

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

March 5, 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

*On motion of **Alderman Vincent**, duly seconded by **Alderman E. Sapienza**, it was voted to recess the meeting to allow the Special Meeting of the BMA to resume.*

Mayor Ruais called the meeting back to order.

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. I would like to reiterate this Board's rule on public comment adopted on January 2nd so there is no confusion on how this process will proceed in these chambers. All people wishing to speak must sign up with their name, address and topic prior to 7 pm. Once called, they will have up to three minutes to speak and any comments must be directed to the chair and conclude when their time is up. If the clerk calls their name and they are not present to speak, they will not be given a second opportunity. Any resident wishing to speak will come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized and give their comments.

Alderman Levasseur stated I would like to ask for the first time in 15 years on this Board for a personal privilege to put forward a motion.

Mayor Ruais responded yes go ahead.

Alderman Levasseur moved that the Board not take a vote on the ceasefire resolution now or in the future as the Middle East peace process is not germane to the business of this Board. **Alderman E. Sapienza** duly seconded the motion.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote. The motion carried with Aldermen Fajardo and T. Sapienza duly recorded in opposition.

Lucy Lange, 500 Commercial Street, stated:

I am the President of the Manchester Radio Group here in Manchester. I added my name to the list to express my opposition to a decision made earlier this evening approving Stark Brewery to take 19 parking spots from April 15 through October 15, 2024 at the rate of \$1,260. We own two of the 10 condos inside the property at 500 Commercial Street. We pay as an association \$27,000/year for parking. My company pays \$5,400 of that and we specifically buy these parking spaces under the bridge at Bridge Street to be given shelter under the bridge during times of rain and snow. This agreement and the decision to do this takes six months of that coverage out of our use. While there might be other parking, and it was very interesting how much conversation there was about how little parking there was in this city, this is taking 19 spaces away from the businesses in the mills. I did reach out to all of the aldermen on the committee yesterday as well as our alderman in Ward 3 and the two alternates. I am asking that it be reconsidered and go on record that we oppose giving these 19 spaces to Stark Brewery to use for their private use for six months, from April 15 through October 15. Chris Goodnow, the Parking Manager for the city's note was not really referenced much during that decision. The cost of these 19 spaces is actually \$7,315 in value to the City of Manchester who is always looking for revenue. This decision for these 19 spots to be given at \$1,260 is something that I would like reconsidered and go on record as opposing. Thank you.

Jean Mathieu, 93 Arlington Street, stated:

I have a couple of things as a tax paying citizen in Ward 4. First of all, I want to thank the Board very much for the actions regarding the school board and the \$1 billion proposal and the fact that you paused that. I encourage you to really look at that carefully. As a taxpayer, that is something that makes me very concerned as far as

continued affordability here in the city but also the transparency I think is so critically important and I want to applaud you for slowing this process down to allow us to be more observant and involved in this process. Secondly, regarding the ADU's and that sort of thing, I live right off of Bridge Street in Ward 4 and I own a business right off of Elm Street and I often walk to work and back. The city is very difficult from a walkability standpoint. The sidewalks often have trees coming up out of them, etc. One of the things, as the city is talking about housing and improving that, what can we do to make the city more walkable so that the sidewalks are really something we can safely walk on? I often just walk in the street because the sidewalks are in such poor condition. Finally, I was at a board meeting the other night and a group of us were together and we talked about how Manchester is a beautiful city but could be so much better. We have the Adopt-A-Highway situation where community members can get together and businesses can sponsor a portion of that. I was wondering if there is something like an Adopt-A-Block program that we could start that would allow community organizations to adopt-a-block and maybe be features somehow for that where their intention and volunteer effort is to maintain and beautify a particular block. I just thought of those ideas of things that might be nice so we can see some improvements in the walkability and beautification of this city as we go forward. Thank you.

Brittany Ping, 199 Putnam Street, stated:

I want to talk to you guys about trash. I know it is really exciting stuff. I want to thank everybody who served previously on the Board. The ordinance got pushed through and there was a vote to pause the implementation which was set to take place on December 1 and really allowed the special committee to meet again for solid waste. Thank you, Alderman Fajardo, for chairing that committee. I watched that meeting and was super happy to see the presentation from DPW and super happy to see the rest of you that had questions at the end. This is a niche part. When I say it is niche, it really affects 1/3 of our trash pick-up in the city. While it does feel weird and there are lots of questions, I heard excellent questions from Alderman Long and Alderman Terrio. I am always happy to talk...this is what I do. I met with a condo association that was super worried. They are a small condo association of four on Nelson Road right by Elliot Hospital. I said don't worry you are fine and your little green trash barrels are fine but I have one just down the street and they are six and they are terrified. We talked about

that and dumping and how that is an issue. I want to remind everyone who is a citizen in Manchester that See-Click-Fix is your best friend. If you are worried about people parking on the sidewalks in your neighborhood or you are worried about illegal dumping or I just walked past a couch on the sidewalk that wasn't there yesterday, you can use See-Click-Fix. I have done it for a broken swing in a playground and it was fixed the next day. This is a public, accountable and transparent...you can see what department is responsible and you can see their response and if you don't agree and say this was closed and it is still an issue, you can take a picture and report it again and again. I have done that for homeless encampments and dumped tires and things that are just there. Realizing that you as a citizen do have that voice and it is right in your pocket and on your smartphones and you don't have to come here and do three minutes. That is my public comment on that but trash, I really do appreciate everybody on the last Board that voted to pause and really have an in-depth conversation. I appreciate the special committee and their meeting on 2/20 and their vote to have an advisory board meet with DPW. I have asked several aldermen and the mayor to put my name on that list. I have 17 of the 270 waivers that were submitted to the city so I obviously have a vested interest in regards to the property owners that I represent but also to the city that I love very much that I would love to see stay clean. Thank you so much.

Alan Raff, 8 Carpenter Street, stated:

I come before you this evening to advocate for the amendment to Chapter 38: Procurement Code of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by adding additional requirements during the prequalification of bidders associated with the procurement of city construction contracts, aka the responsible contractor ordinance and against the effort to rescind the Board's action from 2023. Mr. Reed, the representative from ABC stated that his organization was willing to work on a compromise to the ordinance amendment that satisfied his organization and also accomplish the goal of protecting Manchester taxpayers from unscrupulous contractors. The supporters of this responsible contractor amendment, and I still very much remain open and ready to work out any compromise that the Mayor, the Board and ABC felt was agreeable, but as I mentioned in my prior testimony before this Board, I assisted in the drafting of this ordinance to protect Manchester taxpayers from businesses coming in and doing construction work in our city, for our city, and with taxpayer money when

they have been banned from doing construction work in other cities or states because they mistreated their workforce or because of business misconduct. As I was writing the first draft of this amendment back in March 2023, it became public that Avatar Construction Corporation, the contractor that is building the Grand Central Suites project on Central Street was being charged by the Massachusetts Attorney General for wage theft. As you have all been made aware, the owner of Avatar Construction, Nazar Vincent as he is known now, has a long history of defrauding municipalities and has pled guilty to charges related to these actions. As the *Union Leader* reported on January 24, Nazar Vincent announced plans to develop the site located at 533 Elm Street, the former home of Michael's School of Hair Design. Manchester taxpayers should not be subsidizing the work of unscrupulous contractors who could ultimately end up costing our city money instead of enhancing its development. The prior Board awarded a three-year tax break to Avatar without knowing the proprietor's history of defrauding municipalities and his workers. The amendment to this ordinance would have precluded taxpayer money going to a contractor with such a history. That is the sole purpose of this ordinance; to protect taxpayers from their hard-earned dollars going to unscrupulous business owners. Given the fact that Avatar is looking to embark on another project that could request tax benefits from our city, it must be stated for the public record that you are all now aware of his past conduct and with Avatar's malpractice and violations in other jurisdictions including the pending lawsuits in Massachusetts. The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers in Manchester. I know that all of the Board members here and the Mayor seek to be fiscally responsible with their tax dollars. I humbly request that you allow the parties to come up with a compromise and not rescind the action of the prior Board to amend this ordinance. If it is the will of the Board and the Mayor to rescind the amendment then on behalf of Manchester taxpayers, I ask that no further tax dollars go to Avatar Construction Corporation for potential development in our city. As stated, the supporters of this amendment and I are very much ready to work with the Mayor, members of the Board and ABC to ensure a way to protect taxpayer dollars and also make sure that we are not hindering business owners and developers who want to make our city even better. Thank you.

Jeff Grinvalsky, 920 Candia Road, stated:

I am not a resident; however, I represent about 400 carpenters within the city limits as a representative of the Carpenters Union. I have 20+ years in the construction industry and in that time, I have seen the practices firsthand. The industry is rife with these kinds of practices. This is not a union versus non-union issue. This is an honest contractor versus dishonest contractor. I am glad to hear that there is dialogue with ABC because in my time we have worked with open shop contractors on legislation that addresses this issue. It really is affecting everyone. I came armed with some studies that I will cite tonight. One is from UC Berkeley from March 2022 regarding the public cost of low wage jobs in NH construction. I would be happy to leave this for folks. I don't have many copies but I did bring one as well as one from the Century Foundation from November 2023 stating that 2.1 million U.S. construction workers are misclassified or paid off the books. I am glad to share that with you folks. Just really quick, 39% of families of construction workers are enrolled in one or more safety net programs at a cost of nearly \$28 billion per year. In NH, 22% of families of construction workers are enrolled in one or more safety net programs at a cost of nearly \$48 million per year. Citing some more numbers from the State of NH, lost overtime pay according to the Century Foundation is \$9.8 million and \$63.2 million of costs evaded by unscrupulous contractors. My hope tonight is that we do push pause on this as we have more dialogue. I would be interested in speaking more with the city. I know we have something coming up where I would like to get into more of this information and work together to address this for all of the contractors within city limits who are interested in doing this work responsibly. The trades are being talked about greatly now and getting people in and we need to get them into a career that has a promising future and I would be happy to leave these.

