

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

May 7, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Mayor Ruais called the meeting to order.

Mayor Ruais called on Alderman Vincent to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Mayor Ruais stated if the Board will indulge me for a few moments, I have a few recognitions that I would like to make for some individuals within the city. For those who aren't familiar with how challenge coins work in the military, it is an opportunity to recognize somebody for doing something exceptional and doing something above and beyond the call of duty. I think it is a great opportunity for us to recognize the people in our city who are doing just that and making sure that we are elevating the people in our community doing some amazing work. I have Mayoral challenge coins that we created within our office to recognize individuals at the beginning of the BMA meetings in the beginning of the month. Without further ado, there are a few folks that I would like to highlight as the first recipients of the Mayoral Challenge Coins. Andrea Iasillo. For 17 years, Andrea has spearheaded Manchester Health Department's school-based oral health program significantly expanding its reach to cover all 21 public schools in Manchester and providing vital dental services to over 8,000 children. Despite the program's growth, the staffing has remained unchanged yet Andrea's dedication, coupled with her certification as a Certified Public Health Dental Hygienist ensures high quality care and immediate relief for students in need fostering long lasting collaborations with schools and local dental providers. Thank you, Andrea, for all you do. Now I would like to recognize Lt. John Faucher, Firefighter Mike Okoniewski and Firefighter Jordan Bristol. Could you please step forward? I know you guys have a tough time being singled out for doing your work but this is important and I really appreciate you all being here. Recognizing the three gentlemen in front of me for their

exceptional response on February 15 when they responded to a call because a child had experienced a febrile seizure. Station 3's rapid arrival to the scene within 7 minutes of the 911 call was remarkable and it eased the intense fear of the situation for the family involved. Their outstanding care, however, went beyond that. After they had taken the child to the hospital, they doubled-back to check on the health and welfare of the four-month old's younger sibling who was in the house. Chief Cashin and Deputy Chief Fleury reached out and forwarded an email from this family who said how incredibly moving it was for them to have such care and attention given to them during an intense moment of crisis for the family. So, thank you gentlemen for your efforts. Detective Austin Biery and Officer Gregory Levesque. While on a special assignment targeting nightclub violence, they swiftly intervened when they observed a suspicious individual reaching for a firearm in a crowded parking lot. Despite facing obstruction from another individual, they managed to confront the armed suspect and safely apprehended him preventing potential harm to bystanders. For their courageous and decisive actions, Officers Biery and Levesque were awarded meritorious medals for their exceptional performance of duty under risk of life. Thank you both. Detective Christopher O'Neil. The background is he has the sharpest wit in the department. That is my understanding. A member of the Manchester Police Department for five years, Detective O'Neil has excelled in various roles including patrol officer and Juvenile Division Detective before being selected to Cyber Crime Detective in June 2023. He specializes in investigating cyber tips related to child abuse sex images and his dedication and expertise earned him Officer of the Month twice, in September and April, for his diligent work across multiple jurisdictions. In September 2023, O'Neil's thorough investigation led to the arrest of an individual involved in possession and distribution of child abuse sex images, safeguarding children with meticulous interviews, search warrants and multi-agency coordination. In April 2024, O'Neil's continued dedication resulted in the arrest of multiple child sex offenders earning him Officer of the Month once again in promoting community safety. Consistently displaying professionalism and dedication in his relentless pursuit of justice from thorough follow-ups to apprehending offenders culminated in him being named 2023 Officer of the Year for his unwavering commitment to duty safeguarding the City of Manchester. Thank you. Samuel Faziloi.

WHEREAS Samuel Fazioli has exemplified dedication and excellence as a Civil Engineer for the City of Manchester Department of Public Works Highway

Division contributing significantly to the improvement of our great city's infrastructure; and

WHEREAS Sam has demonstrated remarkable athleticism and commitment to his sport within the NH running community by actively competing and volunteering in local events and by training on the many roads and trails in Manchester in the early morning hours before his work day begins; and

WHEREAS Sam's passion for running has led to outstanding achievements over the marathon distance including winning the Manchester Marathon twice and setting a course record, as well as securing victories in prestigious marathons such as the NH Marathon in Bristol, the Clarence DeMar Marathon in Keene, and the Bay State Marathon in Lowell; and

WHEREAS Sam holds a PR of two hours, nineteen minutes and forty-eight seconds for a marathon which he achieved at the Houston Marathon; and

WHEREAS Sam's dedication and perseverance were once again showcased in April as he finished the Boston Marathon as the first finisher from the state of NH to win the Henry P. Renard Award, a remarkable feat he has now accomplished four times and is deserving of our recognition,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of Manchester, NH that the City of Manchester congratulates Sam Fazioli for this extraordinary accomplishment and bringing pride and honor to the city that he serves.

Last but not least, Captain Shawn McCabe.

WHEREAS it is with great honor and appreciation that we recognize the exemplary service and dedication of Captain Shawn McCabe upon his retirement from the Manchester Police Department after a commendable career spanning over two decades; and

WHEREAS Captain Shawn McCabe has dutifully served the community of Manchester with integrity and distinction demonstrating unwavering commitment to upholding the highest of standards of law enforcement professionalism throughout his tenure; and

WHEREAS Captain McCabe's illustrious career is marked by a series of notable assignments, including his steadfast service in the Patrol Division from February 1999 until October 2002, his invaluable contributions to the Special Investigations Unit from October 2002 to September 2013, and his exemplary leadership as Patrol Division Sergeant from September 2013 until July 2015, and later as Investigative Division Sergeant from July 2015 until July 2018; and

WHEREAS Captain McCabe's dedication to excellence led to his promotion to Patrol Division Lieutenant in July 2018 followed by his appointment as Administrative Division Commander in 2021 subsequently assuming the role of Patrol Division Commander in March 2021 until January 2023 and culminating in his tenure as Investigative Division Commander from January 2023 until May 2024; and

WHEREAS Captain McCabe's outstanding contributions to law enforcement have been duly recognized through various prestigious awards including, but not limited to the Certificate of Recognition in 2007 for his pivotal role and collaborative efforts with the FBI to combat drug related crime, a Meritorious Medal in 2013 for his courageous actions in the face of danger to

protect both officers and civilians, and the Life Saving Medal in 2015 for his swift and decisive actions in saving a life during a critical incident; and

WHEREAS Captain McCabe's exemplary leadership and dedication to duty were further exemplified through his receipt of numerous certificates of recognition acknowledging his exceptional performance in handling high stress situations, coordinating inter-division cooperation, and contributing to the successful resolution of complex criminal investigations; and

WHEREAS Captain McCabe's unwavering commitment to public safety and his steadfast devotion to the principals of justice and fairness have left an indelible mark on the Manchester Police Department and the community it serves;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City of Manchester expresses its deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation to Captain Shawn McCabe for his selfless service, leadership and dedication to the safety and well-being of the citizens of Manchester and extends its best wishes for a well-deserved retirement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Ruais advised that the purpose of the public comment session is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board. All people wishing to speak 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 concluded 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.

Rich Girard, 283 Orange Street, stated:

I would share my congratulations to all of those recognized by the mayor tonight. My thanks to members of this Board who have responded to the informational video that I sent. I apologize to those who had trouble accessing it. It now can be easily seen on my website, Girardatlarge.com. It will also air on my Manchester Public TV show on Channel 8 beginning this Thursday night at 7 PM. I am pleading with you and the public to watch it. It just might save our city from the ruinous policies that have spoiled countless communities across the nation. What we have on the table now simply doesn't work and the data has been clear on that as you will see in the video, literally for decades. For the folks watching at home, information is presented by investigative journalist Michael Shellenberger about the actual causes of homelessness and why

cities across the country have only seen the problem explode as they have traveled down the path that our city has been following for the past several years. If Manchester continues to go further down this failed road, it will lead to even greater ruin which brings me to the primary reason I am here tonight, the mayor's proposal to bring the Department of Housing Stability into his office. To start, I am asking him to explain exactly how this role has historically been housed in the Mayor's Office as this mayor claims. In a radio interview this morning, the mayor said it was housed in Mayor Guinta's office and from there went to the Fire Department. Mayor Guinta left office over 14 years ago and if memory serves, the chairman of a community committee he set up on homelessness or perhaps the Continuum of Care, I don't remember which, would meet with the mayor periodically to update him on the committee's progress. It was a volunteer position. Nothing went to the Fire Department until Mayor Craig used federal grant funds to create the Director of Homelessness Initiatives. I am happy to be corrected if wrong but there is no precedent for any paid positions offering the scope of services or any services proposed by the mayor and shouldn't be agreed to because the position seems to have encouraged more vagrancy with an all carrots, no sticks approach that subsidizes vagrant behavior with EBT cards, Obama phones, Medicaid, cash assistance and a relentless parade of giveaways that make their outside existence comfortable with no strings attached. A better use of that money would be to restart the GateHouse TST initiative. That program got 120 people off the streets and into rehab in 90 days and provided the only meaningful success we have seen in connecting people to services. That is money well spent. The city does not belong in the business of managing homeless services, including operating or even funding shelters or so-called engagement centers, especially when they are little more than flop houses with all day coffee. If it can enlist outfits like GateHouse to get people into rehab and use law enforcement to give people a choice between jail for their crimes or drug court to enter rehab, that is what we should do and no we don't need to wait for a Supreme Court ruling to do that and I don't have time to explain that now. To that end, I encourage the Board to receive and file the mayor's request and reallocate ARPA funds for these positions to GateHouse or others with proven track records in getting people off the streets and into rehab. Thank you.

