

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

February 18, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Mayor Ruais called the meeting to order.

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

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Absent: Aldermen Goonan, Fajardo

Mayor Ruais stated the recognition tonight is a result of a number of different emails that I had gotten in our office saying thank you to the crew in front of us. New Hampshire is obviously famous for its winter sports – skiing, snowmobiling and ice skating. Starting in January, visitors to Livingston Park have been welcomed onto frozen Dorrs Pond for classic outdoor ice skating. While Mother Nature is critical in making this possible and sustained sub-freezing temperatures are essential, our Manchester Parks & Recreations crew plays an indispensable role. As winter sets in, crews routinely check ice depth at strategic locations around Dorrs Pond. Depths must be great enough to handle crew members, equipment and ultimately skaters. Skating areas are cleared of snow, often with hand tools when the ice is thinner, and imperfections such as slush piles, fissures, iced in debris and frozen snowballs are scraped and chipped away. A hole is open in the ice surface outside of the skating area to access the water below. A hose is connected and pond water is pumped onto the ice surface in a very thin coating to promote quick freezing. The new coating of ice fills in gauges, cracks and low spots to insure a smooth skating surface. This process is repeated multiple times throughout the winter, especially following storms, to maintain the ice for skating. I understand some of the crew is not able to be here because they are out working right now. To round out the experience for visitors, a crew member is typically assigned to the Pond House to feed and stock the fire providing a warm retreat for folks coming off the pond. What is most impressive about the Dorrs' crew is that

they don't have the luxury of working only when conditions are pleasant. Wind chill temperatures on the pond during prep work often dip into the single digits or lower to say nothing of the wind we have been experiencing in the last few days. This is a labor of love and the wonderful feedback that the city has received from the community has been extraordinarily rewarding and I wanted to share that with you tonight. Tonight we honor the team led by Parks & Recreation Director Mark Gomez who oversees the ice making so many skates and wonderful memories possible and overseen by Field Supervisor Brian Sanborn. The following team members are here tonight – Crew Leader Ryan Wells, Crew Leader Isaiah Rodriguez, Amy Runyon, Ayden Fohlin, Miles Cavanaugh, John Ward and also in attendance from the management side we have Parks Maintenance Supervisor Andy Vachon and Operations Manager Kelly Koetsier. Please give them all a round of applause.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Ruais advised that the purpose of the public comment session is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board. All people wishing to speak must sign up with their name, address and topic prior to 7 PM. Once called, they will have up to three minutes to speak and any comments must be directed to the chair and concluded when their time is up. If the Clerk calls their name and they are not present to speak, they will not be given a second opportunity. Any resident wishing to speak will come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized and give their comments.

Deb Roux, Manchester, stated:

I am so excited. I have been trying to get this into the Mayor's hands for a while now. This, for many people who don't know, is the National Monument to the Forefathers. It is located in Plymouth, MA just five minutes from Plymouth Rock. It stands at 81' tall and oversees the Atlantic Ocean. It is also known as the Matrix for Liberty. I have been learning about this monument for two years and it has become very important and apparent and I believe it belongs in all of our government buildings because it is a reminder that our forefathers created a form of government that promotes liberty and liberty means that there is a structure in place where our leaders allow us, we the

