

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

February 7, 2023 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 Levasseur.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Annette Escalante, Sr. Vice President, Farnum Center stated:

I wanted to just take a few minutes to let you know about some of the updates and also to let you know that I have actually been in that position a little over two years. We have gone through a lot of changes in the past two years. We have been working for the last eight months to actually be 24 hours a day and we just accomplished that with the new phone system and I am very excited. I wanted to just make a few comments regarding the Special Committee on Alcohol and Other Drugs meeting earlier today and a proposal regarding a pilot program in Manchester for folks who have SUV or AUD. I can honestly say that the first time I saw it was on Manchester Ink Link. I had no conversations with anyone regarding that and we have been working for the last eight months with CMC Doorway to be able to really work out this 24-hour proposal. I was a little taken back because we have empty detox beds and we were not approached. Well I am not going to say we were not approached. We were approached about a year

ago and asked to give them free beds. Then I was taken aback that the proposal was to send folks out into Milford, MA for medical detox or detox beds. We have that here down the street in Manchester. The reason I want to bring this up is because I want to make sure that folks know that Farnum is here as part of the community. I am a new leader and we have new leadership at Easter Seals. We are not the same people. I know that it has been a little bit hard but I really want to try to change everyone's perception of who we are because we are truly a community provider. We have a new manager of external relations that is out in the community. I also wanted to share that regarding the proposal to me it would make sense for us to at least have had some communication, especially in my previous position as a Director for the Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services. I would have told you that you are going to be paying to send folks to Milford, MA when that is limited withdrawal management and reimbursable in this state under Medicaid. The fact that folks are going to be lifted out and then you are going to pay \$550/day to an outside medical detox when we are down the street and have open beds, makes no sense. It is reimbursable on their insurance. I just want you to think about that. I think that is it. If you need to contact me, I am at Farnum. I really appreciate your time. Thank you so much.

Daniel Mowery, Ward 6, stated:

Believe it or not, I am here on a good note tonight pretty much. I wanted to thank the Chief for all that he has done for our neighborhood and our block parties and everything and the city plow guy in our neighborhood, Jason, has done a great job. The other reason I am here tonight is Ward 6 cannot go without an alderman. We need to have an election. As most of you know, Ward 6 has block parties, free CPR classes, food drives and everything. We need a voice on the city council. We do have two aldermen at-large and we understand that but we need an alderman and we need one as soon as possible. Thank you.

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

I came here tonight to raise public awareness about House Bill 110, a misguided piece of legislation up at the State House which would ban the use of state funds for passenger rail projects. HR110 is still alive and kicking up at the State House despite widespread support for regional rail and strong evidence in its favor. For example,

bringing regional rail to Manchester would expand freedom for our residents by enabling people to travel in more ways that suit their needs and letting them skip the traffic of I-93 or the FE Everett Turnpike if they so choose while reducing the state road congestion that we often see. It would also allow them better access to work, leisure and other things like medical treatment in the greater Boston area. It will also allow people to travel north from Massachusetts to fill much-needed job openings here now and in the future and allow them to enjoy our entertainment venues and even fly out of MHT. Passenger rail is a clear win for Manchester for these reasons and more and we have talked about it for a long time in this city so why then do some people seem to hate this idea? Some people have criticized passenger rail by saying that it is literally a two century old technology. Well guess what else was also invented in the 1800's? The personal automobile which we use quite a lot. The wheel is 20 times older than that and to assert that a technology is somehow bad because it was first invented a long time ago is small minded at best and intentionally misleading at worst. Some people have also criticized regional rail by saying that businesses don't want it and I want to know which businesses because at the public hearing in Concord on Friday we heard strong support for passenger rail from the Manchester Chamber, the Nashua Chamber and the NHBIA. There were other businesses on record in support too like Anagnost Company, Citizens Bank, Elm Grove Company, Harvey Construction, St. Mary's Bank and many more. Simply put, regional passenger rail would be good for our local economy and our businesses know it. Lastly, some people have criticized rail by saying oh it is a boondoggle that will cost taxpayer money. What I want to point out about what really costs taxpayer money are our existing state roads. We spend hundreds of millions of dollars on them each year and we are not planning on stopping. Widening I-93, for example, cost us \$751 million. That is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a billion dollars if we are going to talk about money yet we deem it worthwhile. We don't expect our roads to turn a profit and that is because they are a public infrastructure that brings a public benefit to the people of NH. So when it comes to regional rail, we would see a public benefit, especially here in Manchester and a huge portion of the cost would be handled by various federal grants. With these details in mind, we should pressure our city's House representatives to support passenger rail. This is especially true for the representatives of our city who voted last year to actually squash Manchester's rail plans with a bill similar to HB110. These include Ward 1 Rep Jeff Goley, Ward 4 Rep Chris Herbert, Ward 6 Reps Larry

