

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

December 3, 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 Vincent.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Morgan, Goonan, Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, Kantor, O'Neil, Levasseur, E. Sapienza, Burkush, Barry, Vincent

Absent: Aldermen Terrio, Thomas

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Mayor advised that the purpose of the public comment session is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board. All people wishing to speak must sign up with their name, address and topic prior to 7 PM. Once called, they will have up to three minutes to speak and any comments must be directed to the chair and concluded when their time is up. If the Clerk calls their name and they are not present to speak, they will not be given a second opportunity. Any resident wishing to speak will come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized and give their comments.

Peter Dunn, 1285 Island Pond Road: Water Works has always been a good neighbor. I wasn't happy when the steel bridge came down. It wasn't replaced. Hopefully one day it will be replaced. Our street is an interesting street. It's kind of a country street inside the city. So, we are able to appreciate that somewhat rural nature. I don't think that's really evident in the City of Manchester. It's kind of a diamond in the rough. Water Works has always been a good neighbor, but I haven't had 50 or 60 big trucks out there. The only time that there's a lot of heavy traffic, occasionally we'll have a a dump truck or when they empty the silt ponds, we get a lot of traffic when they take the big ten-ton trucks back and forth to dump them out in the reservoir area to disperse it all. I think moving that

completely out there is going to impact Island Pond Road and Lake Shore because of the increase in traffic. We don't have sidewalks. We walk, run, bike, in the road very often early in the morning, come on out and see us. It's also called Bake Shore because that's where the the pot smokers come out to smoke on their way to wherever they're going in the morning, evening and any other time. So those cars and trucks don't typically go slow or pay attention to whatever. But that's not directed at the Water Works. That's really just kind of a a general consensus of the street. So, it's an interesting street, kind of an eclectic area. But I think that the Water Works being there is going to have a large impact. I don't know what their traffic patterns would be, cars going back and forth on that road going to work, everyone hustling to work. It's going to be a lot of faster vehicles on that street. There's often kids who take advantage to go down to the Massabesic. By the way, I applaud what the city did with the couple of parking areas to make that more accessible to the city for fishing and just walking about. I just think that's going to be a big impact if they use Island Pond as a transit. I don't know if it's any better. I'm sure someone up on Lake Shore would come in and say the same thing. If they use Lake Shore as a transit back and forth to wherever the trucks have to go. It's a big impact.

*On motion of **Alderman Barry**, duly seconded by **Alderman Fajardo**, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file and written documentation.*

PRESENTATION

2. Presentation from Water Works regarding plans for a new Administration Building and Vehicle Storage Garage.

Phil Croasdale, Water Works Director: We're here to talk about our relocation project that everybody's pretty much well aware of. It's been 20 months since I've last given a presentation on moving our operation out to the lake. At that time, we had all agreed that we'd go out and get an architect, get the design done and try to come in with a a real firm number as to what the cost of the project would be. So since then, in March of this year, we signed a contract with Lavallee Brensinger. And they've been working on this project since then to the point where they got to a 60% design completion, and we've got a pretty good estimate on that. We'll talk about that a little bit more in a few minutes. But with me is Doug Shilo, the Senior Associate with Lavallee Brensinger and Fred Matuszewski of

Matuszewski Associates. And they'll give the first half of the presentation just talking about the project and where we are and where we're heading from here.

Doug Shilo, Senior Associate at Lavallee Brensinger: So first, I'd like to talk a little bit about where we are in the project and about the schedule. We are currently in design, as Phil mentioned. And here's a chart just showing where we've been and where we are and where we have to go still so it's a little bit tough to read here, but we've been through the programming phase, the schematic design phase, and we're about 90% through design development at this point. We're sending out documents to be estimated by ACM. And our estimator will reconcile those documents and we'll be into construction document phase when the new year comes. And around April, we'll begin construction. And then construction is estimated to take about 15 months.

Fred Matuszewski of Matuszewski Associates: The proposed site is immediately north of the existing water treatment plant. As a matter of fact, right above the title block, the line credit bar, you can see just a piece of the water treatment plant. It is bound to the right by the lakeshore, if you will. We have a dirt drive that continues all the way on up to Lakeshore Road, and it pretty well takes care of it. What we chose to do is to arrange the buildings as tightly as possible to the existing campus, and with our primary entrance and access off of Friend Street, the intersection with Friend Street and proceeds south to the administration building that you see immediately to the left, and then our vehicle storage and service buildings over to the right. Doug will talk more about those buildings. The splotches that you see, the irregular shapes that you see, are wetlands that are wet to one degree or another that will be dealt with. We've already worked with DES and setting up agreements on how they will be addressed. The site is about as flat as you can get. And these wetlands are created essentially by potholes within the site. The circulation is compact and you can see where the parking is as Doug runs the cursor around the site.

D. Shilo: So, to dive in and zoom in on the floor plans a little bit briefly. Starting in the basement of the administration building, we have file storage located there to cut down on cost, building costs and have it secure. When we get to the first floor, we have the public entrance which was to the left. This is Lakeshore Drive, about 100ft this way. And this is the public entrance here. And to page south here we have the connection to the

truck barn. And so, this is a bit of the muddy boots area, so to speak. And then the public access area with control between. When we moved to the upper floor it's mostly dedicated to administrative functions. And so, we have the offices up on the upper floor. When it comes to the truck barn in the back, we have the parking spots arranged in a one-way traffic pattern to be as efficient as possible, both operationally and space wise, and some service bays for maintenance. And you can see the connection to the administration building here. Now, if we zoom back out a little bit and talk about the exterior design, we cladded the the buildings in brick, a material that is both economical and durable and a good investment for a utility that is going to be around for the foreseeable future where we could we cut down on costs by using insulated metal panel. And this is for the truck barn area mostly. But it ties into the administration building with colors. This is a durable material that is a little bit more on the economical side, saving costs where it's less frontage to the road. And of course, for the fenestrations, the glass, we chose materials, products that are going to stand the test of time. Durable systems that require low maintenance. As we approach the building from the north, you'll see it to your left from Lakeshore Drive. This is a schematic design rendering. You can see the administration building to the right here and the truck barn to the left. And as we approach from the south going north. To the right we can see the main entrance clearly called out, the truck barn a little bit de-emphasized towards the back and a little bit lower in grade, actually. There's an overhaul of the site showing the compact nature that Fred talked about. And these are some updated renderings taking directly from the design development set that's being priced. Very similar, but with a little bit more detail.

P. Croasdale: Right here, this is an aerial view of our campus currently that was taken just probably a couple of months ago. And right where it says area of project, that's where the admin building and the truck bond will go. As Doug pointed out, I think it's approximately 150-foot setback from Lakeshore Road, which talking to the neighbors, they preferred as far back as possible. For our purposes, we wanted to be close to that. If you look in to the left, right there, that little building right there that the pointer is on, that's our distribution storage building. And right next to that is our pipe yard. So, we wanted to have our truck barn just flow into that area so that for efficiency they take the trucks out, they can load up with gravel piping distribution material and away they go for the day. So pretty much that's where we wanted that area. And that road on the left hand

side that's an old power line road. We can develop that right now. It comes out between Friend Street and Kalisz Lane, or we can extend that a little bit further down the road to get our trucks off of Lakeshore Road as soon as we can coming up from Candia so that there is minimal impact on the neighbors for trucks going back and forth. When I looked at this, the two major points of emphasis for me when I was approaching this project was from a dollar standpoint, was the funding, how are we going to pay for this project and the cost? And really, more importantly, what's the effect going to be on the ratepayer? So, I really don't want to delve too much into the numbers on this page. I just want to point out that we structured the debt; my goal was to get from 2027 through 2034 with the least amount of debt service as possible. So that's why the reason we structured it for the first seven years to get to that point, we're only going to pay back \$100,000 a year annually in principal, which would keep our debt service down about \$900,000 a year. And that really helps our cash flow as far as affecting the need for a rate increase. I worked with Sharon Wickens, the Finance Officer, and bond counsel to give us a lot of information. These are just the rates that are out there projected for the next couple of years, it showed me that the radar was usually at 5% it was pretty accurate. As far as costing out the bonds, this is the crux of my cash flow. I just want to point out just a couple things on this schedule. I know there's a lot of numbers, but in the upper left-hand corner, you see a green box with \$5,328,147. That's our debt. That would be our debt service. As of June 30th, 2026, the end of this fiscal year, that will be our annual debt service payment. Now, in the lower right there, it says \$5.2 million. Starting fiscal year 2035, including all the debt for this project, we're going to get from today to 2035 will be actually a little bit less about equal as what our debt service will be today, which is an important point. So, I had to figure out how do I get from here to there, with the least impact on the ratepayer. When I structured the debt, you can see at the bottom there's going to be a need for a 1% rate increase in fiscal year 2027. It's going to be a need for 1% increase for this project in fiscal year 2029, and a half a percent increase in fiscal year 2031, a total of 2.5% over the seven years. And that's it. That will be the total cost to the ratepayer and in rate increases for this project. Now the question always is how does that translate to my actual bill? And there's a lot of information here, and you should have handouts that will give you the schedule. But the bottom line is the first 1% increase is going to cost the average ratepayer approximately \$4 annually, or \$1 per quarter on their bill. The same for the second increase in fiscal year 2029. About \$4 annually or about another dollar or \$2 on