Rick Blais, 733 Chestnut Street, stated:

I want to thank you all for doing what you do. It is a tough job and I know it is not easy. Today I just want to give you a couple of quick bullet points as you go further into this year. When we have two-year election cycles it is hard to get a lot of long-term things done but the first thing I want to bring to your attention is last year we were talking a lot about the unions as far as the employee pension funds being underfunded. I think at some point, and it is not going to get solved in two years with the amount of money we

owe, but I think at some point somebody has to put a strategy together in a bi-partisan way so this can go forward for the next five to eight years or ten years or however long it is going to take to fix that problem. Again, retirement itself is a tough one. We know Social Security is going to have all kinds of issues in 2033 with a 20% cut across the board and we have to make sure that you do something, maybe not in your cycle, but eight or ten years from now these people are going to have to worry about losing that paycheck. I appreciate your efforts on that and putting some type of committee or study committee together but the other thing is developing a Plan B. With good fiscal responsibility, does anything ever go right the first time? There is always something going wrong and with the federal government and all the troubles that I won't go through but there are issues there and too much debt there. How much are we relying on them writing a check to us for some of these projects we are planning on? I would encourage you to go forward with what you are planning but also be smart about having a Plan B. What happens if we lose some of the big federal funding. What is our Plan B? We have to have all department heads on board with a flat cut across the board or something should that happen. Not that they have to do it now but something should be planned on that. My third item is the school board. I went to the school board meeting last night and the bonding issue is a big thing. We are at 4.5% and that is typical for 10-year treasury but we are talking about a long-term 20- or 30-year bonding process here. I am not sure if we have the ability to recall those bonds as interest rates fall down and if so, how much is that going to cost us? If we don't have the ability to recall those bonds, what happens when rates go back down to 1.5% and we can't refinance them. I appreciate you looking at that and thank you for your vote today.

Rich Girard, 283 Orange Street, stated:

I would just like to follow-up with a couple of more comments on the zoning ordinance that is before you tonight. I have to tell you that I lived on Notre Dame between Amory and Kelley and on Hevey between Amory and Kelley, Moore Street between Kelley and Bremer, Reed Street between Bremer and Mason, Maple Street at the corner of Somerville and now I live on Orange Street between Linden and Russell. I have lived in my fair share of these multi-family neighborhoods which you think are really ripe for additional density and less parking. I would like to address a couple of things. While it sounds great in theory that we can call the Police Department or the Planning

Department and get all of these people who are illegally parking on their properties, I don't think you understand that there is no place else for them to park. A lot of these neighborhoods were built before cars and certainly before there were parking requirements. Passing ordinances that allow you to go from three to four units so they can convert their garage which is providing, if not parking than storage, to create a fourth unit on a three-unit property is going to aggravate the problem. People park up on the sidewalks not because they think it is cool or they want to scuff their tires. They park on the sidewalk, if you go Cartier Street from Amory to Kelley, go down there sometime and they are parked up on the sidewalk on both sides of the street because if they don't, it is a one lane road and people can't get through. Some of these changes are going to affect the civic zones. That's great. We went from having 10 retired priests across from Mt. Carmel to 37 Veterans in recovery. The problem is that between the nursing home staff and the Liberty House staff, you have a one-lane road on Orange Street from Maple to Oak and a one-lane road on Oak from Orange to Maple because of all of the staff and residents that park there. You have to be very careful about the parking. Has anybody gone back to all of these places that were approved for parking reductions to see what the streets were like in those neighborhoods? Has anybody asked the question how many parking spaces per bedroom in a unit to know whether or not these make sense? I think Joe Wichert, who has much more experience than anybody in this room on these matters, raised some great points. It is not a simple thing folks to just say oh well more density and less parking is going to solve our housing problems. If you really want to tackle the housing problem honestly, take a look at your building codes and your fire codes because applying 21st century codes to 19th and 20th century buildings doesn't always make sense. It is a huge financial impact. Density in places like the old Citizens Bank building or a bunch of the mill buildings is density that makes sense because you have the infrastructure around it to support it but your multi-family neighborhoods that already are not competitive with the other spaces where you are allowing housing to be built is a crippling blow to them. Anytime you do something like this, it is one more step toward them becoming a slum. I know because I have lived in them for 30 years. Those of you who haven't, have to take a ride through.

Stan Garrity, Manchester, NH stated:

I am the Chair of the Heritage Commission and with me is Monique and she would like to speak after me about the same subject so I had her come up with me. I am here to talk about Item 15 tonight which is Hallsville School and the changes that have been made to the RFP. At the February 20 L&B Committee, they passed a motion to change the RFP to one with no restrictions meaning that it is open up to whatever a developer wants to do. If they want to take the building down, they can do that. The Heritage Commission opposes that. It is part of our job to do that and also because Hallsville School has long been part of the history of Manchester. It was built in 1891 and the land was owned by the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company which owned all the land. They are the ones that set up the school system. Manchester built a school there and it has been there for 133 years. The school was quickly placed into the Manchester school system along with many others. It has survived well after 130 years. It has had several historical awards. In 2001 it was given the People's Choice Award by the Manchester Historic Association. In 2019, it received the City Landmark Award, which is also from the Manchester Historic Association. It has proved its history. It is part of our history and part of the neighborhood and people love having it there. We are hoping as the Heritage Commission to do something else with the school. There are many schools in Manchester that have been repurposed. There are 13 of them still standing today and I will name them – Ash Street School, Amoskeag School, Brown School, Chandler School, Highland School, Manchester Public High School that was built in 1841 and still stands today, Maynard School, Parker School, Pearl Street School, Rimmon School, Straw School, Varney School and Youngsville School. All of these schools are in service today. They have apartments in them. One has a daycare. Some have businesses and some businesses and apartments. They all still look good and are serving a purpose. We have lost some like Lincoln School, Franklin Street School, Hallsville School, Harvey School, North Grammar School and South Grammar School. These entire historic millyard district has been repurposed. A lot of our shoe shops have been repurposed. There is no just cause to say that it can't be repurposed and used again. I did canvass the area today and talk to some people that live there. I talked to 12 people and all 12 were in favor of saving the school. Some of the comments I got were if they want to change it for condos or something like that, there is too much traffic now. I was standing out there in the rain and it is very clustered around

there and seems very tight. If we put in apartments or condos it is just not going to fit and the people are going to lose their land. The people love the school. Some person made a wise comment and said oh yes, the rich people are probably going to come in here to put condos up and take it down. One person said it can be sold for \$1 and made a senior building. There are a lot of uses for it.

Monique Labbey, 97 Mammoth Road, stated:

I live in the old Hughes House. Mr. Hughes was the first principal at Hallsville School and in case any of you don't know, that was the second Hallsville School built in 1891. The first one we lost last year. It was the East Side Club and most people didn't even know that was the first Hallsville School. We are quickly losing history in our neighborhoods. I bought the home 12 years ago. It was built in 1809. I am a single person and trying to take care of this house and pass it on to the future. It can be done. Changes may need to be done to the inside at Hallsville School. I would hope that we could put some restrictions on the deed that maybe the outside stays the way it is. Obviously retrofitting will need to be done and I understand what it takes to bring up electric and everything else on the inside to turn it into apartments or a business but keeping the outside is a codicil that you could definitely put in the deed. Thank you.

Sebastian Rowan, Ward 2, stated:

I am here to support the proposed resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the provision of life saving humanitarian aid and an end to all U.S. military aid to Israel. The people of Manchester do not want their tax dollars being used to fund the murder of tens of thousands of civilians, including over 13,000 children. The document I delivered this evening is a copy of the petition we have been asking people to sign to show their support for this resolution and includes the names of the 244 Manchester residents who have signed it so far. You can no longer deny that this is an issue your constituents care about. I understand that several members of this Board were deeply offended by the chanting of "Let Her Speak" at the last BMA meeting. I refuse to apologize for standing up for our First Amendment right to address this Board and I think it speaks volumes that this Board seems to care so much about decorum while caring so little about the atrocities being carried out and funded by our tax dollars. Where is this outrage for the infants with sniper's bullet holes in their skulls? Where is this outrage

when Israel drops its bombs on trucks carrying food into Gaza; food that could have saved the life of Yazan Al-Kafarna who died from starvation yesterday or the hundreds of thousands of other children who will die in the coming days if Israel is allowed to go ahead with its planned incursion into Rafa. At the last meeting, I learned that the city has spent \$2 million to hire a consulting firm to improve the city's image. Standing up to genocide would do a lot more to help our brand than a fancy new color scheme. More than 70 other cities across the U.S. have already passed ceasefire resolutions, including Lebanon and Durham, NH. Manchester should do the same. This would not be the first time this Board has weighed in on international affairs. In 1965 and 1967, this body unanimously passed two resolutions supporting Lyndon B. Johnson and his Vietnam policy. In 1971, the board approved a letter weighing in on the Paris Peace Accords and the end to the war in Vietnam. To stay silent now when this genocide is being live-streamed for the world to see, is to proclaim your tacit support for these atrocities. The only other explanation is cowardess. Please pass this resolution. Thank you.

Garrett Walker, Manchester, stated:

I am an employee of the Manchester School District. I think anyone who works in our schools or who visits them would know that not all of our students have stable food and housing. Some of our students come to school hungry or without guarantee of a safe and stable place to sleep at night. Despite this, the City of Manchester gives a conservative estimate of \$1.7 million in aid to Israel. This money helps to stabilize the genocide of the Palestinians. Resources that should go to new high-quality textbooks, additional paraprofessionals or public housing instead is used to deny all of these same necessities to Palestinians and their children. With \$1.7 million, the Manchester School District could hire approximately 34 additional teachers, lightening the burden of each teacher and allowing for inspired and more complex education for our students. We could improve the quality of our textbooks so we no longer need to pick between books older than the students or flimsy textbooks that cannot handle a single school year of use. We could hire 56 new paraprofessionals bringing Manchester much closer to the federally mandated IEP's which instruct us to have much closer parody between students with special needs and their paraprofessionals. I see very often the law broken by having students who are supposed to have one-to-one IEP's actually working

within groups. Students here may not know where their next meal may come from or may not know where their family will sleep tonight but at least they don't have to fear being killed by bombs; bombs that this Board of Aldermen is funding. They may not fear having to dig through rubble for their family members. I am going to end by telling you all what I say to my students. All economic and political decisions are choices made by rationale people. This Board is currently choosing to take security and education away from Palestinians rather than provide it for the people here in Manchester. We need peace here and we need peace in Palestine and we need peace around the world. We need an end to war funds, a permanent ceasefire and a free Palestine. Thank you.

