

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

October 03, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Mayor Craig called the meeting to order.

Mayor Craig called on Alderman Fajardo to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Dan Campbell, 721 Beech Street, stated:

Three minutes probably won't cover all the things I want to talk about but I'll just dig right in. I don't understand how certain people in this city can be singled out and say you have to pay more because of where you live. It doesn't seem fair. It doesn't make sense to me this whole thing. Phasing out our garbagemen and outsourcing it doesn't make sense either. Some contractors cost more money and we have a not-for-profit garbage system that has been working since I have been in the city for fifty years and I like it. I like our garbagemen. We should take care of them. If you have to make a hard decision and raise our taxes that is a burden on everybody; that's fine. Whatever it takes to keep our garbage men doing their job. It will still be cheaper than having a contractor come pick up our trash. We're not going to get a better job with a sub-contractor. Trash is still going to go away. It's going to be the same thing except we won't have good jobs for people; city jobs are good jobs. It has always been looked at as a good job. You get

benefits and make a living wage and take care of your family. We need to take care of these people. They take care of us. That's what we need. Singling out 1,500 buildings and saying you have to now pay for your own deal so the city can save \$200,000, that's not enough. If you do the math, if every one of those 1,500 buildings was only a seven-unit, at \$35 per unit we are looking at \$367,500. That's what it would cost to have the trash picked up if they were only seven-units, which I'm sure there are a lot more units than that. That is a profit of \$167,500 if there are only seven units. There is a lot of money to be made for someone here but it shouldn't go to someone. We should keep the money in house. Our garbagemen should get paid. If we need maintenance on our trucks or whatever, raise taxes. Do the unpopular thing. It is the right thing. Landlords already have a big burden on us. We pay \$150 every time a COC inspector comes to our building, plus \$75 per unit, plus all the repairs. Last time I had my building looked at it cost me \$8,000. Now you're going to say I have to pay for my trash, too. All this trickles down to my tenants, who are already straining to pay the rent that they have to pay. I have to go to them to say they have to pay more. I don't want to have that conversation with them. I already had that conversation one time because I had to, because everything went up. The whole cost of living went up after 2020. The whole world went nuts and everything costs more. This isn't going to make it easier for anyone to live in Manchester. It is not going to make more affordable housing. It makes it harder for everybody. All the little people are who we are squishing here. Landlords, we can handle it. It is not going to affect us. It affects all the people who live in our building who don't have a voice and that is why I am here talking in front of you which is the last thing I want to do. I just expect my city to be run responsibly.

Mayor Craig stated sir, there are a lot of people that have to speak.

Mr. Campbell stated there is a lot to say. It's a big deal.

Mayor Craig stated it has been three minutes. Thank you.

Martin Short, 297 Bridge Street, stated:

I will try to be succinct. I am the owner of a small six-unit apartment building at 297 Bridge Street. I purchased the building in August 1986. I have owned it 37 years. The

building consists of six one-bedroom apartments. We have mostly one tenant per apartment. My tenants are teachers, healthcare workers, waitresses, auto service representatives, and secretaries. We usually generate two containers of trash per week and one recycling container. In fact, tonight that is what is exactly out there. We purchased these containers from the city when it was required. Since receiving a letter from the Department of Public Works, I have investigated private trash services and been given the same quotes that the gentleman had more or less; about \$35 per apartment. So that is times six for me. It works out between \$2,000 and \$2,800 per year additional. These are the costs we'd be forced to pass onto our tenants. My tenants have suffered through COVID and the unemployment that went along with it, the high cost of fuel, and all the other stuff that has gone up. The suggestion was made to have a dumpster on the property. This is not really feasible due to the congested nature of Bridge Street. We now provide off-street parking for all our tenants; a dumpster in the parking lot would eliminate some of this and would interfere with winter time snow removal services. I fail to understand why the city would choose to target my tenants in this way. What criteria are they using? Every resident of Manchester, from one month to one hundred years old, generates trash daily. Discriminating against my tenants leaves the city open to lawsuits. This would also constitute a health and safety risk to our population. The letter also states that I should be exploring waste options. I have a few suggestions the city might explore. They might pressure the state legislature to institute a returnable bottle bill which the other states around us have. That would eliminate some of the trash. Do a ban on single use plastic bags and also the trash barrels that have a number on them. They can scan my license plate going through the tolls; surely, a garbage truck could be fitted to scan these trash barrels and the weight of the trash picked up and figure out what a reasonable charge would be for people. Not just a blanket cost. I agree if you need to raise taxes, then raise them. Treat everybody fairly.

Jane Cheverie, 253 Concord Street, stated:

I live in a building owned by a landlord. He is a very small-time landlord, but our building is a six-unit in a residential area that has trash pickup. They always pick ours up; we have no more than four bins out there. We've never had a problem with rats or mice. Now we are going to be forced – if he puts in a dumpster – we are going to lose parking which is at a premium, and it is going to cost more money that he is going to pass down

to us because he pays enough taxes as it is. Being my age, I'm on a limited budget. That doesn't work. Getting to the dump on my own – they have different hours – and honestly, trash is heavy. If I have to store it somewhere we have no place other than my apartment. I don't want my trash sitting there for a week. There will be more illegal dumping with people that don't have access to put their trash anywhere and don't want to pay to have it picked up on their own. They will dump it in anybody's dumpster or on the corner, and I don't think it will help clean up the city at all.

Brittany Ping, 199 Putnam Street, stated:

I recently moved, but for the past seven years I shared a trash area with a six-family building at 416 Rimmon Street. They had three green totes that were picked up on site twice weekly. There were a few colorful tenants that caused some issues over those years, but 99% of the time the trash was picked up timely and appropriately. My anecdote is representative of my overall experience with city trash pickup managing multi-family properties in Manchester over the past seven years. I am here to speak to you for two small condo associations and 143 households at 18 multi-family properties affected by this ordinance that I manage. I want to focus on a few points on why a motion to reconsider the trash ordinance that passed on the consent agenda should pass, and a true complete discussion after sufficient public comment should come from this Board. It was missed by everyone, myself included, in the large agenda that night, after two and a half hours of public comment. This ordinance change is important, has significant impact, and to let it remained missed is a mistake. The public comment was so long because housing and homelessness were on your agenda. Many spoke about increased rents and the need for affordable housing in our city. A quick recap for you: rents increased because of significant jumps in real estate pricing which resulted in higher assessed values that increased property taxes on multi-families, specifically the six to eight families – 36% increase in 2021 – rents increased because of the increased costs of utilities provided by landlords like water/sewer bills, heating oil, natural gas, electric. Rents will increase without discrimination when the cost of trash collection goes from \$0 to \$30 per month per unit. Rents will increase when illegal dumping becomes more common and owners invest in 24/7 security systems, exterior lighting, and fences to protect their newest investment: their trash bins. Will these improvements increase the safety, cleanliness, and appearance of our city? Maybe. Will it also create higher

expenses at the properties that will increase the rents? Yep. Will it create an environment conducive to turning back tenants that mismanage their trash? Absolutely. Will it increase rents to account for increased eviction rates, because the rents increased and so they will be forced out of their homes? I really hope not. I have been telling you this for months. Nobody in the real estate market wants that. The committees that recommended this stated this would put us in line with the rest of the state in regards to the state and in regards to trash management. Manchester is 115,000 people. Nashua is the closest at 91,000. I brought a list of what Lowell, MA is doing. There are 115,000 residents. It is a comprehensive collection policy that covers the costs associated with the service that actually reduces their rat population. They have things that make sense. They did it in timelines that made sense. They implemented in ways that make sense. I can't believe I am here asking you to tax us more. I cannot believe it, but please for the love of God, give us a better timeline or a sensible solution.

James Vayo, 427 Holly Street, stated:

I am a resident and a homeowner in the City of Nashua. I am not a landlord. I am here to talk today about trash pickup. Cutting the trash pickup for five plus units is a serious equity issue for the city. The program appears to be targeted at a very specific group of buildings in the center city and the west side. These buildings are overwhelmingly occupied by lower-income and working families. These buildings are also housing a significantly higher proportion of minority populations in proportion to the rest of the city. This means this policy is having or causing a disparate impact on low-income and minority populations in the city. According to the Department of Justice, a disparate impact is grounds for proof to bring a civil rights lawsuit against a government agency. The group would need to prove the policy causes harm, disparity, and has costs. If landlords would organize with renters, the city may be sued. To illustrate the hypocrisy of this policy, I would like to point out another type of DPW pickup program. As a homeowner, I enjoy the benefit of brush and grass clippings picked up free of charge at my single-family home. This program costs \$200,000. If DPW needs to save \$200,000 perhaps they should consider and weigh the effects of cutting refuse pickup against yard waste pickup. Remember, all residents and businesses pay for the cost of trash pickup. Why would we treat people differently in walk-ups than we do as homeowners?

Rodney Stark, 121 Middle Street, stated:

I am a lawyer here in town. My office is in a building I own on Middle Street right at Canal. I've had my office there since 1984. I have never seen a rat anywhere near that property. I have occasionally seen a skunk wander into the neighborhood, but it doesn't stay there and it doesn't live there. I read when this all came up in the newspaper that a young girl was bitten by a rat. That might have been part of the reason why this all got started. I don't know. All I can say is that in my building is in the Amoskeag Historic Housing District. It is on the National Register. When I bought it with some of the fellas back in the years, the Manchester Historic Association gave us a Historic Preservation Award. I am very proud of my building. I have ten apartments there. I have no children, no pets. One of the tenants puts out trash barrels on the days that it is scheduled for and we don't produce a lot of trash. It is normal trash. If this goes through, I am going to have no choice but to pass the cost along. I don't want to have to do that. Rents are already enough. I didn't look into the numbers, but other people have and it was good to hear their information and input. Please reconsider this proposal. I have looked into private trash and there is very little available and it is costly. One gentleman spoke about the impracticality of putting a dumpster in; I have parking for my tenants and the office but if I put a dumpster out there that burdens the city with more cars on the streets. It takes away from private parking. I don't think that's a good idea. Besides that, when they come and pick up these dumpsters, they do it at 2 o'clock in the morning; it wakes the whole neighborhood up. That's not a good thing, either. I would ask you for your consideration on this matter.

