

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

October 7, 2025 at 7:00 PM

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

The Mayor called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Fajardo.

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: 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.

Carolyn Choate, 59 Cheyenne Drive, Nashua: I have lived downstream the Merrimack River in Nashua for 37 years, and work as an investigative health food writer and an admissions counselor for Southern New Hampshire University at 67 years old, for the generous medical benefits. I've come to share my concern about PFAS pollution at the Manchester Wastewater Treatment Plant. The cause is both personal and on behalf of the greater good. You see, I feel an obligation, perhaps, as many of you have, as I have been diagnosed with cancer in 2022, advanced thyroid cancer. Just one of the many documented health effects related to PFAS exposure. I'm still receiving care in Boston. The surgery, treatment and subsequent testing I would not wish on anyone. While I cannot say with certainty my cancer is directly caused by PFAS I ingested through Nashua's

municipal drinking water, I do know that had I the power you hold to reduce any level of toxins from discharging into the Merrimack in route to your 90,000 neighbors, I would amend the city's sewer use ordinance and continue the unparalleled national leadership the state of New Hampshire has shown in the PFAS arena for all citizens. The legislature wisely anticipated such opportunities through RSA, according to the statute, required PFAS testing and reporting of industrial and commercial facilities waste, as well as septic haulers, is an enforceable mechanism available to all New Hampshire municipalities to decrease the health and environmental burden on our communities by decreasing PFAS levels and exposure. As you know, this amendment is not about compliance with Manchester's Clean Water Act permit. It's about directing the moral oath you took to steward the best interests of your constituents into something more meaningful: the collective well-being of Granite Staters beyond your city limits. I have always admired and envied Manchester's can do, get her done, mover shaker attitude. For the sake of your own community's better health and your neighbors downstream and our state's first in the nation reputation, please amend your sewer use ordinance. Please put humanity above business influence. I leave you with a copy of a recent article I've written about the situation, and thank you for your time.

Paul LaFerriere, 185 Eastern Avenue: I'm a candidate for Alderman. First, I'd like to give a shout out to the ward four ballot inspectors, our moderator, Craig Donais, and our selectmen. They made things very smooth and efficient on election day. I was there from 5:15 a.m. until 8:15 p.m. and it went smooth. Many voters that came stated that they were not aware of the election or what they were voting for. Many asked me what they were voting for today and I explained it to them. That was alderman at large. We need to improve advertising and communication with the citizens of Manchester and get the word out to get people to vote. The primary is just as important as the general election. We need to do better to get it out. And the general election is now November 4th, 2025. Second, with the November 4th election, I would like the aldermen and mayor to discuss temporary public transportation to the polls at no cost to get people in to vote. There's help to get these people to their locations. Using the public transportation to the polls would be only free to all voters. Has there been any update on the situation regarding the PFAS issue that has been brought up in the last two meetings and now tonight? What is happening in the city's wastewater treatment plant. And to fix this important concern,

please issue a statement to the City of Manchester on this issue. Special thanks to Manchester PD that have done an awesome job patrolling and enforcing the hours at our cemeteries and in our city. Safety and security of businesses, property and individuals are extremely important for everyone to enjoy what the city has to offer. I want to thank you, and keep up the great job that you're doing. The sidewalks and road infrastructure in ward four require significant improvements. Since announcing my candidacy, I've received multiple inquiries about the complaints they filed and no improvements yet. This concern was also brought to my attention that the ward four polling location, while door knocking and speaking to voters. This is one of the major concerns brought to my attention. There are concerns on Merrimack Street, McDonagh School area and Eastern Avenue, among other locations. It's essential to prioritize the safety of school children as they walk to school via our sidewalks. Additionally, it's also important for individuals who walk or exercise. Seniors and parents with strollers would benefit from repaired sidewalks, reducing the need to use the roadway, enhancing overall pedestrian safety and preventing injuries due to the damaged infrastructure. I support a change to the ordinance regarding pickles and baked goods to fall under the New Hampshire State RSA Homestead Act. I also believe the Health Department, if they're going to enforce rules, then there should be no policy that states they can exclude baked goods. Let's get this ordinance fixed and follow the State of New Hampshire Homestead Act. As a retired chef and caterer, and one that cans, canners that have been doing this for a long time know the safety issues regarding canning items because remember, even we consume our canned goods as well. In closing, I strongly support First Amendment rights for our US Constitution, something I have served and defended for 42 years. Even though there are issues being brought forward, I believe Americans should always be allowed to state their opinions and grievances without government infringement. Freedom to petition the government allows citizens to make requests to the government for action to correct wrongs, injustices, or for other matters. I want to thank you for your time and God bless America.

Austin Bouchard, 194 Cilley Road: I'm here to talk about the proposed change to the rules of decorum for this chamber, and I rise tonight out of conviction. Conviction of what is unfolding in this city is a betrayal of fairness, accountability, and the principles of free expression that define a free people. This controversy began with a harmless resident

jarring pickles in his own home. The response from the health department under Director Thomas, was to threaten that resident with enforcement action and even criminal action. It was selective enforcement, the kind of action the city never takes against church bake sales or others doing the very same thing. It revealed not a common concern for health, but a reflex toward control. Buried within this response, these proposed rules of decorum, is a clause declaring that this board has complete faith and trust in Director Thomas and the outstanding employees of our health department. That's not decorum, that is deference. It is not the role of this board to canonize department heads. It is your duty to question them, especially when their judgment has failed this city. During Covid, Director Thomas warned that the city's reopening of splash pads would put blood on this board's hands, and resisted opening schools until Governor Sununu issued a statewide order requiring in-person instruction to resume. It took that order to overcome her opposition, leaving Manchester among the last districts in the state to reopen. Those dire predictions of catastrophe never came to pass. Yet instead of accountability, she is now elevated in policy as beyond reproach. And when Alderman Levasseur challenged that record, the response was not debate, it was retaliation. The remarks at issue weren't even made in this chamber. They were made on Facebook and on public television: in the public square, where every citizen has the same right to speak. Punishing an elected official for words spoken where there is an assault on the very freedoms you swore to uphold. Meanwhile, this board's selective outrage exposes its hypocrisy. School board member O'Connell, on public television described Charlie Kirk as a figure of the extreme right who peddled in hate speech, implying that his rhetoric brought about his own death. And he made those comments just one day after Charlie Kirk was assassinated. There was no rebuke, no rule change, no call for civility. Former police chief Aldenberg used his authority to direct officers to boycott a local business over an employee's political beliefs. And this board did not condemn it; it unanimously supported him. These are rules of a moving goalpost applied when politically convenient once government claims power to decide. And to be clear, this isn't about decorum. This is about besmirching the voice of fiscal responsibility on this board. At the moment, the city is headed towards a budget crisis thanks to the school district's manipulation of trust funds to cheat the tax cap and the board's willingness to allow it. You've approved the reckless Beach Street School project, and now state funding changes, and one time money dries up, and the city will be left holding a \$10 to \$12 million budget shortfall.

Bill Smillie, 8 Laurmand Way: First, I want to thank Jeff and Kristen, who no longer here, and their team in the Planning Board for their review of their proposed draft ordinance with regards to signage, I believe it was section nine. I appreciate that some of those changes that we recommended were taken and changed in the ordinance. It was a meaningful and productive meeting. That said, I'd like to go on record in opposition of the proposed section nine, which is the signage portion of the new ordinance. My concern centers around public input process that was conducted, the images presented to the residents, particularly those slides on 63 and 106, used to gauge what types of signs people liked and disliked were, quite frankly, unrepresentative of today's signage here in Manchester, New Hampshire. They did not reflect the creativity and quality and technology available in modern signage and lighting. For more than 30 years, I've worked with more than 200 communities around the United States, including Manchester in 2009, and thousands of small businesses nationwide. I've seen both sides of the ugly sign versus nice sign. But I can tell you this from firsthand experience: signs and lighting are a visible indication of economic vitality and the number one way businesses and enterprise market themselves. In my work over the last 30 years with the International Sign Association, our focus has always been on helping communities understand signage and lighting when it supports local businesses, attracts investments and strengthens both community and business identity. The LED technology in particular has evolved dramatically. With the appropriate safeguards on brightness, today's LED signage is widely accepted as valuable communications tools in both businesses and municipalities. Communities across the country are now using LED displays as public message boards to inform, engage and build civic pride: firehouses, churches, theaters, among others. Labeling all LED signage as billboards represents reality. In Manchester alone, 95% of the LED signs currently including the new Singer Center, beautiful job, I will say myself, the Verizon Center, Brady Sullivan Tires, Granite State Credit Union serve as integral, tasteful signage downtown. Unfortunately, the second draft of the ordinance eliminates this technology from being utilized in certain zones. I do appreciate, however, the planning commissions are making some changes in certain areas schools, firehouses, and churches. I'll close with a quick lesson. I remember once working in Reading, Pennsylvania, very similar size to Manchester, New Hampshire, years ago when I worked with the city planning department. I remember the city manager telling me something I've never forgotten. Light represents safety. Crime does not like light. I urge the board to

reconsider or ask the Planning Commission to sit with us again and make some of these changes that are drastically needed. Thank you for your time.