Olivia Lenox, Ward 7, stated:

I am a Manchester born business owner, Ward 7 resident and selectman and concerned citizen. I want to first state that all testimonies of Palestinian citizens of Manchester should be given special attention this evening alongside the testimony of citizens who have recently become privy to the exorbitant amount of their own tax dollars being sent away to fund the atrocities committed in Gaza. I want to thank all of the aldermen who have taken the time to meet with me regarding this issue over the last two weeks – Alderman Long, Terrio, Goonan and a number of others who have attempted to respond to the outcries of their constituents. Thank you. After many meetings, it seems that most of this Board would like to believe that these issues would be better suited for our federal delegates and I would just like to politely ask you don't think that we have already tried that? We are not just here to be recorded and star on your personal online platforms. We are here to present you with a resolution with language and content that represents 60% to 70% of Americans who are calling for a ceasefire and divestment. If any of you feel that you could help this coalition get this issue to our federal delegates, I implore you to facilitate that but for as long as you sit here silently, we will continue to testify until we are heard and until you understand that this is a city issue because it is a humanitarian issue regardless of how morally divided you are as a Board. It has also been made clear to me by many aldermen that if one of you, some of you or even a majority of you were to attempt to bring to light this resolution during new business this evening, you would be shut down by your Mayor and Chairman. In fact, I would like to read a quote from you, Mayor Ruais, which states "the proposed resolution is not germane to the business of the City of Manchester and I

will not entertain it as Mayor.” Levasseur said just five days ago “you are not my constituents. Just because you live in Manchester you think that somehow, I owe you allegiancy? I think you people are seriously messed up in the brain. Nobody pays me enough money to listen to those guys. This is nonsense.” Also, “I am proud of being pro-Israel.” Now that seems like a pretty clear stance to me yet nothing of the sort has been publically stated in this room yet. No dialogue, no votes, no opinions, nothing and why is that? Why is it that this Board feels so completely silenced by yourself and Chairman Levasseur’s control of the narrative and the agenda and what does that say for their ability to represent their constituents on any matter moving forward? Your inability to work together is what led to last week’s escalation. These games that you allow to be played behind the scenes are what keep this city from representing its own best interests. Alderman Levasseur, this city is not your stage.

Mayor Ruais stated please direct your comments to the Chair.

Ms. Lenox asked who. You?

Mayor Ruais answered yes.

Ms. Lenox stated Alderman Levasseur is not...I am confused. I am not allowed to talk to him? Okay well then that’s it.

Clarese Rowan, Ward 2, stated:

In the past two weeks, since your last meeting, the death toll in Gaza has risen to 30,631. Over 13,000 of these murders were children. The Manchester School District is home to 12,510 students. I will repeat that. In 150 days, fewer than a single school year, the Israeli occupation has brutally and indiscriminately murdered more children than the number we have in our entire school district. This is unfathomable and yet the resilient Palestinians have been living in this U.S. backed reality their entire lives. Back to Manchester. What message are you sending to our children? What message are you sending to the large population of refugee children and families who came to this city to escape their own war-torn countries? I have the privilege of knowing multiple refugee students and the comments I hear from them have never changed over the

years. "Why doesn't anyone care about people like me? This wouldn't be allowed if it happened somewhere else. I can't wait to move so that I can live somewhere and fit in." You all have the power to send a message to each of these children. These children who are the future of Manchester and your future voters. Show them that you care and that you will stand up for what is just and right. Prove to the city that you put the lives of people above your own egos. You say that Manchester does not care about this but the continual presence at these meetings, at rally's, the people taking time to sign petitions, all shows us that you are wrong. Manchester cares. Manchester has morals. Where are yours? You claim to represent us yet you refuse to take the concerns of your constituents seriously. I love Manchester. I choose to live here and be a part of this community that has so much love and so much potential. I am asking you as a resident and as your constituent, to stand on the correct side of history. Send a message to the federal government that Manchester will not be complicit in the slaughter of children. I hope that we can get to a point where I can tell my daughter that we live in a city where her representatives stand for humanity and she can be proud of the city she lives in. I do not feel like is what is happening. I need your help to do that but you continually shut us down. We are your voters. We are the people that will help you keep your seat at this table. Listen to your constituents so you can keep that.

Kevin Martin, Ward 6, stated:

I am here yet to again to demand a formal ceasefire declaration amongst what is only an ever-worsening genocide that you are all far too comfortable being complicit in. Since the last meeting, the conditions in Palestine have only become more severe and we are seeing a growing death toll that I would hope and would truly like to believe weighs on your conscience. Less than a week ago we saw what is being dubbed the flower massacre in which humanitarian aid was used to lure Palestinians into a trap by the Israeli occupation forces where at least 112 people were murdered while Israelis were bragging about this and equating the starving Palestinians to ants attacking a candy bar. Nothing seems to have changed in your support for this genocide. We are now seeing more than ever the particular use of starvation to further this genocide. The Rome statute of the International Criminal Court includes starvation as a war crime when committed within an international armed conflict and this is one of the hundreds of documented war crimes that we have not only seen clear documentation of but we see

Israeli celebration of it as well. We have also seen growing class consciousness within the ranks of our own military where on February 25, a 25-year-old serviceman in the U.S. Air Force died by self-immolation in front of the Israeli Embassy to protest how we in the U.S. are funding and supporting this genocide. His refusal to be complicit in these acts of terror are heroic and he is rightfully being honored as a martyr by the people in Palestine and amongst the Arab world. While many try to write off his heroic act of self-sacrifice as simply a mental illness is ignoring the U.S. military steadily being galvanized into facing the reality of the role we play in this genocide. The U.S. Army Special Forces motto is to liberate the oppressed while the Marine Corps is always faithful. If this is supposed to be the essence of the military, which Mayor, you must understand as you claim to have been in the Army...we should admire the true bravery that Aaron promoted but unfortunately many of you have never had experience fighting for anything greater than yourself because at the end of the day the only thing you care about is your own way to gain popularity and most importantly financial privilege amongst this exploitive system. Aaron Bushnell is a wake-up call for the masses that we cannot be complicit in this ethnic cleansing overseas and we as Americans financing and also supporting militarily, the lack of consideration for this proposed ceasefire is yet again showing the disconnect you all have from the masses and your own constituents. One day you might try and rewrite your idea of history by pretending to never support the same way many people who supported Nazi Germany also pretended to do but we will never forget and the masses will never forget where you stood. Thank you.

Katie Carbonara stated:

It has been another two weeks since we were last here and it was another two weeks of this Board refusing to take any action on the ceasefire resolution we have proposed. We are here because we believe in this time, in this moment, we must do everything we can to throw sand into the machine of genocide, no matter how small of an action it may seem. We do whatever we can to try to alleviate the suffering of a population that is being held captive by the Israeli occupation forces which are armed with American bullets, dropping American bombs, and driving American tanks over the bodies of desperate and starving people trying to get the first food they have seen in weeks. All of this is being paid for with our money and it is no small thing for the largest city in this state to adopt a ceasefire resolution to tell our federal government that the people of this

city condemn the use of our tax dollars being spent on more weapons and bombs for Israel and more destruction and brutality in Gaza. Last night, Durham became the second city in this state to adopt a ceasefire resolution and we are here asking that the Board fulfill their duty to the people of this city, do their jobs and add this resolution to the agenda. That is all that I prepared to say to you tonight before the egregious display that we just witnessed of this Board trying pre-emptively, before there has even been a discussion, to stop bringing this resolution to the table. This process has been happening in over 70 cities across the country and as far as we know, this is the first time any city has ever tried to do what you did. All of you should be ashamed of yourselves except for you Alderman T. Sapienza. We appreciate you and honestly, I think you are the only person who takes your job seriously here. All of you, shame on you.

Abby Rowe stated:

Thank you Board for your time and energy and I have to say, after attending your state budget meetings, I have to also thank you for being awake. I am here today because I am sick witnessing the live human crisis in Palestine. The mass destruction and mass loss of life is undeniable as we are witnessing it happen live on our phones. I am sick knowing that U.S. weapons and tax money are what is funding these atrocities. When I was in 6th grade and learned of the horrors of the Holocaust, I couldn't wrap my brain around how it could even be possible. As an adult watching the atrocities happening in Palestine today, I now know that the Holocaust was able to happen because of bystanders. The people of Manchester are demanding a ceasefire, the most basic thing to provide for everyone. Please fulfill your elected duties. Listen to the people of Manchester and pass this resolution. Don't make us a city of bystanders.

Katy Morrison stated:

More and more people ask me when I go to work where is the money going. Now I tell them mass displacement, mass loss of access to vital resources, operations against civilians and against children. Israel does nothing but inspire fear and incite reaction on a global scale. It is no coincidence that the same leadership that is willing to compromise our living conditions here at home along the borders are also willing to endorse forced conditions abroad in Palestine. U.S. support and aid to Israel's actions

create and force insecurity for working people everywhere and we the people are saying no more. No more years, not another day, no more of our hard-earned money, not another dime because if we are working this hard, it should be for our future and not our demise. The lack of decorum from some people in this room while speakers have been up here is extremely disappointing.

A.J. Coletti stated:

I am going to say something to preface this whole thing and maybe this will keep your minds open. Your cognitive dissonance will deactivate your critical thinking the moment you feel triggered. I am not trying to offend you but if you find yourself upset, please self-reflect because as one of us said last time, it is not your job to have opinions but to listen to ours and deliberate them. As individuals, I am asking you all to get to the bottom of this. What is stopping you from doing the right thing and how the hell have you convinced yourself that whatever that is justified your inhumanity? Is it really a lack of knowledge because personally I don't need any information on a military conflict to be against a waging war. I am confident that when I say using war is an entirely useless tactic to obtain peace for any side of any fight. A system established using violence and force will only be able to sustain itself in a violent and forceful manner. Is that such a hard concept to grasp or is it just that you are all too old and so sick of anti-war activists like me because according to grown-ups this is just the way the world works. Well guess what? You are right. The world does revolve around military force and the exploitation of the working class and material wealth. You can all see it but you let that be your depressor, your silencer, your repressor instead of using it as your motivator to get off of your butts and do anything worthwhile. Wouldn't you rather do the bare minimum than nothing at all? No, calling for a ceasefire in Manchester, NH will not single-handedly end this genocide, but by continually letting your constituents know that you perceive this form of civic action as useless, you cheapen the nation's democracy one dead-eyed blank stare at a time. I am pretty certain there is no overwhelming personal gain to being a stupid BOMA member and I highly, highly doubt that your salaries or any other takeaway from this crap can justify your silence or solidarity with genocide. I wish I could pull all the strings at once. I wish that I could unravel the entire blood-soaked tapestry of the global patriarchy in one swift three-minute testimony but I can't so I am here to drive one thing home; ceasefire in Gaza now.

Salaam Odeh stated:

I am here of course to encourage all of you to pass the ceasefire resolution. I am also here as the mother of a soldier who has been on active duty for the past 6 ½ years. His name is Abraham Deak and I am proud of him. However, I came today specifically to honor Aaron Bushnell. I wish Aaron didn't have to go all the way to actually burning himself and dying to protect the genocide in Gaza. I would like to be able to read a little bit about what Aaron Bushnell had said. He said that if a time comes when Palestinians regain control and if the people native to the land are open to the possibility, I would love for my ashes to be scattered in a free Palestine. Furthermore, Aaron Bushnell had written a will before burning himself to death in a protest to the genocide in Gaza. He wanted his savings to be given to a fund to help Palestinian children. I just want to say as a resident of Manchester for 32 years that I don't think it should take all of that begging for you to pass a ceasefire resolution. I am really shocked and in disbelief. It should just be natural. If Aaron Bushnell had done that for the Israeli hostages, a shrine would have been built in Washington, D.C. and Tele-Viv and all over the place. Humans are humans whether you are a Christian, a Muslim, a Jew, a Palestinian, European, or Black it doesn't matter. We are all humans and what is happening in Palestine is shameful on all of us. Thank you.

