

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

February 6, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Mayor Ruais called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Morgan, Goonan, Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, Kantor, O'Neil, Levasseur, Terrio, E. Sapienza, Burkush, Barry, Vincent, Thomas

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Ruais 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.

Venya Staulcup, Representative from the NH Congress of Workers Organization, stated:

I am calling for an immediate ceasefire and the end of the Israeli siege of Gaza. Every 10 minutes, a child is killed in Gaza according to the World Health Organization. Each day, 565 homes are destroyed. Meanwhile, Israel has severely intensified their blockage of Gaza cutting off all water, food supplies and electricity. I used the word intensified because this blockade has been in effect for the past 18 years providing just enough supplies to keep the population above starvation. As unemployment rose to 60%, the situation in Gaza has been dire but now it is catastrophic. Beyond the deaths directly resulting from Israeli bombardment and invasion, thousands more are dying from disease and starvation with 90% of Gazans without access to safe drinking water and 25% of households facing lethal starvation and none of their 26 hospitals fully functioning. According to the Associated Press, the devastation has been worse than the raising of Aleppo in Syria or Russia's bombing of Mariupol. Arif Husain, Chief Economist with the World Food Program, said I have been to all kinds of conflicts and for me this is the most unprecedented I have seen. He went on to say there are about

700,000 people in the world facing catastrophic hunger with 577,000 of them being in Gaza. The Zionist Apartheid government of Israel is aware of the terror they are inflicting on the population of Gaza. In fact, terror and annihilation is their express intent. Zionist ministers, military command spokespeople and Benjamin Netanyahu have made numerous comments and declarations expressly declaring their intent for the extermination of Gaza. The Israeli Minister of Parliament said right now one goal, Nakba, a Nakba that will overshadow the Nakba of 48, a Nakba in Gaza and a Nakba for anyone who dares to join them. Of course referring to the Nakba of 1948 when Zionist militias and the new Israeli army forcefully expelled one million Palestinians from their homes amounting to about 75% of the Palestinian population at the time. Chief Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories General Alian said that “they are human animals who must be treated as such. There will be no electricity and no water. There will be only destruction. You wanted hell and you will get hell.” Israeli Minister of Parliament said that “it is time to launch missiles with no restrictions. Gaza is to be trampled and destroyed.” Defense Minister Gallant says Gaza won’t return to what it was before, we will eliminate everything. These are the words of an administration bent on genocide and deceit; an unending siege of Gaza and we ask for you to consider the resolution we present to you this evening.

Matthew Perzyk, Manchester, stated:

I am here as the Chairman of the NH Congress of Worker’s Organizations calling for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the Israeli siege of Gaza. Continuing from what my colleague Venya was saying, Israel has made it a point to target hospitals, ambulances, and bakeries as well as journalists and their families. A reporter from Al Jazeera lost his wife, son, daughter and grandson to an Israeli airstrike after he had moved his family from north Gaza to the new Sarat refugee camp in the south where Israel claimed it would be a safe zone from the carnage. Another Al Jazeera reporter lost 22 members of his life when Israel executed an air strike on the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza. Several were children. These are just a couple of instances out of many, all the while Israel has allowed little to no humanitarian aid into Gaza only recently capping out at 200 trucks a day which is not nearly enough to support the sheer number of Gazans in need. Israel went so far as to air strike Gaza’s southern border with Egypt very early in the siege, precisely to destroy the critical infrastructure needed for the flow of aid.

Less than a couple of weeks ago, Israeli tanks shelled a vocational center housing 30,000 refugees in Khan Younis, the principal city of southern Gaza, killing and maiming scores of Palestinians. Many recognize Gaza as the world's largest open air prison, including conservative former Prime Minister of the U.K., David Cameron. Some even calling it one of history's largest concentration camps including Dr. Normand Finklestein, one of the world's most prominent experts on the Israel-Palestine conflict. Nearly all Gazan utilities were already under Israel's control. You could not enter or leave Gaza without a permit, which was seldomly granted by Israel. If you tried to escape by the sea, you ran the risk of being arrested by the Israeli or Egyptian Navies or sinking into the ocean on improvised boats. The humanitarian organization Save the Children has reported that 80% of minors in Gaza suffer from depression with over half having seriously considered suicide in the past few years and as mentioned before Gaza has been under an Israeli blockade for 18 years. The hypocrisy of Zionists accusing anti-Zionist and anti-Apartheid and anti-Genocide voices of being Nazis when they themselves are blatantly repeating the actions of the German Reich. For what is the occupation of the West Bank and the siege of Gaza but the attempted enactment of Labons Realm, living spaces for the Zionist state all the while Israel, unprovoked, strikes Syria, Lebanon and other countries in the Middle East causing severe rises in tensions in the region which could balloon into a wider conflict, perhaps even a Third World War. So long as the United States continues to support the siege and the genocide and stalls serious diplomatic intervention, the world may very well end in a nuclear inferno and fascism will have the last laugh. Ceasefire now and end the siege. Thank you

Sebastian Rowan, Manchester, stated:

I am here tonight to support the call for an immediate ceasefire, an end to the Israeli siege of Gaza and the release of all hostages and political prisoners held by both sides. During the October 7 attacks on Israel, approximately 250 people were abducted by Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups and 136 remain captive in Gaza to this day. I believe everyone in this room wants to see all of the remaining hostages returned safely back to their families. A ceasefire is the only way to achieve this end. Israel's indiscriminate bombing has destroyed more than 70% of homes and nearly every health care facility in Gaza. Israel continues to deny the entry of humanitarian aid, including food and medicine, into Gaza with the number of trucks entering daily being less than

16% of the number from before October 7. It is believed that the hostages are being held in underground tunnels and last week the IDF confirmed that they are flooding these tunnels with sea water. Israel claims that everything they are doing is in the name of rescuing the hostages but this is blatantly false. Everything Israel is doing in Gaza is making the hostages less safe. In December, the IDF admitted that its forces killed three hostages who had managed to escape their captors. They were shirtless and waving a white flag. Hamas has stated on multiple occasions that they will release the hostages in a prisoner exchange if Israel commits to a ceasefire. According to the Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, Israel holds 9,000 Palestinians captive as political prisoners, including 200 children. The Israeli military prosecutes 700 Palestinian children every year, some as young as 12 years old. Throwing stones is the most common charge against children which carries a sentence of up to 20 years under Israeli military law. More than 1/3 of Palestinian prisoners are held in what Israel calls administrative detention which allows Israeli occupation forces to hold prisoners indefinitely on secret information without charging them or allowing them to stand trial. No Palestinian accused of a crime by Israel is given a fair trial. Rather, they are tried in Israeli military courts where anti-Palestinian discrimination is codified into law and over 95% of cases result in conviction. Reports of torture in Israeli prisons are pervasive. The international community, human rights groups and many of the families of the hostages have joined the call for an immediate ceasefire and the release of hostages and prisoners held by both sides. In the name of peace, Manchester must do the same. Ceasefire now. Release the hostages.

Matei Alexandro, NH Congress of Workers Organizations, stated:

“The unfathomable dead on one of the sides. The unimaginable level of destruction. The way militant cells and people were regarded as targets and not as human beings. That is something that troubles me.” This is testimony from an IDF soldier after Operational Protective Edge. Operation Protective Edge was the official name given by Israel to the 2014 war in Gaza. Then 67 IDF soldiers and 6 Israeli civilians were killed compared to 2,310 Palestinian civilians killed and 10,626 wounded according to the Gaza Health Ministry. Seventy-five years of occupation has shown that there is no possibility for enduring peace without holding Israel to the standards of international law. This includes ending the blockade of the Gazan coast, the withdrawal of the IDF from

Gaza and the West Bank, Palestinian control over public utilities in Gaza, rights of travel and return for Palestinians, deoccupation of the West Bank and prosecution of settlers. The current conflict is framed as a war but no conflict between such unequally armed and prepared sides is truly war. Israel is a nuclear-armed state. It is U.S. backed and internationally recognized. Palestine shares none of these advantages. The country is not even a fully enfranchised member of the United Nations unlike Israel. Israel claims to be fighting for self-defense but has repeatedly targeted and been caught lying about civilians, entire regions and indiscriminate bombing campaigns, hospitals, universities, refugee camps and targeted the journalists attempting to report them. In some instances, targeting their entire families also. None of these are considered viable military targets and attacking them constitutes war crimes. Some of these are currently under investigation at the international level. Despite posturing as the global defensive force for Jewish people, Israel's unrestrained violence in the name of Jews everywhere and despite many Jewish people not supporting the Zionist project makes Jews in Israel and around the world the targets of reactionary anti-Semitism. A constant use of violence and repression over Palestinians will never accomplish peace for Israelis. Israel's unrestrained bombing has undoubtedly harmed captured Israelis in Gaza and IDF soldiers even killed unarmed escaping hostages in their total commitment to this destruction. The occupation hurts Palestinians living under its boot, Jews around the world who are wrongly associated with apartheid and genocide and it hurts Americans, Jewish citizens and non-Jewish citizens alike whose government forces its own people to endure in a crumbling country as it sends billions of sorely needed dollars to the Israeli government. Zionism has no rewards. Occupation has no rewards. Thank you.

