

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

December 3, 2025 at 5:00 PM

The Chairman calls the meeting to order.

The Clerk calls the roll.

Present: Aldermen Morgan, Kantor, Long, Burkush

Absent: Alderman Terrio

Messrs.: J. Belanger, T. Fleming, K. Waldo, M. Gomez, Alderman Barry

1. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$20,772.75 for CIP 510524 FY24 School Deferred Maintenance.

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

2. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$42,600 for CIP 610824 Easterseals NH - Tenant Based Rental Assistance.

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

3. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$1,059,094.17 for CIP 611523 Healthy Homes Production Grant Program.

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

4. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$29,339 for CIP C330041626 FY25 HSGP SWAT/SOU Equipment.

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

5. Communication from Ryan Cashin, Fire Chief, requesting authorization to accept grant funds in the amount of \$33,000 for the purchase of hazmat equipment.

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

6. Communication from the Fire Chief requesting permission to apply for a Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$25,000.

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

7. Communication from the Fire Chief requesting permission to enter into an agreement with Rosenbauer and E-One for the purpose of apparatus replacement.

Ladies and Gentlemen, what is your pleasure?

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

8. Communication from Jeff Belanger, Planning & Community Development Director, requesting the extension of various CIP projects.

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

9. Communication from Kate Waldo, Park Projects Manager, requesting that six (6) CIP projects be extended to June 30, 2028.

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

TABLED ITEM

10. Amending Resolutions and Budget Authorizations providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds for the following projects:

- CIP C650050926 Manchester Skate Park at Lally Sullivan Complex in the amount of \$2,500,000;
- CIP C650051026 Al Lemire Field Lighting (Derryfield Park) in the amount of \$400,000;
- CIP C650051126 Pony League Baseball Field Lighting in the amount of \$250,000;
- CIP C650051226 Livingston Park Field Lighting Improvement in the amount of \$150,000.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to remove the item from the table.*

Alderman Long moved to approve the item and refer it to the Committee on Finance.
Alderman Burkush duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Kantor: I'd like to discuss this, since we have a full-time grant writer. Have we looked into finding grants for this proposal?

Alderman Burkush: I did some research on that, and this project is eligible and receiving CDBG grants. In this year, it's receiving \$575,000, so it would be eligible in the future for additional community development block grants. So that is the one funding source. I asked if there were any other funding sources, and the answer today from the Planning Director was other than CDBG, only bonding.

Alderman Kantor: Besides fundraising?

Alderman Burkush: Fundraising would be ok from a private organization. You can ask Jeff about that, but that's what my research turned out because I had the same question as you.

Jeff Belanger, Planning and Community Development Director: We spoke today by email, and your question was about the the Wolfe Park project. And you know, you asked if there's any remaining funds in the FY26 CDBG, and the answer is no to that. But of course, there's going to be FY27 coming up soon. And this project, Wolfe Park has already received \$175,000 CDBG funds from last year. So, if the board wanted to allocate more funding next year, that could certainly happen.

Todd Fleming, Grants Administration Manager: I would just say for some of these other projects, we'd have to look at the census tracts that those particular projects serve as to, whether they would be eligible for CDBG funding. Wolfe Park, you definitely know that that one's eligible. I don't know about the other projects. But also keep in mind that the CDBG funds that we receive on an annual basis, it was about \$1.6 million last year. I don't know what it'll be next year. So, those funds typically they've been used to fund 15 to 20 nonprofits that provide public service in the city.

Alderman Long: Todd, ARPA funding, would that qualify for Wolfe Park?

T. Fleming: The ARPA funding at this point cannot. Presently it's all allocated.

Alderman Long: But we we did use ARPA funding for some fields. Did we use any ARPA funding for some of the things related to our Parks and Rec?

T. Fleming: There were some projects, about 25 projects, so I would have to go back and refresh my memory. As it stands now, if there's a project where there is a balance that's not going to be used, it could be the balance could be reallocated to an existing project. So, there would have to be an existing project.

Alderman Long: I thought it didn't have to be an existing project, but it had to be the same type of extension.