Kathleen Carswell, Manchester, stated:

I am here to speak about some issues in Manchester, NH and I hope you are pleased to hear that. First of all, I have been a citizen of Manchester for 62 out of my 64 years. I was born in Kansas but raised here in Manchester. I worked here and I am retiring here or I would like to retire here I should say. Mayor, we, the longtime residents of Manchester would like to feel somewhat safe but we don't. We paid our dues and worked very hard to have somewhat of a safe retirement, not to be made to live in unsafe neighborhoods. Being assaulted like I was last week for the first time in a long time and believe me I can hold my own because I grew up with two brothers, or harassed or threatened to go to the corner store...we desperately need rent control in this city please. It would be greatly appreciated if you could address that because we have a lot of people on low fixed incomes and we are going penny by penny to figure out how to pay for things and be able to live so we are not living on cots in a shelter.

None of us can afford the rents that greedy landlords, not everyone but quite a few, want to keep increasing year after year so they can make the big money. We need safe housing and not be thrown to the wolves and living on the streets that we built in this city. Why are NH tax dollars going to be used to fund Governor Sununu's stunt of taking \$850,000 to send 15 guardsmen to the southern border for three months? We could do so much with that money in our state. It is our state money and not federal money. We could spread it out throughout the state and do quite a bit in Manchester alone. Please have something done also about the people begging on the street corners and in some of the small median strips on very busy roadways before someone gets hit or killed. Believe me when I say that I will be back month after month until things start to change for the good and longtime residents of Manchester. Lastly, Mayor, would you kindly also give the respect to the women on the Board with the correct title of Alderwoman and not Alderman? That would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Aidan Neigh, Manchester, stated:

Not even a century ago, my country deemed a genocide a noble enough cause over which to fight a war. We developed and dedicated a military industrial apparatus to ensure that atrocities like those that took place in World War II, atrocities aimed at the deliberate and organized extermination of an entire people, never happened again. Now just 80 years later, I am appalled to see that that same apparatus is, in fact, being leant to a cause that is determined to achieve an end that we fought to insure ended in the 1940's. In the 1980's, the U.S. stood with the people of South Africa in an effort to end the Apartheid state which persisted in the country. Now, not even 40 years later, the U.S. vehemently props up the Apartheid state in Israel, which relegates Palestinians to second-class citizens. That kind of national change that we adopted in the 80's starts here at the community level with dedicated activism like the stuff we see in this room tonight. Every dime, every nickel, every penny that we send to Netanyahu and his authoritarian government in Israel is a mockery to the values upon which this country was founded and those which we united to uphold throughout our country's storied history. The Palestinian struggle is a uniquely American one. It is a fight for liberty, freedom and justice for all. It is a struggle for self-determination. I am here tonight to ask, to implore and to beg this assembly to adopt a ceasefire resolution to end the

genocide in Palestine. The City of Manchester must do this to ensure that the Palestinian struggle lives on. Otherwise, we fail, this assembly fails, this city fails, and this country fails to uphold the values which we claim to fight for every day. Thank you.

Griseliz Glenn, Manchester, stated:

I haven't had the pleasure of meeting you yet and some of you who remember me won't say it is a pleasure to meet me but that is their personal opinion. Allow me to introduce myself. I am the homeless mother of two and have been coming here for almost a year now. I have been homeless and on March 15 it will be an entire year that I have been homeless. I started coming here when I was receiving assistance through City Welfare because the RSA states that if you are poor and cannot provide your basic needs the city has to provide them for you. I was able to meet that criteria but I did not meet the criteria of being in a financial hardship so, therefore, I was being charged shelter reimbursement while I was in a homeless shelter. I came to this meeting month after month after month speaking about what was going on because I am not the only one. People to this day are still being charged by the City Welfare Department for shelter reimbursement while they are in a financial hardship when the law clearly states that if it places you in a financial hardship, they cannot charge you for shelter reimbursement. Now the statute itself does not define what a financial hardship is. It seems that we are led to believe that City Welfare can decide and define who is in a financial hardship and who isn't. Under PUC 12.02.09, it defines what a financial hardship is. It is enforced by the Utilities Commission because they assist people with utility bills. How is it that if they are assisting you to pay for utility bills, which in comparison to shelter is really no comparison at all. It is going to be a lot more money for shelter than utilities so who do they have to abide by the financial hardship definition that is given by the Utilities Commission for utilities when it is really not that much money and they don't have to abide by it when it comes to housing people or putting people in the shelter and charging shelter reimbursement? I am sure the last mayor had a conversation with City Welfare and of course they come up with whatever story to make it seem like I am just angry as some people have said. I am angry but that is not why I come here month after month to speak on this topic. I come here because it is bigger than me and it is bigger than just my children because in the process of this, City Welfare called DCYF and my children were taken from me because I was homeless. Not because I beat

them or I abused them or because I am smoking crack or spending all of my money on heroin but because I was homeless and that is unacceptable, especially from the city that is supposed to be helping me. I know I got a little excited but I would like you to look into this because again this is RSA 165:20 (b) that says if it places you in a financial hardship, they cannot charge you shelter reimbursement. While I was staying there, one of those rooms was empty for three weeks. Now you tell me with the homeless crisis that we have out here, how that room was empty for three weeks? You know why, because they didn't have anybody with any money to charge to put in that room until three weeks came up. So, anybody who didn't have any money, they didn't put in that room because they couldn't charge them for shelter reimbursement. That is against the law. I am also here as a legal community advocate for the ACLU.

Glenn RJ Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

We don't solve our problems by trying to take sides or by being negative. I was once told in this room years ago that if you are going to keep coming here come up with solutions. We do but we are not listened to. I am sure that all of you have been to Hanover Street, the beginning of Hanover Street which starts on Elm Street. They have beautified that area yet the next street over, Manchester Street, whenever someone comes in here to make a proposal it doesn't go through. It looks like a slum. Wouldn't it be better to combine both streets in the same type of area for businesses and residential? It certainly would. You would have less crime on Manchester Street. I know for a fact that on Auburn Street, between Pine and the next one over, there were a lot of trees and no lights. You had lots of crime going on in the park on the other side. All of the sudden, someone came up with the idea that you needed to light up the place. You cut down some of the trees so that the lights would do the work and guess what? The crime there is no longer as horrific as it was. In fact, there is very little because you see everything. That money that you invested was very little but it made a big difference in that neighborhood. It made it a lot safer and a lot cleaner. That is what is important. I have an idea. You take Elm Street. Everybody says it is too dark on Elm Street. It is. Why can't you do to Elm Street what they did on Hanover Street? I know for a fact that a lot of businesses would be willing to buy the material to put the lights in the trees which would light up the city a lot better, especially the ones they have now that are digital and you can change the colors according to the holidays or whatever

event is coming downtown. Please spend your money wisely but clean up the city. There are too many shootings and stabbings. Thank you.

Paul Galasso stated:

Mr. Mayor we met at the homeless vigil back in December just before you took office. I know based on that conversation that you are making homelessness a priority. I am here tonight because a friend of mine and I come here to Manchester and we spend time with the homeless. We offer food and clothes, coffee and donuts, etc. The real objective of these visits, and I am not just speaking for myself and my friend but all of the people that go out there and perhaps some of you do, is to show these people that they have dignity. As we have spent time with them over the winter, it became very apparent that while we have a lot of homeless people, they are in crisis beyond the conditions that put them into homelessness. What do I mean by that? We have shelters but not enough beds. There are people that spend their nights on the streets even when it is single digits. I know that because they tell me and they ask for blankets and long underwear and they want extra layers because they know it is going to be brutally cold in the doorway where they will be trying to sleep. They know it is going to be brutal and they probably won't be able to sleep, etc. Just one little story. Recently during a visit, I was offering wet naps so people can wash their hands and their faces. There were two people, a guy and a gal, and I could see their hands and they looked pretty dirty like they usually do and I offered the wet naps. They wiped and nothing came off. That was because they had frostbite and the gal's feet were so frostbitten, she had a hard time walking so she hung on to her friend's arm. Given these circumstances, I called Adrienne Beloin who is the head of Housing Stability. I was able to meet her here tonight for the first time. We talked and I said I don't want to do anything that the Mayor is planning to do in that I don't want to be interfering or sending the wrong signals. I said I am going to do three things. I am going to call bus companies, churches, the Armory and major organizations and ask them if just on critically cold nights they could open a door and offer a small warm area. Thirty-one calls were made and one said they would review it with the board. Everyone else had reasons. Then I said to some that run the churches, if I was Jesus how would you answer me? Could you find a way to get sprinklers and could you find a way to enable the local police to support what you are doing? Can you find a way to clean that area

up in the morning that you are so worried about because people might see debris left over from homeless people? In closing, and I am sorry for running late, but Mr. Mayor I know you are all over this stuff. I am not here to criticize anybody but due to my lack of success, maybe because of a lack of persuasive skills or just the reality of trying to make things change in this city, I would ask that the team that is working on homelessness think of this as a potential set of short-term solutions. I know you are planning on longer term ones but there are people that are really suffering and we know that last year we lost 39 homeless people. Yes, many were due to overdose but some because they froze to death. Thanks very much for your time. I appreciate it.

