

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

August 4, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Mayor Ruais called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Kaw-uh, Goonan, Dexter, Fajardo, Bonilla, Kantor, Trisciani,
O'Neil, Terrio, Sapienza, Burkush, Barry, Vincent, Thomas

Mayor Ruais: With the board's indulgence, I have two proclamations tonight. Will the members of the Manchester Fire Department who are with us here this evening please come forward? Ladies and gentlemen, it is truly an honor and a privilege tonight to recognize the heroic actions of the Manchester Fire Department during the incident that occurred on Wednesday, June 24th. City of Manchester, a Resolution: Whereas at approximately 1:25 a.m. on Wednesday, June 24th, 2026, Manchester Fire Department personnel responded to a reported motorcycle crash on I-293 northbound at exit five near Granite Street, where Adam Brackett, Tyler Stratton, Chad Gamache and Ken Wong located an unoccupied motorcycle and quickly discovered the approximately 65ft below on the shoreline of the Merrimack River. And whereas, Robert Plantier assumed command of the incident, while Valerie Mathis, Don Pullen, and Julian Rizzuto coordinated additional resources, dispatching Thomas Burkush, Jason Coulter, Aaron Pascalis, Jared Pellerin, Chris Ellison, Jonathan Goldrick, Theodore Partington, Steve Goupil, Hannah Guerrero, Brianna Gaskill and Mary Wu to assist in the rescue operation. And whereas, because the victim could only be reached by water, Thomas Burkush, Jason Coulter, Aaron Pascalis and Jared Pellerin rapidly reached the victim by boat, providing lifesaving care to stabilize the patient and return to the boat launch where Hannah Guerrero and Brianna Gaskill transported the patient to Elliot Hospital. And whereas, the coordinated efforts and professionalism of Adam Brackett, Tyler Stratton, Chad Gamache, Ken Wong, Dan Boissonnault, Morgan Brennan, Cole Lodi, Chris Ellison, Jonathan Goldrick, Theodore Partington, Steve Goupil, Thomas Burks, Jason Coulter, Aaron Pascalis, Jared Pellerin, Robert Plantier, Valerie Mathis, Don Pullen, Julian Rizzuto, Hannah Guerrero, Brianna Gaskill, and Mary Wu were instrumental in saving this victim's life. Now, therefore, I, Jay Ruais, Mayor of the City of Manchester, New Hampshire, do hereby recognize and commend Adam Brackett, Tyler Stratton, Chad Gamache, Ken Wong, Dan Bossano, Morgan Brennan, Cole Lodi, Chris Ellison,

Jonathan. Goldrick, Theodore Partington, Steve Goepel, Thomas Burkuss, Jason Coulter, Aaron Pascalis, Jared Pellerin, Robert Plantier, Valerie Mathis, Don Pullen, Julian Rizzuto, Hannah Guerrero, Brianna Gaskill and Mary Wu, for their outstanding professionalism, courage, teamwork and dedication to public service. Their swift and decisive actions during the June 24th, 2026, rescue exemplified the highest traditions of emergency response and were instrumental in saving a life. On behalf of the City of Manchester and its residents, I extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation for their exceptional service and unwavering commitment to protecting our community. Thank you all very much.

Mayor Ruais: And at this time, will the Public Health and Safety Team, the PHAST team, please come forward. City of Manchester, a Resolution: Whereas the Public Health and Safety Team was formed in 2022 with American Recovery Plan funding and partnership with the City of Manchester Health Department and the Manchester Police Department to provide highly trained, multicultural and multilingual community health workers to address neighborhood level concerns in all 12 city wards. And whereas in 2025, this team provided 1,272 residents with care coordination services, including home visits through 2,096 unique encounters across the community, with a total of 1,082 referral connections to external service organizations. And whereas the CHWs help residents with food insecurity, transportation challenges, public assistance, enrollment, housing, navigation, medical and dental care linkages, and connections to financial and legal support while also completing Meals on Wheels, wellness checks, home visits for high risk expectant mothers, and community outreach with MPD's critical response units for those who have recently overdosed. And whereas the CHWs have responded to many crisis situations involving residents experiencing domestic violence, loss of housing due to fires, risk of homelessness, severe medical complexity, or disability. And whereas several CHWs have dealt with life-or-death situations, including a recent wellness check for a vulnerable senior resident who could not be contacted, prompting the CHW to engage first responders who found the resident unresponsive on the floor and credit the CHW with saving this individual's life. Now, therefore, I, Jay Ruais, Mayor of the City of Manchester, do hereby recognize and commend the Public Health and Safety Team for their exceptional service and dedication to the residents of Manchester and extend my sincere

appreciation for their commitment to strengthening our community and improving the lives of those they serve. Thank you all deeply.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. 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. 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.