Bradley Conway, Manchester, stated:

I have been helping to bring the ceasefire resolution to the BMA. I have spoken to some of you aldermen on the phone so you may recognize my voice. We are all out here today because we want the city to take a stand for life affirming values. In the spirit of promoting life affirming values, we are here today not only to call on the BMA to adopt a resolution in support of ceasefire but also to demand that the city call for an end to U.S. military aid to Israel, for release of all prisoners and hostages on both sides, and to call for the city to proactively identify and divest from investments it makes which are detrimental to life. If there is any way for the City of Manchester to use its influence to

promote de-escalation and ceasefire, be that through its financial investments, via resolution or otherwise, we want to see the city actively pursuing those avenues. Myself and a few others here tonight have been regularly standing on Elm Street Monday through Friday from 4 PM to 5 PM that says "Ceasefire Now." Through this experience, I can report confidently that there are generally three types of people in Manchester – those who support ceasefire, those who are silent and those who really want Israel to continue its indiscriminate bombardment and starvation of Palestinians. The City of Manchester should take immediate steps to distance itself from the brutality of Israeli foreign policy by asserting that all life is equally precious with the sincere intention of discouraging anti-Arab, anti-Muslim, and anti-Palestinian racism in Manchester. Let us all say in unison that without exception killing innocent people is unacceptable. Bombing healthcare facilities is unacceptable. Starving people is unacceptable. Displacing millions from their homes, shooting people waving white flags and violating international law is unacceptable. The U.S. funded genocide of Gaza is unacceptable. Manchester, NH demands a ceasefire now but it is not just Manchester, NH. Cities across the country are passing ceasefire resolutions, most notably Portland, ME, Somerville, Cambridge, Providence, Chicago, Minneapolis, San Francisco, and the list goes on. I want to highlight these cities because I want to show that there is plenty of precedent for the resolution we are presenting today. Our next speaker will be reading the proposed resolution and I encourage the mayor and aldermen to think of what kind of questions they might like to ask because we really hope to get a ceasefire resolution on the next agenda for the BMA meeting. Keep in mind that the resolution we will be reading you today is a draft and we look forward to working with you all to iron out the details and find something agreeable to everyone. With that, I would like to submit some materials for distribution to the mayor and aldermen.

Madeline Jones, Manchester, stated:

I am a second generation Palestinian American and I have been living in Manchester for 13 years. I come here today to read to you the resolution that we have drafted as your constituents for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and Israel.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN
GAZA AND ISRAEL

WHEREAS the Manchester Board of Mayor and Aldermen recognizes that all human life is precious, regardless of race, religion, or nationality; AND

WHEREAS since the Hamas attacks of October 7, 2023, in which over 1,200 Israelis were killed and more than 240 taken hostage, Israel has engaged in a disproportionate and indiscriminate military campaign in Gaza which has, in just over 116 days, killed over 26,000 Palestinians, 70% of whom are women and children; AND

WHEREAS the Israeli military's campaign of bombardment, siege and invasion in Gaza has resulted in the displacement of more than 85% of Gaza's 2.2 million inhabitants, destroyed more than 70% of homes, and severely damaged nearly every healthcare facility in Gaza; AND

WHEREAS Israel's military's campaign of bombardment, siege, and invasion in Gaza is funded in large part by U.S. taxes in the form of unconditional military aid packages; AND

WHEREAS rendering Gaza uninhabitable may likely amount to "collective punishment" under Article 33 of the 4th Geneva Convention, and to "genocide" under the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide; AND

WHEREAS residents of the City of Manchester refuse to be complicit in Israel's campaign of destruction in Gaza through the City's continued partnerships and investments; AND

WHEREAS the City of Manchester's Federal representative delegation led by Chris Pappas, Maggie Hassan and Jeanne Shaheen, failed to represent the urgent humanitarian and diplomatic needs of residents of the City of Manchester and the state of New Hampshire,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Manchester Board of Mayor and Aldermen enjoins with representatives of other U.S. cities in calling on our President and our Federal representative delegation to demand an immediate and enduring ceasefire, the provision of life saving humanitarian aid in Gaza, the release of all hostages, detainees and political prisoners on both sides; AND,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Manchester Board of Mayor and Aldermen joins with representatives of other U.S. cities in calling on our President and our Federal representative delegation to demand an end to US Military aid packages and all arms distribution to Israel; AND,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Manchester Board of Mayor and Aldermen shall establish a committee to identify, divest from and prevent business with all entities involved in the U.S.-Israeli military industrial complex.

Katie LaBranche, 443 N. Bay Street, stated:

I am here tonight because I know we all share a goal to have the students of Manchester perform well in school so they are able to lead healthy and productive lives hopefully right here in our city. I know it is possible for this Board to collaborate with Board of School Committee in the facilities effort because that is what is best for our city. I relocated to Manchester with my family almost 10 years ago and over that time I have been lucky to teach at Wilson and Webster Schools as a reading specialist, as well as chair the Manchester Proud Council. During our time here, our children who are now 10 and 12 have had high level educators and exceptional learning experiences in our school system. I do wish I could say the same about the buildings they learn in. I will say that I have been able to witness first-hand the efforts of Dr. Gillis and her team. They have improved our course catalog. They have aligned curriculum and launched vertical programming rooted in the science of reading along with professional development on those programs. They have identified and lifted opportunities for student supports. They have improved systems outside of the classroom walls and all of these efforts have been closely aligned to the district's strategic plan. Some highlights of these efforts include our overall student attendance growing by 9% due to the We Show Up campaign. In addition to that, our mid-year I-Ready diagnostic assessments show an increase of students working at or above grade level. For these efforts to be most effective and to achieve the outcomes we want for all of our students, we must provide 21st century learning environments that enable and inspire learning. Nearly all of our surrounding communities, including Nashua and Concord, have dedicated themselves to providing modernized schools. It is time that we provide these facility improvements coupled with our standing curriculum systems and supports to achieve excellence for all of our students. There is a long-standing tradition of pride in Manchester. We owe it to ourselves and our future generations to maintain these traditions. My hope is that this Board and all of our elected officials will lead us to an era of rationale, respectful, informed and factual discourse and decision-making that results in extraordinary opportunities for the students in the public schools of Manchester.

Maria DiNola, Ward 1, stated:

I am a proud graduate of Manchester High School West, a teacher here in Manchester for 17 years including Webster Elementary, Hillside Middle, Southside Middle and Manchester Memorial High School followed by 16 years as a school administrator for SAU 55. Last year I retired as a middle school principal of Hampstead Middle School. During my 32 years in education, I know that providing modern school facilities has a powerful and positive impact on student achievement and the retention of staff members. Investing in schools contributes to the community's economic development by attracting businesses and keeping families here. The long-term benefits of improved education outcomes create a more skilled workforce. The current state of our aging and deteriorating buildings does not support the vision of 21st century learning. To imagine our youngest students daily in overcrowded classrooms, cafeterias and gymnasiums is disgraceful. Our current crowded classrooms limit student access to their teachers for individual attention and for making meaningful interactions with their peers. Overcrowding increases discipline issues due to lack of comfort and flexibility and impacts the overall morale of the school community. This specific issue heightens stress levels not only for our students' learning experiences but also teacher morale and job satisfaction. Placing a pause on a well-researched and comprehensive plan developed by educational experts is reprehensible. The details of Phase I have been publically available for review for months now to the public and city governance. Acting as a responsible city leader, this should have been reviewed and ultimately was your homework. Your homework is late. Read up, do the right thing and support our community's children with the care and respect they deserve. Thank you for this opportunity to address you this evening.

David Rogers, Concord, NH, stated:

I work at DEKA and it is an honor to be here with you tonight. I am here to speak on behalf of the Manchester school district and Manchester Proud where I serve as one of the board members. One of the things that we are really excited about for our city is the potential for job growth and creation that is being driven by our innovation ecosystem here in the city. Like nowhere else in the world, we have an opportunity to build a new industry based around AI automation and the very unique field of tissue engineering. The federal government saw fit to bestow our city with a large grant to help anchor this industry here and over the next 5-10 years we could see this industry grow to bring

thousands of jobs to the city of Manchester. The reason why we want to support the Manchester school district and take the time to serve on Manchester Proud and other organizations is because we don't want to just simply import those jobs from other parts of the country and other parts of the world. We want our students to be the ones to step up and take those jobs and think about how great of a story that is to build a 21st century ecosystem around new technologies that are being pioneered in our city while at the same time creating a pipeline that will allow our students to step up into those jobs. I know that everybody has thoughts on how to accomplish that but I want to kind of set the table to consider the vision of what our city could accomplish if we could bring those two streams together. I know that means more than buildings and I know that there are lots of opinions on how to achieve and accomplish that but think about the opportunity that sits before us. Every student from our Manchester school district that can step up into one of those jobs is a tremendous success story for our city. I would love the opportunity for us all to work together to find out how to tell that story. Thank you.