Bryce Kaw-uh, 639 N. Bay Street: I came here tonight to talk about housing. I live in ward one. As the Planning Board chair since late 2021, and as an active candidate now for ward one alderman, I have seen how critical the issue of housing is for our long term success as a city. Manchester desperately needs more housing. Young professionals, working families, and seniors on fixed incomes should be able to all live here without breaking the bank. We need an all of the above approach to increase both supply and affordability. That's why I'm so excited for your upcoming votes on some significant zoning ordinance changes. Officially termed the new Land Use Code, this is the culmination of a years' long process that involves thousands of hours of hard work from city staff and volunteers. They have taken a comprehensive and thoughtful approach to make impactful changes while respecting Manchester residents and their feedback. And I get it, zoning codes and planning regulations are not the most interesting subject in the world for most people, but this is critically important because these new rules will have a direct impact on what types of housing can be built and where. The adjustments will make it easier for the housing we need. It will help restore the ability to build traditional, mixed-use buildings and create vibrant, walkable communities that are more affordable for working families. We need more housing of all types to ensure that everyone can have a safe and affordable place to live. And while the zoning ordinance changes won't be a silver bullet, they are part of the puzzle. This is our chance to make a difference. So, I ask you on the board and any member of the public listening to voice your support so we can move our city forward. That being said, even after these zoning changes are adopted, we will still need to do more. I'd like to see our city make additional investments in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, hopefully some sustainable investments that move beyond the limited one-off revenue that came from selling some city property over the past couple of years. And there are plenty of other things that we can do to make a difference. But I'll leave it at that for now. So please support the new land use code and I invite you to reach out to Planning staff if you have any questions or concerns. As you know, they are responsive and quite good at their jobs. So, thank you for your time and have a good evening.

Nancy Troupakis, 128 Karatzas Avenue: I write to you today as a concerned resident of Manchester and a committed advocate for open, transparent and accountable government. Recent actions taken by Mayor Jay Ruais, particularly regarding Alderman Joe Kelly Levasseur, raised serious questions about the integrity of our city's democratic processes. Mayor Ruais pressured Alderman Levasseur into resigning under false pretenses. The mayor communicated to Alderman Levasseur that the board had voted for him to step down. This was not true. No such vote had occurred. This misrepresentation was not only misleading, it was manipulative. This has created the false impression of consensus and urgency and undermined the influence of an elected official who is accountable to the voters, not to the mayor. Let me remind the board, elected officials are not city employees. They are not subject to internal HR policies or private personnel procedures. Any attempt to regulate their speech or conduct through such mechanisms is not only legally questionable, it is a violation of public trust in democracy. The decision to schedule a non-public meeting to discuss Alderman Levasseur's chairmanship, despite clear state law requiring such matters to be addressed publicly, presents a troubling breach of honesty. His request for public hearing was denied. And why? The answer is the mayor took advantage of an opportunity to be rid of Alderman Levasseur once and for all. After all, Joe will not be the mayor's puppet. I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation for Alderman Joe Kelly Levasseur. In the face of intense pressure and political maneuvering, he refused to compromise his principles or submit to the mayor's agenda. Joe's decision to stand firm and not become a puppet of the administration is a testament to Joe's commitment to independent leadership and accountability to the voters. That kind of courage is rare, and it deserves recognition. Mayor Ruais's proposed rule changes are not a neutral policy shift; they are a calculated political maneuver designed to suppress the voices of opposition and consolidate control over speech within city government. This is not leadership. Again, this is manipulation. Transparency is not optional. It is your duty. The people of Manchester deserve to see how decisions are made and who is making them. I urge this board to reject any motions that seek to limit the speech of elected officials, or obscure public deliberation behind closed doors. Do not let political convenience override constitutional rights. Do not let this board become a tool for censorship. Thank you.

Richard Girard, 283 Orange Street: Today is the two-year anniversary of the slaughter of innocent Jews and the abduction of hundreds more by Hamas in Israel; I hope everyone will take a moment to remember that. Not that long ago, this board changed the rules governing public participation because of a single complaint that said, barring the use of profanity to maintain civility and public discourse was an unconstitutional restriction on free speech. Tonight, you're looking to impose restrictions in the name of civility that would infringe on the free speech rights of elected officials. What's worse is that the board will also do so via an extension of employee workplace harassment policies. That's a problem because, as we all know, harassment is determined by the person who considers themselves harassed. It's an entirely subjective standard that gives employees the ability to accuse any elected official of harassment in response to any question, inquiry, investigation, or criticism. Let's also examine the employees to be affected by these motions. City department heads: they're not regular employees. They're nominated and confirmed by elected officials through a public process. As such, they are political appointments and quasi-public figures. They are directly answerable to the board, making their conduct and that of their departments subject to public scrutiny. Giving them the ability to cry harassment when they're being pushed on issues of their conduct or the conduct of their departments, will blunt any meaningful public inquiry into their actions. Pickle-gate is a perfect case in point. Instead of discussing the very real questions over the conduct of the health department, you're focused on the alleged harassment of the department head by an alderman who raised those legitimate questions. So intense has this focus been that two non-public sessions were called to deal with the alderman's conduct, under the ruse that a public discussion might damage the department head's reputation. That's an abuse of the state's right to know law, and you should expect more of it if these motions pass. I'll end with these two points. First, anyone who voted to remove the civility restrictions on public participation is little more than a hypocrite if they vote in favor of imposing civility restrictions on elected officials. It's up to the voters to decide whether an elected official's speech is appropriate or not, not rival politicians. Second, I believe the Health Department violated Licensing Ordinance Section 110.08 B when it issued the cease-and-desist order that sparked pickle-gate. Adopted in 1996, it's an exemption that reads in its entirety, "casual activity or sales by minors or persons who may not be licensed under the provisions of this title shall not be construed to be engaged in a business activity, and no license may be levied on such persons for such activity."

Some guy who pickles what came out of his garden once a year, is clearly engaged in casual activity and not subject to these regulations. Your focus should be on the conduct of a powerful regulatory agency, not an alderman who called it out, however disagreeable you found the method by which it was done. It is your prerogative to replace him as chairman if you are so aggrieved. But don't let the department head hide behind the Führer she helped create by accusing him of harassment. Citizens deserve to have these questions about this department's conduct answered. And if I may, in saying, it's not your job to support your department heads. It's nice when you can. It's your job to hold them accountable for the job they do. It's your job to ask them questions and yes, to even be critical. And as an elected official, I've done that. And I know that the people on the receiving end, no matter how politely you put it, don't always like it. And they shouldn't be empowered to stymie you and your ability to get answers in any way.

Susan Dardas, 176 Stanton Street: I'm here to speak about the land use code. The new proposed land use code that I believe we're starting to discuss now. I am a business owner, property owner, commercial property owner right here that resides in the central business district. This new land use code is largely form-based. For those of you that might not know what largely form-base is, it is restrictions. I am a single mother of three. Worked hard my whole entire life. I was just asking if you can take the time to read almost the 300-page restricted land use code that restricts me and my property, which is a light industrial multi-use. This new land use code is proposing that my property can only become housing. So, if I sell my property, rent it, there's not much I can do about it. So, if I get a tenant, my tenant now is going to have to go through all the restrictions. I have an auto repair tenant. If he leaves, I cannot get another auto repair tenant. I can't turn his garage into housing. I can't put five stories on top of my building. It's a one story, 10,000ft² warehouse. So, I'd like to just ask this board to please read the largely form-based land use code. And I believe that the director of the Planning Department stated back in 2012, in an article that was written in the Nashua press, that this land use code comes from Smart Growth America, which is a non-profit organization in Washington, and they're implementing this in our city. So, it's going to start with the commercial properties. Is it now going to go to residential? What can you can and can't do with your own property that you own, your private property? I don't have the big pockets to put up a hotel. But I know the developers do, so it opens up a lot of doors for developers. Thank you.

Camille Craffey: I'm here tonight because my seven-year-old son, Jack, is being bullied in Manchester schools, and this district has failed him at every level. I've emailed the superintendent, the school board, and even your office, mayor. Yet, to this day, I have not received a single response from you, Mr. Mayor. I know you are very busy with your ribbon cutting ceremonies and your photo ops to aide to your re-election. However, as an individual who foolishly helped you campaign during the last term, I would certainly hope you could be bothered to return an email concerning a small child and his education. One year ago, mayor, at the ward 12 public town hall meeting, you promised to implement an attendance policy for sitting school board members. Ward 12's Carlos Gonzalez remains repeatedly absent, leaving families like mine without representation or recourse. Therefore, I am calling on this community and this board to formally petition to remove Mr. Gonzalez from his seat on the school board as he is derelict of his duties. The superintendent has also spent over a year deflecting and covering up DEI and CRT investigations that began back in May, where 12-year-olds were forced to complete a wheel of power and privilege packet, disclosing their sexual preference - these are 12-year-olds - their immigration status, and whether their parents rent or own their home. That's not education, that's grooming folks. The superintendent did, however, find time in her very busy schedule of constant meetings which prevent her from answering my phone calls to make a statement to the Union Leader. The Right to Know Act does not include media or press; it directly references parents, guardians and caretakers of children and affords us the transparency. So, I ask, where does right to know begin and where does it end? And how is it possible that the superintendent gets to dictate when parents are notified that investigations are being opened? For these reasons, I am demanding that the superintendent be placed on unpaid administrative leave until she properly notifies guardians and completes all well overdue investigations that remain open. She makes more than our governor, by the way. Perhaps if the Manchester Health Department were less concerned about smearing a God-fearing man canning pickles, and instead focused on the roach infestation spreading through our schools, students would actually have a safe, clean, and healthy learning environment. Instead, we continue down a rabbit hole of political witch hunting against a conservative member of this board, while students suffer in classrooms that are not safe nor sanitary. Finally, as a military veteran, I'd like to remind everyone your First Amendment right is always protected by those of us who

signed a blank check for our lives to defend it. The idea that this board would silence anyone because they disagree is not only corrupt, but it is against our constitutional rights as American citizens. The last time I spoke at this meeting, my concerns, questions, and comments were all ignored. I expect acknowledgement of my words, and I refuse to continue being ignored by this board, by the school board, and by this mayor. Thank you.