Freda Hawkinson, 377 Huse Road, stated:

Tonight, you have a consent agenda item, #14, on the purchase and sales agreement for the Wellington Hills sale by Manchester Water Works. I am not opposed to this sale. The agreed upon purchase price is \$2 million, however, this is not the net proceeds that will be received from the sale. I am requesting that the item be pulled from the agenda and the report be amended to disclose the amount of commission to be paid by the seller, Manchester Water Works. Section 10 of the purchase and sales agreement states the seller pay its representative a commission, however, neither the amount of the commission nor the percentage to be paid is disclosed in the purchase and sales agreement. The letter from the director of the Water Department to the Committee on Lands & Buildings stated that these funds were to be put in a reserve fund and be restricted for the use of future costs of the proposed administration building on the shores of Lake Massabesic. What if the building isn't built? Can these funds be used for something else? The presentation provided to the Board on April 16 anticipates the building to be completed in early 2027. In the event the building is not built, the committee report should reflect a date and state it as to when the restrictions on these funds would expire. For example, December 31, 2027. Lastly, unrelated to the sale of the land, we are now nearing the end of the budget season. The Water Department is the only department that does not include its budget in the city's budget book nor is the budget posted on its homepage. For the sake of transparency, I am suggesting that the Water Department budget be included along with all other city departments in the city's 2025 fiscal budget book. Thank you for your consideration in these important financial matters.

Catherine Morris, 386 Maple Street, stated:

I am here today to ask for the City of Manchester to divest fully from the apartheid state of Israel, to call for an end to arms sales and to represent us and the rest of the world to demand a ceasefire to save lives in Gaza. This genocide has gone on long enough. Israel has been bombing Rafah, a designated safe zone but now they have started their official offensive and are telling Palestinians who have been displaced multiple times already to flee back up north where there is nothing but rubble. Even today after Hamas has agreed to a ceasefire deal returning all hostages, Israel has just seized the

Rafah crossing chocking off all aid to Gazan civilians. We have all seen videos on our phones coming from Gaza of Palestinians searching the rubble for survivors of bombings and picking up pieces of their loved ones. These people are live-streaming the end of their world. Over 35,000 people have been killed already with an estimated 10,000 still buried in the rubble and over 78,000 people have been injured. On top of turning off the water, electricity and creating a man-made famine in Gaza despite eight trucks being lined up at the crossing constituting multiple war crimes, Israel has bombed all universities in Gaza and has totally decimated their health care system leaving the strip completely uninhabitable for any life. Israel has been filmed using illegal weapons such as white phosphorus and using Palestinian civilians to test brand-new weapons never used before in war. America is just as to blame for the amount of death caused. With our tax dollars, our Congress writes blank checks to Israel so they can continue to commit more crimes, which according to the Leahy Law is illegal for America to still provide arms to countries with credible claims of violations against them. With mass graves being found outside of hospitals with bodies wearing nursing scrubs, hands found to be zip tied and catheters still in patients, along with targeting of journalists and medical workers, it is hard to deny that there is a genocide occurring. Doctors coming from Gaza have told horrible stories of treating children with gunshot wounds to the head and patients dying of simple infections because Israel won't let medical aid in. These are all undeniable work crimes used against the whole population of Gaza, the most crowded area in the world. All of this evidence is in front of you and I am hoping you will do the right thing. Manchester divesting in calling for a ceasefire would help to put more pressure on Israel who is now slowly becoming a pariah state. Everyone sees through Israel's lies now with more and more countries cutting all ties with them. I have always wondered how ordinary people in Germany would let the Holocaust happen but now I don't have to wonder because we are seeing it happen now. Please divest now and be on the right side of history. Thank you.

Mia Engelbert, 235 Lake Avenue, stated:

It has been seven months to the day since the Al-Aqsa flood and seven months since the Israeli counter offense or more accurately Israel's genocide against the Palestinian people. Ever since October 7, the Israeli military has killed over 35,000 Palestinians, over 12,000 of whom have been children. It has driven many of the remaining

Palestinian people into Rafah from which there is no viable escape route and within the past few days has begun bombing it. It has bombed every hospital, university and much if not all of the vital infrastructure a modern nation needs to function. It has not only deprived the Palestinian people of aid, but it has actively attacked aid shipments. It has turned Gaza into a smoldering, uninhabitable ruin that will take generations to rebuild. What is this if not a genocide? However, Israel cannot do this all on its own. Throughout its history, the United States has funded Israel and supplied it with the weapons it needs to occupy Gaza and oppress Palestinians. Our government recently sent \$26 billion in aid to Israel and the city of Manchester itself has sent approximately \$2 million to Israel. Our tax money is quite literally funding the Israeli war machine and this genocide. To that end I would like to ask the City of Manchester to both adopt the ceasefire resolution that has been proposed before previous meetings and also to stop using our tax dollars to fund the illegitimate occupation of Gaza and the genocide of the Palestinian people. While \$2 million is a drop in the bucket to Israel, it is our moral imperative to do whatever we can to stand against these crimes against humanity. Adopting a ceasefire resolution and no longer funding the Israeli government is what the City of Manchester can do to help the Palestinian people and it is what this city can do to stand on the right side of history.

Angelique Rodriguez, 147 N. State Street, stated:

More than one million women and girls in Gaza have almost no food, no access to safe water, latrines, washrooms or sanitary pads. With disease growing amidst inhumane living conditions, the rapid spread of infectious diseases within crowded spaces puts women and girls at significant health risk and makes pregnant women particularly vulnerable to maternal complications. Women and girls in Gaza are resorting to the use of desperate coping mechanisms including using improvised sanitary cloth or sponges as sanitary pads to compensate for the lack of menstrual items. Ten million disposable menstrual pads are needed each month to cover the needs and preserve the dignity of women in the Gaza strip. Under the international humanitarian standards for emergencies, the minimum amount of water required per person is 15 liters per day, which is about the size of a medium bucket. By mid-December 2023, the daily consumption rate in Gaza had to climb to 1/10 of that bare minimum with a daily supply per person averaging 1.5 liters. Access to clean water is critical for breast feeding

mothers and pregnant and lactating women have higher daily water and caloric intake requirements. Twenty-three pregnant and lactating women need 7.5 liters of water a day to keep themselves and their babies healthy and hydrated. That is five times the amount presently available. Dehydration during breast feeding induces lack of energy and fatigue and reduces breast milk and has negative consequences for infants. Furthermore, Hepatitis A transmitted through contaminated water and food was also detected in the Anrah shelter in December 2023. Twenty-nine women and girls face a heightened risk of exposure to Hepatitis A due to their traditional domestic responsibilities and roles in caregiving, including caring for sick family members. WHO has also reported more than 74,712 cases of scabies and lice. I can go on and on about the issue in Palestine. I could sit here and state the statistics until I turn blue in the face. People are being fired for speaking up and what I really want to ask all of you sitting in front of me right now is is the cost of your humanitarian level directly tied to the salary you are making right now to sit in front of us? It is hard to speak up and it is hard to change but you guys have the power to do something and change this. You know what? I hope that when we are sitting and looking back on this like we are looking back at the Holocaust, I hope you guys can be able to say you were on the right side of history. Six hundred thousand children are being murdered and blown to pieces right now and I will leave you with that. As always, free Palestine. I urge you to actually draft and produce a ceasefire resolution. You have a chance to be on the right side of history. Thank you.

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

I came here tonight in my own personal capacity to discuss the mayor's proposed school budget. It is teacher appreciation week after all and I have a simple question for Mayor Ruais. Do you believe inflation exists? If the answer is yes, then you should recognize that your proposed \$1 million increase to the Manchester School District budget is a decrease from last year's city allocation in inflation adjusted terms. While \$1 million more may sound like a lot at first glance, and makes for a good talking point, it is using a big round number to mislead Manchester residents. Last year the city allocated about \$227 million to our schools. This year you proposed about \$228 million. That is an increase of 0.44%. The tax cap, which by city ordinance is based on real world inflation is 5.63% this year. Put another way, you allocated just \$1 million more to our

education system when to keep pace with inflation in accordance with the tax cap, you could have proposed over \$10 million more just to level fund the schools in real terms. That is an order of magnitude difference. You are a smart guy, Mayor Ruais, so you know that inflation is real. You also claim to support public education. You have said great things about that. So why are you doing this with your budget? Why are you proposing what amounts to an approximate 5% reduction in city allocation to MSD in real dollars? Why are you touting the \$1 million as “the most ever allocated by the city” as if it is a massive win for our schools when you surely know it is a significant cut when you take inflation into account. Again, you are a smart guy. I just want to know if you are intentionally misleading Manchester residents trying to trick them into believing that you actually support our students and teachers with this or do you not realize the consequences of your action and what impact it has on the school district. In either case, Mayor Ruais, your calculated rhetoric on the school budget is profoundly disappointing and the people of Manchester deserve a mayor who is honest and forthright. In closing, I would ask that all of the aldermen sitting here tonight consider that the least they can do for our kids and for our community’s students would be to level fund the school district in inflation adjusted terms. At the end of the day though, I guess the saying is true. Elections do have consequences and now our community’s children may pay the price in the mayor’s budget. Thank you for your time.