Erin Kerwin, 291 Ray Street, stated:

I am here today to voice my support of the school board's plan for Phase I of the district. I believe that having a good school system is the backbone to our community. I implore you to take tours of the schools and you will see for your own eyes why Phase I is so important. I would also like to point out that in the last election while the make-up of this board changed, the make-up of the school board did stay the same. This is the voters expressing that they are happy with what the school board is doing and the direction in which they are taking the district. I also want to take a moment to express my concerns about some of the communications that have come from this board. After the last meeting, I took the time to write to my representatives on this board a message expressing my support for Phase I. I did not hear back from my own representative but I did get a response back from a member of this board that was shocking. The tone and content of the reply to my message was bullying, demeaning and inaccurate and did not open up an avenue for any constructive conversation. I was appalled that an elected official would respond to a constituent this way. I do appreciate all of you being here and working hard to keep this city running. It is a thankless job that I am not signing up for but I do hope that there is an expectation of treating each other and your constituents with respect.

Rich Girard, 283 Orange Street, stated:

Recently the Zoning Board of Adjustment granted a variance for the operation of a sober facility on Holt Avenue despite the unanimous opposition of dozens of neighbors. Without commenting on the totally inappropriate manner in which the meeting was conducted, the board was at a stalemate until chair Anne Ketterer pressured board member Joe Prieto into agreeing that a variance was in the public interest. Prieto had previously said that the testifying public clearly didn't think it was in their interest to have a 20-bed facility with clinical services operating in their neighborhood. Ketterer countered that he had to think about the benefit to the whole city of Manchester and in fact the entire State of NH. He caved and the variance was granted on a 3-2 vote. That maneuver sent a message that threatens every neighborhood in Manchester and that is this. Regardless of how negative the impact may be on your neighborhood, you must suffer for the greater good of the city and the state. If you approve the zoning changes that are on tonight's agenda, you will send the same message to neighbors across the city as it will undercut the zoning ordinance by opening up our city's neighborhoods to the kind of business use that will have seriously negative impacts on their quality of life and property values. These changes will push the Zoning Board to make more such determinations of what is allegedly in the public interest. Currently, the city allows this use, sober homes, in the R-3, C-1 and C-2 districts by right and the B-2, RDV, CBD, AMX and RSM districts with a conditional use permit from the Planning Board. That means half the city's zoning districts allow this use. The city does broadly accommodate this use so what purpose is served by opening every residential zone to this incompatible business use? The city zoning ordinance makes sense. These sober operations are businesses. They accept insurance payments for their clients, experience constantly turnover, provide on-site services often including transportation to off-site services and have shared dining and laundry facilities. Something else to consider is how the 2021 changed definition of family in the zoning ordinance is negatively impacting neighborhoods. Since up to four unrelated adults living in one unit are now considered a family, sober operators are buying multi-family dwellings in neighborhoods where their business use is not allowed because they claim they are within the ordinance. The neighborhood at the corner of Brook and Walnut Streets is dealing with this now. The changes on tonight's agenda will compound this problem by

making it much easier for operators who want to exceed those limits to get a variance. Given the dozens of sober facilities that are illegally operating in the city, one has to wonder how many will come forward to be legitimized if the bar to their operation is so lowered. Finally, has anybody questioned why the public hearing on this ordinance was held tonight, the same night your agenda contains items asking for final approval of these changes? The Planning Director asked for a public hearing back in November. Normally, public hearings are held before votes are taken, not just minutes before the final vote to approve is had. Given this, I ask the Board to reject these changes in recognition of all that the city already allows for these facilities to operate.

Ariel Moore, Democratic Socialists of America, stated:

I come to this meeting tonight speaking as both an activist and as a Jewish resident of the Granite State. Ever since October 7, it has been playing in my head how I must respond to this tragedy in Palestine. How this genocide is being carried out in the name of my people, which is false and also in the name of capital to fortify the Israeli military to take away human life and to enforce the politicians of Israel to continue taking away human life. There have been thousands of women and children dying every single day. This did not start on October 7. This started in 1948. As a Jewish woman I come here to say that this is not the religion I was taught. When we say never again, we mean never again to anybody especially not ever in our name. If we keep sending our money to Israel to take away innocent human life to the point where citizens are eating grass and drinking sewer water just to survive or they are posting on social media giving enough fair warning that they may not make it to the next day, then we need to take a serious look in the mirror at ourselves. Our money should be used to improve human life and provide peace, land and bread for all, not to create a battleground in people's own backyard. So, I ask are we willing to put an end to bloodshed or are we willing to make the land of Palestine a graveyard. I will leave this up to the Board to decide. Thank you and goodnight.

AJ Coletti, stated:

I didn't really prepare anything specific but I want to take this time that I have as a privilege and really just look at you all and ask what are we doing here. I don't really understand how each and every one of you can undoubtedly be affected and be

suffering just like everybody else in this world pretty much right now. How can you be in this position with this much privilege and continue to just stay on your hamster wheel every single day. What are you afraid of losing? Like what material item or what love do you think you have that is so conditional that you need to like keep your secrets and act a certain way and whatever. Snap out of it. I am just trying to say snap out of it. What comes after the existentialist and annihilation and the everything is going to end and this is ultimately pointless? You know what comes after that. It is the taking risks that a conditioned human who doesn't live in the matrix would take. Why are we alive right here? We are all insanely complex ecosystems. Isn't it insane that I have every single part inside of me that lets me live, breathe, walk, speak and do all of these things? What good would that be if I am just going to suffer in this abhorrent system that I was born into with no choice? I am the voice of pretty much everybody my age right now and if the people my age aren't informed enough about the actual social things that are going on, we are all still struggling with this ultimate pointlessness that our lives are going to literally amount to nothing because the people who are in power that are older than us are not doing anything to insure our futures yet you all spoon-fed us this information like home of the brave and we fight for our people and we are a democracy and we represent our people. A democracy is supposed to be the most diversified form of government. That is why it works. Have you ever heard a law of entropy? I can't get into economics right now but I encourage you all to really understand how neoclassical economic theory is just completely scientifically unsustainable; not only scientifically unsustainable but humanely unsustainable. The law of entropy, the limits to growth, the list goes on and on. We cannot keep continuing this way and everything that one of us does and everything...even an environmental battle that was lost after 20 years, that is a victory because that was 20 years that they weren't drilling in some spot you know. I just want to ask all of you to take a look in the mirror. What are you doing here? What are you doing with your life? If there is some inner crap that is going on with you, go to therapy for God's sake. You are adults. Let's deal with this please. Kids like me are so sick of seeing the adults in power just be bigger children. We are done with that. We never even had our time to be children because we are so worried sick about our lives. Like get it together. That is all I am going to say. Get it together please.

Armando Martins, 545 Calef Road, stated:

I am here to also support a ceasefire resolution. For four months, hundreds of thousands of people across the U.S. have been active in the streets and in the public parks, their workplaces, classrooms and neighborhoods combating the crystal-clear genocide in Gaza and Palestine. The masses of people in the United States stand with the majority of the world in demanding a ceasefire in Palestine, including 75% of Democrats, 50% of Republicans, and 68% of all people across the political spectrum. This opposition to the U.S. Israeli genocide includes activity here in NH where 1,500 people wrote in ceasefire in the primary. More specifically, in Manchester 150 people shut down Elm Street for over an hour on Black Friday, the U.S.'s busiest shopping day of the year and in December 60 people vigorously protested the NH Democratic Party's fundraiser at the convention center up the road. As the Biden administration escalates this war into Yemen, Iraq and Syria, the activity in opposition to the genocide will only increase. I want to thank those of you who have the courage to stay in the room and take this seriously because the International Court of Justice is using the term genocide and the ICJ, a principal body of international law, announced provisional measures late last month recognizing the terrible brutality and genocidal rhetoric directed by the Israeli regime against Palestinians ordering that the state of Israel shall take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article 2 of the Convention of Prevention & Punishment of the crime of genocide. I really encourage all of you to look further into those provisional measures and think very seriously about not only how the residents of Manchester will view you but how your children and grandchildren will view you and how you will be remembered by history in this moment. Today we are asking you to consider passing a ceasefire resolution similar to those passed in Chicago and in Cambridge. It is imperative that the people of Manchester and our elected officials stand on the right side of history. Manchester taxpayers send over \$1.7 million yearly to the genocidal Israeli regime to murder and displace children while 788 Manchester school children experienced homelessness last year. Our schools are underfunded, homelessness and rents continue to rise, and in the U.S. half of all renters are paying more than 30% of their income on housing. So, we really need to get our priorities straight. We need to stand with the people of Manchester and stand with the people of Palestine. Join the correct side of history and stand on the side of international humanitarian law and the global world opinion.