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman T. Sapienza**, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written communications presented.*

PRESENTATION

2. Update from the Office of Youth Services.

Michael Quigley, OYS Director, stated included in your packet was a memo really outlining in more detail what our department does. With that, I will try move through the slides quickly tonight for the sake of time while giving you enough information that is prevalent to the work that we do and to the work in trying to empower you and the City of Manchester. Just a brief intro about who we are. We are a vital resource for youth in Manchester. We offer a wide range of services and supports for youth and their families. We advocate for youth and families. We provide safe environments to address their needs and challenges and most importantly we do what we can to empower youth to be their best selves. Today, I am just going to explore and explain to you how we tackle these challenges head on and do our best to help the young people that we are called on to serve here in Manchester. Who is OYS? We are youth development professionals that provide one-on-one coaching and counseling to youth in the city. We are located in all of the public high schools and middle schools here in Manchester providing one-on-one supports. We advocate for students and their needs. Most of all, we view every young person that comes to us as a potential leader here in Manchester. Whether you are referred to us because you have been suspended from

school or made a serious mistake, we will do everything we can to address the issue with you so you don't make those mistakes again while also tapping into your God given talents to try to tap into your full potential and leadership abilities that you can offer to the community. Primary goals for the department are enhancing leadership development and empowering youth to become effective leaders, growth by fostering personal and professional growth and opportunities for youth, and creative pathways for underserved youth to access opportunities with their skills. Our focus areas are the leadership capabilities, skill-building strategies so providing youth with strategies to develop essential life skills, and most importantly addressing various challenges that youth are facing such as truancy, poor grades and conflict management and to really support them and give them the skills to improve in those areas. Here is a quick list of the services we offer. So, life skills coaching, case management, career counseling, leadership development and mentoring. I do want to touch on the importance of guidance and counseling. The young people, especially in our public schools, really value our presence because we are not hired by the schools and we don't work for the schools. We are an outside resource of adults that they can go to as trusted individuals to ask for help. To give you a quick example, at Memorial High School recently there was an event that happened there that impacted school safety. We had youth on Jeff Gore's caseload going to him because they felt most comfortable with him giving information to make the school safer whether it was evidence or things they saw. He was the one bringing that to the correct people at the school to advocate for them. It is the little things that get missed that don't show up in data, stories like that, that I think are important to share. The broad interventions of growth are our big program. This essentially is how we do our job when it comes to one-on-one coaching and counseling with youth in the City of Manchester. Prior to me coming on as the director in December 2022, OYS was present all over the community and in the schools but there really wasn't a roadmap of how to do the job. We were operating differently in every location we were at based on the skills of our youth counselors. When I came on, we put together strategically this program that outlines what you refer a young person to us for, what you don't refer a young person to us for, and how to make those referrals. Then what we do when we work with those young people such as the skill building that we do with them – coping skills, social skills, self-advocacy, self-regulation and decision-making are the big ones as well as life skills and leadership development.

Annually, we serve over 400 youth just in our public schools alone through our big program. In addition to the one-on-one work that we do, as a team we addressed that our youth needed opportunities to advance as leaders and to learn more about the workforce development opportunities that they don't have access to. Typically, the youth that are referred to OYS are not on student councils and they are not involved in leadership groups. At OYS we said we are going to make the groups for them to show them they can be leaders and to show them they are more than just somebody who was referred to us because they made a mistake. Here is a list of all the programs we have created since April 2023. We are going to go quickly through some of them. Again, in your packets there is way more detail about how these operate and what we do. You can always call me or ask questions also. The Manchester Youth Council. I want to thank Mayor Ruais for attending some of these meetings and being a leader to these youths. It is a representation of all of our high schools and basically it is young people coming together to advocate for the needs of not just themselves but for the youth in their community. What is really unique about this Youth Council is it is a mix of diverse needs. We will have, for example, the President of the Student Council for Memorial High School in the same room with an OYS youth who is on our caseload who was recently suspended from school but applied to be on the Youth Council, started to get their grades up, and showed a real focus. When you think about talking about the needs of youths and what those conversations are like at the Manchester Youth Council meetings, they are intense because these kids have different needs. As you know, as city officials, they have to learn how to negotiate and listen to each other which is not an easy task, especially in today's environment. Some of the key activities that they are currently working on that are really exciting are they are creating policy recommendations to go before the school board to best support the needs of youth in our schools. What is exciting about this is they are going to be policies that are really tough and school board members aren't always going to agree with them so they are going to have to learn what it is like to get feedback and tough questions and these are going to be life skills that will help them grow. Secondly, they are presenting at the Ignite Conference in May, which is going to be a great opportunity for them. They are going to present to other youth leaders and adults from all over NH about how to run a youth council and how to interact with city officials. Lastly, they service the community. Our Youth Council members have been doing service projects throughout their time on

the council volunteering at various places. The Future Success Leadership Academy started off as a summer pilot program, a leadership program for youth to take part in to work on workforce development skills and public speaking. Because of the success of the program, it has really blown up on us. We have a 27-lesson curriculum that we do every other Saturday with Safari Youth Club in the community with about 35 youth and then we have our middle school program. Our middle school program was developed because Stacy Champey from the district contacted us and asked for a pilot program at Parkside Middle School because it fits into her multi-tiered system of support for behavioral health. That program has been operating for several months now every Tuesday and it has been wildly successful. Youth attendance has improved in school as well as grades and behaviors with this group. Parkside Middle School selected the students taking part in this. We had nothing to do with that process. That has been really exciting and because of the success of the curriculum at Parkside, we have expanded it to Hillside. We have a 6th grade, 7th grade, and 8th grade group at Hillside that meets every Friday serving about 30 youth with a plan to have it in every middle school in September. Our Take Control curriculum is an evidence-based curriculum that was created at the Upper Room in Derry. All of our staff had to go through extensive training to be approved as an anger management specialist to teach this curriculum. That took a long time but we finally got it off the ground this year and again it was the public schools who reached out to us to do a pilot program at Parkside. Its last class is going to be next Wednesday and basically the curriculum itself is to help young people who struggle with anger focus on their self-regulation skills and decision-making skills. This group is a much more intense group of youth than we are used to working with but again it has been another very successful program that is going to continue next year. What is really important about all of the programs that we run is that every youth in the program is assigned an OYS youth counselor so everything they learn in their classes is reinforced through one-on-one counseling twice a month with that coach. They get that mentoring as an extension of this work. I think that is why it is successful because it is one thing to practice anger management skills in a group for an hour on a Wednesday but it is another thing to have a caring adult reinforce those skills with you. We hope that we can continue to foster that environment into the future. Our Empowerment Groups. Currently we just have a male empowerment group and this is for young men from West High School. This was a targeted approach because of some

discrepancies we saw in drop-out rates, arrest rates and gang involvement. At West High School, in collaboration with their staff, we created the Male Empowerment Group. The men in the group decided to name it Boys to Men. If there is anybody in here that knows that music, those kids don't know who Boys to Men are but it was a good name. What is really cool about the group is that you have young men who have been selected by West High School who really were selected for being at risk of some serious stuff, including gang involvement, coming together to celebrate their masculinity and that is a beautiful thing. We have serious conversations about relationships, confidence, and decision-making and within that group it has been so successful that West has asked us to continue it next year with a new group of students and Memorial High School is starting a pilot program with OYS and the HOPE Program working together with Matt Courchesne I believe. Starting next Tuesday, we will hold our first female empowerment group which is also a pilot at West High School. It is our staff and their staff working together. They bring the students to OYS and we provide lunch. It is a really great process. Mayor Ruais is actually coming to the male empowerment group this month to share some of his story with the youth. Quickly, our vacation programming. If you know OYS, you know we do a lot. If you didn't know, we had a basketball tournament at West High School with about 42 youth participate over two days. It was a 3 on 3 tournament. It was awesome and fun. We did a bunch of other groups. You can see up here we offer summer leadership series, mindfulness groups at Girls, Inc., soccer programs that we run for free and basketball open gym throughout the entire summer. We partner with other organizations. Last week during February vacation, My Turn actually sponsored the 3 on 3 basketball tournament with us. We are going to do it again in April. I am a basketball guy so we will probably do a lot more with basketball. I will quickly go through this data. Total cases in 2023 was so high because we carried over 200 units from 2022 who were identified that could not be taken off the caseload. That is why we had so many youths on our caseload in 2023. Youth interactions. That number looks crazy at 1,240. It is real because of all the stuff we do. On Saturdays, our staff are present at the Salvation Army at their teen nights because we provide an in-kind service to them so they can save money on hiring staff. So, we are there. Again, we do that with Safari Youth Club and the Boys & Girls Club. We are where the youth are so we have staff working Saturdays as well and that is how that number adds up so fast. Our vacation programming is so popular that we serve several

hundred kids during school vacations. This is how it is broken down percentage down when you see the youth that we serve. Obviously, the majority of them are in the public schools and then vacation programming and community outreach whether it be Elmwood Gardens or what have you. Just outreach to young people. Our FY24 data snapshot is as of January 2024 so there are numbers that are off right now. I do want to highlight the 250 hours of support to community organizations supported through MOU's. When I was hired, we had no MOU's and now we do with the public schools. It outlines exactly what we do so we can't deviate from that and that is good because our staff knows what they are doing. We have MOU's with smaller non-profits. We target them as an equity issue. The same way we would approach a young person struggling, we will target youth development non-profits that don't have a lot of resources to provide them to them so they can impact the youth that they are working with. The Salvation Army has always been a great partner of OYS. These are our outcomes that we collect data on to hopefully make us more self-sufficient in the future through grant funding. One of the things I am really proud of is 62% of our clients this past year so far have shown a significant increase in improvement in goals focused on personal conduct. That means they are being referred to us for a mistake that they made, they are learning from it and they are not doing it again. Some of our future projects that we will be working on over the next few years and this year as well. The big one that I want to highlight today that I am really excited about is the Employer Advisory Council. When I first came here it is something that I wanted to do. It has taken a really long time to get it organized. There were points where I didn't think we were going to be able to do it but now it is happening. Basically, the Employer Advisory Council is an extension of the leadership programs we do. You can't just have young people do programs if they don't have some sort of outcome at the end that they can strive towards. What typically happens in our society is that our curriculums for workforce development come from Washington, DC. It is not done locally. Here in Manchester, we are reaching out to the industry leaders for them to tell us what are the competencies young people need to work here. Define the benchmarks to reach that competency. I am excited to say that Alderman Kantor has shown an interest right from the beginning in being on this as a business owner. It is going to be a diverse group of industries and we are excited to get that off the ground. Hopefully July will be our first meeting. Our community collaboration is a big part of what we do. OYS is at the forefront of organizing space for

youth development professionals in Manchester to come together to work on barriers impacting youth success with sub-committees broken off of those. We work with the Solicitor's Office for example on a sub-committee focusing on youth gang involvement so we can streamline organizations talking to each other to target and support those youths whether it is don't enter a gang or you are involved and what can we do to help you. The Youth Wellness Collaborative that is run by Makin' It Happen was actually started by OYS. We started the sub-committee focused on youth substance misuse and it has blown up into this huge collaborative that we handed off to another organization to oversee for us. Again, part of the work we do is to start something and then hand it off to large organizations that can make that work more impactful. Finally, for the next several years this will be our focus. Our programs are great and the one-on-one work we do is important and we are going to continue to kick butt in those areas but this is something that we are going to be hard on streamlining for the City of Manchester. We want to create a system of care for youth here in Manchester similar to what we would have for any other issue or challenge in the city. This is one of the Mayor's goals and we fully support it. We will establish a comprehensive and integrated system of care to address diverse needs for youth in Manchester. Again, I would suggest reading about this in your memorandum when you have time. I know that Alderman Vincent came to me and said it was the longest memorandum he has ever gotten in his life. I am a long-winded writer and I apologize for that but to give you a quick example of my thought process on this in Year 1 we are going to focus on out-of-school detached youth who are not connected to education or employment. The reason we are doing that is because we worked with the Health Department recently on creating a community dashboard that outlines the needs and recommendations for opportunity youth in Manchester and with those recommendations we are going after additional funding to support that work. In Year 2 we are going to focus on in school high school youth in the community and what are the resources to help them. In Year 3 it will be elementary and middle school youth. Every year I hope to come back with updates on what we have worked on and put together and we have community stakeholders doing work with us, most importantly Makin' It Happen and hopefully My Turn. I hope I didn't take up too much of your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you have.

