

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

August 5, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Mayor Ruais called the meeting to order.

Mayor Ruais called on Alderman E. Sapienza 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

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.

Yasamin Safarzadeh stated:

I am the program director and educator for high-risk populations. I have been in service to the City of Manchester for seven years now as a mentor and supervisor to young people and adults who are court involved – those who have been incarcerated, homeless and adults with developmental and physical disabilities. This summer marks the fifth year that my team has facilitated a beautification project. This year and last year the project was conducted at a clubhouse in Sheehan-Basquill Park. The clubhouse has been set for demolition for the past several years and this project is met to be ephemeral. It is again led by at risk populations. They are taught the skills needed to create large scale projects and they are taught what it means to be civically

engaged, work on a team, show up sober and rise to the occasion and take pride in their neighborhood. This is also the first year that the City of Manchester has not aided in the program. The program costs over \$50,000 and we raise that through a year-long engagement with diverse revenue streams. This year we have also had the project stopped two weeks prior to completion after being given the green light to conduct ourselves in the same fashion we have been conducting ourselves every summer. The project has been stopped due to concerns over the ugliness of the mural. Again, the mural is created by children and adults with developmental disabilities. It is a very queer and quirky mural and I find it to be quite delightful. When I told the youth that the work would no longer be taking place, I witnessed what it looks like to give a child the world and then to take it away from them. I wanted youth to be here to speak on the matter but I was only informed of this decision yesterday at 5 PM. I looked on the internet for more concrete data about why this program is being stopped and instead ran into some really ugly commentary regarding the “ghettoness”, “thugishness”, and “vomit” I guess that this mural invokes which was heartbreaking and I stayed up very late thinking about it. In any case, I am here asking that we be allowed to continue working on this project. It is an exciting composition and gives these participants a chance to imagine what the future would look like if there weren’t any restrictions. The building is set to be demolished and we can paint it over late if you don’t like it. They have dedicated four weeks of their time every day sweating, sanding, and priming. It is very inspirational. I appreciate your time.

Mike Morrissey, Marlborough, MA stated:

I am here with my wife Jean. We are from Marlborough, MA but in 2003 she and I were co-authors of the NH Baby Safe Haven Law and in that law, we wrote the best parts that made it the best in the country. It has recently come to our attention that a group in NH that has been selling these...they are called baby boxes. In reality, it is a converted pig feeding trough and I am not joking. I have all the evidence to prove everything I say. What is important about this is here in the yellow circle. There it says 115 volts and 5 amps. What isn’t in there and what has to be in there is all of these. This is from my water heater. Underwriter’s Laboratory is listed. CSA. This is an NRTL, nationally recognized testing laboratory safety certification. This is a charger. This is a lamp I bought from the Dollar Store that has both ETL and UL listed. This is just from an air

conditioner I installed this week. They are on everything in this room and they have to be on everything in every single municipal building because your insurance riders for this municipality demand that you have NRTL safety certification on everything that plugs into a wall socket. This flunked it every single time. Then to add to it, what is on the top here is one of these. This is an industrial heater that goes into switching boxes; metal boxes that have to be locked up and they are on the street corners near the switching devices for your street lights. This has to be placed on rack mounts and rack rails that are international standards. It is screwed to the side of this plastic box which is very dangerous. The wires hang out of the pinchers which are also very dangerous. If one of these is attempted to be brought to NH...as Baby Safe Haven New England we drew the line and said we will prosecute anybody that takes money for one of these. It is felony fraud and nothing less. The second thing is if you need something else, there are 1,500 of these across Massachusetts. Go to 806 Washington Street in Boston, MA and you will see one of these outside Tufts University. Five to ten thousand cars a week as well as buses go by there. This is for you. This is for your fire station. I have a smaller one and this is what is on a majority of fire stations. We have close to 1,500 in Massachusetts. I also have spokespeople that do all of our spokesperson work and all of our influencer work. A lot of them are young musicians and they would be happy to do concerts to get any amount of these that are needed in NH; just ask as long as you prosecute fraud and don't allow it into the state. Thank you.

Deb Roux, Ward 12, stated:

As I mentioned in my public comment last month on July 1, I was looking to find out what Manchester was doing to celebrate our 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. I sent a follow-up email to all of you requesting a response on June 2, 2025, and no one responded. So, I am starting a celebration tonight by reading as much of the Declaration of Independence as I can and afterwards, we have a little gift for all of you. I will send another follow-up email to all of you tomorrow and hope to get a response on what Manchester is going to do. So:

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776
The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

I will continue reading this at the next meeting. I want to take the rest of my time to hand these out to you.

Maria Devlin, 122 Market Street, stated:

I am the President and CEO of Families in Transition and I am here tonight in favor of the mayor's plan for the transition of 39 Beech Street. As you know, Families in Transition provides a continuum of emergency shelter, transitional and low-income housing and a variety of services to meet the needs of the most vulnerable individuals and families in our community. Our adult shelter located at 199 Manchester Street is the largest in the state providing 138 beds to men and women in need. Throughout most of the year, our shelter runs at capacity and there are many nights during the year when we have to turn people away. As most everyone in Manchester will recall, 39 Beech Street was opened as a response to a crisis. The need for emergency shelter beds continues to rise, not only in Manchester but across the state, and until there are more appropriate housing options for everyone in our community, I do not see the need

for emergency shelter beds decreasing, especially this winter. There is no doubt that if it is decided to close 39 Beech Street now Manchester would once again see individuals camping out on the sidewalks of Manchester on Pine Streets overflowing into the street and creating an ongoing health and safety concern. Having 39 Beech Street open now, especially through the winter along with the warming station at 1269 Café means that there will be fewer people on the streets on the coldest nights and the burden on the city Fire Department to open the doors at the Cashin Senior Center is no longer a priority. The mayor's plan acknowledges the fact that 39 Beech Street cannot remain open indefinitely yet remaining open until April 2026 allows the city, along with corporate and non-profit partners, the time to ensure that more people are safely moved to a safe place before its closure. Families in Transition continues to partner with the mayor and the city to do our part in sheltering and housing for our community and we want to continue that work to make sure that the folks at 39 Beech Street transition to ensure that all of our community members have a safe place to stay. Thank you.

Sarah Rockwell, 100 Main Street, stated:

I am an Episcopal priest and I serve at St. Andrews on the west side. I am here to first express my appreciation for the ways that you have been working to save Beech Street for a period of time. We are in desperate need of beds for those who are without homes and are houseless. I am aware of the two contracts that you are designing and I hope there will be some transparency on who the agencies will be that will be running those particular contracts and I am also hoping that the hospitals will be a part of this and pick up more than just funding but be aware of some issues that come around with high barrier clients who are often sent out of the hospital with bandages, medications and things that they need for their health and then end up at a shelter and the staff at the shelter are prohibited by law to do any kind of medical care for those there. I am hoping that the hospitals know that message and that there will be some work done to protect the high barrier clients and ensure their safety. We also hope that this way of saving 39 Beech Street for now is not just a year-long salvo but that there will be deliberate ways to continue to find avenues to create homeless shelters and care for those who are houseless. Lastly, since I am here I would like to, as a member of the clergy, say that I have heard elected members both in this city locally and on a state level sort of dismiss

housing issues that something that the church takes care of and is something for the church to deal with. I would like to say that any church, synagogue, temple, or house of worship is not a social services agency. It is not equipped with social workers, staff, funding, or any kind of housing system. Rather, churches and any house of faith is there for people to visit and experience and grow in their faith and then live it out in their day-to-day. I imagine that those of you here attend a church or another house of worship. Being here and serving as aldermen and mayor is an opportunity for you to indeed live into your faith and the values of it and this is a place where housing issues, social issues and concerns about those on the margins can be addressed.

Cali Rojas, Ward 3, stated:

First, I would like to thank and acknowledge the work, the effort and the strides in cleaning up this great city. It doesn't go unnoticed. I also understand the topics of homelessness and the war on drugs in this city are very complex. However, I am here today to bring awareness to the Valley Street Cemetery and issues that I have noticed arising in my own neighborhood. I am in the heart of the city on Pine Street. I work from home so I have grown fond of the cemetery over the last few years. This cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and houses many big-name historical figures who contributed to this great city. What once used to be a well-kept place where families used to enjoy the wildlife and beauty is now sadly riddled with trash, broken glass, human feces, mattresses, drug remnants and needles. I have witnessed many addicts tweaking, fighting and even having sexual intercourse right in broad daylight. My neighborhood has many children who enjoy playing outside. Sadly, these incidents have become normalized. A child in the Union Street park just recently fell and injured her head on a piece of broken glass. A local person walking their dog in the cemetery had a needle pierce their dog's paw. I have grown to know some of the wonderful volunteers of the Valley Cemetery who take pride in maintaining and restoring the historical grave sites. This past weekend, one woman had to call the cops as she was being verbally harassed while peacefully volunteering. I respect and understand the police of Manchester are very busy and limited. However, it took over 40 minutes for one to show up and nothing was done and they just drove off. I live about two blocks from the police station and in fact the weekend prior my mom and sister called to

report a woman screaming at the top of her lungs “help me” for over 10 minutes just to get told that nobody was available to come. Almost an hour later, three cop cars showed up, flashed their lights in the cemetery and quickly drove away. In that time, that poor woman could have been murdered. It is disheartening seeing these things and knowing that there is not much that we can do. Continuing to allow the cemetery to be a place for users to use with no consequences is not helping them or this great city. I don’t want to come off with no empathy or compassion knowing a majority of these people have suffered immense drama or struggle with mental illnesses. I am simply shining a light on this area that seems to be overlooked which needs help, resources and action. With a mega Beech Street School coming to this very neighborhood, I really think as a community that we need to make it a priority to find solutions and remedies to clean up the streets and help those in need. We have to draw a fine line between enabling behaviors and actions and executing ethical answers and action steps. Thank you and God bless you all.

Parker Prescott, Ward 1, stated:

I am a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Manchester and representing the church on the Manchester Inter-Faith Coalition on the Homeless. I am here to speak to the mayor and thank him for finding a solution, even if it is just a short-term one, for the engagement center. Its work has been invaluable to a number of people. That is what it is there for and I think the strongest value of it is what it can do for people who come there and look for help. So often it is said that there wouldn’t be a homeless problem if these people just pulled themselves up by their boot straps but they don’t have any boot straps and the engagement center provides them with a place for help. In speaking to what Sarah from St. Andrews spoke about, the churches are not the solution. The churches are there to try to help as much as we can but speaking for our minister Kelly, our benevolent fund is down to \$900 and it is there primarily to help members of our congregation. There is not much we can do and she has a steady stream of people coming in, often referred to us by different agencies looking for help and there is very little we can do. I invite all of the aldermen, the mayor and anyone else interested to attend one of the coalition meetings. We meet on the third Thursday of the month at

10:30 AM at the First Congregational Church. Please come and hear what we are doing and give us your input and get engaged. Thank you.

Martin Toe, 2 W. Stearns Street, stated:

I am a member of NEP House of Praise on Valley Street. I am also a member of the Manchester Inter-Faith Coalition on Homelessness. I am also a faith-based organizer at the Granite State Organizing Project. I want to talk about Beech Street. The engagement center has been a lifeline for many individuals in our community. I came to know this through my outings here, particularly going to the local parks and engaging with our houseless community brothers and sisters who quite frankly are just looking for a place to relax and sit down and have a little peace of mind for the ones that want to get away from the trouble. Some of the stories I have heard through my interactions have been...one fellow shared that 39 Beech Street is the address he uses. He is in the process of recovery. He has three kids. His marriage has gone down the drain because of certain choices that he made but he is trying his best to get back on his feet and 39 Beech Street is the place where his mail goes and the place he can pick up the information he needs to be able to go to court. Another thing that comes to mind is the story of another gentleman that shared that 39 Beech Street was a place that saved his life. He said that he was in need of serious help and when he was there, they offered him the help he needed. He said today he is alive because of that. What I want to stress is this. The shelter is open temporarily but I am asking you to look deep in your hearts and consider what it would look like and think about the long-term solution that we really need. I am asking this because I believe that the churches are doing their best but they don't have the resources to do the type of work that you are asking for. I am asking you to work with the congregations and places of worship to come up with a long-term solution for the problem we have which is a temporary solution to Beech Street. Thank you and blessings.

