

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

August 6, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Mayor Ruais called the meeting to order.

Mayor Ruais called on Alderman Long 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 in keeping with the track record that we have had over the last few months, I would like to start with some recognitions and proclamations and for the first one we have, would the Honorable Bobby Stephen please come forward. I have a long resolution in dedication to your decades of public service in the City of Manchester.

The City of Manchester. A Resolution.

WHEREAS Bobby Stephen, a lifelong citizen of Manchester will be celebrating his 85th birthday on September 16, and

WHEREAS Bobby is the founder of the Bobby Stephen Fund for education where over \$1 million in scholarships have been awarded to disadvantaged students in our state, and

WHEREAS Bobby will host the 48th and final Bobby Stephen St. Patrick's Day Event on September 18 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Manchester in appreciation of all of the donors over the years who have contributed to his education fund, and

WHEREAS Bobby recently retired after serving as NH Boxing Commission Chairman first appointed by Governor Meldrim Thompson in 1974, and

WHEREAS Bobby was one of our state's greatest boxers, a three-time Golden Glove champion who often fought at the National Guard Armory on Canal Street to sold out houses from 1959 until 1962, and

WHEREAS Bobby trained Manchester kids how to box in the 1970's and 80's, many of whom went on to lead very successful lives, and

WHEREAS Bobby was selected as a member of the Queen City Hall of Fame, and

WHEREAS Bobby owned Verani's Restaurant on Elm Street from 1968 until 1978 where he served one of Manchester's first pizzas in the late 1960's, and

WHEREAS Bobby and his wife Shirley opened The Vault Restaurant on Elm Street in 1978 converting an old bank into the very successful Vault Restaurant & Mortgage Lounge, and

WHEREAS The Vault opened in the heart of the downtown right next to City Hall at a time when many businesses were abandoning the downtown and soon became one of Manchester's most popular restaurants, and

WHEREAS Bobby helped revitalize downtown Manchester by bringing in businesses and visitors from all the way up in Montreal eager to try his famous barbeque lamb, and

WHEREAS after closing The Vault he sold the property to the Manchester Development Corporation to help pave the way for the vibrant downtown we have today, and

WHEREAS Bobby and Shirley raised three children who attended public school in Manchester and have eight grandchildren, many of whom attended public school in our great city, and

WHEREAS Bobby became State Senator of District 18, Manchester's south and east sides, elected for five terms over ten years, and

WHEREAS in 1989 Bobby opened two fast food restaurants in Manchester named Lamb on the Run and while some were asking him to open in other areas such as Hampton Beach, he was adamant about keeping his business in Manchester as our city's viability and history are so important to him, and

WHEREAS Bobby then worked as a Director at the State of NH Division of Resource and Economic Development and the NH Jobs Training Council where he was instrumental in keeping businesses thriving, many in the Manchester area, and helped provide sustained employment to many of our citizens,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor Jay Ruais, congratulate Bobby Stephen for his illustrious career, outstanding philanthropy and tireless commitment to the betterment of others and on the occasion of his 85th birthday, the city recognizes Bobby as a pillar of the community and thanks him for his dedication to making Manchester a better community for all of our citizens for over seven decades.

Bobby Stephen stated I would like to first of all thank the Mayor and aldermen for all you do and continue to do to make Manchester a much better place.

Mayor Ruais stated can I have Coach Lesniak and the Manchester Little League come up.

The City of Manchester. A Resolution.

WHEREAS Manchester is a baseball town from youth leagues to high school and college to pros, and

WHEREAS the city's 12 and under Manchester Little League All Star Team is made up of the best players for their age group, and

WHEREAS the team qualified for the state's District I Little League Tournament, and

WHEREAS the team missed winning their tournament but their play was still impressive, including an 11-1 win over Nashua and being one of only two teams to put up three or more runs against Salem, the district's top squad, and

WHEREAS head coach Eric Lesniak credits his 12 players for dedicating themselves to fully preparing for games participating in 37 practices over three weeks, double sessions, optional Sunday practices, scorching temperatures over 100 degrees plus rainy mornings, days and nights, and

WHEREAS the players learned valuable life lessons on and off the field representing their parents, themselves, Manchester Little League and the city with utmost respect, attitude and sportsmanship, and

WHEREAS the 12 and under All Star roster includes Jayden Lesniak, Alex Solas, Bentley Lacoste, Camden Dougherty, Colby Donovan, Isaac D'Allaire, Jordan Michaud, Julian Rivera, Lucas Chamberlain, River Thomas, Tyler Lovering and Will Deschene, and

WHEREAS the team was led by Coach Lesniak and assistant coaches Paul Deschene and Corey Donovan and cheered on by all the parents and friends who are the backbone of every team,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor Jay Ruais, congratulate the 12 and under Manchester Little League All Star Team for a successful District I tournament defined by outstanding play and sportsmanship and thank the players for proudly representing our hometown.

Mayor Ruais stated continuing on the baseball theme, I want to thank former alderman Mike Lopez for making a note for me. As many of you may know, the City of Manchester and the American Legion Henry J. Sweeney Post II are hosting the 2024 American Legion Northeast Regional Baseball Tournament at Gill Stadium featuring

players from NH, Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Tournament organizers are offering free admission to Gill for all youth on Sunday, August 11 at 1 PM. It promises to be a great day at the ballpark with a chance to see the very best in American Legion baseball.

Mayor Ruais stated next we have the Women of Vision Program at St. Rafaels. Alderman Long had brought this to our attention. Democracy depends upon engaged citizens who embrace their civic duties. Even though they are not old enough to vote, we are recognizing four elementary school students tonight who participated in the Women of Vision summer program held at St. Rafael's Community Resource Center. After Alderman Long made a presentation on civics to the young ladies, he asked if any of them would like to represent their class and give speeches on the platforms for change that they created. Four of them said yes. Their platforms included topics such as Ending Harassment & Racism, as well as Free Ice Cream for Everyone. Those talented students are here with us tonight and I would like to recognize them and have them come forward – Yasmin Songe, Esther Mukamba, Evaya Voss, and Milat Mariela.

Mayor Ruais asked Joe and Terry Smith to come forward. If you love to read, I have a great story for you all. Joe Smith and his wife Terry are making it their mission to get as many books in as many hands as possible here in Manchester. The Smith's ambitious project has their dining room table on Paquette Avenue in Ward 1 piled high. Over the past three years, they have handed over 1,800 books to Veterans, to patients at CMC and to readers who patronize the Little Free Library Boxes in town, especially on Cedar Street. Joe and Terry spend thousands of dollars of their own money on books. Their friends and neighbors have also been generous with their donations. Additionally, the Smith's inscribe every book, especially if they know one will go to a Veteran. This project is truly a labor of love for them and I want to thank them for their service to our city and to our Veterans.

Mayor Ruais asked Dan Beliveau to come forward. There are some people who make their hometowns exceptionally proud and Dan Beliveau is one of them. Dan dedicated 24 years of his life to serving his country in the army and the NH Army National Guard. After being an infantry leader with the special forces and with deployments during

Desert Storm, as well as to Afghanistan and Iraq, it would be understandable if Dan decided to lead a quiet life. Instead, he continues his mission to serve his fellow Veterans. Whether as head of Manchester's VFW and American Legion Sweeney Post II, as a member of an Honor Guard at Veteran's funerals, or as the organizer of Manchester's Veteran's Day Parade for over a decade, Dan is an accomplished leader who doesn't look for recognition or awards. I am sorry but that ends tonight. Dan, may your sense of purpose and dedication continue to be an inspiration for us all. We deeply appreciate your service to the City of Manchester and to our fellow Veterans. Thank you. Last but not least, can I have Director Ted Kitchens come forward please. Every plane needs a captain and so does every airport. Manchester-Boston Regional Airport is consistently rated one of the best airports in the country and that is not by accident. You only get that type of rating with strong leadership and vision. Fortunately, in you the city has both. Across every departure and arrival through blue skies and weather delays, Ted has set a standard for being a hands-on leader; someone who cares deeply for travelers and all of the employees who keep Manchester running on time. Recently, Manchester welcomed Avelo, Breeze, Spirit and Sun Country. Not to be outdone, just two weeks ago we all saw that JetBlue has now joined that family; a deal that has been on the airport's wish list, as well as the city's for 20 years. They join American, Southwest and United to give NH travelers even more choices when it comes to getting away for a vacation or business, and to avoid Logan. Manchester-Boston Regional Airport connects over 1.7 million yearly passengers to over 220 destinations around the world. Those numbers are sure to increase with the addition of four new airlines this year. That is incredibly impressive and I don't know what the heck you can do next year but I am deeply appreciative of your continued work on behalf of the city and for all you do to make Manchester shine. Thank you.

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

speakers will come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized and give their comments.

Brandon Lemay, 36 Lynx Way, stated:

I am an organizer with Rights in Democracy and I have been chosen to speak on behalf of the Manchester Housing Alliance tonight. We just want to talk about the zoning draft that has been shown at various board meetings. Our members have attended these meetings in wards 12, 10, 8, 11, 1 and 7 so far. First off, we just want to praise the Planning Department for the hard work that they are putting into this. I know that they have been working their butts off so we just want to acknowledge good work when we are seeing it. We noticed that there was a mix of hope for the future of Manchester at these meetings and some concerns like parking and traffic patterns. This Board will ultimately take the recommendations from these events and hopefully ultimately vote on a proposal for relaxing zoning codes that are too restrictive for the affordable housing that we need. We need 8,000 more units of housing in Manchester and we hope you are considering that ultimately when you are voting on this zoning draft. It is easy to worry about traffic that hasn't been determined yet. It is easy to worry about parking that is not even a concern yet. We really hope that you are considering the needs of the current people of the City of Manchester who are struggling to find affordable housing. Please just keep that in mind when you are voting on the new zoning proposal. Thank you.

Dam Wright, Manchester, stated:

Normally I am a big fan of the work from Paul Feeley over at the *Union Leader*. He does a good job on a lot of stories. This headline yesterday was a rare miss on his part and a pretty big one at that. It says here "Data: New Ordinance has Reduced Homeless Near Parks." He then goes on in the very first paragraph to say that is not his conclusion but it is the conclusion that is being given to him by city officials. He goes on to cite a bunch of data points that are being used to support this conclusion, including the amount of calls that have happened at the parks which have been initiated by the police, the fact that there have been 150 citations in the first two weeks of the increased enforcement, and 30 arrests. None of that is relevant to the change to 130.13 because all that did was change whether or not you could cite somebody for camping or sleeping

in a public place. What we see is that only three citations have been issued for that in the first two weeks. So, this big important tool that we had to have in the toolbox for the police has resulted in three citations and that's it. The other claims that are being made in this article with regard to a reduction in homelessness near the parks, go to the parks and look. It hasn't been reduced because they still have no place to go. They were bounced out of one downtown park for a week. I would go there and it was usually a popular spot but there was nobody there for a week and now they are back because they went to a different park and now, they are back. The numbers haven't gone down. Nobody is less homeless and nobody has moved out of state. None of that has happened. The same amount of homeless people are stuck with no place else to go. With regards to 150 ordinance citations and 30 arrests, there is no contrast for that. We are not seeing what the usual numbers are for a given two-week period. I have certainly seen articles where the Police Department has bragged about going out in the day to pick up 40+ people for the same things that are being cited here, mostly warrants and drug offenses. If they can do 40 in a day, what is 30 in two weeks or 150 citations. There is nothing new about people getting tickets and getting arrested while they are homeless. That is just like it has always been. If you talk to the homeless people who are out by the parks, they will tell you they are not seeing any significant change. Sometimes there is more enforcement and sometimes there is less. It comes and goes in waves but it doesn't change anything and it doesn't make anything better. The other claim here that I think needs to be addressed is that the byline says it has increased safety. The parks weren't unsafe. I think you are insulting the police and the park rangers if you say that they were unsafe. Crimes like having warrants or drug offenses and certainly sleeping are not making the parks unsafe. There are plenty of housed people going to the parks all the time. They are perfectly safe. The only people that aren't there are the ones who are afraid to be around homeless people and they are going to feel unsafe no matter what happens. Nobody is getting attacked and nobody is getting harassed. If they were, they would be getting arrested and the Board would see that. We are not seeing that so they were safe and they are safe. Little has changed and this is lipstick on a pig. Sorry.

Glenn RJ Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

Not too many months ago I heard an alderman say nobody is coming downtown. Well, I work at Home Depot in Hooksett and between 9:30 PM and 10 PM I am coming off of Exit 5 on 293 and three or four nights out of the week, that bridge is as heavy as between 3 PM and 6 PM when everyone is going home. They are coming from somewhere. They have to come from downtown to get to Exit 5. First of all, I want to keep it on a positive note. People are coming downtown and we should applaud that. The more you guys do to keep the city safe and clean and brighten up the downtown, the more people are going to come. This is not a bad city. Every city has the same problems as we do. Trust me. Some are worse than us. It just happens that there are some agencies in state government that don't give us as much help as they should because we are the biggest city in NH. We need to learn to live together as one people in this state. I remember not too many years ago and I know some of you aldermen have been here long enough to remember that every summer you would take a two-week period and the state police would give us a grant and join us and patrol the hot spots. That used to work. They don't do that anymore. That was a useful grant. They put people where they belonged. It is summer and this summer is hotter than ever which means people are out walking. I am still looking for brighter Elm Street and I say that if you put those lights on the trees like you do on Hanover Street, it would brighten the city and clean-up the city somewhat because people would be able to see and the officers will be able to see. It is very inexpensive. It is called fixing the broken window effect. If we make it brighter, there won't be as much crime. The other thing I want to talk about is we have a lot of rotten trees that are falling apart. There is one in front of my house. I am going to call the Highway Department and see if they can take it down. For every tree we take down, we should plant two. I heard someone on TV this week saying we don't need trees. A city our size needs trees because they clean the air and create shade. We have a lot of tar and concrete in this city because we are a city. Trees are what helps. Thank you.