T. Fleming: It has to actually be one of the 25 projects that we've already allocated funds to.

Chairman Morgan: I'd like to add that anyone in the community or any alderman that is willing to fundraise on this, they can step up and do so and we'd be happy to take the money for that.

Alderman Long: What what would be preliminary? RFPs? Architectural? What would be a preliminary number that the board may allocate to get to get this going?

Kate Waldo, Parks Projects Manager: We have some money allocated to the Wolfe Park project that we're working to get the final scope specs completed. We've also dedicated some of that to repairing the softball field that is on the north end of the park. If you're looking at the skate park itself, in order to move forward with the skate park, there's the skate park and then drainage attached. That also requires you to have to do demolition of what's over there. The only additional piece to the scope that we have is also adding a parking lot for the skate park, because that other parking lot is already pretty busy. The one that's around the basketball courts. And so, we felt like it was necessary to add one there in that area.

Alderman Long: I'm thinking if this were to come up in the budget next year, that would be authorized in June. So, we missed that time frame to get things going. Is there a number you could think of that we may need if we have to go that route prior to June to get everything done? So, when June comes and the budget's approved with this project in it, they could start to work.

Mark Gomez, Chief of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery: I think in terms of the timeline we typically like to put bid packages out in the winter time in order to get the best pricing and the best schedule for the upcoming year. So, in terms of moving along the project expeditiously, the advantage of funding now, as opposed to during the budget process in the spring, would be that we would likely see construction begin in 2026 as opposed to 2027, calendar year 2026, as opposed to 2027.

Alderman Long: When in 2026?

M. Gomez: You know, it really depends on what kind of responses we get to the bid package. I think we would be hopeful that we would get something maybe started in the summertime. Is that correct?

K. Waldo: Correct. We would look to start the demolition work in the summertime, possibly early spring, summertime, so that we might be able to start doing some of the drainage and get the bowl of the skate park, because you're working against weather temperatures for pouring concrete.

Alderman Long: Is there a number that you could think of that would need to continue that through April and May? Would there be a number? I'm thinking \$250,000 or \$300,000. Is it more than that?

M. Gomez: You're talking about splitting up the project into additional phases. That's always an option. I would say that the downside of doing that is a lot of the pieces of the project are interconnected in some ways. You're not doing the skateboard park in isolation or the drainage in isolation. And so, I think the overall cost of the project can be increased by splitting it up, by having additional mobilizations and so forth.

Alderman Long: You're going to have a general contractor for all that's needed?

K. Waldo: There's going to be a lot of timing that needs to happen. So it would be good having a general contractor oversee that.

Chairman Morgan: We're limited on time here. I know Alderman Barry had a question.

Alderman Barry: Katie and Mark, is it your opinion that we should, if we can get the votes and we can move this forward, we're probably better off doing it this year? Because December 16th is our last meeting with this board. So, we can move the project together and forward quicker so you can get your timeline in. And I know you guys know and I've been working really hard on getting a skate park. I mean, since I was elected, people have approached me and asked me about it, and we just couldn't find a good location for it. Not the one that's at Rockingham and not the one that was over by where Hunt's pool was. Mark, maybe you had just said this, but if we wait, we're going to lose another year. Also, prices are going to go up. So, if we appropriate say \$2.5 million, that also includes the lighting, the drainage, the demolition, and parking. People I think are trying to confuse some of us on this board to think that the \$2.5 million is for the skate park structure itself. It's not. There's a lot that's going into it and a lot of improvement in that area that goes with it. I know when I was approached and got quite a few phone calls in reference to this project, people are happy about it. They're happy that this board is doing something for the children in our in our city. I know some of the argument is, well, we need to do more with roads. We put millions and millions of dollars every year into our roads and it's going to continue. This isn't going to halt what we do for our roads. It's going to continue. So, I appreciate all the work that you guys are doing. And I'm hoping that we can move this forward sooner rather than later.

Chairman Morgan called for a vote. The motion carried, with **Alderman Kantor** being duly recorded in opposition.

Chairman Morgan: I ask that this item be reported to the Board this evening.

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

A True Record. Attest.



Clerk of Committee

Meeting Start Time: 5:00PM
Meeting End Time: 5:15PM
Minutes Prepared By: Michael Intranuovo