Panos Panarglas, 35 Myrtle Street, stated:

Me and my partner own a property, 45 Myrtle Street. When we picked it up, like a lot of the properties we pick up, it was dilapidated and had squatters and a bunch of problems. We have brought value to the city turning these properties around that were basically in disrepair. My question is where do I put a dumpster. I don't know much of what is going on. I am not exactly well versed on the situation. My building at 45 Myrtle Street is up against the road, up against the alley behind it. The point is, like somebody previously said, I will have to have that conversation again with my tenants about rent going up. Quite frankly, we're not paying for it; they are going to pay for it. I would like you to reconsider.

Norman Brown, 250 Old Cohas Avenue, stated:

250 Old Cohas Avenue is part of the condominiums. We are not a business, we have no rentals, and we are 100% owner-occupied, and we all pay property taxes. I don't think it is right that you're going to take a service away from us that you provide to lots of other people in the city. We don't have a trash problem or a cleanliness problem. We do not have rat infestations. If this policy moves forward, and the condominiums does not get a waiver, I have a city mandated trash barrel that I paid \$60 for; can I bring it back and get my money back?

Zena Costache, 363 Lake Avenue, stated:

I am the owner of 363 Lake Avenue. I have my building, it has four studio units, and two one-bedroom units. I have had six tenants in the whole building for years. I don't have much garbage. I don't mind if I have to pay more like for everybody else. I don't have a lot of garbage and it is not fair to me because I have six units to be excluded from garbage pickup. It is six units but I have very little garbage. I don't have a problem if everybody considers that we can pay more as the landlords to have garbage picked up because I don't want to Manchester to look messy, especially in the alleys. I am ok if we have to pay more on our taxes.

Julie Turner, 285 Ray Street, stated:

I am here tonight to speak in favor of the \$35 million in revenue available for the appropriation in fiscal year 2024 to the Manchester School District. These funds come before us as an overdue investment to the public schools of the city from the Department of Education as part of their Adequate Education Funding Formula. As this Board knows, many buildings in the Manchester School District are beyond their usable lives, and funding is needed to advance the long-term facilities plan. As a member of the Board of School Committee, it is my responsibility to be present in the buildings and in my recent visits it is more clear than ever that we have been underinvesting in our buildings for decades. We are at a significant deficit due to lack of funding from the state and we would be starting out further in the hole by not utilizing this revenue. This money is an investment in the students and families of this city, and withholding it would be fiscally irresponsible in my opinion. I would like to remind this Board of the reports

offered by the State Department of Education that the legislature calculated the base cost of an adequate education to be around \$3,700 per pupil for fiscal years 2021 and 2022, while no district in this state spent less than \$15,043 per pupil, and the average cost statewide was \$19,400. I will highlight for you here that it was in fact the Manchester School District who spent the meager \$15, 043, the lowest in the state of 77 school districts. This Board has voted to hold onto the great responsibility of managing funds both in revenue and expenditures that impact the operations of the school district beyond the tax cap. Tonight, I am asking for you to consider this revenue going to our schools because we as a school board and district are trying are best to provide more than an adequate education to our students. This is a difficult task, however, being that the state is continually downshifting costs to towns like ours in terms of what constitutes an adequate education. On one hand, the state requires school districts to provide transportation, school nurses, and to operate and maintain school buildings. The state also sets standards for safety and cleanliness. On the other hand, the state is arguing that school nurses are not part of an adequate education, and the operation, maintenance, and cleanliness of the buildings are not part of an adequate education. The safety of our students is not part of an adequate education, either. Also missing from the state's formula, are district office personnel, superintendents, paraprofessionals, sports and other extra-curricular activities, school resource officers, AP courses and other advanced classes, and classroom supplies. This profound dichotomy is where you come in. The state is finally taking a tiny step in their responsibility of offsetting the cost of an adequate education here in Manchester. With the allocation of the \$35 million, you can do your part in stopping the downshift of billions of dollars of education cost to the Manchester residents.

Erin Kerwin, 291 Ray Street, stated:

I am to talk about school funding and speak in favor of the \$35 million in revenue available for appropriation in fiscal year 2024 for the Manchester School District. These funds are coming to us from the Department of Education as part of their Adequate Education Funding Formula. This should be used by the school district to offset some of the cost of running the schools. Please consider accepting these funds from the Department of Education to help our schools and city. Our city needs well-funded schools to attract and keep young people here.

Brandon Moris, 683 Massabesic Street, stated:

I manage and own a property at 683 Massabesic Street. I am here to talk about trash removal. My building is a small building. We have five units and six tenants. We follow all the rules. We put out two bins per week. I didn't know that finances were a big issue. My property taxes did go up just recently we the reassessment so I feel kind of gipped on that. I also see a lot of people who flagrantly don't follow the rules with trash. They overfill the bins and put extra stuff out, and if we need more money how about we enforce the rules that exist on the people who break the rules instead of adding cost to people who follow the rules, which I think I am. I have filed a waiver and I hope it is accepted but I think a lot of people aren't aware of what is going on or don't have a voice or don't want to be here to speak. I am here for them. I hope you take that into consideration. Also, we should have a dog park.

Urbam Gillis, Ferry Street, stated:

I own a small property on Ferry Street. I want to reiterate most of the thoughts that were said here tonight. Unfortunately, this increased cost will burden my tenants. I try to be fair to my tenants. I didn't pass on a lot of the increased costs that I've received over the last few years, but now I'll be forced to. I have good tenants. We have seven units. We put out three to four barrels a week. We don't overflow the barrels. My tenants are good people. I run a good building. I have tried to be good to them with increased burdens, but can no longer accept and take on extra costs. I implore you to do the right thing; reconsider this. My tenants pay indirectly for services. We need the services that we pay for.

Nick Norman, 16 Crescent Street, Derry, NH, stated:

I have four multi-families here in Manchester. I echo everything that has been said about the trash pickup. I won't repeat some of those things. It strikes me as incredulous that you would have a problem with a few property owners and then punish all the rest of the property owners with an ordinance like this. If there are bad players, then make them good players. The city has all kinds of regulations, laws, I don't know them all. I know from talking with many landlords over the years there are many avenues at a city's disposal to force property owners to comply. We shouldn't be putting in a regulation that raises the cost on all the multi-families, which of course gets passed onto

tenants causing even worse affordability problems in the rental market. All of my properties would have little space for a dumpster. I am looking at the properties, and the only space to put a dumpster without taking away someone's parking is to put it on the little postage stamp sized front lawn in front of the building. There is not even a way for a truck to come and pick that up. They'd have to drive over the curb to get at that dumpster. There are places where the dumpster is not going to work. If the only place is in an alley and there are overhead wires, you can't lift a dumpster there. Plus, the noise of all these dumpsters being picked up in the middle of the night would be crazy. I know you will see a tremendous amount of illegal dumping if you start having a lot of dumpsters around the city it will be a nightmare. Is the city going to reimburse property owners for this additional expense? I ask you to overturn this policy related to trash pickup. I echo everything else that was said.

Rick Blais, 733 Chestnut Street, stated:

Unfortunately we are back here. The public is getting sicker and sicker of this. Decisions are being made in a vacuum. Not only this, there are a lot of other issues we have been here before on. The trash thing is a \$200,000 saving according to the director of that department. Yet, we're not saving \$200,000; it is being transferred. They are going to stay those employees. There is no real cost savings here. Going up on our taxes, I heard people saying that. There is still \$200,000 on the table. If you'd cut something, cut \$200,000 from the jobs of those people, but not the trash pick-up. We've all been through the inner-city and the alleyways, there is no place to put a dumpster. You can't even get somebody. I called three different companies starting last week and I still haven't gotten a return call. This is going to be a big issue. We're going to see lots of trash in the alleys, that is what it is going to boil down to. We definitely need to fix that. I know you are all volunteers here and you're working hard, but the idea is that at some point you are overwhelmed. This should have been crystal clear. We talk about transparent government; Manchester is not getting transparent government. Every year it gets worse and worse. Things are being buried just like the federal government does. You guys are voting on it without reading this stuff. That is what is happening. I want to bring back the big thing. We talked a few weeks ago about the underfunding of pensions for city workers. Nobody is addressing that. These are people that have given their lives to work for the city. These are firefighters, city workers, clerical workers. We

owe them \$300 million. Where is it coming from? Your plan was to talk to Joe Biden. It is not going to happen. We have to come up with a realistic approach and we have to tell the city, the people, the taxpayers, and the residents, that we have a big issue here. We all need to come together. It is not your issue; it is everybody's issue. Without some type of long-term plan, that \$300 million is going to exasperate and get bigger and bigger. These people are going to have their benefits cut at some point; that's the bottom line. We are all taxpayers. We can't handle a one-year increase of \$300 million. I know that but we have to address that some way, somehow. What it will boil down to is getting organized, getting the right people on committees, and even getting outside support - CPAs and accountants to help with these things. I know it is a daunting task. Most of you probably work full-time besides doing this. We need the right people on the bus here. We need to get on the same page. We are all citizens of Manchester. Let's make this happen.

Bill Stergios, 156 Bridge Street, stated:

I own the building at 615 Union Street on the corner of Union and Bridge. Affordable housing seems to be the big talking point of our city leaders. This trash proposal that just passed actually makes things more unaffordable for low-income tenants. It guarantees a rent raise on the people who can least afford it. Many people are living on the edge. Another rent raise could very well push them into homelessness. But don't worry people, the city spent \$275,000 to spruce up Victory Park with new flowers and landscaping. When you are sitting there depressed about having to sleep outside, you can still look at the pretty flowers. Meanwhile, our politicians pat themselves on the back for cutting \$200,000 from the budget by not picking up trash anymore. I want to point out the four Aldermen who are on the Solid Waste Committee and knew all about this - Alderman Fajardo, Alderman Stewart, Alderman Cavanaugh, and Alderman Sapienza - I don't know which one.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated me.