Gagne and Will Infantine, Ward 8 Rep Mark McLane, and Floterial Rep Ross Berry. I would like to close by saying that the people of this city deserve the expanded freedom that comes from having one more transportation option and really nothing is more American than mobility, whether it is social mobility, economic mobility or physical mobility. Thank you for your time.

Joe Hayden stated we are here because someone sent you a singing valentine. We are from The Common Coachmen, a community chorus that rehearses in Suncook. We have been delivering singing valentines for 26 years up and down the road in NH. Usually it is a surprise for the recipients and usually we get a tear or two. We present two songs and a rose and that is what we are here to do for you compliments of Alderman Long.

Dam Wright, stated:

That was wonderful. I do outreach aid and advocacy for the local homeless community. We have had seven people dead in 48 hours. We know that at least four of them were found in places that makes it almost certain that they were homeless. The rest we don't know about. People in hotels early in the month could be anybody. We will find out once the names are released. That is a really hard place to be when you know that at least four of your friends are dead and you don't even know who it is. It could be as many as seven. I have dealt with that sometimes when it is one or two but this is a lot of people and everyone we don't see we wonder about. I am happy to see that we are taking more and more steps toward helping with these issues. I am very happy to see the opening of the new city shelter and the women's shelter. I am very happy to be working alongside Adrienne and Andrew and Jay King over at the shelter. A lot of us, along with Chiefs Cashin and Aldenberg, did a lot of work getting everybody through that cold snap. It is disheartening to come out of that and find that you are dealing with a bad batch and you have seven people dead so far. I think we are at a time where we all need to work together. We have certainly had our differences in the past. I think you have been upset about some of the things I have said about some of you pointing out some of the decisions you made and the consequences of those. I have been unhappy about what those consequences were, especially when it involves people dying. We are at a turning point now and I am starting to actually see some really good progress. I

want to see more of that. I want to help with that. I want to help you. I don't want to sit here criticizing your decisions anymore. I don't want to be doing that in the papers. I want to be helping you to make better decisions. As Alderman Barry said, this is when we need to all come together and do what we can to save as many lives as we can and to make lives better for the homeless and for everybody else. We have a lot of work to do. This is just the beginning. We have a lot ahead of us. I hope we can work on that and do more good things. I do want to mention, as far as overdose death prevention goes, that I am teaching a free class on Narcan training. It will be 5 PM until 5:30 PM on Saturday, 2/18 at Veteran's Park. All are welcome. There will be free Narcan on a first come, first served basis and you will be able to learn not just the two to three minutes it takes and please note that it only takes two or three minutes to learn the basis of Narcan. It is not a complicated thing but if you actually want to learn additional information about Narcan and additional advance techniques that might come in handy and be able to hear some other things about that then this is a great opportunity. I hope to see all of you there. I would also love to see any of you...I know some of you like Alderman George-Kelly and others do work with the homeless community or have various exposure to them. For those of you that don't, I would love to see you come out and help out with some outreach someday. Alderman Levasseur did that on the coldest day of the year. He brought out some homemade corn chowder for folks and helped get people indoors where they needed to be so they could be safe. So I would love to see you come out and meet the people and see what they are dealing with. Alderman Long I know you have gone out and talked to people a lot but see them the way I see them. I think it might do you some good. Good luck and thank you for everything.