Daniel Mowery, Holt Avenue: First of all, I want to answer some of Mr. Levasseur's questions that Director Thomas would not answer. Director Thomas never called me. Never sent an investigator over to my house. Never did any investigation. Sent me a letter, and that was it. Did she even ask me if I was selling pickles? No. This is harassment. Not only that, her department sent the same email to the Diocese of Manchester. And I am investigating it. It is BS. Mr. Vincent, you said last month that you were going to have a committee on the whole homestead. Why are we not having it? Why was it cancelled today? Is it because most of the aldermen are going to vote no on it? And you know you're going to lose your election? Guess what? Too bad. People are sick and tired of it. I have more people coming to me and saying that the Director of Health Department is foolish. This is coming from religious people. This is unconstitutional. And for silencing that young man, Mr. Levasseur, for his freedom of speech, is BS. You gotta wake up. The Manchester citizens are sick and tired of this BS. We'd rather have a full board of Joe Kelly Levasseur, Ross Terrio, Ed Sapienza, and Crissy Kantor, because we are not going to have smoke blown up our back doors. It is sick, and we are sick and tired of this BS. And Mr. Mayor, I endorse you and I gave you a nice donation on your campaign. You should at least have called me or had them investigate me. Until next time, I want to hear something about this homestead. As of now, I am canning 18 courses of marinara sauce. And I also did 72 more courses of pickles. So come after me. My lawyer will be waiting for you. Have a good evening, and God bless Manchester.

Deb Roux, Ward 12: I'm going to take a break from reading the Declaration of Independence today to talk about Charlie Kirk. In three days, it will be one month since his assassination. I knew of Charlie, however, didn't realize how strong his faith was, how much it meant to him, and how important it was for him to share it with everyone. I also didn't realize how educated he was about our country and how much he loved America. Since his death, I have watched some interviews and speeches, and I watched all five

hours of his memorial service. I was amazed at everyone who spoke about Charlie and what they had to say about him. They all had a story to share of how he impacted their lives. So much so that Vice President J.D. Vance, our Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and Tucker Carlson and many others had the courage to speak about their faith and what it means to them and for our country. It is clear to me Charlie's life mission was to share his faith, his love for our country, and how these two things go hand in hand. Everywhere he went, he was awakening the hearts and minds of our high school and college students and really everyone he met or reached through social media. As all of you know, I've been educating everyone about this forefathers monument in Plymouth, Mass, which is also based on faith. It is also known as the Matrix of Liberty. It explains why America is the freest nation in the world. There are two inscriptions on the monument, one on the front and one on the back. On the front it reads National Monument to the forefathers, erected by a grateful people in remembrance of their labors, sacrifices and sufferings for the cause of civil and religious liberty. This monument is made up of five statues. Religious liberty is depicted by faith and morality, and civil liberty is depicted by law, education and liberty. Liberty can only exist with a moral people. Freedom plus morality is liberty. On the back, facing the rest of the country there's a quote by Governor William Bradford that reads: Thus, out of small beginnings, greater things have been produced by his hand that made all things out of nothing, and gives being to all things that are, as one small candle may light a thousand. So, the light here kindled has shown unto many yea, in some sort to our whole nation. Let the glorious name of Jehovah have all the praise. I've been studying our history for about five years, and have come to understand the importance of faith in seeking God, who gives us our liberties at birth. He has a plan and purpose for each one of us. However, we need to seek him first to figure out what that plan and purpose is. I have seen him move in my life, and I've read the monument guidebook, which you all have access to because I donated a copy to Alderman Kantor, so I really suggest that you look at it, and I read other history books, and I've learned how God moved our founding fathers, and in the creation of our Declaration, Constitution, and our country as a whole. Many governors, presidents, and leaders in the military have called for prayer in trying times, and called for prayer in times of thanksgiving when things are going well. I recently learned and encourage you all to look up World War Two General George S. Patton and the prayer card he gave to his army of 250,000 men during the pivotal Battle of the Bulge in December of 1944. With all this being said, I'm asking for this Board of

Aldermen and you, Mayor, to bring back prayer to the city of Manchester, starting with the aldermen's meetings. At the beginning of every meeting, we say a pledge of allegiance and have a moment of silence. I'm asking you to say a prayer in place of the moment of silence. The mayor could start, and then the aldermen. Everyone could take turns. Or you can nominate someone to say a prayer. Let's keep Charlie Kirk's mission and our Founding Fathers' mission to seek God first in all we do here in Manchester alive. We as a nation have stopped praying in public places, and it really shows. We could become the city on the hill for all of New Hampshire. Thank you for taking this into consideration. God bless you all.

Troy Micklon, 29 Ode Way: Before I begin, I'd like to thank someone who's not here. And that's my wife. Today is actually our 20th wedding anniversary, and I want to let her know I appreciate her understanding and support, and let her I know how much I love her, and I can't wait for us to celebrate on our upcoming trip. With that, last week I published a blog post on my campaign website about a topic that's come up a number of times while out on the campaign trail and meeting with residents of ward nine, and that's regarding the repeal of New Hampshire's vehicle inspections. Of course, there is still pending work at the state level, such as continuing their guidance on police departments on how to enforce safety related laws. But there's also work to do here at the city level. And that's because our ordinances are now impacted. Specifically, chapters 118 and 119 of our city code, which deal with taxis and transportation network services such as Uber and Lyft. Section 118.39 currently ties Manchester's taxi inspections to our state's annual vehicle inspection program. When the program officially ends in January of 2026, our ordinance will reference a state process that no longer exists. That means that we will be trying to enforce language that is obsolete and unclear for both taxi drivers and inspectors. Then there's chapter 119, which still requires rideshare companies to obtain city licenses, pay per vehicle fees, submit paperwork to the city clerk, and that entire system was preempted by state law when the legislature passed RSA 359:U-17, giving the Department of Safety exclusive authority over the transportation network companies; state law is explicit. No municipality may require a separate local ordinance or impose its own operational rules. These aren't minor details. They affect how much Manchester enforces safety, how businesses operate, and how residents access transportation every day. So tonight, I'm asking the board to direct a formal review of chapters 118 and 119 and bring them into

alignment with current state law. Updating these ordinances is about accuracy, safety, and accountability. We want to make sure that our code reflects current laws, not yesterday's. More broadly, we need aldermen who stay ahead of these changes, aldermen who ensure our ordinances comply with state laws before they become outdated and not after. That's the kind of leadership that our city deserves, guided by values and focus on outcomes. I do have some handouts for that regarding those ordinances, and I thank you guys for all for your time and your service.

Danielle Decastro: I am here to talk about the issue with the cockroaches at the school. They knew over the summer that they had the cockroaches in the school, admitted that they were in the kitchen areas, and did nothing about it. Did not tell us parents either. I found out from my daughter when she had come home and said we needed to check her backpack. When finding that out, I did call the school. The school only said to me that they had no idea why an email was not sent out, or why us parents were not alerted. They told me that they notified the health department, but they still did not notify us. That was very upsetting. There is still no reasonable resolution on how this is going to be taken care of. These kids are in that school every day for most of the day, having to bring their backpacks around with them, having to walk through this school and stepping on cockroaches, telling everybody that it's fine, when cockroaches are falling out of children's backpacks. It is completely unsanitary and very upsetting that we were not alerted of this. I tried to reach out every way I can to help these kids because I am trying to advocate for them as many parents are upset about it. They said they were going to just do a two-week treatment, but again, nothing to follow up that. As myself and many other parents believe, the school should be shut down because it is extremely unsanitary, especially knowing that they are in the kitchen area where these kids eat. We are told that the other schools in the Manchester district are finding roaches in the schools as well. Again, no word from the school. I found out from kids. I would love to see why they let it escalate to this and did not do something about it before school had started. Because, again, as unsanitary as it is, it is not fair to these kids to be sitting there as I would not expect anybody else to want to sit in their home knowing there's cockroaches there and not knowing if they're in the food that they're eating, because they do carry diseases. I wish there was more communication from the school for us parents, as we should have been alerted of this before school even started and we were not. It is very upsetting and I don't

know how else to get it out, but I do hope to have a solution for this issue and that is all. Thank you.

Mary Georges, 18 Blodget Street: I first of all, I'm going to thank you. And thank you, Manchester. And thank you for the leadership here in Manchester. I believe in this city. And I'm grateful to be here because all my work I started in this city when I came, it was a prayer. I make a group of prayer in churches with the women, just to pray for the city, for the peace of the city, for the police and the city. I am always happy to see my city, my home. This is the place that I want to raise my kids and that is why I'm here, because of peace. I want to ask you for support, for the peace and the stability in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The City of Manchester, New Hampshire, has long celebrated and embraced its diverse community, including the Congolese diaspora, and has proudly raised the Congolese flag annually since 2009. In recognition of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's independence, that was with Mayor Frank Guinta. The City of Manchester has for 16 years been supporting the Democratic Republic of Congo, and has been raising awareness. This is the moment to present a critical juncture in Congolese history. And the United States must decide whether it will stand on the side of justice, democratic and human right, or continue to enable policy to perpetuate instability and suffering. I cannot. Sometimes I don't sleep because of the women suffering in Congo. You have that resolution in your hands. I'm just asking you if Manchester can take this moment to support this and to send a delegation in Congo because they need to know the truth. Because they don't know, really, the cause. I need your help. You guys can support the Congolese community and diaspora here in Manchester and in New Hampshire. It will be appreciated. Thank you.

Cali Rojas, 169 Pine Street: First, I want to start off by thanking the Manchester PD and whoever else was listening to Ward three residents speaking up about the Pine Street Valley Street Cemetery. I have noticed very positive changes. The police presence has brought a tremendous change and transformation in that cemetery, so I just want to thank them first. Next, I would like to read the New Hampshire Constitution. In the Bill of Rights, Article 30 is freedom of speech. The freedom of deliberation, speech, and debate in either house of the legislature is so essential to the rights of the people that it cannot be the foundation of any action, complaint or prosecution in any other court or place whatsoever.