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

PRESENTATIONS

2. Community Resource Portal presentation by Manchester Proud.

Mayor Ruais stated I want to preface this presentation with a little bit of background. Earlier in the year, I spoke with a number of you and you were asking for a list of resources within the city. For instance, where do I go if I have a question about addiction or mental health or what kinds of groups are working on different kinds of things within the city. When I was talking to Manchester Proud, they said they have such a list, a community resource portal, so I thought it would be beneficial based on what I heard from all of you to have them talk through it.

Aimee Kereage, Director of Community Partnerships & Engagement and co-director with Debbie Miller, Director of Mission & Strategy, Manchester Proud, stated thank you for giving us this opportunity to share with you an overall update on our work in the community, changes in our staff and upcoming events and resources. Also with us tonight is Lauren Boisvert, Community Communications Director. Manchester Proud is a community-based movement committed to the success of all public-school students in the City of Manchester. Our mission is to build community engagement and partnerships with the district to champion student success and make exceptional public schools.

Debbie Miller stated I am the newest member of the Manchester Proud team. First of all, thank you for allowing us to make this presentation tonight. Most of you know Barry Brensinger who was the driver to starting up this organization and his leadership is responsible for where it is today. Barry has decided to retire from leading this organization but will remain on our council which we are very grateful for. Due to this change at the organization, the council approved a co-leadership model with myself and Aimee Kereage. My role as Director of Mission & Strategy will be working as the day-to-day keeper of the Manchester Proud mission, conceptualizing new opportunities, developing strategies needed to optimize the work, fundraising, providing leadership and advocacy, and acting as liaison to the Champions Council. My position is part-time and replaces most of the work that Barry did. Although I am new to Manchester Proud, I am not new to Manchester. I was headquartered in Manchester for over 16 years as

an executive with Citizens Bank at 875 Elm Street where I was in charge of charitable giving, community relations, public affairs and government relations. I went on to spend my last 13 years in non-profit leadership in fundraising and developing strategic initiatives and partnerships. I bring to Manchester Proud over 30 years of experience in executive leadership, community development, banking and non-profits. Manchester Proud is led by a council or board that represents the community of Manchester. This council has representatives from the school district, businesses, city offices, non-profits and parents that help guide our work. This group identified two areas of focus for the organization – community engagement and partnerships. My colleague Lauren will share the events like CelebratEd which is coming right up along with community resources that have been created.

Lauren Boisvert, Community Communications Director, stated I want to take a moment to share Manchester Proud's premiere events. We host three events annually, two of which will be coming up next month so feel free to take out your cell phones and add them into your calendar now. The State of the Manchester School District will be held on September 19 from 4 PM until 5:30 PM. This is an update from the district's team on not only their progress over the past school year but where they aim to go in the next school year. CelebratEd as my colleagues mentioned, will be on 9/21 from 10 AM until 4 PM. It is hosted at Veterans Park in Manchester. This is our fourth annual CelebratEd event. This festival celebrates our public schools through unified participation. All schools will be in attendance in a variety of ways such as student performances, a student art gallery, game changer awards for students and staff awarded by principals, the Manchester school district resource pavilion, community partners, and so much more. We hope to see you all there. Spring into Summer, which will tentatively be held in March 2025. A date will be chosen as we get closer. This event is a summer resource fair where community partners can connect with students, families, staff and community members on opportunities for the summer. Amy let me know that in a recent meeting with Parks & Recreation, this event secured four staff members for their department for the summer which is awesome to hear. In front of you is the booklet that I handed out. It is an opportunity portfolio stemming from that event and I am going to dive into what that is now. It is part of the Manchester Proud Compass. The Compass is a community resource portal focused on supporting our

public school system through the development of strong partnerships. The Manchester Proud Compass is committed to reflecting the needs of our community. You are able to filter through the various partners and their offerings based on your needs such as basic needs, clear connected learning, early childhood, expanded learning time, health and wellness and more. Additionally, we have recently added an event calendar where community partners can share about events that they are hosting. Recently, we added our physical Compass and you all have the first copy that we made. It is called the Opportunity Portfolio. The iteration that you have is spring into summer which is for summer opportunities and we will be producing one for CelebratEd which will be school time opportunities. Now to talk a little bit more about those partnerships and opportunities listed on the Compass, I am going to hand it back over to my colleague Amy.

Ms. Kereage stated I have had the pleasure of being in my role for almost three years. I have worked with the school district and the community partners to build bridges and create partnerships and opportunities that benefit our students, families, residents and businesses; really all in our community. Working with community partners and the district, we have been able to create pathways for students to explore career opportunities here in the community. We have had the pleasure of partnering with businesses, such as ARMI, DEKA, Elliot Hospital and The Moore Center and are eager to work with other local companies who might be interested in career connected learning and offering opportunities to our students. As you may be aware, Manchester Proud and the school district, along with the SEE Science Center, UNH 4-H Extension, the International Institute of New England, Granite YMCA and Amoskeag Health successfully secured a five-year federal community schools grant. This grant is the first time this has been awarded in the state of NH. We are excited to imbed programming such as vision screening and care, English for speakers of other languages, STEM activities and expanded family engagement opportunities to the Beech Street and Gossler Park neighborhoods. We are excited for all of this work and we appreciate your time. Similar to all of you, we are committed to the community and our mission and purpose is grounded in supporting the community members. By creating partnerships, increasing communications and community engagement, we are focused on opportunities for the future of Manchester. We hope that the Compass can be a useful

tool for the community and are eager to have it become a convenience hub of information for all things Manchester. Again, please visit it at ManchesterProud.org and our annual festival which again is 9/21 at Veteran's Park from 10-4. All activities and food are free for all individuals who attend. We are excited and looking forward to that. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Mayor Ruais stated thank you.

3. Presentation regarding capital improvements at SNHU Arena by Tim Bechert, General Manager.

Tim Bechert, SMG, General Manager of SNHU Arena stated good evening. I have been the general manager for 23 going on 24 years. I came on board during construction and it continues to be a joy and a pleasure. Quickly tonight before we get into...and it is not going to be a deep dive unless you want it to be a deep dive, I want to give you a quick status on the arena. Entering into our 24th year, we continue to be one of the most competitive arenas in the country. In world rankings, we are 120th of all size buildings for tickets sold and attendance. In the US, we typically are in the top 10 for under 15,000 seats. In New England, we are 2nd only to the Boston Garden and 3rd if you count Mohegan Sun which is a casino and a bit of a different game altogether. The building is still firing on all cylinders and very competitive in getting the attractions in and bringing the people downtown. However, after 23 years the wear and tear of the arena is starting to show. Like your home, I think it is time we take a look at that and try to fix some of the things that do keep us in the game and competitive. That is kind of the segway into the numbers. I hope everyone has my letter in front of them. These are the capital expenses that we are recommending be done this year, in 2024, and then Phase II would go out another 5+ years. I think the focus right now is on the 2024 numbers. They are very straight forward and the detail, as much as can be given, is there. The short of it is we are looking for \$3.6 million this year. That will cover HVAC needs and the roof which is at a stage where it has to be addressed because we are starting to find leaks and that is not what we want. That is the lower roof. The upper roof is still in good condition so we have a couple of years left on that. There are suites that have not been touched since we opened up in 2001. They need to be upgraded.

Again, I don't want to take everybody's time. I think you can all read it but if there are specific questions, I would be happy to answer them tonight.

Alderman Morgan stated thanks for the presentation. I think we need a broader conversation on the arena and my understanding is the Special Committee on the Civic Center hasn't met since 2019, which was six years ago. I think we need to send this to that committee so we can spend more time talking about it and asking questions.

Alderman Morgan moved to refer this to the Special Committee on Baseball/Civic Center. ***Alderman E. Sapienza*** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Fajardo stated I have a few questions. Should I hold them until the committee meeting?

Mayor Ruais replied no you can ask them.

Alderman Fajardo stated I was wondering if I am interpreting this correctly. The ask for Phase I would be spent all at once and then Phase II would be spent over five years?

Mr. Bechert answered right. Some of these projects take time so we can't wake up tomorrow and get them all accomplished. It would be over the course of the next year to year and a half for Phase I.

Alderman Fajardo stated it surprised me that there was a lot of regular maintenance like table stakes and things on this list. I don't know the logic behind waiting and asking for a large sum to check off many, many things all at once versus doing it more incrementally.

Mr. Becher responded it is not necessarily that. There is a definition that is very clear in the management agreement that defines what a capital expense is. That is how we proceeded from Day 1. It is not like we don't have the ability to nickel and dime and work on multiple things to hit the \$5,000 threshold. That is not what we do.

Alderman Fajardo stated I am sorry but I am not familiar with the management agreement. What is the \$5,000 threshold?

Mr. Bechert replied the \$5,000 is basically where our capital expenditure starts according to the tax code. I am not sure who does the financing but all of this, quite frankly, is clearly spelled out in our management agreement with the city. I don't want to do it an injustice by calling it something it is not but it goes into categories as to what are capital expenditures and what is not.

Alderman Fajardo asked is there a detail around the timing for when these things can be addressed.

Mr. Bechert answered we put forth a budget that goes five years out. We have done that since Day 1. The city has those budgets that we put forth. This is just an extension of that. Now we are addressing the next five years.

Alderman Fajardo asked okay that is helpful context. Would it be possible to see what the previous budgets looked like? Even the last five-year budget when this goes to committee so it can be part of the agenda materials? I am interested in seeing that.

Mr. Bechert responded it is on the city's website so you can see it there.

Mayor Ruais stated for a little bit of background, Tim and I met in July and he talked about the need to do these capital expenditures. My suggestion was let's do a presentation to the Board to talk through it and give them time to ask questions. Also, I thought that we could give the aldermen time to go to the arena and tour it and figure out other additional questions and then the committee can work its will from there. If it is a bond, it would have to go before CIP but there would also be an opportunity to send it to the special committee that Alderman Morgan chairs. I thought this would be a good opportunity for him to broach the subject and we could spend a month talking about it and getting questions asked and answered so the committee could revisit it in September.

Alderman Long stated it makes sense after 24 years that maintenance needs to be done. Are you currently spending money on, for example, the roof?

Mr. Bechert replied yes but those repairs don't meet the threshold obviously.

Alderman Long asked so over time you have done patch work and now you need the whole thing done.

Mr. Bechert answered yes.

Alderman Long asked how long would this be in committee. Would the committee meet and then bring this to the full Board? Will it be a two or three-month timeframe?

Mayor Ruais stated if it were to go before Alderman Morgan's committee, we could do CIP that night as well if we had to and move quickly. We talked about creating the bond to have it in CIP and then if we needed to expedite it, we would have that option because we still only have the one meeting in September. If it was the will of the committee and the Board to expedite it, we could do that.

Alderman Long asked so I can expect that in October something would come back before the Board.

Mr. Bechert stated hopefully before October.

Alderman Long stated well that is another question.

Mr. Bechert stated the timing is critical. The roof for instance, we are not going to be able to make repairs on when the weather starts going sideways and we are already there. So that needs to happen sooner rather than later and without diving into emergency expenditures because we are not there yet, if the weather starts coming and we can't get the roof fixed then we are going to be in a spot where we aren't going to be able to do it in the winter.

Alderman O'Neil stated it was my understanding because we are in this summer schedule and only meeting once a month that that is why this was brought to the full Board and that it is time-sensitive. Getting some of this work done in the fall is critical so pushing this thing out to multiple committee meetings and not reporting back to the Board, I think we are missing the timeline on things that could be done this fall. I was prepared to act on this tonight. I think we have to have two votes on this anyway since it is a bond resolution so by September this would have final approval. That was my understanding. If we are going to keep bouncing this around committees, it is just not going to get done in a timely manner. I am prepared to vote for this. I need to say in defense of SMG and their multiple parent companies that they have...Tim I think this is only the second time you have come before the Board?

Mr. Bechert responded this is the second time; yes.

Alderman O'Neil stated the first time was in 2019 when the chillers were failing and you weren't going to be able to make ice. That required some quick action by the Board to get it done. I know Tim Clougherty and Sharon worked with him back then. I would hope we would have Tim and Sharon involved going forward. That was my understanding as to why this was being brought forward tonight. There is an urgency in getting these projects going. I am afraid if we starting bouncing this around committees, we are in our summer schedule and it is what it is but we have to expedite this work. I am prepared to move on this tonight.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated this is part of a five-year plan and all of the sudden it is an emergency. If it needed to be done by the fall, they should have been here in January or February but the idea to come here and look for \$7 million...I may in the end support this but when we are talking about spending \$7 million, I think that is when we should spend the time in committee and we should have a chance to look at it. Never mind coming here and saying this is time sensitive and I need \$7 million. It is a five-year plan. Somebody has known this was going to happen for the last five years. The idea that is has to be hurried up...if you want to get the roof done right away let's concentrate on the roof at the first committee meeting. The idea of rushing through \$7 million...that

is what the committee process is for; to make sure we do things right and if we are going to spend \$7 million, we know why we are spending it.

Alderman Barry stated thank you, Tim. Just to follow-up with what Alderman T. Sapienza said, what is the city's responsibility for this.

Peter Chiesa, Deputy City Solicitor, stated there is a capital improvement fund that the city has and those funds are used for capital improvements. I haven't had a chance to go through these but if they are capital improvements, they have a right to ask for them and it is up to this Board to decide whether or not to grant that. The contract does not obligate the city, in and of itself, to pay for the capital improvements that SMG requests. However, there are some other aspects of law that apply. There are certain aspects in NH law that apply to contracts that may change your mind. I would suggest if we are going to discuss those that we do so in non-public session or recess the meeting so I can explain those to you. It wouldn't be prudent to do that with SMG and the representatives present.

Alderman Barry stated thank you Peter. My follow-up was what our responsibility is and if we don't approve it what happens.