Anthony Poore, 160 Walnut Hill Avenue, stated:

I have a handout for the Clerk. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you all tonight. I am also a son, a father, a husband, an executive, an animal lover, a gardener and a kidney cancer survivor who has been cancer free since December 2023. Some of you may have read my op-ed in the Union Leader on January 26 where I shared my

experience as a cancer survivor in the hopes I could be of service to others and bring attention to an issue of increasing concern for particularly the residents of southern NH and my beloved Queen City. If you were to read my op-ed you will see the factors most consistently associated with increased renal cell cancer like obesity, hyper tension, and cigarette smoking. I am not overweight, nor do I suffer from hyper tension and I don't smoke cigarettes. I was also 10 years younger than the average patient. With the understanding that incidences of kidney cancer and higher exposures in southern NH than northern NH and that exposure to PFAS chemicals are linked to an increased risk of renal cancer and specifically mine, renal cell carcinoma, I am here to share my concern about PFAS pollution and urge my Board of Mayor and Aldermen to be a proactive leader by amending our city's sewer use ordinance to require industries to reduce and/or eliminate PFAS before the chemicals actually get to the Manchester wastewater treatment plant. The presence of PFAS is wide spread in New England in NH's ground and surface waters. IN a 2022 US geological survey study, it was found that New England has some of the highest numbers of co-occurring PFAS in groundwater samples than the entirety of the eastern United States. For those who may not be aware, a NH legislator gave NH specifically the power to control PFAS pollution through state law; RSA 45-A which you have a copy of. I believe it is in our best interest for our Queen City for the BMA to use your authority to amend our local ordinance to protect our citizenry. Earlier I shared with all of you a draft of an ordinance for you to review. The draft ordinance is supported by a coalition of organizations and local residents and draws from some legal advice and expertise from the Conservation Law Foundation. The ordinance, if adopted, reduced health risks for people in Manchester without a substantial financial burden on our city and at the same time does not require the city to install pollution control technologies at the wastewater treatment plant. Let me be clear, this issue is not about compliance with Manchester's Clean Water Act permit. That is done. This is about the Queen City being a proactive leader to protect the community's health from a dangerous pollutant. If not you, who? If not now, when? Thank you for your time and God Bless all of you and your families.

Shirley Tomlinson, 89 Green Acres Drive, stated:

I am thankful for this opportunity to be able to address you today. I am here to request that the BMA protect our community by controlling PFAS pollution. I was born and raised here in Manchester, NH and have been a resident of Ward 6 since the age of nine. Nearly 30 years later, I am still in the same ward raising my own daughter. I love this city but I am deeply concerned about PFAS pollution coming from the Manchester wastewater treatment plant and sludge incinerator. PFAS chemicals are toxic and do not occur naturally in the environment. They are harmful to our health and linked with cancer, reproductive issues and developmental delays in children. Right now, Manchester's wastewater treatment plant is taking in wastewater from many industrial sources without putting any limits on PFAS for that industrial wastewater. The wastewater treatment plant cannot remove PFAS so it is releasing the chemicals into the Merrimack River. The wastewater treatment plant is also creating PFAS filled sludge and then burning it in an incinerator on Winston Street releasing these harmful chemicals into the air and putting residents at risk but it doesn't have to be this way. By amending the city's sewer use ordinance, Manchester can require industrial sources to reduce the amount of PFAS they send to the wastewater treatment plant. State law clearly allows the BMA to take this action. I live less than five miles from the wastewater treatment plant and I worry about myself, my elder mother who is not only a cancer survivor but has recently been diagnosed with dementia. I worry about my daughter, Audrey, and her new friend that has moved in across the street. I worry about them breathing in these dangerous chemicals. Many residents live, work, play or attend school even closer to this incinerator; some less than one mile away. I have never been much for getting involved with legislation or politics but how can I not get involved when it comes to a matter that hits so close to home and is completely detrimental to the health of the people right here in my city? I have reached out to my alderman and I am hoping she will find time to meet with me about this topic. Myself and over 170 residents have signed a petition that I have with me today and will submit to the Clerk at the end of my testimony. This is urging you to amend the sewer use ordinance to include PFAS. This would reduce serious health risks for my family and families all throughout Manchester. I urge you to take action to reduce PFAS in our city, in my city, and protect the health and well-being of our community. Thank you.

Daniel Mowery, 112 Holt Avenue, stated:

Mayor, thank you for your service to our country. I am a happy resident of Ward 6. Mr. Mayor and Board of Aldermen, 39 Beech Street...I read the article in Ink Link about how many disabled citizens will be living at Beech Street if this continues on. My concern is how many staff are medically trained? How many are CPR, First Aid, AED trained? This is an issue that comes up to me. 199 Manchester Street has CPR instructors and CPR staff on duty. At 50 Lowell Street, the sober living house, they have eight staff members that will be certified within the next two weeks. When I say certified, I don't mean by going online and taking a course and not doing the practical side. With the internet nowadays, you can become anything you want. My thing is if this continues which I hope that if it does that it is high bar with no more drugs, alcohol, sex or anything like that in this center. The citizens of Manchester need to know exactly how much money is being spent on rent and on electricity. The reason I say that is I had to close my office because Eversource is a rip off and I know how much they charged me for delivery service on my electricity. How much is the city paying for that electrical bill? We need to know this. Another thing is Mr. Mayor you and I have chatted about this and I know, my neighbors know, Ward 6 knows, and Holt Avenue knows that the police are inundated with calls at 39 Beech Street, 199 Manchester Street, Elm Street, Wilson Street and all of that. Every time someone in our neighborhood calls for law enforcement, 30 minutes later we get a text that says due to the high call volume we are not able to come. If it is an emergency please call back. Our citizens pay the taxes. We have elderly people leaving our neighborhood because they can't afford to stay there because they are not making six figures on retirement. We need to think of our senior citizens. David and I were sitting in our living room last night and the planes are getting louder and louder and coming over our neighborhood. I thought that whole runway thing was supposed to end and they were supposed to go over the other part of the city. Thank you, Mr. Mayor and Board of Aldermen, and God Bless you all for what you do.

Rev. Zach Tringali, Ward 6, stated:

Where should I begin? Ladies and gentlemen of the Board, tonight I don't come to mutter apologies for discomfort. I come here rather to strike a match upon the damp parchment of political neglect. 39 Beech Street is going to shut down. There are people that are very sick and elderly that live there and also veterans. I work with these

people on a daily basis seven days a week while I am working for my ministry and working my way up the ladder. I took a vow of poverty last year and I took everything to neglect and everything I need to become the person I am today. I have worked very hard to get where I am at now. I have a lot of connections and a lot of resources and a knowledge of doing construction for nearly 20 years of my life. I use those types of experiences to get through and help build bridges. I don't come here as a politician. I am merely a servant of God himself. I come humbly to ask you to keep 39 Beech Street open until we can come up with a solution for rooming houses in the City of Manchester which would be acclimated for people who are less fortunate and places that are more like \$900 or \$1,100 a month. That is what we need for the city, not these luxury apartments of higher statute like lawyers and politicians and so forth. I believe our infrastructure would work like Massachusetts with a bill I am trying to work with Congressman Pappas on this week in building a monorail system going from Nashua all the way to Concord and building a bridge system in the Merrimack River. I have to see the output on everything with the people in charge of the infrastructure like the civil engineers and other people that need to be acclimated for that. It is going to cost a lot of money, however, there will be job security and probably even long-term growth for those in Massachusetts coming here for the economy and even businesses being closed down. I have several businesses that I know personally that have shut down – Birch on Elm is one of them. What is going to happen next? That is all I have to say. This is Jamie.

Jamie stated:

I came down here five years ago as a land surveyor in training. I have done hundreds of projects. I was able to commute through this city. Probably most of them were in Boston and Massachusetts. I just want to say that I am the victim of disgusting management up on Country Club Drive.

Reverend Tringali continued stating the raising of people's rent is actually disgusting. There needs to be a rent control act or some kind of management control to help people on Section 8. Thank you.

Malinda McCusker, 44 Karin Street, stated:

I sit here before you as I have many times in the past to share my lack of support for 39 Beech Street. After two and a half years and over a million dollars, we have seen little positive results. As I have shared in the past, my support is for non-profits who are seeing far better results that are running shelters such as 1269 Café and Light of Life Ministries. Getting medically fragile people out of the shelter at 39 Beech Street is of utmost importance. They should not be around active drug users or people suffering mental illness. With the new plan that was posted online today for the next 19 months, I have two questions for you. I understand that the hospitals are providing over \$250,000 but with the other money being given, what red tape and strings are attached to that money? As we learned with 39 Beech Street, money that is coming in always has strings attached. That is why 39 Beech Street is low barrier and we have drug use going on there as well as assaults and lots of other things. Secondly, as I mentioned, getting the medically fragile out of there is important but after 19 months and another \$500,000, what says that they are willing to go to a nursing home? At that point, what do we do? As we have talked about in the past, we cannot get the drug users off the streets and into recovery if they are not willing. What says that the medically fragile people are going to be willing to go to a nursing home? At that point, what is the end game? At that point, we would have wasted four years at 39 Beech Street and roughly \$2 million. Thank you.

Dennis Kirkhart, 249 Smyth Road, stated:

I spoke at the June BMA meeting regarding lot 587-12 and I am here to provide a brief update and respectfully raise some serious concerns about how this matter is being handled. We purchased the home from the previous owners who bought it in 2002. They told us that they had used the adjoining lot, lot 587-12, as part of the yard since the very beginning. They partially fenced off the yard and it has been fenced and maintained for over two decades as if it were part of the property. We have also spoken with the original owners next of kin who confirmed that this same portion of land had been used for vegetable gardens back in the 40's and 50's. This longstanding consistent use is part of the history of the home and neighborhood. As I shared in my June statement, this space is not just open land. It has been a peaceful and private

buffer in support of my daily well-being as a disabled veteran. When we were informed that the lot was being sold a surplus, we immediately expressed interest in continuing the conversation we started last fall in the hopes of resolving this issue and potentially acquiring the lot. Multiple board members visited the property and at least one agreed that it should be preserved and told us we shouldn't worry and that if no offers were received, they could simply take it off the surplus list. We were later told that no offers had been received by the deadline advertised by the broker and that the lot should be okay to be removed. However, the next day, the Solicitor's Office accepted a lot offer without Board approval or public notice. As you can imagine, the sudden change was extremely upsetting after the assurances we had been given. In response, we sought legal advice. The attorney reviewed the title and found that the city did not record ownership until 2024. Based on this and the decades of uninterrupted use, we were advised that we may have a valid claim to adverse possession. I believe some of these points, if not all of them, were echoed by the buyer's attorney. Throughout this process, we have tried to work with the city in good faith but instead of a simple resolution, we were blindsided by the lack of understanding of the process and possibly unfair treatment. We even got threats of a lawsuit by the Solicitor's Office. This kind of response does not reflect the fairness or transparency that the residents of Manchester deserve. We respectfully ask the Board and Mayor to take a closer look at how this has been handled. If the sale can be paused, we are ready and willing to continue the conversation we started almost a year ago. If it continues to move forward, we ask that our legal rights and the longstanding use of the land be given serious consideration. Thank you for your time and service to the city.

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

I would like to echo the comments made by some of the speakers before me who want to see our city leaders take meaningful action to eliminate the real harm that is done by PFAS chemicals in our community's water. I don't have to re-litigate all of the horrible stories that have come out over the past few years in NH and around the country, but I do want to emphasize that you all are sitting here tonight and you have a responsibility for the well-being of the citizens of Manchester and the people of our community. You have taken action to eliminate lead paint in older homes. You have taken action to eliminate the release of raw sewage into the Merrimack River, something that Mayor

Ruais has championed, and you have invested city resources to manage those very real public health challenges. So why would you avoid taking action on the very real public health challenge of PFAS contamination in our water? Clean water is a foundational element of good local governance. You and I personally rely on it for our daily needs as do thousands of our fellow community members in the greater Manchester area. So please do more than receive and file our comments tonight. Please use your status as elected officials to push for something better for all of us. On a similar note, but a very different topic, is the issue of housing. As we all know by now, Manchester is in the grips of a serious housing shortage. We need more housing of all types to ensure that everyone can have a safe and affordable place to live. That is why I am so excited for the upcoming reveal of the new zoning ordinance which will take place this Friday at 6 PM here at City Hall. I want to take a moment to thank the Manchester Planning and Community Development Department for their incredible dedication to listening to the public and revising the new land use code according to the feedback they received from the public and from aldermen. While I don't yet know what the draft will look like, I do know that this new zoning ordinance is the result of thousands of hours of collaboration between city staff, elected officials, non-profit coordinators and Manchester residents. I hope to see every single alderman vote in favor of the new zoning ordinance when it comes up for a vote because again, we desperately need more housing and these changes will help us get there. If any alderman wants to vote no, that is your right as an elected official but I believe the public deserves to know the reason why. Thank you for your time.