their bill and about half of that. So, it goes up to about \$10, which caps at \$10 by 2031. And that's the only impact on the ratepayer for this project. I just want to point out, there's also a lot going on with us that are going to help impact the rates or keep the rates down that I just wanted to give the board an update on, is right now with this, with certain projects we have out at the lake, in the treatment facilities, a distribution system increase capacity of water and to be able to move water down to Derry and into Salem. We have committed from the DES \$9 million for these projects; the project is about \$10 to \$15 million. The state is still looking for the rest of the funds to pay for these projects. But when these projects are complete, we'll have the ability to transport a significant amount of water not only throughout our distribution system, but to our neighbors in southern New Hampshire. And finally, anticipated revenue for the next 3 to 5 years. Based on this infrastructure we're going to put in and as soon as these towns start taking some of the water through our southern New Hampshire interconnection, we're committed for up to 3 million gallons per day. Right now, they're at about 750,000 gallons a day. So, there's a lot of room for growth in there. As soon as we get a lot of this infrastructure done, Derry gets their infrastructure done within the next 2 or 3 years. Salem has already indicated they want a lot more water down south to what would amount to about \$2 to \$2.5 million annually. The town of Londonderry right now is in a substantial growth period similar to Manchester. So, we're looking at probably 1000 to 1400 units over the next three five years. Manchester, the vicinity of 500 to 1000 units. Hooksett, you can see 200 to 500. So, if you add them up, it's about 1700 to 3000 units at \$200 per unit in annual revenue. It's an additional \$340 to \$600,000 annually in gross revenue that would be coming into the water department in total, adding to what we can sell to southern New Hampshire. We can be looking at anywhere from \$2 to \$3 million annually of additional growth, which would be about a 10 to 12% increase in our current revenue that we take in now. So, there's a lot going on at the water department. There's a lot of opportunity over the next three to five years. This is a great project that's been in the works for several years. I hope you can support it.

Mayor Ruais: So, I know we have this item and it is on the consent agenda tonight with no recommendation. So, we'll have to pull that off of consent so we can have the discussion now if we want. Or we can wait until we pull it off.

Alderman Long: So, the rate increases, does that include the other municipalities that are collecting our water?

P. Croasdale: This goes up, their charges currently go up to the same rate.

Alderman Long: And is there a time I thought I read where that could be different? I know right now you're required by statute to charge the same amount.

P. Croasdale: The agreement was that for the first ten years, starting when we signed the agreement in 2021, the first ten years we would charge the towns, the in-town rate. Manchester is the in-town rate here. So that would be 2031, it's going to go up over a five year period to the out of town rate, and then it will be 15% higher than the in-town rate. We do have four wholesale water customers that are under contract for their own rates and they would go up if we have a rate increase in-town. Everybody goes up by the same percentage.

Alderman Fajardo: I just wanted to confirm in the timeline, you're looking at a build schedule that runs about 18 months starting this March.

D. Shilo: That is construction. That's the period in which the design team is in the construction administration phase working with the construction manager.

Alderman Fajardo: So, you would estimate that this new facility would come online in October or November 2027?

D. Shilo: Yes, that was a rough estimate. We're just bringing a CM on now that we'll have to confirm that. But that is currently the estimate.

Alderman Fajardo: How many more employees will be present on this expanded campus as compared to today?

P. Croasdale: We don't anticipate taking on more employees. I would say down the road I can see the water department needing another crew because of the amount of work that needs to be done on our distribution system. Administratively, we're fine.

Alderman Fajardo: We all got a copy of this letter that just has a handful of concerns from somebody who lives on Lakeshore Road. And one of the concerns is an increase in traffic volume just because there's going to be more employees. But it sounds like that's not going to be the case.

P. Croasdale: No. If I can just address the concerns of the gentleman that spoke at the public hearing, most of our traffic, I don't anticipate going to Island Pond Road. Any traffic on Island Pond Road would be just cars from people coming to and from work. Our trucks pretty much don't go down there as he talked about. In my perfect world, I don't know if I'll be around for it, I'd love to build a bridge over our main dam, which would cut our route in half and go down Lakeshore Road and just take it right over there off of Hermit Road. This isn't a perfect world, but we can see that down the road. But traffic right now, all of our trucks do go out to the site, to our distribution facility out there now, at one time or another, several times a week.

Alderman Fajardo: What about noise or, you know, general impact, I suppose, to the surrounding neighborhood? What are you anticipating there?

P. Croasdale: It won't be any if you drive down there now during the day, on weekends, it won't be any different. Everybody comes to work. Well, the administrative staff will be in the building. Everybody in distribution is going to be out there doing their jobs. They come to work anywhere between 7:30 and 8:30 in the morning. People have different groups, have different start times, and it's quiet. By 3:30, every vehicle is going to be in the truck barn by 3:30 in the afternoon. The larger vehicles, construction vehicles on weekends, it's not going to change at all because unless there's a leak or an emergency, they'll see very little impact.

Alderman Fajardo: And then as far as the actual road itself, this letter is saying that the road itself is in poor condition.

P. Croasdale: Which road?

Alderman Fajardo: Lakeshore. Do you anticipate that the additional heavy equipment will potentially cause issues?

P. Croasdale: They are already driving on Lakeshore. I'm not really certain. Lakeshore was repaved probably within the last 7 or 8 years. That's one of the reasons why there's a lot of vehicle traffic going down Lakeshore now, because when the city repaved Lakeshore Road, it made it a nice road. And people like to drive down it, especially down to the far end by Island Pond Road. But the truck impact on it, we've been driving our trucks on Lakeshore and Proctor and we don't see the impact other than normal wear and tear.

Alderman Fajardo: Any chance that you could consider adding a sidewalk?

P. Croasdale: Yes. What we did, there's an old wall that was built in 1894 that we did clear out in front of that wall. It's not much of anything. It's grown back in since. We would have to keep maintaining it. I've always talked to my Watershed Manager, John O'Neil, and he agrees. I mean, at some point, we can continue to clear that so people can walk on the side. I've always envisioned someday to actually build a sidewalk, a regular sidewalk from the rail trail all the way past our site and to the other end, to the wall on the south end of our campus on Lakeshore Road, almost to Proctor Road. I would think all these things would be great. When I talked to neighbors about it as you know, everything comes down to funding.

Alderman Fajardo: I'm asking the sidewalk question because I'm thinking in terms of this is a big project. It's industrial in nature. What type of impact might it have on a residential feeling community?

P. Croasdale: I'm out there. I'm out there every day. I've gotten to actually, not personally, but just by waving, recognize people and see the same people that walk up and down Lakeshore Road. I've told the people, everybody at the Water Works and they can attest

to that, is to speed limit less five miles an hour. So if the speed limit is 25, go 20, and be cognizant of the people that are walking on the side of the road because they are our neighbors. You know, we've been out there since 1894. The treatment plants since 1974. So, we've been out there for quite a long time and the growth has come, but I think we're a very good neighbor there. We maintain Lakeshore Road. It would be a landfill if our patrol and crews didn't go up and down Lakeshore Road picking up garbage at least once a week. We've opened up, we had a lot of restricted land out there. Down near the end of Island Pond Road where that parking lot is, we built that parking lot for the area. Our main dam is right there. All that land was restricted since 1871 because that is where the water supply went into the pump station. We didn't have a treatment plan. I went to our board and asked our board to open that land up for residents to use and walk on and enjoy. Every now and then, residents come to us and ask us for favors. We took down \$10,000 worth of pine trees along Lakeshore Road towards Candia, because one fell on a neighbor across the street, and they were concerned about all the other ones that are 100ft tall. And I understand it. John got a cutter in there and we took down those trees. We're very respectful and cognizant of the people that live in that whole area. I know John O'Neil has a great relationship with the neighbors and he's been an outstanding ambassador.

Alderman T. Sapienza: How far is it from Candia Road along Lakeshore Road to your entrance?

P. Croasdale: I'd say 3500ft.

F. Matuszewski: Half a mile.

Alderman T. Sapienza: Half a mile to a mile.