Deputy Solicitor Chiesa responded I can get further into it if you want to recess the meeting but I don't think it would be prudent to do that in public session.

Alderman Barry asked Mr. Bechert, you said the roof needs repair. Do we have any documentation as to what condition the roof is actually in? I know you work there but who has been overseeing the maintenance and all of that?

Mr. Bechert answered we have pictures and maintenance receipts that we are responsible for to back that up.

Alderman Barry asked what about any documentation as to where we got the actual estimate for the repairs.

Mr. Bechert responded we have quotes. These are not made-up numbers.

Alderman Levasseur asked what is the definition of a capital improvement? TV's? PA system? Upgrading the suites and those type of things?

Mr. Bechert answered yes.

Alderman Levasseur asked is there a definition that we have. Is that in the contract itself?

Mr. Bechert replied it is in the contract.

Alderman Levasseur asked so each item you went through meets the definition of a capital expense.

Mr. Bechert responded that is correct.

Alderman Levasseur asked is there anybody on the city side that made sure that each of the requests actually meet the definition. Does anybody on the city side have any responsibility to at least make sure the definition is being upheld?

Mr. Bechert answered I have no idea.

Alderman Levasseur asked did you submit it to any particular department before we got it.

Mr. Bechert replied this Board has received this budget and a lot of the things on this were in the five-year projection from 2019 and are now coming to fruition. I think Covid got in the way of having to do some of it.

Alderman Levasseur asked who is responsible. Is Highway?

Mr. Bechert answered I think it would go to the Civic Center Committee.

Alderman Levasseur asked so just that committee is responsible for the oversight.

Mr. Bechert stated and the Mayor's Office obviously would have it as well.

Alderman Levasseur responded we have a Facilities Department, so I don't know if it went there or not. Did you send it to them?

Mr. Bechert replied I did not.

Alderman Levasseur stated I want to make sure that there is some oversight above us like one of the departments that could say to us yes, we recommend it and are good with what was presented to take us off the hook.

Mr. Bechert stated we have met with Tim Clougherty in the past.

Alderman Levasseur stated I didn't want to say his name but I was expecting that maybe it went through his department first. Maybe that can happen between now and the committee meeting which doesn't have to wait until September by the way? Maybe somebody who understands facilities and capital improvement issues can go through it. I looked at some of the things on the list and they seem to me to be more tangential and not so much of a fixture. What I think of capital improvements are things like roofs, walls, HVAC and some of those big things. I saw a lot of stuff that was kind of tangential to that but I haven't read the contract in many, many years so I don't know what the definitions are and what exactly we are responsible for. Is there any money in the capital reserve?

Mr. Bechert answered I think that has been depleted but Sharon can answer that.

Sharon Wickens, Finance Officer, replied the capital reserve account has \$189,000.

Alderman Levasseur asked what do you usually use that money for. Do you have control over that or does it have to go through committee?

Mr. Bechert responded it has to go through the city. We have no control. We submit invoices.

Alderman Levasseur asked so can other things be paid for out of that fund or only capital improvements.

Mr. Bechert answered only capital improvements.

Alderman Levasseur asked so none of the stuff on the list we have would come out of that \$189,000.

Mr. Bechert replied if it is not a capital expense it would not.

Alderman Levasseur asked did you put the list together or do you have somebody over you who does the capital improvements.

Mr. Bechert responded our team here local looks at it as well.

Alderman Levasseur stated I think most of these things can be answered pretty quickly at a committee meeting and then we can get it taken care of. I would like to have someone above us look through the list to make sure it is all set and get it done.
Thanks.

Alderman O'Neil asked Tim to be clear, since the building opened, we legally own it correct.

Mr. Bechert answered yes.

Alderman O'Neil stated and contractually we have a responsibility to do improvements when they are needed. We are fortunate there haven't been many and the chillers had served the building well but it was time to replace them. If I recall, it was a pretty big number. I am not surprised by this. I think you have held off coming in and asking for

this money. I think the maintenance staff there has done a fabulous job keeping that building going. You and your team deserve credit. Like I said, I saw this and I was prepared to vote on it tonight. Time is of the essence here and if this can all get done between now and the meeting in September, I hope you are right Alderman Levasseur. It has to get done. We have one meeting in September and dragging this out until October is...the bond is going to have to lay over and all of that. This needs to get done.

Alderman Fajardo stated I also would like to see a copy of the management agreement.

Deputy Solicitor Chiesa responded I can get that for you.

Alderman Morgan stated as far as timing, having read the contract it looks like if there are any emergencies at the arena you have the ability to fix them right away. So, if the roof falls down and it is affecting the patrons, you can do that without our consent. Is that correct?

Mr. Bechert replied I am not sure that is correct. We can identify emergency expenditures but it is not necessarily that we are going to be funding it. We would bring it to your attention and say this is broke like we did with the chiller.

Alderman Morgan responded that is not what I read. Peter, can you help us with that? I believe they have the ability to make emergency repairs if something is necessary on the spot if it affects the patrons. Of course, you can come back to us afterwards to talk about it but you have that ability. So, time is not necessarily of the essence because if there are any problems, you can take care of it right away.

Mr. Bechert replied I don't know that I agree with you.

Deputy Solicitor Chiesa stated emergency expenditure is defined under the agreement as "shall mean any expense to the extent not included in the annual operating budget or other center budget and not presumably expected to be incurred but which SMG believes in good faith to be an immediately necessary expense to continue the

operation or secure the safety of the center or its patrons.” They decide whether or not to make the emergency repair. If they do make the repair, they have the right to seek indemnity for that payment from the city.

Mr. Bechert stated so the roof would not be a good example because that has already been identified.

Alderman Levasseur stated I would ask Alderman O'Neil and all of you to go through the list that was provided by Mr. Bechert to see what is actually being done for the \$7 million. It is not just simply changing the roof. Some of the things that have to be done have to be done but there is going to be a pretty good upgrade to the building, to the aesthetics, and to the suites. It is not just your basic capital improvement where it is the roof and HVAC units. You think just big things but there is a lot more to it and I want to make sure people understand where the money is going. Just go through the list and look at some of the items and if you have questions, you will be able to get them answered.

Alderman Goonan stated when you say a five-year plan, we probably knew that this was coming at some point. This isn't a five-year plan going forward.

Mr. Bechert responded it is a little bit of both. We submit these every year but the 2019 one stands out because that was the first time we actually implemented it. There was a five-year program...actually we used to go seven to eight years out in our budgets but then Covid came and shut everything down for almost two years so we weren't able to do anything when we went from a staff of 200 to 4.

Alderman Goonan asked Sharon is there a time-frame. Do they have a certain amount of time to spend this money? Is it all the \$7 million or is it just \$3 million now?

Ms. Wickens answered the ask now would be Phase I which is \$3.6 million because yes there is a time limit to spend all of the money. It is three years. Phase I and II are going to take anywhere from 4-7 years. Let's say five years. That is outside of the scope so we said do it in two phases. This is the first ask and they will probably spend that in the

next year to a year and a half and then they will be back for the second phase which will go out probably another two to three years.

Alderman Goonan asked so we are bonding the \$3.6 million and not the \$7 million.

Ms. Wickens answered yes. The ask right now is the \$3.6 million.

Alderman Goonan stated I agree with Alderman O'Neil. I think these improvements need to be done and I think we have a responsibility to do these improvements. I think he came before us for chillers which were \$1.1 million. I think he has a pretty good track record in 24 years so I don't have a problem with this. I worry about the committees. To me sometimes they are a crap shoot when they get in the middle of these things. On one hand I understand but on the other hand I shake my head in the committees sometimes. I wish we could just vote on it today and get it done because I think we need it.

Mayor Ruais stated to build off of that concern, I certainly appreciate where you are coming from but I don't think there is any reason why if we spent the next three weeks getting questions answered and doing a tour of the building and getting all of the requisite materials and paperwork that you may all request like the contract that was referenced and having the opportunity like Alderman Levasseur said to get any answers that we may seek from Director Clougherty that at the first meeting in September we could have Tim Becher go before Alderman Morgan's committee and we can also create the bond resolution to go to CIP that evening. Presumably, everybody will have all of their questions answered by then and if folks are in support of it then we can expedite it to the full Board that night if that is the will of the Board.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I want to make sure that we get questions answered. I can read the list but I need some professional expertise like Alderman Levasseur was talking about. Some city department needs to be in charge of this to say yes, we looked at the bids and we looked at the contract. One department could be looking at the contract and we need a technical and professional arm of the city government to look at each project on the list to assure us aldermen that it is a legitimate project and a

legitimate expense. I don't know...you have \$300,000 for the roof. I am not a roofer. For all I know, that is a good price. We need a professional on our team to give us some guidance on this.

Alderman Burkush stated I was going to ask if we could all get the same information so when the committee chair holds the meeting, we could all have our questions answered.

Mayor Ruais stated I don't have any problem with that whatsoever.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated it is a good point about getting city departments involved but when I hear that I can't help wondering how the city departments feel about that. I can't get bushes trimmed that are blocking vision on a street. Is it realistic? If I can't get bushes trimmed...I have a feeling a city department is going to say something like we are understaffed and overworked as it is so we can't get involved in that and don't they have a management company running that? I don't know. That is just food for thought.

Alderman O'Neil stated for clarification, we are talking about the \$3.7 million correct. We are just talking about Phase I which to round up is \$3.7 million? The other \$3.4 million is down the road.

Mr. Bechert answered yes.

Alderman Long stated just for clarification, any project that we do...have you done any projects on that building where the city wasn't involved.

Mr. Bechert answered no.

Alderman Long stated that is our building. We own the building. We don't just give him \$3.7 million and say go ahead and let us know when you are done. We have our city departments overseeing that.

Mayor Ruais called for a motion to refer this item to the Special Committee on Riverfront/Civic Center. The motion carried with Alderman O'Neil duly recorded in opposition.

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept BMA Minutes

4. Minutes from the 6/4 BMA, 6/18 Special BMA, and 7/2 BMA and Finance meetings.

Approve Under Supervision of the Department of Highways

5. Pole Petitions:
 - 11-1780 Bodwell Road (1)
 - 11-1781 Huse Road (1)
 - 11-1782 Beech Hill Avenue (1)

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

6. 50/50 Sidewalk Petitions

Residential:

4 Almond Street
141 Burnsen Avenue
315 Ledgewood Road
395 Normand Street
490 Amherst Street
772 Amherst Street
883 Clay Street

Commercial:

44 West Webster Street
47 Martin Street

Information to be Received and Filed

7. Communications from Comcast regarding a programming change and price increase.
8. Office of Youth Services Department Report for June 2024.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

9. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Forty Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000) for the FY2022 CIP 510222 - Dorrs Pond Dam Safety Repair.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Three Hundred Eighty One Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars and Three Cents (\$381,266.03) for the FY2023 CIP 211723 Opioid Litigation Settlement Trust.”

“Amending the FY2023 and FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Three Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Seven Dollars (\$153,327) for the FY2025 CIP 211325 Overdose Prevention Grant.”

“Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the FY2025 CIP 610425 351 Chestnut Street InvestNH Demolition Grant.”

“Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the FY2025 CIP 610525 50 Newbury Road Affordable Housing Program.”

“Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$850,000) for the FY2025 CIP 712225 Downtown Signals - CDS/HUD Grant.”

“Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Million Eight Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$1,875,000) for the FY2025 CIP 712325 Downtown Sidewalks - CDS/FHWA Grant.”

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

10. Advising that the update on the Revolving Loan Fund has been accepted.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman E. Sapienza who was absent)
11. Advising that the communication from the Risk Manager regarding CGL insurance was received and filed.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman E. Sapienza who was absent)
12. Advising that the Finance Department reports:
 - Accounts receivable over 90 days
 - Aging report
 - Outstanding receivables

have been accepted.

(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman E. Sapienza who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON BILLS ON SECOND READING

13. Recommending that the following Ordinance Amendment:

“Amending Chapter 30.09 Salary of Officers of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by gradually increasing the salary of certain elected officials over two fiscal years.”

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

(Unanimous vote)

14. Recommending that the following Ordinance Amendment:

“Amending Section 39.08 Prequalification of Bidders of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by adding additional requirements during the prequalification of bidders associated with the procurement of City construction contracts.”

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

(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

17. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$45,000 for CIP 510222 Dorrs Pond Dam Safety Repair be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

18. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$500,000 for CIP 610425 351 Chestnut Street InvestNH Demolition Grant be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

20. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$850,000 for CIP 712225 Downtown Signals - CDS/HUD Grant be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

21. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$1,875,000 for CIP 712325 Downtown Sidewalks - CDS/FHWA Grant be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

- 22.** Recommending that the request from the Human Resources Director to update the Security Manager position's job classification be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman E. Sapienza who was absent)
- 23.** Recommending that the request from the Tax Collector for the following changes to the department's complement:
- Add one (1) Senior Administrative Services Manager position, grade 18
 - Remove one (1) soon-to-be-vacant (as of August 2024) Administrative Services Manager position, grade 16
- be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman E. Sapienza who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND BUILDINGS

- 24.** Recommending that the request from the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester to deem the property at 581 Bridge Street (Map 122, Lot 12) surplus to city needs, and to dispose of said property through direct sale to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, be received and filed.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Thomas who was absent)
- 25.** Recommending that the request from the Water Works Director to enter into two Slope Easement Agreements with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation for the purpose of replacing a brook culvert adjacent to Lake Massabesic be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Thomas who was absent)
- 26.** Recommending that the request from the Water Works Director to enter into Solar Net Metering Program Agreements with Freedom Logistics, LLC and Chestnut County Solar, LLC be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Thomas who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

- 27.** Recommending that the request from the Parking Manager to set a standard parking rate of \$1.00 per hour for the Myrna Lot be approved, and further that the Parking Division create a draft Ordinance Amendment to be referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review.
(Unanimous vote)

JOINT SCHOOL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

- 28.** Respectfully advising that the Manchester School District Priority I status and financial report for June 2024 submitted by LeftField has been accepted.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Morgan who was absent)

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

- 15.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$153,327 for CIP 211325 Overdose Prevention Grant be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

Alderman Kantor stated my concern is the needles that are being passed out and how this money is being distributed. We have a health and community crisis with needles and drug use and I believe we need to not enable people and I am concerned about our city being held responsible when people overdose. It is technically our fault if we are passing out needles. How is this money being distributed and my concern is more recovery programs being supported like Hope for Recovery who just opened up their wellness clinic? My concern is the needles because we do have a crisis with DPW picking up needles and I was wondering about the great company that we just approved \$500,000 for to clean up the city. I was wondering how many needles were picked up since they started. I would just like to discuss this. I am all for recovery and helping people.