So, freedom of speech shouldn't be infringed upon, and no one should be silenced, regardless of who they are or what they believe. Thank you to those on this board who asked the tough questions the public are concerned about. It would be awful to have them censored. I do agree and I do not condone bullying or threatening anyone. And I am not here to condone or condemn anybody, just here to ask questions to better understand, as a concerned taxpaying citizen who would be determining what is appropriate language, who would oversee this? I believe if you are working in a public office position, you need to accept pushback and not everybody is going to agree with you. We live in a constitutional republic, not democracy where majority rules. We all think differently and have different opinions, but especially in this room, conversations need to be had, not silenced. Elected officials are supposed to be the checks and balances of our government. You are elected to voice the people's concerns, not remain silent, worrying about offending or hurting someone's feelings. Lastly, the verbiage "we should have complete trust in the Department of Health" I find alarming. We the people and this board should be able to question them and push back on overreach if and when it arises. I believe that Covid 19 proved that we can't blindly trust the experts. As well as mentioned, that the lack of transparency with the public school's cockroach infestation in handling. Also, I want to congratulate McLaughlin for winning the best pickles and baked goods at the Deerfield Fair. That's awesome. What an amazing accomplishment and deserved recognition. But the sheer irony of them being able to risk botulism at the Deerfield Fair but a man can't have or give pickles to his friends and family is astounding. Thank you all. I ask that God gives you eyes to see and ears to hear these words of the people that are speaking up. And Lord, I just pray for all of you guys and I pray for this great city, Manchester. Thank you.

Ken Tassey, Ward 6: I would like to respectfully but strongly ask that the motion to be made outlined in section 29 on tonight's agenda, be killed on the floor tonight, or at least be tabled until after the election on November 4th. Particularly the second motion that reads, "neither the Board of Mayor and Aldermen nor the City of Manchester supports or condones personal attacks, threats or innuendoes against its employees or other officials". It goes on to express faith and trust in a specific department head by name, which seems odd instead of stating the board's appreciation for all department heads, it boggles my mind. Who will be the judge determining what words, phrases, or speech

qualifies as personal attacks, threats, or innuendo? Which one of you will be the judge of that? A new committee? Will the city establish a glossary of banned words and phrases? Besides the possible constitutional concern with attempting to curb certain language, what I am most concerned about is the timing of this all. For weeks, Democrat members of the BMA have been meeting behind closed doors to discredit one Republican weeks before an election. Since they were not successful in making a public spectacle of their opponent on two previous attempts, they continue again, now even closer to an election, to publicly smear their opponent in a passive-aggressive sort of way through this nice letter in tonight's agenda. Although the words used in this motion, that is, "will not condone or support bad language," who knows who deems it as inappropriate and there's no penalty for non-compliance outlined in the motion. It is clearly before us on stage tonight that if you don't get in lockstep with the gang, you will be ousted. The BMA should not be in the business of deciding what is good or bad language. Kill this motion tonight. And again, the timing of this motion is suspect, and I ask you to just move on from it. Thank you very much.

Kathleen Carswell, 385 Amherst Street: I don't know how to begin this, but everybody here should be for the people of Manchester. Whether you're red, blue, green or purple, it doesn't matter. You've all taken an oath to hold your seat, and for the people of Manchester. Mr. Levasseur wasn't reprimanded last year when he had two people fired from their jobs, he went on Facebook, put out there public information, and basically discredited them. Sold them out. Nothing happened to him then. But because of the pickles, and he's all for that. It's not a joke, Mr. Levasseur. Sorry. That's disgraceful. But that's all right. I can see where it comes from. But that's all right. There should be checks and balances. There should be a code of conduct. And if you disagree, that's great. But because someone says something about somebody else and an alderman blasts that person, and the reprimand for that was extreme, that was bad taste and that was very poor and it shouldn't have happened and it should have been addressed. He called out the Health and Human Service Director who lives in Concord, who should be living in Manchester, she holds a seat. Alderman have to live in their ward and you mayor, have to live in Manchester. So, I mean it's fair. They have a director up there in Concord. So needless to say, it doesn't look pretty. I'm tired of looking in the paper and seeing our name smeared. I've lived here 62 years in Manchester. I grew up here, I worked here,

and I'm hopefully retiring here but it's getting to be a bad name and we got to start cleaning this act up. And it's not on just one person. It's not on one party. It's everybody. We got to have some decency and respect for one another. And we can agree to disagree.

Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street: I will have lived on Auburn Street 25 years come December, and that should not be a reason for eviction of notice. I'm here tonight to speak about an issue that's dear to my heart. It's called having morals and doing the right thing. I want to thank the police officers who have been visiting our cemetery much more often than they probably should, but they have to because there is crime going on in there, and the activity that goes on after midnight is deplorable. They go right through the gate. In fact, the gate has been broken into several times in the last month. I've got pictures of it. We have to do a better job now. If those gates are closed from sunset to sunrise, there will be no emergency in the cemetery because no one will be overdosing. There will be no human beings in there. There'll be no trash, no feces being piled up, no needles, no drug dealers going in there and having their clients come into the cemetery to buy their drugs, which create the problem. The stones will not be falling by themselves. So, it is a common-sense solution that costs taxpayers little to no money. That a police officer car with two officers every every night, half hour before sunset, go to the cemetery and make sure there's nobody there, and you lock the damn doors. At sunrise or close to it when they can get to it, you reopen the door. You save lives. You can save a life. You can have all the committees you want, and it can last 3 to 6 months, and you have no solutions. You ask us to come here when we make complaints and give you solutions. This is a solution that the community supports. You heard it last month when they came here. There is a piece of the fence on the Valley Street area that has been cut through with an electric saw. That fence was built in the 1800s, and we know that it's pure steel. It wasn't done by hand. That needs to be covered immediately, because we're about to open up a center on Elm Street that will bring more people in that cemetery. We don't need to make the problem worse. We need to improve it. So, if you close those gates as of tomorrow night and still have your committee, they'll be no overdoses. There'll be no needles, and there will be no crime. Thank you.

*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.*

Mayor Ruais: Prior to going into the consent agenda, I would like to address items 28 and 29.

28. Communication from Matthew Normand, City Clerk, advising that a vacancy exists for Chairman of the Board of Aldermen.

Mayor Ruais called for nominations for Chairman of the Board of Aldermen, term to expire January 2026.

***Alderman E. Sapienza** nominated Alderman Terrio. **Alderman Terrio** duly seconded the nomination.*

***Alderman Long** nominated Alderman Vincent. **Alderman Barry** duly seconded the nomination.*

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Terrio**, it was voted to close nominations, with **Alderman Levasseur** being duly recorded in opposition.*

Mayor Ruais called for a roll-call vote.

Alderman Terrio: To become the chairman, you need at least eight votes, correct?

Matthew Normand, City Clerk: Correct.

*Aldermen Morgan, Goonan, Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, O'Neil, Burkush, Barry, Vincent, and Thomas voted for Alderman Vincent. Aldermen Kantor, Levasseur, Terrio, and E. Sapienza voted for Alderman Terrio. **Alderman Vincent** was confirmed as Chair of the Board of Aldermen, term to expire January 2026.*

*On motion of **Alderman Terrio**, duly seconded by **Alderman Goonan**, it was voted to make the confirmation of Alderman Vincent as Chair of the Board of Aldermen unanimous, with **Aldermen Kantor, E. Sapienza, and Levasseur** being duly recorded in opposition.*

29. Communication from Mayor Ruais requesting support for all city employees.

Mayor Ruais: If the Board so desires, the following motions are in order, and we can take these one by one. The first motion is to direct the Solicitor and City Clerk to draft language to be added to our rules of decorum, incorporating the spirit of the city's anti-harassment and workplace violence policies found within our current employee handbook, and return to the Committee on Administration for consideration as soon as possible.

***Alderman Long** moved to approve. **Alderman Goonan** duly seconded the motion.*

Alderman T. Sapienza: I don't think we need new rules. I think people need to know how to behave; when they don't know how to behave, it's pretty obvious. It comes through loud and clear.

Alderman E. Sapienza: We're doing this one at a time, right?

Mayor Ruais: We're going to take this one at a time.

Alderman Levasseur: Where do these rules come from? And for what particular purpose? Where did they come from? What made you guys decide on number 29? When did this occur? Did it go to a committee? What happened? What does this stem from? Does anybody want to tell me? You don't want to tell me?

Alderman Long: What's your question?

Alderman Levasseur: Well, I want to know where they come from. What precipitated this motion and it being put on the agenda?

Mayor Ruais: I think there was a feeling before the board that was expressed in numerous conversations that this is an employer-employee relationship that we have with our department heads, and we want to make sure that we're treating them respectfully as an employer and employee relationship.

Alderman Levasseur: Was there a particular instance that brought this up?

Mayor Ruais: So, the idea was that we would send it to committee for discussion. That doesn't mean we have to do anything. It was a conversation that was brought up.

Alderman Levasseur: Who was it? Who brought it up? Are there minutes on this? Are there letters, emails about this particular motion? You don't just make something up. There had to have been somebody who brought it up. I mean, somebody put it on the agenda. Was there a letter?

M. Normand: There is a communication from Mayor Ruais on the agenda.

Mayor Ruais: Conversations that I had had with the board over the previous weeks was that there was a thrust on the board, a feeling before the board, that language like this, and we have decorum rules about how we treat each other, and there was a sense on the board that I had heard from them that they wanted to incorporate this kind of language in there.

Alderman Levasseur: So, workplace violence policies and anti-harassment and workplace violence policies found within our current employee handbook apply to who on this board? Is it for the board or is it for everybody in the city? What is it for?

