officer shall be required to conduct this inquiry each and every time prior to issuing a citation under this section." Mark will note and I do too that the ordinance doesn't give a clear definition of what an overnight space or an overnight shelter actually means. It is not explicitly defined. Some friends and I have a meeting next week with the ACLU to clarify some of our questions and share some of our observations I guess is the right word. Mark goes on in the article to highlight what sidewalk living is like. One of our houseless friends who goes by Higgins said the sidewalks are safe as opposed to being out in the woods where the vulnerable can be victimized and things can get out of control. At times, citizens and church groups even visit and distribute food and warm drinks. I thought the police were there to uphold the laws and Mayor when I was served with my cease and desist, an officer was brought so it is curious which laws are being upheld in that exact location. Mark goes on to note that there is an even bigger necessity. Public restrooms. The FIT homeless shelter won't allow, Mark notes in his article, the homeless living outside of their doors to use their bathroom. A FIT staffer confirmed this for the article. That FIT staffer went on to say that they are stretched, meaning FIT, to capacity and does not operate a drop-in day program and do not have public restrooms. FIT is what you all point at when you say this is our solution. It looks like my friends and I will have to clean up yet another one of your literal messes. Happy holidays.

Dam Wright, Manchester, stated:

This one was six weeks ago. The front page above the fold in the *Union Leader* and the tag line was Aldermen, Residents Have Had Enough. So yes you got them out of the parks and you kicked them off the sidewalks and what did I say? You are not going to

like where they end up. We have a literal tent city in front of the shelter now. Some people are calling it Craigville. I didn't start that. Here we are. This came out yesterday and I think most of you probably have read it by now so I am not going to take the time I have by reading passages from it but I will tell you what. It is bad out there. It is really bad out there. It is a whole lot of people...I did the math. They are stuck on about 1,200 square feet of sidewalk with over 50 people. That is less than 6 x 10 per person of total space for themselves and their belongings. I also do want to clear up one thing from the article where I didn't make myself understood. I am convinced that if you were to add up the actual number of sheltered homeless people, forget the PIT count because that is meaningless but 200-300 people at least are actually outdoors, not even including the ones in the cars and certainly not including the ones that are couch surfing. I would be in shock if the number of people in this city who are homeless right now isn't over 1% or one in a hundred people dealing with homelessness right now whether it is on a couch or on the streets. This is a huge problem. Affordable housing is only going to get you so far. Most of the folks out there can't afford anything. Housing first. Put them in housing. Put them in permanent housing. Somebody said to me just last night when I am in housing I don't use. I don't have a reason to. I am good about being able to stay off of stuff as long as I am not out there on the streets suffering and around it all the time. You want to get out of the addiction problems and you want to get out of the crime problems and you want to get out of the homeless problem? We have to get these people into houses and if we can't do that, we need a better spot than the sidewalk in front of the shelter. I do want to say that if I am reading everything correctly and we are acknowledging that yes right now it is okay to pitch a tent on the sidewalk, that should be any sidewalk so I am really curious what happened on the sidewalks outside the parks. Again, we have a meeting coming up where we will deal with that. It sounds to me like they don't have to be in front of the shelter if they don't want to be. I guess we will find out. I really hope you guys do something so these folks can get indoors if possible or at least camp in a safe place where they can try to be healthy as much as possible and try to stay alive. I also just want to mention that nobody has died out there yet but in the period that that has been out there, we have had at least a couple of deaths inside the shelter. That is all I have to say.

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

Mayor Craig stated if the Board is okay with it, I think we should address some of these questions and concerns now versus waiting while folks are here because I think it is important that you hear it firsthand instead of coming here and leaving. So some of the questions that were asked I just want to answer. Where are folks going to eat? 1269 Café opens their doors at 9:30 AM when they serve coffee and snacks. They have lunch served from 11:30 AM until 1 PM and then the afternoon warming station opens and they serve dinner. There is also the food pantry affiliated with FIT that will provide food. In terms of bathrooms, I know that is something that does continue to come up. The city did pay for portable toilets in Veteran's Park. I am sure you will recall that. We did it for 2-3 years. There were a number of issues that occurred in those toilets, including an overdose and other things and we had to shut them down. In talking to Mary at 1269 Café, and we do know some of the folks that are staying outside the shelter are going over to 1269 Café but people can use the restrooms there. In terms of medical attention without insurance, we have Healthcare for the Homeless. There is a location right at FIT as I am sure you probably know. There is something on Wilson Street and there is street medicine that CMC is doing. We can make copies of this handout for everyone here and you can share it. In terms of the restrooms, they weren't for the parade. They were set-up because there was a road race downtown and that is mandated when there is a large event so the organizer has to put up those portable toilets. I feel like some of the individuals who are coming and speaking are talking to myself and to this Board like we like what is happening or we are proud of what is happening. Homelessness is a very complex issue and none of us want anybody living outside. It is inhumane. We don't want this and we are doing everything we can to help the situation. It is not just a Manchester issue. This is happening state-wide and it is happening throughout the country. I think it is important to note a couple of things. One, FIT is a state-funded shelter. The City of Manchester does not fund the Families in Transition Shelter on Manchester Street. What this Board has done though is funded Housing First through FIT with our federal funds and other housing at the family emergency shelter. We have asked them to increase capacity and they are not able to