Glen Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

I want to start off with this new arena. It is so good that it is open and being used by thousands of people but when we have storms, and we haven't had many this year but we have had a couple where the sidewalk on Chestnut Street facing the back of the arena where lots of people park, especially those who are handicapped, are having a hard time getting out of their car or into the arena because once the sidewalk is plowed, the plow comes and plows the street and all of the snow goes back on the sidewalk. To this day, there are sections of the sidewalk that are blocked with piles of snow and ice. Please let's make sure that the sidewalk is open so that people can attend shows

because that helps us pay the bills as well as entertains the public. I am glad to hear today that the data is starting to come in. It is always good news. I am glad that you guys now understand that at least almost 50% of the people that are homeless are not drug addicts or alcoholics. They are just homeless. Some have lost their jobs. I am hoping that you also get a plan ready that takes care of those in their 50's and 60's and 70's and there may not be many but there are still some out there that really need help to get back inside. Also, I have always said that the majority of those that are homeless are not the criminals we are talking about. It is such a minute amount of people that are committing crimes it is just that it is the same people who commit the same crimes over and over again. Again, I will ask those here that are in the legislature that when the bills come out to redo the bail, please get something done. It not only hurts Manchester but the whole state. It is very important that crime be settled as it should and not just given a carte blanche to get out of jail in 20 minutes. I know this Board is trying very hard so I try not to criticize but there are things that we should have done earlier that you are now doing and I am thankful for that. It is time. Winter is not quite over. Hopefully we won't get any more of those cold spells. I am also very happy that you guys are on top, especially the Police and Fire Departments, trying to find out what is causing the overdose deaths. It is probably a bad drug but seven in such a short period of time is too many; one is too many. You opened a new shelter and that is a good start. I am hoping that you are able to get them in there. Your Honor and aldermen you are correct that they have to say yes. They have to want to go into the warm shelter. They have to be able to say yes I want some help. Thank you for your efforts and please continue. Thank you.

Dennis Higgins, Homeless, stated:

I just want to say thank you to everybody here. I think you do a great job, especially the Police and Fire Departments. Those guys are top notch and you guys are lucky to have two organizations that really have their stuff together big time. I came up here for a couple of reasons. One was to say thank you very much. I see that when you guys really want to do something, you can get it done pretty quickly. It isn't like this just happened yesterday. It has been going on for a long time but no one is complaining here. You got that done and it is a good place. Make sure you give Jay King the resources he is going to need to get people in line and the services they need. It is a

great start. I would also like to thank the Cashin Center for letting us use that. It was pretty awesome. One of the reasons I came up here was now that you guys have hit the ball, it is the homeless people's time to hit the ball. Unfortunately, I don't think anyone is watching TV and going to see me say this but it needs to be said. The people who are homeless need to get their act together. You can't just take the stuff that the city is giving you and think that it is going to be forever and you are going to live here forever and it is always going to be there because it may not. A new legislature might vote it right out and say go sit on the street or out in the middle of the river there because we don't care. The fact is that it seems to me that a lot of people don't appreciate stuff. Education, I think, is going to be a big thing. Not only teach people how to live in a house again...so many times I have seen someone get a place and a month later they are out on the street again because they don't know how to live in an apartment. It has just been so long. I was so angry the other day which was the first night I stayed at the shelter on Beech Street. The staff was awesome because it was staffed by the Fire Department and there were police there and no problems at all. Then as people got more comfortable, it seemed like more stuff was happening. I don't have the patience that they have because if I was in charge there would be some serious problems down there. It is going to take a lot of stuff to get people in the right direction. It is not just throwing money and opening the Beech Street shelter. This is something that is going to have to be ongoing. There are so many different things and so many different people that have different issues. I hope you keep doing what you are doing. I know that if you want to end your political career, you go and give money to people that don't pay taxes. If that is what you are going to vote for then you are out. I get the pushback but the fact of the matter is it would be better for the city...you are only as fast as your slowest shipper or you are only as good as the lowest person and if you can bring them up you are going to make the city a nice place to live. You need workers and people to teach them how to work again and you need people to go to work. You don't want the crime? Well the police officers know who is doing the crime. As far as the bail reform, I am someone who forgets dates. I like getting out in 20 minutes because I forgot a court date. That is not a bad thing. I am sure there is a happy medium there. Thank you again and keep it up. Alderman Levasseur, thank you very much.