Troy Micklon, 29 Ode Way: I'm here tonight to briefly talk about two issues. First, I'd like to invite all ward nine residents to our community meeting, which will be held this Thursday, August 6th, at 6 p.m. at the Bishop O'Neill Youth Center located at 20 South Elm Street. These meetings are an opportunity for neighbors to come together, discuss issues affecting our community, and have open conversations about what's happening in ward nine. While the concerns involve rising taxes, public safety infrastructure or neighborhood quality of life issues, I encourage everyone to attend. I hope to see you there, Mr. Mayor, our current sitting ward alderman, and two aldermen at large. Second, I'd like to express my support for the demolition proceedings for the hazardous structure at 44 Benton Street in ward nine, which I believe is item 27 in your agenda. I've spoken with several neighborhood residents, including abutters on Brownell Ave, who shared years of frustration with this property. They've dealt with ongoing concerns, repeated trespassing, and the feeling that nothing was ever going to change. After reading tonight's agenda, it is clear this isn't a situation where the city is acting too quickly. According to the documentation in your packets, this property has been subject to code enforcement issues since 2021. There have been multiple notices of violations, citations, and repeated opportunities for the owner to correct the problems. Despite all that, the property remains unsafe, unsightly and unsecured, and continues to attract illegal activity. The Manchester Fire Department has also determined the property poses a hazard to neighboring homes and to first responders. No one wants to see a home demolished, but there comes a point where protecting the surrounding neighborhood has to take priority. I appreciate the work that the various city

departments have put into this case over the past several years, and I encourage the board to move this petition forward so this long-standing problem can finally be resolved, and the property could eventually become an asset to the neighborhood instead of a liability.

Austin Bouchard, Ward 2: There are votes that spend money. There are votes that alter policy, and there are rare votes that alter the moral relationship between a people and their government. The vote of June 9th was such a vote. What was broken that night was larger than the tax cap. A covenant was broken, the understanding that public power is borrowed, that promises bind those who make them, and that government exists by the consent of the governed. Many members of this board, including the mayor, sought office promising to respect the tax cap. Yet when principle first carried a price, only two kept faith throughout. There are only two possible judgments. Either those promises were made without comprehension of the responsibility being assumed, or they were made with full comprehension and without the character to keep them. The first is an indictment of capacity. The second is an indictment of character. Neither can be reconciled with the trust of public office. The mayor later dismissed the veto he did not issue as performative politics. But fidelity under pressure is not performance, it is character. The performance was the promise made to obtain power, then abandoned when power demanded courage. Manchester deserved conviction. It received choreography, and the spirit of evasion has poisoned our public debate. Question police spending, one is called anti-police; question school spending, one is called anti-child. Ask why another infusion of money will cure what decades of spending have not, and suddenly the citizen, not the failure, is placed on trial. That is not an argument, it is an institution seeking refuge from accountability. I want safe streets. I want officers in our neighborhoods. I want schools worthy of every child entrusted to them. It is precisely because these things matter that the questions must be asked. If compensation alone will not fill police vacancies, what else is driving the crisis? If rising school budgets have not produced acceptable academic results, where is the reckoning? Where is the reform? Have decisions made inside this chamber made Manchester harder to police, harder to teach in, harder to own property and harder to afford? In a republic public power must answer public scrutiny. The refusal to answer is the chasm that is now opening between City Hall and the citizenry. A government that resists scrutiny has forgotten the source of its authority. Public office is a trust, not a

shield. The people are not subjects to be managed, taxed or ignored. They are sovereign citizens from whom every ounce of governmental power is borrowed. This is now a struggle for the soul of Manchester. Will we become a city where promises are campaign instruments and institutions stand above examination and every failure becomes a claim upon the taxpayer? Or will we restore government discipline by truth, humbled by accountability and animated by reform? Trust cannot be commanded after it is broken. It must be earned through candor, repentance, reform, accountability, and, where necessary, new leadership. You overrode the tax cap. You did not override the people's memory. You did not erase the promise, and you did not extinguish the judgment that follows when a government breaks face with those it was elected to serve.