do that at this point. We are extremely grateful for what 1269 Café is doing in terms of opening capacity there. There is outreach happening to individuals in the encampments and to individuals living outside of the shelter from the Fire Department, Police Department, Manchester Mental Health, FIT and another organization. I know that our departments are doing it. There are beds available at FIT right now; not many but there are a couple of beds that are available. If individuals want shelter, if there are two people that are living outside, there are beds at the family shelter right now. They can also go inside at 1269 Café because they have averaged 17-24 people a night over the last week. There is capacity there for people to get in from the cold. The city is offering storage of materials and items. In talking to the Chief, they are going to be working with some individuals to store items for people living outside of the shelter. We are happy to do that. I don't know if anyone else has anything to add.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I do want to take the opportunity to go ahead and try to address an often asked question to the citizens out there. The question is why does the city not forcibly remove homeless people from city property. My understanding is it is ordinance 130.13(B) which basically says if there is no room at the homeless shelter the city will not forcibly remove homeless people off of city property. Whether anybody likes that or agrees with it, that is the answer to the question of why the city does not forcibly remove people off of city property. I also understand that the 8th amendment to the Constitution plays into that regarding cruel and unusual punishment. I want to emphasize that that is a city-owned property. Private land is a different deal as the Chief has explained to us. If you have private land and there are homeless people on it, call the police to remove them. State and federal land is different. I just wanted to clarify that.

Mayor Craig asked Solicitor Rice is that correct.

Emily Rice, Solicitor, replied that was a very succinct summary.

Alderman Long stated I absolutely concur with all that you have mentioned. I think one of the main advocacy points is with the state. We need the state. I attended a meeting with former Aldermen Porter, Hirschmann and Terrio at DHHS regarding this issue. We

had asked them...three times I asked them could you send us any money that goes...the Governor had mentioned that \$40 million in four years came to Manchester so I asked if they could let the city know when they give money to entities in the city so we can come up with a plan and it could be in their plan. We never got that. At the state level we do need help advocating for these situations. The City of Manchester cannot afford all that is needed. We know what is needed and we know what we can afford and what we can't afford. I heard tonight a couple of times people asking for encampment. I am also hearing tonight that people are victimized in encampments. It is the strong survive. That is what I am hearing from the same people that are telling me the opposite. I am hearing that and I am reading minutes. What is an encampment? What does that mean to those that are talking about that? Again, I get a lot of calls in Ward 3. I am a homelessness alderman. As an alderman now I have all of my little things to do, however, I get a lot of calls. I don't sleep at night and I get up early in the morning thinking about what the fixes are. I think we can use help with ideas. I haven't heard any ideas. I need ideas. I am willing to work with anybody. As I said before, anybody who has an idea I am willing to work with them. I am still waiting to hear those.

Due to an unruly audience member, Mayor Craig called for a two-minute recess.

Mayor Craig called the meeting back to order.

Alderman Levasseur asked since they are around the perimeter of FIT, why aren't they just putting them in the lot. There are no cars in there. It would look better and they kind of go together.

Mayor Craig stated many of us met with FIT before Thanksgiving and we asked that. We asked if individuals could go in there or if items could be stored in there and they said no.

Alderman Levasseur stated I know they have port-a-potties at one of their sites but they are not willing to put those outside the building either.

Mayor Craig answered no.

Alderman Levasseur asked what about 1269 Café. Would they be willing to do that?

Mayor Craig responded they have bathrooms at 1269 Café that are available to people and it is a block away.

Alderman Levasseur asked for the whole day.

Mayor Craig answered yes. From a funding perspective, in your packet you will find an overview for FY22 and FY23 when we had the CoC speaking and then Planning talked. Combined over FY22 and FY23, the funding that the CoC provides with the funding that we do through the CIP process, again all federal funds, we have allocated \$11.5 million to go toward homelessness or keeping people housed for a variety of things ranging from permanent supportive housing to transitional housing to sheltering and emergency shelter. You can look at what the city and the CoC has funded in your packet. We can certainly also make that information public.

Alderman George-Kelly stated I want to add so that the public knows if there are individuals in literal homelessness who are under the age of 25, Waypoint is also available. Our drop-in center has bathrooms and showers and availability for food and clothes and a place to do laundry. Our 14-bed shelter is also open for young people 18-25. We have been full most nights but there is availability to put your name on the list so if there is anybody in the community under the age of 25, Waypoint would love to be able to connect with that individual and really be able to help them connect to further services in the community.

Alderman Trisciani stated I do have a concern now that we no longer have access to a public soup kitchen for meals. I am appreciative that 1269 Café is now offering meals and offering these services. In the past, I know they were able to flex the shelter a little bit with mats and things in their common area or kitchen serving area. Is that something that they are amenable to doing? I think we could probably pick up almost 30 beds to

get people inside. Is that something that FIT is willing to assist us with again and provide that flex?

Mayor Craig responded the maximum right now they are stating is 138. I have mentioned that. I believe it was in 2019 which was before Covid that they had about 150 beds and they flexed to 163 maybe. At this point in time, no. They said 138 is the maximum.

Alderman Levasseur stated when there were a bunch of refugees sent to Martha's Vineyard...is there a way we could bring people to another location somewhere that has more room. Can we afford that? Are there any connections with other places or facilities...I know no one wants us to send them but if they are there and available do we have that opportunity to send people? We could bring them ourselves.