*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 presented.*

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept BMA Minutes

2. Minutes from the 1/3 and 1/13 BMA meetings, and the 1/17 Special BMA, Finance and BMA meetings.

Accept and Remand Funds

3. Donation of \$500 from Beasley & Ferber Professional Association to the Cashin Senior Center.

Approve Under Supervision of the Department of Highways

4. Pole Petitions:
 - 11-1740 Brown Avenue (1)
 - 11-1738 Baker Street (1)

Information to be Received and Filed

5. Southern NH Planning Commission 2022 Report for the City of Manchester.
6. Office of Youth Services January Newsletter submitted by Michael Quigley, Director.

Ratify and Confirm Phone Poll

7. Ratify and confirm the phone poll conducted on 1/31/2023 approving the lease agreement with 39 Beech Street, LLC through April 30, 2023.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

8. Advising that the update on the Revolving Loan Fund has been accepted.
(*Unanimous vote*)

9. Advising that the Finance Department reports:

- Accounts receivable over 90 days
- Aging report
- Outstanding receivables

have been accepted.

(Unanimous vote)

10. Advising that the Financial Report for the first six months of FY23 has been accepted.

(Unanimous vote)

11. Recommending that the DISH Wireless, LLC Site Lease Agreement on Hackett Hill Road be approved.

(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON BILLS ON SECOND READING

12. Recommending that the following Ordinance Amendments:

“Amending Chapter 30: City Officials & Employees of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by changing §30.11 Salary of Board of School Committee.”

“An Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 155 of the Manchester Code of Ordinances, to establish lower school impact fees for dwelling units with less than 2 bedrooms and less than 900 square feet of gross floor area and to make minor clarifications to existing language.”

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

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

COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND BUILDINGS

13. Recommending that the Purchase & Sales Agreement for land to be transferred between the City of Manchester (Water Works) and the Town of Auburn, NH be approved.

(Unanimous vote)

REGULAR BUSINESS

14. Communication from Sebastian Sharonov informing the Board of his resignation as Ward 6 Alderman effective January 30, 2023.

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

Alderman Long moved to set a *Special Election for Ward 6 Alderman for Tuesday, May 9 from 6 AM until 7 PM. It will be winner-take-all and that person would fill out the term.* **Alderman Levasseur** duly seconded the motion.

Matthew Normand, City Clerk, stated just so the public is aware, the filing period will be open on Monday, 2/13 through Friday, 2/24.

Mayor Craig asked and that is the soonest we can have the election correct.

City Clerk Normand answered correct.

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

15. Communication from Anthony Coy advising the Board of his resignation from the Central Business Service District Board.

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

16. Communication from Jodie Nazaka, Economic Development Director, regarding an application for a Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive, RSA 79-E, for 21 – 31 Central Street, Grand Central Suites.

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to refer this to a public hearing to be held on 2/21 at 6:30 PM.*

17. Communication from Atty. John Bosen regarding the discovery that Lots 255 and 256 of the Wellington Hill properties were taken by the city for taxes in 1939 and requesting approval of an ordinance amendment to include the two parcels in the deed, as well as a sixth amendment to the Purchase & Sales agreement to extend the date to February 8, 2023:

“Authorizing the Mayor to dispose of certain tax-deeded parcels of land located in the so-called Wellington Hill area.”

Alderman Stewart moved to approve the P&S extension through February 8, 2023, and suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its third and final reading without referral to committees.

Alderman Levasseur asked does it need to be deemed surplus and is there a price that is an issue that we need to know. Was it sold already? Is it part of the contiguous lots?

Mayor Craig replied I don't know if Emily wants to speak to it but I believe they are so small that it is...

Alderman Levasseur interjected so we don't need to deem it surplus first.

Emily Rice, Solicitor, stated I think Mr. Gagne can address the question.

City Clerk Normand stated it has already been deemed surplus. My understanding is it was thought that the two lots were owned by other entities but discovered that the city owns them.

Alderman Levasseur asked do we have to deem these surplus. We just found out that we own these lots and apparently we didn't know that when we first put the deal together?

Robert Gagne, Assessor, stated the intent was that everything the city owned up there was surplus and we were going to sell it. I guess you could take a motion to deem it surplus and then approve what is in front of the Board.

Alderman Levasseur moved to deem the two lots surplus.