Alderman Kantor: I just want to say, being in Ward six, you guys are great neighbors, and you're a great department head, Phil. I am concerned because I'm all about protecting neighborhoods. And Ward six is a jewel. It really is. And people appreciate what you did as well in that area. My big concern has been the traffic and also we had discussed last time that you could build a parallel street to Lakeshore, and that's what I really would like

to focus in on, especially if we're spending \$30 million on this and then it makes really good neighbors. We're respecting everyone. I guess bottom line is taking the rest of Water Works and bringing it out to Ward six when you're already in the heart of Manchester. So, everyone's going to have to drive there. So, it is going to be an impact on the road and people are really obnoxious driving. I think it's just in general, people are obnoxious drivers lately and it's just not kosher. I'm just going to advocate for a parallel road and then I feel like there's a blessing from all the neighbors. That's how I feel. And my big concern is safety and keeping it so beautiful. And you are the best neighbors. So, I know that, and John O'Neil is excellent every single time I call. And we've had issues out there with people excessively partying and speeding. And you've worked with MPD. So, I just really think that this needs its own road right into your great facility out there.

Alderman E. Sapienza: I want to thank you for opening up that area on Island Pond. I actually think of it as two areas on both sides of the waterfall. That's great. I hope we open up some more areas. I've heard stories about the bass fishing around the water treatment plant.

Mayor Ruais: I assumed it was a honey hole over there that you were excited about.

Alderman O'Neil: When you first proposed this, we talked about response time for emergencies. I recall you mentioned maybe staging some equipment at the current building or at public works or something, because if I live on Pasture Drive or Pinard Street and I'm waiting for a crew to come all the way from Lakeshore to get there, that's a long wait. And you had definitely said that, Phil, you said you talked about maybe staging an emergency operations group, not permanently, with the equipment where they could pick it up in the center of the city.

P. Croasdale: I'll have discussions with Tim Clougherty as far as us being able to use our area out back that we have now behind DPW. We do have an area there for parking trucks, and we have the gray shed that abuts Wilson Street.

Alderman O'Neil: I am more thinking about like a loader, backhoe or dump truck or two, just so they don't have to drive clear across the city. It is going to take quite a bit of time

to get from Lakeshore to Pinard Street or something like that. That's my biggest concern about moving out there is response time when there's a trouble.

P. Croasdale: You can think of think that way, but what if the emergency is in Ward six? We're already there, right? It's shorter.

Alderman O'Neil: That is one example, Ward six. What about the rest of the city? What about West Manchester?

P. Croasdale: Right now, we're centrally located, but you have to get into our facility to get our vehicles. Even in an emergency, sometimes they go in, they pick up their trucks on Lincoln Street, and they'll drive them out to the lake to get the material, because all of our pipes out there, all of our distribution fittings are out there.

Alderman O'Neil: How do they know what they need?

P. Croasdale: Well, we have an emergency man on staff all the time. Anyway, he gets the phone call. He responds to the emergency right away. He assesses the problem, they bring in needed help. He gets a shut down, and then we go from there. But emergencies aren't going to be any different than it is now at night. During the day, we get a phone call and we respond. We have people out in the city.

Alderman O'Neil: That doesn't make me comfortable with your answer. It's going to be time for the customers that have the leak going on. I agree. You have a 24-hour service person. I agree, once they know what the problem is, some of those trucks are leaving to go get the material, but it's getting that loader or backhoe that can only go so fast.

P. Croasdale: Yes, but that's going to dig the hole.

Alderman O'Neil: Somebody's going to go out to the plant, get it and then drive over to Pasture Drive, that's a long time.

P. Croasdale: That's not going to impact the customer. What we do is we go out there, we get a shut down. The water stops. So now then we get the crew on board, we get the equipment, we go out there and then for leaks we have to wait 1 to 2 hours to get a dig safe. So, these events don't happen like that. Everything takes time and procedure.

Alderman O'Neil: I just ask, it's not going to affect my vote.

Alderman T. Sapienza: We appreciate you getting the trucks off of Valley Street. Thank you for that.

Alderman Kantor: You mentioned the wetlands. I know in my backyard, there's some wetlands that are actually dry, but now they're swampy. I have to keep my shed off 25ft, but it looks like you're building on the wetlands. How does that work?

F. Matuszewski: We've reached an agreement with the Department of Environmental Services to produce additional wetlands displacing these, as well as creating a conservation area which is going to be determined. So, Phil has worked closely with Department of Environmental Services over the years, and Manchester Water Works is held in high regard as being good stewards of the environment, the entire watershed, if you will. So, we're addressing those issues.

Alderman Kantor: No, I understand, I'm just saying I know a lot of people and builders, builders have to deal with the wetlands. And even if they're not wet, you still can't go close to them. So how is this fair for government versus mom-and-pop people.

D. Shilo: New Hampshire does categorize the degrees of impact and has mitigation requirements for each degree of impact. And so, it's not staying away from the wetlands is one strategy. But if you do impact wetlands, if they can't be avoided, then there are mitigation options. Just to clarify.

Alderman Fajardo: Everybody has the same options.

D. Shilo: That's right.

Alderman O'Neil: You mentioned a construction manager being selected. Who was it?

P. Croasdale: Harvey.

Mayor Ruais: Thank you, gentlemen. So, I apologize. I skipped right into the presentation, but I actually have a proclamation to read tonight. Is the Rowan family here? Please come forward. Whereas, Manchester's creepy Santa is a 12 foot fiberglass statue of Santa Claus that has been a wonderfully weird Manchester landmark and an integral part of the Rowan family Christmas tree lot on Elm Street for 35 years. And whereas Creepy Santa was purchased by Rowan in the early years of their business and was one of only eight made in the world in the 1950s, is only one of three in New England, two of which are in New Hampshire and potentially the United States, whereas anticipation as to his arrival begins to build around mid-November, and when installed, residents immediately start flocking to Creepy Santa to take selfies, family photos, group photos and try to give them a high five. Whereas Justin has created annual Creepy Santa T-shirts in which the proceeds are donated to several local charities. And Whereas the Roman family Christmas tree has brought tremendous smiles, laughter and joy to Manchester for 35 years, and a world that can feel divisive, creepy Santa brings us together, brings joy and perhaps a few healthy night terrors. And it simply wouldn't be Christmas in Manchester without him. Now, therefore, I, Mayor Jay Ruais, Mayor of Manchester, hereby recognize and commend the family's Christmas tree lot and creepy Santa for bringing joy to Manchester residents. And I hereby proclaim Black Friday as annual Creepy Santa Day in the City of Manchester. Thank you all so much.

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept and Remand Funds

3. Donation from Digital Federal Credit Union to the Fire Department in the amount of \$2,500.

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

4. 50/50 Sidewalk Petitions (Residential)
99 Etsy Ave

112 Salmon St
142 Talbot St
195 Bismark St
503 Hanover St
743 Pine St

Information to be Received and Filed

5. Communication from Comcast regarding Xfinity services and pricing.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

6. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the FY2024 CIP 611124 Brook Street Shelter Operations”

“Amending the FY2023, FY2024 and FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Two Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,800,000) for the FY2023 CIP 710723 CMOM Study, Design & Construction - Sewer Bond, FY2024 CIP 710824 Secondary Clarifier Design and Construction and FY2025 CIP 710125 MS4 FY25 Construction - Enterprise”

“Amending the FY2021, FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Four Hundred Ninety-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Two Dollars and Fourteen Cents (\$497,402.14) for the FY2023 CIP 710723 CMOM Study, Design & Construction - Sewer Bond”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) for the FY2026 CIP C070040126 Domestic Violence Prosecutor”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$140,000) for the FY2026 CIP C160060826 Hope for NH Recovery Wilson St Emergency Recovery Housing”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000) for the FY2026 CIP C330041326 MPD DetectaChem Spectrometers”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and

appropriating funds in the amount of Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000) for the FY2026 CIP C330041426 FY25 ILO Program”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Six Dollars (\$14,826) for the FY2026 CIP C330041526 Eight (8) Handheld Lidars”

Bond Resolution:

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Twenty-Three Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$23,600,000) for the 2026 CIP C500071126 Pearl Street Parking Garage.”