Anna Thomas, Public Health Director, stated I think what we have to keep in mind is what we are activating here is an enhanced outreach team. They are not doing a needle exchange program. The only one who has ever done that on the team is the Director of Overdose Prevention and that originated with a CDC grant that offset the cost of his work. He is not only doing that; he is doing all kinds of outreach in other ways to connect people to services. He partners with the Harm Reduction Coalition which you all hopefully know has been a state funded initiative in the City of Manchester. You hopefully also know that needle exchange is not something that the local community has any authorization to approve or disapprove. They can come into the community and operate without your approval.

Mayor Ruais stated that is a very important point. It is something that Director Thomas and I have talked about because I asked this question. Because of state legislation, we are not able to tell the NH Harm Reduction Coalition not to do that, even if the will of the Board were to stop them. We cannot tell them not to come here.

Alderman Kantor stated but technically it is still our responsibility if they overdose or if they commit crimes after they have used those needles.

Ms. Thomas responded keep in mind that this individual, our director, is only doing this in a very targeted way and it is really under the umbrella of infectious disease control. We have, unfortunately because that is a lot of the other work we do as a Health Department, a lot of individuals in the community who have active infectious disease. For the ones that we know who are IV drug using, this is not only a protection for those individuals but it is also to prevent the spread in the community to either other members and/or putting our first responders at risk who are responding to these individuals because we don't want more people with these infectious diseases possibly exposing our first responder community. It is a very targeted amount of work. It is not what he does all of the time and it is one even though we have a team of 12 other people. They are not doing that piece. They are just doing the outreach piece. He is doing that continuation in partnership with the Harm Reduction Coalition and is only a fraction of what he does. The needles that you hear about in the community is not proportionate at all to what is being disseminated in the community by these other organizations and the Harm Reduction Coalition is not the only organization that has been in this community doing needle exchange. Again, we don't have local control of that or any oversight.

Alderman Levasseur asked the \$153,327 that we are talking about, does any of that money go towards needle distribution.

Ms. Thomas answered it doesn't pay for any supplies but if the Director of Overdose Prevention has supplies with him because of the Harm Reduction Coalition, and again that is state funded, he may disseminate that as part of his work.

Alderman Levasseur asked so the \$153,327, does that pay for his salary.

Ms. Thomas replied it does. It is only his salary and the outreach workers when we have to deploy them.

Alderman Levasseur stated I thought we had ARPA funds that came in and paid his salary. Is this an additional amount of money? What is this from?

Ms. Thomas responded we had the money from the CDC NACCO grant. That is what this pot of money is and it has paid for him and the team, no supplies. Now what you have done is approved to move him and the team onto one year of Opiate Abatement money through the city.

Alderman Levasseur asked and that is this money we are talking about now or is this additional money.

Ms. Thomas answered this is the continuation of those dollars.

Alderman Levasseur asked and this is one year's worth of money.

Ms. Thomas responded yes. This is the one that is coming to a close and then you will be converting him onto the Opiate Abatement money.

Mayor Ruais stated it is not city dollars. That is the state opiate abatement money.

Alderman Levasseur asked and that is a position that terms out in another year or so unless the city absorbs it.

Ms. Thomas answered yes.

Alderman Levasseur asked for all the millions and millions of dollars that have come through with all of these grants that we get, it doesn't seem like we are helping anybody. We still seem to have the same amount of people. Like how many years have we gone

and we still see 150 people at FIT or however many they can fit and 40 at the new shelter and all of these people...I drive down the street and are new people coming or are we getting anywhere with this?

Ms. Thomas replied it is frustrating because as we know, just in the overdose arena, half of those individuals are unhoused and we also know that only a small fraction of those individuals are actually Manchester residents. You have a lot of people that are getting counted in our numbers who are not even from this community or in some cases even from this state. If they come here and overdose, they get counted into our numbers. The same thing is happening with people experiencing homelessness. They come into this community from other communities often and this becomes now the city's dilemma. It is obviously something we have been grappling with for decades.

Mayor Ruais stated to answer the question that you asked about are we making progress, we put out a press release this morning that if current trends continue, we will see a 20% reduction in overdoses and an 11% reduction in overdose fatalities. So, we are making progress in seeing a reduction in overdoses.

Alderman Levasseur asked so if we are seeing a decrease in overdoses are we not going to see a decrease in people being here that are living in the parks. Are they not tied together somehow?

Ms. Thomas answered I think there is overlap clearly but this is the tough thing about being the state's largest city and the largest city north of Boston. It is also something that we have had many discussions with the state about regarding like The Doorways for example. That is one of the reasons why we dissolved Safe Station and pushed The Doorways model because the goal was to keep people in their communities and not coming here.

Alderman Levasseur asked regarding the money, is that a piece of a larger grant or is that the only grant and Manchester always gets it and no one from any other city in the state ever gets any money. Are we applying for this grant?

Ms. Thomas responded we did apply for it with the CDC. When we started seeing a spike in our overdoses again, what I had done prior to the pandemic was reach out to the CDC. We actually had them come out here and do a site visit. We did a whole overhaul on how we were doing things. That is when we stood up Safe Station and started to make a dent in things. The pandemic hit and overdoses started to go back up. I called the CDC again and said we are starting to go in the wrong direction again so what do you have for advice. They said Well we can one up you and we have some dollars we can give you and we have some models you could deploy that have worked effectively in other communities and if you do them to fidelity we can pretty much assure you that you are going to see a reduction in your numbers. Now keep in mind that this is only for overdose prevention and overdose fatality prevention. That is all that money pays for and it is to do this enhanced outreach. It is really to push out Narcan in the community and do all kinds of additional things like compassion fatigue training and stigma reduction training and those kinds of things that we didn't have in place. We just were selected as that community but that was literally me making a call to the CDC and them offering the money and then we accepted it. This is not, unfortunately, something that is being offered statewide. I would love to see more communities replicate what we are doing so we don't have that burden that keeps coming into our community. When you have a lot of services, and you have pointed this out on numerous occasions, this is the hard rub. I don't necessarily have the total answer for you other than what we are trying to do is take that burden off the first responder community and save lives and start there. Tourniquet the bleed if you will so we can move forward from there. We had measurable results last year as well and saw reductions in overdoses and fatalities. Now we are going to build on top of that even more so and this is probably the first time in over a decade that we are seeing these kinds of results from the work that we are doing. So, we feel pretty good about it. I think it is progress. There are a lot of people working hard to just save lives at this point.

Alderman Long asked so this money is not going to the homeless.

Ms. Thomas answered no.

Alderman Long stated I believe 50% of the overdoses are homeless related.

Ms. Thomas stated when they do this enhanced outreach, what they are doing is going out at night or early in the morning. We do a separate outreach with the Police Department with their CRU and that is really to try to follow-up with people who have overdosed within the last 24-48 hours. The whole idea again is fatality prevention. That is what they are out there doing. It is not necessarily to solve homelessness. It is really to prevent the overdoses. That is all this money was intended to do.

Alderman Long asked can you tell me on a percentage basis who reacts best to this. Is it those who are not homeless?

Ms. Thomas replied that is a hard one to answer. I think it is really a case-by-case basis. I think you really have such a blend of unfortunately people who are struggling with addiction. It is not all that same sort of stereotype you have in your head. It could be a very hidden problem within households. We have talked to lots of parents who have had their younger adult children struggling with it and it is heartbreaking. Unfortunately, they have had to suffer through the loss of life in their family. This is a tragedy that is happening across the country as you know so we are not immune to it. I like to think that this community has really championed the work where we are replicating it across the state of NH. When I had the CDC come out here, they had hard and fast questions like how come you guys aren't reviewing your overdose fatalities and comparing why people are dying of an overdose compared to the ones who are surviving it. I had to go to the state and say where is our overdose fatality review commission. It wasn't in place and it took Chris Stawacz and I to then bang on doors. We are now part of that commission appointed by the Governor and we now review cases of overdose fatalities to learn from those. Those are just one of many things on a punch list that the CDC asked us about that we didn't have in place. Now we are building that and I think we are making great strides. It is a sliver of a much larger scope of problems that come, especially with lower populations that are experiencing homelessness and other crises. This is one piece of that and if we can get them at least to a healthier spot, maybe it leads to other things.

Mayor Ruais stated I would add the data that we shared last month with the Board from the Engagement Center, we saw 11 people get housed, 17 get id's, 4 people get jobs and 4 people get into recovery or detox. As Director Thomas was talking about, this is part of that comprehensive approach to it. Keep people alive, get them into treatment, get them into housing and get them off our streets. We are seeing that progress. Is it as fast as any of us would like? Of course not; but I do think that we are making progress and I do think the fact that it seems like in the last four or five months every monthly report that we have gotten back from AMR says that if the current trend holds we are going to see a 20% drop in overdoses and a 10% drop in fatalities. Behind that comes getting people now off the streets. I wouldn't want to do anything that would jeopardize the progress that we have made in this city to keep this going.

Ms. Thomas stated this past month, July, has always been our largest month of overdoses. We easily have 85-90 in that month. This month it is down to just over 40. We are cutting those numbers in half and again that takes the burden off of first responders. Those calls then are off their docket so they can be free to actually respond to other emergencies in the city. It is also a sign that fewer people are overdosing and potentially losing their lives because of it.

Mayor Ruais stated to reaffirm what we had talked about earlier, the City of Manchester is not involved in the needle exchange. It is from the state. It is the NH Harm Reduction Coalition over which we have no control. That is a state issue that we do not have control over here in the City of Manchester.

Alderman Thomas stated I know that we are not able to stop that unless they are at the state level but are we allowed to make some kind of ordinance that actually puts rules in place like a needle for a needle and a van not being allowed to just go and park in a park. Are we allowed to set an ordinance where the van is only allowed in one certain spot and people will have to go to them and it is one needle for one needle and that is it?

Mayor Ruais stated we do have a map showing where they are and are not allowed to operate.

Ms. Thomas stated right. You are supposed to update every year a drug free zone map so essentially near any school and I am talking Head Start and private school and private school, you have a 1,000-foot radius from the perimeter of that school and any park that that school uses for any activity would be included in that perimeter. We have a map of the city and clearly we have a lot of schools. Also, two years ago you passed an ordinance banning this activity from all public parks. So, the footprint of where this can be done already is fairly limited but to your point, alderwoman, I don't know legally if we can enact something like that as to where they practice. It is an interesting question. I just don't know.

Deputy Solicitor Chiesa stated we can limit it to certain areas but I would have to look at the RSAs to see if there are any limitations on what the city can do that might go against state law.

Mayor Ruais stated I would be more than happy to look at that with you and I totally agree with your underlying premise. They should not be around any parks or any schools or anything of that nature. To me the word exchange would imply that an exchange is actually occurring.

Alderman Levasseur stated now the next question is whether or not they are regulated at all, either by state statute or no statutes at all. Like Alderman Thomas brought up, are they parked in the right spot, are they wearing gloves, how much are they allowed to carry or more importantly how much are they allowed to take and then of course disposal. I don't know if they are even being looked at from that point of view. Somebody should take a look and see if there is a state statute on harm reduction abilities or restrictions or whatever the rules and regulations are on that part too. If they are not following anything, we would probably have the ability to make some rules or regulations. If there are already state rules or regulations, those would take precedence over anything we could do.

Ms. Thomas responded there are none. I can tell you that right now. There is no oversight. The only obligation that these organizations have is they have to essentially

register with DHHS and they fill out a form saying this is what I am going to do and this is where I am doing it with the hours but it is not like DHHS is going and spot checking them. There is no regulating authority over their operations.

Mayor Ruais stated I would be more than happy to lead a discussion to see what we can do at the state level.

Alderman Levasseur stated it would be interesting to just know how many places they go to. Are they going to four places in the state or to 50? If they are only going to two places and you know that you need those needles and of course the cost associated and you know they are going to go to Manchester, that is another reason come to Manchester, especially if we are the only place they are going to.

Ms. Thomas stated I know there are at least 10 state funded ones that are now being funded out of state opiate abatement money that are under that registry notion. I am absolutely sure there are others but these are the ones I know of through DHHS that are statewide. There are models, and this is where I think we need to explore other ways and maybe speak to DHHS about the possibility of these things. There are models where you can just have them mailed to your address and not do it in a public park or wherever which we have already taken great steps to deter. There are other models for dissemination of needles.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I understand these outside organizations that come into the city and the fact that we can't ban them. However, I was quite shocked to find out that we have this guy on our payroll passing out needles.

Ms. Thomas responded like I said, it is a fraction of what he does.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated it is a fraction of what he does but when we say we are not doing it, we are doing it a little bit.

Ms. Thomas replied we are not doing needle exchange. Because he is intimately involved with our operations, he knows who has an infectious disease so he is very

responsible about working with those clients. It is a very targeted intervention and not something he is doing...

Alderman T. Sapienza interjected is he accounting for the needles. Like if he goes out with 10 new needles does he come back with 10 used ones?

Ms. Thomas answered he does not do needle exchange.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked so he is handing out needles.

Ms. Thomas responded he is handing out a small number of needles and he does have receptacles that he gives them for them to properly dispose of them. Like I said, it is very targeted to certain clients.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I guess when we say we are not doing it, we need to qualify that. Another thing I am wondering about is are any of these outside agencies that we are funding at all involved in any kind of needled exchange or needled disbursement?