Mayor Craig stated I don't think we need to.

City Clerk Normand stated we can take the motion. It won't hold anything up.

Alderman Levasseur stated just include it in the original motion.

Alderman Long *duly seconded the motion adding that the two properties be deemed surplus.*

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

18. Report(s) of the Special Committee on Alcohol, Other Drugs & Youth Services, if available.

The Special Committee on Alcohol, Other Drugs & Youth Services respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that:

- The proposal from GateHouse Treatment be approved with payment to be made per individual;
- The contract be amended to recognize that Adrienne Beloin, Homelessness Initiatives Director, will be overseeing the program on behalf of the city;
- Monthly updates will be provided to the Special Committee by GateHouse Treatment;
- A related CIP resolution and budget authorization will be referred to the 2/21 Finance Committee with funding coming from the opioid litigation fund and the ARPA revenue replacement fund; and
- Mayor Craig be authorized to enter into the revised contract upon review and approval of the City Solicitor.

Alderman Long *moved to accept the report and adopt its recommendations.*

Alderman Barry *duly seconded the motion.*

Mayor Craig stated the contracts...it should include both GateHouse and the detox provider because there is going to be a separate contract that we have to sign correct.

Alderman Levasseur asked what does it mean that you get to enter into it.

Mayor Craig answered sign it.

Alderman Levasseur stated it doesn't say sign it. To me it sounds like you get to change it. Yes or no?

Mayor Craig answered no. The contracts will go to the Solicitor's Office like they always do and they will work things out and upon their okay, I sign the contracts.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I have a question about the availability of beds. At the last meeting we were told that there were no beds available locally and The Doorway couldn't find beds for people. Tonight at public comment we heard that there have been beds at the Farnum Center. Can somebody explain the disconnect?

Mayor Craig stated I think one of the points that was discussed in committee was the effort first would be toward finding beds at the local level so Farnum or anywhere else and if beds were not available then we would work with GateHouse and go outside.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated my concern is we were being told at the last meeting that there were no beds available and then the woman from the Farnum Center comes and says she has had beds available all along.

Andrew Warner stated during this whole process, the reimbursement rates for Medicaid reimbursement for residential beds was almost double so while this whole process was happening that changed and that is going to change the landscape of treatment beds and options across the state. Secondly, if you can get into treatment it is going to be where do you want to go within the next couple of months. That is changing as we speak.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked so what has been happening for the last six months or year or since The Doorway has been open.

Mr. Warner answered the reimbursement rates have been so low that it is very hard for places to offer good care at the rate that Medicaid and Medicare was reimbursing them for.

Mayor Craig stated the number of beds is not directly related to The Doorway though. I think that is important to note. The Doorway is an access point. For example, the Fire Department will bring someone over to Farnum or outreach workers if they find

someone that says yes they want detox then they will proactively work to get a bed for that individual. It doesn't always go through The Doorway system and I just want to make sure that is clear.

Alderman T. Sapienza replied that is not clear. I mean last month I was here and I was being told there were no beds and the only way you could find one was if you had good insurance. The lady from the Farnum Center came here and said I have had beds all along. So whether you call it The Doorway or something else, there seems to be an issue. I guess I will just move on to my next question. When we say detox, do we mean alcohol or opioids or just one or the other?

Mr. Warner answered there is medical detox which is in the case of alcohol and Benzodiazepines where you really need the highest level of detox and then there is another level so it can be either.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked does this contract we are voting on include both opioids and alcohol or not.

Mayor Craig responded yes. The funding source is going to be different depending on which it is but it covers both.

Ms. Beloin stated I can just offer that it is complicated to get people into detox. It is not an easy route that the outreach workers have to get people into detox. There are just some clunky systems issues with being able to get people on the phone and in a timely way securing a bed. It is not an easy feed. Sometimes we lose people in the process from having them be ready to access to actually having a bed contracted for them and then there is a limitation to how many Medicaid reimbursed beds are available at any one facility. So it is true and I am sorry I don't have the exact data on this but my understanding is an access issue is that some Medicaid beds are no longer available and folks with Medicaid only have to be turned away. So they are in a position where they can't just go to any one center because there are private beds and a certain percentage of Medicaid beds.

