

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

March 4, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Mayor Ruais called the meeting to order.

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

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Absent: Alderman Goonan

Mayor Ruais stated I do not have any recognitions this evening but I would like to recognize Alderman Vincent.

Alderman Vincent stated I would like to take a moment to introduce and welcome our new city grant coordinator, Angela Cavanaugh. Angela started on February 10 and I can say that she has hit the ground running working on some exciting opportunities for the city with much more to come. We are very happy to have you and welcome aboard.

Mayor Ruais stated actually I do have one recognition this evening because I see Nick Pappas in the back and he wouldn't let me thank him before he left the office so now, I am going to thank him for his service. Thank you, Alderman Vincent, for your leadership on this. I think it is going to make a dramatic difference for the city.

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.

Dorothy Krasner, 389 Hanover Street, stated:

I am here this evening because I am very concerned about the impact that federal actions are going to have on the city both on the budget and also how losing federal employees is going to have a ripple effect in terms of Manchester's general atmosphere if you will when some of our fellow residents and citizens are being thrown out of their jobs and denigrated as ineffective or corrupt or incompetent based on absolutely no evidence whatsoever and when many of us know them as friends, relations and neighbors to be competent and people of integrity and people who were doing their best under the circumstances and effectively serving us and our fellow citizens. In terms of the budget, I went to the city website and took a look at federal funds that had come into the city in previous years and if my addition is correct, and I went to Manchester schools K-8 so it is probably pretty good, it is more than \$43 million in previous budgets. The threat to that, to me, very large sum of money is troubling. It was everything from Big Brothers/Big Sisters to the Police Department to schools and Water Works and a number of different departments that are performing essential services, as well as agencies, not-for-profits in the city that affect many of us on a daily basis and are for some people essential to their good health or their morale or their education. I am hoping that some kind of counteraction is being considered by the municipal authorities to lessen the effects of the loss of funds but also to support some of these federal employees, some of whom are lifelong Manchester citizens and who we know deserve better than what they have been receiving. Thank you.

Rick Glatz, 611 Silver Street, stated:

I am a sort of retired teacher. This is the first time I have been here to see all of you. I ride on the roads of Manchester every day and there are a lot of potholes and things in the roads. You are doing a good job to try to fix them and I know you are trying your best. I am just wondering with the hot summers we have been having and the wild swings in temperature...and I am not denigrating the city engineers or anything but are

we investing in the newest types of asphalt and the steel girders. My question to the aldermen is are we spending our money intelligently to deal with this issue. Maybe we will fix a pothole but will we be fixing that same pothole in two years because we are using asphalt that is not the best or if we are fixing a bridge is the steel used the kind that we should be investing in that can deal with the new realities of temperature. My question basically is an infrastructure and monetary question to the aldermen. Are we spending our money well? Thank you.

Richard Girard, 283 Orange Street, stated:

I am here tonight to speak on the school budget. Aside from the astonishing more than \$11.5 million spike in spending, the district is once again misrepresenting revenues to boost spending under the city's tax cap. It is important for you to know and understand how this is being done. First, the district did see a gain of almost \$11.7 million in state adequacy aid. However, it lost \$9 million in fabricated one-time revenues and almost \$800,000 in operational revenues from last year. Therefore, the net increase in spending allow by the tax cap is only \$1.9 million, which is the net increase in revenue. To get to the requested spending hike, the district is, for the third straight year, counting a transfer from its emergency health insurance reserve as a "one-time revenue". How many times do the emergency accounts have to be raided before it is no longer considered a one-time revenue? The absurdity of this ongoing budget deception is compounded by the sheer size of this year's request. At \$4.5 million, it is almost quadruple the amount the district drew from its emergency reserve last year. That \$4.5 million fake revenue, plus the actual \$1.9 million net increase in revenue is \$6.4 million and it is not enough to slate their unquenchable thirst for money. To get the rest, the district's budget increase is taxes by the full 4.27% allowed under the tax cap. Actually, it over maxes because the district is counting the amount of property taxes raised by the statewide property tax, which the city doesn't control, in its calculation. That increases the amount the district claims it can raise under the tax cap by 20%; more than \$1 million which will come out of local property taxpayer's pockets. It is true that they did this last year and it may have been done in prior years. It is also true that it is reflected on the city's budget sheet wrongly I believe as a "local tax." However, since the city doesn't set that tax, to count it as part of the locally appropriated tax warrant is not correct. That is the math that leads to this massive hike in spending and it is one if you