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

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

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

“Amending Chapter 117: Food Service Establishments of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by making changes to reflect the new food code and increasing various fees.”

ought to pass and be Enrolled.
(Unanimous vote)
11. Recommending that the draft Zoning Ordinance of the City of Manchester ought to pass and be Enrolled.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman E. Sapienza who was opposed)

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/INFORMATION SYSTEMS

12. Recommending that the request from the Chair of the Heritage Commission for the enactment of a policy requiring property owners to seek official permission before altering any structure located in the historic downtown district which contains original brickwork be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Thomas who was absent)
13. Recommending that the proposed changes to Rule 8 of the Rules of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen be referred to the newly elected 2026-2027 Board of Mayor and Aldermen, and further that the new Board consider changes to Rule 6.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Thomas who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

14. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$2,800,000 for CIP 710723 CMOM Study, Design & Construction - Sewer Bond; CIP 710824 Secondary Clarifier Design and Construction; and CIP 710125 MS4 FY25 Construction - Enterprise be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Burkush, who was absent)
15. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$497,402.14 for CIP 710723 CMOM Study, Design & Construction - Sewer Bond be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Burkush, who was absent)
16. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$80,000 for CIP C330041326 MPD DetectaChem Spectrometers be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Burkush, who was absent)
17. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$45,000 for CIP C330041426 FY25 ILO Program be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Burkush, who was absent)
18. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$14,826 for CIP C330041526 Eight (8) Handheld Lidars be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Burkush, who was absent)
19. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$23,600,000 for CIP C500071126 Pearl Street Parking Garage be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Burkush, who was absent)

21. Recommending that the request from the Fire Chief for permission to apply for the FY25 Hazmat Grant in the amount of \$33,000 be approved.
(Unanimous vote, with the exception of Alderman Burkush who was absent)
22. Recommending that the request from the Highway Chief Engineer for permission to bid the Cilley Road/Jewett Street traffic signal installation project be approved.
(Unanimous vote, with the exception of Alderman Burkush who was absent)
23. Recommending that the request from the Highway Chief Engineer to close CIP C500070626 Household Hazardous Waste Collection be approved.
(Unanimous vote, with the exception of Alderman Burkush who was absent)
24. Recommending that the request from the MPD Grant Coordinator to extend CIP 410325 Police ShotSpotter Gunshot Detection to December 31, 2026, be approved.
(Unanimous vote, with the exception of Alderman Burkush who was absent)
25. Recommending that the petition to discontinue a portion of Groveland Avenue be referred to a road hearing to be scheduled by the City Clerk.
(Unanimous vote, with the exception of Alderman Burkush who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND BUILDINGS

26. Recommending that the request from Tycoon Games for an extension of their lease at 195 McGregor Street on a month-to-month basis at a rate 5% higher than the existing rent, effective December 1, 2025, be approved with language allowing for the City to give 30-day notice of terminating the agreement.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Thomas who was absent)
27. Recommending that the request from 39 Bremer Street LLC for an encroachment variance to facilitate a safer driveway for the proposed development on Mammoth Road be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exceptions of Alderman Thomas who was absent, and Alderman Levasseur who abstained)
28. Recommending that Ordinance Amendment:

"Amending Section 36.40 Community Revitalization Tax Incentive of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester regarding the terms of tax relief."

ought to pass and be referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review.
(Unanimous vote with the exceptions of Alderman Thomas who was absent, and Alderman Levasseur who abstained)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

29. Recommending that the following traffic regulations be approved:

CROSSWALK

On Michigan Avenue, north of Hanover Street

Alderman Fajardo

SCHOOL ZONE- 20 mph speed limit

On Smyth Road between Kennard Road and Sagamore Street

On Bruce Road between Sagamore Street and Smyth Road

Alderman Goonan

On Titus Avenue between Calef Road and S Beech Street

Alderman Burkush

(Unanimous vote)

30. Recommending that the request from the Parking Manager for permission to allow LMG to store construction equipment in the Pearl Street Lot free of charge be approved.

(Unanimous vote)

31. Recommending that Ordinance Amendment:

"Amending Chapter 117 Food Service Establishments of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester to refine definitions, exemptions, and permit requirements."

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

(Unanimous vote)

JOINT SCHOOL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

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

(Unanimous vote with the exception of Aldermen Terrio and O'Neil, who were absent)

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to approve the consent agenda.*

20. Report from the Committee on Community Improvement, recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$35,000,000 for CIP WCA24.2026 Administration Building and Vehicle Storage Garage has been referred to the full Board for consideration without recommendation, and further that there be a presentation from Water Works to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.
- (Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Burkush, who was absent)*

Alderman Morgan request that agenda item #20 be removed from the consent agenda.

Alderman Morgan moved to approve the project and refer it to the Committee on Finance. **Alderman Long** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Ruais called for a vote. The motion carried, with **Alderman Kantor** being duly recorded in opposition.

REGULAR BUSINESS

33. Nominations:
Senior Services Commission
Sheryl Ramsay to succeed Veronica Schlender as a regular member, term to expire January 1, 2029
(Note: Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, this nomination will layover until the next meeting of the Board.)
34. Confirmations:
Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Mike Lopez to succeed himself as a regular member, term to expire December 31, 2030
Arts Commission
Shannon Sullivan to succeed herself as a regular member, term to expire December 1, 2028
Michael Truong to succeed himself as a regular member, term to expire December 1, 2028
Suzanne Riel to fill a vacancy as an alternate member, term to expire December 1, 2028

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

35. 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 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

be approved and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Alderman Barry moved to accept the report and adopt its recommendation. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Burkush: I have a question for the finance director. Could you comment, please, on the \$3.3 million bond?

Sharon Wickens, Finance Officer: We've had several conversations with various aldermen over the past week or two. And they've actually been very good conversations. It has everybody really looking at the dollars that Manchester has for bonding. The rating agencies say that our bonding is elevated compared to our peers. This isn't a new comment. It's been a comment for quite some time whenever we go out. But over the years we've worked very hard to keep the bonding pretty consistent year in and year out without showing any spikes. So, when things come to the committee outside of the bonding, the budget process, they really need to be looked at. And a lot of times they come outside of the budget process because of a timing issue. And I'm told that this particular project is a timing issue. I understand that. I have no skin in this game. I am not for or against this project. It doesn't matter whether it's a fire truck, it doesn't matter whether it's a skate park. It just matters that we only have so many dollars to do bonding. If it's the will of the board that they choose this particular project is important and it's important to constituents, I trust the alderman to make that decision and vote. It just means less dollars possibly in the budget season, and maybe that's okay. But as long as everybody's just spending the money that we have for bonding, which is about \$17 million a year, we try to keep that level every year. If it's the will of the board for this project, that's fine. But we need to keep in mind to keep the debt service annually level.

Alderman Burkush: I would only comment that I'd like to refer this to the budget process.

Alderman E. Sapienza: So, this skate park was discussed at committee level tonight, right? The idea behind the committee level is normally when something is discussed at committee level, it is not brought to the full board that night. If it is brought to the full board that same evening, it would be because it's an emergency. But the skate park certainly is not an emergency. There's no reason it should be brought to the full board tonight. Otherwise, what's the purpose of even having committees? So just procedurally, there's

no reason for it to be brought to the full board tonight. I want to also add that it should be brought to the next scheduled meeting. This is not a scheduled meeting. We have two aldermen that are not here tonight. That's probably no fault of their own. They probably would have been here if we had the meeting last night, but we didn't because of the snowstorm. This meeting in particular is not the meeting to be bringing things forward and basically subverting the whole committee process.

Alderman Levasseur: Very good points by Alderman Sapienza. When I said motion to receive and file, I meant just the skateboard park. The rest of the lighting, I think, is necessary, but I wanted to cut that part out, and it's mostly because the next board, I know there's going to be some a lot of budget issues and a lot of cries for money. And schools are going to want more than they got the last two years. So, I just think you should have some flexibility on the big projects. Like my 14-year-old said, nobody skateboards in Manchester. Nobody cares about skateboarding at all, and I agree. I love the idea of putting in pickleball and cleaning it up. I think that's a great idea for that park, but I just think a skateboard park should not go there, and that's a personal opinion. I also would like this next board to have the flexibility on what they want to bond over a skateboard park.

Alderman Barry: As far as kids not wanting to skateboard or kids not skateboarding, that is false. You look at all the communities outside of Manchester, you have a lot of communities surrounding the city of Manchester that have skateboard parks that are packed with kids. Pickleball, that's great for older people because that's who plays it. It's not the younger kids. We very rarely come to the aid of the children in our community. Just because one kid doesn't skateboard, that doesn't mean other kids don't skateboard. It's also BMX biking. It's not just a skateboard park, it's also for BMX biking. Now, if we don't approve this this year, I can understand where Sharon's coming from, but it's not going to affect what we're going to propose for the budget for next year as far as bonding goes. I don't know, what did we bond last year?

S. Wickens: Just shy of \$17 million.

Alderman Barry: This \$3.3 million. If we were going to use that \$17 million mark, we still have \$14 million left that we're going to use. But I can tell you, this has been going on for quite some time. This isn't a fly by night situation where someone came to a decision or a proposal a couple of months ago and said, hey, why don't we build a skate park? That would be fun and that would be kind of cool. This has been going on for years. I've been an alderman for 12 years, and since I was first elected 12 years ago, it came to my attention. People in Manchester wanted a skate park. The problem we were was we didn't have a location. We finally have a great location on the west side of Manchester; we don't have things to do on the west side. And it's not just the west side children, but it's children from all over the city. And I'm sure kids from outside of the city will probably show up for skateboarding, because that's what I hear. They gravitate to the places that have skate parks. And I think the timing is right for this. If we put this off any longer, it's going to get more expensive. It's sad if we don't offer things for our kids. Offering things to adults is one thing. People will say, well, we should do more for roads. We can only do so much every year for roads. We put millions and millions of dollars in every single year. The roads aren't being underfunded, they're being funded, and we don't have the manpower. We have to contract out to do all the paving and reconstruction of the roads that cost a lot of money. We're not using our manpower. We're using our subcontractors to do our road work. So, we need to do something for the kids.