Mr. Warner stated that is 100% accurate but now that the reimbursement rates have almost doubled, that is getting to the level almost that private insurance pays out which is \$550 and up so there are a bunch of places that had beds that were earmarked for only private insurance that are now going to change their ratios and have a lot more beds for residential treatment because they changed the amount of money they are getting. It is going to open up a whole bunch of beds that were never possible.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked if somebody goes into detox under this program are they still going to apply for Medicaid and then we are going to pay the different or are we paying the whole thing and Medicaid is not going to help out.

Ms. Beloin answered for detox, this proposes that we are paying a negotiated private rate pay at a detox center or we are getting them into an existing Medicaid funded bed that has access for them. So either they can get in with their insurance to a local provider or the Sunrise Detox would be a private pay negotiated rate of \$550/hour. That is what the proposal is.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked and that would be after we try to get them into a bed paid for by Medicaid.

Ms. Beloin replied ideally yes. I mean they should ideally go to the local detox appropriate bed for them that their insurance can pay for and as a last resort we could utilize this private paid negotiated relationship with this detox center in Massachusetts.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I just want to make sure it is the last resort and not the first and easiest way.

Ms. Beloin responded that is the type of thing that I would like to insure.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked and that is what you will be watching for.

Ms. Beloin answered that is right.

Mr. Warner stated we would like to know how that is going to work in reality.

Mayor Craig stated we can include it in the contract.

Alderman Fajardo Mr. Warner when did that reimbursement rate change.

Mr. Warner responded last Wednesday I believe.

Alderman Fajardo stated okay so literally from the time we were here last until tonight.

Mr. Warner replied yes and they have been able to retroactively start billing as of the first of the year so a lot of the providers have gone back to the beginning of the year.

Alderman Fajardo asked is that subject to change again.

Mr. Warner answered I don't know.

Alderman Barry stated Andrew just to piggyback on what Alderman T. Sapienza was saying, it is complicated. If you are out on the streets as an outreach worker or anyone that is working in that capacity and you finally get someone to agree to go into detox, that is when you want them to get into detox. You can't wait and the unfortunate thing is and this young lady from the Farnum Center came up and it is great that beds are available but they need to be available at that instant because if these people have to wait six hours or even days, it is over. They are going to give up and continue on their way. It is important for us to get them into that detox when they want to go.

Alderman Levasseur stated I think a couple of points need to be made here. First of all, Adrienne it looks like you have another job added to your list of jobs which is to call every single non-profit in the City of Manchester and say by the way do you have any beds available. I mean Alderman T. Sapienza is right that it is shocking to find out...it is not like they wouldn't know we needed beds. If you just took a drive up Elm Street one day a week or a month you would say gee there seems to be a lot of people living on

the streets, I wonder if they have problems and need detox. I think it is all part of this whole state 211 system.

Mayor Craig stated it is not just 211.

Alderman Levasseur stated right. Unfortunately, again I am really finding out a lot of stuff by going on the street and really starting to learn about all of this stuff that is not happening. The reason it is perplexing to me is we have put in millions of dollars and the state has put in millions of dollars and we are not getting out of this crisis at all; it is getting worse. We are not seeing the victories that we should be seeing with the amount of money we are spending. Then we have a person come in front of us tonight and tell us by the way we are not the old Farnum we are the new Farnum. Oh that is nice to know. Then by the way we are not even that, we are now being run by Easter Seals. Oh that would have been nice to know. Then oh by the way why are you giving business away to this person who came here today when we have beds available. It is kind of like 1,000 of us walking through the desert dehydrated and there is a guy over at the oasis with Kool Aid who says by the way I have Kool Aid for all of you people dying in the desert from thirst. I am appalled first of all by what I just learned. I am appalled by what I have just seen in the last four days. We are not getting out of this and we are not going to get out of this unless we start holding some of these non-profits accountable. They are putting all of their non-profits in our city. What are they doing for us?

Mayor Craig responded the state is funding the majority of the non-profits. One of the things for years that mayors across the state have been asking for is information about the funding that is going into non-profits in our communities in addition to the information and the effectiveness of those programs and what the requirements are for the funding. I am glad to hear that you are there now.