Mayor Ruais: It is for the board. The idea is that as the mayor, I nominate a department head, which I've done, and we're going to vote on confirming one tonight. And then the board confirms the nomination. So, the CEO nominates and the board confirms, and then they become an employee of the city. As per the charter, section 3.04, the mayor has supervisory authority over department heads and the board writes the policy; that is an employer-employee relationship.

Alderman Levasseur: The motion to direct the solicitor and city clerk to draft language to be added to our rules of decorum. Do we have rules of decorum now?

Mayor Ruais: We do.

Alderman Levasseur: Okay, so the rules of decorum apply to the board members, okay? Not the employees, just the board members. This is about rule eight. It is for us here on this board. Incorporating the spirit of the city's anti-harassment and workplace violence policies. So, has there been anybody on this board that's been violent towards any city department or employee or has harassed them?

Mayor Ruais: I think the conversation that we wanted was to ensure that the board stood with one voice and said, this is the behavior that we expect from our aldermen.

Alderman Levasseur: So not to harass employees or create violence. Now, are we then becoming employees by being incorporated to the employee handbook?

Mayor Ruais: I don't believe we would be considered employees.

Alderman Levasseur: Well, you're an employee, right? You're considered an employee.

Mayor Ruais: I don't think I'm classified as an employee.

Alderman Levasseur: Anyway. I don't want to digress. So, my worry about this is any employee, because of this change to our decorum rules, and I'm being 100% serious because I know this is all about me. Nobody wants to just sit here and admit it. I figured Tony would be the first one to say it.

Alderman T. Sapienza: I'm waiting my turn.

Alderman Levasseur: Good, I hope so.

Alderman T. Sapienza: That's what you're supposed to do when you're on this board.

Alderman Levasseur: Well, you're not doing it now. So anyway, the anti-harassment workplace violence policy. Now look I've been an attorney for plenty of years now. I voted against a panhandling ordinance in this city. I was probably the only 1 or 2 of us that did so. Why? Because I knew we were going to get sued. And we did. And I was the one that was pushing when no one else would listen to me for three years, that we needed to make an ordinance to get those people off our sidewalks. No one would listen to me. Three years I begged and argued and pleaded with the city, the Democrats on the board, the leaders on this board, and Miss Rice knows well. We did it very politely, I will say. And I was right about that. And I'm telling you, if you change these rules and you incorporate this language into our decorum rules, any city employee is now going to be able to say they felt like they were harassed or they were, I don't know what violence would be incumbent upon them, and then they're going to be able to sue the city because of an alderman or an elected board who is not an employee of the city to be able to now incorporate this for a lawsuit against the city of Manchester. This is not well thought out. It's just a knee jerk reaction to a person you don't like, or what they say on their Facebook page or their TV show, which is fine, I get it. I'm not mad about it. I'm just telling you that you are making a huge mistake, aldermen, by incorporating this language into our handbooks and forcing us to become employees, or making it suggest that we're employees of city. Because I'll tell you right now, if this treats me like an employee of the city, then I'm going to the labor commission and I'm getting the pay that I deserve for 365 days a year. And anybody who's been harassed in their life, it's been me for standing up and fighting for the people of this city and standing up to corruption and bad department head people. I've been harassed more than any of you; all of you combined. I caution this board and this mayor and this city solicitor's office by incorporating anything like this into our rule eight board decorum rules.

Mayor Ruais: This motion tonight is only sending this to committee.

Alderman Levasseur: There's no reason to send it to committee.

Mayor Ruais: If it goes to committee, it comes back to the board. We can have the further conversation then.

Alderman Kantor: I was just wondering would this be reciprocated when department heads falsely accuse you of doing something? I'm going to bring up 39 Beech Street with Chief Cashin. When there was a complaint filed against me in August of 2023, it did not come to me until October. By that time, it was leaked to Rosanna McMahon from a now sitting alderman and former department head, it got clarified to me today. Thank you, Chief Burkush, for telling me that it wasn't you. Somehow this information got out that I was falsely accused of taking a binder. I think this is really important because I've been harassed. I have been harassed for years now over this. So this is a big problem and the fact that how someone conducts their behavior, especially when it comes to election interference, and that was in August. The information wasn't released and I wasn't questioned on it until October, but Rosanna McMahon had it in her hands. So, this is the problem with trusting our department heads and so forth. So, I'm just floored by this. Floored. So how is this reciprocated? Well, he did call me. He did call me. And I told him he had the same information that I had. So, he was all set.

Mayor Ruais: Any alderman has the opportunity to have conversations with department heads or the city solicitor or the appropriate individual if they're concerned that something incorrect has happened.

Alderman Kantor: I did bring that up to you when you became mayor, though, and you just dissed me. You dissed me. So, when I brought it to your attention, you didn't do anything. But prior to that, it was dragged through and my name was smeared all through Manchester that I did something wrong when all Chief Cashin had to do was look at his contract, that I was actually allowed to have that information, and I was just there because Adrienne Beloin wasn't doing her job.

Alderman Terrio: So, I understand the spirit of this. It makes sense, but has the Solicitor's Office weighed in on this.

Emily Rice, Solicitor: As I understand it, if this were to pass, a request would be made of the city clerk and of our office to provide the committee, a redrafted rule eight. So no, we have not weighed in on it yet.

Alderman Terrio: So as part of your review, Alderman Levasseur was concerned that we open up the city to lawsuits from employees and department heads. I assume that will be part of your review?

E. Rice: Well, you know that when you have two lawyers, you probably have three opinions. So, what I would say now is that the conduct of aldermen could under certain circumstances be actionable even now. So, for example title seven would apply because what the law looks at is the conduct that's being experienced by the employee, not necessarily the role of the person engaging in that conduct. Employees can sue the city theoretically for all kinds of things. So, it very much depends on what the rule says. And that's certainly an aspect that we would want to look at.

Alderman Terrio: So, you'll give us a written opinion on the propensity for lawsuits?

E. Rice: If this were to pass, I would work with the clerk to provide you language for a rule. And then obviously, I would answer any questions that you have about that.

Mayor Ruais: I think that we're we're dealing in theoretical right now because there's nothing before us.

Alderman Levasseur: You know, we're supposed to ask questions before we pass things or send them off to committee.

Mayor Ruais: I think it is a better conversation to have once something has been drafted.

Alderman Levasseur: Let's have it in the full light of day with the cameras on and no more hiding stuff from the public. I have a question.

Alderman Long: Doesn't a speaker need to be recognized?

Alderman Levasseur: Follow the rules of decorum. Learn how to be nice. I just want to ask a question. Look, I'm serious when I ask these questions. I'm not doing this for any other reason, but I want to know the answers, and I have valid questions I want asked. Since the employees can or the department heads have all this ability to sue a sitting alderman elected by the by the people of this city, who's going to pay for our defense if we make a mistake? Who's going to pay for our defense if we cross a line? Is it going to be listed out, and there probably is in the handbook for employees on what anti-harassment and workplace violence policies are because you're already saying you want to draft the language, incorporating the spirit of all of these policies that are already in place? I can't imagine nobody knows what those are going to be since they're already in writing in the employee workbook. What I want to know is if they can sue us for any reason whatsoever, what rights do we have to sue them? And do we have to have a higher level of like you know, beyond strict scrutiny to be able to get a lawsuit against someone who harasses somebody? Or how about when a department head goes out of their way to harass a regular, good old fashioned homeowner making pickles with innuendo, with nasty emails, with nasty letters, with threats in them? And by the way, they made sure to give a heads up to Mayor Ruais over here that they got their man. From a department head, sent him a hey, we got your guy because, you know, he endorsed Crissy Kantor. What rights do we have? Sitting here like sitting ducks? Aldermen, we are sitting ducks. Elected officials, we're sitting ducks on here. We don't have any lawyers. We have to pay for our own stuff. We don't have any defense. Who's going to pay for us to be defended? And how do we get to sue the department heads for harassing and creating a hostile work environment for us? And it's been done many times. Didn't think of that part of it, right? Just all focused on going after the aldermen.

Alderman T. Sapienza called the question.

Alderman E. Sapienza requested a roll call vote.

Aldermen E. Sapienza, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, Kantor, Levasseur, and Terrio voted nay. Aldermen Burkush, Barry, Vincent, Thomas, Morgan, Goonan, Long, and O'Neil voted yea. The motion carried.

Alderman Levasseur: Can I just ask one more question? What are the violations for this motion?

Mayor Ruais: There are no violations or anything because nothing's been written.

Alderman Levasseur: So, there will be violations or some rules?

Mayor Ruais: There's nothing to suggest that there will be violations. We are just asking them to come back with language that we can review.

Alderman Levasseur: What's the teeth in there?

Mayor Ruais: There's no teeth on our rule eight right now.

Alderman Levasseur: Well, what's the teeth if you add all this language?

Mayor Ruais: That's the conversation for the committee to have.

Alderman Levasseur: So, then we're going to add teeth in? All right.

Mayor Ruais: Well, not necessarily.

Alderman Levasseur: It's just for optics so we can go after Levasseur during an election time. Election interference.

Mayor Ruais: The second motion is that neither the Board of Mayor and Aldermen nor the City of Manchester supports or condones personal attacks, threats or innuendoes against its employees or other officials, and that the residents of Manchester can rest assured that the city provides a safe and comfortable work environment for all, and further, that this board has the complete faith and trust in Director Thomas and the outstanding employees of our Department of Health as they work every day to improve the health of individuals and families across our community.

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

Alderman E. Sapienza: I'm opposed to this because it's vague. It's ambiguous. Also, in reference to the department heads, when somebody takes a position as a department head, obviously it's a leadership position. When you become a leader, you are automatically open to criticism. This is vague. This is ambiguous. If you become a department head, who do the department heads answer to anyways? Nobody in the department. There is ambiguity here and vagueness. I mean, can we criticize the department heads? You're going to say yes. Oh, sure, you just can't violate what's in here. When you become a department head, if you have a leadership position, you automatically are open to criticisms.