Ms. Thomas answered not that I am aware of.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated well we need to be sure right. We give a lot of money to a lot of organizations and we need to make sure...maybe next time an organization comes looking for money from us we need to get them to certify that they are in no way engaged in needle distribution because if they are I don't want to give them a nickel and I don't want them in the city. They are passing out needles like...there are more needles in this city than candy. I was going to say they are passing out needles like candy but there are more needles than candy.

Mayor Ruais stated I was thinking about the CDBG funding we did for FIT or Waypoint and they are not doing any needle exchanges.

Alderman T. Sapienza responded well we have to make sure.

Mayor Ruais stated I will be happy to ask but that is not their mission. Their mission is to house and not do any health care.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I think we should probably make that part of our application process when people come to the city and ask for money. They should certify that they are not involved in needle distribution at all. Can we somehow get an ordinance for that or how should we get that in place?

Mayor Ruais stated I would be happy to work with the Solicitor's Office and Matt to see if we can put something together. To be clear, I am not in favor of those programs either. I think that my preceding point about the importance of this outreach team and how they have done what I think is God's work on earth to keep people alive and get them into recovery, I think we are seeing that bear out in the numbers and I think it is important that we continue it. I certainly hear all of the concerns from this Board. I am not a proponent of those programs. I will talk to Matt and the Solicitor's Office to see if we can come up with language about the expenditure of funds to programs.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I am happy to approve this but the needle thing is very important.

Alderman Kantor asked the needles that are passed out, can they be identified.

Ms. Thomas answered it is not like they are branding with City of Manchester or anything like that. They are pretty generic and again these are purchased through the Harm Reduction Coalition. They are not anything that we buy through the city or disseminate.

Alderman Kantor stated I am going to disagree because I don't think it is healthy for anyone to be near the needles with DPW and other people picking those up. It is about saving lives. It is creating chaos and our children shouldn't be near those needles that are used. I respect you and appreciate you but I have to say that I am not okay with it at all.

Ms. Thomas responded I actually agree with you too. I would prefer that that was not the case as well.

Alderman Kantor stated I feel that we can get them one step closer to recovery with other great programs and there is lots of hope. Thank you.

Alderman O'Neil stated not specifically on this item but it triggered me thinking about where we don't have the park rangers anymore if we have come up with a system for our non-profit youth organizations on how to handle needles.

Ms. Thomas stated I think that is a bigger conversation to have with DPW because they are the organization in the city that we call to pick up needles because they have the ability to do more of a 24/7 dispatch than other departments have. The other issue, too, is what kind of sweeps need to happen in these ballfields ahead of time or whatever. We could use the outreach team that we have now to do those kinds of enhanced sweeps to pick up the needles. We are totally amenable to whatever the city needs.

Alderman O'Neil stated that is an interesting point. So, training for the youth non-profits and maybe...I don't know if there is any money available for the property containers. I know some of them use milk jugs and then I think they bring them to the Police Department maybe. The Chief is saying no. Well, they go somewhere with them to dispose of them. It is an issue and it continues to be an issue and it is more of an issue without the rangers because they were the ones who were generally on duty 24/7. That is something we lost a little bit. It would be great if the organizations could go out and sweep before the games but we really need to think about, as a city, creating some training and providing some proper receptacles and then what do we do with the receptacles when they get filled.

Ms. Thomas stated if it was my preference, I would rather not have the public...if the city can handle it as much as we can...

Alderman O'Neil interjected we just have to figure out how that is on say a Saturday or Sunday.

Ms. Thomas responded I agree but I prefer that over training.

Alderman O'Neil stated I am okay with that but we have to put something together. I was recently over at a little league field and nobody got hurt fortunately but we have to come up with something now that the rangers are gone. The rangers were trained and had the proper equipment I believe.

Ms. Thomas stated not to put Director Clougherty on the spot but he can speak to what happens now as far as dispatch is concerned and follow-up and the immediacy of that. It has been my experience that any time we have reported it to DPW they are pretty much out there and on top of it. I haven't heard a hesitancy or a problem with it but again we need feedback.

Alderman O'Neil stated the problem is our employees are not out all the time when these leagues have games or practices and the rangers were. We have to come up with something so they know where to call because they are coming across them.

Alderman Kantor stated I think it is really important for whoever distributes those needles that they are the ones who should go and pick them up. I don't think it is fair for DPW to always have to be picking up this stuff that other people are handing out. If they are going to hand out needles, they should pick them up themselves. That is my personal opinion.

Alderman Fajardo stated I have a constituent who lives close to Bronstein Park who reached out recently because she found a needle on her stoop which backs up to the alleyway. I called around to try to get her some assistance and ultimately DPW did respond very quickly so thank you for that. One thing that caught my attention was a note that said if it is in the right-of-way, we will pick it up. I am not asking that DPW necessarily change that rule. I am more so surfacing that that is a reality for people who are sometimes finding needles on their property if they do live near places we know

needle volume tends to be higher. As we are thinking through possible solutions on how to address those, I just want to flag that as an area to give thought to around right-of-way, not right-of-way. It also wasn't immediately clear to me do we call police or fire or someone else. Even having that laid out more clearly would be great. I think it should also be posted on the city website and posted on Manchester Public TV as to this is what you do when you see a needle and this is who you call during these hours because I don't think it is immediately clear. So, while we don't want the public necessarily picking them up, we have to give them some direction on what to do.

Tim Clougherty, Public Works Director, stated as Director Thomas mentioned, DPW is the lead agency as far as who to contact. So, if it is in the public right-of-way or in a park, contact DPW 24/7. We have a flowchart that shows who is going to do it when and where whether it is in a park or on a street. After hours we don't respond and it falls to the Fire Department but we do have a flowchart that we developed with all city agencies on how things will get picked up. We do not get into private property as you mentioned and that is for obvious reasons. We can't be responsible for every square foot within the City of Manchester.

Alderman O'Neil asked if it is 7 PM on a week night or 3 PM on a Saturday or Sunday at a ballfield, they are calling Public Works.

Mr. Clougherty answered yes.

Alderman O'Neil asked so somebody is then called in to remove that item.

Mr. Clougherty replied no. We have a dispatcher on 24/7 and they direct it to the appropriate party. I don't have the flowchart with me but it has been developed with all agencies. You can call 624-6444 24/7 and it will get responded to.

Alderman O'Neil asked is it pretty quickly as far as you know.

Mr. Clougherty answered I don't know what the response time is but I can tell you if we are getting calls about something that is in a ballfield or something like that during our

working hours, we are responding very quickly. I think you have correspondence from me to the Mayor and I don't know if it has been handed out but part of the 1,900+ calls for nuisances within the public right-of-way or public parks a lot of times are needles. That is included in there and that is one of the areas where I say in a roundabout way safety related issues. That is a safety related issue. If it is sitting on a curb next to a catch basin or something like that, maybe not the highest priority but we are going to get there pretty quickly. Our supervisors, I think, make good judgement calls with escalating issues and priorities.

Alderman O'Neil asked is there a card or a poster that can be made on who to call.

Mr. Clougherty responded I don't know if we need to make a poster. It is 624-6444 if it is in the public right-of-way.

Alderman O'Neil asked can there be something put in the clubhouses that say if you come across a needle this is who you call.

Mayor Ruais stated we can absolutely do that and I can work with Tim to get that flowchart specifically. I think I have a poster on the wall in my office that bifurcates city property, private property and who to call.

Alderman O'Neil stated I am only interested in public property.

Mr. Clougherty stated I do think, as Alderman Fajardo mentioned, some sort of education campaign would be good. I don't know if the impetus of that comes from the city but an education campaign to the public that helps them understand how to dispose of needles if they are found on their property or how to dispose of them would be helpful.

Alderman Burkush stated first of all, the data you are saying shows that overdoses are down. How is that information gathered because what I see, and I have been extensively out on the rail trail and near Nutt's Pond down to River Road and I see

people overdosing but no outreach? If there is no outreach out there because I have never seen them and they are using Narcan on each other, how is that recorded?

Ms. Thomas replied that is a really good question. The data we use is through AMR and Chris Stawacz. He has been doing this, as you know, for years. For the first time, as part of this grant, we are actually leaning into the leadership at the Police Department and they created an overdose dashboard that we use on a daily basis. It gets updated every three hours and it is recording what they are getting for calls. At the end of the month, we compare the calls that AMR is tracking versus the PD and we resolve them so we get true numbers to the best of our ability. Now keep in mind, to your point, there are people who are overdosing and using Narcan and not calling 911 who will never be included in those numbers. They call that community reversal. There are individuals out there that we will never know about. These are only the ones that have been engaged in the first responder system in some shape or form and that is being tracked real time to the point where we know exactly what neighborhood down to the agency if we have to go to the agency and that helps us deploy the outreach team in a really timely fashion because time is of the essence when we see these spikes occurring. The team is then sent out to those neighborhoods or those agencies to quell the spike. That is how we are tempering it.

Alderman Burkush stated so the data can be skewed. Now I am dealing with an incredible amount of trash in the last couple of weeks that has been left on the trail. We don't have the staff to clean it up. Tim, this is for you. We don't have the staff to clean up our beautiful rail trails and that is more of an issue to the residents. What I am looking for, and I see your proposal Tim for overtime, is to regularly have the trails cleaned. The residents are more concerned with the mess that is left behind and it is getting worse, especially in the past few weeks. We documented at least four encampments on the rail trail. We have seen Kelly and the crew responded and cleaned up underneath the bridge between the rail trail and south soccer on Friday and on Sunday it was back. We are not seeing any outreach and we are not seeing any police patrols. Ryan, can you come up? Is there a squad going down there? There seems to be a disconnect on when we are reporting something because not all agencies when we report an encampment are being notified. Ryan what happened?

When someone reports an encampment on Click Fix or to you, what happens? How do the other agencies find out because there seems to be a disconnect for cleaning up and response?

Ryan Cashin, Fire Chief, answered if it is reported on See-Click-Fix that there is an encampment, it will go to the NET team. The first thing the NET team does is outreach. They will send the squad and also figure out simultaneously whether it is public or private land. There are a few steps before the camp gets cleaned up. I will be honest with you that they don't get cleaned up within 24 hours but they start in the process. The NET team is constantly working all week with Tim's team and the ones we can handle before the NET team happens once a week, get handled. Sometimes we get a report and it gets handled and then they are back and it has to go back through the process again.

Alderman Burkush asked what is the difference between your response to encampments in parks and on public property and your response to encampments on private property. I know that there is one on Eversource property.

Chief Cashin stated the private property is typically the one that takes the longest to deal with because that process is basically reported and we investigate it and do outreach first always. Outreach is basically done by the squad and that is to see if someone wants to go to recovery or if they want to go to FIT, etc. Once we figure out it is on private property, we notify the property owner. We will get a trespass order if we can and for most property owners their answer is absolutely yes. There haven't been too many that have said no. At that point, once the trespass order is given, the police will remove the people and the trash that is left there is left for the private property owner to clean up. That starts a whole other long process of notifying that property owner that they need to remove the trash and it takes a little bit of time.

Alderman Burkush asked so when the police remove people from an encampment, the trash left behind is not the responsibility of the Police Department.

Chief Cashin answered absolutely not.

Alderman Burkush asked and it is not the Fire Department's responsibility.

Chief Cashin responded no.

Alderman Burkush asked whose responsibility is it.

Chief Cashin answered if it is on public property, DPW will handle it and if it is on private property, it is the private property owner's responsibility.

Alderman Burkush asked so does DPW clean up the Parks trails.

Mr. Clougherty answered yes.

Alderman Burkush asked so they are responding and work with Parks crews to do that. When we talk to the Parks Director, he tells me that he responds but he is taking crews away from cutting grass and maintaining ballfields to pick up trash. Tim, regarding your letter, do we need to authorize him to spend overtime to clean the trails because we need to clean up our trails?

Mayor Ruais stated we could certainly have a discussion about that. I had the communication from Mr. Clougherty passed out so we could talk about it. We are on Item 15 of the consent agenda right now but under new business we can have a further conversation about it and make that determination.

Alderman Burkush asked is there any way we could improve communication between the city departments. Is there any drop off you are seeing?

Chief Cashin answered I don't think I am seeing any drop off in communication. Not every trash complaint comes through the NET team process. I had the squad go out and do a pretty good evaluation of several properties that you mentioned in an email the other day. There was some homeless trash but the fact is there is also still a good amount of trash around the city. Not every single piece of trash in the city is from a

homeless person. We have to realize that. There are places, typical places, where people dump trash. There are parties that still happen out at Rock Rimmon and there are people that might get together and have a party on the rail trail. These things happen. As far as the encampment process goes, Tim has been great. I don't believe every trash complaint comes through the NET team. There is a lot of trash out there. Hats off to Tim and his people. Every time I call them, they get to it as fast as they can. Does that mean we are keeping up with it? I would say probably not. I don't know what it would take to do that. I think it is a bigger conversation. I do strongly believe that a lot of the complaints that we get there are not people in the camps. They are camps that are just trash. We do clean those up when we get that complaint but we get as many complaints we get about trash as we do about anything else. As far as when they come through that NET team process, I believe we are cleaning up as fast as we can but that does not account for everything. DPW picks up a lot of stuff. There is a lot that does get picked up but I recognize the fact that it is not all getting picked up and even if it does, I am not sure we are doing it at a pace that people like.

Mayor Ruais stated I went with DPW in February up at Rock Rimmon and I saw remnants of an encampment. It was disgusting and atrocious. I feel your concerns. I don't have any problem talking about this under new business. That was really the purpose of Tim providing the letter. I wanted to be responsive to your concerns.