Alderman O'Neil: There was a skate park at one time in the city, and it was taken away with no plan to replace it on Maple Street. Alderman Barry's right. There was a search for where it could go. One feature was put over by Northwest Elementary School, but it was never enough to replace the skate park. I attended the the citywide meetings with people from all over the city who came; the communities are looking for this. The people in ward ten are looking to have activity on Harvell Street, because the only activity there now is the homeless, needles, and all that stuff. They want activity over there. One of the things that's lost in this, no matter whether we're building soccer fields, pickleball courts, baseball fields, softball fields, there is \$800,000 in drainage that needs to be done on this site, whether a skate park is built or something else is built there. That's in that \$2.5 million number, the drainage work. This community has been kind of looked at as second hand citizens and I think it's time we move forward. I agree, I think the young people in the city want this. MPAL runs a skate program inside the Police Athletic League. They run a

skateboard program inside. There is an interest by young people in this. I'm ready to move forward on this. If it gets pushed to the springtime, we lose a whole other construction season. I had a discussion with Sharon last spring, and it was recommended that maybe it get put off until the fall, so we put it off to the fall. Now we're being told the fall is not a good time for it, put it off to the spring. Prices are not going to go down. So, I think we should move forward on this. We're always going to have demands for it. I saw something in our agenda about buying four fire trucks. I know we're not bonding them right away. We have to give something back to the people of Manchester and especially the young people of Manchester. And that's exactly what this does.

Alderman Levasseur: Is somebody here from Parks? I believe there were 3 or 4 more proposals that were not included in this price. I think the pickleball courts and there's three other proposals that go along with this whole thing, but it's not included here as to what the total price is going to be. What is that total price going to be with the proposals?

Kate Waldo, Park Projects Manager: This was a phased approach. We did get funding this budget season for FY26 to do some work on the softball side and to do some planning to get the full specs. And then the next phase was going to be looking at the skate park and the drainage and parking lot and lights and all that goes along with it. And then the third level would be pickleball courts and lights.

Alderman Levasseur: So, \$2.5 million is for phase one. I would assume that's the 20,000 square foot skate park with lighting, softball field, field conditioning, fencing, lighting, seating, scoreboard, basketball court lighting, interior renovation and field building, restrooms, water fountain, base of the new parking lot. That's phase one, and the whole price is included in here.

K. Waldo: I'm not sure exactly what you're looking at with that.

Alderman Levasseur: Project phasing plan from TFM.

K. Waldo: So that was what was originally put together. But when we did not get the full funding for phase one, what we've been able to do is we carved out what could be done with the funding that we got.

Alderman Levasseur: That was \$1 million?

Mayor Ruais: \$500,000.

K. Waldo: \$500,000 with some of that being community grants. So that's where we're doing some work at the softball side and we're doing full construction specs with it.

Alderman Levasseur: I know there was a price attached or an estimate. What was the rest of the prices attached?

K. Waldo: So that was the original estimate if we did it all within one phase.

Alderman Levasseur: There's no number attached here. I know I saw it, but I just don't have it. I saw it on committee, but I didn't realize it was coming up tonight.

K. Waldo: So the original quote, if we did it all within one phase, and this was a year ago, was a little over \$5 million for it to be fully completed.

Alderman Levasseur: And that's pretty much all of the stuff on this list. So, it's \$5 million, but that doesn't include all the other stuff that's on here. The \$400,000, \$250,000 and \$150,000 for lighting. That's all separate. That's not part of the skateboard park.

K. Waldo: Right. I think those are separate CIPs.

Alderman Levasseur: \$5 million there and then another almost \$1 million for the other lighting for all the other parks. That's not on you. I'm just adding it up right now looking at it.

K. Waldo: Right. Right now I think the request is not the full \$5 million for Wolfe Park.

Alderman Levasseur: It's \$2.5 million. And then there's a Derryfield Park Pony League and Livingston Park for lighting. Those are different though. I just want to ask on the \$17 million threshold. When we go to bond a new parking garage for \$23 million, that's more than \$17 million. How does that get figured in?

S. Wickens: That would be funded through a TIF. That is going to be separate from that. This is for a general obligation bond.

Alderman Levasseur: Okay. But it's still a bond and it has to be paid. And it's going to be paid by the area over there. But the area that's paying for that will pay for it solely. They are going to have to pay for the other skateboard parks and everything too. They don't get any breaks.

S. Wickens: Well, it's the taxing capacity over the entire city.

Alderman Levasseur: So, the \$23 million is not going to be borne by the whole city.

S. Wickens: The \$23 million will only be the new value that's generated in the TIF area. So, any existing value is still coming into the tax base like it always has.

Alderman Levasseur: The \$30 million or so for the new building at Water Works, that's an enterprise.

S. Wickens: It's self-funded; it's revenue funded. So, they have to have the rates in order to pay for their debt service. Just like the CSO project is the same way.

Alderman Levasseur: I'm not privy to what the mayor's plans are. I know that budget talks are already probably beginning for next year, and I don't know what you're looking at for a bonding number of \$17 million or staying in that range. I know you want to stay under \$12 million.

Mayor Ruais: We were \$11.5 million in year one, and the SNHU arena came up. So, the idea was that we knew we had these projects that we had to fund in the wintertime. So, we kept it extraordinarily low to account for the bonds that were coming in the fall. That was 2024.

Alderman Levasseur: Right. So, if you keep it low in that year, does that mean that you can do more in the year after?

S. Wickens: Well, yes, in theory. I go out every other year and in this next budget season, he's got a bond for \$4.5 million for the second half of the financial system. Now our financial system is going away. We're racing the clock to get it up. So, we already know that \$4.5 million is there. And now we know the \$3.3 million is here. So, you know you start looking at what you've got left.

Alderman T. Sapienza: I think it's important to move this forward at this time. It's time. We've been working on it for many years. The Finance Director mentioned that our bonding is elevated compared to our peers. Well, I ask everyone, who is our peers? We're Manchester, we're leading this state. We need to improve this community and we need to keep building. And this is the way to do it.

Alderman Kantor: As we've mentioned, MPAL and the skate program. How many kids are part of the skate program now?

Alderman Barry: At least 50.

Alderman Kantor: And how often do they meet?

Alderman Barry: I don't know how often they meet.

Alderman Kantor: I'm just asking because I was told otherwise, that it's not a big thing down there. So, I think that's where it's important to have people coming in and presenting to us on why this is so important. And second of all, if it was so important, why didn't you put it in the budget this past year?

Mayor Ruais: At the time the budget was going through, we didn't have numbers at that time, so I asked for it to be held out of the budget because we didn't have an affirmative number at that time.

Alderman Barry: And just to just to clarify, as far as MPAL, I love the organization. Well, it was important enough for them to show up at our community meetings. That's how important it was and that's how involved they want to be. They can't wait for it to be built so that the kids can go outside and play.

Alderman Kantor: No, I just wish I would hear it from them. That's all I'm saying.

Alderman Barry: Call them up.

Alderman Kantor: Okay, well, I clearly can't.

Alderman Barry: I'm telling you right now, it was important enough to them for them to show up to our meetings. And I know there's been quite a few people, including yourself, that said that fundraising should be part of gaining money. So, thank you for volunteering. And when these other people that come in and talk in public session want to volunteer to fundraise, they are welcome. We'll welcome any money that we can get.

Alderman Kantor: I'm not trying to push something through in ward six and expecting you to fundraise for it.

Alderman Barry: I would love to.

Mayor Ruais: We don't need the cross talk, but I think we're ready to call the question.

Alderman E. Sapienza: Well, point of order. Are we going to first vote to suspend the rule?

Matthew Normand, City Clerk: You're just accepting the committee report.

Mayor Ruais: That's just a simple majority to accept the committee report.

Alderman E. Sapienza: That's all we're doing?

Alderman Levasseur: Accepting the report, and we just did the same thing for accepting a report. So, is it going to be put back on the agenda for two weeks from now?

M. Normand: As you see in front of you on that report, it's being referred to Finance tonight. The bonds have to lay over for a minimum of five days. So that will go to Finance, come back to the board, and we'll start that five day clock. So, on the December 16 meeting you would be voting on the bonds.

Alderman Levasseur: So, does it takes eight votes to accept the report?

M. Normand: Seven tonight because there are only 12 members present.

Alderman Levasseur: Seven to accept the report. How much to bond?

M. Normand: With a full board, ten, but that's happening December 16.

Alderman Levasseur: Oh, boy. You guys are tricky.