Mr. Stergios stated they along with Chaz Newton from the Highway Department are the architects of this disaster. Speaking of trash, all you Aldermen who continue to be in favor of this trash scheme can take your campaign signs and put them in the trash

because tenants in Manchester won't be voting for you when they see that you're raising their rent. This scheme was presented and passed in a sneaky manner. It was put on the consent calendar along with several other proposals. The details weren't made clear to the Aldermen, and hopefully many of them didn't even know what they were voting for. When I found out about this, after it passed, I called my Alderman in Ward 4, Christine Fajardo, and the two At-Large Aldermen, Joe Kelly Levasseur and June Trisciani. Fajardo and Trisciani didn't even bother to call me back. Alderman Levasseur did call back, showing that at least one Alderman was interested in doing his job. Now I see that you are offering a waiver, which will make it more appealing. Let's give everyone a waiver, ok? Because this idea is a loser. The guy in the Highway Department who was behind all this needs to come out of his ivory tower and get his hands dirty. I suggest he be put on a garbage truck. When I graduated from Memorial High School in 1969, I worked for the summer for the city at \$1.65 an hour and I worked on the garbage truck. It is not a crime to get your hands dirty. The sad thing about this whole idea is that you tell the landlords and low-income people of Manchester that you want to give them a helping hand, when all you're giving them is one finger.

Deb Roux, 97 Springwood Way, stated:

I am going to be speaking about something else: elections. I was sitting in this room a couple of weeks ago for voter poll training for elections for the primary. I almost fell off my chair when I found out that we had poll pads in Manchester. I had no idea that they were being presented or talked about or anything. I missed my opportunity to speak which is my fault for not following the agenda. I do know that the Ballot Law Commission and the Secretary of State approved two new voting machines: Dominion voting machine and Voting Works voting machine, that you guys will soon be discussing about the possibility of purchasing for Manchester. I want to let you know some things before you start diving into that conversation. I did email all of you and the Mayor what I am about to talk about. I wanted to make sure I clarified my email further by speaking today. Dan Richard, who is a citizen of New Hampshire, he has a lawsuit that is going to be discussed in the fall in regards to voting machines and also absentee ballot voting and how we handle that in our state. I want you to take a minute to look at the interview that I sent you the link to so you can find out more about what he is going to be discussing. I want to bring your attention to RSA 656:40, because a lot of what I have

been saying these days is you don't know what you don't know. I want to bring your attention to it. It was passed in 1979, and it was on a trial basis. Unlike what Matt did for the trial basis for our poll pads – he did a few wards for one election – this particular law has been on a trial basis for forty-four years and it reads the mayor and aldermen of any city or the selectmen of any town, subject to the approval of the Ballot Law Commission, may authorize the use of one or more electronic ballot counting devices for the counting of all ballots in such city or town on a trial basis for any regular or special election and pay the expense of such trial from any available funds. I did give you guys this information for you to read further. This law does not define what a trial basis is. It does not follow the constitution. I want to bring you to the constitution on page seventeen of the 1784 constitution under part two, article thirty-two, it says: the meetings for the choice of governor, council, and senator, shall be warned by warrant from the selectmen, and governed by a moderator, who shall, in presence of the selectmen (whose duty it shall be to attend) in open meeting, receive the votes of all inhabitants of such towns and wards present, and qualified to vote for senators; and shall, in said meetings, in presence of the said selectmen, and of the town or city clerk, in said meetings, sort and count the said votes, and make a public declaration thereof, with the name of every person voted for. And it goes on and on and on. Nowhere in our constitution does it mention that we can use voting machines. The constitution is the primary law of the land. I want to bring that to your attention before you go ahead and discuss voting machines.

Denis and Claire Laurendeau, 1 Francis Street, stated:

We own two six-family apartment buildings in Manchester. On Friday, September 15, we received correspondence from the Department of Public Works stating that five or more dwelling units will no longer be eligible for municipal trash collection services. This news was extremely surprising and angered us greatly. We work hard to maintain our properties. Each property has a roof storage spot where the totter barrels that were required years ago are kept. The barrels are kept in a neat and orderly manner and brought to the street on the designated day for city pickup. This sneak move to eliminate a city service that we are entitled to and pay for through our property taxes, is simply outrageous. In 2021, a citywide property reevaluation took place. We saw an increase in assessed value of 70% and 78%, resulting in a tax increase of 22% and 28% for our

buildings. With this in mind, the move to exclude five-units or more from a city service that is paid for through the tax base is simply unacceptable and unfair. Will there be a tax adjustment to compensate for the removal of a city service that is not provided? The opening line of the notice states as part of our journey toward a cleaner and more sustainable future. It is a fantasy to believe that our city will be cleaner with the removal of the tax funded service of trash collection. It is amazing that this move to eliminate this service was passed by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen without constituent knowledge or consent. I didn't know about it. What happened to representation and working for the people? In conclusion, there are many property owners that keep their properties repaired and presentable. We understand that there are also many that do not maintain their properties. To single out all property owners with five units or more because of the delinquent owners is simply unfair. Since receiving this letter, we have learned that a waiver would be available for continued trash collection. Furthermore, we also learned that any waivers will be up to the discretion of the Public Works Director who will decide whether to grant the request for a waiver. This director will be given the power to accept or deny a request? What is the criteria for the waiver? Waiver information was not included in the letter that went out to all property owners and it should have been. We strongly feel this proposal must be terminated. Issues pertaining to trash problems at certain properties should be addressed to those particular property owners who are negligent and handled accordingly. City services are paid through the tax base, and if these services will no longer be provided with no tax reduction to compensate for a service not provided, as mentioned before by all the other owners, the tenants will be the victims of this so-called cleaner and more sustainable future.

Daniel Mowery, Ward 7, stated:

I am here on the trash ordinance. I do not own an apartment building. I feel sorry for these poor landlords who do because as most of you know, in our neighborhood we have a hoarder. Her mess is not being cleaned up. With that mess, it has brought rats. Mary Heath knows, Crissy Kantor knows; they have both been working hard. The city is not working hard enough. We still have rats. Our neighbors have had their gardens ripped out because rats were eating it. Our neighbors are paying for pest control because the rats are really bad. I have firsthand experience with that, and I live in a good neighborhood. We have no apartment buildings. I feel bad for the inner-city people

that do live in apartments that are going to have all this trash left behind because we do have landlords in this city who live out of state who don't care. All they care about is the rent money they get. They are not going to pick up their trash and they won't pay for its removal. We are going to have people dumping their trash in other people's dumpsters and in city dumpsters. The issue is with trash removal and keeping our streets reasonably clean and rodent-free, and it is one of the fundamental duties of this city government. No one disputes the need or benefit of this service. This is why we pay property taxes. You want to micromanage and expand the role of government while neglecting the most basic services. My question is who will be holding these out-of-state landlords or slumlords accountable for keeping their properties trash free and rodent-free if you go forward with this foolish ordinance? A friend of mine was volunteering at the Beech Street homeless shelter. She witnessed, and her family witnessed, drug abuse in 39 Beech Street. How can we keep on running this homeless shelter and allowing drugs be used under our tax dollars?

Jason Bonilla, 463 Central Street, stated:

Before I say anything, happy Hispanic Heritage Month to everybody here. We have an amazing month up until October 15, so make sure you celebrate with a lot of our Latino members in the community. I am here to talk about the adequacy aid that we are receiving from the Department of Education of \$35 million. I am in favor to make sure that the Board provides this funding toward our school district. Our families deserve it and our kids deserve it. We need better buildings and better conditions for our teachers. We can't keep having our teachers continue their lessons within electrical closets. We need more for them. I appreciate you all.

Chris Potter, 470 Silver Street, stated:

I am proud to represent Ward 7 on the Board of School Committee, and I also worked in Manchester schools for five years. I am not here to talk about trash, but the state education funding. I trust you all care about the future of the city, even though we might disagree on certain things I know that you have Manchester's future as your priority and our kids are our future. We need adequate facilities and strong teachers who we can retain and grow here, but we have a systemic issue in this state of funding our education with property taxes. It means that Wolfeboro and Portsmouth, all the affluent

towns, are much better funded than towns with lower property values and a denser population of students. The state is finally addressing that issue by sending us \$35 million in an extraordinary needs grant. I want you to know that we will use this money responsibly. We have passed a balanced tax cap budget the last two years, the whole time I have been on the board. It is lean and well managed. We have revenue and expenditure surpluses and we added \$3 million to our expendable trust this year as a result of that good management. What we want to do with this money is to have it go towards facilities and contract negotiations. The reason we can't reduce class sizes right now is the space in the school buildings. As we bring down class sizes, that will also improve the individual instruction that students need. On the contract negotiations, we actually have the majority of our bargaining units up in one-year next year. I know it is true on the city side too that people are asking for more money because of inflation. If you don't send that money to the district, we are going to have to cut a lot of other things in order to pay for our staffing costs. That's all I want to say. I know you have Manchester priorities in your heart, and I hope you will invest in our future.

David and Terri Giovagnoli, 725 South Mammoth Road, stated:

I have a six-family and a twelve-unit building. I want to thank the Board for trying to cut costs; I appreciate that. I don't think you went far enough in the cut. Let's cut all city trash pickup. I did some quick numbers on my six-family. If I picked 200 pounds a week, multiply it by 52, it is about 10,000 pounds or 5 tons. The same place where you guys bring your trash to charges \$130 per ton. It is about \$634 you are saving. It is something. Never mind the billions we send to Ukraine. Forget about that. What about the millions we send to immigrants? We don't worry about that either. What about cutting the Fire Department a little bit? When Hackett Hill was built, the fire station up there, the kitchen appliances when I saw the bids was \$60,000. \$60,000 for kitchen appliances for the Hackett Hill fire station. How much trash will that pick up? Not just for me, for everybody. Top paid people on the city payroll are who? Fire Chief. Instead of paying him \$150,000 let's pay him \$100,000. It is still a good salary. But you can't pick up my trash. I own a six-family unit. For everyone else who has spoken, I have heard some great points. I can feel a lot of people love their buildings, tenants, and the city. I feel that way myself. Part of the reason is because it is so personal to me. We lived in a six-family for fifteen years and I know when we first got the letter it felt so impersonal.

Community is supposed to be personal. One of the things that is upsetting is that this particular unit has seven adults that live in this whole six-family building. It was built in 1910. It was part of the city's development. The city is comprised of buildings that were built and put in as a beautiful mosaic of many multi-dwellings. We have wonderful tenants, and I get very personally involved with them. We don't even raise rents. We cover heat and hot water. Not to pat myself on the back, but many other people have brought up the point that this is going to affect them which is unfortunate. Someone else mentioned the letter said the journey toward a cleaner and more sustainable future. I thought the statement was really vague and it just sounds like jargon and buzzwords to make it about climate crisis and climate change. It is not going to make it cleaner because it is not picking up our trash, and we are going to have to add more gas and more vehicles to come down. Our particular street with the six-family is really tight and small, and we have seven adults that live in this building and they are picking up for the people next door. I know a two-family that has eight adults living in it. I'm sure we don't generate more trash than the other one. Yet we pay more in taxes. I am echoing all the other points. I ask you to please reconsider on a personal level, because I think our world has become less and less personal and more impersonal. We are people trying, and we all want the same things.