Madeline Jones, Manchester stated:

It has been too long as in I have been coming here for too long. I have attended all but one of your meetings since February. Three entire months out of seven of genocide. I want you to think, when was the last time you had this many constituents show up on any issue routinely? Can you tell me when? As we speak, the Israeli army is moving into the last place they declared safe in Gaza, a small city called Rafah. This is the final phase of genocide. Their clearly stated intention is to make this tiny area unlivable either through bombs or through the destruction of all means of survival. For those of you who refuse to call this a genocide, what would you call this exactly? Please let me know. I thought since it has been so long that I would briefly recap our friendship. The first week I attended, I read our proposed ceasefire resolution, the one you have refused to mention, let alone read aloud. The next meeting, I shared with you my family’s personal story of the Nakba or catastrophe that resulted in the fracturing of our

family around the globe. Imagine never seeing your mother and father or brothers and sisters ever again. The following meeting, I begged you to consider the genocide of my people from a personal perspective. Does the destruction of one part of humanity not have ripple effects through the rest of us? Can you imagine that it is your family being tortured, starved and bombed? Just for a minute, think about that. The meeting after that I shared with you the words of one of your own constituents, a Palestinian, who cried out to us that we could change nothing, that you don't care and the only way to free Palestine would be to vote all politicians who remain silent out of office.

Considering that 70% of the general population, Republicans and Democrats alike, support a ceasefire, I think the odds of that reality are pretty good. The next week I shared some statistics with you, the population density of Gaza as if all of Manchester were four times more populated than downtown where we stand right now. Imagine tens of thousands of bombs raining down on us every week. The number of slain Palestinians is estimated at 44,000 by the way; that is nearly half the population of Manchester. That is 15,000 people who could still be alive today if our government had called for a ceasefire in February. What do you think you would do if that happened here? The week after that at our last rendezvous, I pointed out that our tax dollars are funding the many engineers and technicians that live in our area, our neighbors, who are building the very bombs that rain down on Gaza; people who certainly didn't dream of being weapons manufacturers when they were children. Do you know any children who dream of making bombs? That brings us to this week. This week I am all out of words. The only thing I have to say is another personal story. My mother's first cousin, George, is a Christian living in occupied Jerusalem. This past weekend, on his way to celebrate Easter at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, he and many others were viciously assaulted by Israeli settlers. For those of you who are Christians, that church is where the resurrection of Jesus is believed to have happened. Imagine an old man being assaulted in the street for wanting to celebrate the holiest day in our faith in the holiest place possible. Thank you.

Glenn RJ Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

I know we can't ask questions but it would be quite a curiosity if I asked to raise your hands if you have visited 39 Beech Street. That is good and Your Honor I am sure you have as well. That means you are aware that 30% of the people who live there are

either using walkers or wheelchairs. Twenty-five percent of those people can't even get out of their wheelchair to go to the bathroom let alone shower so it doesn't get done. Also, you feed these people but there is no kitchen. We now have an international company who wants to come in here and process the feed but we can't cook there because there is no kitchen. That is housing. You couldn't be in an apartment if you didn't have a kitchen. I don't get it. Why doesn't someone in this city call the state because there is a department for seniors who are in trouble so we can place them where they can get the help they need? I am sorry but Richard Girard keeps saying they get coffee all day. Twenty percent of those who are there are between the ages of 75 and 92 years old. If you are in a wheelchair and you can't even get up, you are not going back to work, not at 92 years old when you can't even wash yourself. Please call the state, 211, and get some help to get these people some dignity in their lives because most of the seniors are from Manchester, they paid their taxes and they worked all their lives. We can't even take care of our own people? The last thing I want to say is we still have 794 children that are homeless. Do we have a program for that? I remember the last year that Gatsas was mayor and we had 600. So, it is growing and not decreasing. If we don't take care of our kids, they will be our problem in the near future. I am again being evicted yet I have all of my receipts that my rent was paid for. Why is it that when you have inspection in this city is supposedly within 30 days that things have to be corrected? They corrected the entire building except for my apartment. It has been three months so I have had to take action to unclog sinks because if we do that ourselves, we can be evicted but it is not sanitary now is it. I have poop that comes out of my kitchen sink because the sewage system is in the wrong place in the house. I have been there 24 years and I have been an exemplary tenant. I just ask you to look into this and make sure that people my age or older are not being evicted so the landlords can collect more money. Thank you.

Mark Hayward, 302 Prospect Street, stated:

I am a retired reporter and I feel strongly about the First Amendment and that is why I am here tonight. Item 11 on your agenda tonight is on proposed changes to Rule 3 which governs the public comment periods such as this. I want to start with this guy on Mammoth and Wellington Roads. Every once in a while, he is out there and holding a flag that says F Biden and I am being polite there but that guy is not. It is terrible right?

It is foul and over the top and it pollutes our city discourse but he has his First Amendment right to be there and to preserve our freedoms we have to endure his vulgarities. If the First Amendment is good enough for Mammoth and Wellington Road, it is good enough for the third floor at City Hall here. I admire you for wanting to keep the discourse in this city civil but the proposed changes for Rule 3, including prohibitions on profanity, vulgarity and fighting words violate the first amendment and I encourage you to reject them. The second issue is let's go back to Mammoth and Wellington Road. That guy uses a sign to communicate. Your other changes to Rule 3, and it is poorly worded but it seems to discourage signs. Signs are a way that some people communicate. I know a lot of people come up here to speak but other people come to hold signs. They might lack the physical or emotional or mental capacity to speak but they come here to hold signs to communicate. I think the proposed changes would discourage signs and the vagueness could lead to abuses. In closing, the real issue seems to be what the City Clerk mentioned in the memo and that is some unrest that happened back in February when several people got upset because they thought a person's right to speak here was being denied. Once she was allowed to speak, everything settled down and the meeting went on. That is a perfect example of where rights don't threaten order and safety, they preserve it. Was their behavior an overreaction? Yes, probably. Are these proposed changes and overreaction to that? Yes, definitely. I would encourage you to table the changes to Rule 3 and seek input from organizations such as New England First Amendment Coalition or the ACLU in NH. They are experts on First Amendment related issues and tomorrow I will provide contact information to the Mayor's Office and the City Clerk.

Dam Wright, Manchester stated:

I hope you all had a good weekend. I certainly did not. The homeless community lost at least three people this weekend. One was one of my closest friends and somebody I have known for as long as I have been doing this and for as long as I have been doing this, he has been homeless. When I first met him, his health was getting bad and as a result of being homeless it could worse and worse and worse. He was back in the hospital again and we found out yesterday that he passed away. Another friend yesterday we found out took his own life because of the horrors of homelessness. We don't know the circumstances but we know that we lost another friend of ours in that

parking lot by the ball fields and I am sure most of you read about that. Meanwhile, we have people shooting at homeless camps. Why does that happen? Well because there is a lot of stigma and dehumanization. There are people in this room, some who spoke earlier and some who sit on this Board who contribute a lot to that. So, when people take shots at homeless camps, maybe you should look at what you are posting on Facebook. I will tell you that we seem to be...I read this article in Ink Link where they asked a lot of you where you think we are going to be with homelessness a year from now. One of my best friends that some of you may remember, the soup lady, said a few things about that. First of all, nobody seemed to actually answer the question and hope is not a strategy. I will compliment Anthony Sapienza for saying exactly the right answer to that question in the shortest way possible in one single sentence. Thank you. What are we doing? So, we got rid of Adrienne and now we are going to dissolve the housing...all of the steps that we have taken to start on a high path by bringing in Adrienne and creating the Housing Stability Department and now we are going to undo that. I have heard from multiple people that Schonna Green is possibly going to be brought back. That would be a big three steps back and I encourage all of you to look at some of the things that happened during her career such as the boots on the ground clean-up event as well as the incident with the meatball lady and several other things. I just don't understand. For all of the talk that we heard during the last election about how homeless is a priority and we want to move forward and do the right things, it seems like we are taking a huge, huge step backwards. I am sick of losing friends. I really am. I am going to hope that you come up with something better than just hope and do something that is actually going to make a difference instead of continuing to demonize people and step backwards and backwards. Good luck with that.

Bradley Conway, 236 Boutwell Street, stated:

Time drags on and brings us here again. How many more speeches will we write, how many more residents will you ignore, how many more days of starvation and bombardment, how many more signatures, how many more people tortured, buried alive, crushed in their homes, and how many more tax dollars? The world is truly becoming more of a nightmare every day. It feels like evil is boiling over everywhere despite our best intentions to raise the alarm. I feel like my heart is being dragged behind a bus. Words are becoming meaningless. Our basic rights to free speech as

Americans are being undermined because Americans are unable to exercise a shred of influence over their democratically elected leaders at any level. Federal, state and local leaders continue to say that protecting genocide is anti-Semitic and appears to be on track to become illegal. Back when I attended the University of New Mexico in the early 2010's, organizing for Palestine was always about freedom of speech on campus. People would twist your words and try to brow beat you into silence saying that rhetoric about freedom for Palestinians makes them feel unsafe. Does anyone else feel like criminalization of protest against an actual genocide makes literally everybody else feel unsafe? I know I don't want to be here and I am sure the Board would rather us all not show up but since this issue is so relevant to the city and its residents and because of the scale of the catastrophe being so unprecedented and unfathomable, we are propelled to show up yet again. I don't think for one second that you all think this is a complicated issue. I think you can't wait to hear the disingenuous Israeli talking points being parroted by U.S. officials so you can throw your hands up and excuse yourself from the conversation. I think you just don't want to be on record taking a stand on the issue one way or the other. Unfortunately for you, residents of Manchester know that you have taken a position, namely that you will not use your position to save lives or to stand up for your constituents in the face of extreme gas lighting. Please stop running from this and acknowledge that our federal leaders including Chris Pappas, Maggie Hassan and Jeanne Shaheen are behaving insidiously to undermine life and liberty around the globe. Please introduce our resolution in new business and bring it to a vote. Maybe it won't pass but as our leaders we want you to take a position on the issues we have raised. We will continue to point out that refusing to bring our resolution to a vote is an insult to the scores of residents that have come before you asking for it to be considered. If our resolution doesn't pass, please modify it. Another option that you could pursue is to make a verbal motion tonight to resolve that the City of Manchester calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire and put it to a vote. Maybe call for the city to divest its funds from genocide. You have too much power to do nothing. Please use your position to show solidarity with Palestine and promise us in writing via your resolution process that you are committing to building a city and a future free from the lies and destruction necessitated by U.S. domestic and foreign policy. Thank you.