Madison Egan, 31 McPhail Street, stated:

I am here in support of the ceasefire resolution. This week, the number of people killed in Gaza by the brutal Israeli occupation has surpassed 27,000. At least 10,000 of those human beings were children, many of them murdered before their first birthday. The conditions those left alive are experiencing are unimaginable: left without food, water, and medical aid. I ask our aldermen to take a moment to imagine what it is like in Gaza. What it is like to lose your home, your family and everything you love while the world looks away and refuses to speak. How utterly terrifying it must be to be left to die. I have been a resident of Manchester for 15 years. I am here today to ensure that my fellow residents and I are represented. For the last four months there have been sustained protests in Manchester for an immediate end to the genocide in Gaza and a free Palestine. After October 7, City Hall was immediately lit up in blue and white for Israel yet you have not spoken a word about the unending atrocity in Gaza. It would be a great moral failing for the City of Manchester to refuse to call for the most basic humanitarian act, a ceasefire; one I think everyone would look back on in shame. It is time for our city to represent us and to stand with Palestine and show our humanity can call for an immediate ceasefire. Thank you.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept BMA Minutes

2. Minutes from the 12/19/2023 BMA & Finance Committee meetings, and the 01/02/2024 Organizational BMA meeting.

Accept and Remand Funds

3. Donations of \$25,000 from Catholic Medical Center, \$25,000 from Brady Sullivan, and \$5,000 from Anthem to the Fire Department.

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

4. 50/50 Sidewalk Petitions
Residential:

- 170 Birchwood Road
- 328 Silver Street

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

5. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Seventy-Three Thousand Three Hundred Forty-One Dollars and Ninety-Nine Cents (\$73,341.99) to return to CDBG unprogrammed funds.”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Four Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Five Dollars (\$4,995) for the FY2024 CIP 412424 Police Academy Cadre.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the FY 2023 CIP 611123 Lead-Based Paint Healthy Homes Supplemental Funding.”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty Six Thousand Dollars (\$36,000) for the FY2024 CIP 713124 Lake Massabesic Feasibility Study - Mill Pond Dam Level.”

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Three Hundred Thirty-Six Dollars and Ninety Cents (\$336.90) for the FY2024 CIP 810624 Planning Studies.”

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

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

have been accepted.
(*Unanimous vote*)

8. Advising that the Monthly Financial Report (unaudited) for the first six months of fiscal year 2024 has been accepted.
(*Unanimous vote*)

9. Recommending that the following ordinance amendment:

"An Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 155 of the City of Manchester Code of Ordinances to provide reasonable accommodations to disabled persons by defining 'disability' and adopting RSA 674:33, V."

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

10. Recommending that the summary of abatement requests submitted by the Chief Engineer be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
11. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$4,995 for CIP 412424 Police Academy Cadre be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
12. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$200,000 for CIP 611123 Lead-Based Paint Healthy Homes Supplemental Funding be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
13. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$36,000 for CIP 713124 Lake Massabesic Feasibility Study-Mill Pond Dam Level be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
14. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$336.90 for CIP 810624 Planning Studies be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
15. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$73,341.99 to return to CDBG unprogrammed funds be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)

16. Recommending that the request from the Public Health Director for a line item adjustment to CIP 210723 School-Based Dental Medicaid be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
17. Recommending that the request from the Planning & Community Development Director for a line item adjustment to CIP 810724 Part-Time Planner be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
18. Recommending that the request from the Planning & Community Development Director for various CIP project extensions be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

21. Recommending that the request from the Public Works Director to eliminate one (1) vacant Survey Party Chief, grade 17, and add one(1) Engineer Technician I, grade 16, be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

22. Recommending that the request from Alderman O'Neil on behalf of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee to paint shamrocks at the intersections of Elm & Hanover and Elm & Pleasant Streets on Saturday, March 2 with a rain date of March 9 be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

23. Recommending that the following traffic regulation be approved:

NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Bridge Street, south side, from Highland Street to Mammoth Road
Alderman Fajardo
(Unanimous vote)

24. Advising that the following traffic regulation has been received and filed:

RESCIND NO PARKING LOADING ZONE

On Hayward Street, south side, from a point 60 feet east of Riley Avenue to a point 22 feet east
(ORD 10422)
Alderman Terrio
(Unanimous vote)

*HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF **ALDERMAN O'NEIL**,
DULY SECONDED BY **ALDERMAN T. SAPIENZA**, THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS
APPROVED.*

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

- 19.** Recommending that the request from the Chair of the Planning Board for one-time funding in the amount of \$150,000 to hire a consultant to draft an updated Bicycle Master Plan be received and filed.

(Aldermen Morgan, Terrio, and Kantor voted yea; Aldermen Long and Burkush voted nay.)

Alderman Long stated this item received and filed the bicycle master plan. I am just wondering...I know in serving on the Planning Board there were a lot of applications that came forward that were adding bike racks to their apartments because of the increased use of bicycling. I am wondering if this is received and filed and there is a private contribution to get this consultant hired to update the master plan, would that be a CIP...I want to keep the Planning Board chair's plan. He worked hard on it and I think it is a great plan. Where would that go when this is received and filed? That is my question.

Matthew Normand, City Clerk, stated at this point I don't know that the plan has been discussed in a committee favorably so it would need to start in Public Safety to talk about the bike lanes. I think there is an opinion from the Department of Public Works related to this so you would probably start at Public Safety and if funding become available and the Board approves it then...

Alderman Long interjected so we could have the discussion in Public Safety without appropriating any money.

City Clerk Normand responded of course. You can always discuss any item in committee.

Alderman Long moved to refer this to the Committee on Public Safety. **Alderman Burkush** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Terrio stated we didn't have a problem with bike lanes per say but we had a problem with paying \$150,000. Are you proposing discussing a plan without paying somebody \$150,000? Is that what it is?

Alderman Long answered that is correct. If you don't have a problem with the plan, why are you receiving and filing it?

Alderman Terrio responded the request was to spend \$150,000 to pay somebody. Just to clarify, we didn't want to spend \$150,000. If you want to find somebody to do it for free, that is fine but we just didn't want to spend the \$150,000.

Chairman Levasseur stated the issue on the table right now is the request from the Planning Board Chair to spend \$150,000. If we receive and file this, you are more than welcome to submit another letter to another committee and start the process over. Sending this back is just sending back the same thing that we already took up unless you want to amend it. You can just start the process over. It is really simple.

Alderman Burkush stated the reason we kept it as a tabled item is because we didn't want to spend \$150,000 and were looking for funding sources for a couple of months. That was the intention last year. We feel that if we send it back to committee we can at least continue the process with the understanding that we can't spend that money now.

Alderman Long stated my motion has nothing to do with \$150,000. It has everything to do with this Board discussing bike lanes. It has nothing to do with the \$150,000. There was a statement that this Board hasn't even looked at it. I am willing to look at the plan. If you are okay with the plan and it is just the \$150,000 that has you stigmatized, then let's review the plan.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated just to be clear, I am not comfortable with the plan because from all the constituent input I have gotten on this issue, it has all been

negative. I haven't gotten any positive input from a constituent on bike lanes. Universally across the board everything I have heard from my constituents has been negative. They don't want them.

Alderman Goonan stated I have probably heard only positive things from Ward 2. Can we start this all over again with the same letter?

Mayor Ruais stated the first thing we have to do is vote on Item 19 and whether or not to accept that report. If somebody wants to bring something up under new business to send it to committee to review or just bring it up in committee that would be appropriate.

Alderman Fajardo stated I just wanted to remark that I have had the opposite experience compared to Alderman E. Sapienza and I mostly hear support for it probably having to do a lot with the fact that Ward 4 is closer to part of the center city district where multi-modal transportation is critical and essential for some Ward 4 residents. So being able to do that safely is pretty important and I, again, have mostly heard support for it.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I think it is worth noting that we are not voting on \$150,000 here. We are only voting on a request to look for the \$150,000. This is not a vote to spend \$150,000. I would not vote tonight to spend \$150,000 that I don't have but I do think it is a good idea to keep this plan alive and look for the \$150,000. If we can find a grant or something that would be a great thing.

Alderman Kantor stated everyone that I have spoken to is against it 100%. They are like okay where are the bikers. It is just insanity. It is hard to drive down Maple Street and actually park your car. There is a problem with a constituent and their safety. It has been negative feedback that I have received and I have talked to a lot of people as well across the city besides in Ward 6.

Alderman Long stated in Ward 3 it has all been positive for the bike lanes. Where are the bikers? If you had gone to the Amoskeag Bridge meeting, there were probably about 30 people there who were all bikers and interested in getting across that bridge

safely. I am not sure where they were from but I am thinking there are a lot more bikers than you think there are. Again, I am looking to discuss the plan. I don't think it is going to cost \$150,000 to discuss the plan. We are not asking for any money. Let's discuss the plan and if there is something we can come up with that is \$10,000 maybe we can get a private donation or a grant for that. I am just saying let's discuss the plan at minimum.