support the tax cap you must not allow. Allowing this to happen over the past couple of years has only emboldened the district, enabling its financial recklessness with ever larger numbers. For those of you who own a business, I have a question. How long would you stay in business if you tapped your emergency savings and pretended it was a revenue increase so you could increase your operational spending? For those of you who aren't in business, the question is similar. How long would it be before your family finances collapsed if you took money from your savings account and pretended it was a pay raise so you could increase family spending? Mayor Ruais, as a candidate you claimed to support the tax cap as did many members of this Board. If you allow this practice to continue, your claims will be disproven by your actions again and this being an election year, with inflation still battering the public, I trust taxpayers will take notice of how your actions contradicted your words just like a typical politician. It is the height of fiscal irresponsibility to allow these budget practices to continue and I urge you to put a stop to them. Thank you.

Kristie McKenney, 247 Pearl Street, stated:

I am the founder and CEO of Light of Life Ministries located at 247 Pearl Street. It is nice to be here talking about something different tonight. We run The Lighthouse and we run The Beacon on Brook Street shelter. In this past year, my husband and I have received \$200,000 from the Affordable Housing Trust to help us purchase a housing unit so we can have eight units of affordable housing. Tonight, I am here to just briefly share the success of that which has been quite remarkable in a short time. The reason I want to share that tonight is because I understand that there is a conversation to be had about \$250,000 going to a project to build transitional housing units. Since we have finally purchased this home over by our church in Manchester on Newbury Road, we have housed seven individuals and it has been amazing. I know that sounds silly but it has been remarkable to watch these people who have graduated from our Lighthouse Program or a few of our men who have come out of homelessness that our church has been working with and they have moved into these units. It has been a wonderful display of community. We are seeing that it completely works. They have an affordable rent so they can have this longer runway to prepare them to go out and being able to afford an apartment on their own. We have the women's side and the men's side and they work together. They are part of this community where they share with one another

and help each other out. They go to our church which is right next door where we have a food pantry and they help each other with rides. It is just amazing to watch. They have been so excited to move into this apartment. We couldn't wait to see how it was going to go with them actually getting in there. It couldn't be any better. I really just hope that we start doing more and more of these units in a way that is supportive to them. I love that there is going to be some case management because I think that is really important and we are doing that kind of organically ourselves. I just really appreciate the time. Thank you.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept BMA Minutes

2. Minutes from the February 18 BMA & Finance meetings.

Information to be Received and Filed

3. Communication from Comcast regarding Xfinity TV channel removals.
4. Communication from Normandeau Associates regarding a new hangar development project at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport.
5. Communication from Jeff Belanger, Planning and Community Development Director, regarding the proposed subdivision in Goffstown off Joseph Street and Phillip Street.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

6. Advising that the update on the Revolving Loan Fund has been accepted.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman T. Sapienza who was absent)
7. 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 T. Sapienza who was absent)

8. Advising that the Monthly Financial Report (unaudited) for the first seven months of fiscal year 2025 has been accepted.

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

9. Recommending that the request from the Economic Development Director on behalf of the Manchester Development Corporation regarding a Covid recovery loan issued to HS1, LLC be approved.

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

10. Recommending that Ordinance Amendment:

"Amending §92.25 Annual Fees of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester to increase the annual fee for all existing Gamewell (wire) Master Fire Alarm Boxes."

ought to pass and be Enrolled, and that the customers be notified of the fee increase as soon as possible.

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

COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND BUILDINGS

11. Recommending that the request from Attorney Andrew Sullivan requesting easement termination and release of deed for property located on Mission Avenue (Tax Map 498, Lot 7) be approved.