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

PRESENTATION

Presentation from the Manchester Development Corporation on its strategic plan for 2024, which includes a request for the plan's approval and permission to issue loans up to \$75,000 under the proposed programs without approval from the BMA.

Amy Chhom, MDC, stated good evening and thank you for your time this evening. I know you are already delayed in your agenda so I appreciate the short time we have to discuss the Manchester Development Corporation and its history as well as some of the initiatives we have planned. I am a resident of 71 W. Merrimack Street and the Chair of the Manchester Development Corporation. To my right we have Mike Harrington.

Mike Harrington, MDC, stated first off thank you very much for your service to our city. I am a resident of 94 Chad Road, Ward 1. I was put on the Manchester Development Corporation about a year and three months ago.

Jodie Nazaka, Economic Development Director, stated our office serves as staff support for the MDC.

Ms. Chhom stated something to know about MDC is that it was formed back in 1985 under Mayor Bob Shaw. At that time, what was occurring was there was a parcel of land owned by the Greater Manchester Industrial Corporation that was over by the airport that someone wanted to purchase. With that sale, Bob Shaw took the \$1 million and used it as seed money to form an initiative called the Greater Manchester Development Corporation. With that \$1 million seed money, city staff came and worked for us and we were the economic development office as a private entity. In 1994, under Sylvio Dupuis, it was then refashioned and the Manchester Economic Development Office was formed and we became Manchester Development Corporation, a stand-alone 501(c)(4). At that time, the mission statement and vision was established and that still holds true today. The MDC Board is comprised of 12 members, 10 of which are volunteers and of those all but three are residents of Manchester. Our by-laws

prohibit more than three not being residents of Manchester and our by-laws also prohibit not more than three being from the same ward. We also have two aldermanic seats on our board. We have the wonderful Pat Long who I think is the longest standing member of the MDC and this year new to us is Chris Morgan. What is important to understand is that we are experienced and dedicated experts in development, construction, sales, leasing, financial management, real estate investing, policy, governance, advocacy and community engagement. We are your in-house experts for all things economic development and real estate related. Our influence can be seen throughout the city. We are not just downtown Manchester. We are throughout the city and this is just a taste of some of the initiatives we have invested in since the creation using the city's revolving loan fund, the Queen City loan fund, typically in the form of gap financing. In addition, during Covid we provided Covid recovery loans to businesses throughout the city to help them sustain the economic impacts of the shutdown. Many of these names you probably all will recognize. One that I am most proud of is XMA Corporation was recently acquired by Amphenol here in Manchester. We were able to help start a company that grew just like the Dyns and the Pill Packs of our city. What we are most proud of is that we have been integral in repositioning key properties throughout the city to assure a positive outcome that benefits the economic prosperity of our city and improves the quality of life for our residents. These are just two of the projects we have been engaged in and if anyone wants the full PowerPoint, I would be happy to share it with you but without MDC securing the rights to that property and controlling the outcome being the use of that site, these projects might not be here today. The one we are most proud of though is the Rex Theatre. Many people that I speak to don't realize that MDC is the owner of this property and that the Palace Theatre is our tenant. We worked with them in a private/public partnership to acquire the building. We worked with the City of Manchester and the Mayor to develop a relationship through a loan program where we did the construction renovations and have them repay it at a very low interest rate over 10 years. At the end of the 10 years the Palace Theatre has the option to purchase it for the original cost of the improvements that were made to the building. I know that some of these buildings have been in front of you recently but we have been involved in the direct investment of buildings needing significant rehab, which attracted tenants who relocated their businesses to Manchester and then further invested to support the businesses expansion. Over time, we have invested almost \$1 million into

967 Elm Street which back in the day I use to manage and had Fusion Coffee and Peking Garden on the first floor. Another landmark investment was the Chase Block, which is as some people call it the Margaritas building. This being one of the first major downtown projects and often credited with spearheading the redevelopment of our downtown because what came next was the Bond Building, the Dunlap Building and the McQuades building. Since 1994, the MDC has provided advocacy, support and financing for a variety of projects in the City of Manchester which as dramatically impacted the skyline. We have financed the feasibility study for the Manchester Civic Center now called the SNHU Arena, a feasibility study for the Manchester Area Convention & Visitor's Bureau, and funding for the development of a website for the City of Manchester. We have provided partial funding for two economic development studies for the City of Manchester back in 2006 which are often referred to. We also provided marketing grants to MEDO and the Manchester Area Convention & Visitor's Bureau. Most recently, we provided \$100,000 in funding for the ASSET organization, the Air Service Support and Enhancement Team, which was born to support marketing and expansion efforts for the Manchester Airport. The results of which are all shown here we have had influence over. So, what has been going on with the MDC and what have we been doing? During Covid we went a bit dormant. Our last achievement was the Rex Theatre. Since then, we have come together as a newly organized board. We worked through a strategic plan and an organizational reset. We reviewed the history of MDC to identify how they accomplished such amazing projects and we updated our mission statement. Of course, we also worked on the strategic plan update which we ask for your approval of tonight. As a board comprised of new and past members, we worked hard over several months to identify a future vision for the Manchester Development Corporation. When we mention site control, we are talking about identifying key properties or areas we feel are pivotal to the future growth of Manchester. When we talk about development review, we talk about when properties in the CBD seek a change in use, we should encourage a period to allow the MDC to comment on the proposed project plan similar to what is offered to the arena overlay district and the Heritage Commission in an advisory role. As a partner to or the designated agent for, we want to support the facilitation of RFP proposals and provide recommendations and expert analysis for the BMA to review and approve. For example, recently the agent was the Planning & Community Development Office for

Hallsville School. We would be a great partner for them who could bring a different perspective relative to the economic development and impact of proposed projects. We also would have advocacy for unique initiatives designed to improve the appearance and marketability of our city. For example, we have been working with Jodie's office on the downtown 12-month pilot program for the CBSD for cleaning, maintenance, safety and hospitality. We have also developed some new loan offerings. What we did was take a step back and identify the current needs in the City of Manchester; what is needed to support small business, retail and development. We came up with several loan program, some that are designed to help real estate downtown, their storefronts, with a grant. That will allow them to potentially grow their retail businesses and foster a vibrant downtown. We also have the Queen City Loan fund, which is up to \$75,000. That is no different than the current program that is in place and it has been successfully implemented. As part of our request, we are asking to have the opportunity to make decisions on these loans up to the \$75,000 range without coming to the BMA for approval because that will add anywhere from two to six weeks to the process. We created another custom MHT product which is up to \$1 million. That has no underwriting criteria in the sense that you need to check these boxes. It allows somebody to come to us and say we have a project and we need your help and there are no strict outlines of what it is we would be loaning. We would look at the merit of the project and the quality of the people behind that project or that business and then make decisions based on their ask. Over the past year, we repositioned our assets to increase our income sources during a period of inactivity. We have, and continue to be, primarily self-funded through our loans and proceeds from any sales of land only in the Hackett Hill area. Upon your approval of our strategic plan, we will begin marketing initiatives in collaboration with the MEDO Office. We will also be looking to update our website and identify loan servicing support and collection support. We will also be returning to you in the next few months once we identify a suitable member for our board seat that was recently vacated by Steve Gryzwacz and to present an update to the bylaws for MDC which have not been revised in over 10 years. We ask for your approval this evening of our strategic plan. We ask for your approval of allowing us some autonomy and we open it up for any questions, concerns or comments you might have.

Alderman Terrio stated I support your mission and I think you are doing important work but I do have some reservations. I am the Chairman of Accounts and I still have five loans that the MDC put out during Covid that total about \$115,000. There is about \$75,000 still outstanding. I think one of the companies has gone out of business. So, \$115,000 was loaned out between the summer of 2020 and the spring of 2021. Of the \$115,000 it looks like about \$71,000 is still outstanding. I do support your mission but I think on one of your slides you said you weren't going to require any security or collateral. That gives me pause.

Ms. Chhom responded that is in the \$500 grant option that was not shown in the slide. It is a \$500 grant that if they match this has a personal guaranty under the security and collateral.

Alderman Terrio replied it says up to \$25,000. Am I misleading that?

Ms. Chhom answered that is a personal guaranty on that.

Alderman Terrio asked so there is no collateral.

Ms. Chhom responded we would have to review their assets. We have liened personal property of persons when they have taken out a significantly sized loan.

Alderman Terrio asked I am assuming that you weren't associated with the five loans that we are still dealing with.

Ms. Nazaka stated I can shed a little bit of light on those. The loan program for Covid recovery was a quick initiative of the Greater Manchester Chamber, the MDC and the BMA. I think it was approved maybe a month after the shut down so there were a lot of unknowns when it was first approved. We can say that all loans are up-to-date and still making payments with the exception of one and we are currently engaged with that business owner. You are correct that it has gone out of business. There was one that was significantly delinquent but we worked closely with the Finance Office and the

Solicitor to get them back up to regular payments and they are back on a monthly payment plan. Right now, there is only one loan delinquent at this time.