people, to live out our unalienable rights and our freedoms. This monument explains, with five different statues, how that all came to be. In the middle is Fate. She is pointing to Heaven. Our forefathers as many of you may know were Christian Judeo people and they believed that our rights came from God. That is the first thing. Then you have Morality, Law, Education and Liberty which are the other four statues that surround the base of the monument. To have a free nation and a liberty type of nation, you have to have a moral people and you have to have laws that are biblically based and that are equitable and show justice and mercy and apply to everybody. Then you have Education where it is the parents' responsibility and the grandparents and the community effort to teach the children about our morals, about faith and about the laws so that they can grow up and continue to preserve a government and our nation of liberty. Then you have Liberty man who is a really staunch guy overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. He has overthrown tyranny and has a sword in his hand. He is in a defensive mode. He has the chains broken and he is displaying liberty. I just wanted to present this to the Mayor tonight and hope that he will display it somewhere in the Mayor's Office or somewhere here at City Hall so people can understand and know a little bit more about where our nation has come from and why it is the nation. This monument, to me, exemplifies what made America great to begin with and we all need to have this understanding to be able to keep our country great. If you will accept this, I would like to gift it to you and hope that you will put it somewhere in a prominent place. I encourage everybody to go to Plymouth and view this monument. There is a company called The Jenney Org that gives great tours. It is something that is worth seeing. It is 81' tall and the largest granite monument in the nation. I just want everybody to enjoy.

Mari Fontaine, 96 Allen Street, stated:

Before I get started, I just wanted to say a quick hello to my alderman in Ward 10, Alderman Barry. It is nice to see you. Of course, Mayor Ruais, it is nice to you as well. I serve on the Lead Commission with Alderman Fajardo. She is not here today but the rest of you I look forward to getting to know as well. I am here in my capacity as President of a little non-profit called We Heart West. We are a volunteer based non-profit that works on the west side of Manchester. We do neighborhood clean-ups and community events like trash pick-up. We also have set-up different pet waystations all over west Manchester. We noticed when we were organizing some of our clean-ups

that other small grassroots groups like us were scheduling events at the same time. We realized that some of our groups in Manchester didn't know about each other or each other's events. Last year, I organized the first Manchester Volunteer Leadership Summit. It was a great turnout. We had groups from all over Manchester. We didn't invite the big non-profits that are fully staffed. This was focused on just the small volunteer groups. I also had some of the colleges come because they could connect their volunteers to our organizations. Some of the groups we had, and I will just name a few although we had 18, were Crystal Lake Preservation, Urban Ponds, Friends of Piscataquog River Park, Rimmon Heights Group, Manchester Grows, Valley Cemetery, Friends of Stark Park, We Heart West, and Parks & Recreation was there. So we are having the event again this year and some of the feedback I got last year was that they would really like to have the Mayor and aldermen join us. We had about 30 people last year so I am here to invite all of you to come to our event. It is April 5 from 10:30 AM until 12:30 PM. It is in Manchester. I have flyers and you can use the information to RSVP. I will probably send out an email as well. I look forward to seeing all of you there and if you have any questions for me, you can reach out. I appreciate all of your time.

Mayor Ruais stated with the Board's indulgence before we get into the consent agenda, I would just like to move up the report from the Special Committee on Alcohol, Other Drugs & Youth Services.

23. Report(s) of the Special Committee on Alcohol, Other Drugs & Youth Services, if available.

The Special Committee on Alcohol, Other Drugs & Youth Services respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that \$201,000 from the Opioid Abatement Fund be allocated to Hope for NH Recovery and referred to the Committee on Community Improvement.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept BMA Minutes

2. Minutes from the January 21 BMA & Finance meetings and the February 4 Special BMA and BMA meetings.

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

3. 50/50 Sidewalk Petitions

Residential:

- 414 E. High Street
- 458 Lake Avenue

Information to be Received and Filed

4. January OYS Report

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

5. Resolutions:

"Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Fifty-two Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Six Dollars and Seventy-Two Cents (\$52,176.72) for the FY2025 CIP 412225 Emergency Management Administrative Cost Reimbursement."

"Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty-Six Cents (\$0.36) for the FY 2025 CIP 610325 Beech Street Programs."

"Amending the FY2022 and FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Twenty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Forty-Three Dollars and Thirteen Cents (\$27,143.13) for the FY2025 CIP 711125 Sidewalk Rehab and Expansion."

"Amending the FY2018, FY2021 and FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Five Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-One Dollars and Thirty-Nine Cents (\$5,331.39) for the FY2021 CIP 712421 FY21 Roadway Improvement."