Glenn Ouellette, 351 Chestnut Street: I'm going to come out with different topics tonight. Two topics. One is housing and parking. We seem to have in the city now where landlords who build apartments brand new from the buildings don't require to build one and a half parking spaces or cars per tenant. And now that I'm more into the center city, I find that every parking space is had, and when events are happening, multiple events at one time over the weekends, there is no place to park. None whatsoever. It is time or we'll have to pay the price and build a garage which we cannot afford to build, that we stop giving these waivers. These waivers do not help our city. They help an individual who's building something. And we need housing so bad that if they don't build it, somebody else will come. We need to do what's right for our city and stop waiving these things. The second issue is the state of New Hampshire, the state legislature and the senators and the Executive Council and the governor. They need to respect the city of Manchester much more than they have been. Do you remember when they created Boston Express? The state paid for those buses, and they paid for every one of the stations that were built to the point that Nashua has two bus stations that the state built. We had to repair ours for \$250,000, and still they did not come. We are the biggest city north of Boston, and the buses have to park outside in rain or snow. Shame on us. We found the property where the Bank of America was, on the corner of Chestnut and the old Chestnut Road. It goes all the way around. There's plenty of parking. The state needs to be considering to buy that, to make that our bus station here in the city. We in the city of Manchester deserve to have a bus station. If you have to go to Londonderry and you don't have a car, you're not getting there. It's time for this board to write a letter to the appropriate people and to

get us that building. It can be done if you people here on this board decide that it's important to the city.

Rich Girard, 283 Orange Street: Not that long ago, an answer to questions from Aldermen Sapienza and Kantor, Police Chief Peter Marr essentially said he wasn't interested in entering into a 287(g) agreement with ICE because the department was too busy to do immigration enforcement. He also said the department asked about the immigration status of every person arrested, and that those found with ICE detainers were turned over. His answers to Alderman Kantor's request about whether or not the department turned known illegal aliens over to ICE after being arrested or convicted of crimes, clearly indicated that the department did not do that. In communications I had with the chief about a traffic enforcement article I published in October, he indicated that out of 3,525 arrests from the beginning of last year through the end of last September, they had turned over just four arrested individuals to ICE, one with a detainer, one after resisting arrest and discovering he'd been deported three times, and two from motor vehicle stops where further investigation found deportation histories. I bring this up because about a week ago, a member of my TV show audience sent me an article from the Keene Sentinel about the police department in the tiny town of Troy, New Hampshire, population 2000. Since the Troy Police Department entered into a 287(g) agreement with ICE in March of 2025, it has arrested 30 illegal aliens just from traffic enforcement efforts on Route 12. Their efforts to identify the drivers of the stopped vehicles uncovered their illegal statuses, according to the article. Troy Police Chief David Ellis said that after pulling over a car for an alleged traffic violation, officers ask for identification from the driver and sometimes the passenger. Any immigration arrest would be made after the officer checked with an ICE supervisor. If ICE wants them, then the Troy PD brings them right here to Manchester, where there's an ICE office, which seems to be the only time in position on that department. I'm bringing this to your attention, because in light of the contracts given to the police unions, the cost of which still has not been fully disclosed, still waiting for that information, Mr. Mayor, there's been a lot of talk from members of this board about public safety. Your Honor, you've gone so far as to pat yourself on the back in social media ads for protecting public safety by granting these pay raises. Perhaps you'll be saying the same thing when the teachers' unions say that higher pay equals better student outcomes, despite decades of proof that it doesn't, but I digress. If public safety is truly

your concern, it would seem to be a no brainer to direct the Manchester Police Department to enter into an agreement with ICE. There's no reason why someone here illegally shouldn't be turned over after they've been arrested for a crime, or any violation of law. Four illegal aliens turned over to ICE out of 3,525 arrests. Does that sound right to you? Let's face it, these are numbers that would make any sanctuary city proud. It's time Manchester stopped pretending it's not a sanctuary city, and start removing people who violate the law while already being here illegally. That will actually make our city safer and ultimately, our police less busy.