Mr. Harrington stated since I have been on this board, and it is not because of me, but the board members have reviewed the processes that were put in place previously and have taken steps to make sure that those sorts of things like collateral and loan applications...we have professionals on our board that are from St. Mary's Bank that are in the business of doing that. We have taken steps now to make sure that those sorts of things are collateralized and that we have at least reasonable expectations that these are going to be paid back. We are not in the business of giving away money.

Alderman Terrio asked Jodie do you know what your default rate is right now.

Ms. Nazaka answered I don't but Finance might.

Ms. Chhom asked how would you calculate that.

Ms. Nazaka stated I think we could probably work with Finance and get that. Do you mean historically or currently?

Alderman Terrio responded historically.

Ms. Nazaka stated we could probably get that. There was a downturn during the recession where there were a couple of loans that went unpaid. I am sure the Solicitor can comment on those but I can get that for you. Right now, we don't really have a lot of delinquent loans.

Alderman Terrio stated I can support this as long as you have strong security collateral safeguards in place.

Ms. Nazaka stated I can say that the Covid loan is no longer available. Once we realized there were some issues with that program, we immediately cancelled it. I can say that the program was started during a time when the Economic Development Office

was closed down so there was no support staff from the city overseeing that. So, the burden was really put on the volunteer board of the MDC to review. We have taken a lot of steps to make sure there is a lot of strong city support in these programs.

Ms. Chhom stated we kind of paused for the last year on really doing anything but looking at and improving what it is we have as opposed to trying to rush out things and get things off the ground.

Alderman Barry stated thank you for everything you guys do. First of all, what a great addition having Mike Harrington on your board is. He has a proven record of all the work he has done in the city and I certainly appreciate it.

Alderman Barry moved to approve the strategic plan.

Alderman Fajardo stated thank you for the information. I have a couple of questions on some items that stood out to me in the strategic plan. I will note that I don't have any reservation about supporting the increased autonomy that you are looking for with the \$75,000 threshold. I also would add that there are parts of the strategic plan that I was really excited about like the advocacy work. I think that sounds really smart and we need that. There are a couple of things that I wanted to flag. One is under the request for proposals and the other one is change in use and development review. You note that MDC does seek to become the primary manager for all RFP's associated with city properties. Working closely with Planning & Community Development who would develop the RFP, all responses would be managed by MDC and recommendations made based on a set of criteria that you lay out. The goal is for MDC to become the entity that handles the disposition of all city owned land. This just caught my eye as somewhat out of step for how things are today in terms of the central role that Planning plays in acting on behalf of the city. I feel like from the small amount of research I did to understand this better it is a both end situation that would be optimal rather than a one or the other. I was hoping to understand what you had in mind for that and if it is literally this. To say it is a goal is one thing. I was hoping you could speak to that and then I will bring up my second point.

Ms. Chhom stated I did address that in the presentation where it talks about what we want next. We are not looking to take over and we are not looking to be a decision maker. We are looking to have input and to help facilitate in the best interest of the city without political pressure and without outside forces and other things like that. While we are not asking to be the sole source and sole agency, we are looking to partner with the organizations. We feel we could have provided great value to the different RFPs in the past for parking lots and other sites that are still undeveloped and waiting. Perhaps there were better options available that could have gotten those properties into the development phase quicker.

Alderman Fajardo stated I think the partnership sounds advantageous. I guess I would request that the definitions of what you have laid out as a goal versus what we are approving...I think obviously this is a strategic plan and there is a vision tied to that and we want to get behind vision but at the same time it is important to get the specific details because part of that is approving this wording. I would like to flag that for further discussion. The second thing was regarding change in use and development review. It says MDC should be included in all requests for change of use, new construction and redevelopment of properties located within city boundaries of the Central Business District. I think this makes sense but I felt like it was a little bit of a stretch to say that the scenario is similar to the Heritage Commission, which now that I am serving on, I have observed that it is a touch optional. I am not opposed necessarily to there being a guideline that states that you should be included in all requests. I just also would say is that something that we should extend to our other commissions and boards that have specific things they are overseeing. Again, try to make that more consistent in either direction. I guess I was looking to make a motion and I know we already have one on the table but it would be to send this to a committee for further technical review. I would especially be interested in getting perspective from Planning and DPW.

Alderman Fajardo moved to refer the strategic plan to the Committee on Administration for further technical review. ***Alderman Levasseur*** duly seconded that motion. *I think this needs to be reviewed.*

Alderman O'Neil asked wasn't there already a motion on the table.

Mayor Ruais responded there was no second.

Alderman Levasseur asked what was the threshold before the \$75,000. Was it \$50,000?

Ms. Chhom answered it was zero.

Alderman Levasseur stated I am curious as to why you wouldn't want more oversight. Is it a timing thing where you have so many of these coming in at one time? We meet every two weeks so I can't imagine we are slowing anybody down.

Ms. Chhom replied it is time. When we submit, we don't get into the next meeting necessarily. We are talking meetings after meetings that we might have to wait for.

Alderman Levasseur responded right but if you know what you want or what you are going to be giving them for money, by the time the process is done I don't see why we couldn't review it. More eyes are better and when you get backing from the full Board, I would think it gives you a little more of a security blanket for your decisions because they are not only being made by an unelected body but they are being made by an elected body that is going to be responsible when the people don't pay. I have been on Accounts forever and there have been a lot of times when we have had to deal with these loans not getting paid. It is part of doing business and I know that generally these loans are a little bit easier to get than you would get from a bank so it does provide a good service to the community and you are the check and balance but we are the check and balance also. I am a little bit concerned about not having any oversight at all. I don't know if you have ever rejected a request so I don't see this as an issue. It is good for us to know what you guys are doing and what projects are being done so we can feel good about where the city is going.

Ms. Chhom replied absolutely. I think some of it is also outlined in the bylaws. It talks about the fact that we are able to make an offer on a property subject to the BMA's approval.

Alderman Levasseur asked my next question would be what can you get for \$75,000 in this day and age.

Ms. Chhom answered that is not for acquisition. You are going to find that is more for business investment. Like XMA received a financing investment for their growth and that helps sustain them long term. It is not designed for...we are gap financing is what we are. We are not ever going to be the primary lender on any deal. That is impossible.

Alderman Levasseur asked where do you sit with funds right now.

Mr. Harrington answered it is in the packet. I think it is roughly \$1.5 million or something like that.

Ms. Nazaka stated it is roughly a \$4 million revolving loan account. Investments have been separated to gain the most interest. We moved some money into a couple of CD's and high yield accounts. It is close to \$4 million in total when you factor in what has been lent out right now.

Mr. Harrington stated but on hand it is a lot less than that.

Ms. Chhom stated it is about \$1.8 million.

Mr. Harrington stated that is what I was referring to. If anybody came to us for a loan to buy a building, you are not going to buy much of a building in Manchester for that.

Ms. Chhom stated that is also making it difficult for us to...there are properties we have identified as key locations, specifically the convenience store on the corner of Hanover across from The Chop House but we don't have the funds to be able to secure that. That would be a prime location for us to get control of it and manage the outcome of that property in terms of who comes forward to redevelop it.

Alderman Levasseur stated I have been pinning on this board for three years waiting for that acquisition.

Mr. Harrington stated just as an example for the smaller loans, we had an instance where a potential purchaser of a building downtown right here in the CBSD need to upgrade the electrical system but he was already at his max with his down payment and other renovations. He was potentially looking at us as a source for up to \$50,000 or \$75,000 so that he could then get low interest financing to finish he upgrades to the electrical system alone and then be able to follow through with the purchase. It is that sort of intermediary step that we are looking for authorization from you guys on. Instead of us having to come back to you every two weeks and say well we have another loan applicant and he would like to upgrade an electrical panel and it is going to cost him \$50,000 and we are going to lien the building...we are happy to do that but it does slow the process up and a lot of times these people are in the process of getting bank financing and have timeframes. You have heard it at the Planning Board meetings where somebody has a deadline with their financing and they need the approval for the plan or else they are not going to be able to develop it. That is all we are looking to do with the small amount of money.

Alderman O'Neil stated Mike, I think you cleared up my question. It was very similar to Alderman Levasseur's. The way I heard the presentation, there could be some very large loans that would not come here. That is what I heard. Your PowerPoint was not in our packet. Acquisition of property maybe?

Ms. Chhom responded we would have to come to the BMA...

Alderman O'Neil interjected I think you need to clarify that loan part because I read it to be anything with you having complete autonomy and that is not what I am now hearing. That is just on the smaller loans.

Ms. Chhom replied right this is just on the Queen City Revolving Loan if we were to loan out money up to \$75,000. Right now, we are required to bring everything to you but especially with purchases or acquisitions we already have the requirement that we can

make an offer but it has to be subject to the BMA's approval and that could be a building that is \$1.

Alderman O'Neil asked so what you are suggesting are loans up to \$75,000 not coming to the BMA.

Ms. Chhom answered correct and we have a loan pool designated so we will never go over that amount.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated thank you for your presentation. I really want to support you but right now I have a few questions. The \$75,000 loans I am not too worried about. I had the opportunity to work with the MDC as an aldermanic representative a few years. I am not worried about the \$75,000 but I am concerned about some of the language in the additional impact opportunities that Alderman Fajardo spoke to. I am concerned that if I vote to approve this strategic plan, I am shifting authority. I support your advocacy and your financing and your influence but I am concerned we are shifting authority to these people. I think sending this to committee to get that answered and to get a legal opinion from our Solicitor's Office is very important. I do look forward to supporting this when I have those questions answered.