Alderman Long stated thank you Michael. A lot of your work is done in the school district but you are also addressing other youth in Manchester that aren't part of the school district like charter and private schools, correct?

Mr. Quigley answered yes, we have had some referrals for youth in particular that go to charter schools. When it comes to youth in the community, typically they are not in school anymore. That would take up the majority of the youth when we get a community referral. It is usually someone who is no longer in school.

Alderman Long are you getting youth summer jobs.

Mr. Quigley replied no we don't operate any youth summer jobs.

Alderman Long asked any extra-curricular athletics or art classes.

Mr. Quigley responded for our summer program we have our open basketball gym, soccer program, youth mindfulness group and we are starting an LGBTQ support group this summer as well. Basically, Alderman Long, the programs we do in the summer are based on the talents of our staff. If we had somebody who was a really good artist, then we would support that work.

Alderman Long replied that makes sense. Do you have a grant writer because for a lot of this stuff there are federal and state grants out there?

Mr. Quigley answered I am doing a really good job learning how to write grants myself and actually Anna Thomas has been extremely helpful in that regard too.

Alderman Long stated she is the best.

Mr. Quigley responded she sure is.

Alderman Fajardo asked with all that you have laid out as far as your accomplishments, I am guessing you probably have a team of 10.

Mr. Quigley replied I have eight staff and four interns.

Alderman Fajardo stated that was actually way more than I was expecting because I think when you first came on board you were building up staffing. How do you feel in terms of staff? Are you at a healthy target with all the goals you have laid out for the next three years? I guess I am asking what kind of support you need.

Mr. Quigley responded that is a really good question. I would say that we have done a really good job of bringing in other resources. Interns have been extremely helpful and our partnership with Southern NH University and their psychology interns actually supplement a lot of the work we can't do. We are such a talented team, the people reporting to me, that we just find a way to make it work. Obviously if there was ever more funding for our department to have more staff, I know the public schools would love it and the community would love it. We are in a happy space right now. It is a really, really good team.

Alderman Fajardo asked speaking of space, could you remark on your current space.

Mr. Quigley stated we are really thankful to Denise from the library for housing us. I think we have always envisioned OYS having our own department space that is exciting and youth friendly but I have to say when I first came on it was an issue I brought up a lot and I think because my team really inspires me with the way they come to work every day and work so hard, that we just really figured out a way to make the library work. We bring a lot to that library. We bring a lot of youth in there and I think it is starting to pick up at that library because of our presence. We would love a space obviously but we hear from Sharon Wickens every other Tuesday so we understand the city's restraints as well.

Alderman Fajardo stated I also want to comment in reading through the details that you provided that there are a lot of sports and emphasis on sports and I know that comes up a lot on this Board. We want to make sure that the youth in our community who want access to sports programming can get it and it seems like your team has been able to

be effective in that space and I hope you will continue to grow that. Obviously, you have made partnerships with other organizations like youth soccer and I am sure there are others and I wanted to say I think that is recognized as well. Thanks for everything you are doing. You have a lot of energy and your passion really comes through so I appreciate that.

Mr. Quigley replied thank you.

Alderman O'Neil stated I want to follow-up on what Alderman Fajardo said. I think there are a lot of great things going on with a limited amount of staff. I was trying to do quick count because you had a bullet at the bottom of a page. I came up with seven or eight full-time and some interns so well done on that. If you had to say one thing, Mike, that is the biggest challenge and I don't want to say obstacle but if we could focus on one thing in the next year to serve the young people of this city what would it be?

Mr. Quigley answered honestly, I think it is for them to value themselves and love themselves as much as other people do. In the men's group, one of the hardest things for those young people to accept was when we told them you are going to be successful and you are going to go to college. To them it was like no I am not; I am a piece of crap. That is heartbreaking. I think often times there are systems outside of our schools that create that image that they have of themselves. For OYS, I think if we could have more adult mentors committed to young people in our communities, as corny as that sounds, I think that is the solution to some of our problems with youth. They need to see people who look like them and who share the same values as them to step in and be there for them.

Alderman O'Neil stated thank you for your great work.

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept BMA Minutes

3. Minutes from the 01/16/2024 BMA meeting, and the 02/06/2024 Finance, Special BMA Public Hearing, and BMA meetings.

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

**4. 50/50 Sidewalk Petitions
Residential:**

- 6 Hillcroft Road

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

- 5.** Advising that the update on the Revolving Loan Fund has been accepted.
(Unanimous vote)
- 6.** Advising that the Finance Department reports:
- Accounts receivable over 90 days
 - Aging report
 - Outstanding receivables
- have been accepted.
(Unanimous vote)
- 7.** Advising that the Monthly Financial Report (unaudited) for the first seven months of fiscal year 2024 has been accepted.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- 9.** Advising that the proposed change to Rule 3 of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen was received and filed.
(Aldermen Levasseur, Thomas, E. Sapienza and Fajardo voted yea; Alderman Long voted nay)
- 10.** Recommending that the city form a Sister City relationship with Ville de Sherbrooke, Canada, and that the Economic Development Department drafts a policy regarding Sister City relationships to be brought back to the committee at a later date.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND BUILDINGS

- 11.** Recommending that the amendment to the lease at 195 McGregor Street to allow arcade use and authorization to allow them to apply for a special exemption from the Zoning Board be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 12.** Recommending that the Tax Collector be authorized to accept the highest offer for property located at 1080 Montgomery Street.
(Unanimous vote)

13. Recommending that the request from the Economic Development Director for a brownfield assessment of the Arms Lot (Tax Map 900, Lot 2) be conducted by Credere Associates be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
14. Recommending that the request to allow EPD to negotiate and execute all legal transactions associated with the property and easement acquisitions or eminent domain takings required to complete the Cemetery Brook Drain Tunnel Project be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
16. Recommending that the request from the Police Chief to expand the capacity of the female locker room within the Manchester Police Department be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
17. Recommending that the request to allow the Department of Public Works to negotiate and execute all legal transactions associated with the property and easement acquisitions or eminent domain takings required to complete the RAISE Manchester: Connecting Communities Project be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SOLID WASTE ACTIVITIES

18. Recommending that the Assignment & Assumption of Contract between Pinard Waste Systems and Casella Waste Management of Massachusetts, Inc. be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
19. Advising that the Department of Public Works will hold a roundtable discussion with select property owners for input regarding the proposed Solid Waste & Littering ordinance amendment and report back to the committee at a later date.
(Unanimous vote)

*HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF **ALDERMAN TERRIO**,
DULY SECONDED BY **ALDERMAN LEVASSEUR**, THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS
APPROVED.*

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/INFORMATION SYSTEMS

8. Advising that ordinance amendment:

"Amending Chapter 38: Procurement Code of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by adding additional requirements during the prequalification of bidders associated with the procurement of City construction contracts."

was received and filed.

(Alderman Levasseur, Thomas and E. Sapienza voted yea; Aldermen Long and Fajardo voted nay)

Alderman Long stated this was a 3-2 vote to receive and file and I am asking this Board to reconsider. ABC is a group of contractors and if they are looking to compromise with us, it is an advantage of them and I think it is an advantage to us. I don't know if Mr. Clougherty here or if he has thought of this much. I don't know whether it is his opinion that this would help us. Tim, have you thought much about this ordinance or reviewed it and can you weigh in on whether you believe it would help or hinder us?

Tim Clougherty, Public Works Director, responded I put a lot of thought into the ordinance. It came up under the last Board. There was motivation to I think protect the city from some of the actions that some of the local contractors were bringing to the attention of our elected officials. There was a pretty comprehensive proposal that was put before us and I offered to work with Alderman Cavanaugh at the time and some of the other groups that had raised some concerns. Like I said, they put a pretty comprehensive proposal together and we pared it down to a point that I thought was acceptable to the city from a prequalification perspective. We worked with Solicitor Rice in order to iron out that language and subsequent to that there were some concerns brought forth by other parties that the recommendations weren't broad enough or specific enough. In my opinion, and I believe that opinion to be accurate, the way that the ordinance reads it basically calls for each individual department to establish prequalification guidelines or prequalification rules for each project that is put out. The ordinance recognizes what is to be considered within the departmental guidelines. It is general. I think the way it came before this Board was appropriately general. That is my opinion.

Alderman Long asked Matt, has this gone through Bills on Second Reading and all of that and then was reconsidered and sent back to committee correct.

Matthew Normand, City Clerk, answered yes it was sent back to the Committee on Administration and received and filed.

Alderman Long moved to approve. **Alderman T. Sapienza** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Levasseur asked we are going to approve a negative. The motion is to receive and file and this passed 3-2 in committee and now you are going to do it again in the negative?

Alderman Long replied I don't understand your question.

Alderman Levasseur stated well we already talked about this. If you have any changes that you want to make to this or there are some agreements by people out in the public, why don't they just come back and bring us a new one that they have agreed on because they don't agree on this one? They don't agree with the new changes that were put into this ordinance and they have talked about it. Why don't you just come back with the changes they do agree with and start the committee process again? We are just going to end up with nothing.

Alderman Long responded sending it back to committee is going to be complicated. I am not concerned about that. I don't think it has to go back to committee. I think it has been to committee and I think we are all aware of it. Actually, you bring up a good point with respect to the changes that Mr. Reap is looking for. I would accept the changes that he sent to us. I forget what the date was. It doesn't have to go back to committee. It is in front of the Board. I will move to accept the changes that Mr. Reap sent to us in a letter.

Alderman Levasseur stated I haven't seen any letter.

Alderman Long replied yes from ABC. The Board got the letter recommending some changes.

Alderman Fajardo stated I need some clarification. Alderman Long you are suggesting with your motion right now that we accept the changes proposed by ABC and approve everything as is? I would probably want to see that go back through committee. I don't

want to keep sending it to its inevitable death but I also feel like we need to take it back out of committee to give it the opportunity to revisit it as I understand it. I am in favor of continuing the conversation. We all heard that there are a lot of parties willing to come to the table and discuss it and I think it is in the best interest of the city. In order to keep it going, I would want to see us take a vote to revive it but not necessarily with the changes.

Mayor Ruais stated in speaking with Mr. Reap and ABC, it does sound like there is room for compromise. I don't know that we are all familiar right now with the changes that were sent forward so I don't know that everybody is ready to vote on those changes. It does sound like there is room for further deliberation on this topic and the parties would be willing to come together and then send us something that we could take a look at.