M. Normand: Well, that's how every bond is processed.

Alderman Levasseur: No, I understand. Pulling it up tonight, I don't know why it is being pulled up tonight. Is there an urgency? to accept the report?

Alderman O'Neil: It's just to accept the report, that's all.

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

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

The Mayor called the meeting back to order.

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

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

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the FY2024 CIP 611124 Brook Street Shelter Operations”

“Amending the FY2023, FY2024 and FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Two Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,800,000) for the FY2023 CIP 710723 CMOM Study, Design & Construction - Sewer Bond, FY2024 CIP 710824 Secondary Clarifier Design and Construction and FY2025 CIP 710125 MS4 FY25 Construction - Enterprise”

“Amending the FY2021, FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Four Hundred Ninety-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Two Dollars and Fourteen Cents (\$497,402.14) for the FY2023 CIP 710723 CMOM Study, Design & Construction - Sewer Bond”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) for the FY2026 CIP C070040126 Domestic Violence Prosecutor”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$140,000) for the FY2026 CIP C160060826 Hope for NH Recovery Wilson St Emergency Recovery Housing”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000) for the FY2026 CIP C330041326 MPD DetectaChem Spectrometers”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000) for the FY2026 CIP C330041426 FY25 ILO Program”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-

Six Dollars (\$14,826) for the FY2026 CIP C330041526 Eight (8) Handheld Lidars”

ought to pass and be Enrolled.

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

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

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

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Twenty-Three Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$23,600,000) for the 2026 CIP C500071126 Pearl Street Parking Garage.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000) for the 2026 CIP C650050926 Manchester Skate Park at Lally Sullivan Complex.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) for the 2026 CIP C650051026 Al Lemire Field Lighting (Derryfield Park).”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the 2026 CIP C650051126 Pony League Baseball Field Lighting.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the 2026 CIP C650051226 Livingston Park Field Lighting Improvement.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Thirty-Five Million

Dollars (\$35,000,000) for the 2026 CIP WCA24.2026 Administration Building and Vehicle Storage Garage.”

ought to pass and layover.

M. Normand: If the Board is inclined to waive the reading of this report, I want to state for the record that this report includes the bonds for the skate park and related projects, as well as the Water Works project. This vote is just to accept the report. The bonds will layover until December 16.

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

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman O’Neil**, it was voted to accept the report and adopt its recommendation, with **Aldermen Kantor, E. Sapienza, and Levasseur** being duly recorded in opposition.*

39. Report(s) of this evening’s remaining committees, if available.

The Committee on Lands & Buildings respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from North Elm Rentals LLC for approval of a waterline easement for the property at 1138 Elm Street be approved.

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

The Committee on Bills on Second Reading respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that Ordinance Amendment:

"Amending Section 91.87 Syringe Service Program Operations of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester to add language regarding one-to-one needle exchange."

ought to pass and be referred to the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment & Revenue Administration.

Alderman Levasseur moved to suspend the rules, place the Ordinance on its third and final reading, and Ordain. **Alderman Kantor** duly seconded the motion.

Mayor Ruais: My only question, if the clerk could confirm, is what is the effective date on this?

M. Normand: The effective date is 30 days after passage.

Alderman Fajardo: I just wanted to point out that from the discussion that we had in committee today, there was a request that was voiced for essentially quarterly data updates from the Health Department so that we're closely understanding the potential impact that this is having. So that's all I just wanted to voice for everyone's awareness. That was a request that I made. And the Health Department is amenable to that.

Mayor Ruais: Do you want a friendly amendment asking that quarterly reports be made by the Health Department?

M. Normand: I think the the Health Department pledged to report back.

Mayor Ruais: Is that sufficient?

Alderman Fajardo: Absolutely. I just wanted to voice it over.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote. The motion carried, with **Alderman Fajardo** being duly recorded in opposition.

40. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the FY2024 CIP 611124 Brook Street Shelter Operations”

“Amending the FY2023, FY2024 and FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Two Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,800,000) for the FY2023 CIP 710723 CMOM Study, Design & Construction - Sewer Bond, FY2024 CIP 710824 Secondary Clarifier Design and Construction and FY2025 CIP 710125 MS4 FY25 Construction - Enterprise”

“Amending the FY2021, FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Four Hundred Ninety-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Two Dollars and Fourteen Cents (\$497,402.14) for the FY2023 CIP 710723 CMOM Study, Design & Construction - Sewer Bond”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) for the FY2026 CIP C070040126 Domestic Violence Prosecutor”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$140,000) for the FY2026 CIP C160060826 Hope for NH Recovery Wilson St Emergency Recovery Housing”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000) for the FY2026 CIP C330041326 MPD DetectaChem Spectrometers”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000) for the FY2026 CIP C330041426 FY25 ILO Program”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Six Dollars (\$14,826) for the FY2026 CIP C330041526 Eight (8) Handheld Lidars”

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

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

41. Ordinances:

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

“Amending Chapter 117: Food Service Establishments of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by making changes to reflect the new food code and increasing various fees.”

42. Proposed Zoning Ordinance of the City of Manchester.

Mayor Ruais: My understanding for items 41 and 42, we're going to need to table these until the December 16 meeting.

M. Normand: Correct.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Levasseur**, it was voted to table agenda items 41 and 42.*

43. A motion would be in order to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for consideration of the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her.

***Alderman E. Sapienza** moved to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for consideration of the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her. **Alderman Kantor** duly seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.*

Mayor Ruais called the meeting back to order.

***Alderman O’Neil** moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session so that the proposed actions and decisions reached in non-public session are not rendered ineffective. **Alderman Barry** duly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Kantor: I would like to make a motion to turn the holiday parade back to its original name, the Christmas Parade.

Mayor Ruais: My understanding is that we have the holiday parade committee, we have the Memorial Day parade committee, the Veterans Day parade committee. Those committees are the ones that determine that, it's not the City of Manchester that dictates what the names of the parades are. I called over to a member of the holiday parade committee, and I said, what would you do if we as a board took that vote and said, change the name of the parade? He said, we would have to vote on that as a board. It's not our parade. It's not the city's parade. It's the committee that makes those determinations.

Alderman Levasseur: Which committee is that?

Mayor Ruais: It's the holiday parade committee. So, Nick's on that committee. There's five on the committee, is my understanding. Five or six, depending on who shows up. They're the ones that make the determination on the name.

Alderman T. Sapienza: That's the people that do all the work to put the parade together.

Mayor Ruais: The only thing that we do on any of the parades in the city, and I know we'll have a conversation about this, but the only thing that the city does for parades is the route, because that's a safety issue for people in the city. But we don't choose float colors. We don't choose names of the parade. We don't do anything of that nature. You're more than welcome to talk to Nick or the committee.

Alderman Levasseur: You could make a motion recommending it to the holiday parade committee.

Alderman Kantor: Who's on the committee? I'd like to be part of the committee.

Nick Carnes, Holiday Parade Committee Member: I can answer any questions.

Alderman Levasseur: Did you know you were going to be called up tonight?

N. Carnes: No, I did not.

Alderman Kantor: How did this come about?

N. Carnes: So basically, if we were holding the parade on Christmas, then we would call it the Christmas parade. Similar to the Memorial Day Parade. The Saint Patrick's Day Parade and the Veterans Day Parade. Doing it this Saturday on the sixth, we're representing more than just Christmas itself. So it goes into all nationalities, all races. I mean, we're closer to Thanksgiving than we really are to Christmas, too. So, it could be a Thanksgiving Day parade. Ultimately, the decision came about to move it to earlier in the month and just represent everyone and everything in the city as a whole.

Alderman Kantor: How many years has this been the holiday parade?

N. Carnes: That the name has been changed? I'm not positive.

Alderman Kantor: And how many years was it the Christmas parade?

N. Carnes: I'm also not positive to that. The only things that I do know is why it's called the holiday parade now.

Alderman Kantor: But it was originally called the Christmas parade.

N. Carnes: To my personal knowledge, I'm not sure.

Alderman Kantor: Who is on the committee? I would love to be a part of it.

N. Carnes: Talk to Jodie Nazaka, she can help with that. Jodie and Eric are sort of the liaison from this committee to the city aspect. So, when we have to talk to, whether it be Police for traffic or Fire for parade routes and all that kind of stuff going on they act as that liaison.

Alderman Levasseur: You just said that the parade has to be on the day of that holiday.

N. Carnes: No.

Alderman Levasseur: Saint Patrick's Day parade is not on Saint Patrick's.

N. Carnes: All right, let me rephrase. What I'm saying is if it was on Christmas, then it would be kind of a layup to call it the Christmas Day parade.

Alderman Levasseur: Generic question, but do you guys discuss this on your own? Is there a vote?