Jeff Duchesne, 18 Dubuque Street, stated:

I politely ask you reconsider this. I own and self-manage ten properties that will be affected by this. That is 103 families. The only way for landlords to cover the cost of this would be to increase rents. Honestly, our residents struggle enough as it is. I don't think they can handle the increase in cost.

Lauren Zielinski, 774 Union Street, and Barbara Charrette, 100 Tondreau Court, stated: We are board members of the newly formed non-profit organization, the Friends of Piscataquog River Park. We are here to introduce ourselves and our mission. In September 2022, our group officially adopted Piscataquog River Park through the Parks and Recreation Department's adopt-a-site program. We are a group of neighbors, community members, and regular visitors, who want to see the park restored as a valued asset to the city both from an ecological perspective and a community perspective. With over 120 acres of land, and two miles of walking trails along the river,

it is the second largest greenspace on Manchester's west side and one of the few places residents can enjoy scenic views and direct access to the river. Our goal is to transform the park into a community resource for all to enjoy. Since we have adopted the park, we have held four clean-up events, picked up over four tons of trash, removed invasive species, and worked with a local Eagle Scout to install a kiosk at the entrance to the park near the George W. Smith Complex. We are also building relationships with local community groups, including working with our local community police officer, collaborating with We Heart West, and engaging with the NH Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, as well as local businesses such as REI and Southern New Hampshire University. We have bigger plans for the park. This includes increasing awareness of the natural and cultural resources within the park, improving the trail network to make it accessible for all, and making it a healthy and safe place for families and community members to visit. Our next important step for us is to engage our local elected representatives to help us leverage the enthusiasm of our group with city funds and resources to really make a difference. In particular, we invite you all and our aldermen from Wards 10 and 11 to assist us in our efforts to transform the park by advocating for the park at the city level and helping us secure funds for park improvement projects. We also invite you to get to know us better by joining our monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Cashin Senior Center. You can find out more information about our group on our Facebook page and our monthly newsletter. Finally, we would like to thank the Parks and Recreation Department for their support of our activities so far and in particular the Parks Project Manager for getting us through the beginning phases of this project and connecting us with resources and opportunities. We look forward to working together in the future to make the Piscataquog River Park one of Manchester's premiere natural and community resources.

Camille Craffey, 204 Boutwell Street, stated:

As a realtor I am here to speak on behalf of my clients. Our city is punishing the masses for the few bad apples and quite frankly, slumlords, who do not maintain their properties. Why are we not holding those individuals accountable? Here are the facts. Fifteen hundred properties are being affected. Multiply that by a minimum of five units. That equals 7,500 tenants at a minimum. I made the phone calls. Six-yard dumpsters are \$375 per month; eight-yards are \$475 per month; ten-yards – good luck getting it in

there – are \$560 per month. Obviously, this will be relative to the amount of units that the dumpster needs to service as well as the available spot on the property for the dumpsters. Many properties will not be able to accommodate large dumpsters so they will have to have multiple trash pickups added to their small dumpsters or they need to sacrifice one or more parking spots to put that dumpster on site. These tenants already have parking in their leases. Which one are you going to pick? Because of this Board's decisions and actions, and the way that this matter has been handled, it is only proof-positive that this agenda must receive close public scrutiny going forward and unfortunately that is also an indication of the lack of trust that the public has in this Board. Manchester residents deserve affordable housing. This decision is a direct attack on the working class as well as the elderly. This comment is directed at you, Mr. Cavanaugh.

Sean Parr, 244 Sagamore Street, stated:

I'd like to speak on two items on your agenda. First, as my role as chair of Manchester Senior Services Commission, I want to commend the work of the Manchester Health Department. The transition bringing the Senior Services Department into the Health Department over the last several months has been efficient, transparent, and enlightening. I am especially impressed by the care, thoroughness, and attention to detail shown by Elaine Michaud and Amy Bligh in their roles. They have kept the commission informed the whole way, and have contributed several innovative thoughts already, and I know they will continue to do so. Please give them your full support. The work they are doing is essential for our city's future. Second, I'd like to speak in favor of the Board granting the Manchester School District the additional appropriation on the agenda tonight. This additional funding is most accurately called not adequacy aid, but Adequate Education Aid. It is money directed by the State Department of Education to schools. State lawmakers heard loud and clear the importance of public school funding throughout the entire budget process this past year. In the end, they increased education funding in a way that increases per student adequate education funding as well as increasing funding for schools with students who have greater numbers of students participating in free and reduced lunch programs, and those schools who have greater numbers of students who qualify for special education services. Well, that is Manchester. We have over 50% of our students qualifying for free and reduced lunch,

and we have great need of support for our special education students. We have what the state calls extraordinary needs. Another of the state's expanded areas of education funding. That's why this significant increase is so desperately needed, and that is why we are receiving this additional targeted aid; for education for our children. Manchester schools have been chronically underfunded for years. We have in the past underpaid our teachers and staff, and we have been and continue to be understaffed in critical areas. Our students' needs are greater than ever post-pandemic, and we have deferred the maintenance of our school buildings for too long. Like many of my fellow community members, I visited all of our 21 schools and I know that our long-term facilities plan is not only important but crucial. We need this plan for renovations and new construction, and also for spaces that support our reduced class size policy. We also need additional staffing to support and increase direct instruction for our students for both classroom and individualized learning. I witnessed firsthand that we are on a new better path thanks to the leadership of Mayor Craig and Superintendent Gillis. This state funding is a great step in the right direction and will help support our strategic initiatives so critical to our students' success. I hope you will support our students and grant the Manchester School District this additional appropriation.

Jessica Margeson, Ward 9, stated:

I am here to speak tonight about the trash. As we all heard from the landlords, the first thing they will speak about is the cost of rent going up. While there are a few other things as a tenant organizer, it comes to rights. RSA 48-A:14 VIII, there is an accumulation of garbage or rubbish in common areas resulting from the failure of the landlord to remove or provide a sufficient number of receptacles for storage prior to removal, unless the tenant has agreed to be responsible for removal under the rental agreement, and the landlord has removed all garbage beginning with a tenancy. The important part for the tenants to remember is that it is agreed upon in the lease. A lot of questions I am getting are am I responsible as a tenant for this. I am getting a lot of illegal rent increases in the midst of a lease instead of waiting for the lease to come up. Questions because of the trash. We all know that this is going to equate to more in our rent. We already can't afford our rent. It is significantly higher than it was a few years ago. Mine is now \$2,000 per month. I can't afford it to go up anymore. One of the best things about the place I got is my first thought is great I'm not going to be affected by

the trash. If we can please come up with some better solutions...I know other cities like Concord have the pay for the sticker program. We should have had more time for people to come up with solutions to this or think of something different.

Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

Solutions need to be found. What happened to your solutions you had years ago? You started them. You were taking two or three trucks with a machine picking up the garbage. Your plan was to increase that into the city. Are you still doing a couple of those trucks? I haven't seen them. The trial must be over. The \$200,000? I'll tell you where you can get it from. Every winter there is plenty of parking downtown. Yet you guys make hundreds of thousands of dollars every winter to remove cars off the street. Why? Because there is no parking on their residential property. Now, you want to get rid of trash. Where I live there are 23 apartments in two buildings. When they built it in 2000, they were told they could not put a dumpster; there was no room because of the wiring. If you remove two cars it won't be enough because that truck has to back up; that takes four cars. Who are we to tell poor tenants we are not going to have your parking? We are adding more parking to the street. Take the money out of there. Where does that money go? That would be a good place to put it. You're not saving \$200,000 if you're taking it and bringing it downtown. I'm not against you bringing it downtown; I'm against you taking away the trash from the very people who need it. This city was born and raised not like Boston, not a rich community, it is a working-class neighborhood. A working-class city. We don't make much money but most of us are proud of our city. If you want us to maintain the beauty of our property, what are you going to do? You're going to turn around the Zoning Board to find a way to put a dumpster that is by law is not allowed? It makes no sense. Please reconsider it and drop it. It is not a good idea. Find the money somewhere else. Alderman Levasseur, you keep telling people in the public that nobody comes downtown. I come home from Home Depot in Hooksett four days a week, and guess what? There are tons of people going on the turnpike heading south. They do come downtown. Tonight, the downtown is full. I didn't find one parking space available. That \$35 million? You guys got \$144 million to rebuild the infrastructure downtown, can you imagine if they took over your money. That money is being given to this city for the schools. Please do that. Do not rob them from that money.

Ken Scarpetti stated:

We should really rethink the trash setup. Why don't we look at it as how can we make it more efficient and see how we can make trash pickup better? Use single driver trucks. The guys are going to be driving the same routes, so they will be passing the same properties. The trucks are going to be doing the same mileage. You're going to save some tonnage, but there are other ways to think of this instead of just doing...other cities like Florida and everywhere else, they use a single driver truck. Nobody gets hurt. If we educate the city and the residents on using the toters and putting them in the right place and not overfilling them and making it easier for a truck to pick it up, it would work. I know trash is expensive but pushing it off is not going to solve the problem. It is going to be like the wild west. People are going to be using other people's dumpsters or they are going to be hiding trash. They will be dumping it in places that they shouldn't be. That is what we have to think about. The waiver thing, let's face it, we give the waivers. A couple years from now, they are going to disappear. That's not the way to do it. It should be the other way. Let's look at the people that are causing the problems. Nobody ever gives citations. They know that it is a problem. Go after those guys. Set somebody up to go after that and make them the example and not everybody else. It is going to end up being a lot more every place else in the city. That's the way I think it should be handled.