Mayor Ruais: I think there's a misperception of what this is saying.

Alderman E. Sapienza: No there isn't. No there isn't. No, there is not.

Mayor Ruais: All this is saying is that we are supporting our city employees. It's almost identical to a motion that was passed in 2014. Alderman O'Neill brought it up in 2014, and four members of this board voted in favor of it, saying that neither the Board of Mayor and Alderman nor the City of Manchester will tolerate personal attacks, threats, or innuendoes against its employees or other officials, and that the citizens of Manchester can rest assured that the city provides a safe and comfortable work environment for all. Eleven years ago, four members of the board supported it at that time. This is not impugning anyone's right to free speech. This is just saying we're supporting our department head like what we did last year with Chief Aldenberg.

Alderman E. Sapienza: We all support our department heads, but this here is too goody two-shoes. It's too namby-pamby. It's too patty-cakes. This is real life here that we're dealing with. If you take a leadership position, you have to be prepared to take the criticism.

Alderman Kantor: To me, this is complete rubber stamping. And when I read this, I'm completely disappointed that we would actually say complete faith and trust in Director Thomas and outstanding employees. And I can always say, listen, I have a lot of respect for everyone with taking these roles, but it is our job as elected officials to make sure everything is lining up the way it should. I wear this shirt, do not comply. Why? Because of Covid shenanigans. How we handled Covid was unacceptable. Kids should have been brought back into schools safely. Ivermectin. Things that should have been released. People were censored. People did not get the medicine that they should have gotten to really, truly save lives. And so, when you're disrespecting some medicine and just saying, oh, we're going to follow this science, I'm sorry, it's a problem. You know, I've gotten a bunch of problem emails and information about the cockroach infestation. It is unacceptable. I emailed Director Thomas. She did not respond to me at all. The fact is, the teachers, the administrations, the children, the parents, don't want to be around this. And what are we doing? So, we're just going to have complete faith and trust? That is idiotic. That is terrible for this to be in here. We need to be critical of everyone. If I give bad haircuts, I'm going to be fired. If you're going to not be doing good things, if you're not going to be following up and handling the cockroach situation that is infesting Manchester, well, maybe you need to resign. What else? This is insanity. What is the point of us being elected? We are supposed to be a voice and I'm only one voice for many people. We are all voices for people. And I did say to her, is this control or is this health? What are we really concerned about? Because she was bringing up pork sandwiches when I was talking about canning pickles. So did she even know what the homestead rule was for New Hampshire when she's bringing up things that someone got sick? And how many people actually got sick from botulism? I think there was like 30 cases or something in the United States in the past year. Give me a break. So, what is our job? Can you give me the definition of an alderman, please? I'm confused.

Mayor Ruais: I think you can have faith and trust in someone's actions and not agree with them all the time. I have faith and trust that this board makes the right decisions. That doesn't mean we agree on everything all the time. So, I don't read it the same way.

Alderman T. Sapienza: You can disagree. You can ask questions; you can look for answers. You deserve the answers, but you can do it in a respectful way. This what I see

on my agenda is a direct result of the behavior that we've seen in the last couple of months, in the personal attacks and the harassment and the disrespect that was dumped on not only the department head of the health department, but some of our most senior employees of the health department that came here and the whole health department was under siege. It was disrespected, and it was just appalling. And that's what the problem is. You have your First Amendment right to say whatever you want, but if you want to harass people and be disrespectful, there may be a price to pay and this is the price.

Alderman Terrio: So, I personally like Director Thomas I think the Health Department does important work. I think Director Thomas is more than capable. I lean heavily on code enforcement, and I routinely call code enforcement and I'll say, here's the allegation, and they'll go out and they'll investigate and they'll say, no, those allegations are unfounded. Or in many cases, they'll say they're founded, we sent out a citation and the action is going to stop. My only concern is, again, I think the Health Department is more than capable and I think Director Thomas is more than capable, but if Mr. Mowery's allegation is true that the Health Department dropped the ball, I think in this case where they didn't do any investigation, if they just sent him a letter saying cease and desist, I know if code enforcement was doing that, they would have went out, they would investigate it and they would have said, yes, it's true or no, it's not true. I think in this case, the BMA can still support somebody but still provide oversight and disagree. And just as Alderman Sapienza said, we can still disagree and discipline people, but I do think that health is important. I think the Health Department is doing a good job. I think in this case they dropped the ball in their investigation because it seems like there was no investigation if the reports are true.

Alderman Levasseur: I would like to speak on this. I remember I sat on a committee once with the chairman of the board on a city committee was Tony Sapienza. He would not let me ask any questions. Literally would not let me ask any questions. He doesn't like me. You're the rudest alderman I've ever worked with. He's going after me. I'm going to say my piece. He's the rudest alderman I ever worked with.

Mayor Ruais: Call the roll.

Alderman Levasseur: No, I'm finishing what I have on this motion.

Alderman Levasseur: I'm asking my questions about this motion. So, you're not going to let me ask my question? You're just proving what everybody knows about you. You don't want to hear it. You're not letting me speak again. This is why I was so frustrated a couple of weeks ago. Because you won't let me ask questions. Stop interrupting me.

Mayor Ruais: I wasn't interrupting. What I said was please be respectful to another alderman.

Alderman Levasseur: Well, I was proving a point. And his point is, everybody's got to be respectful to him. But he doesn't have to be respectful to other people. So, let's just let me get my questions done on the wording of this motion.

Alderman Long: Move the question.

Alderman Levasseur: Seriously? You don't have to accept his motion. You're not a two year old. You've been here for two years now. You know what the rules are.

Alderman Vincent: Mr. Mayor, we need a point of order, please.

Mayor Ruais: Call the roll.

Alderman Levasseur: You're not going to let me ask these questions. This board is shutting me down again.

Mayor Ruais: We're going to be respectful to the aldermen.

Alderman Levasseur: I had to make a point. I wanted to make a point.

Mayor Ruais: Is there concern with him asking questions?

Alderman Long: Yes.

Alderman T. Sapienza: Yes.

Alderman Levasseur: There's a concern with me asking questions and they admit it. Guys, thank you for answering that. I appreciate that you guys are honest.

Alderman Long: His actions are indefensible.

Alderman Levasseur: We don't have any rules of decorum about what I can say or not. That'll be next month. Then you guys can shut me down.

Mayor Ruais: Call the roll.

Alderman Levasseur: No way. So, you accepted that motion?

Mayor Ruais: There was a first and a second.

Alderman Levasseur: Oh my God. You are something else. You are everything I was worried about when you came.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept BMA Minutes

2. Minutes from the September 2 BMA and Finance meetings.

Information to be Received and Filed

3. Communication from the Business Operations Center regarding Department of Labor leases.

Accept and Remand Funds

4. Donation of \$100 to the Fire Department from Carole and Eric Carlson.
5. Donation of \$3,435 to the Fire Department from the Elliot Hospital for the purchase of a ring cutter from Ring Rescue.

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

6. 50/50 Sidewalk Petitions

Residential:
51 St Marie St
105 Talbot St
250 Bartlett St
345 Walnut St
396 Woodcrest Ct
564 Belmont St
612 Beacon St
630 Amherst St

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

7. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2021and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the FY2023 CIP 511223 West HS Tennis Courts.”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) for the FY2026 CIP C180060826 The Manchester Youth Counsel and Empowerment Group.”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000) for the FY2026 CIP C410021726 Oral Health Program.”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) for the FY2026 CIP C500070926 Used Oil Grant - Upgrade Waste Oil Collection Services.”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars (\$20,668) for the FY2026 CIP C500071026 Household Hazardous Waste Collection.”

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

8. Advising that the update on the City’s Revolving Loan Fund has been accepted.
(Unanimous vote)
9. Advising that the following Finance Department reports:
 - Accounts Receivable over 90 days
 - Aging Report
 - Outstanding Receivableshave been accepted.
(Unanimous vote)
10. Advising that the City’s Monthly Financial Report (unaudited) for the first month of FY26 has been accepted.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON BILLS ON SECOND READING

11. 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 Accounts, Enrollment and Revenue Administration.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Fajardo who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

12. Recommending that the 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 be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)
13. Recommending that the 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 be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)

14. Recommending that the 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 be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)
15. Recommending that the 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 be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)
16. Recommending that the 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 be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)
17. Recommending that the request from the MPD Grant Coordinator for \$4,000 to be reallocated from Other to Salaries and Wages for CIP 410325 Police ShotSpotter – Gunshot Detection be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)
18. Recommending that the request from the Grants Administration Manager for a line-item budget modification for CIP C500070326 FY26 Roadway Program be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

19. Recommending that the request from the Chief Highway Engineer for the position of Lead Inspector to be allowed payment for on-call status be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
20. Recommending that the request from the Chief of Police for authorization to absorb the salaries of two Real Time Crime Center Analyst positions into the department's FY26 budget and to amend the department's complement to reflect this change be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

21. Recommending that the following traffic regulations be approved:
NO PARKING ANYTIME
On Bradley Street, both sides, from Beech Hill Avenue to a point 145 feet north
Alderman Burkush
On Davis Street, either side, to Agawam Street
15 MINUTE LOADING AND UNLOADING ZONE
On Hanover Street, south side, from a point 40 feet east of Pine Street to a point 50 feet further east

Alderman Long
(Unanimous vote)

- 22.** Recommending that the request from the Chief of Police to enter into a service agreement with Police Narratives AI for use of its mobile and web applications used for transcribing and generating police reports be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

JOINT SCHOOL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AIRPORT ACTIVITIES

- 24.** Recommending that the request from the Aviation Director to update the Airport Carbon Accreditation Policy be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)

*Having read the consent agenda, on motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted that the consent agenda be approved.*

REGULAR BUSINESS

- 25.** Nominations:
Office of Youth Services Advisory Board
Jerold White to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire January 1, 2026
Harsh Saini to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire January 1, 2027
Arts Commission
Shana Hawrylchak to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire December 1, 2026
Police Commission
Martha Edgar to succeed Gene Brown as a regular member, term to expire September 15, 2028
(Note: Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, these nominations will layover until the next meeting of the Board.)
- 26.** Confirmations:
Arts Commission
Grace Lachance to fill a vacancy as an alternate member, term to expire December 1, 2027
Angelo Mullen to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire December 1, 2027
Office of Youth Services Advisory Board
Sethe Shea to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire January 1, 2026
Vick Mahindru to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire January 1, 2027

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

27. Confirmation of Victoria Prestejohn as the Human Resources Director.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted to confirm Victoria Prestejohn as the Human Resources Director.*

Mayor Ruais: Congratulations, Victoria. We're looking forward to having you with us.

