

COMMITTEE ON LANDS & BUILDINGS

March 21, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Chairman Long called the meeting to order.

The Clerk calls the roll.

Present: Aldermen Long, Fajardo, Levasseur, T. Sapienza, Trisciani

Messrs.: T. Otis, Mayor Craig, J. Cote

1. Communication from the Assessor's Office regarding City-owned tax-deeded parcels scheduled for auction on April 15, 2023.

*On motion of **Alderman Levasseur**, duly seconded by **Alderman T. Sapienza**, it was voted to approve the Assessor's minimum bid recommendations.*

2. Communication from Paul Chisholm of Keach-Nordstrom Associates on behalf of Oak Leaf Homes, LLC requesting a revocable license to construct and maintain 15 granite block seats at 409 Elm Street.

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

3. Communication from Timothy Otis, Principal, Manchester School of Technology, requesting approval to sell a minimum of two of the eight building lots donated by the city to the Vocational Partnership of Region 15 (VOPAR) in 1992.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated there is a lot of support on this committee and in the city to help you get your project off the ground. We want to help you and save those two lots for you. Please make sure you have all of your financials together so you can continue discussions with the city. We are going to try to find some money so you can keep the lots. We would like to have further discussions if that works for you.

Tim Otis, Principal, Manchester School of Technology, stated that is fine. We are just facing a bit of a time crunch in the sense that the construction company has started work and we owe them a significant amount of money but it is tied up in an escrow account that the city has to approve the release of. That is part of our issue right now.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated we will get right on that because we want to save those two lots so the students can build those houses.

Mr. Otis stated I was informed this afternoon that there was a little misunderstanding. I am the principal of MST but I am also the Assistant Treasurer of VOPAR. With me is Greg Brown, the President. VOPAR has an independent Board of Directors. It is not a school organization at all. I got a call this afternoon asking why we are trying to sell school-owned land but it is not.

Mayor Craig stated to follow-up on what Alderman T. Sapienza said, we want to make sure that we are maximizing educational opportunities for students. By selling these lots, and actually you were asking for 2-4 lots to be sold, that would allow for only 4 lots to be built and that is significantly decreasing educational opportunities and we don't want to do that. In talking with Dr. Gillis and Director Clougherty we can get together with Sharon Wickens and figure this out.

Mr. Otis responded that is fine. Thank you. I appreciate it.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated we do admire that you brought a solution forward using your own assets but we want to help you save those assets.

Mr. Otis stated that would be great because we want to get the kids back out there. We were shut down by Covid obviously and as you saw the construction costs went from \$450,000 to \$680,000 so that would be great. We want the kids back out there in the fall and they are really looking forward to it also.

*On motion of **Alderman T. Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman Levasseur**, it was voted to table.*

4. Communication from Jeff Belanger, Planning & Community Development Director, requesting renewal of a lease agreement with the Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success (ORIS) for space at the Odd Fellows Hall, 434 Lake Avenue, for an additional five year term.

*On motion of **Alderman T. Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman Fajardo**, it was voted to approve.*

5. Communication from the Planning & Community Development Director requesting renewal of a lease agreement with the Manchester Community Resource Center for space at Odd Fellows Hall, 434 Lake Avenue, for an additional 10 year term.

*On motion of **Alderman T. Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman Fajardo**, it was voted to approve.*

6. Communication from Mark Gomez, Chief of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery, requesting approval to name the basketball courts at Wolfe Park after Chris Brickley and his father, Bill Brickley.

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

7. Communication from Mayor Craig requesting that due to the difficulty in finding a suitable lessor for property located at 119 Canal Street, and the fact that the lease for Manchester Public Television Service, Inc. (MPTS) at their current location is eligible for termination in early 2024, a long-term lease with MPTS be worked out for a nominal fee.

Alderman Levasseur moved to approve. ***Alderman Fajardo*** duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Long stated my understanding, Your Honor, is that MPTS looked at the facility and they have the money to renovate it and it fits their needs.

Mayor Craig stated yes. Jason is here and their board has approved it.

Jason Cote, MPTS, stated the location at the bus station is about 3,200 square feet and with that it will fit what we need for the radio station and the television station. The costs for the renovations would come out of our equipment grant money, which is roughly \$340,000. As a board we were looking forward to having a situation where we could use those monies for renovation in the future and it happens to have come up now.

Chairman Long called for a vote. *There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Levasseur**, duly seconded by **Alderman Fajardo**, 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