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON BILLS ON SECOND READING

6. Recommending that Ordinance Amendment:

"An Ordinance repealing Sections 32.025 through 32.035 relating to the Arts Commission and replacing Sections 32.025 through 32.035."

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

(Unanimous vote with the exception of Aldermen Morgan and Fajardo who were absent)

7. Advising that Ordinance Amendment:

"Amending Chapter 52: Sewers of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by amending Section 52.160 Sewer Rental Charges to increase the user charges in the City of Manchester."

has been received and filed.

(Aldermen Kantor and Levasseur voted yea; Alderman Barry voted nay; Aldermen Morgan and Fajardo were absent)

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

- 8. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$52,176.72 for CIP 412225 Emergency Management Administrative Cost Reimbursement be approved.**
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Morgan who was absent)

- 9. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$0.36 for CIP 610325 Beech Street Programs be approved.**
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Morgan who was absent)

- 10. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$27,143.13 for CIP 711125 Sidewalk Rehab and Expansion be approved.**
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Morgan who was absent)

- 11. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$5,331.39 for CIP 712421 FY21 Roadway Improvement be approved.**
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Morgan who was absent)

12. Recommending that the request from the City Clerk to revise the project description for CIP 810024 Election Infrastructure Improvement be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Morgan who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

13. Recommending that the request from the Environmental Protection Division Superintendent for the following changes to the division's complement:

- Eliminate one (1) vacant full-time Laborer position, grade 10
- Eliminate one (1) vacant Custodian position, grade 8
- Add two (2) Public Service Worker I positions, grade 12

be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

14. Recommending that the request from the Water Works Director for the following changes to the department's complement:

- Eliminate one (1) vacant full-time WTP Operator II position, grade 17
- Add one (1) full-time WTP Operator I position, grade 15

be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

15. Recommending that the following traffic regulations be approved:

NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Cody Street, west side, from Laydon Street to the dead end
On Massabesic Street, south side, from a point 350 feet west of Cypress Street to a point 170 feet further west

Alderman Sapienza

RESCIND TWO HOUR PARKING 8AM-6PM

On Chestnut Street, west side, from Sagamore Street to a point 100 feet north of Pennacook Street (ORD 10661)

Alderman Long

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

16. Recommending that the request from Alderman O'Neil on behalf of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee for the painting of shamrocks where Elm Street intersects with Hanover Street and Pleasant Street on Saturday, March 8, in coordination with the Police and Public Works Departments, be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Morgan who was absent)

JOINT SCHOOL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

- 17.** Advising that the Manchester School District Priority I status and financial report for January 2025 submitted by LeftField has been accepted.
(Unanimous vote)

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON BILLS ON SECOND READING

- 7.** Advising that Ordinance Amendment:

"Amending Chapter 52: Sewers of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by amending Section 52.160 Sewer Rental Charges to increase the user charges in the City of Manchester."

has been received and filed.

*(Aldermen Kantor and Levasseur voted yea; Alderman Barry voted nay;
Aldermen Morgan and Fajardo were absent)*

Alderman Long moved that the Ordinance Amendment ought to pass and be referred to the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment & Revenue Administration. **Alderman Barry** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Ruais called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Levasseur duly recorded in opposition.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked where do we stand with this now because at the last meeting we approved it and it went to Bills on Second Reading.

Mayor Ruais stated it is an ordinance so it has to go to B2R and then comes to the full Board and then goes to Accounts and then back to the full Board where it is ordained.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- 18.** Confirmation:
Senior Services Commission
Pete Escalera to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire
January 1, 2028

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

- 19.** Budget projections to be submitted by Sharon Wickens, Finance Officer, if available.