N. Carnes: So, this year because it has already been called the holiday parade, there was no vote or conversation on it. But ultimately, given the conversation that we had, knowing that there has been some concern over it, we have all talked amongst ourselves to keep it as a holiday parade.

Alderman Levasseur: Okay, so you don't have to take an official vote. Where do you get the money for the parade? Who pays for it?

N. Carnes: That's all just self-funded and not self-funded by myself. But it's all done through contributions.

Alderman Levasseur: Does the city give any money to it?

N. Carnes: I am not 100% positive. I have not dove into what the finances look like on the back end.

Alderman Levasseur: And the people that give you money, have they ever given you any input?

N. Carnes: I do not believe so.

Alderman Levasseur: I have to tell you, I always thought it was a city parade.

N. Carnes: No, I actually don't believe you guys have a parade.

Mayor Ruais: And that's been the the advice and counsel because there's a liability aspect to us putting on a parade.

Alderman T. Sapienza: I want to thank you for all your work on the holiday parade committee and all the other parade committees, too. There's a ton of work and preparation that goes into these parades. And I, for one, enjoy them. And I know that a lot of people work very hard to put them on. So, thank you.

N. Carnes: Every time a parade gets done, it's just a good example of how we can kind of give back to the community. So, whether it's someone that's in any of your wards that has kids that wants to come down and experience a parade and just have a good, free, fun family atmosphere downtown.

Alderman Long: Is the committee part of the Central Business Services District Board?

N. Carnes: No, it's a separate board. So, each parade itself has its own board or committee that determines how they operate each one.

Alderman Long: I know Intown used to do the Christmas one.

N. Carnes: So, Intown did used to do it. But obviously since we haven't had Intown, I believe that these committees have kind of stepped up to take over running these parades. I cannot confirm or deny if any money from that additional tax downtown goes into any of the parades as well.

Mayor Ruais: In the two budgets that I've done since I've been here, I don't recall ever having a conversation about parades.

Alderman Levasseur: Who who appoints you guys to your committee?

N. Carnes: It's normally just kind of brought in. We have a breakdown of business owners, community leaders, and then just regular members from the community. Anyone can really talk to us and join if they'd like to.

Alderman Levasseur: Does everyone know that there's a holiday parade committee?

N. Carnes: I don't think it's something that we promoted in the past. I mean, it's definitely something we could promote.

Alderman Levasseur: I just never heard of it. Do you have a website?

N. Carnes: No website. It is volunteers, actually, if anyone wants to volunteer, we're looking for a couple more volunteers for this Saturday. That's something that we should probably be addressing at this point. It's a very good point, alderman.

Alderman Kantor: I'd love to volunteer.

Alderman Long: You need 1000 hours to volunteer before you get on that board.

Alderman Kantor: I'm just about being a traditionalist. And I was actually raised Jewish. I think that staying the Christmas parade is just a beautiful thing, and it doesn't mean you're not including everyone else. So that's why I brought it up, because it doesn't matter for my faith. Even if I'm a Christian now, it doesn't matter. It's just keeping it the same. I definitely understand there's a lot of people that are very, very upset because it's been the Christmas parade for years.

N. Carnes: The concept of what the parade is has stayed the same and actually it's grown over the past few years, and we've seen attendance levels not only through the holiday parade, but also Saint Patrick's Day and the Memorial Day parade from this past year, if those are continuing to grow, then I don't think that the product is going to change regardless of what the name is. I understand what you're saying in the traditional values

of what this season stands for. I can understand, and I think on the counter end of that by calling it the holiday parade, we're trying to represent everybody. We don't want to isolate it. And if we change it to the Christmas parade, how many phone calls would come in saying, why isn't it the holiday parade? And I don't feel represented in this. At the same time, we still have Dan dressing up as Santa and Mrs. Claus coming down the street. Before the parade, there is the Santa shuffle that's put on by Millennium Running. They do that for the Christmas parade and for the Saint Patrick's Day parade as well. They do the Shamrock Shuffle. It is just one big collaborative effort. But I do understand what you're saying. It's something that we can try to address next year, if you'd like to get on board to be a part of it.

Alderman Long: Although the holiday parade is fine with me, I think it's more important when I'm in that parade to wish people a Merry Christmas or a Happy Hanukkah or whatever, whatever they are. And I've never really had anybody say, why is this the holiday parade? Those that I know that are Jewish, I wish them a happy holiday. They appreciate that. They respect that.

N. Carnes: We've heard it a few times. Without a doubt. But ultimately, our goal is to be as inclusive as possible. And we've seen that the best way to do that, especially through terminology, is just using a term like holiday that can cover such a wide basis. And that's why if we don't focus primarily on one thing, we just open it up. But it does end with a tree lighting at Stanton Plaza. And this year, the theme is Candy Cane Lane. We've had probably about 30 downtown businesses decorate their own candy canes that can go around the tree. So, we're just trying to show it through a downtown collaborative effort.

Alderman Levasseur: The holiday parade committee has not been infiltrated by any foreign agents, right?

N. Carnes: No, it has not. We have very strict screening on that.

Mayor Ruais: Thanks for everything you're doing in the downtown, too, beyond this.

Alderman Kantor: I just want to discuss the Manchester Water Works and the importance of asking for a road to be directed to the Water Works. So, if this is going to be pushed through, this affects all of Ward six. That whole area just changes it completely. So, we can keep pushing things through and affecting everyone's neighborhoods, I just think it's not really fair.

Alderman O'Neil: You mentioned the road and the director didn't say you've had a discussion. Did they draw something out at one point?

Alderman Kantor: Well, it was a discussion after it was presented about a year ago. And so, then when I heard about it two days ago, I talked to him when he called me the other day and we discussed it. This is important, and we discussed a road that comes off of Candia Road. Even if we need to have the state approve the section that we need to go through near the rail trail. I just think it's really important that we respect neighborhoods, and we're doing a lot of rezoning, and it's going to be changing things. If that gets pushed through, that's going to be changing neighborhoods. It's just not fair when you've been here a long time.

Alderman O'Neil: Did they draw something out that said this is where a road could go?

Alderman Kantor: We discussed it.

Alderman O'Neil: But they never put it on paper.

Alderman Kantor: I didn't see the plans.

Mayor Ruais: We'll be voting on it in two weeks. That's when it'll come up. So what I would suggest is get in touch with him in that interim period and then perhaps bring it to the board and say, I would like a friendly amendment attached to this, that we have to construct a road and the board can work its will at that point.

Alderman Fajardo: I just wanted to announce that there is a clothing swap happening on this Saturday at 10 a.m. at the library on Pine Street. And for every item you donate, you

can take an item home. So, it's a a true clothing swap. Bring one in. Take one with you. I know that there's also an emphasis on cold weather clothing. But the request is that the clothes are clean and in good shape. And again, that is this Saturday at 10 a.m. at the library.

Alderman Morgan: I'd like to discuss a stipend increase for alderman. So, it's been 48 years, 1977 was the last increase for alderman stipend. This is not going to affect me. Of course, I won't be on the next board. There's been other comparisons, like Nashua, for example, they're getting about \$3,500 more. So, I'd just like to see us on par with all the work we do. I know for the last two years I've put a lot of time into this thing.

Alderman Morgan moved to refer a proposal for an increase to the Aldermen's salary to the Committee on Administration/Information Systems. ***Alderman Long*** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman T. Sapienza: I think we have plenty of candidates. I don't think we need to attract more people. I would vote against this.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote. The motion carried, with ***Aldermen T. Sapienza and Kantor*** duly recorded in opposition.

Alderman O'Neil: I was letting the parade thing go and letting it play out as kind of agreed to, but then in trying to plan this, I was not involved, but this Merrymaking on Merrimack event, it was quite a bit involved. The event got denied at one point. So, this thing has gone beyond parades. It's gone to events now. And so, I made calls to Concord, I made calls to Nashua. And, you know, they treat each situation different. There's no cookie cutter solution. They have their Christmas parade on Loudon Road. It used to go between Hazen Drive all the way to Steeplegate Mall. It got cut back during Covid, but it wasn't for security reasons. Some of the businesses didn't like the road being closed as long as it was and they did it with minimal police. I was told they looked into barricades very similar to ours because they do some some major events on Main Street. I also made calls to Nashua. Nashua just had a Veteran's Day parade that was almost two miles long.

Alderman Levasseur: Can I ask you what this is about?

Alderman O'Neil: Well, it's about parades.

Alderman Levasseur: I understand it is about parades. Is it about you want to make a parade longer?