Mayor Craig stated it is my understanding that the state-funded shelters throughout our state are full or close to capacity. The vehicle that individuals are requested to go through is calling 211 and they connect them to their home and/or another shelter that has capacity. Really there is nothing right now. In the outreach that is being done, I know one of the questions is if you are not from here do you want to go home or is there somewhere you would rather be and if we find someone who wants to go home, we do find the means to send them home. We, as you know, can't make people do things that they don't want to do. We are not going to just gather people on a bus and bring them somewhere but if someone has a safe place to be in a shelter or a home or an environment that is better for them than where they are, then we will work with them to get them there.

Alderman Levasseur asked but if there is a place that has 5, 10 or 15 open beds you would think they would want to go. Do they have an affinity for Manchester? Do they just want to stay here?

Mayor Craig responded if we find a place where there is a bed...to say there are 5 or 15 somewhere I would find that hard to believe.

Alderman Levasseur stated well they found a place for the 50 people that landed on Martha's Vineyard and they found it within 23 hours.

Mayor Craig replied that is different. We are in NH and it is very different.

Alderman Levasseur asked Massachusetts can't take some of these people. I am not being facetious. If they have the room...

Mayor Craig interjected I would suggest if you haven't that you go out and talk to individuals who are in an encampment or living outside and see if they want to go to Massachusetts. I don't think anyone is going to say yes.

Alderman Levasseur stated we have a Homeless Director. She can do that now.

Mayor Craig responded but you are asking the question and I feel like I have answered you. If an individual wants to go someplace and it is a safer and better environment for them, then yes we will help them but we can't...

Alderman Levasseur interjected I didn't ask it that way. I said do we know if there are any available spaces for them to go and then we can suggest it to them. Not just walking up to people and saying we are going to send you somewhere. I am not arguing with you by the way.

Mayor Craig stated I know. There are two beds at the shelter right now and there is capacity at the warming station. There are warm places for individuals who are without a house to go in the City of Manchester and they are choosing not to. When it becomes extremely cold, if it becomes dangerously cold as this Board was notified, we will open up the Senior Center in the evening. We will then close it before they open in the morning. We do have an overflow shelter available there when it becomes dangerously cold.

Alderman Levasseur stated my understanding is that on that street there was a fire in one of the tents. I don't know how it started but I am wondering if it was from a propane

tank and I am wondering also if the police have to...is the Chief still here. You can't just open up a tent to check to make sure for safety reasons...actually it would be easier for Fire because they would probably let them but can you check to make sure there are no propane tanks inside those tents? We had one guy blow himself up down off of Queen City Bridge one year and there was another fire here and we had those fires under the bridge. We see these propane tanks and I have done plenty of my own recognizance into these camps. At one camp I think I saw 50. My concern is are they going to do it here where they are all literally connected to each other. Do we have the ability, without getting a warrant, to go and open up the tents to look and see what is going on inside for health reasons?

Allen Aldenberg, Police Chief, stated there is a certain level of expectation of privacy within these tents as I am sure you understand. We talked about this earlier today that as the weather gets colder and we become more concerned with fatalities that we would approach it from the standpoint of doing welfare checks on the people inside these tents. Simply knocking on the tent if you will and getting some type of verbal reaction and then asking if they mind opening up the tent and can we speak with them to make sure they are alive and okay. In the process of doing that, should we see a propane tank that is live and active or not for that matter, I think we would be well within our authority to remove that tank from that tent. In the last week or so I was told we have removed three or four propane tanks from that area that I believe were brought over to the Fire Department. Yes, we are concerned about it because if one propane tank goes up in that small block area, we are going to have a problem.

Alderman Levasseur asked so the expectation of privacy, even though they are on city property, is still the same.

Chief Aldenberg answered I don't know if the Solicitor wants to chime in but there is an expectation of privacy in those tents.

Solicitor Rice stated that is correct.

Ryan Cashin, Fire Chief, stated that report of a fire was a candle inside the tent. Someone had a candle. That is perfectly legal to have inside of a tent. We did investigate and that is what we found.

Mayor Craig asked is there anything else you would like to add to this conversation.

Chief Cashin stated I can tell you that Squad 1 has been doing outreach on a daily basis, at least twice a day, to all of the residents around 199 Manchester Street. We have spoken to all of them regularly. Today we were out there as well. We advised them that there are some beds at the shelter and space at the warming station. We also asked them what they are requesting. They requested gloves, hand warmers, porta-potties and bottles of water. Nobody requested any services whether that be for housing or treatment.

Alderman Levasseur asked in the morning at 7 AM when the shelter lets people out, do they let these people in to eat or are they only allowed to eat inside that building when they are residents of the shelter for the night.

Chief Cashin answered the shelter will only feed its clients or the ones that stayed overnight.

Alderman Levasseur stated someone mentioned there were two deaths inside the shelter.

Chief Cashin stated I am only aware of one inside of the shelter the other night.

Chief Aldenberg stated it was this past weekend.

Alderman Levasseur asked what was the cause.

Chief Aldenberg answered it is under investigation and in this forum it would not be appropriate to go into the circumstances surrounding that but at this time nothing suspicious and nothing criminal. I will only say that.