Jim O'Connell stated:

I came to talk briefly about the money for the schools. Something occurs to me as I listen to the many people who have come here tonight on the trash issue. I do not own a multi-family in Manchester. I think it is noteworthy that as city government and members of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, and it is noteworthy for me, that many responsible business and property owners and taxpayers came here to talk. What is very interesting is that our Department of Public Works and the workers who collect our trash are highly valued. It appears they do a wonderful job. The people of Manchester value the service. That's noteworthy because often times people come to trash what we do and what we do as city government. This is city government, proven by the people behind me, that works better than private enterprise and our workers do a great job. There wasn't a single person who came here tonight to say the trash is not picked up properly or they

don't do it right. Let's take some kudos to the Department of Public Works and our workers out there doing that and give them credit. With regard to the \$35 million, my colleagues from the School Board have mentioned this earlier so I won't reiterate that. To me it is simple. The money was given by the State of New Hampshire after much encouragement and discussion. I'd like you to remember that the City of Manchester this past year, 2021-2022, was the least well-funded school system in the state per capita. If we were to get last year's money, if the city was to receive \$54.5 million more, it would be at the state average. Let's put the \$35 million in context. Remember that is compared to last year's number. Everybody in the state is getting raised money for their schools. I am saying if we take the old money before all the other towns get their extra money, even by the old formula, that everybody is getting bumped. We are still somewhere around \$20 million below what we would need to be average. All of us know that Manchester has a great and diverse population of students who have needs in terms of food and challenges. We have children with IEPs. We do not have the average student population in the State of New Hampshire. I trust you will do it; I encourage you to take that vote tonight.

Robert Wesler, 118 Ash Street, stated:

I have two quick points on the trash removal. I'd like to find out how that study for mitigating vermin was accomplished. The current scofflaws who are abusing that are going to continue to do that. The property owners that are maintaining their properties and following the regulations are the ones that are here talking. The ones who are the scofflaws are not here, and they are going to continue being scofflaws.

*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.*

Mayor Craig stated with the Board's indulgence, I'd like to bring up item 27 before the presentations.

- 27.** Communication from Alderman Levasseur requesting reconsideration of a Board vote taken on September 5, 2023, regarding the Solid Waste Ordinance.

Alderman Levasseur moved to reconsider the vote taken on the Solid Waste Ordinance Amendment by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen on September 5, 2023, to refer the item to the Special Committee on Solid Waste Activities, and to delay implementation of the plan set for December 1, 2023, until the BMA takes a future vote on the measure after a public hearing.

Alderman Long duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Fajardo stated speaking for myself, as a member of the Solid Waste Committee, I want to acknowledge that I misunderstood what was provided to us. I have talked about that with Director Clougherty. The maps that were provided to us...my understanding was that the collection was restricted to within the boundary of the map, not external of the boundary of the map. Acknowledging that mistake on my part, I am looking forward to continue to look at this more closely where we can ask a lot more questions.

Alderman Long stated I did speak with a lot of landlords. Better yet, I spoke with a lot of tenants that are renting. They gave me what their rent increases had been. It is nowhere near how much our taxes went up. I know some of the landlords didn't have the numbers. It was under 8% in the last three years. The majority of them were 15.5%. So, it is not always on the taxes or initiatives like this. I pay \$20 a month; my condo association decided not to have the city pick up our trash because the toters were problematic for the people that were living in the condo. We went to our own and it is \$20. I am not getting taxes reimbursed; I don't expect to. That was our decision. I agree with the problematic issue. Address the problem. Talking to the landlords, I'm figuring about 10% is the problem. I understand that. Let's come up with something that will address those. However, with the increase in rents it is market-driven. Don't tell me it is because of taxes or because of this or that. It is market-driven, period.

Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

2.

Update by Bryan Christiansen, Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs, Comcast.

Bryan Christiansen, Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs, Comcast, stated I was asked to come in here tonight to talk about one particular issue. If the Board indulges me and I keep it quick, because I know you have a long night, I'd like to highlight some of the things we are doing in the community. As many of you know, we have three facilities in the City of Manchester. We have our customer service at the mall, we have our tech office on East Industrial Drive, and our headquarters on Island Pond Road not far from East Industrial Drive. We employ hundreds of employees here in the city, and are a community partner with many non-profit organizations including My Turn, where we have a lift-zone which is a public internet access café or facility. The YMCA which also has a lift-zone, Families In Transition, a long-standing relationship with the food bank, and Granite United Way, and a few other organizations. I was asked to come in to talk about CKSH, which is the French-Canadian station that Comcast recently dropped in the City of Manchester. We frequently evaluate our channel lineups and take into consideration the cost of carrying those channels. For this channel, we did drop it all across our Boston designated market area as designated by the FCC. The particular channel is a broadcast station out of Sherbrooke, Canada. We would grab it off the air in Vermont near the Canadian border and transport it via fiber down to the community. It was a very costly exercise to do for very little viewership. We certainly heard from a few members of the Board and the Franco-American Center. We worked with the Franco-American Center to provide some resources for their constituency where they could get French entertainment and programming online, such as through YouTube through our Xfinity voice remote. We did drop the linear CKSH channel because there was very limited viewership of that channel. With that I'll open it up for questions and concerns, but we did take viewership of the channel into consideration.

Alderman Burkush asked are you going to restore the Canadian channel.

Mr. Christiansen stated we are not going to restore the Canadian channel, no.

Alderman Burkush asked are there any options.

Mr. Christiansen stated there are options available for consumers to watch French-Canadian and French programming, both through online access. The particular station CKSH does not have an active stream like WMUR has. There are many programming options available online including French mass, French-Canadian radio stations that you can stream over our cable box. The limited viewers that were watching it, were watching it for the language. I don't think they were watching it for entertainment; they were watching it for the language. There are options available. The linear channel was dropped. We have no plans to bring it back.

Alderman Burkush stated thank you. I'll send you an email. We can try to figure out the options because we have people who watch their mass and are disabled and they are very concerned about the loss of service.

Mr. Christiansen stated I'd be happy to send that to you in the morning.

Alderman Stewart stated I appreciate you being here tonight to bring clarity to this issue. I urge Comcast to reconsider this decision. I can appreciate the relatively low viewership, the cost to transport the program and the channel down from Canada. I would say, maybe Alderman Burkush and I fielded the majority of the calls from folks, and one of the things I heard is they are primarily older residents that are not tech savvy or internet savvy. They may or may not have internet access or know how to navigate YouTube or any apps. For these folks, particularly native French speakers, they are still among us. This is their lifeline to the culture they came from, as well as a number of immigrants from French speaking countries who are here in the city. I recognize your market decisions. Business is business but I hope, given all the other charitable contributions and other ways that Comcast does work to help improve life here in Manchester, that this might be another way that you could do that.

Mayor Craig stated I know this has happened in the past. It had been proposed to be cut and it was brought back. So, there is no way at this point in time? I ask because as we speak there are representatives from the state and local communities who are travelling to Sherbrooke for a New Hampshire economic summit to increase trade between Canada and New Hampshire. Taking this option away from our residents is going in the other direction.

Mr. Christiansen stated I can appreciate that. I want to stress the very low viewership. It is almost a low-powered station out of Sherbrooke. You can't even pick it up on an antenna if you're in Pittsburg. That's how low-powered it is. It has been dropped throughout New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Mayor Craig stated when you say low viewership, what does that equate to.

Mr. Christiansen answered a few dozen.

Mayor Craig stated I wonder if we have heard from more than a few dozen. If we can provide you names would that help?

Mr. Christiansen replied absolutely. We have fielded individual complaints. Not just from the aldermen but we have spoken to a few citizens. As you know, I am always available to talk to residents of the community and members of city government. Yes, if you would like to send information we will certainly talk to the consumers.

Mayor Craig stated I encourage you to bring this option back to our residents.

Alderman Levasseur stated bonjour.

Mr. Christiansen stated I don't speak French.

Alderman Levasseur stated I didn't think so, but a lot of our population does. When I look at what is on TV, there are thousands of channels. I can't get through them all. I know there are niches all over the place. I am curious. I can't imagine the size of the

contract that was signed by the city and Comcast that gives you the right to come in...I don't know if it is fifteen years, five or ten, I don't know. I was part of the contract back in 2000. I don't know when it was upgraded or done but you guys get to unilaterally change stations, move them around. I think every three or four bills we get there is a goodbye or movement to a channel. Do you have that unilateral right because of some contract language? I know we hired a consultant to do the last contract. Is there something inside the contract that gives you unilateral right to cancel a channel? We got our channels switched on us, our public access station, and I wasn't told and we didn't know about it. I don't know if the directors of the studio who run the station knew about it but we weren't told so when we were doing our live show we were on a completely different channel.

Mr. Christiansen stated there is a lot there. I talk to Mr. Cote frequently. He was provided a copy of the channel notification along with the Mayor and Board of Aldermen at the time regarding the channel change really early. Your larger question is that there is nothing in your specific contract about channel changes. Programming decisions are solely in the discretion of the cable provider under federal law. Also under federal law, when there is a substantial channel change made, there is a provision to notify the local franchising authority. That is why when channels are changed, dropped, or added, you get lots of communication from us on that because that is dictated by federal law. The overarching answer to your question is there is nothing in the contract for or against that. It is expressly prohibited in federal law that a local community can dictate programming, pricing, technology, internet, telephone, etc. I'm not a lawyer, but I kind of know that part of the law.

Alderman Levasseur asked was that particular channel 24 hours or was it just a small portion of the day.

Mr. Christiansen stated I couldn't answer that for you. You're talking about CKSH?

Alderman Levasseur replied yes.

Mr. Christiansen stated I don't know.

Alderman Levasseur stated the reason why I ask is because if it was a small portion of a three-hour day then maybe we could put some of that on one of our cable channels. We have four now and we have been promised another one. I don't know if that could be worked out that way. I'm not sure how that works. I'm surprised that you say it is federal law that allows you to change channels or drop channels. It is not part of a contract.

Mr. Christiansen stated correct.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked do you know what the basic rate is, the lowest level of service we can get.

Mr. Christiansen stated I didn't bring the channel pricing guide with me tonight, but I would imagine it is about \$23 per month.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated it is about \$24 per month that is advertised. But when I call, they tell me it is \$75. I figured I got a knucklehead so I tried to explain to them. I called the next day and I got another guy telling me the same thing. Now as a result, there is no Comcast in my house and that's great. I am very satisfied with the way it is setup now. I don't know if you upsell to our residents or what, but I am concerned about how many other people happen to that believe the salesperson. I find that outrageous, and that is why you're not in my house.

Mr. Christiansen stated thank you.