Alderman Long stated my motion to approve this that was seconded still stands. We can amend any ordinance if it is the will of this Board.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked what exactly are we approving. Are we approving that we received and filed it? Point of order.

Mayor Ruais stated I believe Alderman Long is asking for us to approve the ordinance amendment.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked so a yea vote would be to approve that one.

Mayor Ruais answered yes. A no vote would be to do what the committee did which was to receive and file.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote. Alderman Levasseur requested a roll call vote. Aldermen Levasseur, Terrio, E. Sapienza, Vincent, Thomas, Morgan, and Kantor voted nay. Aldermen Burkush, Barry, Goonan, Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, and O'Neil voted yea. There was a tie vote. The motion failed with Mayor Ruais duly recorded in opposition.

Mayor Ruais stated I do hope that there is an opportunity for the parties to continue deliberation and if there is something that they can bring back to the Board for further consideration, they do that.

Alderman Long stated Your Honor, it is dead.

Mayor Ruais replied they can bring something new back in the future for us to consider.

Alderman O'Neil stated I heard parties come in my first or second meeting in January saying we are going to get together and apparently, they haven't gotten together. What can we do to suggest that all the parties get together on this?

Alderman Levasseur stated we have to make a motion to accept the committee report.

Alderman O'Neil stated before we do that can someone tell me who is going to drive this and get the parties together.

Mayor Ruais stated I would be happy to convene a conversation between Mr. Reap and anybody else who is appropriate.

Alderman O'Neil replied I appreciate that. Thank you.

City Clerk Normand stated this item was taken off the consent agenda so it needs to be disposed of one way or the other. The motion to approve it failed so now you have to deal with it some other way. You can accept the report to receive and file.

Alderman Long asked so anybody can bring this back as long as it is not the same ordinance.

Mayor Ruais answered that is my understanding.

Alderman Long stated I just wanted to clarify that.

Alderman Levasseur moved to accept the report and adopt its recommendation.

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

COMMITTEE ON LANDS & BUILDINGS

- 15.** Recommending that the Planning & Community Development Department issue a Request for Proposals with no restrictions for Hallsville School.
(Aldermen Levasseur, Vincent and Thomas voted yea; Aldermen Long and Goonan voted nay)

Alderman Long stated the committee by a 3-2 vote voted to recommend that the proposal go out with no restrictions. I certainly understand that somebody can send a proposal with restrictions if they choose to but I think sending out the message of no restrictions takes away from the project. I think it is a historic school and I think there is an interest in having a community center.

Alderman Long moved to send an RFP out with the restriction of keeping the façade.

Alderman Fajardo duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Levasseur stated somebody told me to stop using the phrase ping pong because pickle ball is a big thing now so I guess I will just say we are going to play pickle ball. We started on January 2 and this thing is now going to go back and forth three different times plus it has been three years that the building has been sitting there just getting in worse condition. We tried it with restrictions and we didn't get anywhere and it is still sitting there. Nobody wants to see that building torn down. Nobody wants to see the façade taken down. People just want to see something done with the building; that's it. I don't think it is a big deal. You are saying now you want to send it out with restrictions but you have to list what those restrictions are going to be. The first time we did it with restrictions, the restriction was the gym had to stay open to the public. That is the restriction that was on there, which creates a liability issue for

anyone willing to put in affordable housing or office spaces or a community center. We already had a person come forward with a community center. A lot of the Board members are fine with that but it is not appropriate that we hand it to one person without at least seeing what else is out there. If that is the only bid that comes back and that is the way this person wants to go with it, this Board has the right to do so. We, as a Board, when it comes to the Lands & Buildings Committee, can add restrictions or we can deny any application or bid that comes in. We are just delaying, delaying, delaying and not getting anything done with this property by adding restrictions. We are not getting honest bids. We had two bids. One came in that said they would take the building but they needed the gym for an art gallery so we didn't accept it. We could have accepted that offer from them which was for a bare minimum amount of money. They wanted to do something and put affordable housing in there but they needed the gym for the gallery so this Board rejected it. The other people came in and needed \$8 million. They were going to keep the gym but they couldn't come up with the financing. We are now going on year three on this building. You wonder why people get sick and tired of government. You can't even get out of your own way. All we are doing is saying put it on the market. We didn't put this with a real estate broker because if we do that and we put a price on it then they would be able to buy it and do whatever they want. Instead, we are putting out an RFP, a request for proposals, which means that it has to come back to this Board and come through the Lands & Buildings Committee, which I am the chairman of, and then it has to go to the full Board for another vote. If we get 16 proposals, which we won't, we can pick and choose what is the best thing for the neighborhood, for the building, for the city, for the taxpayers, for everybody. This is nonsense adding the word restriction and you don't even have a list of restrictions on there. The frustration in this city with this property and on this Board with government is at a boil right now. The nonsense that goes on here...I don't believe you people are really serious about getting anything done in this city because every time something comes up from this side of the Board, you guys want to shoot it down. It is funny. You all vote in a block. Just knock it off and let's get the thing out in the public and get a proposal and do something for once instead of letting the building sit there and rot.

Alderman Long asked can I respond. Voting in a block? Okay. It was 7-7 on two votes. Don't look at one side. Affordable housing? There was never any affordable

housing with the other proposals. Nobody on this Board would allow somebody to demolish it? Why don't we put that as a restriction? Nobody on the Board would want to give up the community center? Let's put that as a restriction. You say it. The RFP as it is is a fishing expedition. It is a fishing expedition and going to create a longer time. We know where the community wants this place to go. We know the history of it. Put a restriction that we keep the façade.

Alderman Terrio stated I don't support tearing the building down and I don't think anybody does. I just want to hurry up and get this done and get some proposals. We are going to reject them...it is public knowledge that we are not going to accept a proposal...I think this is more of a political philosophy but I think we can do this as a Board. We can just let it be known that we are going to reject it but let's not put in the proposal; not put any restrictions and hurry up and get the proposals back and get this done. I know that I am not going to support tearing down the school and I am pretty sure the overwhelming majority of this Board, some of whom have gone to the school, will not support tearing it down. Let's just hurry up and get this done. I am tired of the school just sitting there. It is going to waste and it a shame.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I did go to that school but that is not important. It has been three years. Every time it rains, the school deteriorates a little bit more. I wanted to push this forward a while back but I was told it is not your ward so take a step back. I said fine. We brought Donnalee Lozeau here from Southern NH Services and we did the whole nine and then it fell through. The time has come to just put this thing forward and get it out there and let's get some proposals with no restrictions. We can then take it from there.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated we can put it out with no restrictions but we can use the word guidelines instead of restrictions. If we want to get a proposal that we can accept, we should put some guidelines on it. What I was going to say at the beginning of this conversation was I want anybody putting in a proposal to know that this alderman is not going to vote to tear that building down and this alderman is looking to get a community purpose in that building, whatever that community purpose is and I will evaluate it. I want the developers to know that I am not voting to tear that building down and I am not

giving it to anybody that is going to tear it down so you are not going to get my vote. That is guidance. Whether you want to call it restriction or guidance...if you put out an RFP that this building is available with no restrictions, you are inviting people to come in here and tell you what they want and wasting their time and our time. You ought to figure out what your restrictions are going to be. Take a couple of weeks and figure out what the restrictions are going to be or the guidance; not a restriction but guidance. If you want my vote, don't come in here telling me you are going to tear that building down.

Alderman Fajardo stated I agree with you Alderman Levasseur. I know that this is dragging out and it is frustrating and it feels like it is gratuitous back and forth. I feel you on this. I would say though that the recent weighing in by the Heritage Commission, which you appointed me to in this term and I am quickly getting to learn and understand...I think they are bringing forward a set of perspectives that are important, especially the concept of a preservation easement. Basically, in a nutshell as I understand it, that is just the opportunity for us to say preserve the façade and the historical look and feel of the building without any restriction on the inside. I think what is different here if we were to adopt a preservation easement is we are not saying anymore you have to keep the gym or you have to do whatever. Instead, we are literally just saying you must keep the façade of the building and a preservation easement is a pretty straight forward legal process that the city has undertaken in previous scenarios. It is not something that we are unfamiliar with. My recommendation would be to simply put it back out for RFP with a preservation easement on it and no other restriction.

Alderman Goonan stated I want to preserve the façade of the building. I am not sure why this is a big deal. We talked about the fact that I didn't want the building torn down and I don't think anybody else wants the building torn down. What is the big deal?

Alderman Levasseur stated I am a guy who can compromise. I will make a motion that everyone on this Board supports that we won't tear that building down. I think that would be the easiest vote we have ever taken and it could probably pass 14-0. Do you

want to second my motion that we will not under any circumstances accept any bid that has the building torn down? Is that okay?

Alderman Terrio asked why don't we just put it right in the RFP that we are going to repurpose the building. We don't have to do an easement or any restrictions. We can just do an RFP to repurpose the building.

Alderman Levasseur stated let's just put ourselves on the record Your Honor. All 14 of us can put ourselves on the record. Maybe that will make a lot of people out there, especially the Heritage Commission, feel more relaxed about this and maybe it will make everyone else feel more relaxed about it. I have no desire to tear down that building. It is beautiful from the front. I don't believe anybody has. I will say that when we were in committee, if it had been proposed that we add a couple of guidelines to it, then we could have done that. It came out of committee without that suggestion. We bring it to the full Board and it is finally ready to go out there and then there is a change at the last minute and we are just going to delay and delay and delay again. Nobody wants to tear that building down in its entirety. We want an interior fit-up and we want to find a good purpose for it community wise. Again, I don't understand why this Board doesn't feel confident in itself, as a member of the community, that we are going to do the right thing for that community with the right thing for that building. I am not looking to turn it into a gas station and I am not looking to turn it into...I would just like to see what is out there. Maybe there are some really cool, smart people out there that have some great ideas. The Ash Street building was a school and that is one of the most beautiful buildings we have in the city. I think the Heritage Commission brought up 19 buildings that were former schools and all of them are absolutely sensational and doing great things for the city. Some of them are on the tax roll and I think most of them are but they are doing something good for the community and they are doing something good for the city and they are providing us a tax base and the facades have all stayed the same. We can take the motion that we all agree we are not going to tear that down. I think it is pretty obvious that nobody on this Board is looking to do anything that is going to be ridiculous. I don't want it painted pink or green or some weird color. I don't want anything done that is going to make it look bad. There is a building a little further

down I think on Wilson Street that is all gated in. I think that was a former school. I drove by there and was blown away at how beautiful that is.

Alderman Long asked what is your motion.

Alderman Levasseur moved to not tear down Hallsville School. Alderman T. Sapienza duly seconded the motion.

Mayor Ruais stated we have to address the motion that is on the floor first and that is Alderman Long's motion.