Sharon Wickens, Finance Officer, stated the FY25 general fund expenditure and revenue forecast as of February 18, 2025 based on department head estimates is as follows. The current projected general fund operating surplus is \$1,218,000. The operating surplus is comprised of an expenditure deficit of \$371,000 and a revenue surplus of \$1,589,000. The expenditure deficit relates primarily to police overtime. There are currently 23 police officer vacancies which is resulting in an increase in overtime hours. The expectation is that this expenditure deficit number will continue to improve before fiscal year end. The revenue surplus relates primarily to interest income, motor vehicle registrations and an increase in permitting. The school district has provided the city with a permitting fee schedule for the Priority I project which shows a projected \$867,000 in permits to be issued before the end of the fiscal year. Recent health insurance claims are showing an increase in costs in January as well as the first few weeks in February. We will continue to monitor the claims activity as it performs against budget. Our budget is higher so I don't expect any problems there but we will monitor it through the winter. The forecasted surplus includes \$200,000 from the contingency account. There were 21 retirements through February 18 compared with 25 at this same time a year ago. Severance paid amounts to \$1,078,543 compared to \$941,814 a year ago. The severance reserve account is anticipated to have a balance of \$849,810 after all related entries have been posted. I have also attached a departmental overtime report as of February 8 and a summary by department of severance paid through February 18.

Alderman Long asked for clarification, I believe at our last meeting the surplus was a little over \$100,000. This increase is due to the \$867,000 in permit fees?

Ms. Wickens answered there are a couple of things. Some of the departments are starting to spit back some expenditure funds. Planning has about a \$75,000 in savings they will have in salaries and the Health Department has ticked up a little bit. Police has gone down. The majority of it is this permitting. The schedule we received from the school district we have looked at with Director Belanger and we are watching it because if it looks like these aren't coming in we will have to adjust this projection. As of right now, we have no reason to believe that they won't. The school district is saying they will pull those permits before the end of the fiscal year.

Alderman Long asked did I also hear that auto registrations are doing well.

Ms. Wickens replied yes they continue to do well. It is still a \$400,000 surplus before year end. It may beat that but right now that is where she wants to stay.

*On motion of **Alderman Terrio**, 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.

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

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

"Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Fifty-two Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Six Dollars and Seventy-Two Cents (\$52,176.72) for the FY2025 CIP 412225 Emergency Management Administrative Cost Reimbursement."

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“Amending the FY2022 and FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Twenty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Forty-Three Dollars and Thirteen Cents (\$27,143.13) for the FY2025 CIP 711125 Sidewalk Rehab and Expansion.”

“Amending the FY2018, FY2021 and FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Five Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-One Dollars and Thirty-Nine Cents (\$5,331.39) for the FY2021 CIP 712421 FY21 Roadway Improvement.”

ought to pass and be Enrolled.

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

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

The Committee on Lands & Buildings respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the approval of a Purchase & Sales agreement with Strategic Company LLC of a parcel of land located on Cohas Avenue be approved.

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

The Committee on Lands & Buildings respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the approval of a Purchase & Sales agreement with Balcon Holdings, LLC for a 20-acre parcel on Wellington Road be approved.

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

25. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Fifty-two Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Six Dollars and Seventy-Two Cents (\$52,176.72) for the FY2025 CIP 412225 Emergency Management Administrative Cost Reimbursement.”

“Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty-Six Cents (\$0.36) for the FY 2025 CIP 610325 Beech Street Programs.”

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Twenty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Forty-Three Dollars and Thirteen Cents (\$27,143.13) for the FY2025 CIP 711125 Sidewalk Rehab and Expansion.”

“Amending the FY2018, FY2021 and FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Five Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-One Dollars and Thirty-Nine Cents (\$5,331.39) for the FY2021 CIP 712421 FY21 Roadway Improvement.”

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

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman T. Sapienza**, it was voted to Enroll.*

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Levasseur stated the city auditor selection committee is a necessary issue. We are going to hire our first city-wide auditor in five years. I am naming Alderman Morgan Chairman of that committee. Vice-Chair will be Alderman Vincent and the spare tire on the committee will be Alderman Burkush. Three for a tricycle and you have to get moving fast because we have had some very, very good candidates that have applied for the job. I appreciate you guys volunteering for that committee.