3. Update by Anna Thomas, Public Health Director, regarding the transition of Senior Services to the Health Department.

Phil Alexakos, Deputy Public Health Director, stated I will do the preamble while we are getting setup. Director Thomas is unable to be here this evening, so I am standing in for her. Thank you all for giving us the opportunity to update you about the great things happening at the Cashin Center, and also the Health Department's commitment to

healthy aging in the community at-large. As you may know, the Health Department was asked to assume responsibility for operations of the Cashin Center beginning on July 1. However, with the unexpected departure of the Senior Center manager in May, we quickly stepped in well ahead of schedule to provide daily support to the very dedicated staff - Emily Conrad and Mark Ramsay, in order to make sure that members would not experience any interruptions in their expected services. Much of that credit goes to my colleagues, Elaine Michaud and Amy Bligh. Elaine is joining me today. She is our Chief Strategist who oversees our neighborhood and family health branch, and our newly formed healthy aging branch. More on this later. A little bit about Elaine. She joined our department in May 2022. She came to us with 25 years of experience as a healthcare attorney here in Manchester, and during her practice she was also an active member of our Board of Health which must have served as an inspiration because she went back to school and earned her master's degree in public health with a concentration in health and behavior from Harvard University. She completed her public health practicum under the tutelage of Director Thomas, and it was titled "Creating an Age-Friendly Action Plan for the City of Manchester." How apropos. As you can see, this is a great fit and we are fortunate to have someone with Elaine's passion and talents. I will stop talking because I'm just doing the introduction part, and she has the details. She will be sharing the exciting things we have been up to at the Cashin Senior Center, and some new initiatives out in the community.

Elaine Michaud, Chief Strategist of Health Promotion & Prevention, stated we are very excited about what we have been doing over the last six months. As you'll see as I flip through the slides, there has been a lot accomplished and that is due to the credit of some hardworking people at the Health Department, and hardworking people at the Senior Center. The collaboration has been great and we have been able to make significant strides. Starting with the assumption of the Senior Services' programs at the Health Department, what we ended up doing is creating a Healthy Aging Branch within the department. The focus of that branch is the Senior Services Center and staff. We also created a healthy aging specialist position, which is focused on community outreach supporting folks in their homes so they can age safely at home. We were asked to spearhead a strategic plan and the finalization of an age-friendly action plan for the City of Manchester. When we first came on, it was a little bit of an unexpected

pickup, so our immediate focus was to make sure there were no interruptions at the Senior Center, the programs, activities, and the support. In doing that, we wanted to support the two staff members who were Senior Service Specialists I at the time. Both of them are very committed and have been at the center for eight years. They are very dedicated to the members and programs. We were fortunate at the Health Department to have an individual who had significant experience, Amy Bligh, in managing wellness facilities and programming. With little effort she was able to step in after the Senior Center manager stepped away, and take over oversight and supervisory responsibilities for the center itself but also for the actual programming as well. She brought that knowledge to the table. While she was doing that and providing on-site daily support to the staff and the programs, we were trying to structurally blend the two departments. Now, the finances of the former Senior Services Department are overseen by our Health Financial Administrator. Our Building Maintenance Technician oversees all the physical plant and those responsibilities. Our Information Support Specialist also provides the IT support, the first line for the folks at the Senior Center. You heard Sean Parr talk earlier. He is the Chair of the Senior Services Commission which is an advisory panel. They meet monthly. We are committed to making sure the Senior Services Commission was updated regularly. I and Amy Bligh have been attending the monthly commission meetings and providing detailed reports of what the transition has been, what we have been finding, recommendations, financial information, and also membership statistics, which we will talk about because it is very important to us as we move forward looking into the use of the center. As we looked at all those things and had time to spend at the Senior Center on a daily basis, we saw how often it was used. It is a busy place; on average it has 110 individuals a day come to the Senior Center to participate in activities. After a couple of months of learning the ropes, we made a decision and looked to proper staffing. Obviously, we posted the Senior Center Manager position. We requested and received approval to add a Senior Specialist II position, which didn't previously exist. Both of those are filled and we're happy to say they were filled by the two staff who had been working at the center for eight years. Emily Conrad is the Senior Center Manager, and Mark Ramsay is the Senior Service Specialist II. We have posted an open Senior Specialist I which has had multiple applicants and we are in the interview process now. We are cautiously optimistic by the end of this month we will have a full complement of staff able to manage the center. The

other thing that has happened is through the Health Department we applied and were approved to become a host training site for an operation called Project Able. It is federally funded through the US Department of Labor, and is a program where they assist in supporting individuals who are 55 and older to return to the workforce on a part-time basis, with on-the-job training, and then have the ability to move forward into more full-time work. Because we have been approved as that and the Senior Center is now a host site, we will be able to have participants from this program providing anywhere between twelve and twenty hours a week of support to our staff. The silver-lining is because it is federally funded it has zero cost to the city of Senior Center. We are looking forward to that. We are working with Operation Able now. The long-term plan is Amy Bligh, who has been very hands on over these last six months, will be taking a more supervisory role as everyone else steps into their experience and situations for staffing at the center. Obviously, we had to look at financials. We met with the Finance Department. We reviewed the budget and different accounts. We were very careful to preserve all the Senior budget funds that were specific to Senior Service expenses. Those all have been maintained and they are all still dedicated to Senior Service expenses and costs as they were originally budgeted. If you are a Manchester resident, it is free to attend the Senior Center and become a member. There is no cost to you. If you are not a resident, it is a \$25 annual fee, which is very modest. For that, you have access to all the member services and programs. Some of the things that happen at the center actually have a cost to them. We have instructors come in for yoga classes, acrylic painting, those types of things, and there is a cost for them. Those particular members pay to the instructor directly. A lot of other programs and activities don't cost anything. There are games and gatherings. For those we wanted to make sure there are no fees or costs being charged because we are trying to reduce any barrier for individuals to come and participate and become socially engaged. That is where we are at this moment. We have identified those programs which have no cost and have ensured the members and removed any expectation that they have to provide some payment to participate in those. The other thing is, over the years there have been donations and some fees have been charged, and those funds are being preserved in a credit union account at the local credit union without any growth opportunity. As you can see from the slide, the savings account was over \$56,000. The checking account was close to \$6,000. We basically transferred those monies into a

growth investment account, which allows for a public investment pool and has anywhere between 4% to 5% return on a regular basis. That has proven to be good, because we have already seen growth in those investments without having to do anything. We also became aware that pre-pandemic the mayor always hosted a senior luncheon sometime in the spring, where there had been some money set aside through the city for those costs. Monies were set aside in 2019 in anticipation of the 2020 luncheon; of course, that did not happen due to COVID. Those funds are sitting untouched, and we will be waiting to see what the next step is with that, whether we continue and have a new luncheon or we re-direct the funds for other program uses at the center. Finally, there is a 501-C-3 non-profit organization called the Friends of Cashin Senior Activities Center. It was started in 2005 by interested and dedicated Manchester residents who wanted to ensure there was funding to support programs at the center and the needs of our seniors. We have continued to collaborate with them. They have done wonderful things for the center. They asked me to serve on the board, so I attend those meetings on a monthly basis and we collaborate on ideas and plans and where funding can be used appropriately. The other thing we took care of was the physical plant. We completed a full maintenance, security, and safety review. We did an assessment through the Police Department which is a crime-prevention through environmental design. We took over the landscaping; there were a lot of overly large trees and shrubs along the property lines that were putting vehicles in the parking lot as well as neighbors' buildings at risk. We took care of those. Parking is an issue for the center. It is consistently tight. There are 48 spaces, which includes two handicap spaces. We share those spaces with the West Library branch, and with the Office of Youth Services, their staff and clientele. We end up having to see members parking on the streets occasionally. A big issue that we had is, unfortunately, there were neighbors who were consistently illegally parking in the lot. We took a few steps to have signage posted and enforcing the signage. After multiple warnings, we had to tow a few vehicles over the span of a few days. The message was received, and it has not been an issue since. We also reclaimed a couple parking spaces because we were able to remove a dumpster and put in portable bins, and that allowed a little more parking. The programs that we have done when we first took over the center, there were incredibly well-planned, attended, and received programs and activities. We maintained all of those. From the Public Health Department's standpoint, we wanted to introduce more health-related

programs. The Health Department has a lovely school-based oral health program and that is our mobile dental van in the picture which serves students at all of our 21 public schools. Every year we treat between 600-700 students at no cost to them or their families. We have transitioned that plan and we are now at the Senior Center providing those types of services to our older population as well. We are providing educational sessions by bringing in some of our community partners, such as the Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester, to do those types of things. We also happen to be embarking on a health food access plan, which I also head-up. One of the things we were able to do was a collaboration with Manchester Grows and organizations here in the city. We have created free vegetable kiosks. There is one at the Health Department and one at the Senior Center. That allows for excess gardening from our community gardens that are left there, and people are asked to take whatever they need and leave some behind for others. We have been able to do that going forward. Lastly, we have a health and wellness cart where we have free items for individuals to take that range from masks to sanitizer to COVID test kits to the ability to have these kits to allow for prescription drug destruction. Those are the types of things they can take at their leisure. The membership. Here is a snapshot of the numbers we have been looking at at the center over the last eight years. As you can see, the top line is unduplicated members served, meaning how many people are physically coming into the center and participating in at least one activity per year. The numbers were well over 1,100 until COVID in 2020. The numbers have been slowly creeping up again over the last few years. We are on track to reach about 1,000 active members by the end of this year, which is a jump from last year's 842. There are 110 members participating daily. The datapoint on this which underscores the importance of a senior center is the percent of people living alone. If you look at the last row, in 2016, a quarter of our members were living alone; now it is well over one third. It is incredibly important that the center reaches out to individuals and engage them. As we know, that is a critical piece of healthy aging. We hope we can do that moving forward. Separate from the Senior Center, speaking of community outreach, we have our Healthy Aging Specialist, which is the second prong of our support for our older adults. Some of you may know Karen Sutkus from the Health Department who was in our Environmental Health Division. She has taken on the role of Healthy Aging Specialist which means she is available to assist individuals 65 and older in their homes, provide a home safety assessment, provide