Troy Micklon, 29 Ode Way, stated:

I am here tonight to speak in support of the mayor's proposed phase out of the shelter at 39 Beech Street. Ward 9 is probably affected more than any other ward in the city. This is not a case of not in my backyard but rather it is a failure to produce reasonable outcomes while maintaining the safety and security of the residents and businesses in the surrounding area. I have been talking with the residents and business owners near the shelter and have heard of the difficulties they have been experiencing. They have reported people trespassing, graffiti, littering, and homeless individuals doing illegal drugs on their property. There have even been complaints of people urinating, defecating and using needles on their property. Since January, there have been over

30 reported crimes at the shelter and more than 50 within ¼ mile, most likely related to the shelter. While the stats provided by the mayor highlight some successes, I believe they should be higher considering how long the shelter has been open. Going forward, the city should engage more with third party non-profits to run our shelters and we should be there to hold them accountable to bring real results. The city also needs to be willing to change its course if they are not bringing the needed outcomes that the homeless, residents and businesses deserve. Again, I urge the board to support the mayor's plan to phase out 39 Beech Street. Thank you very much.

Nick Carnes, 300 Bedford Street, stated:

I own four businesses in downtown with plans to continue to grow. I serve as the founder and chair of the Downtown Manchester Collaborative. I am here tonight to speak in support of extending the lease of the engagement center at 39 Beech Street. Since I have been in Manchester, I have dedicated my time to the downtown community and in that time, I have learned that homelessness is a complex and difficult issue for residents and business owners, and even more complex for people on this board who are responsible for voting toward its future. I do believe that 39 Beech has become a critical example of what the solution could look like. Last spring, I began receiving significant concerns from fellow downtown citizens about the impact that homelessness was having on their business. I didn't want to react without understanding the full picture so I committed to doing some learning myself. That included a 10-hour ride along with Manchester police and the Hillsborough County sheriff during a joint task force day that focused strictly on homelessness and meeting with our former Director of Homelessness Initiatives, Irina Owens, and hearing directly from the mayor himself at one of our community meetings where I first learned about 39 Beech while answering any questions that popped up. Through these actions, I learned that our community policing division operates with compassion and morals and the extension of 39 Beech through the summer of 2024 had some very positive impacts. Since that first extension, we have seen increased revenue in foot traffic downtown, more local events and positive trust, new businesses opening and a faster turnover for those that close. 39 Beech has helped relieve some of the pressure on Families in Transition and even more so now with 1269 Café, all while contributing to a healthier and safer downtown.

Beyond the numbers, there is a human aspect. The shelter services 40 people nightly and another 40-50 during the day. Many are seniors, amputees, physically disabled or living with chronic health conditions; some of which require 24/7 medical attention as well as 100 and counting success stories coming from it. From both a business and moral standpoint, it does not make sense to remove what is working for the people and the city. Through the work I have done with many of the members, including members of this board and the department heads sitting above me, Manchester is starting to come back to life. Manchester is starting to put the puzzle back together. While I can't agree with previous comments made by members on this board that the City of Manchester should not be in the game of owning shelters, it does not mean that we can just drop out and wipe our hands clean. This engagement center is a key piece to that puzzle to get us to the point of getting out. Once again, I urge the board to continue the progress and extend the lease at 39 Beech. Thank you.

Evelyn Lanigan, 15 Elm Street, stated:

I haven't been here in a year and I want to refresh your memory on who I am. I am right on the corner of Queen City Avenue. It is a family home that was owned by my family who came here; working businessmen who put a lot of sweat into this city. I am a registered nurse, a certified school nurse, a certified CPR instructor and I currently still work at the age of 62. I want it said for the record that for 25 years I lived on Harvard Street on the east side and never once did I ever call the police and I always left a key under the mat for my kids to get in. I also never called DPW for anything. Now, I think I am labeled as a complainer and I feel bad about that. I want to thank you, mayor, for a lot of things that I see on the edge like affordable housing. That is beautiful and I think it is great. So many things that have happened this past year have been improvements for my life, which has been very difficult since I lost my husband. That area is very difficult. It is full of challenges. As much as I have a heart for 39 Beech Street, I have gone into 39 Beech Street and served meals at 39 Beech Street and gone into the other café as well and served the homeless population but we do have a mental health crisis in Manchester. Enabling is not the way to go. I try to be part of the solution instead of complaining all the time so I am literally out there picking up signs that say please give. I pick up trash all over the place. On June 28, somebody threw a glass and it cracked and went into my yard and my German shepherd cut her foot. \$1,200 and eight stitches

in her paw later, I am concerned. I recently reached out to Alderman Burkush about a bicycle that was locked on my fence. He came right over to my house and I am very grateful. The mystery of the bicycle? A girl got hit by a car on a bike. She chained the bicycle to the fence near Alderman Kantor's sign and somewhere between 10:30 PM when I took my dogs out and 7 AM the next day, somebody came and stole the bike right off the fence. The reason I found this out is because the girl came to my house and asked me if I had video cameras. Now I am getting letters in the mail about the cemetery brook project and they want to put sensors in my home to monitor vibrations. The challenges in my area continue and I am very concerned about that cemetery project. Maybe someone from the mayor's office could reach out to me about that. It is a concern I have and I am nervous about what is going to happen. I do appreciate everything that you do. You guys do give your free time to be here because you care about the city. Thank you for your continued effort and if there is anything I can do, call me.

Jose Tapia, 501 Howe Street, stated:

I am here to ask that you, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, use your authority to protect Manchester from PFAS pollution. PFAS forever chemicals are toxic and long lasting. These dangerous chemicals are linked with health hazards including cancer, reproductive difficulties and even high cholesterol if you are around it for long enough. Manchester's wastewater treatment plant on Winston Street received wastewater not only from homes but from 80 other individual industrial sources. The wastewater that comes into the treatment plant contains PFAS but the plant doesn't remove them in their processing of the water. As a result, the wastewater treatment plant is sending PFAS chemicals directly into the Merrimack River and into the air by the incineration of the sludge. This is the only plant that I am aware of that actually incinerates their sludge in the state. Not only are there homes nearby, but there are even schools as well. I, personally, on Howe Street live within two miles of the plant and I do have concerns about breathing in the PFAS. I enjoy fishing in the Merrimack River. It has always been a part of my life. The river itself is not immune to the release of PFAS from the plant. The PFAS are forever chemicals but that doesn't mean that we should let the issue compound into any of the other water or land areas of Manchester. The Board

has power under state law to address this problem by adding PFAS to the city's sewer use ordinance. Doing so would allow the city to reduce the PFAS at the industrial user level so the city can require the industrial users to reduce the amount that gets sent to the wastewater treatment plant and then that reduces how much is getting into the area in the first place. I ask that you use your authority to amend the sewer use ordinance and protect Manchester. Thank you.

Glenn RJ Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

I will have lived at 112 Auburn Street for 25 years come December 7. Twenty-five years in the same neighborhood. Lord knows that I know my neighborhood. I know what goes on in that cemetery and what doesn't go on. I don't understand why we don't close the main gate that is on the section of Pine Street. Why can't we get an officer in there every night to make sure there is nobody in there after curfew and close that gate? I remember when I used to have to call the Fire Department for trees on fire in that cemetery because people started fires. I don't want to go back to that. We need to solve our problems. Homelessness. Homelessness has a lot to do with rent. Affordable housing. What does that mean? Last year my rent went up \$375. This year it is going to go up \$664. That is almost \$8,000 more a year. I work part-time at a Home Depot. Do you think that I will be able to raise another \$8,000? How many seniors who live only on social security? Where will they go? The average rent in this state is between a 9% and 13% increase. We have an association in the state for landlords. Why can't we have a tenants' association? They have rights, too. This money that we give away to contractors to build apartments is not needed. We have a housing crisis throughout the whole state. They are going to come and build it anyway. We should use our resources on better things to solve our problems. There are some things in this city that you should be able to solve. This past winter, for the first five months, every two weeks I used to say we need to have lights turned on. There were complete blocks of lights that were off. It took five months but it finally got done and I want to thank Alderman Barry for doing it. This is the third time this year that I have asked to turn on an entire block of lights that were turned off. You cannot solve crime if it is dark. We know that. That is a broken window. That is why I am running for aldermen – to work for the people and make sure they get what they need and we solve our problems. Thank you and goodnight.

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

PRESENTATION

2. Presentation from Jodie Nazaka, Economic Development Director, regarding the use of RSA 79-E Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive in the City of Manchester.

Jodie Nazaka, Economic Development Director, stated out of respect for your time and lengthy agenda, I will be brief but informative tonight. I do believe you have paper copies of the presentation in front of you and it was also shared with you earlier. The purpose of this presentation tonight is to give a brief overview of the status of the city's Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Program, otherwise known as RSA 79-E. This presentation will provide a brief overview and explore three diverse examples and demonstrate the success of the program since the first project was approved in 2008. NH RSA 79-E was enacted into state law on April 1, 2006 and later adopted by the BMA on April 7, 2015. I am sure some of the aldermen are tired of hearing me say this but through the RSA 79-E program, a governing body can grant temporary tax relief to property owners who restore underutilized buildings typically located in village centers or downtown areas. To qualify for RSA 79-E, the restoration or replacement of the property must provide a public benefit. For any RSA 79-E project that is approved, a covenant specifying that it is a public benefit to the community, is recorded at the country Registry of Deeds as a restriction on the use of that property. The covenant not only protects the city but it also protects the property owner. Agreements between the property owner and the city ensure that the public benefits that are demonstrated are provided and that the property remains well-maintained. If the property owner fails to maintain or utilize the property according to the terms of that covenant or fails to restore, build or demolish the structure as demonstrated, the tax relief may be terminated. If the incentive is terminated, the property owner may be required to pay back all the property taxes on the value of the improvements that would have been completed plus interest. Many people mistakenly categorize this program as a handout or tax break; however, it is not. Instead, it helps improve areas of the city by renovating or replacing buildings

that have been empty or under used for quite some time. These properties maintain their original assessed value, which the property owners continue to pass taxes on during the relief period and the properties continue to bring tax revenue into the city. After the relief period term ends, the property is reassessed and taxed at its full market value post renovation. This can be anywhere from a 30% to a 3,000% increase in taxable property values. This program has been instrumental in assisting Manchester with the preservation and redevelopment of underutilized properties, as well as facilitating new development in underperforming areas of the downtown and redevelopment districts. There are 66 municipalities in the state of NH that have adopted RSA 79-E. However, not all communities are utilizing it equally. The number of successful applications and completed projects varies from community to community. You will see here on the slide a selection of communities that have adopted the provision of the law. In Rochester and Concord, there are 10+ completed projects enabled under 79-E, while Jaffrey and Nashua have yet to complete any. This slide shows the Manchester program performance to date. The aldermen have approved 23 project requests since 2008, however, some applications have not successfully closed and finalized the public benefit covenant and these are not included in this count. Currently, five projects are approved and in various stages of construction. These projects include 31 Central Street, 25 Lowell Street, 1138 Elm Street, 1555 Elm Street and 944 Elm Street. Seventeen projects have been completed and are now being taxed at full market value significantly contributing more tax dollars to the city's revenue. There is one project pending, which is 947 Elm Street, which is the downtown location of Bunny's Convenience Store. This project was approved in 2018 for a second-floor renovation but no action has been taken on the construction project to date. This slide shows a list of all 23 projects that have been approved and have successfully recorded the protective covenant with the country Registry of Deeds. On this slide is a visual representation of that same list and it shows the distribution of the approved projects across the Central Business Service District as well as the redevelopment district. I have selected three very distinct examples for your review to illustrate the economic impact of our efforts to enhance the downtown and redevelopment district by using RSA 79-E. First is 20 Concord Street, home to Firefly Bistro and Bar and the first project that was approved under the statute in Manchester by the aldermen in 2008. Constructed in 1895, the building served as the long-time residence of the Lindquist Brothers who

operated a grocery store on the first floor and between 2007 and 2009 the property underwent a significant renovation transforming it from an underutilized rooming house into a vibrant mixed use commercial building. This project was a collaborative effort with the city's Economic Development Office utilizing tax incentives and loan programs to make the transformation achievable. In 2009, the pre-renovation value of the building was \$800,000 and today the taxable value is around \$1.2 million; a 48% increase in taxable value. Next is 252 Willow Street, better known as The Factory on Willow; the only project that has been approved in the redevelopment district to date. The Factory on Willow has a rich history. Originally a major shoe manufacturer and once home to Manchester Community College for a short period, it is most known as the long-time location of Electropac which was a circuit board manufacturer. Today the property has been transformed into a vibrant mixed-use property. The four-story mill building now features 60 studio apartments, commercial spaces, event space, generous outdoor areas and 16 short-term rental units. Most recently, a gin and vodka distillery were added to the complex. In 2021, the pre-renovation value of the building was \$2.1 million and today the assumed taxable value after the relief period ends is around \$8.4 million or almost a 300% increase in taxable value. The last example I will share is 875 Elm Street known as the Citizens Bank building located directly across the street from us at City Hall. Built in 1913 as the headquarters for Amoskeag Bank for 50 years, this building stood as the tallest in NH and the significant renovation and adding new residents to this building in 2016 was an important step forward as we worked to bring in more residents to downtown Manchester. The conversion transformed the underperforming office building into 91 high-end residential apartments spread across the second and tenth floors along with approximately 1,700 square feet of commercial and retail space on the first floor. This marked the beginning of a trend toward more residential units in the downtown. In 2017, the pre-renovation value of the building was at \$8.1 million. Today, the taxable value is around an impressive \$37.4 million or a 358% increase in taxable value. Since 2008, the program has contributed to the creation of nearly 900 new residential units in the CBD and R-DV districts playing a crucial role in the resurgence of the downtown. Popular eateries like Firefly, Restoration Café, 110 Grill, Shopper's Pub & Eatery and Evolution Bistro and Bar are conversions made possible under the program. The program has created over 140,000 square feet of mixed-use commercial space including Class A offices, a premiere event venue and

banking facilities. The successful millyard renovations of 88 Commercial Street, UNH Manchester, and 150 Dow Street, the former Dyn building, have supported the growth of a new industry in Manchester and the creation of high-tech bio-manufacturing jobs in our city. We have also seen the addition of one new distillery, 16 new Air B&B units and one new brewery. In total, these developments have contributed over \$3.1 million in additional revenue to the city when comparing the value before renovations to the value of the properties at the end of their relief period. Now this amount would be meaningfully higher if we took today's assessed values into account. I would be happy to conduct that analysis if that is something the Board would be interested but we knew the day that the pre-renovation was and the day that they came out of their tax relief period were fixed numbers so they were easy to formulate. With that, I would be happy to answer any questions recognizing that there may be some questions that are probably better directed to the Assessor.