Alderman O'Neil stated we received a communication from residents in Ward 12 on Joseph Street concerned about Goffstown. I failed to include Director Belanger to find out about regional impacts so can we have him come forward to see what our options are on that. Those streets are pretty tight over there when you get into this development. Can we find out what step we can take on that?

Jeff Belanger, Planning & Community Development Director, stated this will be brought to the Planning Board's attention at their next meeting which is next week. When we get official notification from Goffstown which has to be done 15 days prior to their hearing, this Board will be the Board that has the ability to communicate and to be

considered as abutters for purposes of testimony. Anyone representing this Board could go to Goffstown and testify. There could also be someone from the Planning Board that goes to testify or any abutter could testify. They wouldn't have the status as an abutter in Goffstown so they wouldn't have the right to testify but usually if someone wants to testify, a zoning board would allow them to do so. Neighbors could certainly do that. The Goffstown ZBA meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7 PM. That will be coming up in 20 days or so.

Alderman O'Neil asked can this Board take a position.

Mr. Belanger answered yes. You could write a letter or testify there or we could deliver a letter to Goffstown staff and have them include that in the ZBA agenda.

Alderman O'Neil stated I would imagine that with our departments looking at this in great detail there have to be some concerns.

Mr. Belanger replied yes. Our staff has distributed the plans to the whole technical review committee that always meets for every Planning Board application here so DPW, Water Works and our staff. We are going to look at it and we will provide comments.

Alderman O'Neil asked and those will come back to us in a reasonable timeframe.

Mr. Belanger responded yes.

Alderman Terrio stated I want to make sure that I understand this correctly. There is a quiet neighborhood in Manchester and there is a piece of property in Goffstown where they want to build 31 houses I think and they are looking for an easement or access because there is no access in Goffstown. Is that correct?

Mr. Belanger answered there is access in Goffstown. There are going to be three different points of connection to this subdivision. One from the south in Goffstown as I understand it and two through Manchester.

Alderman Terrio asked could Manchester refuse and say you already have access from your own town.

Mr. Belanger replied I would need to look into that further. I am not sure that we could say no categorically.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked could we put a gate up at the end of the street.

Mr. Belanger answered the Department of Public Works may want to consider that but ultimately this Board has control over the city's rights-of-way.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked so that is a yes.

Mr. Belanger replied it is a definite maybe. We would want to think about it. Like I said, the BMA has control over the city's rights-of-way.

Alderman Barry stated I received as I am sure many of you did lots of calls as we have had a tough couple of weeks with snow and snow removal and plowing and people parking on the street and getting towed. We had brought up in the back room that the public should know that if they want to be on a list of people who get notified via Nixle or email, they can go on the city website and sign-up. I know there was one gentleman who called and said that he didn't have any access to know there was a snow emergency during one of our snowstorms. I know that I tell people if it is snowing out and looks like it is going to be bad and they are going to plow, that is a good indication to get your cars off the road even if there isn't a snow emergency because the more room we give the plows, the better our streets are going to be. Thank you.

Alderman Vincent stated to piggyback off that, I want to give a shout out to Director Clougherty and his crew for plowing. On the west side, we have no parking so the snow bans are very difficult for the residents in that area. They struggle because there is no place to put these cars on the west side. We are doing the best we can right now to try to fix that problem. The plow truck drivers are good with what they do and we do ask that the citizens be patient with them. They are doing the best they can with the time

they have. There is not 100 of them and some are fairly new at what they are doing and they are getting as many streets and sidewalks and on the west side we have all the back alleys so do heed the warnings to find a place to park during these storms. I want to thank them for their hard work.

Alderman Barry stated Tim thank you and your crew. I know some of them are working 28 or 36 hours straight so it is a lot on them. The other thing that is really important to know, and you can find this on the city website, is the fact that we have quite a few places you can move your car to; parking areas throughout the city and they are all listed on the website.