Alderman Levasseur asked where is their outreach team at Farnum that can drive around the city like our firemen are doing visiting all of the camp sites. They don't have anybody that can just go to a camp site and say by the way we have beds for you? They don't have their own outreach teams? Manchester has the outreach teams and

Manchester's Fire and Police Departments are doing all of the outreach? They expect us to go in there and do all of the outreach and then we find out they have beds? I hope every headline on every social media news organization in this state says Farnum has beds and that is what the headline should be. It is beyond appalling.

Mayor Craig stated I don't know if you guys want to say something but we know Farnum has had beds. We all know that. We have been working with Farnum and they are at the table all the time but they are limited in terms of the number of beds and if the need arises where someone needs to get into detox right away, there may or may not be a bed there available and that is what is happening. The beauty of the proposal that is in front of us now is that there is another option. So if there are no beds at Farnum then there is another path for someone to get into detox which we haven't had before.

Alderman Levasseur stated on Thursday before the major cold front came in, Mr. Wright was calling 211 to try to find rooms and places for these people because our shelter wasn't open yet. When we called 211 they didn't have any information and didn't say by the way you can bring them to the Farnum Center because they have beds. We have all been doing this for months and months and months and nobody ever told us there were beds. As a matter of fact, we were always told the inn was full and there was nobody that could get in there. Now all of the sudden they come out of nowhere and say we have beds. How many beds do they have by the way?

Ms. Beloin answered they send me a daily report and it is new.

Alderman Levasseur asked starting when.

Ms. Beloin replied starting within the last few days. It is so new that I don't have a system in place yet to pump this out but this is the kind of transparency that we are demanding. There is only one right way to do this kind of stuff because there are best practices and treatment standards and there are ways to treat people and there needs to be an accountability wheel in place to insure that people are doing it. There is going to be some healthy competition around this Medicaid reimbursement issue that is changing because people are going to need to fill their beds in a different way for

people with Medicaid and they are going to be more transparent about their bed availability and that is going to be something we can use to our advantage. I agree with everything you are saying and it is starting now. We are on the cusp of a lot of...

Alderman Levasseur interjected again this was brought up tonight and I think the Mayor has brought it up. You can give us a list of all of the non-profits with all of the beds right and you can give us a list of all the sober homes with all the beds. My point being that we have a lot of beds and a lot of non-profits whereas no one else in the state has this and what happens is when Farnum takes in, let's say they take in five a week or three a week or whatever. If those people get treated but it doesn't stick with them, where are they going to end up? They are not going to be driving or thumbing or taking a bus to some other town. They are bringing them here for the right reasons and the non-profits are taking all of the money from the state or wherever they are raising their money from but guess who gets caught with the mess when the treatment doesn't stick or they are not in there long enough? So not only is it an accountability issue as to what we have for beds but what about what the hell the process is and whether or not anyone is getting any real help and if they are not, guess who is getting crushed with all of this? We have to triangulate.

Mayor Craig responded you are right and that is one of the things we have been asking from The Doorway. When an individual does go into The Doorway, they will fund a sober home for 30 or 60 days and they are supposed to be following the individual but we are really not getting information in terms of how long they stay or where they go after that because we know it takes more than 30-60 days to stabilize someone. If the funding stops then what happens to that person?

Alderman Levasseur stated we now know what happens when FIT doesn't want to run the Tirrell House anymore because they don't have enough funds. They are cut off or they don't have enough money or they made a decision on where they were going to use their funding. Now this Tirrell House probably let 15 people go. Where did they go? We don't know. Probably in a sober house but who knows. So we had this house empty this whole time. We have non-profits that have to make decisions based on what money they raise. We have seen Angie's Place close down and then guess who

gets...the ramifications are...the butterfly in Africa when it flaps its wings well we are getting crushed by Pterodactyls here.

Alderman Barry stated this is just my observation. I have learned a lot over the years from dealing with treatment centers and in the last couple of weeks I have also learned a lot but it appears to me when we are dealing with treatment centers and I am not going to name names but we all know who they are that we deal with, it is almost like being at an amusement park and someone can afford that ticket to get to the front of the line. That is what it seems like with these treatment centers. If you have a really great insurance, you are going to the front of the line. If some poor bastard is homeless, he is not. He is not going to get treated the same way as that person with insurance and that is what we need to change. We need to make sure that those people that can't afford it go to the front of the line.