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

12. Recommending that the request from the Tax Collector to retain five tax-deeded properties and transfer stewardship from the Tax Collector to the Parks & Recreation Division of Public Works be approved.

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

13. Recommending that the property located at 49 West Street be deemed surplus to city needs and further that the Tax Collector be authorized to dispose of said property through public auction using the recommended minimum bid provided by the Board of Assessors.

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

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

- 14.** Communication from Elizabeth Soukup advising the Board of her resignation as a member of the Board of Health.

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

- 15.** Nominations:
Board of Health
Lara Quiroga to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire July 1, 2028
Mary Seigle to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire July 1, 2025
Zoning Board of Adjustment
Robert Breault to succeed Joseph Prieto as a regular Member, term to expire March 1, 2028
Matthew Robert Carnevale Jr. to fill a vacancy as an alternate member, term to expire March 1, 2027
Planning Board
Peter J. Lennon to fill a vacancy as an alternate member, term to expire May 1, 2027
(Note: Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, this nomination will layover until the next meeting of the Board.)
- 16.** Communication from Mayor Ruais requesting \$250,000 from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund be allocated towards creating transitional and supportive housing at St. Anne's Parish, located at 231 Merrimack Street.

Mayor Ruais stated thank you Kristie for coming tonight. It was a great lead into this agenda item tonight. As we talked about before, we all know there are a number of drivers of homelessness whether it is addiction, mental health, lack of employment, lack of education and a whole variety of issues. We also know that affordable housing within the City of Manchester is a challenge. The challenge that we have talked about before on this Board is let's say we address all of the underlying drivers of homelessness – addiction, mental health, education and so on. An individual who is trying to come out of that emergency shelter may still not have the \$1,800 or \$2,000 to pay in rent. I think that is the importance of having those transitional units available. Last year, the BMA made that \$200,000 expenditure available to create those eight affordable units and wanted to bring this proposal back to the Board for \$250,000 out of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to use for the additional 16 for up to 30 people. What we are

talking about is building that bridge to a self-sustaining life where an individual can be in this place for 18-24 months, address those underlying drivers of what led them to being homeless and then at the end get into sustainable long-term housing. This is high barrier so there will be rules in place. It pays for two things. It pays for upgrades to the building to get it from 16 units to 30 units but it also pays for case management. When I met last year with a number of different groups that work in homelessness, they said that the most important thing we could do in the City of Manchester is have more case management. I think Aldermen Barry and Thomas have made this point very clear before. It aligns nicely with what Hope for NH Recovery is doing. If we can help grab that person's hand as they are going through this process and get them connected to existing services and lead them through the way so they can get something sustainable in the long-term, then we are creating that continuum that I think we need from the street to a shelter to transitional housing and ultimately to get into long-term housing. The beauty of this is it is \$750/month so the very definition of affordable. It is a self-sustaining property in the long term because the rent is going to more than pay for the taxes that they are going to levy on the property.

Alderman Levasseur moved to approve.

Mayor Ruais stated it is a great initiative and as Kristie was talking about, we have the opportunity to change a lot of lives. I appreciate your consideration.

Alderman Thomas duly seconded the motion.

Alderman O'Neil asked the 231 Merrimack Street that you are referencing, is that the rectory.

Mayor Ruais responded yes.

Alderman O'Neil asked it is not the church.

Mayor Ruais replied correct. What they are looking at is those 16 units will be in the rectory. Ultimately what the Community Engagement Training Center would like to do is set-up a training center in the part where the church is so that they can...

Alderman O'Neil interjected you have to be careful about that because there are some very historic...as long as it is in the rectory, I am okay with it.

Mayor Ruais responded yes; it is in the rectory.

Alderman O'Neil stated they already started the work. I drove down Merrimack Street coming here and they have already started the work. Who is the recipient?