Mayor Ruais stated I was there on Sunday with Director Clougherty and he bought pizzas for all of them. There must have been 75 men and women there who were, to your point, working 36 hours straight on coffee and adrenaline. They did, I think, an incredible job for the city. I appreciate their work. It wasn't just DPW drivers. It was also Parks & Recreation workers who were called in to help out as well and I think they did a phenomenal job for the city over the weekend. We had two back-to-back storms and three if you count last week. I appreciate it Director Clougherty.

Alderman O'Neil asked Tim could you come up please. To follow-up on Alderman Barry's point, I don't actually know how people can get notified. The one I always go by is the legendary Ed Osborne's flashing lights. I am telling you they are the greatest thing in the world but Tim is there something you can get out to us about how people can sign-up to be notified? I had a woman who told me today she got towed. She wasn't really angry but she said the way she drove home from work she didn't come across any intersections with the lights. She said she didn't know there was a snow emergency.

Mr. Clougherty answered there are avenues through our website where you can put in your email address and you will get notified not just of snow emergencies but it comes through as a newsletter and you get information on roads that may be shut down and other things. You can also select what kind of notifications you want. We also do our best to get it out on Facebook. We also notify Police and Fire and they put it on their

Facebook pages as does the Mayor's Office. We are trying to hit as many social media outlets as we can. It is also listed on our website and we do have the flashing lights. If you are on the newsletter notifications, we sent out a notification on Saturday for a possible snow emergency. We don't entirely rely on the weather forecast that we get so we try to hedge our bets. We do try to give as much advance notification as we can. The police have done a great job as of late towing and ticketing cars and we are very appreciative of that effort. The fact of the matter is we can't tow all of the cars on the street so the more cars that can get off the street...it is no benefit to us to tow these cars. I understand that it is a hardship for these individuals but it is for the safety of the traveling public.

Alderman O'Neil stated you can see the difference from two weeks ago when there was a snow emergency. The one-ways for me are a great way to judge who is paying attention and they were clear. Then there wasn't one on Super Bowl Sunday and those same streets had people parking on them so you have no choice but to call back-to-back nights of snow emergencies. I want to thank the Chief and Assistance Chief because you are right we can never tow enough cars but something that I was pleased with is they have written a lot of tickets. I think they can give them a \$150 fine. They had officers out doing it. You can put them on cars without towing them and that still sends a pretty good message because I think it is \$200 if you get towed.

Mr. Clougherty stated the tickets being issued by the Police Department are in the hundreds as are the number of cars being towed.

Alderman O'Neil stated I hope that makes a difference. I want to echo my colleagues. I think your staff has done a fabulous job. They are working for the most part with big dump trucks and heavy equipment trying to navigate around people who don't cooperate on some of our streets. It is not an easy job and your people performed outstanding. I am glad to hear the Parks folks were there as well.

Mr. Clougherty responded thank you all for those kind words. I would just like to add that I understand you are probably getting a lot of complaints about sidewalks. We are getting complaints about sidewalks also. The volume of snow is challenging for us.

Since we have had so much snow recently, we can't use a lot of what we call our V plows. A plow is going down a sidewalk pushing the snow out of the way and it is falling right back onto the sidewalk behind the machine so we are forced to use snow blowers. Snow blowers are much slower. We are working two shifts around the clock right now but it is going to take us some time to recover. Please bear with us. If you have priority areas within your ward, we are happy to send people out in those areas. We prioritize school routes and the downtown area but if there are other areas in your wards where we can be of assistance, please feel free to reach out.

Mayor Ruais stated to build off of Alderman Barry's initial point, I do think in addition to social media we can get creative. I can call Paul Feely to do an article and I know that Andy would be happy to do that as well.

Alderman Long stated with respect to the sidewalks, I know the business owners are trying to address their sidewalk but it is difficult because it is hard and with the wind it blows back in.

Mr. Clougherty responded yes the wind yesterday didn't do us any favors.