Mayor Craig stated the one organization that I forgot in terms of doing outreach is Harbor Homes and they are focused on homeless veterans.

Chief Aldenberg stated I just got a response from Liberty House this evening. They are also willing to partake in outreach as well. I will coordinate with them tomorrow to see how they are going to accomplish that and work with the other organizations.

Mayor Craig stated in addition to what Chief Cashin said, the city through the Welfare Department, these departments and others have places where individuals who are homeless – women, veterans and others, can go. We just need people to come and talk to us and let us know and we will work on the path to getting them sheltered or housed. It is really important that they speak directly with our city employees.

Alderman Barry stated I think what is also important, and I know we had one speaker who was with us, Mr. Wright who speaks on behalf of the homeless, come in and talk about affordable housing. I am going to focus on the people camping out in front of FIT. I don't think any one of them would benefit from affordable housing. I brought it up last year. Some of them are suffering from mental illness and other illnesses and they couldn't afford \$100/month. Affordable housing for some people that may become homeless and may have families it might benefit but not many. The people that we are dealing with that are setting up tents on the sidewalks in front of FIT, affordable housing is not the answer because it is just not going to benefit them. They couldn't afford housing if it was \$100/month. What we need to do and what we have been doing is trying to find a solution but they have to help. They have to let us know what their intentions are in the future for themselves. What do they want to do? What help do they want? Once we get a list of that and once we get that all together, if they are willing to work with us and work with our staff that meets with them pretty much daily then maybe we can move forward. They have to not only want it but they also have to be part of the solution. Until that happens, it is going to continue. I want them to get the help that they need. The gentleman here who stayed, I feel for you. I really want you guys to get whatever you need but we all have to work together.

Mayor Craig stated just to pick up on that in terms of housing, this Board has put \$3 million toward affordable housing in the city. A lot is underway at Kelly Falls, the old police station and throughout the city. I think we have 1,900 or 2,000 units under construction or underway and 20-25% are affordable. Manchester is doing its fair share. We should be doing more but we can't do it all. Again, statewide we need to increase housing. It is not just our city. Mental health you brought up and I know that Glenn brought it up. Again, we are challenged with resources here in the city and statewide. We need more help and we need more beds to be able to help individuals who are suffering with mental health issues. We know that our state reps have advocated for that as well as our state senators and we have from a city perspective. Again, we can't solve this problem, this issue, on our own in the City of Manchester. We need to look at it from a statewide perspective and make sure that all of the resources are lined up for individuals that need it and if they are not it is going to be broken for Manchester and Nashua and Dover. To your point, we need to work together towards a solution and I hope we can continue doing that. There is good work underway but we have a lot more to do. The one other thing I want to say in terms of the outreach is I am really grateful for the Police Department, Fire Department and the non-profits. We talked about this before the meeting. It takes a long time to build a relationship with someone and trust so they will take advantage of the services that are being offered. We can't expect that we are going to see someone come in off the streets in a month or two. It is going to take a while for individuals to make those relationships. I remember the first time I did outreach with you. You had a great relationship with people but sometimes they didn't even open up their tent to see you. They knew you by name and they appreciated you being there. It takes time. For those of us who are fortunate enough to have a home and think logically, it doesn't make sense but that is the reality of what is happening in our city and in our state and in our country right now. I just want to say thank you to everybody because I know this is something that every department in the City of Manchester is working on and I appreciate all of the work that you are doing.

Dennis Higgins asked to come and respond to some of the items brought up. As far as shipping people off to other places, that is probably a no-brainer as a no. People are comfortable and with friends or family. You said you can't see why they wouldn't take it.

Well there are a lot of reasons they wouldn't take it. Just being sent somewhere that you don't know is a fear in itself. A lot of people have mental health issues or anxiety and receiving services here and now you are going to ship them off somewhere else. As far as FIT goes, they are probably at capacity. Maybe you want to talk to the insurance company to ask them if they can put more people in there or more stuff on their property. They have to be responsible because they are probably right at the limit of everything not including ordinances. Just capacity – the staffing and everything. The building can only hold so many people. You have 138 people in there and you give them breakfast, lunch and dinner. That is a lot. That is a lot of people there and they are doing their best job I am sure plus they have to watch out for any crimes or drug abuse. It is just a constant thing. As far as privacy on the sidewalk, we live in the United States and we do have a right to privacy. You can't just blow someone's door open whether they are in a tent or not. I would think that would be a Constitutional thing. As far as working together or ideas, a lot of times you hear people with ideas but if it is not sound or not fiscally responsible there is no way anyone is going to do it. I am not saying that the money you are putting towards these programs isn't fiscally responsible but one of the things I have been saying is you send people to rehab but when they are done with their 28-day program they are right back on the street in the same exact atmosphere without learning any skills on how to stay...they might have learned skills on how to stay off of drugs which only lasts a couple of weeks most of the time but how to make money, how to work and how to live. Some of these people I see don't have any skills. They don't even know how to take care of themselves in a house let alone outside in a tent. Education. How do we get people to stop smoking cigarettes? We provided education. This is what your lungs look like when you smoke a butt and your brain on drugs. Education is where it is at. You want to teach people how to do stuff. There is really no other way. Like you said it is going to take time. Nothing happens overnight. Rome wasn't built in a day. Working together...if you told me two years ago I was going to be homeless I would have laughed at you. I owned my own shop. I am a mechanic and I love to work. Why am I here? I don't know. It sometimes baffles me on how the property was sold where I was leasing a garage and I ended up here. I don't know what else to say. The Fire Department and Police Department are working overtime. They are trying to accommodate both sides. They are hearing it from you and the public and from us and they are stuck in the middle. How many calls