Mayor Ruais answered it is the Community Engagement Training Center. It is a husband-and-wife couple. The husband is a pastor and they have operated this non-profit out of Nashua where they have done a lot of work in childcare training and getting people trained in different employment opportunities. It is a reputable organization. I would say that we have been working on this for the last three months. Chief Cashin has been hugely helpful on this every step of the way and the Fire Department in general has been really great on this. Jeff at Planning has been helpful to walk through what they need to do to upgrade the facility from the sprinkler system, etc. It has been an entire city effort to make this possible.

Alderman O'Neil asked are they also the owners of the church.

Mayor Ruais replied correct.

Alderman O'Neil stated there was a period of time when they were difficult to get in touch with because the homeless had set-up a camp all around the perimeter of the church. I don't know the people but maybe you can address that with them.

Alderman Kantor asked are there rules for the high barrier.

Mayor Ruais responded yes; it is high barrier where there will be rules in place. No one is allowed to use drugs or alcohol. If you are found using drugs or alcohol, you are removed from the premises and not allowed to live there.

Alderman Kantor asked who can apply.

Mayor Ruais answered we can pull from a number of different areas. We can pull from the Coordinated Entry List through the Continuum of Care but we want to focus on prioritizing the shelter. This is per Alderman Vincent and a number of people who have asked how do we lower the amount of people in our shelters. We are going to prioritize getting individuals out of the shelters into this sober location. It is going to be working with our city departments. Irina and Owen have been fantastic in helping with this as well. We will work with them, with Coordinated Entry and the shelters to get people out of the shelter and into a self-sustaining life.

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

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

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$201,000 for CIP 611125 Hope for NH Recovery-Hope Connections be approved and referred to the Committee on Finance.

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, 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 the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$125,000 for CIP 611225 447 Union Street Community Engagement Training Center be approved and referred to the Committee on Finance.

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, 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 the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$125,000 for CIP 611325 231 Merrimack Street Affordable Housing Program be approved and referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from the Police Chief to change project description of CIP 410525 ARPA Park Enforcement be approved and referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

18. 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 following traffic regulations be approved:

NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Brooklyn Avenue, both sides, from Cypress Street to Jewett Street

Alderman Terrio

On Belair Street, south side, from a point 300 feet west of Brown Ave to a point 100 feet further west

Alderman Burkush

On Old Granite Street, from a point 53 feet west of Franklin Street to a point 62 feet further west

Alderman Long

NO PARKING ANYTIME 8AM-6PM

On Cheney Place, north side, from Elm Street to a point 269 feet west

Alderman Long

RESCIND 1 HOUR PARKING

On Laurel Street, north side, from Union Street to a point 110 feet east of Union Street (ORD 3216)

On Laurel Street, north side, from a point 150 feet east of Union Street to Beech Street (ORD 3218)

Alderman Sapienza

RESCIND 1 HOUR PARKING 8AM-6PM

On Laurel Street, north side, from a point 110 feet east of Union Street to a point 40 feet easterly (ORD 7167)

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

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

There were none.

20. Ordinance:

"Amending §92.25 Annual Fees of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester to increase the annual fee for all existing Gamewell (wire) Master Fire Alarm Boxes."

*On motion of **Alderman Terrio**, duly seconded by **Alderman Vincent**, it was voted to waive the reading by title only.*

*On motion of **Alderman Terrio**, duly seconded by **Alderman Vincent**, it was voted to Ordain.*

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman E. Sapienza asked Chief in light of the recent news will you be requesting that the Manchester Police get deputized to help federal officials enforce immigration law like the state police, the Belknap Sheriff's Office and Gorham Police Department.

Peter Marr, Police Chief, answered no.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked could you explain why not. I am not suggesting you do.

Chief Marr replied my take on it is we currently have 23 vacancies and a hard time getting to all the calls for service that we currently have. I did look into it. There is no funding for that program. It just didn't seem like the best idea for our department.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked so it is at least partially a staffing issue.