Alderman Long stated I was working in Ward 2 and there was a woman that came out and told me there were two garbage bags and I don't know what was in them but there was also a backpack and a few blankets and shoes. Unless I looked in the bag to see if there were any needles, I wouldn't know. I just assumed there were. She assumed there were also and immediately moved everything off her property and put it on the corner next to Wagner Park. I told her that I didn't recommend she move it but she said she wasn't leaving it on her property. She moved it to a corner and I called to have it picked up but it was Saturday and there was nobody available to pick it up. I understand that we don't want to go on private property, however, so the public knows if there is a needle on your property, you are responsible for disposal. I get a funny feeling that a lot more people are just going to move stuff off of their private property.

Alderman Kantor stated I have a question for Tim. How much money has it cost DPW for needle pick up or anything else related to drug use or the encampments? How much money in the past year approximately do you think with overtime and everything?

Mr. Clougherty responded honestly alderman we haven't quantified that. It would be hundreds of thousands of dollars. The letter that I wrote to the Mayor today was a three month rather shallow dive and I came up with 1,900 different calls that we responded to. Multiply that by four and multiple each one of those by an hour or two and you are into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Mayor Ruais stated that is for any call for service.

Mr. Clougherty replied that is correct.

Alderman Thomas stated I wanted to speak really quickly in regards to what Alderman Kantor said about if they are leaving needles here, they should be picking them up. I absolutely agree with that. We are using money from our grants that are for recovery to outreach and help certain things like with harm reduction. I feel that it is very important to give a letter to the state if the people on this Board are in agreement, letting them know that we don't want this in our city and they should be the ones responsible for activating outreach teams in Manchester. Bring them to Manchester if this is what you want to do. You need to follow-up with your people. This isn't good what is happening.

Alderman Fajardo stated Director Nazaka this may involve you too but I was in the conversation about trying to figure out who to call to get this one needle picked up. I wasn't sure if the Streets Plus Program extended out to Bronstein Park. I have the map here and I know from this map that it doesn't. I was wondering if it is possible, and we don't necessarily have to decide now, but is it possible to include Bronstein, Victory and Pulaski Parks. I think those are just three pretty highly trafficked parks that fall just outside the zone of the Street Plus Team. I know they are trained based on the information we were given during the presentation. Again, I don't want to put you on the spot and suggest a solution but I am wondering if that is a possibility. As I was listening to Alderman Burkush talk about the rail trails as well, I know we are in a pilot program

with Street Plus but if we do as a city chose to extend this, and so far I have heard positive things so I hope that we will, is there maybe an opportunity to also talk about expanding the team so that there is more coverage of active recreation places like rail trails and certainly these three additional downtown parks?

Jodie Nazaka, Economic Development Director, stated it is a great question and I apologize because you are not going to like my answer. The services right now through the pilot program are funded from the existing business improvement district. It is an additional tax that is levied on the downtown businesses within that district. As it stands right now, the district is extremely large and almost too large for them to accommodate. There are eight total employees and it goes from the Amoskeag Bridge to Elliot at River's Edge and then down to the river and varies from how far east you go but it is roughly Elm Street and, in some areas, Chestnut Street. The conversation is actually to reduce the district to provide better services to the core area. They are trained to not go in any parks. They are servicing just the public right-of-ways. The decision for that is because we have a robust Parks Department. In the just over a month that they have been active on the streets, they have picked up over 1,300 pounds of trash and 50 needles. They are still in the beginning phases and not fully staffed. I think they only have five employees right now. Unfortunately, the conversation is trending towards reducing the district to have a more concentrated effort.

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

- 16.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$381,266.03 for CIP 211723 Opioid Litigation Settlement Trust be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

Alderman Kantor stated I guess my concerns are the same. How is that money distributed?

Ms. Thomas replied actually how that is being determined is really by all of you at this point. As you know, the state has opiate abatement dollars that it can disseminate.

Solicitor Rice is actually on that committee. We have 15% of that settlement money coming to Manchester and we have to determine how you want to disseminate that funding. I think what we should do in my opinion is replicate what they created at the state. We should create a committee or use one of your existing committees to decide how you want to disseminate those dollars.

Mayor Ruais stated this is where we can take in the expertise on the Board and work with Alderman Barry and Alderman Thomas's committee and yourself and whoever else would like to be on board to talk about the best distribution of these funds.

Ms. Thomas stated the process would be that people would apply and then you would vet those proposals.

Alderman Kantor stated that sounds excellent so we can see the outcomes. Thank you.

Alderman Fajardo stated I was just wondering in the scenario you proposed would we have your team members like Chris Stawacz offer some data direction or guidance.

Mayor Ruais stated you are jumping ahead because the opioid prevention plan I thought was the perfect lead in for this. Thankfully, the city has rewritten its opioid prevention plan and Director Thomas and the city worked...I will let you speak to this. We do have a guidepost for the kinds of things that we could and should be funding through this as a result of the yeoman's work that Director Thomas and others have done to put together the opioid prevention plan. We released it a few months ago and that can really be our guidepost for the kinds of things that we can fund that would make an additional difference that we are already seeing in the city.

Ms. Thomas stated it is an investment guide and based on the litigation across the country. That is all it is. At the end of the day, this 15% that is coming to Manchester that we will continue to get, by the way, for the next 18 years, that fund will continue to grow as these settlements happen and it will be up to you, however you want to structure this. This is your game. I would strongly recommend we replicate some sort of committee like they have at the state and then people can apply. We have already

had organizations asking and you can all vet those proposals and decide what can be funded with those dollars.

Alderman O'Neil asked Anna what are the restrictions on how that money is used.

Ms. Thomas answered if you read the law, and there is a whole website for the state law, it gives you parameters about what should be funded. It is pretty broad.

Alderman O'Neil asked could some of our discussions on the previous topic be funded with that money.

Ms. Thomas replied there is a lot that could be funded, I think. I think that is something that you all...we made the recommendation to try to fund things in a continuum of care if you will. So, prevention, harm reduction, whatever you want to call harm reduction and I am not talking about needle exchange but just saying handing our Narcan or whatever we can to call harm reduction here and then evidence-based treatment ideally and recovery. I just want to give a plug for recovery because I don't think we do enough to support our recovery centers. We can do all that we want to keep plugging people into treatment systems but if they don't have a healthy place to land and stay in that healthy place, we are going to keep cycling them through over and over again. I think we could be doing more to be a recovery ready community and do what we need to do. We are going to see people relapse as well.

Alderman O'Neil stated and that includes mental health correct.

Ms. Thomas responded yes it includes mental and behavioral health. It is all core to that. It is whole health and we really want to make sure that people can stay in a healthy place lifelong.

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Kantor**, it was voted to accept the report and adopt its recommendation.*

19. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$200,000 for CIP 610525 50 Newbury Road Affordable Housing Program be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

Mayor Ruais stated I just want to talk quickly about this item and flag for everybody...to me this is a really important agenda item. At the beginning of the year as we all know, I talked about the need to bring together our city departments and look at all of our surplus lands. The Tax Collector, Assessor's Office and Planning & Community Development did a fantastic job in identifying those 15 properties. As a result of the work of the Board, which I am deeply appreciative of, we were able to deem those lands surplus and then we sold those properties. We brought in \$1.13 million to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. This is the first expenditure out of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund that we are making tonight. Why is that important? Because the program that we are funding tonight is a building that has eight affordable housing units in it. Now we can just look at it from A-B what we have done here on the Board. We took an initiative and looked at city properties that were surplus that were getting us nothing in our community, deemed them surplus, and sold them. There was only about \$100,000 and change in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund; not enough to cover this expense but because we took those actions as a Board, tonight we are approving \$200,000 and women who were previously homeless on the streets will now have housing. I am deeply appreciative of everybody in the city and on the Aldermanic Board in doing that. To me, this is a microcosm of what we ultimately need to build city-wide. I think we need to scale this up. If you look at the Light of Life Program, if an individual is homeless on the streets, they are able to go to the Brook Street Shelter. They get the needs that they have taken care of at the shelter and then they can go to the Light of Life Program in transitional housing for a year and now we are breaking that bottleneck because we don't have enough affordable housing in the city. We are breaking that bottleneck tonight by saying now there is something on the end, \$800/month of affordable housing. That is the model, I think, that we need to take city-wide. That is something to look at over the next year but that is the model I want to build here. If somebody is on the street, they get into a shelter and then into a program and then into housing and we break the cycle that we have been seeing in this city. I wanted to take a moment to talk about this because this is the first expenditure we are making out of

this and I want to thank our city departments who were fantastic in this process. Brenda worked hand-in-hand with us on it and I wanted to thank the Board as well because not only did you guys support it, but you expedited it so we could get the sale of that land done in the summer when we could get the highest value for it.

Alderman O'Neil asked where is Newbury Road.

Alderman Long stated it is over by the airport.

Alderman Long stated I think it is important to note how many apartments we are getting for that \$200,000. The fact that they just needed \$200,000 means they are doing a lot of the financing themselves which is good. This is very inexpensive.

Alderman Morgan stated also this money that is being spent is a loan that has to be paid back correct. I want people to understand that we aren't just giving money out and not expecting anything back. These are loans that are 30 years at 0% which is fine but they will be paid back.

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Kantor**, it was voted to accept the report and adopt is recommendation.*

REGULAR BUSINESS

- 29.** Communication from Rafael Calderon advising the Board of his resignation as a member of the Planning Board.

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

- 30.** Nominations:
Lead Exposure Prevention Commission
Mari Fontaine to fill a vacancy as an alternate member, term to expire
March 19, 2025
Heritage Commission
Michael Simoneau to fill a vacancy as an alternate member, term to expire
July 1, 2027
Martha Edgar to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire July 1, 2027

Arts Commission

Shannon Sullivan to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire December 1, 2025

Police Commission

John Mercier to succeed himself as regular member, term to expire September 15, 2027

Paul Harrington to succeed Manny Content as a regular member, term to expire September 15, 2027

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

31. Confirmations:

Board of Health

Chris Moriarty to succeed himself as a regular member, term to expire July 1, 2027

Conservation Commission

Jennifer MacLaren to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire August 1, 2027

Heritage Commission

Kayleigh Shaughnessy to succeed herself as an alternate member, term to expire July 1, 2027

Manchester Public Television Services

Robert Baines to succeed himself, term to expire July 1, 2027

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

32. Confirmation of Chuck Kurfehs for the position of Commercial Assessor.

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

33. Communication from Jodie Nazaka, Economic Development Director, regarding an application for a Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive, RSA 79-E, for 1138 Elm Street.

*On motion of **Alderman Levasseur**, duly seconded by **Alderman Goonan**, it was voted to refer this to a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, September 3 at 6:30 PM.*

34. Communication from Fuss & O'Neil requesting approval of a street and sidewalk dedication of an area around the perimeter of the building at 75 Canal Street.

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

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

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that a request to delegate authorization to the DPW Director or their designee to execute construction agreements with CSX for funded public works projects including trails, roads, signals and bridges be approved.

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

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that a request from the Fire Chief for authorization to seek reimbursement from the state for staff who attended the Trench Rescue and Confined Space Rescue Technician classes be approved.

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

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that a request from the Fire Chief for line item adjustments to CIP 411323 2021 Swift Water Grant be approved.

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

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

Mayor Ruais called the meeting back to order.

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

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

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Forty Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000) for the FY2022 CIP 510222 - Dorrs Pond Dam Safety Repair.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Three Hundred Eighty One Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars and Three Cents (\$381,266.03) for the FY2023 CIP 211723 Opioid Litigation Settlement Trust.”

“Amending the FY2023 and FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Three Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Seven Dollars (\$153,327) for the FY2025 CIP 211325 Overdose Prevention Grant.”

“Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the FY2025 CIP 610425 351 Chestnut Street InvestNH Demolition Grant.”

“Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the FY2025 CIP 610525 50 Newbury Road Affordable Housing Program.”

“Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$850,000) for the FY2025 CIP 712225 Downtown Signals - CDS/HUD Grant.”

“Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Million Eight Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$1,875,000) for the FY2025 CIP 712325 Downtown Sidewalks - CDS/FHWA Grant.”

ought to pass and be Enrolled.

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

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

The Committee on Public Safety, Health & Traffic respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation for the use of the Arms Lot on October 3, 4 and 5 be approved.

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

The Committee on Public Safety, Health & Traffic respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from St. George Orthodox Cathedral for the use of traffic cones and parking signage for their annual Glendi event to be held from September 13-15 as attached be approved.

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

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

There were none.

41. Report(s) of the Committee on Lands & Buildings, if available.

The Committee on Lands & Buildings respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the proposal from Harry Umen for a mural on a bridge pillar beneath the Bridge Street Bridge near 500 Commercial Street be approved.

***Alderman Fajardo** moved to accept the report and adopt its recommendation.*

***Alderman Goonan** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Ruais called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Levasseur being duly recorded in opposition.*

42. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Forty Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000) for the FY2022 CIP 510222 - Dorrs Pond Dam Safety Repair.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Three Hundred Eighty One Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars and Three Cents (\$381,266.03) for the FY2023 CIP 211723 Opioid Litigation Settlement Trust.”

“Amending the FY2023 and FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Three Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Seven Dollars (\$153,327) for the FY2025 CIP 211325 Overdose Prevention Grant.”

“Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the FY2025 CIP 610425 351 Chestnut Street InvestNH Demolition Grant.”

“Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the FY2025 CIP 610525 50 Newbury Road Affordable Housing Program.”

“Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$850,000) for the FY2025 CIP 712225 Downtown Signals - CDS/HUD Grant.”

“Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Million Eight Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$1,875,000) for the FY2025 CIP 712325 Downtown Sidewalks - CDS/FHWA Grant.”

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

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

43. Bond Resolutions:

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 410225 Protective Equipment (Gear).”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510025 Parks Deferred Maintenance.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510125 FY25 School Deferred Maintenance - P&R.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510225 Park Playground Replacement and Retrofitting.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510425 School Playground Replacement and Retrofitting.”