30. Communication from Mayor Ruais requesting approval to enter into a partnership agreement with Revo Casino to allow for the city to accept 35% of the casino's gaming proceeds over a ten consecutive day period in December 2025.

***Alderman Long** moved to approve. **Alderman T. Sapienza** duly seconded the motion.*

Alderman E. Sapienza: So, what exactly is going on here? We're going to get a percentage?

Mayor Ruais: Yes. So, there's charitable gaming throughout the state. And so, any non-profit municipality can apply for a portion of those revenues and proceeds. We can use those proceeds for any item that we want. But we have to sign the MOU. That's in here to be able to benefit from that ten day period.

Alderman E. Sapienza: Does this subtract any money going to the charities?

Mayor Ruais: No. It's just our turn to receive the dollars.

Alderman E. Sapienza: Well, I'm not comfortable with the idea of the City of Manchester being possibly labeled as a charity. I mean, a certain amount of that money is supposed to go to charity. That's the whole idea here, right?

Mayor Ruais: Other municipalities apply for it as well. So, we looked at this as an opportunity for us to fund different projects within the city.

Alderman E. Sapienza: I don't like it.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote. The motion carried with Aldermen Kantor, E. Sapienza, and Levasseur being duly recorded in opposition, and Alderman Barry being duly recorded as abstaining.

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

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$60,000 for CIP WCA23.2026 NHDES Lead Service Line Inventory Grant be approved.

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

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

Mayor Ruais called the meeting back to order.

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

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

“Amending the FY2021and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the FY2023 CIP 511223 West HS Tennis Courts.”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) for the FY2026 CIP C180060826 The Manchester Youth Counsel and Empowerment Group.”

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“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) for the FY2026 CIP C500070926 Used Oil Grant - Upgrade Waste Oil Collection Services.”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars (\$20,668) for the FY2026 CIP C500071026 Household Hazardous Waste Collection.”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60.000) for the FY2026 CIP WCA23.2026 NHDES Lead Service Line Inventory Grant.”

ought to pass and be Enrolled.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Fajardo**, it was voted to waive the report's reading.*

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

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

There were none.

36. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2021and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the FY2023 CIP 511223 West HS Tennis Courts.”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) for the FY2026 CIP C180060826 The Manchester Youth Counsel and Empowerment Group.”

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“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars (\$20,668) for the FY2026 CIP C500071026 Household Hazardous Waste Collection.”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60.000) for the FY2026 CIP WCA23.2026 NHDES Lead Service Line Inventory Grant.”

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to waive the Resolutions’ reading.*

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

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman E. Sapienza: What happened to the item that was supposed to go to committee to reference homesteading ordinance and to mirror that of the state of New Hampshire. My understanding was we decided to send that to committee. I thought that was going to happen tonight. What happened to that?

Alderman Vincent: Yes, correct. This was something that was never promised to be at this board meeting. We have to work to make sure the documentation, the wording is correct. This is not something that would happen overnight. This was something that's been on the books for a long time. So, it's not something that we could just do overnight. So, what we're doing is doing it the right way, working with the director as well as the solicitor's office. The hope is that we have something. There are variables that need to be looked at and addressed, but that's where we stand right now. It's not rewritten yet to a point where we can bring it before the board for discussion. So, we're kind of waiting for them to kind of get more information.

Alderman E. Sapienza: Another five years?

Alderman Vincent: Well, if it takes five years, then so be it. Sarcasm won't get it to you any faster.

Alderman E. Sapienza: What sarcasm? We're supposed to send it to committee. I thought the committee meeting was going to be tonight.

Alderman Vincent: So, once it's rewritten, then we can look at it as a committee, and then it'll go before the board.

Alderman E. Sapienza moved that all City of Manchester ordinances referencing homesteading mirror those of the State of New Hampshire. **Alderman Levasseur** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Vincent: It's being worked on by the state now anyway, so that's going to get adjusted anyway, right?

Alderman Barry called for a roll call vote. The motion failed with Aldermen Barry, Vincent, Morgan, Goonan, Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, O'Neil, and Burkush voting nay; Aldermen Kantor, Levasseur, Terrio, and E. Sapienza voting yea; and Alderman Thomas being duly recorded as abstaining.

Alderman Levasseur: I missed something. When is the meeting going to be? Is it going to be in two weeks?

Alderman Vincent: Yes. We're hoping that's the case. We're close now.

Alderman Levasseur: This week? You did say that it would be this week.

Alderman Vincent: It never was said this week, that was never put out there.

Alderman Levasseur: I thought you said we would definitely do it this week.

Alderman Vincent: We did say we were aiming for October.

Alderman Levasseur: Meeting two weeks from now, no or yes?

Alderman Vincent: That is the goal now.

Alderman Levasseur: You say that somebody's working on it. Who's working on it?

Alderman Vincent: The Director with the Solicitor's Office to make sure the documentation is correct.

Alderman Levasseur: Not Health?

Alderman Vincent: Yes, the Health Department is working with the Solicitor's Office to make sure the documentation reads correctly.

Alderman Levasseur: They can't read the thing for the exemptions and that's it?

Alderman Vincent: Well, I'm assuming they're going to put that in. If the exemptions were all we needed and this would have been fixed in 1996. But unfortunately, that's not the case.

Alderman Levasseur: Well, there is a harvest moon out there and people are picking all their cucumbers. Get it moving.

Alderman Vincent: It's either do it right, or not do it at all. And we choose to do it right.

Mayor Ruais: So, I have one piece of new business. I got an email from the clerk via former alderman Mike Lopez. He wanted us to mention that the United States Air Force band's upcoming performance at Central High School is on November 17th at 7 p.m. Free tickets are available at the link within the announcement. We can forward that to the full board.

Alderman Vincent: I just want to make everyone aware that for the month of November, the City of Manchester will offer free parking for anyone with a veteran's plate. Authorized vehicles may park in any metered space in downtown Manchester free of charge. I'd like to thank the parking manager, Faye Morrison, and all who worked to make this happen. So, the month of November we will recognize all veterans with free parking.

Alderman Terrio: I am kind of at a dead end, and I don't know if this issue needs to go to committee or if we already have some laws and ordinances in place to deal with this. So basically, for at least five years now, I've had a business, an auto repair business in ward seven that parks their cars on the street, and it's a very congested neighborhood. They park their cars, they have too many cars, so they park their cars in public streets. The neighbors complained to me because there's no parking for the residents, because the business is just parking cars all over the place. I did email you. I've emailed the city solicitor; I emailed the police. I've dealt with parking. I've dealt with code enforcement. What will happen is the city has visited this business on many, many occasions. They'll warn them, they'll tow cars, they'll clean up their act for a few weeks or a month. They'll stop. But then a month later or so, they'll start storing their cars on the street. It's very congested on Wilson Street. There's already hardly any parking to begin with. So I don't know if it needs to go to committee or I don't know if there's ordinances already. But these people just don't care. You know, the city goes out there, they tow the cars, they warn them. The first time I was an alderman, five years ago, I was dealing with this problem. And it just comes up every few months, and I'm just kind of at my wit's end. I don't know what to do in this case. I don't know if any of the other aldermen have dealt with this before, or the city solicitor or the police. But this business just doesn't care. We don't have enough enforcement. There's not enough punishment for them to change their behavior. But this has been going on several times a year for at least 5 or 6 years.

Alderman Long: Yeah, I've had those issues forever. What they started doing is towing the vehicles. We stop them, they move their vehicle, and then a month later, they'll start parking them on the street. They start towing. If it belongs to the garage, they'll tow the vehicle, letting them know you can't park on the street.

Alderman Terrio: They do that several times a year, but the garage doesn't seem to care because they'll clean up their act for a month or so. And then it happens again. Seriously, this has been going on for 5 or 6 years. They just don't care. So, what we're doing now is not doing it. I wish I could give them a massive daily fine, like \$1,000 a day, or shut them down or something to get their attention, but we haven't got their attention in five years and we've been doing that. We've been giving them tickets; we've been towing cars. Community policing has been great. They've been going out there and talking to them, but they just don't care. It's lawlessness.

Mayor Ruais: Is this something for your committee?

Alderman Vincent: I have the same issues, Ross. In my ward, we have people that perpetually park, and they get the tickets. They'll go a few months and then they'll do it again. It's the same thing. And we do the towing. But what we can do is we can try to see if we can finagle wording on something. But I know we do tow, but for some people that's not enough to deter them. What do you recommend? What would be the answer?

Alderman Terrio: Give them a gigantic fine every day. So, it's an auto mechanic. If I can cut into his profit margin so that he's not making money? If I can take his profit margin away from him so that it's no longer worth his while to have 50 cars come into the city and store them on city streets.

Alderman Vincent: Have we had conversations with them?

Alderman Terrio: The police have.

Alderman Vincent: Have we as an alderman, I would try that. I would try that, too. I've done that and it actually doesn't work great, but I've had better effects on it until we can find a real solution.