Alderman Long stated thank you for the presentation. My understanding is that we can pick any area in the city as a revitalization zone. Is that correct?

Ms. Nazaka answered the state statute does have a couple of different sections. I think what you are referring to is the additional section that was added as the residential revitalization zone. The reason we haven't adopted that yet in Manchester is that the state statute limits that at no more than four units and where we would likely want to utilize that is in the higher density inner city neighborhoods where we would like to see some of those older rundown units improved and see some of those landlords take advantage of this program. The way the state statute is written, they wouldn't qualify. It is really geared at less than four units. If there was any way the state would consider amending that to be more than four units, I think maybe say twelve units would encompass a lot of our inner-city higher density neighborhoods and we could take advantage of that. Right now, we only have it approved in the village district/downtown district the way the state has it written.

Alderman Long asked so who would have the information on the most depressed areas in the inner city or the west side. Are there areas that are more depressed that could use the 79-E?

Ms. Nazaka responded in regards to property values or just areas in general that this would be beneficial for.

Alderman Long replied like those where the apartments need to increase or some of the commercial space may need...

Ms. Nazaka interjected I think it would be a collaboration between the Economic Development Office and Planning through their COC program as well as the Assessor's Office to identify the areas that would be beneficial for.

Alderman Fajardo stated I would like to put in an immediate plug for the west side of Ward 4 when you are considering such a conversation, as well as Wards 3, 5 and parts of Ward 7 and wards on the west side as well. Could you repeat the name of it again? It is the residential revitalization what?

Ms. Nazaka answered I can get the exact wording for you. I believe it is an additional section in the state statute that was added several years ago and it is called the residential revitalization zone. I can clarify that and get back to you.

Alderman Fajardo stated I would be interested in learning more about that. So, is the asterisk on the report related to the comment you made earlier about how you calculated the number?

Ms. Nazaka replied yes.

Alderman Fajardo asked regarding the \$3.1 million increased tax revenue number, do you have a number on how much relief was granted.

Ms. Nazaka responded yes. I worked closely with the Assessor's Office to determine what the original value was so pre-renovation and then assuming they did not get 79-E but still went forward with the renovations and what that difference was. I do have that information and would be happy to share that with the Board as well.

Alderman Fajardo replied I guess I am not asking this correctly but what I am trying to understand is the city is realizing a \$3.1 million increase in our tax base and I was wondering how much we gave away to get this number.

Ms. Nazaka stated I do have that information but it is important to note that but for this incentive, the thought is that these projects would not have been achievable. With that said, for example the Firefly building but for the incentive they wouldn't have been able to move forward. The same thing with The Factory on Willow Street. Assuming they did and money was not a consideration, that specific property at 20 Concord Street was a little over \$33,000 over five years. That was a minimal impact to receive quite an increase in taxable value to the property.

Alderman Fajardo stated I would be interested in knowing what the total amount looks like compared to this. Again, I think your comment that 79-E is often seen as a tax break or a giveaway can be reframed as an investment. I would just be interested in what our return on that investment is through the program at this point.

Ms. Nazaka responded we do have that information but I am hesitant to share any numbers right now because we are still actively working with the Assessor to refine some. There are a few properties that are not listed on the sheet that I have in front of me so I would rather wait until I have all of the information before I share that. I will absolutely share that with the Board following this meeting.

Alderman Fajardo stated thank you and thank you for all the information you have given us in this presentation and in committee as well as all the other times.

Ms. Nazaka stated thank you. For your information, I have sat on a working group with other municipalities across the state and the conversation about the revitalization district has come up and I expressed concerns about why Manchester has not adopted that section of the state law just yet. Many other cities in the state like Concord, Dover and Rochester had very similar sentiments which were that for the areas they would like to

use that part of the statute for it didn't make any sense. There is sentiment across the state in regards to that in some of the larger cities.

Mayor Ruais stated thank you Jodie. That was fantastic.

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept BMA Minutes

3. Minutes from the July 1 Regular & Special BMA and Finance meetings, and the July 22 Special BMA meeting.

Accept and Remand Funds

4. Donation in the amount of \$250 from FIRST to the Fire Department.

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

5. 50/50 Sidewalk Petitions:
Residential
80 High Ridge Road
249 Young Street
299 North Street
464 Amherst Street
1437 Belmont Street

Information to be Received and Filed

6. Communication from Xfinity regarding changes to its television channel lineup.
7. Communication from Matthew Normand, City Clerk, informing the Board of a change to the Care and Public Use Policy.
8. Office of Youth Services Department Report for June 2025.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

9. Resolutions:

"Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the FY2025 CIP 211425 School Based Dental Program - Medicaid."

“Amending the FY2022, FY2023 and FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Seven Dollars and Ninety-Four Cents (\$100,997.94) for the FY2025 CIP 710025 MS4 FY25-SRF/Enterprise.”

“Amending the FY2016, FY2019, FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Three Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Six Dollars and Sixty-Two Cents (\$337,126.62) for the FY2023 CIP 710723 CMOM Study, Design & Construction-Sewer Bond.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the FY2023 CIP 712423 Air Service Development.”

“Amending the FY2015 Community Improvement Program authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty-One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$21,500) for the FY2015 CIP 811115 Historic Preservation Standards.”

"Establishing a Manchester School District Teaching and Learning Expendable Trust."

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 Finance Department reports:
 - Accounts receivable over 90 days
 - Aging report
 - Outstanding receivableshave been accepted.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman E. Sapienza who was absent)
12. Advising that the Monthly Financial Report (unaudited) for the first eleven months of fiscal year 2025 has been accepted.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman E. Sapienza who was absent)
13. Recommending that the request from the Deputy Public Health Director to establish a non-lapsing account for Senior Transportation Project Funds be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman E. Sapienza who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

- 14.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$10,000 for CIP 211425 School Based Dental Program-Medicaid be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 15.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$100,997.94 for CIP 710025 MS4 FY25-SRF/Enterprise be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 16.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$337,126.62 for CIP 710723 CMOM Study, Design & Construction-Sewer Bond be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 17.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$500,000 for CIP 712423 Air Service Development 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 \$21,500 for CIP 811115 Historic Preservation Standards be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 19.** Recommending that the request from the Airport Director to extend the following CIP projects:

 - 710221 Airside Improv
 - 710521 Terminal & Building Improv
 - 710662 Airside Improv
 - 710822 Term & Build Improv

be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 20.** Recommending that the request from the MPD Grant Coordinator for an amendment to CIP C330040125 BJA FY24 Project Safe Neighborhoods Formula Grant Program be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 21.** Recommending that the request from the MPD Grant Coordinator for an amendment to CIP 410125 ARPA - Mental Health Clinician to change the project description and extend the completion date to December 31, 2026, be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 22.** Recommending that the request from the EPD Chief Engineer for adjustments to various CIP projects be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

23. Recommending that the submittal from the Finance Officer of a Resolution for the MSD Teaching and Learning Expendable Trust be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
24. Recommending that the request from the Fire Chief for permission to apply to the Leary Firefighter Foundation Jeremiah Lucey Grant Program in order to purchase thermal imaging cameras be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
25. Recommending that the request from the Fire Chief for permission to enter into a contract with Rosenbauer that includes an indemnification clause in order to trade-in two spare fire engines be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

26. Recommending that the request from the City Solicitor for the following changes to the department's complement:
- Remove one (1) Attorney I position, grade 23
 - Add one (1) Attorney II position, grade 25
- be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND BUILDINGS

27. Recommending that the request from North Elm Rentals LLC for a waterline easement for the property at 1138 Elm Street for the purposes of installing a Post Indicator Valve be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Thomas who was absent)
28. Recommending that the request from NeighborWorks to change the name of "North Church Street West Back" and "North Church Street East Back" to Flanders Street be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Thomas who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

29. Recommending that the following traffic regulations be approved:
- CROSSWALK**
On River Road north of W Clarke Street
Alderman Morgan
- COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC PROHIBITED**
On Lakeside Drive, from Londonderry Turnpike to the dead end
Alderman Kantor
(Unanimous vote)

30. Recommending that Ordinance Amendment:

"Amending Chapter 92 (Fire Prevention) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester in order to align with RSAs 47:22, 153, 155-A and 160-C:6."

ought to pass and be referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review.

(Unanimous vote)

JOINT SCHOOL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

31. Advising that the Manchester School District Priority I status and financial report for June 2025 submitted by LeftField has been accepted.

(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman O'Neil who was absent)

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

32. Communication from Mayor Ruais regarding the emergency shelter operations at 39 Beech Street.

Mayor Ruais stated I will take a few minutes to walk through the packet and then I would be happy to answer any questions going forward. As we discussed the last time we were together, the history over the last 25 years on this topic is that the community and businesses get together and say the city has to address homelessness in our downtown or in our parks. The city then sets up someplace like French Hall or the day center that was set up in 2010 or the engagement center that was set-up two years ago. Historically what has happened is those locations will close, the problem will come back and persist and then people come back to the mayor and aldermen and ask that something be set up. The thrust of what I wanted to do today is I am trying to stop us from having to come back in three months or six months and have to set something up again because historically that is what happened. I want to walk through a couple of things I have heard from the Board in the last couple of years. Hearing from the Board, it seems that there is that consensus that we don't want to evict those individuals that are deemed exceptionally vulnerable back onto our streets. We have walked through these numbers a few times. Twenty-one individuals have chronic health conditions,

twenty have a physical disability, eight are utilizing wheelchairs, five are over the age of 65, two are on oxygen and one is utilizing a walker. It is a very fair question to ask why we can't simply put these individuals into other locations like a nursing home or a respite care center. We did the work and reached out to everyone on a list the state had given us and of the 74 places that exist in the state, not a single one of them has an open bed available as of two or three weeks ago when we last made these calls. There were 8-12 month wait lists. The individuals right now that are in the shelter that meet those qualifying conditions that I referenced would simply have nowhere to go if this were to shut down in 27 days. There was also a consensus last fall when we were talking about a winter warming facility here in the city that we wanted to set one up because we all know it gets cold in NH during the winter months and we didn't want individuals to be out on the street. So, we wanted to set-up that winter warming center. We talked about exceptionally vulnerable and we wanted to make a commitment to help them. We talked about having a winter warming place open as well for those winter months. The accompanying factor to the shelter is that engagement center portion that serves 40-50 people a day. The shelter itself has about 40. The concern that I would have at the end of this month if this were not approved to go forward is potentially, we would have 80-90 people back on the streets that are currently being served at 39 Beech Street. I want to give you the latest update I have from the engagement center that I got this morning for the month of July. Over the last 12 months, 60 individuals have been housed through the engagement center, 49 vital documents have been received, 40 have entered detox, and 19 have received employment. When you add those who have been housed through our veteran's initiative, you are looking at well over 110 people that have been housed in the city through our coordinated efforts on homelessness. Also, as we talked about the need to address this in a comprehensive fashion, last year we were one if not the first city in the U.S. to ban camping following the Supreme Court's decision that allowed us to do so. We did that. I think the more important thing that we did that night though was to take \$500,000 from the Parks program that we felt was being underutilized and transfer those dollars to the police for the community hotspot patrols. That has resulted in hundreds of arrests and over one thousand citations that have been written in that time period. We also used those dollars just over the last two weeks. After our meeting, I spoke to Chief Marr and said that we needed added attention in the 39 Beech Street area. The number that he gave me this