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510625 Wolfe Park Maintenance."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510725 Sweeney Park Basketball Courts."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510825 Precourt Park Fencing."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510925 Field Improvement/Site Rehabilitation Hillside."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 710525 Motorized Equipment Replacement."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 710625 Municipal Deferred Maintenance."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,300,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 710725 FY25 Deferred Maintenance Program."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 710825 FY25 Perimeter Road Erosion Repair."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711025 FY25 Roadway Program."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711125 Sidewalk Rehab and Expansion."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711225 Residential Sidewalk 50/50."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711325 Commercial Sidewalk 50/50."

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711525 Signal Replacement-Elm/Brook St.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711625 Traffic Signal-Deferred Maintenance.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711725 Traffic Signal-Cilley/Jewett.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711925 Rail Trail Maintenance.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 712025 School Parking Lot Rehabilitation.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Seventeen Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$117,500,000) for 2025 CIP 712125 Various Capital Improvement Projects (EPD) to pay for various Capital Improvement Projects by the Environmental Protection Division, and for the payment of all other incidental costs related thereto. Projects include but are not limited to: design and construction of combined sewer overflow mitigation projects, upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant, projects to address aging and failing environmental infrastructure and projects necessary for compliance with the Clean Water Act.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 810025 Technology Projects (Information Systems). ”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Million Nine Hundred-Fifty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Three Dollars (\$3,952,753) for the 2025 CIP 810625 MUNIS ERP Financial System (Info Systems).”

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

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Goonan**, it was voted that the Bond Resolutions be Enrolled.*

44. Ordinance:

“Amending Section 33.026 (Security Manager) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman O'Neil stated it was mentioned earlier by you, Your Honor, but the City of Manchester is hosting through Sweeney Post the Northeast American Legion Baseball Tournament at Gill Stadium Wednesday, 8/7 through Sunday, 8/11. I would like to thank the Parks Division for their help, as well as the Police Department and Information Systems because the Nation American Legion wanted a fiber line run in and thanks to Jean and his staff, they got it done. I hope I am not leaving out any departments. This is big. We haven't hosted this in a number of years.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated everybody claims to be fiscally responsible until it is time to do fiscally responsible things but you are going to get your chance next month when we revisit the issue of eliminating dental and medical insurance for this Board. The Board of School Committee did it and this entire Board voted in favor of it. Thank you.

Alderman Burkush asked can we discuss Mr. Clougherty's proposal for overtime.

Alderman Levasseur asked what is the funding source.

Alderman Burkush asked Tim how do you envision this going forward. So, one day a week we would take a look at problem areas or during the week a supervisor would identify areas that need to be cleaned?

Mr. Clougherty answered I think a combination of both. Just expanding on the discussion we had earlier when the Fire Chief was present, it needs to be clear that not all of the issues that come to our attention that we address go through the NET Team but all issues that are brought to our attention are addressed and I believe addressed in a timely manner. If there are issues that are outstanding along the rail trails, we want to hear about them. If they are in neighborhoods and parks, we want to hear about them. I think the most opportune way to do that is through the Manchester Connect app, also known as the See-Click-Fix app. If there are abandoned items, trash and things like that, those don't make their way to the NET Team but they do make their way to our supervisors and we do address them. I had a conversation with the Mayor today and understood that this was going to be brought up. I met with James Ramos, the head of our Highway group, as well as Mark Gomez, head of our Parks group. We had conversations about obviously the number of outstanding items that we have addressed over the past three months and also the number of outstanding items that we have today. From both of those individuals, I came up with a total of two outstanding items that we reported to us that we had not yet had the ability to address. If there are areas that need to be addressed, we need to know about them. We need to know where they are with pictures and very specifically the location so we can identify whether it is public or private property. With respect to the question that you just asked, I think it would be a combination of both. We would have our supervisors generating lists and collaborating amongst their colleagues that visit parks and other various areas of the city be it on the west side or Rimmon or things like that. They would develop a list of priorities for our crew. As I mentioned, I would recommend starting with a crew of four one day a week and see how that goes.

Alderman Burkush asked would you get back to us and tell us if you need more resources.

Mr. Clougherty replied well the resources at this stage of the game is really money for overtime. At the end of the letter, I mentioned that we have 40+ vacancies today. We don't have people knocking down our doors to come to work for us for less than \$20/hour. So, increasing my complement and increasing the department complement and increasing our budget relative to two additional employees is not going to solve the

problem because we can't fill the vacancies we currently have. I have to lean on our existing staff and hopefully by offering overtime we will have people that can respond and that can fill this potential void.

Alderman Burkush stated we just increased the walking trail by two miles and that is something that we have to take care of.

Mr. Clougherty responded that is correct.

Alderman Burkush stated we are not supporting our missions.

Mr. Clougherty stated that is a pretty common occurrence.

Alderman Burkush stated we haven't increased Parks staff for many years and we hear the complaints.

Mr. Clougherty replied that is correct and from my perspective as the Director of Public Works, we have had conversations internally and I have had conversations with some aldermen about increasing Parks staff. The challenge that I have internally and as manager of all of Public Works is that some of those Parks positions are attractive positions, which means that I have people migrating from other positions to those positions and if that migration continues and say we add 10 more Parks positions that are attractive positions, I am not going to have enough people to plow the streets in the winter.

Alderman Burkush stated I saw two people cleaning the trails that were at DPW and had just transferred to Parks.

Mr. Clougherty responded alternatively, within the past couple of weeks we have had some new hires and that has been moving in a positive direction. The number still exceeds 40 but it has moved in a positive direction. We have had some additional labor that I was able to redirect from our refuse crews and put them into our cemeteries. It is not a one-way situation.

Alderman Burkush asked how is that gentleman doing that got hurt the other day.

Mr. Clougherty responded I would rather not speak about that in public.

Alderman Levasseur asked what happened to the three park rangers. They didn't get fired. Where are they?

Mr. Clougherty answered they filled vacancies within our Parks Department. One of the individuals retired on July 31 and that was as planned. We knew that was going to happen and it was not a situation where he was forced to retire. The other two individuals assumed vacant positions that we had open so they are currently employed.

Alderman Levasseur asked so those two people were doing park clean-up before so are they still doing that or did they get moved somewhere.

Mr. Clougherty replied they got moved into different positions. They are doing maintenance.

Alderman Levasseur asked if you have 40 vacancies, did those positions get funded.

Mr. Clougherty responded they are not all funded.

Alderman Levasseur asked so you don't have extra money from the vacant positions.

Mr. Clougherty answered there is some extra money. Today is August 6 though.

Alderman Levasseur asked how many weeks are you going to need the \$1,850. Would it be 10 weeks? What are you anticipating?

Mr. Clougherty replied I did some quick math this afternoon. If we were to spend \$30,000, that would cover 18 weeks. I don't think we need to do that for 18 weeks. I think until mid to late November would be an opportune time.

Alderman Levasseur asked where are we getting the money. Do we have a funding source for this? Is it coming out of contingency?

Alderman O'Neil stated that is as good a place as any right now.

Alderman Long stated he can't spend down his budget. We will have to look for money. Immediately it could come out of contingency, which I believe has \$300,000 in it.

Mayor Ruais stated I believe it is \$200,000.

Alderman Long stated initially it could come out of there. How long before you run a deficit?

Mr. Clougherty responded I can't answer that question. I don't know what this winter is going to bring.

Alderman Long asked would you know a month before, whether it be winter plowing or what have you.

Mr. Clougherty replied no I am not going to be able to answer that question until April 2025.

Alderman Long asked but as far as this initiative, if you go until November is there an amount you are looking at.

Mr. Clougherty answered well 18 weeks is \$30,000. I didn't do the math but you are probably talking less than \$20,000. It would be about \$8,000 a month.

Alderman Long asked so to do this you need \$8,000/month effective immediately.

Mr. Clougherty responded yes.

Alderman Long stated okay so \$30,000 would have to come out of contingency.

Mayor Ruais stated effectively what you are describing is like a strike team to pick-up the places that have not been reached yet. What if the amount we discussed tonight was a small contingency amount to get us through one month and then he can come back and report at the first meeting in September and say okay we spent X amount and cleaned up X places and we can revisit it at that time so we are not providing an expenditure through November just yet.

Alderman O'Neil asked what is that then \$8,000 or \$10,000.

Mayor Ruais stated we could do something until the first week of September.

Alderman Morgan asked can we look at taking money from the \$500,000 that was transferred from the park rangers. There has to be money left in that.

Mayor Ruais stated Chief Aldenberg has obligated that funding for the police officers to cover through the end of 2026. There is existing ARPA money left that we talked about earlier today. I think there is \$7,900 available right now and also \$26,000 that was part of the dissolution of the Homelessness Department that was supposed to come to my office.

Alderman O'Neil stated let's get him going for a month. Just give him \$8,000 and let him get going.

Alderman Long stated we could also use the opioid settlement fund correct. They are picking up needles and stuff.

Alderman O'Neil stated there is an agreement to get this going. Let's take it out of contingency.

Mr. Clougherty stated my recommendation is that you just take a vote authorizing us to proceed and we will report back in September. If we find some success and the Board

wishes for that to continue, we can continue to monitor our budget and I will provide monthly updates. We will have a running tally and if the Board authorizes me to continue until such time as I think there is an issue with our overtime...I can tell you that there will be an issue with our overtime if we have the same type of winter we had last year.

Mayor Ruais asked so the motion tonight would be to authorize you to provide overtime funding for these individuals for one month and you would pay for that out of your budget and come back to us with an update.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted to approve DPW's request for overtime.*

Alderman O'Neil asked Tim will the pool of employees be from Parks or Highway.

Mr. Clougherty answered yes. I am going to have to figure that out.

Alderman O'Neil stated well I don't know if you want to go to your Facilities group or anything but just get as broad a group as possible.

Mr. Clougherty stated well there are collective bargaining agreements that I have to honor and I have to figure out how to navigate those.

Alderman O'Neil asked because of the size of the trails, do you have the right equipment to do this clean-up.

Mr. Clougherty replied I believe we do.

Alderman O'Neil asked so you aren't trying to put a big front-end loader down the trail or anything like that correct.

Mr. Clougherty responded no. We have the small utility vehicles and Bobcats. We have the right equipment.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated first of all, I want to thank Tim for stepping up to the plate like that and taking a risk and using his own money. The place where this should be taken care of is in the budget process. We know we need to pick up the trash. We should have budgeted for that. I just think it is worth saying that.

Alderman Levasseur asked did you have to pick up the salaries of the two park rangers. You didn't have any money transfer over with them, correct?

Mr. Clougherty responded those were vacant positions that they filled so they were already funded.

Alderman Levasseur asked but you had to pick up those two...well you didn't have to hire those two but you got lucky and got two employees. I am sure that is the way you are looking at it because you had two extra people come over to your side.

Mr. Clougherty replied no. The way our budget works, it is very fluid.

Alderman Levasseur stated well that was ARPA money originally. It wasn't your budget money. It was ARPA funded and now you have to pick it up.

Mr. Clougherty stated now they are being paid out of the general fund.

Mayor Ruais stated we didn't eliminate park rangers per say. There are still park rangers but they are employees of DPW.

Alderman Fajardo stated I just want to say thank you to you and your team. I feel like everywhere I go, every hour of the day, any day of the week I see some DPW truck or personnel. I was at the dump unloading stuff recently and I saw Kelly unloading stuff for the city. I saw a graffiti removal truck go by the other Sunday. I know you are understaffed and here to ask for support. There is always more that can be done but I want to acknowledge that I feel like your department works incredibly hard and I just want to say thank you.

Mr. Clougherty replied I appreciate those kind words. I am very proud of the services that our employees continue to provide on a daily basis despite the challenges that we are all aware of.

Alderman Long stated I was talking to the organizer of the We Are One Festival and there is a bill that is due soon that they don't have the full amount to pay for. I would like to approve taking \$500 in ARPA funding to help pay the Parks invoice for \$1,025 which is to pay the Parks employees. That way, the We Are One Festival would only have to pay \$525.

Alderman Fajardo duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Terrio asked just to clarify, if they don't have the money now, can they just pay us later.

Alderman Long responded I don't know. I didn't ask them.

Alderman Terrio asked did they say we don't have the money now.

Alderman Long answered correct.

Alderman Terrio stated it sounds like they are expecting it to come in the future.

Alderman Long replied I don't really know. I could ask them but it is due now.

Jeff Belanger, Planning & Community Development Director, stated just for clarification, the Community Events & Activation Grants are funded by ARPA. That is probably the best place for this to come from, this \$500 as opposed to the \$7,900 we were talking about. CEAG funds events like this all the time with ARPA funds so I would suggest having it coming from CEAG.

Alderman Long moved to amend his motion and take \$500 from CEAG ARPA funds to support the We Are One Festival. Alderman Fajardo duly seconded the motion.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked where is the money coming from.

Mayor Ruais answered the CEAG which is the Community Event Activation Grant. It is an ARPA funded program for events within the city. It is a specific fund set aside for events like this.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked so it is federal money.

Mayor Ruais answered yes.

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

Alderman Long stated it was brought to my attention that there was a family member who lost his job and it was an elected official who represents this person that may have had a hand in that. I find that any elected official that would have any plan for somebody to lose their job...I don't find that acceptable. In my mind, that is unacceptable.

Alderman Long moved to vacate the Chair.

Alderman Levasseur asked based on what. You don't have any facts.

Alderman Long responded well give them to me.

Alderman T. Sapienza duly seconded the motion.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated this is ridiculous.

Alderman Barry stated I am not really 100% sure. I heard rumors of certain things that have happened. My understanding was there was a post on social media that someone

had passed along. Obviously, we know Joe so maybe he could speak about it because I think it is important. Rumors are rumors so it would be nice to hear from both sides to see what is actually going on.