does the Fire Department get a day but they don't fight fires? They aren't saving anyone. By giving someone Narcan and getting them off the floor, you are not saving anybody and that must get to you after a while because they are just going to do the same thing over and over. I can see it in their faces when they show up to the shelter which is three or four times a day. They don't even turn the sirens on anymore. I get that it is probably because of the noise but still they come in just as fast and they are there just as quick and just as caring but you can see on their faces that they are getting burned out. I don't know. Like you said it has to be more than just us to solve this problem. There has to be some way to start nibbling at it. That is the only way you can do it. Thank you for letting me talk again. Everybody have a nice night.

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept BMA Minutes

2. Minutes from the October 18 Special BMA, BMA and Finance meetings and the November 1 BMA meeting.

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

3. 50/50 Sidewalk Petitions
Residential:
 - 34 Liberty Street
 - 824 South Mammoth Road
 - 363 Bodwell Road

Information to be Received and Filed

4. Communication from Xfinity regarding price increases.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

5. Advising that the update on the Revolving Loan Fund has been accepted.
(*Unanimous vote*)
6. Advising that the Finance Department reports:
 - Accounts receivable over 90 days
 - Aging report
 - Outstanding receivableshave been accepted.
(*Unanimous vote*)

7. Advising that the Financial Report for the first four months of FY23 has been accepted.
(Unanimous vote)
8. Recommending that the request to write-off the first quarter receivables in the amount of \$1,120 be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/INFORMATION SYSTEMS

9. Recommending that the request from the Welfare Director to adopt the recommended amendments to their General Assistance Guidelines be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Sharonov who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND BUILDINGS

10. Recommending that the request from Raymond St. Jean to waive the taxes owed on the parcel of land located on Groveland Avenue (Tax Map 492, Lot 11) that he will be forfeiting to the city be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

JOINT SCHOOL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

11. Advising that the change order policy approved on October 5, 2004 was amended as follows:
 1. Increased the amount to \$50,000 for Items 2 and 4
 2. Added a new Item 7 to state that no change orders shall be executed which would cause the overall project budget to be exceeded.*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Levasseur who was opposed)*

*HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF **ALDERMAN***

***CAVANAUGH**, DULY SECONDED BY **ALDERMAN STEWART**, IT WAS APPROVED.*

REGULAR BUSINESS

12. Communication from Barry Lussier advising the Board of his resignation from the Planning Board.

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

13. Communication from Mayor Craig nominating Michael Quigley for the position of Director, Office of Youth Services.
(Note: Pursuant to Rule 20 of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, this nomination will layover to the next meeting of the Board.)

Mayor Craig stated I will read the letter that is in your packet for the record.

Dear Honorable Board of Aldermen,

I am honored to nominate Michael Quigley for the Director of Office of Youth Services. Mr. Quigley has spent decades supporting youth, both building and managing programs with a proven track record of results. He has shown an ability to establish and maintain relationships with non-profit and corporate partners that have added great benefit to the young people he has served. His background in both youth and workforce development will bring a unique set of skills to the office and help connect the young people in the City of Manchester with the resources they need to thrive.

s/Mayor Craig

Mr. Quigley will officially assume the role of the Director of the Office of Youth Services on December 27, 2022 upon confirmation by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. He is here this evening so I wanted to recognize him but he will also be back at 6 PM before the next Board meeting in case anyone has any questions for him.

14. Nomination:
Conduct Board
Woullard Lett to succeed himself, term to expire October 1, 2025
(Note: Pursuant to Rule 20 of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, this nomination will layover to the next meeting of the Board.)

15. Confirmations:
Library Trustees
Patricia Cornell, term to expire October 1, 2029
Ken Snow, term to expire October 1, 2029

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

16. Report(s) of the Committee on Bills on Second Reading, if available.

The Committee on Bills on Second Reading respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the following ordinance amendments:

"Amending Section 33.081 Sick Leave (A) and (D) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester to change the terms of sick leave use."

"Amending Section 33.079 Vacations by revising the use of vacation during the first six months of employment, as well as the accrual rate for new employees through nine years of service."

"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."

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

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

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

There were none.

18. 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 the request from the Welfare Director for the following complement changes:

- Add one (1) Welfare Specialist II, grade 18
- Unfund two (2) vacant part-time Security Officer positions

be approved.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Long stated I have been made aware in the past three weeks of an entity, Manchester Basketball League, which is run by Chris Morgan. The fact that there are no scholarships to pay for kids that can't afford to play they have kids that don't sign-up because there is a \$68 fee. My understanding is that Parks & Recreation is looking to

take this on next year. I just spoke with Vice Chair O'Connell about what the school district can do. This basketball league has two sessions. One is starting on 12/4 and another one within a few months. I would like to take money out of contingency so he can advertise that there are scholarships available for the \$68.

Mayor Craig replied this is a for profit company.

Alderman Long stated well he has a non-profit entity.