morning was that the police have dedicated over 40 hours to that one specific location over the last two weeks. We are not going to tolerate any behavior down there. Of course, the police can't be there 24 hours a day but we have added attention in that area to address the concerns that I heard from the Board. The plan we put together is in the packet in front of you. What I am asking tonight is really three-fold. It is an approval of the 19-month concept that I have. We would keep the shelter open for the winter months to make sure that we are caring for those who are medically compromised and infirmed and then we would transition to a smaller shelter next year. Right now, it is scheduled for the end of February. I am asking for a six-month contract with an option to renew for an additional month but only at that reduced footprint to care for those individuals who are medically infirmed or aged. Then recognizing that there are individuals who are not going to be covered under that new shelter, I do think 1269 Café is an incredible place. That is why we put \$50,000 in my budget last year and I was thankful the Board approved that. That allowed them to create the 24 transitional beds that they currently have. However, they don't have the staffing for all 24 beds. Currently, only 12 beds are occupied so an approval of another \$50,000 allows us to double the transitional bed capacity that is in there to get them to a high barrier setting where they are out of the shelter and into transitional living. The third piece is giving the go ahead to work on those two six-month contracts that we would then bring to the Board. There was a question earlier tonight about transparency on those contracts. Those contracts have come to the Board in the past. They have always been on the agenda. There was a question about the budget as well and whether or not those numbers would be made available. They are all right here. That is about as transparent as it can get. It was right in my packet that was sent last week. The reason I mentioned some of the other things at the beginning is I have worked really hard to recognize all of the concerns you have raised and I just want to walk through that really quickly. There was a general consensus that I heard that we want to close down 39 Beech Street and we are. There was a general consensus that I heard that we wanted to reduce the monthly cost of the shelter because quite clearly there is no appetite to continue at the \$30,000/month and we don't have the money to do that so the new location that we are looking at is \$6,000 so we have dramatically reduced that. There was also a concern expressed about the barrier setting. We will be increasing the barrier for the next iteration of the shelter that would open next year. We also want to

make sure there is winter warming and this new location would allow us to do winter warming. We want to protect the most vulnerable. This is 20 beds for the most vulnerable. We want to get out before the end of the winter. This plan would allow us to get out by the end of the winter. I feel like we have built a plan that responds to the concerns of the Board. I have done everything I can to try and meet I think the concerns that I have heard expressed here. I think we have made a lot of progress on this issue. My concern is that if we do not go forward with something like this in 27 days, we will be back to where we were two years ago with encampments around. I would be happy to take any questions before we go forward with a vote.

Alderman Terrio stated first I want to say that I consider you a friend and I support you and am going to vote for you but on this issue, I am not going to support you. We had a conversation last week and I asked you about two alternatives to Beech Street. One was the Wilson Street School. We own it and we are already heating it. Did you look at that?

Mayor Ruais answered I did. About three months ago when we were getting to the end of the line here, I had asked our team of city departments that oversee this initiative or these issues to get together and find all the properties that we could possibly look at. This is one of the ones that was on the list. The concern about that property was that it is almost entirely residential, if not entirely so we didn't feel that was a good option.

Alderman Terrio stated the NH National Guard has winter shelter and heaters and things like that. Did you talk to them?

Mayor Ruais replied I have not had a chance to connect with them but I will.

Alderman Terrio stated I support the \$50,000 for 1269 Café but I just don't support the shelter anymore. I have been inside the shelter on several occasions and I drive by it almost every day because I live very close to it. Last year we were in the same situation and it was late summer/early fall and I voted as many on the Board did to keep the shelter open for one more year. We believed that by this summer we were going to have a solution and the shelter was going to close. Unfortunately, that has not

happened. I know that you are between a rock and a hard place but I am kind of at my wit's end. If we do the math, it was a temporary shelter that has been open for about two and a half years now. Between rent and salaries, we have been paying about \$100,000 per month so multiply that by two and a half years and it is about \$3 million. That is a lot of money for a temporary shelter. Personally, I get so many phone calls on this. I kind of lost it in non-public so if I upset any of my fellow aldermen or any of the department heads, I apologize. Here are the things that I want to relay to you. I think we know how everybody is going to vote and where this vote is going to go but these are the complaints that I get from the neighbors and I get them multiple times. I have gotten so many complaints. This is what they are. The people in and around the shelter are going into yards and urinating and defecating. Here is the thing that drives me crazy. One of the houses is 30' from the door to the shelter. You have to be anti-social to not want to walk into the shelter but instead urinate or defecate in someone's yard. I get that complaint a lot. They are also doing intravenous drugs and throwing their dirty syringes in people's yards. At a local business, they were using the tool shed as a drug den. The business owner went out one day and found a dead body in his shed because someone had overdosed in his tool shed. They go into local restaurants and demand free food. If they don't get free food...sometimes they behave but, on many occasions, when they don't get free food, they get aggressive and they throw things at the workers and threaten them. They walk through the neighborhoods and steal bikes and property and break into cars. They break into houses and businesses. The other complaints I have been getting are they go into local businesses and just start charging their phone. They are not doing business there or patronizing the business. The business will ask them to leave and they refuse. I am not insensitive and I know you are between a rock and a hard place but I voted last year to extend the shelter for another year hoping we would have a solution. I was hoping we could put them in the Wilson Street School or work with the National Guard but that is not happening. I just can't support this anymore unfortunately. That being said, some rough math and it is probably not realistic but the average three-bedroom apartment in Manchester is about \$2,500/month. If we took those 20 people and rented 7 houses, that would cost us about \$17,500/month as opposed to the \$100,000/month. We have already discussed this ad nauseam and I think everyone knows how they are going to vote. I just can't support this anymore because of the complaints I get month in and month out. It is not

really fair to the neighborhood anymore. They have been suffering for two and a half years.

Alderman Burkush stated Your Honor thank you for developing this plan. Since we last talked two weeks ago, we have seen some improvement in police presence. I get the same complaints as Alderman Terrio. I listen to the constituents and I also take the time to ask them if they have any ideas because as I say to them, if we don't follow through with this, we are going to have these people on the street and in their yards. Thank you for developing this plan. I am going to support it. I believe most of the residents of Ward 9 understand and they are going to support it.

Alderman O'Neil stated I want to also thank you for putting the plan together. I just want to hit on a few items. The seven-month proposed plan is at 39 Beech, correct?

Mayor Ruais answered that is correct.

Alderman O'Neil asked the twelve-month proposed plan is the Elm Street location.

Mayor Ruais responded we are not going to talk about that in public. There is a different location.

Alderman O'Neil stated there was some talk about trying to move that up.

Mayor Ruais stated the intent is to get into a new location as quickly as possible.

Alderman O'Neil stated one of the things we talked about previously was that the ARPA funds puts the restriction that it has to be a low barrier shelter. Is there a way we can use other funding sources so we don't have to use the ARPA funding?

Mayor Ruais replied I could go back to the drawing board. I tried everything that I could to move the funding around as much as I could. To find another \$143,000...I could certainly try.

Alderman O'Neil asked am I correct that that restricts us and it has to be a low barrier shelter.

Mayor Ruais answered that is the understanding yes.

Alderman O'Neil asked so when it goes to the new location there is no ARPA funding.

Mayor Ruais replied that is correct.

Alderman O'Neil asked so it can be a high barrier shelter.

Mayor Ruais responded that is correct.

Alderman O'Neil stated I take a little bit of exception, and I don't know this so I should be careful with my comments it says 1269 Café is a no cost high barrier. That may be who they let in the door but I can tell you that is not who is hanging around outside. Police are there regularly. I don't think it is as bad as it once was but I don't think that I can buy that 1269 Café is a no cost high barrier. There are a lot of individuals who if that is the criteria for getting in the door, are never getting through the door but they hang around.

Mayor Ruais stated that is the language that I got from Mary who runs it. We have met her and she has come here a number of times before. She does not allow individuals to be in 1269 Café if they have used. For the transitional beds themselves, I believe the individual has to have gone through a detox or rehab and has to have a period of sobriety.

Alderman O'Neil stated okay but I would just challenge that that is not the clientele hanging around outside or at St. Anne's or some of the other property there. One other thing is the gentleman in the front row spoke about outcomes. These outcomes are great from a high level but as we have talked about before, where are the 60 that have been housed. We know we are supporting, either as a city or individuals, agencies and non-profits and we keep not getting that information. That is important. Where have

they been housed? I know it is hard to track the 40 that went into detox and whether they are still in detox but certainly the employment part we should be able to track. It would be good to get more than just general numbers. This is an old issue. They don't provide any details and I would like to see us get more details. What businesses are hiring these folks because we need to support those businesses? Where are they being housed because we need to be supportive? I will support this. If you can find a way to get the ARPA funding out so we can raise the barrier level that would be appreciated. Again, the outcomes are important and we need some detailed information.

Alderman Kantor stated I have a few things and I might sound like a broken record but I have never been in favor of a low barrier shelter. We put the very vulnerable people at risk for being bullied and being abused with drug addiction all around them. We are actually putting the city at risk for lawsuits. We always talk about that. Aren't we concerned about lawsuits but we aren't concerned about lawsuits at 39 Beech Street? The lack of transparency and being vilified for wanting to help people has been such a disappointment. First of all, I think this plan should be in sections so we can vote on one part, the shelter, and then on the second part. The first part I believe you can make into a high barrier shelter very easily by getting rid of the ARPA funds. The ARPA funds should have primarily helped for emergency relief for Covid 19. We are having a mental health crisis. For me, when I see that you have the Affordable Housing Trust Fund that you are willing to use in the amount of \$300,000, you could take \$143,000 more from that fund so you can eliminate the ARPA funds and make it a high barrier shelter and actually protect the vulnerable. I knew some of those amazing people that were at risk and were bullied. I know some are at homes but to not make this high barrier is absolutely irresponsible and unkind to the people that are there and vulnerable. I am 100% against any kind of low barrier. As for the other location, I know we will discuss it behind closed doors but I believe in transparency. I don't think it should be anywhere in Manchester. Are we in the business of turning things into a nursing home? Is this place certified to take care of medically fragile people? I know that nurses have degrees and people need to have their medications, etc. For the cost of all of these services, is this organization certified? I know that Jake has helped a lot of people but allowing drug use is lawlessness; complete lawlessness and we are not helping anyone. I will repeat

over and over again that we are not helping anyone get closer to their families or get closer to recovery or closer to hope when we allow bad behavior to happen. It is really sad. I hope you don't let the community in Ward 7 keep suffering. Their quality of life has been awful. As a Ward 6 alderman, I have gotten personal messages from so many people. They are done; they are done. I don't believe that we should be in the nursing home business. There are lots of certified organizations that can take over and we can take the \$375,000 that you were willing to give to this new undisclosed place, again lack of transparency, and actually house these people. Even if you keep 39 Beech Street open and make it a high barrier, we will protect the vulnerable and get the people who are on drugs some help. If they don't want help, then to jail they go period. If you are going to use drugs, you should go to jail. If you are going to break the law. I know that if I break the law I am going to go to jail. You know what? Round up the drug dealers. That is my rant.

Alderman Long stated it sounds like we would have enough votes to use some of the trust funds to go to a high barrier immediately. We could remove the housing trust fund which should be used for housing which this is but this doesn't really fit the intention of the fund. I understand why you are using it and the ARPA funding. We could take both of those out. If you want to go to a high barrier, we would need 10 votes. Do we have the 10 votes to go to high barrier immediately by taking these two initiatives off the table? With respect to nursing homes, there are no nursing home beds available. Hillsborough County has shut down 50 beds because they don't have the staff. There are over 130 people on a waiting list. There are no nursing homes. Like the mayor said, if there is no nursing home to put them in, they go on the street. Somebody who is 68 years old in a wheelchair and on oxygen ought not be put onto the street in my opinion. Then the Ward 7 issues. I am wondering how long the current police initiative could continue. Do we know? I agree that we should have 40 hours, if not more, at 39 Beech Street. I don't think there should be people hanging out in the parking lot shooting up. I don't believe there should be people hanging out in the parking lot period. I know there were two CIP projects with state funding. One was for people that use. Is some of this helping you at 39 Beech Street? Either of those grants that we have received from the state?