connections to resources, identify basic needs, and doing the connecting so that individual can continue to age at home safely. Karen gets referrals from our community partners, other city departments, we often get calls from Fire and Police for individuals they have come into contact with, we have concerned neighbors who will put in a call, and I would extend to all of you if you become aware of a constituent who you think would benefit from this, in the memo we submitted we have Karen's contact information and we are happy to circulate that to you again. Do not hesitate to reach out to her. We are interested and excited to work on this project. The other element of our healthy aging was the Age-Friendly Action Plan. For those that weren't around in 2022, the city joined the AARP Age Friendly Community. That means the city is committed to becoming age-friendly over a period of time. One of the steps is to create an action plan. Over the last eighteen months or so there have been several city department representatives, and several community partner representatives meeting, gathering information, looking at data, and identifying and drafting an age-friendly action plan. The Health Department was asked to spearhead the completion of the plan and submit it. That is what we are going to do. We will circle back with everyone who has been involved, make sure we have the necessary stakeholders involved, and submit it so we can hopefully engage partners to begin implementing it. Moving and looking forward, based on all we have done to date and what we have learned, over the next six months we are going to continue to develop the Senior Center by enhancing the policies and procedures, and by enhancing programs. There are member volunteers at the center and we hope to make that a more focused effort and have a volunteer coordinator. With the Healthy Aging Specialist, we want to increase the visibility of that program to get the word out, and also collaborate with partners that can become resources themselves as we work with the same population. Then of course, finish and submit the Age-Friendly Action Plan. Pushing out to one year, this is where we are going to be very focused on membership development and engagement. It is one thing to have an individual register for membership, it is another to have them come and participate in activities on a regular basis. Here in New Hampshire, more than 25% of our population is 55 and older. Of that number, only 3.5% come to the Senior Center and are engaged; we want to improve those numbers. By doing that, increasing the visibility of the center, communicating and reaching out, collaborating with other organizations who have access to this population and can help introduce us and bring us together, and also

reducing barriers to access. The Senior Center is the best kept secret on the west side. There is a bus stop in front of the center but it is difficult to get to. Many members have vehicles and can transport themselves, but there are things like transportation which are preventing people who would come but can't. We are going to work on that. Long-term, we are thinking about a mobile senior center model. Optimally, it would be great to have a second senior center satellite on the east side of the river. For a variety of reasons, that may not be feasible, but a plausible alternative would be a mobile senior center providing access to individuals in their neighborhoods where we can temporarily setup to allow access to socially engage, exercise, provide companionship, and allow for enjoyment of the senior center in that context. The other thing is the Senior Center accreditation. The National Council on Aging offers the nation's only senior center standards of excellence and self-assessment. We think we would benefit from doing that self-assessment and going through that tool, identifying the best practices, implementing them, and potentially seeking accreditation. The other element of this is funding. Not surprisingly, our population is aging. Significantly, by 2050, worldwide one in six people will be over the age of 65. Numbers are comparable in Manchester where the numbers continue to rise for those individuals 60 and older, and 55 and older. We do have funders who are trying to fit into that gap, and they recognize there are going to be programs and needs for individuals, and we think what we are doing now setting the groundwork to be able to take advantage of these funding opportunities for whenever they come through. For your benefit, Phil is going to pass out the newsletter that the center puts together bimonthly, which is a topic of another item later this evening.

Alderman Barry stated to go back almost a year...and I want to give kudos to Mayor Craig for reorganizing the Senior Center, and what a great job our Health Department has done with that. I am a member of the Friends of Cashin Senior Center board. Unfortunately, I have been lax in the last few months and it makes it difficult for me to attend the meetings. They do so much for the center and for the people that come in there on a weekly and daily basis. They offer trips to Foxwood, to the mountains, to the beach, things like that. They have dinners for them. Again, thanks to Mayor Craig. When she brought it forward there was a thought process behind it and now we know that everything that has come out of it has been a great job. Thank you, guys, and thank Anna for doing everything.

Alderman Long asked the acronym ABLE, what does that stand for.

Ms. Michaud answered ABLE, I don't know what it stands for because it doesn't appear to have any breakdown.

Alderman Long stated I often get calls because the bus service offers so many trips for free. Then they charge. They don't use them for the Senior Center, they use them for a doctor's appointment. Do you know the demographics as far as transportation concerns?

Ms. Michaud stated at the moment, the idea is as far as we know, it is a small percentage of individuals who take public transportation to get there. Sometimes people take public transportation to get to the center, and then a fellow member will give them a ride home. What they are using and what has been used the most is the Step Saver bus option which is a \$4 fee each way. If someone came to the center, even if it was a one- or two-hour exercise or program, they have to spend \$8. We have been trying to brainstorm how we can do that to identify another alternative for transportation or perhaps identify some funding. For example, if an individual was coming to or from the center that cost would be picked up somehow. We are investigating those options.

Alderman Long asked regarding the demographics within Manchester, are they coming from all areas.

Ms. Michaud stated there are some areas that are more represented than others. The age range as well, as far as who is in there. Over 45% of the members are between the ages of 70 and 79; 33% are over the age of 80. It is 55 and older. We have approximately 18% of people who are between 60 and 69. There is a spread. There are approximately 70% of members who are Manchester residents. The 30% are non-residents from surrounding communities, whether it be Bedford or Goffstown.

Alderman Levasseur stated I see it is under the Health Department, but this isn't being managed from the Health Department building. It is being managed within the actual Senior Center?

Ms. Michaud replied yes. We have staff based at the Health Department who provide support at the Senior Center itself. On-site the staff is physically there all day. The Senior Center Manager is located there, and Amy Bligh has been there in person. The plan is for her to continue to provide that support from a distance.

Alderman Levasseur stated it is good when you have people actually in the building where they are taking care of those particular people. I read this. It was a very long read with small font. I read it and I will tell you the outline that I saw should be a roadmap for a lot of other small departments and non-profits. It is really well put together. It is a really outstanding action plan. The results speak for themselves with the changes that were made. Even simple things like putting money into an interest-bearing account at good rates so you're actually pulling money in for good savings they have been able to accrue over a long time. I was impressed with the outline, the verbiage, the way it was written; it was professionally done. You should give yourselves a pat on the back. Outstanding work.

Mayor Craig stated thank you. I know it was a lot of work. You had to spend a lot of time there. We are hearing such positive feedback from the seniors and from the two boards you are working with. You have lifted things up to a different level and we appreciate all you are doing.

Mr. Alexakos stated item number 31 is related to the Senior Center and Senior Services. I want to bring that to your attention while we are here speaking about all the great work that is going on because we are walking into a model where this newsletter is extremely popular, and the members wait with bated breath in order to receive it every month. They developed a process by which there is advertising to offset the printing costs. Through our analysis of systems, we determined the use of the city seal by ordinance would be a special exception because of the advertising that happens. Director Thomas submitted a request for a waiver to that ordinance, with a disclaimer

that we are not endorsing any sponsors but it is solely to offset the cost to seniors. I want to bring that to your attention while we are up here to answer any questions.

31. Communication from the Public Health Director requesting permission to include the City's Seal on the William B. Cashin Senior Activity Center Newsletter.

Alderman Barry moved to approve the request. **Alderman Heath** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I see all the good work you are doing but I assume you have a plan in place to monitor who is advertising and to keep an eye on that.

Ms. Michaud stated yes. The publisher, the printer, is called Senior News Publishing, out of Portsmouth. They print and publish dozens of newsletters throughout New Hampshire and Massachusetts for senior centers and programs. We have been in contact with them because we realized that we were inconsistent. The practice of having advertisers was inconsistent with the ordinance. In speaking with Senior News, they were very willing to work with us and gave us a revocation authority or rejection authority of any advertising that we believe was inconsistent with policies and city requirements.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I figured you'd be on it.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated you are asking us to grant an exception to an ordinance. Are we able to do that? Is that within our authority to grant exceptions to ordinances?

Matt Normand, City Clerk, stated the provision in the ordinance forces them to come and ask for that permission to advertise to use the city seal in this capacity. That is what they are doing.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated ok. Thank you.

Ms. Michaud stated it was in consultation with the Solicitor's Office that recommended this path for us to address it.

Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve Under Supervision of the Department of Highways

4. Pole Petitions:
 - 11-1742 Currier Drive (2)
 - 11-1744 Island Pond Road (1)

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

5. 50/50 Sidewalk Petitions

Residential:

- 78 Paquette Avenue
- 105 Talbot Street
- 245 Ray Street
- 378 Vinton Street
- 413 Charlotte Street
- 867 Hall Street

Information to be Received and Filed

6. Summer 2023 Department Report submitted by the Office of Youth Services.
7. Communication from Matthew Normand, City Clerk, advising that electronic voter checklists will be utilized for elections city-wide starting with the upcoming Municipal General Election on November 7, 2023.
8. Communication from Mayor Craig to Lori Weaver, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner, inviting a DHHS medical representative to present on harm reduction to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

9. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$110,000) for the FY2024 CIP 410924 NH Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Program.”

“Amending the FY2021 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) for the FY2021 CIP 611921 WayPoint - 298 Hanover Street Renovation Project.”

“Amending the FY2017 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for the FY2024 CIP 810024 Election Infrastructure Improvement.”

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

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

11. Advising that the Finance Department reports:

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

have been accepted.
(*Unanimous vote*)

12. Advising that the Financial Report for the first month of FY24 has been accepted.
(*Unanimous vote*)

13. Recommending that the following ordinance amendment:

“Amending Chapter 71: Snow Emergency Regulations of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester to change from odd/even to monthly parking on city streets during snow emergencies and to allow for more efficient cleaning of streets following snow storms.”

ought to pass and be Enrolled.
(*Unanimous vote*)

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

14. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$110,000 for CIP 410924 NH Law Enforcement Mental Health & Wellness Program be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
15. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$4,000 for CIP 611921 Waypoint-298 Hanover Street Renovation Project be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
16. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$25,000 for CIP 810024 Election Infrastructure Improvement be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
17. Recommending that the request from the Recreation & Enterprise Manager for a line item adjustment to CIP 510024 Fun in the Sun be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
18. Recommending that the request from the Police Department for a line item adjustment to CIP 412522 2022 COSSAP Program be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
19. Recommending that the request from the Fire Chief to apply for a Homeland Security grant of up to \$50,000 to purchase a two-tier boat trailer be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
20. Recommending that the request from the Fire Chief to apply for a Homeland Security grant of up to \$220,000 to purchase two utility trucks be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

21. Recommending that the request from the Assessor to add one (1) Residential Appraiser position, grade 20, to his complement be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
22. Recommending that the request from the Fire Chief to add three (3) Emergency Communications Supervisor positions, grade 18, to his complement be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

23. Recommending that the request from the Water Works Director for the following changes to his complement:

- Elimination of one (1) vacant Customer Service Representative II, grade 12
- Addition of one (1) Customer Service Representative III, grade 13

be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

24. Advising that the proposed timed parking zones at Bronstein Park have been received and filed.
(*Unanimous vote*)

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

25. Communication from Tammy Richmond advising the Board of her resignation as a member of the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Commission.