Ms. Nazaka stated I can probably shed a little bit more light on what the intent there is.

Alderman T. Sapienza replied I am not concerned about the intent. I am concerned about what we are actually voting on. One of the things I hear around here a lot is that is not the intent but then when I read the words it doesn't match the intent.

Ms. Nazaka stated there is a response I want to share with Alderman Fajardo in regards to the review similar to the Heritage Commission and the arena overlay. The intent with that is recently the Planning Board has been seeing a lot of requests for change of use within the downtown, especially when it comes to conversions of residential. There has been a really big influx of first floor conversion requests to the Planning Board so turning retail or commercial space into residential. There is a need for residential across the city and across the state and across the country, however, there is fear that if the city

approves too many of these conversions on our first floors and in our retail and commercial spaces that we will have no commercial uses within our downtown. There have been a couple of instances of this happening at the Planning Board where MDC has written a courtesy letter as an advisory group weighing in that maybe was not looked at very seriously. The intent with this request was to get onto a more formal process with the Planning Department so within a specific district only if a change of use comes up or a site plan comes up it would then trigger MDC review similar to the Heritage Commission with the arena overlay. So, we wouldn't change any of the processes that are already happening. It would just be adding more input to the process. The same thing with the RFP process. The Board would still vote to have Planning or DPW to lead and RFP. This would provide the Board an opportunity to also include MDC in that. Whether they choose to or not, it is an opportunity to bring them forward as a partner.

Alderman Long stated the last notice that I got from the Solicitor is they are not going to help us in collecting these loans. The city does not collect this money. It will be the sole responsibility of MDC. Having served on that board for roughly 14 years, I have never seen a group...well first of all in 14 years I have never seen anybody look at a strategic plan. I was shocked when Amy brought that up and the board agreed to it. The due diligence that was put into it was unbelievable. They have a great group. They are focused on the betterment of the city. They know what properties are available and they know where they want that property to be at. I have been talking to a few aldermen and agree that the language isn't what we are being told so would you have an issue if we just pulled the RFP and the change of use in development review and sent those two issues to Administration so we can revise that language? We can then pass the rest of it. The Board doesn't want to give any of their authority away. I don't believe we are but if I am reading this it looks like we are. Would you have an issue if we pull those two out?

Ms. Chhom responded we are a partner of yours so if that is what makes you feel more comfortable, that is fine with me or we can take it back and resubmit it based on the conversations we are having.

Alderman Long replied I know the work you put into it.

Ms. Chhom stated well of us put a lot of work into it.

Alderman Long stated I am looking to give you something tonight.

Mr. Harrington stated I would just add that really the words should match the intent. If that was worded that way, it was by mistake because as Jodie just described it is really what we are looking to go. In essence, it is a little bit of breaking down silos. We really want to partner with Planning and the BMA and Water Works and the Mayor. If there are properties that are going to be deemed surplus, you can lean on our organization to give you some expert advice or possibly delegate it to us to help you. Keep in mind that we all have full-time jobs. We are volunteers here and even Alderman Long's comment about collecting...we have people that have jobs that are then picking up the phone and calling a guy up in the lakes region because he is late on his loan. We are getting no support, no help, no nothing from anybody. I would just have you bear that in mind. We take it very seriously and we do follow-up on those things but we are also taking it very seriously now to this next step as Amy laid out with the strategic plan and also with our application process. It is going to be under a microscope. We are not going to let people come into us with hopes and dreams unless they have some backing to make those hopes and dreams a reality.

Alderman Long stated a lot of the issues we saw with these loans was when MEDO was giving them out years ago. That was the issue. I believe the current board of MDC has done their due diligence. They know financing and real estate and loans. They are a great partner with the City of Manchester. It is up to this Board whether you want to send it back to them and have them fix the language and then send it to Administration.

Mayor Ruais stated I think it sounds like the cleanest thing to do is send it to the committee. They can work on the compromised language and send it back to us. It seems like there is a lot of support for your efforts and having gone to your meeting in January, I can attest to the fact that you guys do some incredible work. Perhaps the cleanest thing to do is send it to committee to work on the language and send it back.

Ms. Chhom asked so you don't want us to redraft it and then submit it.

Alderman Barry stated Alderman Long I thought you were requesting that some of the language be sent to the committee but the rest would be approved.

Alderman Long stated it is up to the Board.

Mr. Harrington stated I think we agree that the words should match the intent.

Alderman Long asked so can we pull those two issues, have you re-draft that and send it to Administration. Would the Board be okay with that and then we can pass the rest? Can we amend the motion to pull the RFP and change in use and development review to be rewritten and send to the Committee on Administration and to pass the rest?

Mayor Ruais stated so we are pulling out the language for the RFP and the change of use and sending it to the Committee on Administration and passing the \$75,000 threshold.

Alderman Long responded yes.

Mayor Ruais asked so the \$75,000 and the concerning language will go back to Administration.

Alderman Long answered well there is more than the \$75,000.

Ms. Chhom asked do you want to keep it clean and just kick it back to us and we will resubmit. We won't have to make a presentation.

Mayor Ruais stated yes, the language will be altered and you can submit it to the Committee on Administration for discussion.

Alderman Long asked are there any other clarifications that we want. So, we are giving them the whole thing to take back?

Mayor Ruais stated I believe that would be the cleanest thing to do.

Ms. Chhom stated I am comfortable with that because the last set of bylaws was red-lined approved and stamped. It would be great to have a clean package.

Alderman Long stated but I am thinking that you are not going to get the back and forth with the aldermen. You are going to have this product. You are going to know that the RFP and change of use are going to need to have a language change and that is it. Do you want to take the whole thing back? I don't think you need to. I think you need to take these two paragraphs back. Does anybody have an issue with the loans? I don't think anybody does.

Ms. Nazaka stated if the Board does decide to approve the autonomy up to \$75,000 that would allow MDC to start marketing for those loans, what we have heard consistently is that we have a great array of dining establishments in our downtown but we lack retail. The \$25,000 loan program is targeted at bringing more retail downtown so MDC would be able to launch that as soon as possible.

Mayor Ruais stated it seems reasonable to suggest that we can do the \$75,000 and the concerning language can go back to committee.

Alderman Long stated so we can pull the RFP and change of use and approve the rest. Is that the motion?

Mayor Ruais stated the amendment to the motion would be to pass the \$75,000 threshold and the RFP and change of use language will be sent to the Committee on Administration to be worked on. I would call for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept BMA Minutes

3. Minutes from 03/19/2024 BMA and Finance, 03/28/2024 Special BMA, 04/02/2024 BMA, and the two Special BMA Meetings from 04/16/2024.

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

4. 50/50 Sidewalk Petitions

Commercial:

- 40 Clough Avenue
- 82 Webster Street

Residential:

- 20 Pelham Street
- 22 Russell Street
- 38 Rockland Avenue
- 41 Poplar Street
- 50 High Ridge Road
- 66 St. Marie Street
- 73 Belmont Street
- 75 Fairmount Avenue
- 105 Birchwood Road
- 107 Upland Street
- 114 Leo Street
- 119 Beaver Street
- 326 Vinton Street
- 334 Mitchell Street
- 764 Hall Street
- 1529 Union Street

Information to be Received and Filed

5. Communication from Xfinity regarding changes to assessments of the late fee charge.
6. Communication from the Town of Londonderry regarding a proposed development that is approximately 1,000 feet away from the municipal boundary between Londonderry and Manchester that may have regional impact.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

7. Advising that the update on the Revolving Loan Fund has been accepted.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Aldermen O'Neil and T. Sapienza who were absent)

8. Advising that the Finance Department reports:

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

have been accepted.

(Unanimous vote with the exception of Aldermen O'Neil and T. Sapienza who were absent)

9. Advising that the Monthly Financial Report (unaudited) for the first nine months of fiscal year 2024 has been accepted.

(Unanimous vote with the exception of Aldermen O'Neil and T. Sapienza who were absent)

10. Recommending that Ordinance Amendment:

“An Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 155 of the Manchester Code of Ordinances, to increase from three (3) to four (4) the number of units permitted per lot for new construction without an increase in required lot area in zoning districts that permit multi-family uses; to reduce parking requirements for multifamily uses in the R-3, C-1, and RDV Zoning Districts; to reduce landscaping requirements and parking setbacks; and to remove the requirement that accessory dwelling units receive a conditional use permit, among other amendments.”

be referred back to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading.

(Unanimous vote with the exception of Aldermen O'Neil and T. Sapienza who were absent)

(Note: An updated Ordinance Amendment provided by the Director of Planning and Community Development is attached.)

COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND BUILDINGS

12. Recommending that the proposal from AT&T for modifications to their antenna lease at Hackett Hill be rejected and that the City adhere to the previously agreed upon terms.

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

13. Recommending that the proposal from T-Mobile to alter the base rate on their antenna lease at Hackett Hill be rejected and that the City maintain the current rate at \$3,289.83 with a modification to the escalation rate of a 12% per term increase.