Peter Marr, Police Chief, replied they could potentially help. The Granite Shield could help if we have complaints...it would have to qualify under the stipulations of that grant. Right now, we are on track to have that enforcement money through December 2026. Again, I get multiple calls from most of you about different hot spots in different areas and we only have a certain amount of resources. Does that answer your question?

Alderman Long responded it does. So, it looks like you have sustainability. Also, the businesses in Ward 7 and the residents that have people urinating and defecating in their yard, is there a number they could call? What about the business owners who have people going in and saying they aren't leaving? We heard that they are going in to charge their phones. Could that business call somebody and have somebody immediately go down there and remove those people and tell them they are trespassing?

Chief Marr stated the new Sgt. Makin is Sgt. Rob McGowan. He has provided his number to anybody that asks. I would absolutely direct the businesses with those grips to him.

Alderman Long asked so even the businesses where they are going in demanding food, etc.

Chief Marr answered absolutely.

Alderman Long asked so when they go in there, they can call Sg. McGowan and get immediate relief where they don't have to sit there and put up with it for an hour.

Chief Marr answered I am not going to say immediate relief all the time. He might be working on something else. There are only so many of them but yes. It will be addressed.

Alderman Long stated I am in favor of the mayor's proposal and thank him for getting it together. I do understand being in Ward 3. There was a time when I was getting 10-13 calls a day on homelessness. I understand what Aldermen Burkush and Terrio are

saying. There have to be avenues we can use to reduce some of that. Have there been any arrests?

Chief Marr replied yes.

Alderman Long asked were they let go with no bail.

Chief Marr answered yes.

Alderman Long stated that is what I would like to see. I don't need the person's name but I would like to know that say there were 30 arrests and here is what happened. Twenty of them were immediately released. We want to keep an eye on that because if we have to do something on bail reform, we have to do something on bail reform. If the current bail reform is not going to provide what we are looking for, and we are not the only city because Keene, Concord and Rochester are all having the same issue...Alderman Thomas was talking to me about involuntary commitment. I am looking at something like that at the state where we have a Valley Street jail that is half empty.

Chief Marr stated if you can make that happen, I will give you any information you need. I am 1,000% behind you.

Mayor Ruais stated Alderman Thomas and I have had this conversation before. If you are going to do something up in Concord like that, I would love to have a conversation with you. The argument that I have made is that it is not compassionate to allow somebody to effectively decay on our streets who has a significant mental health issue or significant SUD crisis. I would argue that it is more compassionate to compel treatment, bring somebody in and get them the care that they need. If you look at what Superintendent Costanzo is doing...I am not saying that these people would have to be housed at Valley Street but if you look at what he is doing at Valley Street, it is incredible and he is truly helping people and holding people to account. The reason I got sober was because I started getting arrested. It is not an argument to arrest your way out of the problem but holding somebody accountable for their actions I 100%

support and I think our lack of ability to do things on the involuntary commitment side is inherently important and it hurts us.

Alderman Long stated I agree. If I am using and I am arrested and let go, you are waiting for me to eventually kill myself out there. At the very least, plant a seed in me so I can see a way out when I decide to take it. When I am using, I don't look at a way out but give me training where I can see clearly that there is a way out and eventually, I will find that way out.

Alderman O'Neil asked when does bail reform take effect Chief.

Chief Marr answered September 21.

Alderman O'Neil stated it is a fine line with places like 39 Beech or other facilities that provide services but can those facilities do the no trespass.

Chief Marr replied yes.

Alderman O'Neil stated I know that at 39 Beech the agency doesn't own the building. Can they do it or does the owner of the building have to do it?

Chief Marr responded they can do it as lessees.

Alderman O'Neil stated that is a tool that has worked in other locations in the city right.

Chief Marr replied correct.

Alderman Fajardo stated I am going to support this. I think we have an obligation as a government to address this. I found it interesting to hear from the faith community today that they are feeling burdened or over stressed and I think a lot of our non-profits and our coalition of care...the community has and does rally. For the record, I want to acknowledge all of the efforts made among our community. I don't know where we would be without them. Similarly, I don't know to your point where we would be without

39 Beech Street. I say 39 Beech Street but what I mean is some kind of emergency shelter and engagement center whether it is at 39 Beech Street or elsewhere. I also agree that we should not be in the long-term business of emergency sheltering but until we are in a better position as a city with stabilizing our housing, it is advantageous for us to consider both sides of the equation. As long as we don't have enough housing for people, we are going to have people on our streets. To the extent that I am in favor of this and I will vote yes, I still do have concerns about what happens on April 21, 2026 to the 20+ people who don't fit the medically vulnerable category who will move ideally to another location and I have the same question about what happens to everybody on 4/2/27 when we get to the end of the lease that we will sign for the 20 people. I know that \$50,000 will go to 1269 Café. That is 12 beds. That still leaves eight people. I guess the larger point that I am trying to make is we don't have a long-term strategy and there isn't a long-term plan or vision. I share the same frustration as my colleagues that we continue to be asked to make essentially short-term decisions where we don't really have any good options. I am not pointing fingers or blaming. I see how hard you have worked. I just hope that our Board can rally to start to think in a truly more forward-facing way on this. To the comment about using Affordable Housing Trust Fund money, we heard from the National Coalition to End Homelessness last year that we are too heavily invested in emergency beds so optimally we should be investing in more transitional beds. I am highly in support of that \$50,000. As a reminder though, putting people in jail isn't free either so that is not a solution.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I have a couple of quick points. I am still reeling from hearing about the \$1,200 bill that the resident had to pay to have her German shepherd's foot stitched back up from the broken bottle. Currently things like alcohol and tobacco are not allowed, correct?

Mayor Ruais asked what do you mean.

Alderman E. Sapienza replied at 39 Beech Street. They are not allowed right? Alcohol and tobacco?

Mayor Ruais responded right now you are not allowed to have drugs in your possession. The police go down there and they go through it. You are not allowed to have drugs in your possession.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated okay so illicit drugs but what about alcohol or tobacco.

Mayor Ruais replied you can't have alcohol.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked tobacco.

Mayor Ruais responded my understanding is you can't have alcohol in there but if someone has a pack of smokes, I don't think they are throwing them out.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated this goes on all the time whether or not it is allowed.

Mayor Ruais stated we had a conversation yesterday with Jake and Kelly. Alderman Thomas and I met with Jake and one of the points he made was we do not allow for individuals to use drugs in the place, which is the right thing to do but that is why you are seeing people outside.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated it should be drug, alcohol and tobacco free but I will move on.

Mayor Ruais responded it is.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated theoretically it is but in reality, it is not.

Mayor Ruais stated one other thing on safety because I think that is what you are getting at. There is a metal detector in there. They have to go through that. That was what the \$26,000 in the budget last year paid for as far as security upgrades and measures there.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated as far as the Hillsborough County jail goes, forget it. Every day in the courts I see people who committed crimes far worse than drug use and they are not going to jail. You are not going to see these people going to jail. It is just not going to happen. If they get arrested, they are going to get a public defender and it is Monty Hall Let's Make a Deal time. The idea that they are going to jail, even for one day, is not going to happen. I am telling you. As a side note, there is a non-emergency number for people to call the Manchester Police Department. It is 603-668-8711. Whether that given sergeant is on duty or not, there is a number for anybody to call for non-emergency police requests. I am not in favor of this plan for the great reasons mentioned by Alderman Terrio and Alderman Kantor. Thank you.

Alderman Levasseur stated first of all, I am not going to vote for this. I know you get all bummed out when people don't go along with your plan.

Mayor Ruais responded we had this conversation. I genuinely appreciate the back and forth that we have had on this. I think Alderman Long and I had a conversation last year about one of the topics and it ended up being three hours. I don't take any of this personally. There are differences of opinion. I appreciate your perspective as well.

Alderman Levasseur stated I appreciate that. First of all, I hope that the Board will bifurcate this vote and not vote for the second part of it, the 12-month plan from April 1 until March 31. I think it will be an illegal vote. You are actually voting to spend money and you are taking money out of different departments and out of the Affordable Housing Trust and we are told that we can't tell anybody where this next place is going to be. That is illegal. The money is going to be appropriated and those people have a right to know that it is going in that location; the businesses that are around there should be able to voice their opinions. Keeping that a secret is not good for government or for us or any aldermen and certainly not good for the people that don't know about it. I have my opinions about the location. I will tell you that I left 119 W. Merrimack Street, my office that I loved in the building that I loved, because the homeless down here was unbelievable. If you didn't ever come downtown, you would think it didn't exist but it was really bad here. I moved to my South Willow Street office because I thought it would be safer and I thought my clients would feel safer going down there and then you

guys moved them all down to me. I am starting to take this personally. I am a little bit surprised because I didn't think originally that it was going to be a bad location but what they do to that beautiful rail trail...it is intimidating to go down there. I wish I could walk up and down there but ever since that man was stabbed and the way they ride their bikes, it is very intimidating. Some of the people we have in our city that are abusing the wonderful services and the money we have spent on that...it just goes to show you that when you take a private entity and a government entity, you can give 1269 Café \$50,000 and they are going to provide beds for 20 people whereas it is going to cost us \$727,000 to provide beds for 40 people. I say we split the baby. I think we need to do something better and smarter than this plan, which is a really good attempt. What we should do is if you are going to get the 20 that we don't want at Beech Street, the ones that are getting in because it is low barrier, I agree with Alderman O'Neil that I have seen the people going into 1269 and those are the people also going down to Beech Street. If we really are about the 20 or so that are invalids over 65 who are in wheelchairs, etc. and people that everybody cares about, what we should do is separate that out. I think we should shut it down 100%. I am tired of paying that guy. Now it is only going to be \$25,000/month but that is ridiculous. If you divided the \$727,000 and took out the \$50,000, you would have \$36,000 per person at 20 people for \$4,000/month. So, the 20 that you really care about, it is \$4,000 per month to put them in places that are like one-, two- or three-bedroom apartments. We could do a good job of getting the 20 that are in really bad shape into housing, close that place down and then the very serious undesirables that we all know are down there causing the problems on the rail trail and breaking into houses...those people don't have ankle bracelets on them and they are not chained to their beds. They live there but they can go wherever they want at any time of the day or night. I believe they have to be in by 10 PM to stay overnight. This is the only 24-hour shelter in the whole state by the way. Even in the one on Manchester Street, they have to be out by 7 AM and they can go back in at 7 PM. So, we are giving them this 24/7 facility that they are allowed to stay in at an exorbitant cost. I think that we can handle the people that...the mayor cares about the people coming out of the hospitals and the ones that don't have a place to go but the ones that are causing all the problems are not those people. The ones causing the problems are the ones that are panhandling and using South Willow as an avenue now. They are using it like a railroad to get where they want to go, go to their

panhandling sites and cause the problems that they do. I don't agree with Alderman E. Sapienza. I am very optimistic that bail reform is going to work for Manchester and our Police Department. I think a lot of those undesirables will eventually find their way into Valley Street, which would actually be better for them because they have an amazing rehabilitation plan or they are just going to get the hell out of Manchester. I have been sitting on this Board for a really long time and have heard every promise known to man from every politician that comes in here, all with good intentions and saying we are just going to give them help and they are going to get help and it is going to solve itself. We found a way to clean up downtown. The creative ways that the mayor used to get money was brilliant to get them out of downtown. It looks like a completely different place. Now I wish I had my old building because I would come back here but now down in south Manchester it is a problem for all of us. It is a problem for all of the people that have businesses down there. It is a problem for all of the single-family homes. You are worried about who is going to break into your yard. I say this but you find a dead person in your shed? You don't ever get over that. One of my friends has a place down next to my building and he had to tear it down. So many times, he went in there and had to kick the homeless people out of the garage. He finally had enough and tore it down so now he is going to get an abatement on his taxes. We should close this now. We should send a message that we are done. For the last decade, we have given millions and millions and millions of dollars and we continue to give more money. The second plan is a high barrier shelter in a location where I think it is okay if it is high barrier and for the people that the mayor says he wants in there and not for the drug addicts or people who break into people's homes or steal propane tanks to put into a camp site. We are never going to get rid of these people, yet if we continue to pay for these services it is going to never end. I have said this and I have been the most consistent alderman since the day this started. You provide them services, then they are coming here. Bail law reform ruined it for us. We couldn't keep them in Valley Street Jail. I have been a practicing attorney for 23 years. When I first started, people stayed in Valley Street for four or five months waiting for their trial. They were off the streets. Since then, they have done a great job putting in a detox facility and helping people who get one-year sentences. Those can be reduced to four months if they go through the detox program. You try doing the court detox program and you are out on the street all the time. If you are in the jail, you are getting clean. It is a better program

for them. It is actually like the mayor says. It is more humanitarian than having them living on the street under the influence of their buddies and all the drugs. We are not helping these people by giving them a place to stay 24 hours a day and they have no responsibility. There is no requirement that they have to have a job. There is no requirement they have to be in counseling. There is nothing. So, either you make it a high barrier shelter or you close it. For the people who are good people that are older and can't find places to stay, we have \$727,000 for the next seven months and then you have another \$525,000 for the next program, which is the program that should be implemented now for those 20 people that you want to help because they are not abusing drugs. They are just people who are broken or have mental health issues. We shouldn't be in that business either as we all know. The county should be taking these people who are above 62 or 65 years old. We all know all of that but we cannot vote on this tonight as a full Board without it being bifurcated. You cannot not disclose where that place is going to be and then like Nancy Pelosi say vote for the bill and you can find out what is in it later. You can't do that. I am just telling you that it is an illegal vote.