Alderman Levasseur stated since we are all sitting around the campfire talking about all of the people that called us about bikes, I just wish we had some marshmallows, I did a poll and I got 450 responses. 448 were completely 100% against more bike lanes. I just asked a simple question – stay or go. I didn't add my own opinion to it. I think that is like 98% and I wanted to share that with everybody. This is going to be a long two years if we are actually going to sit here and argue about whether or not...just read the motion which is recommending that the request of the Chair of the Planning Board for one-time funding in the amount of \$150,000...it is either you are for that motion or you are not so we can receive and file that. If somebody wants to send a letter saying we have a consultant that will do it for free, I don't even know why we would have to vote on that in any committee if somebody wanted to go out on their own and draft a plan. They could do that and then bring it to the Board and we could vote for it. Seriously guys, this is just the motion and this is going to be a long two years if this is what we are going to deal with.

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

Alderman Levasseur duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Long stated I made a motion to refer it to the Public Safety Committee.

Mike Intranuovo, Clerk, stated there is a motion on the floor by Alderman Long duly seconded by Alderman Burkush to move the report to the Committee on Public Safety, Health and Traffic.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked what are we voting for.

Alderman Long stated the motion is to send this to the Public Safety Committee to discuss the plan.

Alderman Levasseur stated that is not what is on the agenda.

Mayor Ruais stated the alderman has made a motion that is different than the one that is before us.

Clerk Intranuovo responded right and as I understand it the motion is to refer this report to the Committee on Public Safety, Health and Traffic.

City Clerk Normand stated if the parliamentarian doesn't accept that motion then you can look for another motion.

Alderman Terrio stated parliamentary inquiry. It was on the consent agenda as receive and file. Don't we have to...

City Clerk Normand interjected the item was pulled off under the rules of consent and he made a motion and it is up to the Mayor to accept that motion.

Alderman Levasseur asked so the motion is to send it back to committee.

Clerk Intranuovo stated the motion is to send the item to Public Safety, Health & Traffic.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote. Alderman Long requested a roll call vote. Aldermen Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, O'Neil, Burkush, Barry, Thomas, Morgan and Goonan voted yea. Aldermen Kantor, Levasseur, Terrio, E. Sapienza, and Vincent voted nay. The motion carried.

20. Recommending that the request from the Fire Chief to apply for a 2023 SAFER grant to hire 12 additional firefighters be denied.
(Alderman Long and Burkush voted nay; Aldermen Morgan, Terrio, and Kantor voted yea.)

Alderman Burkush moved to amend the committee report to allow the Fire Chief to apply for the 2023 SAFER grant. **Alderman O'Neil** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I think this issue is bigger than just 12 conditional firefighters. The grant needs to be judged on its merits. This is only a motion for permission to apply for a grant. Why wouldn't we apply for a grant? If you get the grant, you can decide whether to accept it or not. To turn it down at this point I don't get. Every grant needs to be judged on its own merits and this particular grant has the fewest strings attached than I have ever seen. Once the money runs out, we are not obligated to do anything. That was made pretty clear. The other thing about this is I think we are sending the wrong message to all of the department heads. This one happens to belong to the Fire Chief but the message that this Board should be sending to the department heads is to go out and find grants. Every grant dollar is one dollar that the taxpayers don't have to pay whether it is firemen or something for the Highway Department or Police Department. Every grant is a dollar that the taxpayer in the City of Manchester doesn't have to pay. I am going to support him applying for this and I am going to hope that the Fire Chief gets the grant and I am going to thank him for all of his efforts.

Alderman Levasseur asked have you read the grant.

Alderman T. Sapienza answered yes, I read my packet before every meeting.

Alderman Levasseur responded so you read the actual 2023 grant.

Alderman T. Sapienza replied yes. I read my packet.

Alderman Levasseur asked has the 2023 grant been posted or did you get a different grant that I don't know about. I heard the grant hadn't been actually posted yet. Is there something out there I don't know about?

Ryan Cashin, Fire Chief, answered the grant has not been posted. I think the alderman is referring to my letter.

Alderman Levasseur stated he was reading your letter but he said he read the grant.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I read the packet.

Chief Cashin stated the 2023 grant will be out sometime next month. We expect it to be very similar to the 2022 grant.

Alderman Levasseur asked but you don't know what is in the grant or if you do, please let me know because I have asked to see the grant or at least a letter from somebody who told you what the grant was going to be or an email. I haven't gotten anything.

Chief Cashin responded we have spoken with FEMA and they expect no changes from 2022 to 2023. They expect it to be the same grant.

Alderman Levasseur asked but the grant itself has not been posted and you have not seen the new grant correct.

Chief Cashin answered that is correct.

Alderman Terrio stated our concern was we wanted some more information primarily about the 12 firefighters. By year three we were concerned that between pay and benefits it was going to be about \$1.2 million on payroll or more. Our concern was we don't have problem with hiring 12 firefighters but we are concerned with having an additional 12 firefighters and the grant runs out and we don't want to lay people off but now we have to pick up \$1.2 million in payroll. Chief, I think we need these 12 firefighters but you have 6-8 people retire every year, correct?

Chief Cashin replied 6-10 is more the average.

Alderman Terrio asked so of the 12 firefighters you were thinking you would use some of them to fill holes due to attrition correct.

Chief Cashin answered that is correct.

Alderman Terrio stated and then you have a large overtime budget and the others would be used to...basically you would use your overtime budget to pay for the others so there would be no hit under the tax cap correct.

Chief Cashin responded that is correct.

Alderman Thomas stated I just wanted to say that I am not opposed to this grant. I did speak to the Chief and I know what goes on every day in this city. I do know that firefighters are not only responsible for fires but for other things that are happening in the city. We have a lot of crises in this city and everybody knows what goes on. The only issue that I see is what Alderman Terrio just brought up. What happens after those three years? I would never want to see someone lose their job but trying to find that money going into the budget afterwards might be a little tricky. You might be able to develop a plan. The only thing that I would be opposed to is maybe having the 12. People might feel more comfortable with having 6 and going from there because then maybe after the three years we wouldn't have to do anything with them and they could stay on and that would be wonderful. I just wanted to say that I am not fully opposed to it. I do want to see the grant and I think it would be very helpful for the whole Board to see the grant when you get it in March to look it over and ease people's minds.

Alderman O'Neil stated Chief you and I have spoken several times about this grant. Your intent is to hire three firefighters per shift and you have four shifts in this city and that is why the number 12 correct?

Chief Cashin replied that is correct.

Alderman O'Neil stated you were also very clear to me that the concern that was shared about what to do at the end of the grant was that you would manage it through attrition. I don't know if this was from you or I read this someplace but are there nine retirements or planned retirements in this fiscal year alone?

Chief Cashin answered yes, we are right around the number nine. There could be a couple of others that I don't know about.

Alderman O'Neil stated certainly achieving it through attrition is a very manageable way if there is an intent to keep the additional 12 firefighters at the end of the grant if you are successful in receiving it to begin with.

Chief Cashin stated if we are successful in getting this grant and we get those 12 firefighters it would increase the per battalion staffing by three people. I am confident that at the end of three years if those firefighters are not funded that I will be able to manage it in my budget and take care of it. I will not lay-off any firefighters. It will be done through attrition. It is the budgetary process. Every year we go through a budget and every year the amount of firefighters that are on the street is up for debate as it is with every other department.

Alderman O'Neil stated you shared with me that you have a plan for where these firefighters would go.

Chief Cashin stated yes, we do. The firehouse we are looking at first is Station 5 in the north end. That is currently the busiest fire engine outside of headquarters. We would then look at Station 7 to get an extra firefighter in the south end. We are going between Stations 2 and 6 on the west side and leaning a little more towards Station 6 but we are looking through some of the data that is skewed a little bit because we had engine 9 in Station 2 for a long period of time.

Alderman O'Neil stated you did share with me that although Station 6 would be ideal, the facility may not be large enough to house seven firefighters.

Chief Cashin responded it is going to be tight. We are going to look into it.

Alderman O'Neil stated you also said that looking at the data is a little skewed because Station 9 was under construction and engine 9 was reassigned to Station 2 but you have a plan like you had a plan with creating the ALS engine companies which you

have been implementing. I think there is a plan in place to get the grant and manage it through its life and then what happens at the end of it. You have my full support on this.

Chief Cashin stated just to touch on the 12 and Alderman Thomas's concerns, the reason for the 12 is to get those guys on the apparatus and also, we are trying to make an argument for the SAFER grant. The grant is created by firefighters and a computer and goes through several grading levels. The goal if we can get to 12 will bring us to 50% compliant with the NFA standard which says that every firetruck should have four firefighters on it. That 50% number we feel gives us the best chance to get the grant. We have applied for this grant twice for eight people and we have not gotten it. After having conversations with FEMA, it is believed that we did not get it because we did not ask for enough people. That is why we came up with 12 which will get us to that 50% standards and that is a 50% minimum national standard that we are trying to get to and we feel that it will provide a good amount of safety for the residents as well as the firefighters on duty.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked this grant comes out in March correct.

Chief Cashin answered correct.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked is there a time limit in applying for it.

Chief Cashin replied there is.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked what is the deadline.