Alderman Terrio: Something, a stronger enforcement than what we have now.

Alderman Vincent: We can try to see what parking can do.

Alderman Terrio: I work with parking.

Alderman Vincent: I mean, what else can we do then? Can we put it before a committee to try to make it more stringent?

M. Normand: The Committee on Public Safety obviously can deal with that. It can look at what the current ordinances are and maybe have the parking enforcement or parking division here.

Alderman Barry: I've had some good luck in ward ten with sending parking over there. So, if there's any unregistered vehicles, they'll ticket them. And if they're there after 24 hours, then they'll tow them away. And I've also contacted zoning, and they'll send people out there and confront the owners of the auto shop or whatever.

Alderman Terrio: He's been confronted probably in five years, 20 times.

Alderman E. Sapienza: What exactly is the violation in these scenarios? I have it in ward eight as well. If there's parking allowed, then there's parking allowed. I've been told by the police that this business owner parking his vehicle on the street is actually perfectly okay. That's because parking is allowed there.

Alderman Vincent: There's actually a code. They can't park there. And correct me if I'm wrong, chief. Am I correct on that? The ordinance regarding business vehicles. Business vehicles parking between certain hours.

Peter Marr, Chief of Police: The problem with these specific vehicles is that they're just like regular cars that are being brought to an automotive place. And it's very difficult to determine, other than setting up surveillance to watch people bringing their cars into the garage to get it worked on, and then them moving the car out onto the road, it's very difficult to prove that.

Alderman E. Sapienza: So, there is a difference between a commercial vehicle and just a regular owned vehicle? If it's a commercial vehicle, there's certain hours or they can't be on there. And what are those hours?

P. Marr: 11 to 7.

Alderman E. Sapienza: 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Alderman Vincent: It's like 12 to 5 or something.

P. Marr: Overnight hours.

Alderman E. Sapienza: But what about somebody that buys a Chevy van and they put Jim's painting on it on the side? I mean, they can't have their car parked overnight on a city street?

P. Marr: No, you're not supposed to.

Alderman E. Sapienza: It's a little bit different than what I was told. I just spoke to somebody at the police station yesterday about this very subject. And this is different than what I was told. Why don't we just talk after? I don't want to beat this into the ground all night because I'm a little upset because this is not what I was told yesterday. And I have this problem in ward eight, and it gets frustrating. But I'm going to be quiet now; we can talk after the meeting.

*On motion of **Alderman Terrio**, duly seconded by **Alderman Vincent**, it was voted to refer the issue of congested parking due to business vehicles parking on city streets to the Committee on Public Safety, Health & Traffic.*

Alderman Kantor: Last time I brought up a few things under new business and there was a great response from MPD and DPW about the cemetery. So, thank you so much. I was just wondering, hearing from Glenn, if we could lock the cemetery from sundown to sunrise. Is that possible? To protect that area at that time?

P. Marr: Yes. It's possible. I think it requires a little bit of work between us and DPW. If they can open it up in the morning, we can always shut it at night.

Alderman Kantor: All right. Because I did speak to an awesome gentleman who works in parking. He said he could make it part of his routine. We were just talking in general because we are concerned about everyone's safety and it would help you guys out. If we can take it to the next level to lock that down.

P. Marr: We will certainly work on it.

Alderman Kantor: Awesome. Thank you so much. Last time I brought up the panhandling ordinance that was brought forward from Troy in ward nine, and we said we would send it since it's a safety issue. I have emailed you a bunch of times, and I know you can only do what you can. But it is a safety issue. People are falling in the streets. My friend almost ran over a gentleman. He exposed himself by accident. So, I had asked if he could go to the Public Safety committee, but it hasn't shown up yet. So, is that possible to get it to go to Public Safety next time?

Alderman O'Neil: Isn't it the same ordinance that the court threw out?

Mayor Ruais: I think that's the conversation that would be had in committee, is whether or not there were tweaks that could be made that would be constitutional. If not, then we wouldn't move forward with it would be my working assumption. But I don't have it. Alderman, I don't know if you want to speak to that. I mean, we can certainly bring it up with the solicitor and the clerk and talk about it.

Alderman Vincent: I would definitely have the Solicitor look into it first.

Alderman Kantor: We really need to address this, because I know that other cities do have these kinds of ordinances. And the concern is for the drivers as well as the people that are panhandling. And it's just sad. On another note, Chill Fest has been a huge success on Friday nights down at the river. And thank you for DPW. I think Fire came out

to pick up some needles. So, I'm glad about that. But that was a huge success. We have one more and it's Friday night. So maybe I'll see you guys down there from 6:30 to 9:30. Lots of music, lots of joy. And we need to shake things off, move on, and just keep looking up. So, God bless everyone.

Alderman Long: I would be careful about locking those gates because when those gates were locked, there were still homeless in the park. There is access other than those gates to get into the parks. The undesirables like the idea that you would lock the gates because it takes police longer to get in. Also, Your Honor, I had a conversation with representative Mary Georges with respect to this resolution that everybody should have in front of them regarding the Democratic Republic of Congo. Be it resolved that we, the undersigned, members of the Congolese diaspora and concerned residents of Manchester, call upon the honorable Board of Aldermen of New Hampshire to publicly recognize the 65th anniversary of the Democratic Republic of Congo's independence, which occurred on June 30th, 2025, reaffirm the city's commitment to the Congolese community and formally request that the federal delegation from the United States be sent to DRC to evaluate and support the just and transparent peace process. Let it be known that the City of Manchester, New Hampshire, through this resolution, stands in solidarity with the Congolese people in their pursuit of lasting peace, equitable development and justice for all. Manchester has a strong Congolese community. New Hampshire has a strong Congolese community. I would move that we adopt this resolution.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Fajardo**, it was voted to adopt the resolution in support of the Democratic Republic of Congo, with Alderman E. Sapienza being duly recorded in opposition.*

Alderman Long: I'm not sure if Mr. Belanger is still here. My understanding is they review changes in law and adjust ordinances. There was a public speaker who says that's not being done, and I wanted to question to make sure that it's being continued, that we check the laws that change in any ordinance that we have, that state law has changed. For example, he was talking about the inspection for taxicabs.

Jeff Belanger, Planning and Community Development Director: The Planning Department does not inspect vehicles.

Alderman Long: No, but you check state statute.

J. Belanger: If they relate to the planning department's work then we do that. There have been a number of land use changes in state law this past session. We have kept up with all of them. The proposed zoning ordinance would bring us into full compliance with all of those.

Alderman Long: Very good.

Mayor Ruais: Specific to your question, I can reach out to our tax collector. I know she pays close attention to those items, but I can get a direct answer.

Alderman T. Sapienza: We had a public speaker talk about the new zoning and how that's going to affect her going forward on a non-conforming property. Is the situation for a property like that going to change with the changes that we're making, or if the condition already exists it's still going to exist?

J. Belanger: You're exactly right. The word you used, non-conforming, is exactly the right word. If there's a property that does not conform to a zoning ordinance, it gets to remain so long as it is legally in place at the time of the change of the zoning ordinance, it gets to stay. That is the common law of New Hampshire. It's been like that forever. So that's true.

Alderman T. Sapienza: So the changes that we're making don't affect that?

J. Belanger: No. If the use is legally established at the time of the zoning ordinance change, it gets to remain even if the zoning ordinance says any future use would change it. So, she mentioned she was concerned about if the current tenant, who has an auto repair business, leaves and a new tenant comes in doing the same business. Non-conforming use law does not look at ownership, so a new owner could come in. If it's the same use, it gets to remain.

Alderman T. Sapienza: Well, I think the point that they were making earlier was if that person wants to change the use now, or if they want to change the use after the ordinance change. Is there a difference?

J. Belanger: If they were to change the use to a totally different use, it would need to comply with zoning that is in law at the time. That's true today. That's true with any new ordinance. So, they have to look at the use table and see what's allowed. And that's the law today. If they were to want to do that today, generally the the new zoning ordinance, especially where they are, she is close to the arena that's in the downtown so there's a lot of different uses that are allowed there. It's a very permissive district as to what's allowed. So, it's likely that whatever the new uses she's looking at is probably allowed, but she should come talk to us. And she has, by the way, we've spoken with her a number of times, and I was under the impression that we had answered all of her concerns. Seems like she still has some. She's very welcome to contact us again. We'd be happy to talk to her more. But generally, as long as it's allowed, she can do it.

Alderman T. Sapienza: Well, as long as it's allowed now and as long as it's allowed later. But I'm asking, is this going to restrict her more than now?

J. Belanger: Highly unlikely. I mean, I would want to look at her factual scenario, but generally in the downtown the proposed ordinance would not become more restrictive.

Alderman Kantor: I'm going to go back to binder-gate because it's about clearing my name and my concern with protocol and with Rosanna's claim. She sent an email to the city solicitor's office and claimed that a now sitting alderman and a former department head gave her this information and she wholeheartedly believed it. So, was it you Chief Goonan?

Mayor Ruais: This is probably a better conversation to have offline.

Alderman Goonan: I don't get involved with this social media stuff.

Alderman Kantor: It's kind of funny because you said we don't need any more hairdressers on the board. So, you actually do get involved.

TABLED ITEMS

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

(Unanimous vote)

(Note: Tabled on September 4, 2024.)

- 38.** Report from the Committee on Lands & Buildings recommending that the request from Alderman Morgan to name the soccer field at Sheridan-Emmett Park after Thamba Mbungu be approved.

(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Long who abstained)

(Note: Tabled on November 19, 2024.)

These items remained on the table.

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

A True Record. Attest.



City Clerk

*Meeting Start Time: 7:00PM
Meeting End Time: 9:00PM
Minutes Prepared By: Michael Intranuovo*