Chief Marr responded yes.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I understand that the Manchester Police Department is actually cooperative with the federal officials and that is great but that is mainly when the federal officials contact you. Something like this might go a long way in the Manchester Police Department to perhaps be a little more proactive but if you are not in favor of it, then you are not in favor of it.

Alderman Barry asked Chief you always cooperate with federal, state, and county authorities, correct. If they need help and have a dangerous fugitive that they need back-up with you would be there to help out right?

Chief Marr answered yes. They notify us when they are in the city. To this date, they haven't asked for any help but they know they can. We would help them just like any other federal agency.

Alderman Barry stated I agree that as a city we are trying to get a full complement of officers and we are having a difficult time doing it. The last thing we want to do is use our resources for other law enforcement agencies.

Alderman Levasseur asked when an arrest is made do you know if you have an illegal immigrant or migrant or whatever they are called. Do you know whether or not they are citizens of this country?

Chief Marr answered when we run them if they have an ICE detainer we will hold them, call ICE and wait for them to come and pick them up. We do ask what their citizenship is when we make an arrest.

Alderman Levasseur asked do most of them have fake IDs. Do you ferret through that?

Chief Marr replied we fingerprint everybody that comes in and if their fingerprints hit then we would make the proper notifications.

Alderman Levasseur stated we had a guy that was arrested under an assumed name and we found out that he had a completely different name.

Chief Marr stated I am not saying it doesn't happen but I would say it is extremely rare when it does.

Alderman Levasseur asked is there a rule or regulation you have where when you do a booking photo and police report that you don't tell us whether the person is an illegal. I don't know how many are getting arrested that are not citizens of this country.

Chief Marr responded if we have a foreign national, we are required to notify their consulate and that is extremely rare.

Alderman Levasseur asked so we don't have a criminal gang here in Manchester like they do in the bigger cities.

Chief Marr answered we have had gang members from nationally known gangs here in Manchester before. We don't have them that I am aware of embedded in our city. Our city is primarily more along the lines of neighborhood gangs and gangs that try to pass themselves off sometimes as being affiliated with national gangs like the Bloods or the Crips. They may be off sects or things like that but primarily no.

Alderman Levasseur asked so it is not that big of an issue in Manchester.

Chief Mara replied no.

Alderman Kantor stated thank you Chief for all you do. I am just questioning the illegal immigrants who may have been arrested and gone to court and are undocumented. Would you go back and speak to ICE about them? There are a lot of people who don't speak English who are undocumented. Would you speak to ICE about them?

Chief Marr responded no we would not seek them out on that. I guess if there was an ICE detainer or anything like that, we would hold them. In years past there have been

several times when ICE didn't come out to get them and they would say just let them go and we will pick them up in court and things like that. That was the practice before.

Alderman Kantor stated so you are not going to directly reach out to ICE if you know someone is undocumented and they have committed a crime.

Chief Marr replied I am not sure how we would know that they are undocumented. There are states in the country that give our licenses and things like that. We would recognize those. It is a more complicated question.

Alderman Kantor responded I see so they could still have a license and be here illegally and commit a crime.

Alderman Fajardo stated just to recap, what I am hearing is that there is a set of protocols in place for dealing with people of various statuses that come through your system and that system has been in place for a while and nothing has changed and it is extremely rare.

Chief Marr replied yes. Our policy is based off the International Association of Chiefs of Police policies and best practices. We have been certified for well over 30 years.

Alderman Fajardo asked then I would say that the citizens of this city don't have to concern themselves too heavily with the thought of a potential influx of criminals from other countries that would cause...

Chief Marr interjected I am not aware nor have I been aware of any major problems in the City of Manchester.

Alderman Fajardo stated neither am I and I didn't think so. Thank you.

Alderman Levasseur stated if I may, if somebody has an ICE detainer you would then call ICE and say you got this person correct.

Chief Marr answered absolutely.

Alderman Levasseur asked are those particular people subject to a right-to-know request as far as who they are. How many do you think you have gotten in one year? Two, three, five? Do you have a number?

Chief Marr replied maybe one. I am guessing so don't quote me on that. It is very rare.