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

26. Nominations:
Arts Commission
Anne Lederhos as an alternate member, term to expire December 1, 2024
Police Commission
Eva Castillo Turgeon as a regular member to succeed herself, term to expire September 15, 2026
John Cronin as a regular member to succeed himself, term to expire September 15, 2026
(*Note: Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, these nominations will layover to the next meeting of the Board.*)

28. Communication from Jodie Nazaka, Economic Development Director, regarding two applications for a Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive, RSA 79-E, for 215 Canal Street and 25, 27 Lowell Street.

*On motion of **Alderman Trisciani**, duly seconded by **Alderman E. Sapienza**, it was voted to refer the applications to a public hearing to be held on Monday, October 16, 2023.*

- 29.** Communication from Sharon Wickens, Finance Officer, advising the Board that the Manchester School District has an excess of \$35,223,387 in revenues available for appropriation in FY2024.

***Alderman Trisciani** moved to refer the supplemental appropriation to the Committee on Finance and to hold a public hearing on Monday, October 16, 2023. **Alderman Long** duly seconded the motion.*

Alderman Levasseur asked do we have any authority to not send that money to the school district. I am wondering why they all came here tonight to ask us to send money to the school district. I don't think anybody is not going to. I was just wondering do we have the opportunity to keep some of that.

Sharon Wickens, Finance Officer, stated you do.

Alderman Levasseur stated that is all I need to know.

Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

- 30.** Communication from Don Waldron, Manchester Conservation Commission Chairman, requesting approval for the City to enter into a liability waiver with Eversource for the purpose of conducting a Conservation Commission Outreach Tour on October 14, 2023.

Mayor Craig stated this request has been withdrawn by the Conservation Commission.

*On motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman Gamache**, it was voted to receive and file.*

- 32.** Report(s) of the Committee on Community Improvement, if available.

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from the Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Authority for \$50,000 in CIP funds to assist in the clearing, preparation, purchase, and installation of a fence on a portion of the property line between the Kelley Falls Apartments and Rimmon Acres be approved.

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

Alderman Trisciani duly seconded the motion.

Mayor Craig asked what CIP fund is the money coming from.

Jeff Belanger, Planning & Community Development Director, stated I haven't had much discussion about who is administering the funds. My understanding is they are Police funds out of ARPA. I don't know what project they are coming from. Perhaps Chief Aldenberg can answer that.

Mayor Craig asked who brought this forward out of committee. Did you say where it is coming from in committee? Is your intention to take it out of the Police Department?

Alderman Trisciani stated due to the safety issue and a recommendation by the Police Department that this would help keep the residents of Kelley Falls safe from the activities that are happening on the city property beside them, the Chief has agreed to expend some of his ARPA funds.

Mayor Craig stated ok. You are good with it?

Allen Aldenberg, Police Chief, stated it is better than the \$200,000 that was originally proposed. We will make it work. My only ask is can I assume that due diligence was done and every departments ARPA funds were looked at?

Mayor Craig stated that was my question. When is that going to be happening. When you do a review of all the ARPA funds?

Mr. Belanger stated we do those regularly. We did one recently. I know the aldermen are looking at it as well but from our department we are reconciling those on a weekly basis.

Alderman Levasseur stated Manchester Housing is not owned by Manchester. It is federal. I don't understand why the City of Manchester is expending money for a federal

property. My understanding is it is a lot more expensive than the \$50,000. They must be paying some portion of it.

Chief Aldenberg stated they are. There are quotes that were provided that the Housing Authority gathered. They are spending a substantial amount of their own money towards this project.

Alderman Levasseur stated we are giving money to the federal property to protect the people who are paying the rent to the federal government. I don't know how we reconcile that.

Mr. Belanger stated a point of clarification. To my understanding, they are not a federal organization. They receive a lot of federal money. They are a non-profit. I think at one time decades ago they were associated with the city; they are no longer. They are a non-profit.

Alderman Levasseur asked independent.

Mr. Belanger stated yes.

Mayor Craig stated we nominate board members.

Alderman Levasseur stated we do nominate board members. It has been a while since I remember ever doing so. This fence is being put up because of homeless people up there. What kind of camp do we have up there? I have never wanted to venture up there, but I heard it is pretty substantial. Is there any background on what is going on that requires this fence? It is a pretty long fence from what I see.

Mr. Belanger stated I can't give you much detail on that other than that the Planning staff has spoken with the director of MHRA. She has reported a number of disturbing incidents of homeless people bringing in a lot of weapons and other kinds of paraphernalia through the property.

Chief Aldenberg stated we did an evaluation for them that included the clear-cutting, the fence. The good news is they are taking our recommendation to take some steps to make their property safer. That is really why taking \$50,000 out of my ARPA funds out of one of our projects, I can make up for it. I think it is appropriate if we can assist them.

Alderman Levasseur asked what is the height of the fence.

Chief Aldenberg stated she said it will be eight feet.

Alderman Levasseur asked are lights and cameras are going to be put in.

Chief Aldenberg stated they did clear-cutting and I think there was lighting in the quote. Alderman Trisciani has the quotes I believe.

Alderman George-Kelly stated they have talked about putting in additional lighting. In the new buildings that they are building on that property, they are also including security cameras in order to continue to move towards a higher level of safety on the entire property.

Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from the Mayor's Office that CIP Project 811722 be extended from December 31, 2022 to September 30, 2027, and that the Manchester Economic Development Office be named the Administering Department for the project be approved.

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

*On motion of **Aldermen E. Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman George-Kelly**, it was voted to recess the meeting to allow the Committee on Finance to meet.*

Mayor Craig called the meeting back to order.

35. Report(s) of the Committee on Finance.

The Committee on Finance respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$110,000) for the FY2024 CIP 410924 NH Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Program.”

“Amending the FY2021 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) for the FY2021 CIP 611921 WayPoint – 298 Hanover Street Renovation Project.”

“Amending the FY2017 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for the FY2024 CIP 810024 Election Infrastructure Improvement.”

ought to pass and be Enrolled.

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

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

The Committee on Public Safety, Health & Traffic respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from Grand Central Suites LLC for various parking changes, loading zone striping changes, crosswalks, and signing changes to Central Street, Litchfield Lane, and Manhattan Lane be approved.

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

The Committee on Public Safety, Health & Traffic respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from LNA Health Careers to use the Middle Street Lot for a healthcare recruiting event scheduled for October 22, 2023, be approved.

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

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

There were none.

38. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$110,000) for the FY2024 CIP 410924 NH Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Program.”

“Amending the FY2021 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) for the FY2021 CIP 611921 WayPoint - 298 Hanover Street Renovation Project.”

“Amending the FY2017 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for the FY2024 CIP 810024 Election Infrastructure Improvement.”

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to waive the reading by titles only.*

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

39. Ordinance:

“Amending Chapter 71: Snow Emergency Regulations of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester to change from odd/even to monthly parking on city streets during snow emergencies and to allow for more efficient cleaning of streets following snow storms.”

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Fajardo**, it was voted to waive the reading by title only.*

*On motion of **Alderman Barry**, duly seconded by **Alderman Gamache**, it was voted to Ordain.*

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I want to ask all the candidates for municipal office, whether they are in this room or not, to not use city-owned equipment or vehicles in their campaign ads. I want to ask department heads, if anyone approaches you and asks if they can use city-owned equipment or vehicles, tell them no.

Alderman Levasseur stated it has been done a lot for decades. I've seen a lot of people do it. I don't know if you are allowed to do it if you're just anybody or if you are a candidate, or what the rules are on that if you're allowed to jump on fire trucks. It happens a lot. I don't know if you can make a rule that says you can't if they are allowed to do it.

Mayor Craig stated I am pretty sure you are allowed to do it.

City Clerk Normand stated this Board could make a motion to prohibit that. There is no ordinance that covers this and nothing in the charter. If the Board wanted to take a motion to prohibit use of city vehicles for campaigning, it could.

Alderman Levasseur asked for anybody, any office, anywhere. Maybe we want to work on an ordinance. I don't know if we can throw one together this quick.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated it is one thing to have an ordinance where the departments don't cooperate with people, but if a police officer's car is on the street and somebody takes a photo of it to put in their ad, I don't think we have any control over that. It's on the street. They took the picture on the street.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I am not entirely sure an ordinance is needed. To me, it is more of an integrity call. If a police vehicle happens to be driving by at the minute you snap the camera lens, that is one thing but I'm talking about staged campaign literature. Whether an ordinance is needed or not, to me it is an integrity call. It ought not be done. That equipment is bought and paid for by the people, you shouldn't be using it in political ads.

Chief Aldenberg asked can you cite an example where that has happened. You are mentioning the Police Department.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated there was one involving the Fire Department this past election. I will leave it at that. I don't want to call out any names. It is an integrity call, that's it. It ought not be done.

Mayor Craig stated October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. You may notice the shirts that some of us are wearing. I am proud to join the men and women of the Manchester Fire Department to bring awareness to breast cancer and cancer of all kinds. Alderman Kantor has done a lot of work with prostate cancer, too. Firefighters are at a significantly higher risk of developing cancer compared to the general population. This past May, we rolled out a new initiative where every member of the Fire Department receives free dermatology screenings and those over the age of 40 with ten years of service are also receiving a lung CT. The Fire Department is selling these wonderful t-shirts for the rest of the month. If any of you would like to join me in supporting this effort, please reach out to Chief Cashin. Downtown Trick or Treat and activities at Stanton Plaza are happening Friday, October 27, from 3:00 – 6:30. Then there is a dual-language immersion information session at Memorial High School for the school district. Next school year, the district will be implementing the first elementary school with dual-language immersion. That is tomorrow night at Memorial High School from 5:30 – 7:00.

*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