Mr. Warner stated I think now that we have seen this change I mean there is no way to offer real comprehensive quality care at \$246 a day. The math does not work out so we have been asking for a raise in this reimbursement rate for years. I have been working in Manchester for four years and this is the most exciting thing that has happened in the treatment of substance use disorder. There are going to be many, many for profit and non-profit places that will be looking to fill their beds now because that rate has changed. The math is you can't offer a service without getting reimbursed for it. To defend the non-profits, the for-profits and everybody doing treatment, now that we have given them the amount of money they need, it is going to be amazing to see how this is going to change. I am really excited about it.

Alderman Long stated this conversation we are having is brought to you by GateHouse. I know that Adrienne and Andrew have been working to integrate the Continuum of Care and getting more information from them, however, this kind of gave it a little spike. Now the double reimbursement, what is that number now? Is it \$60 and going to \$120?

Mr. Warner answered it went from \$246/day to \$550/day I believe.

Alderman Long asked so it is \$550/day. Okay that is what we are paying...what I am trying to get my arms around is I spoke to a couple of therapists with respect to this and you are saying that more beds are going to be open so it is the same amount for private use and Medicaid use? Is it the same amount or would I have an advantage to fill my beds with private insurance as a detox treatment center? Would I get more money that way?

Mr. Warner responded that depends. It is complicated.

Alderman Long stated I am trying to find out how we are going to get expanded beds. I don't know if they are forced to say I have to dedicate 30% to Medicaid. I don't know if that is the case.

Ms. Beloin replied I think they have an admissions policy so there is some sort of financial decision that the entity is sticking to where they have a certain percentage that they are trying to hit for financial balance. Now that they have better reimbursement from Medicaid, they can change that percentage number because the finances will balance differently. There won't be more beds.

Mr. Warner stated they will be allocating more beds to folks with Medicare and Medicaid and then the private places that only take private insurance are going to start taking Medicaid also because before they were just taking a loss but now they are going to be getting an amount to stay open. So a lot of the private places are going to start taking care of our folks that are on Medicaid.

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

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Craig stated the packet that was handed out talks a little bit about the overdose fatality spike in Manchester and I will read it into the record so everyone understands what the Health Department put out.

The City of Manchester Police Department has reported seven suspected overdose fatalities over the past 48 hours. Of those fatalities, three individuals were unhoused, three were housed, and one was found in a hotel. The City of Manchester is one of 20 communities newly selected nationally by the CDC and the National Association of City and County Health Officials to implement overdose prevention strategies targeted at reducing overdose spikes and fatalities. The Manchester Police Department has activated a daily overdose monitoring system for those purposes, along with the use of hotspot mapping to strategically focus collaborative efforts in areas of concern. Multiple multi-disciplinary outreach teams, including first responders, are out in the community on a daily basis connecting to those who are most at risk and in need of support. City officials and community providers urge the public to be situationally aware and to further refer those struggling with addiction to the following resources. If you are actively using substances in the Manchester area, know that there is a potentially fatal product in circulation. Never use alone. Harm reduction resources such as Fentanyl test strips and Narcan are widely available. If you or a loved one are in need of those supplies, please contact Andrew Warner, Director of Overdose Prevention, at 603-657-0826. If you suspect an overdose, please call 911 immediately. Individuals seeking immediate substance use treatment services for themselves, patients or loved ones, can also access care in Manchester after hours and throughout the weekend by calling The Doorway at 603-606-1090 or by calling 211. If anyone has any other questions, please call the Police Department.

Mayor Craig stated I just want to thank the Police Department, Fire Department, Health Department and all of the non-profit partners who are working on this. It is nothing that we ever want to see but I can tell you firsthand that to see everyone working on this, I

know that they are doing everything in their power to address this situation. From a budget update perspective, I am going to be meeting with department heads over the next week or so. The school district budget presentation at their Finance & Facilities meeting will be on Wednesday, 2/15. We have many open board and commission positions so if you have any constituents who are interested, please have them send their resumes in. I also want to remind you that City Hall will be closed on Presidents' Day, February 20.

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Heath**, 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