

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

September 2, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Morgan, Kantor, Long, Burkush

Absent: Alderman Terrio

Messrs.: Mayor Ruais, K. Loui

1. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$191,525.23 for CIP 610325 Beech Street Programs.
2. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$25,000 for CIP C160060526 39 Beech Street Programs.
3. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$650,000 for CIP C160060726 Aged and Infirm Shelter Project.
4. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$50,000 for CIP C200021526 2025/26 Chronically Homeless Residential Living.

Matthew Normand, City Clerk: It is my understanding the committee would like to take one motion and vote on the first four items of the agenda.

Alderman Kantor: There's a letter coming from Mayor Ruais. And it talks about aged and infirmed homeless population. I'd like to understand what the definition of aged and infirm is.

Mayor Ruais: So, in the engagement center, as we've talked about in previous letters that I've submitted to the board, there are over eight people that are in there that are over the age of 65. So that's on the aged side; it's difficult for them to find housing, ADA compliance issues. There are 21 individuals that were classified as chronically injured, that they have considerable health problems.

Alderman Kantor: Right. I'm just saying, moving forward, a complete definition of what that criteria looks like is really important to have that definition. And then talking about the rules: sex offenders, illegal immigrants. Where does that stand?

Mayor Ruais: I think it was the third paragraph in that letter where I talked about the HUD equal access. So, in conversations with the solicitor, we're bound by the HUD equal access law. That's housing and urban development federal law. We're bound by that where we cannot prohibit individuals from going in there.

Alderman Kantor: Okay. So, with the sex offenders, are they registered with the state?

Mayor Ruais: If that's the classification, they're registered with with the state or local authorities.

Alderman Kantor: My concern is the vulnerable people that are there, the women that are sleeping next to these sex offenders. It just is unacceptable to me. So, I just want to make sure that they're registered. I guess I'm a little confused because we talk about not using taxpayer money, but if we're selling, the money's coming from the sale of some of the land.

Mayor Ruais: When I talked about taxpayer dollars, what I was referencing was it's not going to be an increase to taxpayers and that we're not taking property taxes. Affordable housing trust fund is separate from your property tax bill.

Alderman Kantor: Right. So we're not increasing their property taxes, but we're still using taxpayer money. City money.

Mayor Ruais: It's the sale of a building. What I'm saying is I'm not increasing taxes and its an item in the budget.

Alderman Kantor: I wasn't expecting you to try and run this through so quickly.

Mayor Ruais: Well, we had the non-public meeting in July. The concept of this plan was approved in August, and as I said in the letter in August, that was to approve the concept of this plan where I walked through on that PowerPoint presentation, all of the funding that was in the four-page letter that I sent to the board, with all the funding laid out of where it was coming from, and we said in that letter that we would have to come back and do this housekeeping where the dollars were actually transferred. So, since July 22nd, when we had the non-public meeting a month and a half later, we're here to vote on it. So, I'm not trying to slam anything through quickly.

Alderman Kantor: Well, the lack of transparency of the location of the new homeless shelter is, for me, it's transparency. And I think it's really important that people know where it's going.

Mayor Ruais: So, we'll be voting on that tonight. What I didn't want to do is make something available before you all had the opportunity to read the lease. So that's why I wanted to bring the lease to you all so that it could be seen before we took a vote on it.

Alderman Kantor: Well, it's going to affect other neighborhoods.

Alderman Long: With respect to sex offenders, I believe the state has a list of those. Assistant Chief Loui, do you know if the state has a list of sex offenders?

Ken Loui, Assistant Chief of Police: We have a list of sex offenders in the city.

Alderman Long: So somebody showed up to the shelter that was a sex offender and not registered. We would know they were a sex offender because they were on a state list.

K. Loui: Well, wherever they are registered from, I mean, if they're from out of state, we would have to do some investigative efforts to figure out where they're from and get it from that state. But, you know, as far as the Manchester PD is concerned, we have a list of sex offenders who are registered within the city of Manchester.

Alderman Long: So, it would it would appear to me that we would want them there because we would have oversight. If they're homeless, going to encampments, I would think that that would be a worse situation for vulnerable people.

Alderman Kantor: What they really need is they need treatment. They need oversight, but they don't need to be sleeping next to a homeless woman that's struggling.

Alderman Long: They are in the encampments and we don't have oversight of encampments. We would have oversight here, so maybe we could move them.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to waive the readings of items one through four, with **Alderman Kantor** being duly recorded in opposition.*

*On motion of **Alderman Morgan**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to approve items one through four.*

5. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$125,000 for CIP 611225 447 Union Street Community Engagement Training Center.

*On motion of **Alderman Morgan**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to approve.*

6. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$232,851.57 for CIP 611325 231 Merrimack Street Affordable Housing Program.

*On motion of **Alderman Burkush**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to approve.*

7. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$150,000 for CIP 511223 West HS Tennis Courts.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to approve.*

8. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$2,000 for CIP C180060826 The Manchester Youth Counsel and Empowerment Group.
Ladies and Gentlemen, what is your pleasure?

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to approve.*

9. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$45,000 for CIP C410021726 Oral Health Program.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to approve.*

10. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$2,500 for CIP C500070926 Used Oil Grant - Upgrade Waste Oil Collection Services.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to approve.*

11. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$20,668 for CIP C500071026 Household Hazardous Waste Collection.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to approve.*

12. Communication from Whitney Dade, MPD Grant Coordinator, requesting that \$4,000 be reallocated from Other to Salaries and Wages for CIP 410325 Police ShotSpotter - Gunshot Detection.

*On motion of **Alderman Burkush**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to approve.*

13. Communication from Todd Fleming, Grants Administration Manager, requesting a line item budget modification for CIP C500070326 FY26 Roadway Program.

*On motion of **Alderman Burkush**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to approve.*

M. Normand: It was requested that items one through six be reported to the Board this evening.

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

A True Record. Attest.

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

Clerk of Committee

*Meeting Start Time: 6:30PM
Meeting End Time: 6:39PM
Minutes Prepared By: Michael Intranuovo*