Chief Cashin responded that will come with the grant. It is typically 6-8 weeks.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked and that is after the grant comes out.

Chief Cashin stated yes, the grant will come out and then we will have a few weeks to fill it out.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked so we are not under the gun here time wise right.

Chief Cashin answered no we are not. We are trying to get a head start on the grant. Typically, we ask for permission to apply ahead of the grant so that we can start the process. We have a team set- up ready to write the grant. That grant will be reviewed by other fire departments that have gotten this grant before. We have talked to several of them who are willing to help us out and look over the application to see if it is written in the best way and does the narrative give us the best chance and are we hitting all the spots we need to hit on budgeting. It is a fairly extensive grant and we would like to get ahead of it.

Alderman Vincent stated I appreciate your letter. It certainly brought clarity to the issue and I think clarity is what brought us to where we are today. That is really what this is about. Nobody wants to deny a grant. That is definitely not the case. If I may, when we apply for the grant in the March timeframe, when is something like this usually approved? What are we looking at for a timeframe and I have a follow-up that leads to why I am asking?

Chief Cashin responded it goes to FEMA. We are looking at over a year before we find out. It could be up to 18 months. The process has slowed down significantly. Typically, this grant is out earlier than March and it doesn't take as long as it does. The federal government is moving at a slow pace.

Alderman Vincent stated so let's say we get approved for this 18 months out. How long before the grant funds come to your department? What is that timeframe?

Chief Cashin answered you have a six-month window. You can shorten that with a waiver but that gives us six months to essentially interview, hire and get personnel on. We can apply to have that shortened if we need to but another six months gives us two years before they would be on a firetruck.

Alderman Vincent asked so we are not looking at tomorrow.

Chief Cashin responded no.

Alderman Vincent stated you answered part of my question by saying that part of our timeline takes into account that we have to hire firefighters and all of that. Twelve is a lot of firefighters. Realistically, do you think you can get those in a short window of time? What do you think that timeframe is going to be to hire 12 or can we hire 3 and then 2 or however the pool comes? How does that affect the grant money because they are going to give you this money? Do you see what I am asking? If you are asking for 12 and you can only hire 3 or 4 where does the rest of the money go? How does that work?

Chief Cashin replied you can apply for a waiver. Say for instance we weren't able to hire 12. We will just use that as a hypothetical. We could apply for a waiver beyond the three years. Say we hired 5 members seven months in. We could apply for a waiver for those 7 members as it gets beyond that three-month period. It is my feeling that we will be able to hire 12 people.

Alderman Levasseur asked do you have three years to hire or do you have to hire all 12 right after the 180 days is up.

Chief Cashin answered you have to do your best to hire all 12 within the 180 days but you can apply for waivers.

Alderman Levasseur asked but you can't stack them.

Chief Cashin responded you can apply for a waiver. We would try to hire all 12.

Alderman Levasseur asked how long before you know that you have gotten the grant.

Chief Cashin replied like I told Alderman Vincent, we are looking at a year to 18 months before we find out.

Alderman Levasseur asked so one year.

Chief Cashin stated at a minimum. I would say it is closer to 18 months.

Alderman Levasseur stated so that would be two budgets away from right now just about. Then you don't have to start hiring for six months or three months?

Chief Cashin answered six months.

Alderman Levasseur moved to amend the motion and ask that when the grant is produced by FEMA if it is a tiered grant that it be brought back to the BMA and in any event that the grant application be sent to all Board members via email.

Chief Cashin stated I have no problem with that.

Alderman O'Neil asked can't that just happen without an amendment. I don't think we need to vote on that.

Alderman Levasseur stated I think we have been told that it is a non-tiered grant for three years and it makes a big difference if it is because the second year would be 50% and the third year would be 75%. I think it is important that we be notified immediately and that it come back to the Board for another vote if it is tiered. If it is non-tiered it doesn't have to come back for a vote but at least send us a copy of the grant so we can read it.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked we are going to have to vote to accept the grant anyway right.

Mayor Ruais responded correct.

Mayor Ruais stated Alderman Levasseur has made an amendment to the motion. Is there a second?

Alderman Terrio duly seconded the amendment. Mayor Ruais called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman O'Neil being duly recorded in opposition.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote on the motion to amend the committee report and allow the Fire Chief to apply for the 2023 SAFER grant with the stipulation that if it is a tiered grant it come back to the BMA for a vote and that the grant application be sent to all Board members. Alderman Burkush requested a roll call vote. Aldermen Burkush, Barry, Vincent, Thomas, Morgan, Goonan, Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, Kantor, O'Neil, Levasseur, Terrio and E. Sapienza voted yea. The motion carried.

REGULAR BUSINESS

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

There were none.

On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted to recess the meeting to allow the Committee on Finance to meet.

Mayor Ruais called the meeting back to order.

28. Report(s) of the Committee on Finance, if available.

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

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Seventy-Three Thousand Three Hundred Forty-One Dollars and Ninety-Nine Cents (\$73,341.99) to return to CDBG unprogrammed funds.”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Four Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Five Dollars (\$4,995) for the FY2024 CIP 412424 Police Academy Cadre.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the FY 2023 CIP 611123 Lead-Based Paint Healthy Homes Supplemental Funding.”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty Six Thousand Dollars (\$36,000) for the FY2024 CIP 713124 Lake Massabesic Feasibility Study - Mill Pond Dam Level.”

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Three Hundred Thirty-Six Dollars and Ninety Cents (\$336.90) for the FY2024 CIP 810624 Planning Studies.”

ought to pass and be Enrolled.

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

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

There were none.

30. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Seventy-Three Thousand Three Hundred Forty-One Dollars and Ninety-Nine Cents (\$73,341.99) to return to CDBG unprogrammed funds.”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Four Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Five Dollars (\$4,995) for the FY2024 CIP 412424 Police Academy Cadre.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the FY 2023 CIP 611123 Lead-Based Paint Healthy Homes Supplemental Funding.”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty Six Thousand Dollars (\$36,000) for the FY2024 CIP 713124 Lake Massabesic Feasibility Study - Mill Pond Dam Level.”

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Three Hundred Thirty-Six Dollars and Ninety Cents (\$336.90) for the FY2024 CIP 810624 Planning Studies.”

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

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted that the Resolutions be Enrolled.*

31. Ordinance:

“An Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 155 of the City of Manchester Code of Ordinances, to provide reasonable accommodations to disabled persons by defining “disability” and adopting RSA 674:33, V.”

*On motion of **Alderman Fajardo**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted to read by title only and it was so done.*

Alderman T. Sapienza moved to Ordain. **Alderman O'Neil** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Levasseur asked is there a way to vote for this without having to vote on the second part that was brought up concerning...

City Clerk Normand interjected do you want to strike certain language.

Alderman Levasseur replied yes can we strike the language on the addiction issue as being part of this ordinance. Can we vote against that part?

City Clerk Normand asked so you are looking to amend the ordinance that is before this Board.

Alderman Levasseur asked is that how we would do that. I don't know what the particular language is. Is there a way to divide that out at some point if we tabled it?

City Clerk Normand stated I am sorry I was speaking with the Solicitor. What is your question?

Alderman Levasseur replied the issue of whether or not I can get that part out that I find repugnant regarding addiction being a reason for a disability. I don't believe it has been codified and I haven't heard of any real case law statement that it has to be part of our ordinance.

Alderman O'Neil asked can we have the Planning Director come up. I just want to make sure I am clear on it. I thought that as written our outside counsel was good with this.

Jeff Belanger, Planning & Community Development Director, stated you are correct alderman that our outside counsel is good with this as written. That doesn't necessarily mean you can't strike the language if you want to. It is also possible that you could table to have further discussion with outside counsel to go over this particular issue with them. All of those are options.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I believe earlier you said that this does not remove any barriers for people who want to create sober houses.

Mr. Belanger responded correct. Nothing practically changes as a result of the enactment of this.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked this doesn't make it any easier to get a sober house approved right.

Mr. Belanger answered correct.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated that is all I need to know.

Alderman Goonan asked can we just vote on this as written.

Mayor Ruais stated we have a motion that has been made and seconded. I believe there are a few more questions.

Alderman Levasseur stated he just asked if it would make it harder but it also wouldn't make it less hard if this passed or it wouldn't make it harder either way.

Mr. Belanger replied correct. These laws already exist. Whether the city adopts this language into the ordinance or not does not change the legal landscape.

Mayor Ruais asked so regardless of what the vote is this evening, the City of Manchester through the Zoning Board is still going to continue to operate under the state and federal laws that you outlined today through the ADA and Fair Housing Act correct. Nothing changes beyond the fact that we protect ourselves in the future or provide a stronger stance with regard to any impending lawsuits.

Mr. Belanger answered that is correct Mayor.

Alderman Levasseur stated however you did say we could strike that language specifically to the issue of addiction. If a person is addicted, that is a criteria. You did say we could strike that. So if we strike it, it won't matter?