Mayor Ruais stated the reason I wouldn't want to close it on September 1 is because there isn't another location in the city where we can do winter warming. So, we would be back here in two months saying where are we going to put the 80-90 people so they are not making encampments again like we had around Families in Transition. I don't think we should shut it down now because in the winter we will not have a location for the winter warming. I agree with you and would love to spend the money simply to put those 20 people into housing right now at \$2,500 or \$3,000 a month. The challenge that we have run into with the veteran's initiative we have done is the vast majority of the veterans are over the age of 65. There are not near enough ADA compliant buildings so they end up staying in either shelters or in transitional living through Harbor Care. We are not able to get them into housing which has really stopped us from eliminating veteran's homeless quickly. There is no place to put them. It takes so long because the vacancy is so low and ADA compliant housing vacancy is even lower.

Alderman Vincent stated I have dwelled on this since the special meeting as I am sure most of my peers on this Board have and I can tell by the responses that everybody is genuinely concerned about this outcome and this vote that we are about to make.

Recently, a friend did tell me that matters that are brought before the BMA are not the easy ones. People elect us to be the voice and to make those difficult decisions and 39 Beech is one of the most complex issues that we have had and it continues to be a difficult one. I have not supported 39 Beech. I have never supported it and I have made it clear that I don't approve of 39 Beech. For years there have been extensions and for years there has been lots of talk of getting rid of it, however, there has never been a plan and there has never been an action and here we sit. It is a lot of back and forth with nothing actually coming of it. The mayor has laid before us a plan and that is exactly what it is. To many, this plan is not the answer; however, it is a plan as fellow aldermen have pointed out previously. This is a plan that we haven't seen before. We haven't seen a plan. Another option is to simply shut this shelter down and I must say this will be great stress upon several city departments including Fire, Police and Welfare. We have obligations to all within the walls of our city. We can't shut out anybody because of the ones that aren't doing the right thing. You can't punish the few for other individuals. I know this is the plan to move forward and take care of those most in need. I applaud you on your effort, mayor. I will say that I will hold you to this plan because we need to get out of 39 Beech today. We cannot recreate a 39 Beech at any other location. We just can't afford that as a city. The new location cannot be another 39 Beech. So, what I am asking is that we do what it takes to get this right and move forward, not backward. I will support your plan because we need to move forward and away from 39 Beech. We cannot play these games anymore. There are people that don't want to play by the rules. There are several ways we can handle this and several ways we want to but we have to be realistic. We can't do some of these things. We can't just throw people in jail. I get it and I definitely feel for the wards that are impacted by this. I do believe that this is a plan to move forward. I see the light at the end of the tunnel. I am hopeful that 39 Beech will be closed sooner rather than later. I would like it closed real soon but I agree that we cannot shut down the warming station and deal with that because we will be right back here and dealing with this forever and a day and then we will be going back and forth. The people in this city don't want that. They want to see us solve these matters as best we can for the betterment of the people of the city. I hope we can all put the same thought into this. It is not an easy decision to make. I have stewed on this a while but I will support this plan.

Alderman Thomas stated I will try to be quick. I do like what Alderman Kantor suggested on using the housing money that we have and I was wondering if we could use it from September 1 until we need to use the shelter for winter warming so that maybe we can get the high barrier that nearly everybody on the Board is looking for as are community members. One thing that is very, very detrimental is the using whether the person is using themselves or not, I have been in the shelter when an elderly lady had to have medics come and take care of her because she had an allergic reaction to something that someone was smoking. They already have so many issues on top of that that they don't need. Something like this, I think is very important especially for people in recovery. I am a therapist and work with people like this and all the time...I mean they don't want to go to these places because they can't stay in recovery. It is a big risk for them. For women who have a ton of trauma, that is a very hard place for them to go as well. I know the staff do their best. I go in there as much as I can. The metal detector they said is working really well. They even showed me a big bucket of what they get from people. I don't want to see any needle exchange going on in there. I don't want to see any use inside or out. I do want to make it more safe whether or not it is increased police patrol there, for the visitors and the staff alike. I also made a suggestion that the resource cards that they do give out to the homeless have some therapists that might do some on-call stuff. They don't have to get paid for it but we do need hours to keep our license through the state. Also, you can maybe get some LNA's from some schools that can go in there for the elderly because the staff really shouldn't be doing that. As for the IEA, I would love to get a bunch of the Board on board and maybe sign a petition to get the state senators talking because that is something that could really hopefully lead to some purpose in these people's lives.

Alderman Long moved to approve the concept of the 19-month emergency shelter plan. ***Alderman T. Sapienza*** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Terrio asked are we voting on the whole plan.

Mayor Ruais replied what the Clerk and I discussed was by putting this plan on this agenda all together, it allows approval by the Board and then he can go back and create the motions for this so that at the September 2 meeting this can get final approval.

Alderman Levasseur stated I have a parliamentary question. Ms. Rice, can we vote to spend money for a plan and we don't have to tell the people where it is. The money is already broken down to where it is going to go and the rent has been basically negotiated. Can we vote for that without saying publically where the location is? It looks deceptive and I don't want to get the Board in trouble.

Emily Rice, Solicitor, replied as I understand it, what is happening here is this is a two-part vote. You have one vote tonight and then on September 2. Under the right-to-know law, if we are negotiating with a property owner and negotiating a lease, that information can be confidential legally under the right-to-know law. My understanding of what is happening tonight is that the Board is approving a concept and the only money that is being allocated tonight is the \$50,000 to 1269 Café and the authority is being given to the mayor to basically extend the existing contracts, which have been extended several times under plans approved by this Board. With that, I don't think there is any issue.

Alderman Levasseur asked so we aren't voting on the third part.

Mayor Ruais stated there won't be a vote tonight on a contract but I am going to bring a contract to the Board at the next meeting.

Alderman Levasseur stated this says that we are giving you permission to sign it.

Mayor Ruais replied that is for the extensions, not the new location.

Alderman Levasseur stated we don't know the fit-up costs. This number is cheaper.

Mayor Ruais stated I mentioned in the document that there are fit-up costs that I will bring back to the Board. That is not being voted on tonight. There is no contract for any other building but for the two that I referenced specifically, ECEL and 39 Beech Street.

Alderman Levasseur stated but you are asking for us to approve the concept of the 19-month plan with votes to follow.

Mayor Ruais responded you are voting on the concept only.

Alderman Levasseur asked and you will have a contract for this Board or a lease at the September meeting.

Mayor Ruais answered that is the hope. What I said to Alderman Thomas and Alderman Vincent and the Board just now was that I want to get out of there as soon as humanly possible so I am going to move with every ounce of energy that I have.

Alderman Levasseur asked to get out of where.

Mayor Ruais replied 39 Beech Street. I want to get out as quickly as possible. I am trying to move as fast as possible to get these things approved so we can move forward.

Alderman Levasseur asked so you mean before April 1.

Mayor Ruais answered yes. That is the reason for the six and one. The six-month contract and the option for an additional month to get through March. Right now, the idea is that we would be out of there by February at the latest. If we can get out of there earlier, it is my full intent to get out of there earlier.

Solicitor Rice stated the existing contracts that are mentioned in bullet point three expire on August 31 and that is the reason for this being brought forward.

Alderman Levasseur replied I understand that. Are you extending the lease? The landlord is okay with month-to-month?

Mayor Ruais answered it is a six-month extension with an option for one additional month.

Solicitor Rice stated these are further amendments to existing contracts or a contract and a lease.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote on approving the concept of the 19-month emergency shelter plan. Alderman Terrio requested a roll call vote. Aldermen Terrio, E. Sapienza, Kantor and Levasseur voted nay. Aldermen Burkush, Barry, Vincent, Thomas, Morgan, Goonan, Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, and O'Neil voted yea. The motion carried.

Alderman Long moved to allocate \$50,000 to 1269 Café to increase its number of transitional living units. **Alderman T. Sapienza** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Ruais called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Long moved to grant the mayor the authority to execute two six-month contracts with East Coast Evolution Leadership and with 39 Beech Street, with an optional one-month extension. **Alderman T. Sapienza** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Ruais called for a vote. Alderman Terrio requested a roll call vote. Aldermen Terrio, E. Sapienza, Kantor and Levasseur voted nay. Aldermen Burkush, Barry, Vincent, Thomas, Morgan, Goonan, Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, and O'Neil voted yea. The motion carried.

- 33.** Communication from Larissa Robinov regarding her resignation as a member of the Conservation Commission.

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

- 34.** Communication from Roland Martin regarding his resignation as a member of the Manchester Development Corporation Board.

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

- 35.** Communication from Glory Kadima regarding her resignation as a member of the Office of Youth Services Advisory Board.

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

- 36.** Communication from Marcus Ponce de Leon regarding his resignation as a member of the Office of Youth Services Advisory Board.

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

- 37.** Communication from Margaret Teague regarding her resignation as a member of the Office of Youth Services Advisory Board.

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

Alderman Long asked is there a problem with the OYS Advisory Board.

Mayor Ruais answered I spoke to Mike Quigley about this. He has had some attendance issues so he called everyone and asked if they were still able to commit to the time necessary. These people said no. Director Quigley has brought forward three recommendations that I will put on the next agenda.

- 38.** Nominations:
Board of Registrars
Marc Tremblay to succeed Claudia Carr as a regular member, term to expire May 1, 2028
Heritage Commission
Lisa Walsh to succeed herself as a regular member, term to expire July 1, 2028
Central Business Service District Board
Brian Lawrence to succeed Ed Baroody as a regular member, term to expire May 1, 2028
Manchester Development Corporation Board
Andrew Leach to succeed Roland Martin as a regular member, term to expire March 11, 2026
Amy Chhom to succeed herself as a regular member, term to expire March 11, 2028
Maria Mongan to succeed herself as a regular member, term to expire March 11, 2028

Arts Commission

Jessica Martin to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire
December 1, 2027

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Scott Godzyk to fill a vacancy as an alternate member, term to expire
March 1, 2028

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

39. Confirmations:

Arts Commission

Amy Regan to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire
December 1, 2026

Ambar Ruiz to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire
December 1, 2027

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

40. Tentative Agreement between the Manchester School District and Local 298, AFSCME, AFL-CIO School Nurses.

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Levasseur**, it was voted to suspend Rule 29, Labor Contract Ratification, and ratify the tentative agreement.*

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

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from the Fire Chief for permission to apply for the Competitive Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$483,000, the Homeland Security Hazmat Allocation Grant in the amount of \$25,000 and the federal Security Upgrade to Critical Facilities grant to upgrade security systems in various city buildings be approved.

*On motion of **Alderman Burkush**, duly seconded by **Alderman Vincent**, 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 \$874,780 for CIP C330040826 MPD SFY26-27 Granite Shield Project be approved and referred to the Committee on Finance.

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Goonan**, 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 MPD Grant Coordinator to extend the end date for CIP 412522 2022 COSSAP Program to September 30, 2026 be approved.

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

*On motion of **Alderman Burkush**, duly seconded by **Alderman Barry**, it was voted to recess the meeting to allow the Committee on Finance to meet.*

Mayor Ruais called the meeting back to order.

44. 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 Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the FY2025 CIP 211425 School Based Dental Program - Medicaid.”

“Amending the FY2022, FY2023 and FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Seven Dollars and Ninety-Four Cents (\$100,997.94) for the FY2025 CIP 710025 MS4 FY25-SRF/Enterprise.”

“Amending the FY2016, FY2019, FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Three Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Six Dollars and Sixty-Two Cents (\$337,126.62) for the FY2023 CIP 710723 CMOM Study, Design & Construction-Sewer Bond.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the FY2023 CIP 712423 Air Service Development.”

“Amending the FY2015 Community Improvement Program authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty-One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$21,500) for the FY2015 CIP 811115 Historic Preservation Standards.”

"Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Eight Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$874,780) for the FY2026 CIP C330040826 MPD SFY26-27 Granite Shield Project."

"Establishing a Manchester School District Teaching and Learning Expendable Trust."