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

JOINT SCHOOL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

- 15.** Advising that the Manchester School District Priority I status and financial report for March 2024 submitted by LeftField has been accepted.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- 11.** Recommending that the proposed amendment to Rule 3 (Public Participation) of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Aldermen Long and Fajardo who were absent)

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I pulled this because I think it is unnecessary. Things have been working great. We have been here for 178 years and we haven't needed this language. Some aldermen have talked about security. I have been in town all week and this is the safest place I have been all week. It is pretty much the safest place I go in Manchester. We have the police here at every meeting. I feel very safe here and I don't think we need to adjust language to increase security. I think that is a red herring. I admired previous mayors and members of this Board who have sat here with resolve and dignity and courage and listened to the public. They may not have liked the comments that were directed at them but they handled them gracefully and preserving free speech and listening to our citizens is one of the most important things we do when we come here. I think it is imperative to remember that the first part of this meeting when we are listening to our citizens is the number one most important thing and I think this is nothing but an attempt to limit that and I further think it is pointed at one group of people. I am going to happily vote against this.

Alderman Levasseur stated I just want to ask the Deputy Solicitor if these rule changes have been vetted and if he feels comfortable with the changes that are being made for whatever reason.

Peter Chiesa, Deputy Solicitor, replied yes, our office participated in drafting some of the language along with the City Clerk. A lot was taken from other jurisdictions and has been incorporated into this proposed rule.

Alderman Levasseur asked so you feel comfortable if there are any legal challenges.

Deputy Solicitor Chiesa answered yes, we do.

Alderman Levasseur stated that is important to me.

Alderman Thomas stated for me this is not about freedom of speech. I really don't mind anyone coming forward and saying anything that they need to say. For me it is more safety. In this day and age, we really don't know what will happen with banners and signs especially since they can be as big as a twin-size bedsheet. I do have a problem with that. Alderman Fajardo did say a few meetings ago that it won't happen until it happens. Shootings happen at the mall where I never thought it would happen. That is my take on it. It has nothing to do with freedom of speech. My concern are the banners and safety moving forward.

Alderman Terrio stated I am looking at the rule and I don't see anything about public comment being altered. The only thing, and correct me if I am wrong, is it says the use of banners, flags, signs or other items which may create a security concern or obstruct the view of other members of the public or public access within the Aldermanic Chambers is strictly prohibited. The part that makes sense to me is you shouldn't be able to obstruct the view of people or the public and you shouldn't be able to restrict access to the Chamber but just to clarify, are we banning banners, flags and signs completely or just when they are being used inappropriately?

Deputy Solicitor Chiesa answered just when they are being used inappropriately.

Alderman Terrio stated so they can still have their signs that say ceasefire or whatever. They can still do that but they can't block the doorway or stand up and block the TV and block us from looking out?

Deputy Solicitor Chiesa responded or block the public view.

Alderman Terrio stated that seems reasonable. I remember Alderman Long was talking about the security measures and that kind of makes sense. That is a common-sense rule. We are not stopping them from having a sign. It makes sense to me now that you have clarified it. Thank you.

Alderman Barry stated that is pretty much what my concern was too; not only that something bad will happen in here but someone might be hiding something behind a flag or a banner or whatever like a gun or weapon. These signs that they have here are perfect. I don't have a problem with them but there are people that come to our meetings that actually want to observe the meeting itself and when people have flags...you guys have done a great job but I know additionally you had big flags and were blocking people's views but you have done a great job with these smaller signs. If the Mayor has discretion on what is going on and we have the police here that is good. I don't want to stop their speech. They can come in and say what they want and hopefully not cause a riot but at least come in here and say how they feel. Thanks.

Alderman Kantor stated I am just wondering where it says the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community. The community is Manchester. We are talking about things taking place across the world so how is this being allowed when it is not a community issue? That is my point.

Mayor Ruais stated they believe that there is a concern to the City of Manchester and this is applicable and relevant to the City of Manchester.

Alderman Kantor replied and my fellow Jewish friends. Are you concerned about their safety? They are afraid to be here.

Alderman Fajardo stated I was going to point out that we have heard that multiple people in the City of Manchester have relatives and family members in harm's way and not just in the Middle East right now. My family resides in Columbia, South America

which isn't necessarily always safe. Does that rise to a community level concern? I think what we have to consider is that each member has a voice and we welcome them to come and speak for three minutes about whatever is important to them. They are part of our community and, therefore, I think it rises to the level of community concern.

Alderman Levasseur stated I would like to remind the people who come here every other week and this Board that we already did weigh in on this. We weighed in on it with a vote and the vote was to not bring this up for any particular narrow vote or to bring up the issue that was presented to us in a draft form. We already have discussed it and voted on it and made ourselves pretty clear that this is not germane to Manchester city business. If they don't like it then they can come and cry about it or discuss it or opine on it but we have made our voices heard.

Alderman T. Sapienza moved to receive and file. **Alderman Fajardo** duly seconded the motion. *Alderman Fajardo requested a roll call vote. Aldermen Fajardo, T. Sapienza, O'Neil, Burkush, Barry and Goonan voted yea. Aldermen Kantor, Levasseur, Terrio, E. Sapienza, Vincent, Thomas, Morgan, and Long voted nay. The motion failed.*

Alderman Long moved to accept the report and adopt its recommendation. **Alderman Levasseur** duly seconded the motion. *Mayor Ruais called for a vote. The motion carried with Aldermen Fajardo, T. Sapienza, Burkush and O'Neil duly recorded in opposition.*

COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND BUILDINGS

14. Recommending that the signed P&S agreement for property located on Wellington Road be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Long who was absent)

Alderman Levasseur stated I have a question which was raised by one of the public comment speakers on the fee. Can you clarify that for the world? I guess it wasn't on the report. I just need to know the number. 4%? Okay thank you.

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

JOINT SCHOOL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

- 16.** Recommending that all city permit and impact fees for the Manchester School District Priority I project be waived.
(School Committee Members O'Connell, Soule, Turner, and Alderman O'Neil voted yea; Alderman Morgan voted nay; Alderman Terrio was absent)

Alderman O'Neil moved to receive and file the committee report. **Alderman Long** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Ruais called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- 17.** Communication from Cathy Schmitz advising the Board of her resignation as a member of the Arts Commission.

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

- 18.** Communication from Jen Drociak advising the Board of her resignation as a member of the Heritage Commission.

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

- 19.** Communication from Alderman Morgan regarding nominations to the Manchester Transit Authority:

- Marlana Trombley to succeed herself as a commissioner, term to expire May 1, 2029
- Elyza Agosta to fill a vacancy as a commissioner, term to expire May 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.)

Alderman Morgan nominated Marlana Trombley and Elyza Agosta to the Manchester Transit Authority Commission.

20. Confirmations:

Zoning Board of Adjustment

William Bevelacqua to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire March 1, 2027

Airport Authority

Jeffrey McGraw to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire March 1, 2027

Board of Registrars

Marc Gagnon to succeed himself as a regular member, term to expire May 1, 2027

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted to confirm the nominations.*

- 21.** Communication from Anna Thomas, Public Health Director, requesting the use of \$153,327 from the Opioid Abatement fund to continue the Health Department's overdose prevention initiatives in FY2025.

***Alderman O'Neil** moved to approve. **Alderman Barry** duly seconded the motion.*

Alderman Long stated Anna I wasn't sure if the \$186,000 was part of this. When I met with you, you said you were looking for \$187,000 or \$186,000.

Anna Thomas, Public Health Director, responded yes. It was higher when I originally thought I needed that much but we went to the CDC and asked them to extend our funding for this grant period into July so that reduced the amount that I need to complete the next fiscal year. I saved you a month basically.

Alderman Long asked so you don't need the \$186,000 in the budget.

Ms. Thomas answered correct. All I need is the \$153,327.

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

- 22.** Communication from Mayor Ruais requesting the dissolution of the Department of Housing Stability.

Alderman Levasseur moved to refer the Ordinance Amendment to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review. **Alderman Long** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I have a lot of questions about this. It is going to Bills on Second Reading for technical review and I understand the Charter says that if you want to dissolve a department you send it to that committee but is that where we get questions answered? I have a lot of questions. For instance, is this position going to be a permanent position now or is it going to be a position in the Mayor's Office similar to the staff that comes and goes with the mayor? I have a question about where the funds are going to be budgeted. Are they going to be budgeted in the Mayor's Office?

Mayor Ruais answered this was going to be a question that the city had to address when the ARPA funding ran out anyway. It is an ARPA funded position so whether it was through the department or through the Mayor's Office, that is a discussion that the city was going to have in 2026 anyway.

Alderman T. Sapienza replied right but we had a department and now I am asking what budget it would go to. These are the kind of questions I have. Whether you are opposed to it or you think it is a good idea, I think these questions need to be answered, particularly is it going to be a permanent professional position or is it going to be at the will of the then current mayor which could change every two years? When the mayor changes, they take their whole office with them.

Mayor Ruais responded yes but it was always going to be at the will of whoever follows me. In the letter I provided to you...

Alderman T. Sapienza interjected I read the letter but I didn't see that addressed.

Mayor Ruais stated the first thing I say is that I think this is a position that is important and I think there should be an individual that is responsible for coordinating the city's efforts but I don't believe it should rest in Fire or Welfare or Planning. There has to be one individual that is responsible for it. I believe historically when this was in Mayor

Guinta's office it was a position created with the help of a non-profit that funded the position and they reported directly to the Chief of Staff and the Mayor at the time. I think that is the most appropriate way to have it done.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated my question is is it a permanent professional position like the Fire Chief and the Director of Planning & Community Development and the head of the Assessor's Office. They don't change every time we change a mayor but mayors take their office staff with them when they go and the new mayor brings in staff. Those are political positions. Is this going to become a political position like that where every time we have a new mayor we have a new person in this position or is it going to be a professional permanent position? That is what I am looking to get to.