Alderman Levasseur stated first of all, that is my private Facebook page. It is my private life and has nothing to do with me being a chairman of this Board. I have handled myself very professionally as the Chairman of this Board, number one. Number two, I had absolutely no hand in anybody getting fired. You have no knowledge of any facts and you are just assuming something that somebody told you. First of all, the guy made fun of Donald Trump within five minutes of the assassination attempt on him. He made fun of Donald Trump. I can't explain it because I don't have my documents with me or my Facebook page but if I read it to you, it was one of the most disgusting posts that anybody in their lives would ever imagine anybody ever making about somebody who just tried to kill a former President on national TV. When the post came to me, and it was sent to me by somebody else, I posted it on my Facebook page and let everybody in the world know who this person was who has quite the reputation in this city for going after people, especially Republicans and especially people he doesn't like and thinks that taking people's pictures and making special faces out of these people...he beat the hell out of a whole bunch of you guys, not just me, even on this Board. I thought it was quite inappropriate so when I posted it, I said maybe his employer should find out about it and sure enough, I was told that about 25 people contacted his employer. I contacted the employer and said I hope he does not get fired but maybe hopefully he will get some help for his anger management issues because he should have help for anger management because anybody who would post something like that within minutes of somebody almost losing their life, Donald Trump, whom he obviously hated...seeing that it wasn't only him but there were a bunch of other people making fun of him and those posts became very public. There was a fireman in Wisconsin who did it and lost his job. There are over 300 people that I saw just on Facebook who made those kinds of jokes that lost their jobs. I don't have any power over whether somebody loses their job or not. I don't know the company that this person works for. I don't know the boss of the employees but I have every right to post something on my own Facebook page and I have every right to say maybe this employer should know about it because this particular person works in the hospitality

business and goes around from restaurant to restaurant selling products and maybe they would want to know that this kind of person is working for their company and going to be running into other businesses around here. Maybe they should know that. If you saw the post, and I don't know if you did or not, and you weren't outraged by it, it says a lot about your personality and what kind of credence you have in your own self.

Mayor Ruais reminded the aldermen to direct all comments to him.

Alderman Levasseur stated you don't have to accept the motion Mayor. They would need an override of 10 to be able to accept the motion. What he wrote was not only despicable, it was beyond the pale of any human decency. If you read it and you think that this person should be able to walk around this city or go out and be an employee or work...the employer made the decision not based on one person. The employer made the decision based on a lot of people. A lot of people responded. I have First Amendment rights just like anybody else to do what I want in my own personal life. You guys just want me out of this Chairman job; why? Because I am running for Congress now, tough guy? You are a despicable man and have always been a despicable man.

Alderman Long asked I am a despicable man.

Mayor Ruais stated we are going to take a vote.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I want to explain my second to the motion. My second has nothing to do with Facebook or social media. I seconded vacating the Chair because of the fiasco we had with the budget. We have a chairman who didn't even bring a budget in here. That is the first time I had ever seen that and I have been sitting here for nine years. It is the first time. The Chairman didn't even bother to work on a budget. We had a fiasco with the process and we have seen a ton of misunderstandings coming out of committees. That is why I seconded the motion. It has nothing to do with social media and what is going on in the social media world. What I have seen in this Chamber is why I seconded the motion.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote. *Alderman E. Sapienza requested a roll call vote. Aldermen E. Sapienza voted nay. Aldermen Burkush voted yea.*

Alderman Barry stated it is a tough situation. I still don't know the details. I hear one side and this is putting me in a tough situation. I want to know the whole story before I vote on something because I think it is important. One of the biggest dangers of social media is things like this happening. We should hold ourselves to a higher standard. To get involved with what other people post on social media...come on man. We have to be bigger than that. Joe come on. I didn't see any of this stuff and I don't know what happened. I am hearing your side but I don't hear the other side. A guy loses his job. Why? Why did he lose his job? Because he put something on social media? I don't know what it was. Something about President Trump? Was it something that he did because he thought he was going to be funny or did he think it was a hoax? I heard it was a hoax.

Alderman Barry voted yea. Aldermen Vincent, Thomas, and Morgan voted nay. Aldermen Goonan, Long, Fajardo, and T. Sapienza voted yea. Alderman Kantor voted nay. Alderman O'Neil stated I am with Alderman Barry. I have no idea what this is about and I am being asked to vote yes or no. I am abstaining. Aldermen Levasseur and Terrio voted nay. The motion failed. Alderman Barry changed his vote to abstaining.

Alderman Kantor stated I have something positive that I want to share and then I am going to come back to something personal that has affected me for months. On a good note, I started Chill Fest, Chill Cares. It is our non-profit and it is free live music. It is a riverside concert series. As a kid, like so many others I loved going to Riverfest. This is a little something special to bring us all together through music, good food and good cheer. We have some great bands. This week it is Sunday Avenue. The Sold Out Show Band with Mark Belanger who works in our Building Department and Jim Mara who ran in ward 10. They have an incredible band. It is going to be great music, great food and great cheer. I want to say thank you to the Board for allowing Peter Telge the parking spaces because it is right down by the river and it will be a lot of job. On another personal note, I am actually thoroughly disgusted because Joe Levasseur is the only

one that stuck up for me when I went through the horrendous ordeal of being accused of stealing a binder. The shenanigans, the corruption, the deceit and the people that allowed this to happen to me and when you Google my name the first thing that pops up is I stole a binder. The investigation was not clear. The investigation was one-sided. You guys just wanted me off the Board and no one else stuck up for me; nobody. As a woman and a person who has lived here my entire life who gave of myself to run and thank you Jesus for allowing me to win so I can share that this is insanity and it is awful what we put each other through. No one stuck up for me but Joe and thank you, Joe. It is not over because I do want an investigation into what happened to me because as it continues, the homeless crisis, the drug addiction and everything, all the things that were allowed down at 39 Beech Street...it is because I cared. I went there and I showed up because I cared. You know what? It is awful and I am really disappointed that no one else stuck up for me but Joe. Thank you, Joe. You know what? The silence...when you are silent you are enabling the problems. Those that stood silent I do know. Pat, you did say on the record that we were allowed to go to Beech Street. Other than that, nobody else stuck up for me. We have to stop this divide. The divide is killing us and it is not okay. I am asking for a real full investigation into what happened to me, period.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I am very concerned with the Hospital Corporation of America's planned purchase of Catholic Medical Center. It is an asset purchase, not a partnership. CMC is a non-profit medical provider with a mission to provide medical services to our community. HCA is a multi-billion dollar for profit corporation with a very controversial history of taking over local hospitals. It is a for profit corporation. Profits will always come before patients. I would like to ask this Board to request a presentation from Anthem about the money that Manchester pays through its insurance plan to CMC, and CMC's reimbursement rates to Anthem versus HCA reimbursement rates versus other hospitals in the region. I would like Anthem to talk about their experience negotiating with HCA and their experience negotiating with CMC. Time is of the essence here. The Attorney General is reviewing the application for the sale as we speak. I asked for this information to be provided to the Board but we haven't got it yet. At the very least, we should have a presentation at the next meeting.

Alderman T. Sapienza moved to have Anthem come in to provide a presentation regarding CMC. **Alderman Fajardo** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Fajardo stated I just shared a follow-up email to this Board agreeing with Alderman T. Sapienza's recommendation that we hear from Anthem as well as inviting the CEO of the hospital to come and speak to this Board. I think they are a major employer in our city and a major factor in terms of community wellness. I think it in the entire community's interest when a major transaction like that is going to take place. I think the Board would be remiss to not ask for some kind of insight into what we should expect in terms of impact to care as well as potential economic impact.

Mayor Ruais stated I have talked to HCA and CMC about this a number of times since the beginning of the year. I know that they have been reaching out to aldermen individually to set-up meetings. I would be happy to reach out to them and tell them but in conversations we have had about getting together, I know that they had a meeting on the west side at CMC a few months back with legislators. I believe Alderman Vincent was there as well as a few others. I don't have any problem asking them to come in and brief us.

Alderman Fajardo stated I appreciate that because I think that it is of interest to the entire community. We have a platform here that will enable more people from our community to hear, learn and understand what is going on. Perhaps they haven't attended a meeting on the west side with legislators. I think this platform that we have affords the opportunity for some visibility.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I did meet with CMC. We have to keep in mind that CMC wants to sell themselves to HCA. When you talk to HCA and CMC, of course they are going to try to convince you to support their deal. They are going to call it a partnership when it is not a partnership.

Alderman O'Neil stated when Alderman T. Sapienza sent the email out, one of my thoughts was we...I think getting Anthem before us as an employer and finding out how much money we spend with CMC would be important and good to know as there are a

lot of wellness community programs that they are involved with. They are also, I think, still part owner of BASC. This merger or acquisition or whatever it is could greatly affect the bottom line of the city's budget. We really need that data from Anthem on how much we as an employer, using the taxpayer's money, spend at CMC or affiliations. To me that is a bigger issue than bringing in HCA or CMC. We need Anthem to tell us what our spend is. I believe it could impact health care for our employees.

Alderman Barry stated I represent the west side with Alderman Vincent and Alderman Thomas. My biggest concern, and I won't speak for them, is to make sure that we do have a hospital on the west side because God forbid if we put ourselves in the middle of this and interrupt anything that is going on with that and CMC decides to close or whatever. I don't know what is going on with that. My understanding is it is with the Attorney General's Office and hopefully we will get a decision soon. We absolutely need a hospital on the west side. What power or what do we have over this as a Board?

Mayor Ruais responded this is a state issue. It is before the AG's Office to approve it. We can certainly ask questions.

Alderman Barry stated myself and Alderman Vincent are meeting with CMC next Wednesday and I am looking forward to it. My biggest concern and my hope is that we continue to have a hospital on the west side.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated it is out of our hands. We just settled that right? This is out of our hands?

Mayor Ruais replied there is nothing that the city can do. We can ask questions certainly but we can't impact the AG's Office and their determination of whether this is legal.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated if we are going to talk about any issue under the sun that may affect us, what is next. Are we going to bring the US Border Patrol in here to talk about securing the US-Mexico border because it has an effect on the city? Are we

going to talk to the FBI? What is next? If we don't have any direct authority over it, then we don't have any direct authority over it. Why are we spending any time on this?

Alderman O'Neil stated if we can get Anthem in here and find out...we spend millions of dollars with CMC providers and at that facility. I am guessing. Sharon what is our health care spend a year?

Sharon Wickens, Finance Director, answered probably \$13.5 million.

Alderman O'Neil stated there are millions of dollars going to CMC and their affiliates. That to me is why we want Anthem in here. I agree that we can't do anything about the AG but I would like to have Anthem in here telling us exactly how much we are spending at CMC. It is our plan. We can decide that we are not doing anything going forward with CMC or HCA. Are we bringing Anthem in?

Mayor Ruais stated that is the motion before us.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated there is something we can do. We can send a letter to the AG to support it or not to support it. I think that would be important. We send many letters to the Governor and various state agencies. That is not something that we don't do and of course everybody wants a hospital on the west side. Nobody wants to see it shut down.

Alderman Barry asked so what is the option after that.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated right now the option is to try to get some information. What is the option? Go listen to CMC and believe whatever they tell us? That is a good plan.

Alderman Barry stated so we will dictate to them whether they can sell or get involved with getting rid of it.

Alderman T. Sapienza responded I am not saying dictate. I am saying make a recommendation to the...

Alderman Barry interjected we are pretty much threatening them saying that if Anthem comes in and says we spend a lot of money at CMC...are we going to stop spending money at CMC if they switch hands. That is a little threatening.

Alderman Long stated I have been to those legislative breakfasts and for the last six or seven years CMC has been hurting. I understand having Anthem tell us what effect it will have on us. I understand that. I think if CMC goes under then we have Elliot that takes over the city and Elliot being the only hospital is going to dictate to us what we are going to be paying. I think we ought to stay out of it. The AG will have a public hearing. The AG will give conditions to this agreement. We should just see if those are the conditions we are looking for.

Alderman Terrio stated it is my understanding that our contract with CMC goes until the end of the year. I don't think Anthem is going to be able to tell us what the new reimbursement rates are going to be because they won't know probably until January. This might be an exercise in futility. We have a contract in place right now that can't be broken.

Alderman Levasseur stated on the issue of Anthem and our insurance, I have always been of the opinion that we should be going out to bid and looking to join a bigger pool. I don't believe we should be self-insured. We talked about this a couple of months ago but nothing has been done about it. If we are going to call in Anthem, can we not also do some sort of a...where are we going to get advice on what we can do to open ourselves up to some better options instead of being self-insured? The way I understand it is us being self-insured is making up for Medicaid. They can bill us at a higher rate because they have to find certain cities, towns and big companies that will offset all of the money they lose on Medicaid and Medicare. So, I think we need to open ourselves up with a bigger pool. I don't know if we can. I don't know what the rules are or the laws are and I don't know if Anthem is going to want us to do that. I don't know if they have a conflict in giving us advice on how to move into a better

system that will bring the rates down and give us more buying power. We need to get to those questions and we need to do that now before the next budget.

Mayor Ruais stated we talked about this during the budget process a little bit and Sharon you can probably articulate this better than I can but we will be going out to bid next year.

Alderman Levasseur stated but that is not a bigger pool. Are there other options?

Mayor Ruais replied we can do anything.

Alderman Levasseur asked do we have to do that soon. Should we be doing it in September so we have something by January and something we can count on for the next budget?

Mayor Ruais answered that is certainly something we can talk to Lisa Drabik about. We can ask what the best course of action is knowing that it expires next year. What can we do to put ourselves in the best position to be successful? We can absolutely talk to her about that.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote on having Anthem come to give a presentation.

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

Alderman Morgan moved to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(d) for consideration of property acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community. **Alderman T. Sapienza** duly seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Morgan, Goonan, Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, Kantor, O'Neil, Levasseur, Terrio, E. Sapienza, Burkush, Barry, Vincent, and Thomas voted yea. The motion carried.

Mayor Ruais called the meeting back to order.

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

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Normand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

City Clerk