Lisa Gravel, Ward 7: A lot has been made that the last time I appeared before this board, I told those of you that voted to override the tax cap to go to hell. Sorry, not sorry. I said what I said, and I stand by it. I despise you people. I am sure outside of city politics many of you are perfectly nice people. But I got to tell you, you suck as aldermen and mayor. Since I last spoke, I found out exactly just how much those portable classrooms at Southside cost: \$28 million. I'm going to say that again: \$28 million. That is real money that you have flushed right down the toilet. I was angry before, but now I am livid. I shudder to think what we are paying for this new addition. You are incompetent, irresponsible stewards of taxpayer money and it never ends. What you people have done is comparable to maxing out every one of your credit cards, then knocking on your neighbor's door and handing them the bill. It is easy to spend so freely when someone else is picking up the tab, isn't it? I think you people are addicted to spending. Now, I have heard through the grapevine that one of the authors of this reckless tax-cap-breaking budget thinks she deserves a promotion for mayor. Are you kidding me? What an absolute joke. It takes breathtaking arrogance to look at this budget and conclude it is a qualification for higher office. This would be like putting an arsonist in charge of the fire department. If she has any sense of humility, she will slink back to the life she had before public office and let someone else repair the damage her and her cohorts have created. If what I am saying tonight hurts, too bad. Trust me, what people at home are saying is a lot worse. I can't tell you the positive feedback I have received since the last meeting. So many people reached out to cheer me on. I got hugs, high fives, and a lot of atta girls. It gives me hope that perhaps the residents of this city are finally fed up enough to make some changes and right this ship, because Manchester cannot take much more of the fiscal irresponsibility coming out of City Hall. And when you get your tax bill this December right in time for

Christmas, and all the people sitting right there, people have to realize that we cannot keep electing the same people and expecting different results. If your alderman voted yes on the budget, they deserve to be kicked to the curb and hopefully the door won't hit them in the ass on their way out.

Leonardo Rodrik, 1000 Elm Street: I am a resident of Manchester and a regular attendee of these meetings. This is my second meeting I've been to. I want to start by expressing my sincere gratitude. Thank you for listening to the voices of the people. Thank you for acting on the issues we raised last time. And thank you for proving that when citizens speak up, their voices are heard. In June, the U.S. Attorney's Office announced the indictment of five men in the Homeland Security Task Force investigation. These individuals were running a 30-month cross state drug trafficking conspiracy that specifically targeted Manchester and Seabrook, with more than three pounds of methamphetamine and more than half a kilogram of fentanyl. That operation required undercover purchases, multiple agencies, and federal coordination on homelessness. The new shelter at 200 Elm Street is now serving our elderly and disabled homeless population, and I'm proud to report that in its first two months of operation, there have been no arrests and no drug overdoses at this facility. Furthermore, the city has now housed all 47 veterans who were once without a home and helped 84 veterans overall secure stable housing. Mayor Ruais, these are not small accomplishments. You kept your word on the shelter, and you gave law enforcement the tools they needed. But the data tells us there's more work to be done. While fatal overdoses have fallen 49% over the past three years, Manchester is now seeing a troubling uptick. Overdoses are up 3% this year; last month alone, AMR medics responded to 32 suspected overdoses in Manchester. On the broader crime picture, Manchester's total crime rate is 1,984 per 100,000 people, 93% higher than the New Hampshire state average of 1,028. While that is slightly below the national average, it is significantly higher than the rest of our state. We cannot be content with being safer than the national average when we are far less safe than our own neighbors. On the issue of sexual offenders, I want to acknowledge the work that has been done. In January, US marshals conducted a search operation in Manchester and Concord, resulting in 18 arrests for registration violations. But we must continue this vigilance. There are 782 known registered sex offenders in these two communities. I ask that you keep this on your radar. Continue to allocate resources to

ensure these individuals are not operating near our schools, our parks, or our children. And on the budget, I commend the board for approving a \$448 million spending plan that included an increase for the Manchester Police Department. Public safety, including police, fire and public works, now accounts for approximately 80% of this city's operational spending. That is a serious commitment. However, I must also note that I have observed a disturbing trend in some of our institutions: the normalization of progressive ideologies.