Alderman O'Neil: Well, there were two things I wanted to get to tonight in committee. So, my point with all this is in Nashua they just had their Christmas stroll, I think it's called. And they closed a certain section of Main Street. The city puts \$30,000 into Great American downtown, which I think is their version of Intown. And they put it into that to pay for police, fire, public works services, it was \$30,000. They budget and pay for it. And they might have 25 or 30,000 people for it. The only reason I brought it up, I thought there was still time to possibly save the Christmas parade because I think the short parade is going to have an impact on them. And then secondly, and this was pointed out to me after the Veterans Day parade, we should not be staging people on the Bridge Street Bridge. There is fencing on the interior guardrails only for short periods of stretch over the streets. It was talked about as a staging area for parades and God forbid anybody went over the guardrails and was was injured or killed. We're encouraging it by staging on the bridge. The main thing was we should take a vote, that we're not staging anything on the bridge for safety reasons. I don't know why that wasn't brought into consideration. And then I really do in my heart believe we should go back to Salmon Street. I know the Christmas parade is coming up shortly. It's clear in the other cities the various events are involved and they have a say about it. Concord has a city councilor involved in all events, we have nobody involved with it. So, this is serious, folks. This could be the end of some of these events going on. And I'm concerned about it because the city has worked hard at putting on events. You know, a veteran asked me why the Veterans parade get changed. Is it based on some security assessment? I don't know that it is.

Alderman Levasseur: It was. I got an email about it.

Mayor Ruais: Chief Marr sent an email out.

Alderman O'Neil: If there are credible threats, we shouldn't be putting on anything, to be honest with you. Whether it's from Salmon to Central or Bridge to Central, it's easier to put that parade on by just making it shorter. We never really dug down. There was never an opportunity to. What would we have to do to improve security for the rest of the route? It's a bad look for the city and other cities are doing it well, they're treating each event separately. What do we need to do for that and not have a cookie cutter approach? Two things, a parade route, but more importantly, is that we take a position to not stage on the bridge. I think that's unsafe.

Alderman Levasseur: This is why we don't put on parades ourselves. I think this should go to the many parade committees, and they should decide whether they want to make it longer or different. How do you feel about it being shortened the way it was?

N. Carnes: We don't decide what the route is.

Alderman Levasseur: Are you happy with the route or are you are you glad it's shorter?

N. Carnes: I mean, if I'm being completely honest, we operate off of how police and fire tell us is the best route or whatever route they want it to be. That's pretty much my stance on that.

Mayor Ruais: Chief, do you want to speak to this? I think particularly the conversation we had regarding the bridge for this weekend.

Ryan Cashin, Fire Chief: As far as the parade goes, I'll try to give a quick synopsis of how the details and logistics worked out. Starting at 12:00, the parade floats and the people will stage at the Brady Sullivan building. At that point, they will assemble the floats and assemble the trucks and get everything ready. Shortly thereafter, the floats themselves will get a police escort down the road to the Amoskeag to Montgomery Square. They will come across the bridge. Coming across the bridge will just be the people in the vehicles and the cars and the drivers. All walkers will be staged at the Manchester Mental Health parking lot. They have graciously given us that parking lot. In the parking lot, we will have warming tents and porta-potties for all of the parade walkers. At that point, the parade

walkers will leave the parking lot. They will go up Plaza Drive. They will fill in with the parade floats. Then they will head down, take a right on Elm Street, head down Elm Street to Canal Street. So, there will be nobody lingering on the bridge.

Alderman O'Neil: That doesn't bring me comfort. We shouldn't be doing anything on the bridge. We should be doing nothing on the bridge. Whether the walkers are getting on it, we shouldn't be doing anything on the bridge. It's not designed for that. It's. It's an accident waiting to happen.

Mayor Ruais: In the analysis of MPD and MFD is this the most appropriate place?

R. Cashin: We did a safety analysis. That safety analysis is based on information from regular updates from New Hampshire Information Analysis Center. We get weekly and monthly updates from the analysis center, which comes from the federal government, from the state government. It's all passed down. The biggest threat that we have found, and what the security assessment was based on, is the amount of car ramming attacks that are happening throughout the country and in other parts of the world. A lot of events are being rammed, some intentionally and some unintentionally. In the city of Manchester, we recently had a car where there was a medical event, and it was a pretty horrific car accident hitting a lot of parked cars. We have several cars regularly that come off the road and hit buildings. We feel that this is a mitigation that we can make. We've also purchased the barricades to do so. So, we have a plan to secure the downtown area of Elm Street. And the most southern part, the security assessment on the bridge was that we could stage on the bridge. We have a lot of space there. More space than we could ever use. With the vehicles being escorted from Brady Sullivan to the bridge and then essentially lining up for the parade, we do not feel that there's a security assessment security issue there. But also, there will be police and fire and other city personnel around and helping to move the parade along.

Mayor Ruais: Which is the conversation that we've had. But you wouldn't be opposed to lengthening the route in the future if we were to have more discussions.

R. Cashin: Absolutely not.

Mayor Ruais: If we had a discussion and you said we can now provide the security because we've done X, Y, and Z on the barricades. I think that's to your question earlier, what if we bought 20 or 30 more barricades? Could we do that? If we did, of course we can reevaluate the security assessment at that time.

R. Cashin: It's not a question of shorter, safer. It's a question of these are the resources we have right now. This is what we can do right now. Alderman O'Neil, I plan on putting into the budget request additional barricades. You know, they will have a dollar value attached to them. If we can get there, then by all means, that'll be a decision for this board to make.

Mayor Ruais: What I would just say in closing, unless there's any other thing on this, is that I think 48 hours is probably too short notice to go back to the original route. But what I would absolutely commit to you is we can have this conversation over the next three months. And if we do in fact find that we can make that longer route secure, I'd be all about it.

R. Cashin: Absolutely.

Alderman O'Neil: I just want to say this, this assessment the Chief talked about, Concord never mentioned that to me and neither did Nashua. Never mentioned it. Nashua put on a two mile Veterans Day parade. So, I don't know what we're hearing that other cities aren't hearing.

R. Cashin: I'm not going to speak to their assessments.

Alderman O'Neil: Are we hearing there are threats?

R. Cashin: We don't have exact threats. What we have are situations that have happened in other places. I'm not going to speak to other municipalities and the decisions they make.

Alderman Barry: I agree with Alderman O'Neil. We can't live in fear. Something happened years ago where someone in Wisconsin drove down the route and unfortunately ran over some people. I get it. You know, things like that happen. But even if we shorten the route, it could still happen. It doesn't matter where we start. If there's going to be someone out there that has bad intentions, they're going to do it. No matter if you start from Bridge Street to Lake Ave, or you start from Salmon Street to Lake Ave, they're going to find a way. If there's a way for someone to do harm to other people, they're going to find a way. I just don't think that we should be living in fear. We should be safe, safety concerned, and let's handle the safety concern. Like the mayor said, if we need more barricades, we need city dump trucks, put them in place.

R. Cashin: We're utilizing the resources we have now. The risk factor we're trying to mitigate is vehicles, either intentional or unintentional. That was the biggest risk that we found. That is the one we're mitigating with the new parade route. The new parade route is 100% completely locked down from vehicles. To your point, I don't believe that anybody is living in fear. We can only mitigate the risk that we can, mitigate some risk to make it as safe as possible, which is what we're trying to do.

Alderman Barry: These parades that we've been having, what happened recently that we had to shorten the route?

R. Cashin: We've been having discussions about parade routes for a couple of years, about shortening them and then understanding that how things have changed, these ramming attacks have increased as well as unintentional ramming attacks have increased. We came to the decision that now that we have the barricades and we're going to lock down essentially one part of Elm Street, to not lock down the rest of Elm Street would be negligent on our part.

Alderman Vincent: I'll just bring it to a close. I agree with the Chief. I don't think we're living in fear. I hope we're not living in fear. But I will say that we have an obligation to the people of this city to ensure their safety, no matter what. I think that's where Chief's going with this. It's safety. If people aren't catching that, I'll say it again. It's safety. It's really what it is. It's paramount. We can adjust the routes as we go down the road. I think that's a great

opportunity to involve conversation, but at the end of the day, we owe it to the people of the city to keep them safe. And if that's what our police department and our fire department in the city feel, and that's what we go off of, then that's going to be the end of it. We could spin the wheels on this a hundred times over and talk about this for 45 more minutes. I think that's kind of the closure; I don't know what more we need to say.

Alderman E. Sapienza: I'm in fear of that property tax bill.

Alderman O'Neil: You know, somebody said to me, who's to say somebody driving a float in the parade in this lockdown route couldn't cause harm. We put on parades after the country was attacked. We put on a parade, the country was attacked, and we put on parades. This has gotten out of control. The Merrymaking event became a big deal. I guess they finally got their permit. People have asked me what's going to happen at Glendi. Is Glendi going to get impacted by this? I don't know. I could get hit walking across the street.

TABLED ITEMS

- 44.** 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.)

- 45.** 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 Levasseur**, duly seconded by **Alderman Kantor**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

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

City Clerk

*Meeting Start Time: 7:00PM
Meeting End Time: 9:24PM
Minutes Prepared By: Michael Intranuovo*