Alderman Fajardo stated maybe Solicitor Rice could weigh in on this. I think part of where we were concerned when we were going through this before in the various committees was if we go through with the first transaction that meets our requirements somebody could turn around and sell that building and do whatever they want at that point. I know that was a consideration. I am just wondering without the preservation easement, what would it look like for the city to enforce what our intention is over time?

Mayor Ruais stated I believe what was stated by one of the aldermen is this is something that can be addressed when the RFP's come in. We can say this doesn't match the intent of what we are looking for and reject the proposal at that time. That is the backstop for this. When it comes to committee, if it doesn't meet the intent of the Board, that is the backstop.

Alderman Fajardo asked could we consider an easement for future use of the building.

Emily Rice, Solicitor, stated as I understand it what is under discussion is having a very broad open field proposal process. When you receive those proposals, what are the criteria that are going to be used to compare one to the other because I think the rubber hits the road when you have a dissatisfied bidder. I think it is going to cause less confusion in the end if the criteria are clear going in. That is really the bottom line. The answer to your question and I hate to give that lawyerly answer but it depends. You run the risk of somebody being very unhappy if you don't make the criteria clear from the

start. I am not saying that will happen. If you don't have a preservation criterion at the beginning and then you wish to add it in the process of awarding the proposal, that is potentially hazardous.

Alderman Long stated I am of the opinion, and it may be wrong, but taking a vote here if somebody out in Chicago wants to put a bid in, they don't know that the aldermen on March 5 voted that they as a Board don't want the building torn down. They don't know that. I brought this up in committee about the façade and at least getting an opinion from the Heritage Commission. We have a Heritage Commission and it is there for a purpose. I think we should do the same thing for Wilson so we are not doing this when that has been closed for two years but that was rejected in committee. As far as a vote of the Board, people can change their mind. I change my mind and stay open to whatever information I am getting. What was the motion?

Mayor Ruais stated you had a motion to add a condition to not alter the façade.

Alderman Levasseur stated he used the word restriction.

Mayor Ruais asked Alderman Long could you restate your motion please.

Alderman Long stated my motion is to add a guideline to the RFP to keep the façade.

Alderman Barry stated the trouble is the language. When you put out an RFP and you say no restrictions, that is pretty much telling people you can do what you want with that building. We have to get away from that. We should take out "no restrictions" or put out an RFP with the guideline that the façade has to remain the same. I think that would be legitimate for anyone who wants to submit a proposal.

Alderman Levasseur stated I think I understand this issue. When we put out a request for proposals, we just put out a request for proposals. We don't add the word "restrictions." My point wasn't to add "no restrictions" to the RFP. It was just an RFP without those words added in. My idea is not to add the restrictions in that were added in the first time. That may be the reason why this is confusing. It is just an RFP. It

doesn't say "no restrictions." It is simply a Request for Proposals. It is not going to actually say Request for Proposals with no restrictions. It is just going to be a Request for Proposals and then we can see what proposals we get. If somebody says well we want to make sure it says RFP but one of the guidelines is you can't tear the property down, I don't know if that means the whole property or the gym area or whatever. I think just the RFP makes sense. I think that was the confusing part. This whole time I have been saying no restrictions because we previously had restrictions on it.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated there is no confusion here. Item 15 says it came out of committee as issue an RFP with no restrictions for Hallsville School. That is how it came out of committee. It can't get past this Board for the obvious reasons we have discussed. Really it should go back to committee to figure out what the restrictions are. There is a motion on the floor to preserve the façade.

Mayor Ruais asked would it help if we struck "no restrictions" from the language.

Alderman T. Sapienza answered no. I already said that I am not going to vote for any proposal where they want to tear that building down.

Alderman Fajardo stated I don't think it is enough to just take "no restriction" out because that doesn't really help add clarity. Time is of the essence and we are all keeping our eye on wanting this to be a smooth and efficient process. I foresee a scenario where we do get whatever...hopefully we get some RFP's that we can accept and the entities who are submitting them have a clear understanding going into it what the expectations are and what will get past this Board. I think Alderman T. Sapienza already said it saves them time and it saves this Board time. I think Solicitor Rice also commented on goodwill frankly. We don't want to send out RFP's that we then pull in and dissect and change the terms of after the fact. I think if we can agree, and maybe it does just go back to committee or we agree right here, which would be better that the guideline is strictly on the outside of the building without additional language limiting the inside of the building.

Alderman Long stated I think if you put in a guideline or restriction for the façade, you are going to get different views. You might get somebody who wants to keep the front...I don't know if all four sides have historical value. We will still get proposals that maybe want to keep the front or the front and two sides or keep the whole building or keep the roof. I don't see what the big deal is about keeping the façade.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I hope we don't go back to committee tonight and move forward with this tonight. By the way, that whole building is not historic. You used to be able to do a 360 around it and now you can't. They added things over the years – 20 or 25 years ago. That is not historic. The whole building is not historic. I just wanted to mention that.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote on the motion to add the guideline that the façade be preserved.

Alderman Levasseur asked can we combine both motions together.

Mayor Ruais replied I would be happy to combine them into one motion.

Alderman Long asked what would that motion look like.

Mayor Ruais stated it would be that we are going to protect the façade and direct that it not be torn down. So, one motion.

Alderman Long stated I think mine was adding a guideline or restriction to keep the façade.

Alderman Levasseur stated it is the same thing.

Alderman Long stated there is a difference because I want that in the RFP.

City Clerk Normand stated the motion I have on the floor from Alderman Long is to add a guideline to the RFP requiring that the existing façade be maintained.

Mayor Ruais asked could we amend that and add that the building won't be torn down.

Alderman Long asked would that go in the RFP.

Mayor Ruais replied yes.

Alderman Long stated if it is going in the RFP, that is fine.

Alderman Vincent stated I am confused. What is the difference between keeping the façade...if you are going to keep the façade why don't we just say don't tear the building down? If you tear the building down, you are ruining the façade anyways. I think we are overcomplicating this whole thing. My thinking is just don't tear the building down. That keeps the façade, right? We have been talking about this for 20 minutes now and I am just trying to help out.

Alderman Long stated I don't know if there is a proposal that might come forward that takes the back of the building off or one of the sides off or changes the roof. Let them do all of that.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote on the motion to add a guideline to preserve the façade and not tear down the building.

Alderman Long stated I don't know if adding no demolition means everything.

Mayor Ruais stated okay then we will keep the motions separately.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote on the motion to amend the committee report and add a restriction to the RFP to preserve the façade. Alderman Long requested a roll call vote. Aldermen Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, Kantor, O'Neil, Levasseur, Terrio, E. Sapienza, Burkush, Barry, Vincent, Thomas, Morgan, and Goonan voted yea. The motion carried.

Alderman Levasseur withdrew his motion to not tear down the building.

REGULAR BUSINESS

20. Communication from Guy Guerra advising the Board of his resignation as a member of the Zoning Board.

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

21. Nominations:

Lead Exposure Prevention Commission

Chelcie Pinsonneault to fill the Planning & Community Development vacancy as a non-voting member, term to expire March 19, 2027

Phil Alexakos to fill the Health Department vacancy as a regular member, term to expire March 19, 2027

Alderman Christine Fajardo to fill the Aldermanic representative vacancy as a non-voting member

Alderman Pat Long to fill the Aldermanic representative vacancy as a non-voting member

Nicole Doherty to fill the School District representative vacancy as a regular member, term to expire March 19, 2027

Christopher Schleyer to fill the property owner or management company that owns and has experience renting more than two (2) pre-1978 buildings with a minimum of ten (10) units as a regular member, term to expire March 19, 2027

Warren Mickey Laskey to fill the Certified Lead Risk Assessor vacancy as a regular member, term to expire March 19, 2027

Airport Authority

Gregory Goodrich to succeed himself as a regular member, term to expire March 1, 2027

Eddie Leon to succeed himself as a regular member, term to expire March 1, 2027

Jeffrey Taylor to succeed himself as a regular member, term to expire March 1, 2027

Personnel Appeals Board

Susan Champagne to succeed herself as a regular member, term to expire March 1, 2027

Manchester Development Corporation Board

Rebecca Kane to succeed herself as a regular member, term to expire March 11, 2027

Stephen Grzywacz to succeed himself as a regular member, term to expire March 11, 2027

Steven Scheiner to succeed himself as a regular member, term to expire March 11, 2027

Heather McGrail to succeed herself as a regular member, term to expire March 11, 2027

Planning Board

Andrew Boyle to succeed himself as the Mayor's Designee, ex-officio member

Conduct Board

Amanda Quinlan to fill the vacancy as an alternate member, term to expire October 1, 2024

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Ray Hebert to succeed Guy Guerra as a regular member, term to expire March 1, 2026

(Note: Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, these nominations will layover to the next meeting of the Board.)

- 22.** Communication from Ashley Marcoux, Executive Director of NextGen Manchester Resiliency Council, requesting permission to use the City Seal on various marketing and programmatic materials pertaining to workforce development initiatives supported by the US Economic Development Administration's Build Back Better Regional Challenge award granted to the City of Manchester.

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Vincent**, it was voted to approve.*

- 23.** Bond Resolutions:

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2024 CIP 713224 Munis ERP Software (Water Works)."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000) for the 2024 CIP 713324 Main Relay and Cleaning and Lining Mains (Water Works)."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2024 CIP 713424 Raw Water Pumps (Water Works)."

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

*Om motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to Enroll.*

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Terrio stated I believe we were all at the joint meeting last night. I talked to Chairman O'Connell and he is going to the Amoskeag Corporation Board of Trustees because as we found out last night, Phase I has to go to Lands & Buildings so I would ask the BMA to refer Phase I to the Lands & Buildings Committee.

City Clerk Normand stated once they make a proposal, it will come to this Board and be referred to Lands & Buildings.

Alderman O'Neil stated the Manchester St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on Sunday, March 24. It is a week early this year because of Easter. It steps off at noon. As usual, the city departments have been helpful and you will be participating this weekend, Mayor, in the painting of the shamrocks.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked in reference to last night's meeting and the vote that we took a few meetings back, what exactly is the process going forward for Phase I. Is it green light all the way?

Mayor Ruais answered my understanding is Phase I is progressing.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked and the vote that we took that passed to pause it had no legal standing. Is that what was decided?

Mayor Ruais replied that is my understanding.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked and Phase I is just full steam ahead.

Mayor Ruais responded everything has to go through the Joint School Buildings Committee.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated okay I was just looking for some clarification. Thank you.

Mayor Ruais stated I have one thing. I am holding a press conference tomorrow here in the Chambers at 11 AM on bail reform. I wanted to flag it for you in case you haven't seen your email. For those who can attend, please do and if you have any questions just give me a shout or shoot me a text.

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman E. Sapienza**, 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