Mr. Belanger responded I am not the be all end all on this because we have outside counsel who is involved in litigation like this all the time. They are the experts that we have hired to advise us on this. They approved this language but it is my understanding that this language is not necessary to be in there in order to use the state and federal laws that are being adopted here to do the process that we are already doing. That is not necessary.

Alderman Levasseur asked you are familiar with our shelter law, the one relating to the sidewalks right. We have a state statute that says you can't...we added all that extra language on there. We didn't have to add that extra language. Is that the same thing we are talking about here? We don't have to add that extra language?

Mr. Belanger replied I don't really want to analogize to that law that is a totally other legal issue that I am not familiar with.

Alderman Levasseur stated well it is the same thing. We are adding language from a state...we are adding extra language.

Mr. Belanger stated we are adding language...the proposal is to add language to call attention to that issue so that it is clear that the city is acting in good faith and it puts us in a better position should there be litigation down the road.

Alderman Barry stated Jeff, I know you have been clear and I get it and I understand where you are coming from. As written, our city solicitor as well as attorneys that are representing the city in lawsuits want that in the language. They want that in the ordinance.

Mr. Belanger responded they have approved this language, yes. There was a collaborative effort amongst my department, the solicitor and the outside counsel to come up with this language.

Alderman Barry asked you are not representing us. You are not an attorney representing us.

Mr. Belanger replied correct.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote. Alderman O'Neil requested a roll call vote.

Aldermen O'Neil, Terrio, Burkush, Barry, Vincent, Thomas, Goonan, Long, Fajardo, and T. Sapienza voted yea. Aldermen Levasseur, E. Sapienza, Morgan and Kantor voted nay. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Long stated when we redid the Mill Girl statue, Dube's Hot Dogs was a vendor there. We had to remove him while doing the construction but once we finished the construction, it was designated as a park. With that said, Parks & Recreation has a policy where they put bids out to vendors to vend in a park. I think this is a unique situation. This person built his business for 15 years. It is a thriving business today because of his efforts. Going out to bid there are other vendors I assume who may want to have a food truck there because it is a great spot now. When you go there it is busy. ***I would like to move that we waive the bidding process for two years and allow him to use that location.***

Alderman Barry duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Levasseur asked is there anybody in the city opposed to this. Who is in charge of actually asking for bids?

Alderman Long answered it is a revenue and I get that.

Alderman Levasseur replied right but who sends out for the bid. Is it Planning or Parks & Recreation? Is Parks & Recreation okay with this? I am with you on it. I just didn't know where it was coming from.

Alderman Long responded well they want the revenue.

Tim Clougherty, Public Works Director, stated the standards process for all of our concessions is to put it out to competitive bid. If the Board chooses to waive that, then the Board chooses to waive that and that is what we will do.

Alderman Terrio asked so this vendor is paying now.

Mr. Clougherty answered no he is not.

Alderman Terrio asked so you are not going to put it out to bid for two years and that means he isn't going to pay for two years.

Alderman O'Neil stated my opinion and observation is that gentleman has labored down there for many years, Alderman Long said 15, and now because we did some improvements and are calling it a park...it wasn't a park for the 15 years he has been down there. I support Alderman Long's motion. Mr. Dube has worked hard and become a fixture down there and I support that in this particular situation. Thank you.

Alderman Kantor asked what would the fee be.

Mr. Clougherty replied well we would put it out to bid so we don't know that that would be. He would propose something and a potential competitive vendor could propose something as well.

Alderman Kantor asked so right now he isn't paying anything to be there.

Alderman Long stated well he has to pay for his permit from the Clerk's Office.

Alderman Kantor stated so he is not paying for that area. I am just curious because I pay property taxes and I am a business owner.

Mark Gomez, Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Manager, stated I believe he gets a peddler's license from the Clerk's Office.

City Clerk Normand responded yes; he gets a peddler's license which is \$150 for the year for that location. I think the issue is that Parks would now like to go out to bid so that would be an additional fee on top of that.

Alderman Kantor stated I was just curious on what that looked like.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I assume he is paying the Health Department too right because it is a food establishment.

Alderman Levasseur asked is there an ordinance that says we have to send this out to bid. Are we waiving a particular ordinance or a policy or is that just the way we do things?

Mr. Clougherty answered that question would be more appropriately directed to the Solicitor. I don't know the answer to that question.

Emily Rice, Solicitor, stated I think it is a departmental policy.

Alderman Levasseur stated I just wanted to make sure that if we are waiving something we are waiving something that is waivable.

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

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I have an announcement. I guess that Monday, March 4 is tentatively scheduled?

Mayor Ruais replied no that is scheduled.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated okay and that is Monday, March 4 at 5:30 PM at Memorial and that is the two boards – BMA and BOSC meeting to discuss the bond issue with the schools.

Mayor Ruais stated it is to get background information and to allow questions.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I think that is a great idea and I hope it is well attended. I just want folks to know that we all realize something needs to be done we are just not all in agreement as to exactly what that something is. I won't go into that. I think this meeting is a great idea.

Alderman Terrio stated I wanted to send something to committee and I am not sure which committee but for years people have come to me, Democrats and Republicans,

and said to piggyback on what Alderman E. Sapienza is talking about with the school bond the school bond is going to be \$550 million and people say they have fears...they don't name names and they can't give me any specifics but they are afraid that people in this city on the BMA are going to personally profit from city contracts. This contract is huge. It is \$550 million so I would like to send something to the committee to see if what we are doing is correct and if we are being transparent and if there is a way we can tighten up our ordinances to put the public's fears to rest that we aren't...nobody in the school district or on the school board or BMA is personally profiting from any city contracts Your Honor. I don't know which committee that would be but I would like to send something to a committee to explore that and strengthen any ordinances that may be found lacking.

City Clerk Normand stated I think what you are referring to are charter violations. That behavior is prohibited by charter and it is up to this Board to determine when there is a violation of the charter.

Alderman Terrio replied I understand it is a charter violation but I want to strengthen our ordinances.

City Clerk Normand stated the Committee on Administration would be the committee to discuss ordinances of this nature.

Alderman Terrio moved to send the issue to the Committee on Administration.

Alderman Levasseur duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Long stated as chair of that committee, if you can you articulate exactly what you are looking for, I would appreciate it. Please articulate exactly what you are looking for and send it to the Clerk.

Alderman Terrio replied I would like to look around at other municipalities to strengthen conflicts of interest and to prevent...I don't think it is happening but I get accusations from the public and unfounded fears that they think people in the city somehow personally benefit from city contracts. I would just like to explore...maybe what we are

doing is perfectly fine but if we can get stronger language in ordinances and things like that to put the public's fears to rest that we aren't personally benefitting from city contracts, that is what I would like.

Alderman Long stated I can probably ask the Municipal Association to get me a list of conflicts and see what the other municipalities have. I am thinking that ours is pretty much up there.

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

Alderman Burkush stated I have a couple of things. I think we should recognize the Clerk's Office and the volunteers that worked at the polls. They did an outstanding job. Your Honor, I noticed on the position vacancy report that Public Works has some equipment operator openings and I am concerned. During this last storm I did get some calls about delays with streets being cleared and I was hoping that you would consider filling those vacancies. I believe these are on the hold list. Am I reading this right Director Drabik?

Lisa Drabik, HR Director, stated the list that you got are those positions that were sent to the Mayor's Office through the regular process and may not have been acted on at the time I prepared that list. I don't have the most current information as of right this second. I could down and look if you would like. That list was prepared in advance to get to the Clerk's Office in time for the meeting so it may have changed by today.

Alderman Burkush stated I was hoping, Your Honor, that you would consider filling Public Works vacancies if possible.

Alderman O'Neil stated there was a handout tonight and I won't read the memo into the record but I would like to work with you and my colleagues to begin a discussion...it is my opinion that we are not serving the young people of our city well. If you have money you are okay, but in my opinion, we have a lot of young people that are being left out for various reasons. I don't have the answers but I have heard aldermen talk about this

and I have certainly talked about it. I would like to begin the discussion and try to gain as much information as we can.

Mayor Ruais responded I have no problem with that. I know that Alderman Morgan has done a great deal of work with youth sports in the city and I think you would find a lot of people that would want to explore these opportunities.

Alderman Levasseur stated I have been talking with Alderman Morgan who has been at the forefront of this issue and basically ran on the issue of the city's underutilization of parks, venues, school gyms, etc. and how important it is for children to touch the grass and touch the glass. I hear that from my young boys who say that they are up against kids that play Fortnite 100 hours a week and they know they have never actually put their foot on a football field or basketball court. I am going to be forming a special committee that I expect Alderman Morgan will chair. The temporary name will be the Special Committee on Manchester's Youth & Sports. We want to put a committee together and get this going and talk about it. If you are interested in joining that committee, there will be five aldermen on there so send me an email and I will form that committee for our next meeting in February. Your letter, Alderman O'Neil, is very timely so thanks.

Alderman Morgan stated I just want to say thank you to Alderman O'Neil for bringing this to the attention of the Board because it is definitely something that we need to put focus on. Thank you.