Mayor Craig asked is there a reason this isn't going through committee. I would like to see some information or have him come before the Board to provide information.

Alderman Long stated Mr. Morgan is here. My bottom line is there are kids that are not playing. My goal is to get them playing starting tomorrow.

Mayor Craig asked how do we know that. Who says that?

Alderman Long replied there are kids that are not signing up because there is a \$68 fee. If he could advertise that there is a scholarship...

Mayor Craig interjected I am just curious. Says him or says you? You are saying this but how do we know that? Do we have any information?

Alderman Long stated I did a civics class at Central and there were kids not signing up for it.

Mayor Craig asked so they said I am not signing up because of the fee.

Alderman Long answered well there was one kid out of the 25 that was an athlete. I told him that we have leagues at the schools. He was a middle school kid.

Mayor Craig asked so he didn't make the team. You are right, there are teams at every elementary and middle school now.

Alderman Long responded not every kid makes the team.

Mayor Craig asked do we have information from the Athletic Coordinator or the Director of the District that they can provide.

Alderman Long replied yes we can take a couple of months and get all the information you need. What I am saying is I want kids to know tomorrow that if they don't have the \$68 they can sign up because there is a scholarship that will pay the \$68. That is my concern. Is this an ongoing issue? I don't believe it is. Parks & Recreation is going to be looking at it.

Mayor Craig asked is there a reason why the district isn't paying for it.

Alderman Long answered I don't know why the district isn't paying for it.

Mayor Craig stated we have a school board meeting on Monday and I can certainly ask.

Alderman Long replied I am not willing to wait. I want kids to be able to play starting tomorrow. The league is starting now and I want them to start playing tomorrow and not be concerned about the fee.

Mayor Craig asked why is this coming to us last minute. They didn't know a month ago that this was an issue? When you heard about it...

Alderman Long interjected I don't know. I just got some questions answered that I was satisfied with this week and that is why I thought I would bring it forward.

Alderman Barry stated this didn't just start. This has been going on for quite some time. This actually started last year.

Mayor Craig asked then why didn't you go through the process.

Alderman Barry responded let me finish. I spoke with Chris to ask him. He was late in asking CIP for money. The school district in the past helped a little. I actually told him to form a 501C3 because there are things out there that he could benefit from as far as raising money. The one thing that he was looking at unfortunately, won't accept 501C3 candidates unless they have been established for a year. He won't be established for a year until next July and then he will be eligible to work on this fundraiser effort that I am hoping he gets accepted to. He submitted to myself and Alderman Long...he is going to have to prove it. He is going to have to come in and let us know. He is here tonight if anyone wants to ask him questions but if we have hundreds of kids and some of them can afford to play that want to play basketball and not only basketball but my understanding is soccer also. If we have someone in our community that wants to reach out to the kids in our school system that want to stay out of trouble and get on the basketball courts or soccer fields and do what they can...they don't make the school teams so we shouldn't be leaving them out because they can't afford to pay for these things. If there are kids that can't afford it, then we should pitch in. Do we want the schools to pitch in and should they pitch in? Absolutely. They should probably pay 100% of it; find it somewhere and do it but they are not doing it.

Mayor Craig stated well we don't know because it has never come before the school board. I am chair of the school board.

Alderman Barry stated Chris Morgan is here. He can address that.

Mayor Craig stated I am telling you that it has not come before the school board.

Alderman Barry asked this year.

Mayor Craig answered correct.

Alderman Barry stated it has been brought to their attention before.

Mayor Craig stated this is the first year that we have teams in every elementary and every middle school. This is my first time hearing there are potentially hundreds of kids that haven't made those teams and they can't afford to play. I would like to verify that.

Alderman Barry asked why can't Alderman Long make the motion that we can...

Mayor Craig interjected he can. I just think it is beneficial to our Board to have information before we take a vote. You can make the motion and second.

Alderman Barry stated well he can make a motion up to an amount with the understanding that Chris Morgan or someone from his organization has to present it to us to show us exactly what they are using the money for and how many kids are affected. He has to come forward and give us a list of how many kids. I don't want their names because that is not something we should be doing but I am going to take his word for it. It is a 501C3, a non-profit organization.

Mayor Craig asked 100% of that company. There is not a for profit arm to that company? It is all non-profit?

Alderman Barry answered I am not sure about that.

Mayor Craig stated that is something we should know.

Alderman Barry asked are you referring to him getting paid for it. Is that what you are leading to?

Mayor Craig replied you are asking the city to pay for scholarships. If the company is making a profit and they want more people...potentially yeah they should pay.

Alderman Barry stated the bottom line with me is if this is keeping kids off the street we should do whatever we can to do it. You know what? Don't give it to them. Put it in as a donation to make sure we are going to give kids scholarships. Don't give it to the

organization but somehow or some way let's get a list and make sure these kids have the opportunity to play in these leagues.

Alderman Long moved to allocate up to \$15,000 from contingency for scholarships for the Manchester Basketball League. **Alderman Barry** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman George-Kelly stated I would just like to make the point from the perspective of somebody who works for a non-profit that when I come to the city from a non-profit to ask for funding, there is an avenue that I have to go through to be able to get that funding and applications that have to be put before this Board, including non-profit presentations during a specific period of time when funding is made available. I feel like from the perspective of a Board member and somebody who works at a non-profit, I am confused about why this particular cause is being brought to the Board in this way. I think every single one of us around the table could say that we have a non-profit cause that we would love city funding to go to. This isn't the avenue for that kind of funding to be awarded.