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

45. Report(s) of this evening's remaining committees, if available.

The Committee on Public Safety, Health & Traffic respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from Brady Sullivan for an additional loading sign and revised parking time limits and signage at 1555 Elm Street be approved.

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

The Committee on Lands & Buildings respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from Brady Sullivan for a revocable license agreement regarding parking spaces and ADA access ramps at 1555 Elm Street that encroach into the city's right-of-way be approved.

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

46. Resolutions:

"Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the FY2025 CIP 211425 School Based Dental Program - Medicaid."

"Amending the FY2022, FY2023 and FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Seven Dollars and Ninety-Four Cents (\$100,997.94) for the FY2025 CIP 710025 MS4 FY25-SRF/Enterprise."

"Amending the FY2016, FY2019, FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of

Three Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Six Dollars and Sixty-Two Cents (\$337,126.62) for the FY2023 CIP 710723 CMOM Study, Design & Construction-Sewer Bond.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the FY2023 CIP 712423 Air Service Development.”

“Amending the FY2015 Community Improvement Program authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty-One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$21,500) for the FY2015 CIP 811115 Historic Preservation Standards.”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Eight Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$874,780) for the FY2026 CIP C330040826 MPD SFY26-27 Granite Shield Project.”

"Establishing a Manchester School District Teaching and Learning Expendable Trust."

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

*On motion of **Alderman Levasseur**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted that the Resolutions ought to pass and be Enrolled.*

47. Bond Resolutions:

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the 2026 CIP C020080126 2026 Revaluation.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000) for the 2026 CIP C100071826 Purchase of 6 Buses (Fleet Replacement).”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the 2026 CIP C100071926 Purchase of 5 Buses (Fleet Expansion).”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the 2026 CIP C100080326 Information Technology Network Infrastructure.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand Dollars (\$596,000) for the 2026 CIP C130080226 Technology Projects.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000) for the 2026 CIP C210070926 FY26 Deferred Maintenance - Municipal.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Million Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$3,450,000) for the 2026 CIP C210071026 FY26 Deferred Maintenance Program.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000) for the 2026 CIP C210071126 Carpenter Library Roof.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for the 2026 CIP C210071226 Odd Fellows Interior Finishes.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Million One Hundred Eight-Four Thousand Dollars (\$3,184,000) for the 2026 CIP C230071326 Motorized Equipment Replacement.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the 2026 CIP C300040126 Protective Equipment (Gear).”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000) for the 2026 CIP C300040326 Fire Station Alerting.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$170,000) for the 2026 CIP C300040426 Women’s Locker Room Expansion.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2026 CIP C500070126 FY26 School Paving.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the 2026 CIP C500070226 FY26 Parks Paving.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000) for the 2026 CIP C500070326 FY26 Roadway Program.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the 2026 CIP C500070426 FY26 Sidewalk Rehab and Expansion.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the 2026 CIP C500070526 Traffic Signal - Deferred Maintenance.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred

Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the 2026 CIP C500070726 Pedestrian Signal Installation.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the 2026 CIP C650050126 Parks Deferred Maintenance.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$325,000) for the 2026 CIP C650050326 Wolfe Park Recreation Complex.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the 2026 CIP C650050426 Park Playground and Retrofitting.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the 2026 CIP C650050526 CPTED - Parks Lighting.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the 2026 CIP C650050626 Livingston Park Improvements.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the 2026 CIP C650050726 School Playground Replacement and Retrofitting.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) for the 2026 CIP C650050826 FY26 School Deferred Maintenance - P&R.”

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

*On motion of **Alderman Levasseur**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted that the Bond Resolutions ought to pass and be Enrolled.*

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I would encourage everyone to come down to the courthouse and observe what goes on because every time I hear that we are going to get help with bail reform or we are going to get help from the jail...I am telling you it is not going to happen okay. We are striving towards a clean and orderly community. We are striving towards a safe community that follows the rule of law. We are not getting

any help from the courts. We are not going to get any help from the Hillsborough County Jail and the sooner you all realize that the better. I just want to make that clear. Come on down and see for yourself.

Alderman O'Neil stated recently North Manchester-Hooksett hosted both the district and state Little League tournaments at Livingston. I first want to thank Public Works and the Parks Division for all their help in getting the complex ready. Because of the amount of people up there, they did garbage pick-up twice a week during that period which was helpful. I want to thank the Police and Fire Departments. They had officers and firefighters up there during the games interacting with people. It was great to see the positive reaction from people of all ages. Firefighters handed out helmets and kids got to tour the fire trucks. There was a competition as to whether the police handed out more badges than the Fire Department with helmets. It was just great to see the interaction with the people and for people to say oh we didn't know these kinds of things happened in Manchester and they do. It was very positive and most of the teams were not from Manchester. It was great and I thank the three departments for all their help.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated we had some speakers talk about the PFAS in the wastewater.

Mayor Ruais responded I have something on that but can we deal with the rest of new business and then address that.

Alderman T. Sapienza replied okay. The other thing is recently we approved the baby box. Can we get assurances that the baby box we are getting is safe?

Chief Marr answered yes, it is safe.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked so we don't have to be concerned about anything we heard tonight.

Chief Marr replied no.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated the last thing is the first speaker we had tonight talked about a mural that some kinds were putting together. Can we get the other side of the story? What is going on with that?

Tim Clougherty, Public Works Director, replied the testimony you heard tonight was regarding a mural proposed to be painted at Sheehan-Basquil Park. We were made aware of it, I believe, last week or late the week before. We heard some opposition to it. There was some chatter on social media. We had talked internally and rather than approving something that was potentially controversial, we directed the individual to put a proposal together for the Lands & Buildings Committee. That is what is going to be happening.

Alderman O'Neil stated Tim we approved that previously.

Mr. Clougherty responded this is a different mural. It was last year that we approved something.

Alderman O'Neil asked where was the one painted last year.

Mr. Clougherty replied it was also at Sheehan-Basquil Park.

Alderman O'Neil asked and that one got done.

Mr. Clougherty answered it did.

Alderman O'Neil stated I don't understand why there was a problem with this one but okay.

Mayor Ruais stated I don't think anything is stopping it from going forward. It is just a matter of getting the proper approval, correct?

Mr. Clougherty responded that is correct. It is going to go on the agenda and the Board will have an opportunity to approve it.

Alderman Fajardo stated I understand that that is the proper process and I support that but I believe the timeline, if we send it through the usual course of business, will lead them to not be able to finish out their program. In talking with Mr. Gomez, it seems like there was a lot of misunderstanding in terms of proper procedure and really the timing required to meet all of the steps in the process. I am wondering, since we did it last year, if we can do it again this year and move forward if there is a next year with the right amount of clarity around expectations for how the procedure should unfold.

Mr. Clougherty replied I am not comfortable doing that given the level of what I would say is feedback that we have received on the mural itself. There is saying that art is incredibly subjective.

Alderman Fajardo stated right so I am sure there is an equal number of people that appreciate it, especially the children and the developmentally disabled adults who worked on it.

Mr. Clougherty stated I wouldn't disagree but we have a process in place and I think it is proper to follow that process and put it in front of the Lands & Buildings Committee.

Alderman Fajardo asked why wasn't that process articulated back in May when the conversation first started.

Mr. Clougherty answered I don't know that this conversation first started in May but if that was the case, we will look into it and make sure that our expectations are more clearly defined and put together a policy and put it on our website for future murals.

Alderman Fajardo stated I think that would be very helpful.

Alderman T. Sapienza moved to allow the mural to be completed and then on September 1 everyone can take a look at it so on September 2 we will know whether we want to vote to cover it up. ***Alderman Fajardo*** duly seconded the motion.

Mayor Ruais asked so you are saying...

Alderman T. Sapienza interjected let them finish it and then we can judge it and if we want to paint over it, we can paint over it. I would rather not get intimidated by social media. That project was moving forward and social media yappers put a stop to it. That bothers me. People have been working in our community a long time. Art is subjective. It is my ward. The building is going to be torn down soon anyway. Really, we are going to pick on developmentally disabled people and kids that worked their hearts out and got this half-done scraping and painting? I know what that is like. I say we let them finish it and then we can all judge it and then we will know how to vote. Meanwhile the kids and the developmentally disabled get to have a couple of nice days. What is the harm in that?

Alderman Levasseur stated one of the reasons we put things on agendas is so that people will see them and the neighborhoods will hopefully see them on the agendas and then there will be a presentation on what is going to be painted. We had the presentations for the bridge pillars. They all come to a committee and then to the full Board to get voted on. That is how it works. I don't want to vote for something that we haven't seen yet. We haven't seen the mural but all of the sudden we are going to vote to send it up without a presentation.

Alderman T. Sapienza replied well all of the people can view it and then they can come here and tell us what they think on September 2 during public comment.

Alderman Levasseur asked so you want them to paint it before we vote on it and after we see it, we can go cover it up.

Alderman T. Sapienza answered I am confident enough to let this group of people do that; yes. They are already half done.

Alderman O'Neil called the question.

Mayor Ruais asked what is the motion.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated the motion is let them finish it.

Matthew Normand, City Clerk, stated it sounds like the motion is to approve the request...I don't have a request. I was made aware of this at 5:20 PM yesterday.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated let the people who started the mural finish it.

Alderman Levasseur stated that wasn't the mural that was presented the first time though. We haven't seen that mural. This is a separate project, right?

Alderman O'Neil stated we weren't presented murals last year. We were presented concepts and then they went and did them – the one on Lake Avenue and the one on Maple Street. We weren't presented the murals.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated we have a motion and a second. I don't know why we can't take a vote.

Mayor Ruais asked is there a reason why it can't come back on September 2.

Alderman O'Neil stated because the kids will be back in school and it will be too late.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked are you an art critic, Tim.

Mr. Clougherty responded I am not going to get in the middle of that. I think there is a process in place. Perhaps there was some fault on our end and we should have laid it out sooner but if the Board wants to vote to approve it, that is fine and if we don't like it in September, we can paint it over.

Mayor Ruais stated can we split the baby on it and say we do this one and can paint it over if we want to but going forward, we have a well laid out, documented SOP on how this works.

Alderman T. Sapienza replied perfect.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked is this Up With People.

Mayor Ruais asked do we know the name of the group doing this.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated it is Positive Street Art.

Alderman Vincent stated I don't see a problem with this. I think we have such bigger fish to fry in this city so this isn't worth another 20-minute conversation. If we have to do a roll call, so be it, but I don't see a problem with this and will vote for it.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote. *The motion carried with Aldermen Levasseur and E. Sapienza duly recorded in opposition.*

Alderman Long stated on August 16 the We Are One organization is having their festival. They are short \$500 for Parks & Rec. They owe close to \$1,000 for the rental of the stage and a few other things. I would like to *move that we transfer \$500 from contingency and give it to Parks & Rec which would reduce their bill to \$480.*

Mayor Ruais stated so Alderman Long is requesting \$500 from contingency to Parks & Recreation for the delta that the We Are One organization has.

Alderman Barry duly seconded the motion.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked why exactly do they need the \$500.

Alderman Long answered well the person who was running the We Are One Festival happened to move for a better job out of state and the people who took it over didn't have the fundraising capabilities on such short notice. I thought I would help them. They were \$500 short. They have about another \$500...the only thing they owe is Parks & Rec and it is a little over \$900 so I thought this \$500 would help them have the festival.

Alderman Terrio asked is this the first time they have requested...I seem to recall in the past that we have given organizations money which I am kind of surprised because this isn't a lot of money but have we given them money in the past.

Alderman Long replied yes, we have. We gave them money when we closed Intown. Intown was their fiscal agent holding their money. When they folded there was \$2,000 left in the fund that they never got back. That was the one time we gave them money and I believe it was \$1,000.

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

Alderman Fajardo stated I just wanted to comment on the gentleman who returned to public comment regarding the city-owned lot on Smyth Road. I remember that I believe Alderman Kantor at the last meeting when he spoke the first time asked for information about that. I don't know if it is the Tax Collector's Office that would provide that.

Mayor Ruais responded yes and I know the Solicitor's Office has been involved as well. I don't know if that is something Emily can comment on.

Solicitor Rice stated I would be happy to talk about that but not in public.

Alderman Fajardo stated I would just be interested in getting some background on that to understand it.

Alderman Kantor stated I think transparency is very important.

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman T. Sapienza**, it was voted to recess the meeting to meet with legal counsel.*

Mayor Ruais called the meeting back to order.

TABLED ITEMS

- 48.** 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.
(Note: Tabled on September 4, 2024.)

This item remained on the table.

- 49.** 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.
(Note: Tabled on November 19, 2024.)

This item remained on the table.

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

A True Record. Attest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Normand".

City Clerk