Alderman Long stated those are all good questions but personally they work at the will of the mayor. If a new mayor comes in and can't work with the person...they work at the will of the mayor. Again, after December 2026 we need to fund this in the general fund so we will have to review it. That is why I am more than happy to have it in the Mayor's Office to see what it looks like. We haven't done that. I do agree that we shouldn't send it to another department. I think it is an important position and we should have it. I like the fact that it will have oversight by the mayor. I don't know if the City Clerk could...can we answer those questions in Bills on Second Reading or should it go to Administration?

Matthew Normand, City Clerk, replied the mayor could certainly go to the committee meeting and answer questions. It is technical review. This ordinance, if you look at your agenda, is just repealing the ordinance. He is not creating any new ordinance. It is just repealing what was passed by the Board last year.

Alderman Long asked so the ordinance is not addressing the employee. It is just repealing the department.

Mayor Ruais stated I think by the end of the month we should have a person hired for this position. The interviews start next week and we have had a number of applicants

that have come in. We set-up a committee to have those interviews and the recommendations will come to me and I will conduct an interview and make a hire.

Alderman Long asked so in two weeks Administration meets. Can you come and give us your intent and how you see this working? If aldermen want to come to the meeting and ask questions, they are welcome to come and then we can send it to the full Board. We can get those questions answered.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I am not advocating one way or the other. I am just asking the question. Is it a full-time professional job like the other employees of the city or is it a job that when every new mayor comes in that person is going to have to wonder if they have a job tomorrow?

Mayor Ruais responded yes and this is a conversation that the Board was going to have regardless. It is my intent, and I have stated it, that I do believe this is important and we are in the process of hiring an individual and this position is going to be filled. Regardless of what I am doing now, in 2026 this is a conversation that the Board is going to have no matter what. I just think it is best housed in the Mayor's Office.

Alderman Levasseur stated I have spoken with the mayor on many occasions about this and he strongly believes that the city should have a homeless coordinator. Whether or not it is a department of the city or not, that falls on the aldermen. Whether the position stays in place for one year, five years or forever, that falls on the budgeting process by the aldermen and the mayor. The mayor could cut that person out or that position out just like any alderman can for any position in the city except for those that are charter related. So yes, everybody's job has the potential for being removed. Cuts do happen sometimes although they don't happen often in this city. I think this is just a matter of going to Bills on Second Reading and as the Clerk stated there are really no changes that will be made there. There won't be a rewriting of a new ordinance or drafting of any new language.

Alderman Levasseur moved to suspend the rules, not refer this to the Committees on Bills on Second Reading and Accounts, place it on its third and final reading and Ordain. **Alderman Terrio** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman O'Neil asked in the advertisement, is it listed as a department head.

Mayor Ruais answered it is a Director of Homeless Initiatives that is within the Mayor's Office.

Alderman O'Neil asked and that is how it is advertised.

Mayor Ruais responded yes.

Alderman Long stated we are not voting on that. We are voting on the dissolution of the Housing Stability Department.

Mayor Ruais stated I would be more than happy to come to your committee and answer any questions about the job.

Alderman Long stated I would like HR to weigh in also.

Alderman O'Neil asked are you saying that I shouldn't ask the question I just asked.

Alderman Long responded well it is not what we are voting on.

Alderman O'Neil stated to me it is related to the vote here.

Mayor Ruais stated again I would be happy to go to the Administration Committee and answer any questions.

Alderman O'Neil stated when you and I spoke, Mayor, I commended you for taking ownership of it. I appreciate something you said that is in your memo and that is that you did not want to see it end up at Fire, Health, Welfare or Planning & Community

Development because it wasn't fair to those departments and those department heads. I appreciate that comment as well.

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

Alderman Long stated I am opposed because of the process. Since the beginning of the year, we have been following process and haven't been suspending the rules.

Alderman Levasseur replied we are just getting rid of a department, that's all.

Alderman Long stated well this is setting a precedent that we are waiving rules.

23. Report(s) of the Committee on Bills on Second Reading, if available.

The Committee on Bills on Second Reading respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that Ordinance Amendment:

“Authorizing the Mayor to dispose of certain tax-deeded and other parcels of land.”

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

Alderman Levasseur moved to suspend the rules, not refer this to the Committee on Accounts, place it on its third and final reading and Ordain. **Alderman E. Sapienza** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated we have rules for a reason and we have procedures for a reason. I don't think we need to suspend the rules.

Alderman Levasseur responded in this particular instance, if we send it to Accounts, that would be two more weeks and that would get us to the 5/21 meeting. Under the rules, it would sit there until it came up on the consent agenda in June. That would bring us to the first meeting in June and the spring market for plots of land is now so the faster we can get these out to auction to be purchased, the better chance we have of

people purchasing them. Instead of purchasing them in June, they can start purchasing them in May. You never know if somebody wants to start getting backhoes into the ground or getting the permits in process. This is more of an issue of there being a very serious need for more property and more buildings. It is not a matter of a rules issue, it is a matter of timing and getting these to the market as fast as we can.

Alderman Long stated so Bills on Second Reading deemed that these are all buildable properties and sellable.

Mayor Ruais answered yes. There were several in the previous meeting that they had to pull but what was passed today, are all sellable.

Alderman Long stated in the language down below, it says the sale of this property...you do realize that we take taxes out if we are owed taxes and I believe it is 10% Matt that goes to the administration of the...

City Clerk Normand interjected the tax-deeded property reserve account. That is correct. The money will go there and based on the Board's last action, 100% of the remaining proceeds will go into the Affordable Housing Trust.

Alderman Long asked and that is incorporated in the language.

City Clerk Normand answered yes.

Alderman Morgan asked and the Affordable Housing Trust is something that we control as a Board.

Mayor Ruais answered yes.

Alderman Levasseur stated I would add that this also becomes taxable property so we can start getting tax money on it because they have all been sitting there and we haven't been getting money on them.

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

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

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$184,630.20 for CIP 610024 Winter Emergency Shelter be approved and referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

25. Budget Resolutions:

"Appropriating to the Parking Fund the sum of \$5,068,749 from parking revenues for the Fiscal Year 2025."

"Appropriating the sum of \$25,255,603 from Sewer User Rental Charges to the Environmental Protection Division for the Fiscal Year 2025."

"Appropriating to the Manchester Airport Authority the sum of \$40,558,119 from Special Airport Revenue Funds for the Fiscal Year 2025."

"Appropriating to the Manchester Transit Authority the sum of \$1,657,544 for the Fiscal Year 2025."

"Appropriating to the Manchester School District the sum of \$227,982,610 for the Fiscal Year 2025."

"Appropriating all Incremental Meals and Rooms Tax Revenue Received by the City in the Fiscal Year 2025 and held in the Civic Center Fund, for the payment of the City's Obligations in Said Fiscal Year under the Financing Agreement."

"Appropriating to the Manchester School Food and Nutrition Services Program the sum of \$5,819,971 from School Food and Nutrition Services Revenues for the Fiscal Year 2025."

"Raising Monies and Making Appropriations of \$185,401,207 for the Fiscal Year 2025."

“Appropriating to the Central Business Service District the sum of \$258,000 from Central Business Service District Funds for the Fiscal Year 2025.”

“Resolution ‘Approving the Community Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2025, Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefore, and Authorizing Implementation of Said Program’.”

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

City Clerk Normand noted that these are the budget resolutions and if there are any amendments, you don't want to take a vote to Enroll them. I just want the Board to be aware that if the motion passes, the budget will be closed for FY25. These are the budget resolutions so if there are any amendments, they can be done now or we can table certain resolutions for further work.

Alderman Long asked so the motion would be to table.

Mayor Ruais stated correct until we have the opportunity to...we could pass some of these.

City Clerk Normand stated you could pass any of these that you would like.

Alderman Long moved to table all of the budget resolutions. **Alderman Levasseur** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Ruais called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Fajardo stated I just want to acknowledge the loss of the three unhoused community members that we were made aware of this evening during public comment.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I want to follow-up on Alderman Levasseur's point a few minutes ago about a motion that we passed six or eight weeks ago about public

speaking. I thought it was supposed to be germane to city business. What is the deal here? Is it the Mayor's discretion? Is that what it essentially boils down to?

Mayor Ruais responded yes that is my understanding. The conversation that we had was that we want to foster public comment and discussion. The Board took a motion that we are not going to take up anything pertaining to the ceasefire resolution.

Alderman Levasseur stated I would like to add that we made a motion and it passed and this continuous coming in every two weeks may take a little more time for us Board members who sit here and have to listen to this and it is our job to listen to whoever comes to us, but it would be nice if people would take into consideration that a lot of these employees are here working from morning until night and are being delayed from getting home at a reasonable time for something that will not be taken up by this Board.

Alderman Long stated I wanted to bring to people's attention that Jen Drociak who does a lot of volunteer work with the parks and cleaning up the ponds and what have you is having a Lilac Competition I believe. If you are proud of the lilac bush at your home, you can go on Manchester Ink Link and enter that competition.

Mayor Ruais stated I want to thank the Department of Public Works and all of the departments that had a hand in making the Taco Tour a success. I also had a lot of comments the day after about how quickly everything was cleaned up in the city. Thank you to DPW and to all of the departments that made it a successful and safe event. I appreciate it.

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Levasseur**, 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 Harmond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

City Clerk