Alderman Fajardo stated I just wanted to point out in Director Beloin's newsletter that went out yesterday that the city is now funding the Brook Street Shelter and it reopened on 1/22. I just wanted to commend Director Beloin and Owen for their work to get that back online.

Alderman Kantor stated I was wondering if we could have a list of all the sober homes and the non-profits in Manchester and if we could create a committee, if possible, to help them sync up and create transparency and accountability. I was also wondering about 39 Beech Street and if it is still a low, low barrier homeless shelter.

Mayor Ruais asked Director Beloin to come forward.

Adrienne Beloin, Director of Housing Stability, stated thank you Alderman Fajardo. Yes, the Beech Street Shelter is still very low barrier. We have been operating with the same standard operating procedures since we opened. Was there a particular question about that or a concern?

Alderman Kantor answered no I was just wondering and wanted everyone to know. Do you check i.d.'s? How long are they allowed to stay? If they have a warrant for their arrest, do you check that? Are they sex offenders?

Ms. Beloin asked would it be helpful for me to prepare something that kind of provides all of the operational standards. I prepared something like that before but maybe if you have it in writing it is going to be easier for you to reference. It is due time that I also give you a re-up on the report that I provided before the holidays last year where I was able to give you the breakdown of demographics and all of the people served. I could detail that all out and if you let me know what specific questions you are interested in, I can make sure that I can focus on those.

Alderman Kantor replied those are them. Also, with the open borders do you have any illegal immigrants that have beds that other people need?

Ms. Beloin responded I will prepare that for you.

Alderman Levasseur stated one of the concerns about being not just a low barrier but in your words the lowest barrier shelter in the state, you don't frisk people coming in and you don't frisk them on the way out correct. There is no search at all of people when they walk in and no search while they are there? They can't be searched or they are not searched at any time, correct?

Ms. Beloin answered I don't know that we are the lowest barrier shelter in the state.

Alderman Levasseur replied those are your words.

Ms. Beloin stated that might have been something I misspoke about or didn't mean to represent but I can tell you right now that I don't know that to be true. We are the lowest barrier shelter in Manchester and we don't frisk people or search them and no other state-funded shelter or any other shelter does that.

Alderman Levasseur asked so you don't.

Ms. Beloin answered we don't.

Alderman Levasseur stated that is fine. So, you don't know what they are bringing in and whether they are bringing in drugs or needles or whatever? You don't know that right? Please don't take this as a criticism because it is not. It is just a question. You say that we are low barrier. Do they search anybody at any other ones?

Ms. Beloin responded we have a right to ask people to show us their belongings if we have concerns. We are very concerned about safety in the shelter so our standard operating procedures, which I will provide for you, include that people aren't allowed to have weapons and they are not allowed to display any sort of unsafe behavior or activities. If we suspect that is happening or someone reports that it is happening, we can employ all kinds of ways to ensure safety and certainly if anyone is breaking any of the rules or any of those things cross any sort of reasonable line, they are dismissed for the day. That is the common practice. If something was more serious, they would be dismissed for longer but typically if someone breaks the rules they are out for a day and they come back in and we try again and this is how behavioral change happens with this population. It has been extremely successful and we have had very low incidents as you know.

Mayor Ruais stated I think what would be helpful is there are a number of new members on the Board and similar to what we are doing on the school board side with education us on Phase I, it would be helpful if you came back at a future date with a presentation to give us a full look at the shelter and updated numbers.

Ms. Beloin replied I think that is a really good idea. I will work on that right away and then as soon as I can get back on the agenda I will come back. If anyone has any questions before I come back, feel free to let me know. You can send me an email and let me know last minute and I will make sure I take that in so we can answer all of your questions and have a really rich discussion.

Alderman Levasseur stated I just have one more question. You say you are actually tracking a lot more than you did when you first got on the job. Are each of these incidents of whether or not somebody has been disciplined for a day or longer compiled in a record also?

Ms. Beloin answered yes. Every time there is an incident, staff complete an incident report and then there is a review process of that incident report and those things are tracked.

Alderman Levasseur asked and you have that information yourself.

Ms. Beloin replied yes.

Alderman Levasseur stated okay great. I appreciate it.

Ms. Beloin stated I would like to answer your other question about the way we get sober homes involved with the non-profits because I think that is a perfect example of what we are doing right now with building the attendance of the Continuum of Care. Sober homes are part of the CoC because they serve folks that interact with the homeless population. So sometimes some of the folks in sober homes have been homeless before or have a history of homelessness. They are a huge part of the fabric that makes up all of the services so it is a perfect place for them to come and join. We are continuing to hold those informational sessions that you have been a part of so if you know sober homes or anyone else does, we will reach out to them as well and invite them to be a part of the CoC so we can all work together.

Alderman Kantor stated I have one more question about visiting. I used to go there often because I wanted to check in with a few people. What are the rules for us aldermen to be allowed in?

Ms. Beloin responded it is not just for aldermen but for any member of the public. Unless you are an approved provider or an approved staff member or police or some other first responder, you can't come into the space and that is just a common practice for any program to respect the dignity and privacy of the people in the program. So, any of you, if you are interested in coming to the shelter, you can arrange that with me personally and I will meet you down there. Anything that you need, we can make that happen.

Mayor Ruais stated I know that this is a very important topic and I would love for you to come back to the Board and provide a presentation at a later date.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I also have visited the shelter and dropped in and made donations of razors, shaving cream, soap and whatnot. That is not allowed without an appointment? Is that what you are saying?

Ms. Beloin answered donations are actually allowed without an appointment because we collect donations in a different way. We advertise fully all over the city and on the website and I have sent those donations pages out to you all to say please bring your donations seven days a week between 9 AM and 5 PM. We have kind of a receiving deck and a process for that but that is different than coming in and having the guests be exposed to visitors. We don't want them to feel uncomfortable. It is just a way to kind of manage the nuance of visitors coming so that we can respect the dignity and make sure people feel like they are comfortable in the space. Sometimes people aren't always at their best. Sometimes they are recovering and sometimes they are having a difficult day or having a medical issue. Just like when you are in your own home, you don't necessarily want to have visitors when you don't want to have visitors. We try to give people a heads up about it. The mayor was with me there last week and we gave people a heads up about that. People could then make choices as to whether or not they were in the space.

Alderman Long asked so funding for 39 Beech Street is through June.

Ms. Beloin responded yes.

Alderman Long asked and funding for Brook Street is through when.

Ms. Beloin answered the Brook Street funding went through the CIP process. The Light of Life Ministries is the operational source that is running the Brook Street Shelter. We also have that relationship with the building through the state so that is kind of an offering that was part of the process in the CIP Department. It was a voted-on process when we had...

Alderman Long interjected so how long is the funding there for Brook Street.

Ms. Beloin replied I am not familiar with that. That is the Planning Department.

Alderman Long asked is it more than through June.

Ms. Beloin answered I don't know the parameters of their funding.

Mr. Belanger stated I would need to look to confirm the exact amount of time but it is multi-year. It was done through an RFP process with the affordable housing ARPA dollars.

Alderman O'Neil asked is January the month when the homeless counts are done.

Mayor Ruais answered yes.

Alderman O'Neil asked when will we see that report.

Ms. Beloin responded unfortunately it is not until later in the year which is an annoyance to us as well.

Alderman O'Neil asked why is that.

Ms. Beloin answered it is just because it is a HUD vetted program so when we do Point in Time counts it is all across the country. The PIT counts are managed in a way where we have to do it on certain forms and enter it into a certain portal and then HUD kind of scrubs the data. They are very interested in de-duplicating the different individuals that we see and they use a process to do that. After they kind of verify the numbers then they come back to us. I can let you know informally that we have an idea of how many people we have counted. It is similar numbers to last year but slightly more unhoused and unsheltered folks that we have counted this year.

Alderman O'Neil asked how do we identify the camps. We have to wait until HUD approves telling us? I would like to see a list of where the camps are and based on the snapshot of that day how many people are there. I know it changes but I would like to get that for the Board as soon as we can on where these camps are.

Ms. Beloin stated that is an easy thing to do.

Alderman O'Neil stated the mayor talked about a future presentation and maybe you can include how that is updated and how can a police officer, firefighter or public health worker update that so that it is in real time. I would like to see that list as soon as possible as far as where the camps are and based on that snapshot in time how many people were in them.

Ms. Beloin replied I can prepare that too. We have a weekly encampment team meeting and we are monitoring all of the camps. We have a really good sense, not just from something like the PIT count but from outreach teams that go out in the community from our non-profit partners and from our Police Department.

Alderman O'Neil asked so can we have that in a week.

Ms. Beloin answered we have it currently. I didn't prepare it to bring it with me tonight but that is something that we are currently monitoring and tracking on a week-to-week basis.

Alderman O'Neil asked could you email it to the Mayor and Board within a week; locations and the count based on a certain date.

Ms. Beloin replied absolutely. I will go back and prepare the different data sets that we kind of talked about tonight, including the encampment numbers and I will put that all together in the best way to come back to the Board. Anything in the meantime, just let me know and I can add it in.

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