Mayor Ruais asked so we are not a sanctuary city and we cooperate fully with federal law enforcement.

Chief Marr answered absolutely.

Alderman Levasseur asked so being a sanctuary county doesn't affect you guys in any way as far as how you do business. We are a sanctuary county. Does that affect the way you do things?

Chief Marr responded no Sir.

Alderman Long stated we are not a sanctuary county.

Alderman Levasseur asked we are not. I keep hearing we are. So, it was never voted on by the county commissioners?

Alderman Long answered no.

Alderman Levasseur stated okay so we are not a sanctuary county.

Mayor Ruais replied that is correct.

Alderman Kantor stated I have a question about the low barrier shelter at 39 Beech Street. When I have asked questions before, they didn't check IDs. Do they check them now?

Mayor Ruais responded yes when someone comes in, they ask whether or not they have an ID, and if they don't, we work to get them one because that is a huge prohibitive barrier to getting access to any kind of rehab services or a job. Obviously, it is tough to get a job if you don't have an ID. The point of a low barrier shelter as we have talked about before here is these are federal funds. I don't have any authority to raise the barrier of that shelter because of where the funding comes from. I would love to change the federal law but I can't. The reason I want the high barrier in the transitional housing is because I believe in a high barrier but I don't have any authority to raise the barrier in that shelter because federal funds have been funding it. Were it to become completely private, we could certainly do that but I can't change federal law as Mayor.

Alderman Fajardo asked what if it is funded with local dollars.

Mayor Ruais stated if it is federal or state funding, we have to abide by those rules which are low barrier. If it is private philanthropic, they can do whatever they want in that shelter.

Alderman Kantor asked so basically if there is a warrant for someone's arrest...

Mayor Ruais interjected they can absolutely go into the shelter and they have repeatedly gone in there and arrested individuals.

Chief Marr stated we have made several arrests there.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked Chief if you have a scenario where someone is arrested who is undocumented...say they are arrested for theft, selling drugs, committing assault or domestic violence or whatever and they don't have any documentation and they don't speak the language. In a scenario like that, you wouldn't call the federal authorities? Immigration status wouldn't be brought forward to federal authorities?

Chief Marr responded no. We would fingerprint them and bring in one of our officers who speaks their language or use our translation app to figure out more.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked when you fingerprint them, would those fingerprints be sent off to the federal government to be put in a database.

Chief Marr answered yes Sir.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated what was happening at Hillsborough County and I know this because I called and spoke to the Superintendent is they were not cooperating with the federal authorities when it came to honoring detainers and notifying the federal authorities that they had somebody with a detainer. They would let the federal authorities know when they were being released but they wouldn't let the federal authorities into the secured perimeter. The federal authorities did not want to wait for these individuals outside. My understanding is that is no longer the case. That is perhaps why this whole sanctuary county thing got put out there. My understanding is that now Hillsborough County is cooperating.

Mayor Ruais stated I will follow-up with that. I have a great relationship with Superintendent Costanzo and I will get an answer on that as well just to confirm.

Tim Clougherty, Public Works Director, stated an opportunity came about in our discussions with the mayor relative to cost saving measures that the department could put forth as part of our budget. I wrote a letter that is included in your packet tonight and we are proposing that we shift from private haulers for containers at our Drop Off Facility and take care of those in-house. In order to do that, we would need to purchase a roll-off container type vehicle. That vehicle has a pretty significant lead time and it is my understanding that it can be included in this year's MER as it is proposed by the mayor. Similar to other situations that have been brought before this Board in the past, we are looking for authorization to purchase that vehicle now rather than waiting for the budget process so we can get it in service as soon as possible.

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

Alderman O'Neil stated Tim I know my way up there pretty good at the transfer facility. Where are they taking the containers? Can you walk me through that? Right now, it is a private contractor, correct?

Mr. Clougherty responded it is more than one private contractor and the containers are all over our facility. It would be for solid waste, construction and demolition debris as well as recycling and metal; all of those things.

Alderman O'Neil asked is that truck hauling off-site or just moving the containers around.