Alderman Long stated in the past the city has picked up things like this like Fun in the Sun. It was financially short and the city picked it up. We didn't have Fun in the Sun come to us as a non-profit.

Mayor Craig replied that is a city program.

Alderman Long stated my tunnel vision is I want every child that wants the opportunity to play to play and I want them to start playing tomorrow. You want information or whatever you want, let's get that. If there is an opportunity out there for somebody to be playing, I want them to play and not be afraid to go to their parents and say can I join this it is \$68.

Mayor Craig stated Fun in the Sun is a Parks & Recreation program.

Alderman Levasseur stated first of all, I think there should be a little bit more of a presentation on what this is actually doing. I don't know how many people actually

know what this is even about. It is 500 kids that are able to play basketball for eight weeks. They have the early winter and late winter league. 48% of those children playing can afford the \$68 while 52% are playing but cannot afford to play. This entity is asking for help. They use the gyms at Southside and Parkside I believe to get these kids in. When I spoke to the gentlemen he said he believes that there would be a lot more kids once they know that there is extra funding available. The way I look at it is you can only have so many kids on a team like 12 on a basketball team so a lot of kids don't get to get on the team in their schools. We really do need a feeder system in this city to get our kids up so they can get to our high schools and feed those teams because we can't seem to actually feed our sports teams at the higher level. This is a really good ground game that he has started. He has been very successful with the flag football and soccer leagues and now he is doing yeoman's work on the basketball leagues. He has to fund all of the referees and get a lot of coaches. He does help a lot of kids but they do have to provide uniforms for them also. I think we should have had a presentation so everybody on the Board knew what this was about. Not just somebody coming in and saying I want to open a lemonade stand and can you give me \$15,000.

Mayor Craig stated \$15,000 divided by \$68 is you are funding 1,000 kids. You are telling me right now there are...

Alderman Levasseur interjected this is for two seasons.

Mayor Craig stated you said there were a total of 500 kids. They are all going to be scholarships?

Alderman Levasseur answered 500 per season so 1,000. It won't take care of all of them.

Mayor Craig stated the \$15,000 would. That is what I am saying. It seems like an awful lot of money.

Alderman Levasseur stated I am not here to argue about the amount of money. I am just here to tell you what the program and plan and idea behind all of this is.

Mayor Craig stated I think we should hear from the school district too.

Alderman Levasseur stated you should also hear from the presenter himself.

Alderman Trisciani stated one of my concerns is we can then make this argument for every sports team in the city – every little league and every soccer league. Being a 501C3 gives you an advantage to raise money. I know that you might need the one year to get grant funding, however, there are other ways to raise money and to fund this. I would agree that I would like to see this as part of a discussion with the school board first and if the school board does have...this is just my not understanding the program because I don't have the information but if the school district has elementary and middle school teams, why aren't they open to every child and how does this program fit into that model. I think we need to start with just a little bit more information before I would feel comfortable doing a blanket...yes I understand sports and I understand team building and I understand scouting. Kids need these things to bring them together and raise them up and I am for all of those things. I just want to make sure we are not doing something in a vacuum and creating a problem for other non-profits down the road.

Alderman Cavanaugh stated I do think it is a great idea and I have known Chris since he was a batboy and I was playing baseball at Memorial High School which was quite a while ago so I don't doubt anything he is doing. We also coached basketball together at Smyth Road School. We had an A team and a B team. I just got a call today around 3:45 PM about this which kind of surprised me. I didn't know anything about it. The questions I was asking is when we had that many kids try out, I don't think we cut any kid. We said let's have two teams. We had an A team and a B team and the kids were playing. Now I am hearing they are cutting kids and having just one team. I think we have to change that if it is happening. I also heard, unverified because it was so late in the afternoon, that the grammar schools aren't allowing kids to play games on the weekends. That is a huge issue to me. We have these buildings and they are not allowing our kids to go in there and play. I don't know if it is true. I just heard it today. That is a problem. I don't want any kid not playing a sport. Playing MYHRA we always

said a kid on ice isn't on hot water. That is 100% right. This is good but I think it brings a spotlight to other issues happening in the schools. If we are cutting kids and turning that many kids away, then there is a bigger problem we have to talk to the school board about.

Mayor Craig stated I got in touch with the superintendent and she is confused as to why this is not coming before the school board and being discussed here. I just wanted to share that.

Alderman Stewart stated I don't think anyone disagrees that this sounds like a very worthy program to me and it sounds like everybody is pro youth sports. One of the things I have heard mentioned over and over again in this conversation is some variation of I only heard about this this afternoon. I think that is one of my big concerns, too, which is things coming in like this last minute and not going through the proper procedure and setting precedents. Like Alderman George-Kelly, I come from a non-profit background and we are worried about perception of fairness and the process as well. Those are my concerns. Thank you.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I would like to support this. I have a whole bunch of process issues. I have watched the Athletic Director talk to the school board about needing this and that. There are so many things needed in athletics in the city that it isn't funny. I couldn't look the Athletic Director in the eye if I voted on this on a whim because I am sure she would love to come in here and get \$15,000 for her programs that aren't...they are all worthy programs.