Alderman Long asked so we can call you if we have a corner like I have one in Ward 4 where there is a new restaurant that opened on Bridge and Union. It looks like the wind blew it all back in there and it is horrible. They tried to take care of it but it is ice and not working out.

Mr. Clougherty answered yes we can definitely try to address that. As some of you that have seen large snowstorms when you have been on this Board, one of the biggest challenges that we have with the sidewalks is individual homes or businesses plowing their own sidewalk and plowing their driveways into the sidewalk which leaves 6' and 8' snowbanks. It is illegal and extremely difficult to enforce. There are ordinances against it but it does happen. If you see anybody, I would discourage them from that practice because it makes our job harder to do but more importantly it makes it more dangerous and difficult for pedestrians and those with disabilities to get around.

Alderman Long stated I actually got a call about the Hanover Street Market where you can't access the walk button and that is an important walk button there. It used to be Cumberland Farms. There is a walk button that you can't access.

Mr. Clougherty stated that snow probably came from the parking lot.

Alderman Long stated regarding towing, my understanding was that if you met the tow truck out there and you were going to move your car it would be cheaper. So if a tow truck shows up and I am going to move my car and I meet the tow truck and say I am going to move my car, I thought there was a lesser price than the \$200 to go pick up your car?

Mr. Clougherty responded I am not familiar with that enforcement. I don't know if Chief Marr has any input on that.

Peter Marr, Police Chief, stated I don't know off the top of my head.

Alderman O'Neil asked Tim is there a list of streets that we maybe could advocate and say hey these are our troubled streets and the toughest ones for us to plow. Do you guys track it that way at all?

Mr. Clougherty answered not really. You could list just about...there are streets all over the place. Some wards are easier like Wards 6 and 8. When you get into Wards 3, 4 and 5 it is much more challenging. I see it on my way into and out of work every day on Wilson Street. Really any of those side streets like Wilson, Laurel, and Hall. They are all narrow and challenging.

Chief Marr stated I don't have the drop fee sorry.

Alderman Long replied that's okay. I was under the impression that we passed something where if they are going to tow my car for a snow emergency and I happen to see the tow truck and go out there before they are hooked up I pay like \$80 for the tow company and that is it.

Chief Marr stated there is a dropped vehicle category in our results but it is the only one that doesn't have a cost next to it. On February 7 we dropped 6 vehicles and towed 246. I just don't know how much they paid but I can find out.

Alderman Long responded that would be great.

Alderman Terrio stated I want to recognize Jodie Nazaka for being in the Union Leader's Forty under Forty.

Mayor Ruais stated it was a great article and wonderful to see her being recognized for her work.

TABLED ITEMS

- 26.** Report from the Committee on Community Improvement recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$400,000 for CIP 610625 80 Merrimack Street (Residence at Chestnut Phase II) be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
(Note: Tabled on September 4, 2024.)

This item remained on the table.

- 27.** Report from the Committee on Lands & Buildings recommending that the request from Alderman Morgan to name the soccer field at Sheridan-Emmett Park after Thamba Mbungu be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Long who abstained)
(Note: Tabled on November 19, 2024.)

This item remained on the table.

Mayor Ruais stated before you there is a letter that I drafted to be sent to the Legislature. It is in favor of bail reform. It is not specific to any piece of legislation. It just talks about the importance of this to the City of Manchester. I didn't want to put my finger on the scales of any specific piece of legislation because I know that Alderman Long and others up there are working hard on this. I thought it would be better to go broad and just talk about why this is important for the city, the number of arrests, and

how this impacts us. Obviously the situation that is on everybody's mind is the stabbing that occurred about a week and a half ago and the bank robbery the week prior to that. I would like to send this letter.

Alderman Long moved to approve the letter regarding bail reform to be sent to the NH Legislature. Alderman E. Sapienza duly seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Ruais stated we have a copy here that we can add everybody's signatures to before I send it up.

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