Mr. Clougherty replied we would be hauling to the disposal facilities on our own. Number one, it gives us the ability to control our own destiny from a what is getting hauled when type of timeframe. We have run into situations where we have had to refuse customers because the service we receive from some vendors hasn't been up to par. That would unshackle us from that. It would also allow us the opportunity to bring these products wherever the market conditions were best.

Alderman O'Neil stated I say this in all seriousness but is one truck enough to do all of that.

Mr. Clougherty answered we are hoping that it is.

Alderman O'Neil stated it is pretty busy up there.

Mr. Clougherty responded it is busy but we have other MER needs so we are going to hope that one is enough. We worked through the proposal with Fleet and they are confident in their ability to keep the truck on the road as well.

Alderman Terrio stated I do support this and think it is a good idea. I know in the past you brought to our attention that you are already short-staffed and having a hard time hiring and retaining people. Is this going to create a problem as far as staffing?

Mr. Clougherty replied I don't think with one employee it is going to create a problem. I think the opportunity it provides is greater than the problem it potentially creates. Our staffing has gotten better over the course of the past year. It has crept up a little bit over the past couple of months. We continue to see applicants for our temporary full-time positions. Right now, we have a full complement of those positions. We are doing better than we were in the past. If this was a year or 18 months ago, I probably wouldn't be in front of you with this proposal.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I applaud you for bringing this back in-house. I am sure our own employees can do a better job than these contractors and it will save us money and give us better service.

Mr. Clougherty stated that is certainly our hope.

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

Mr. Clougherty asked could you indulge me one more item of new business. You will all see newsletters and notifications that Amoskeag eastbound construction is going to be starting in the next couple of weeks. It is going to be a pretty significant disruption in northwest Manchester. I wanted to make sure that was brought to everyone's attention – the Board as well as people that are watching. Circa March 12 or 13, we are going to start shutting down some of the slip lanes to Canal Street and in earnest over the next month weather permitting you will see the eastbound shut down and all of the traffic shifted to the westbound.

Alderman Terrio asked how long will this take.

Mr. Clougherty replied I don't have that answer. At least a year.

Alderman O'Neil asked did I read somewhere that you will take whatever bridge is not being worked on and create two-way traffic.

Mr. Clougherty answered yes. The westbound bridge is going to become one lane two-way traffic.

Alderman O'Neil stated Alderman Thomas and most of the Board have heard from the residents over on Philip, Joseph and Joseph Street Extension about this development in Goffstown. I think we brought up Director Belanger at the last meeting. The only way into it per the neighbors is through the City of Manchester. Alderman T. Sapienza I think was serious when he suggested we put a gate on it. Alderman Thomas and I have been back and forth on the phone. I think we need to send a message to Goffstown that if, in fact, that is the only way in and out that Manchester intends to put a gate up there. I would be fully in favor of that. Those people bought those homes to be in a dead-end neighborhood. I don't think they deserve this for a project that is not even in the city limits. I don't want to speak for Alderman Thomas but I would support something like that.

Alderman Thomas stated I did speak to the person doing the project and let them know that it wouldn't go through in Manchester and they would have to find a different way in and out. There are multiple areas to come in and out of. They are looking into the option of creating a different way in and out. That is where they are at right now.

Alderman O'Neil asked are they saying then that they don't need to come through Manchester.

Alderman Thomas answered they are not saying any of that right now. It was just a conversation regarding what else could you do besides going through that road.

Alderman O'Neil stated I would certainly support the neighborhood and you and I have exchanged phone calls back and forth. We need to protect them in this. They didn't ask for this. Director Belanger may have some information on this. I think it is going before the Zoning Board in Goffstown tonight but there would still be other opportunities with their Planning Board. I don't know if you have any new information.