Alderman Barry stated I get it that people are saying they just heard about it today. If we carry this over to the meeting on 12/20, we can't use that as an excuse anymore. I think what is important is no matter what...

Mayor Craig interjected if we bring it forward in two weeks we need some information.

Alderman Barry stated no matter what, if people are in doubt that we have kids that are not making their school teams and have to resort to playing for a league that is set-

up...I mean it is an organized league. He has to go out and get insurance and referees and coaches. He is part of that whole circle of being a referee and being a coach and being an organizer. It is a lot of work. I have coached and I know that Aldermen Cavanaugh and Long have coached. We know what it is like. It is a lot of time and effort but to run a whole league with kids of different ages – boys and girls and the least that we can do...I will wait two weeks. I don't have a problem waiting until the 20th but we need to address it. I don't want to throw it back at the school districts and say why don't the schools do it. Why haven't they done it? This isn't new. This happened last year. I know you are making a face but it happened last year.

Mayor Craig stated it hasn't come before the school board this year. I am making a face because you are insinuating that the school board talked about it and they didn't.

Alderman Barry stated I have talked about it and I knew about it. It has been about a year. It came up last year.

Mayor Craig asked why did you wait until tonight to bring it up then.

Alderman Barry stated it came up last year. They knew about it. The school district knew about it because the school district actually supported it at one time.

Mayor Craig called for a vote and asked the Clerk to clarify the motion.

City Clerk Normand stated the motion is to transfer up to \$15,000 from contingency to the Manchester Basketball League for basketball scholarships. Alderman Sharonov requested a roll call vote. Aldermen Sharonov, Trisciani, Heath, E. Sapienza, Burkush, Gamache, George-Kelly, Cavanaugh, Stewart, Fajardo and T. Sapienza voted nay. Aldermen Barry and Long voted yea. Alderman Levasseur abstained. The motion failed.

Alderman Levasseur moved to refer this to a committee.

Mayor Craig stated it should go to the school board. I am going through the agenda tomorrow.

Alderman Levasseur stated he had meetings with O'Connell, lots of meetings with O'Connell. He tried to get it to go to the school board last year. He has been trying to get it through there and they keep giving him reasons but nothing ever gets done. I guess he finally got to the point where he decided he had to come to this board because the school board wouldn't give him the time of day or bring it to a vote or include it in the budget. I don't know if they have a contingency fund. They probably don't and that is why it came here.

Alderman Cavanaugh asked Mayor could you bring this forward to the school board on Monday night.

Mayor Craig answered yes.

Alderman Long asked Alderman Levasseur can we get a reason for your abstention. It is in our rules.

Alderman Levasseur stated I am waiting for the presentation and not ready to vote.

Alderman Long stated that is not a reason to abstain. It is supposed to be because you have a conflict.

Alderman Levasseur responded I am abstaining anyway. You can send me to the Conduct Board.

Alderman Barry stated I would like to have Tim Clougherty come forward to address an issue. We have a lighting issue at JFK Coliseum. I spoke with Tim about it and sent an email to him and Mark Gomez in reference to it. It is pretty dark there. We need lighting. I asked Tim to look into what the cost is because I think it is important. We rent that space out not year round but up until they take the ice out we have different groups that go in there and want to enjoy themselves. Well one of the groups that deals

with younger kids had cars broken into. Someone went outside and saw someone trying to rummage through cars and it was because the lighting issue is terrible there. Tim, can you inform us on what is going on there with the lighting and what you suggest we should do?

Timothy Clougherty, Public Works Director, replied we did speak today. We can certainly look into making sure that the lighting we have there is operational. We can look at the light levels. There are no real standards for light levels for exterior spaces but we can look at enhancing the lighting either through the existing fixtures or through the addition of fixtures and bring a proposal back to the Board either on a short-term basis or through CIP.

Alderman Long stated Trixie Vasquez volunteered to organize the Christmas Parade and was out there at 9 AM in the rain. I just want to thank her for an outstanding job on getting this parade together.

Mayor Craig stated to draw your attention to my packet, we are thrilled that Adrienne Beloin is with us. Welcome. She has been here for about a week and has spent her time meeting with department heads and non-profits throughout the city. She has great experience working and implementing programs focusing on behavioral health, housing, and workforce development. You are coming at a time when we really need you and your experience and we are grateful that you have joined the team. The 1269 warming station is open and has been open since December 1. As I mentioned, they are averaging about 20 people per night. The pamphlet that is being handed out by outreach workers is in your packet. We talked about the combined funding that the city and CoC put forward toward addressing homelessness. It is about \$11.5 million over the last couple of years. We have a RAISE grant public hearing tomorrow night, December 7, at 6 PM at the Library. I would encourage anyone who wants an update on where things stand now or has any questions about the plan to attend. The MTA is providing free bus rides for Route 8 to South Willow Street and the Mall of New Hampshire every Saturday in the month of December. I want to thank Mike for that. The third annual Holiday Lights Contest is going on. Folks should sign up by 5 PM this

Thursday, December 8 and then information and a map so you can see the homes that have signed up will be up on our website 12/9 through 12/19.

*On motion of **Alderman Trisciani**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to recess the meeting pursuant to RSA 91-A:2 I(b) for consultation with legal counsel.*

Mayor Craig called the meeting back to order.

*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