Jeff Belanger, Planning & Community Development Director, stated sure and I don't want to insert myself too much into the process but if you don't mind, I will give a little bit of context. There is a meeting with the Goffstown ZBA going on right now for this particular potential change from an industrial parcel to a residential parcel. That is what is before them now. This is the first step of a multi-step process. If the Goffstown Zoning Board approves this variance request, then it is going to go to their Planning Board and to the Manchester Planning Board. There is a state statute that requires them to get approval from the property owner, the Manchester Planning Board. There are a number of opportunities for abutters to talk about this and also for the City of Manchester to exercise regulatory authority over what is going on. They would specifically look at the access issues like sewer, water, plowing, emergency access, etc. The Manchester Planning Board could either disapprove the project or approve it with conditions. It is months away from getting any kind of decision from the Goffstown and Manchester Planning Boards but Manchester would have a say and the abutters would have a say.

Alderman O'Neil asked does this Board have a right to make a determination that we are going to put a gate up.

Mr. Belanger answered this Board does have authority over the right-of-way so you could do that. There is case law on this and I have worked with the Solicitor's Office on this over the past week. The creation of a public right-of-way, which has been there for a while that provides access to an abutting parcel, this one in Goffstown, does create a private right in the abutting parcel. That property owner has a private property right to use Philip Street and Joseph Street as access to their property and if that were to get taken away, it is possible that there could be damages resulting from that. I don't want to speak too much on the facts of that because it is still preliminary but that is the law in the state of New Hampshire. It is something to consider if you are considering putting up a gate. That would be a discontinuance of a public right-of-way.

Alderman O'Neil stated looking at the lots online, Eversource owns quite a few parcels there. I was trying to figure out where their parcel is that they are going to go through. I couldn't figure that out.

Mr. Belanger stated it is a 40-acre parcel that touches both Philip Street and Joseph Street Extension. There is a plan in your packet tonight that is attached to my letter.

Alderman O'Neil stated I am speaking for myself. I am at some point willing to take the chance on that because I think it stinks for those residents. I have shared that with Alderman Thomas.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I know we have very capable people on the Planning Board but the way that is drawn up now...when we first heard of it there were three ways in there – two in Manchester and one in Goffstown. The plan that we are looking at in our packet has two dead-ends from Manchester and that seems pretty rare. I don't know of any other dead-ends that go into other towns.

Mr. Belanger stated there are not many if there are any at all. There is frontage in Goffstown on Riverside Park Drive. That is also a narrow road. There are four or five lots proposed in Goffstown but the vast majority, 34 of them, would come through...

Alderman T. Sapienza interjected two cul-de-sacs that are dead-ends so that means if there is a fire in Goffstown, the Fire Department from Goffstown is going to have to come into Manchester and then go over there. That is crazy talk.

Mr. Belanger stated these are all issues that the Planning Board will look at closely.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I just don't get it. It doesn't make any sense at all.

Mayor Ruais stated I have a quick update. Our 15th alderman, Paul Feely, texted me and told me that the Goffstown ZBA pushed tonight's hearing on development off until April because they didn't have a full board present. We have to wait a little while longer.

Alderman Long stated I had a constituent that during the snow emergency went out and the towing company was starting to hook up his car and he told them that he had his keys and he was going to move his vehicle. There is a drop fee of \$25. He was told

that it is \$200 and he didn't have the \$200 on him so he got towed and was told he could pick it up the next day. Who would I go to if I believe he should be reimbursed \$175? What department would make that decision?

Mayor Ruais asked if it is towing would it start with MPD.

Alderman Long asked who would finally say yes or no to this person.

Matthew Normand, City Clerk, stated I don't know the facts of the situation.

Mayor Ruais asked can you send me an email Alderman Long and I will work with the relevant departments and get an answer for you.

Alderman Morgan stated if you are a fan of hockey, there is some great hockey coming up this weekend at the SNHU Arena. You have three nationally televised Division I NCAA hockey games, the NHIAA state championships and of course the Battle of the Badges. You can get tickets at SNHUarena.com. Just go and enjoy some great hockey.

TABLED ITEMS

- 21.** 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.

- 22.** 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.

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Levasseur**, duly seconded by **Alderman E. Sapienza**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

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

City Clerk