Grace Kindeke, 278 Prospect Street: I'm a formerly undocumented person who has been a US citizen for the last five years, despite having grown up in the city and in the state when I arrived at two years old, and now I'm almost 40. So, my remarks today are first and foremost to respond to my fellow resident and to urge the mayor, the board, our police department, to continue to uphold its promises to the community and focus its efforts on doing the type of work that police are really necessary to do. And that does not include rounding up, finding, searching for, and hunting down immigrants. Because I promise you, they're not the reason why gas prices are so high. They're not the reason why housing costs are so high. They're not the reason why it is harder than ever for a regular family to put food on the table and pay for their bills. I commend the city for continuing to keep that promise. I'm here today to also ask the city to keep another promise. And that is the one that we often refer to when we think about our law enforcement community, which is to protect and serve. I'm here to urge you all to work with us, to partner with us to make serious changes to some of the ways that we practice our law enforcement policies, or how we implement law enforcement policy. And in particular, I want to call attention to the fact that despite when a killing happens at the hands of police, family members, loved ones who have to not only navigate the grief and loss of a loved one, must also navigate an often unwelcome and nontransparent system without a victim's advocate. And so, I love the fact that my tax dollars as both a homeowner, as a taxpayer, as a renter, because I get to have both an apartment and a house, is that I want my money to be going to these types of services. I want my money to be invested in our education. I want my money to be invested in emergency shelters and emergency services. I want my money to go into advocates and supports for community members going through all types of hardships many of us have the very privilege of not having to experience directly. Secondly, I urge and ask our board and our mayor to work with us when it comes to calling for changes and making changes to a Manchester Police Department policy that allows officers to

return to full active duty during a pending investigation. This is not an ask to say fire those officers. It's not an ask to say those officers don't deserve their jobs, but it's a recognition that all of us working, living, breathing, praying and investing in serving this community deserve to all be held to the same standards of accountability. It gives us the opportunity to come and create change in a policy that does not, in fact, repair or heal the ruptures that has and continues to occur. That despite our willingness for some of us here standing before us, including the mayor, to come and hang out with us and our restaurants to throw festivals as ways of building community, but there are other ways that build community and that relies on the ways that we build and we structure accountability. And so, both of these policy changes enable us and give us an opportunity to create real repair after a true rupture has occurred. Recognizing that it takes more than a festival, it takes more than a hangout and drinking beers, kicking it with us, in order to build true bridges and true connection and true healing in this community, because we all belong to it and we all deserve to feel safe within it.

Griseliz Glenn, Manchester: I'm a healing justice leader. When you decided to run for mayor, you accepted the responsibility of serving everyone in the city, not just the people who agree with you, not just the people with influence, and not just those with power. The New Hampshire Constitution tells us that government exists for the common benefit, protection, and security of the whole community, not for the private interests of any one person or any one class of people. That is the standard that we should expect from our government. Tonight, I'm asking you to live up to that standard. Our request is simple: change the Manchester Police Department five day return to duty policy. If an officer is involved in a deadly use of force incident, that officer should remain off active duty until the investigation is complete. Not because we're declaring guilt, but because accountability builds trust, and trust is the foundation of public safety. If the investigation clears the officer, then let the investigation speak for itself. But let it finish first. I also want to address something that happened right here in this building. Many of you witnessed the police chief physically push me during a public meeting. It happened in front of the cameras. It happened in front of witnesses. And then I was told to be quiet. At the same time, another individual continued engaging with me. And when I asked that he be told to turn around, I was told he can look wherever he wants. That moment wasn't just about me. It was about unequal standards. One rule applied to me, another rule applied to

someone else. Leadership sets culture. If unequal treatment is accepted as the highest levels of leadership, we should not be surprised when the public begins to lose confidence in the system itself. And every time more residents walk through these doors, every time more people stand at this podium, every time another family asks accountability, it is evidence that the concerns of this community remain unresolved. People don't keep showing up because they enjoy spending their evenings at City Hall. They keep showing up because they still believe their government should listen. Rights are not rewards. Accountability is not optional and public trust cannot exist without both. Mayor, tonight you have an opportunity to lead. Use the authority of your office to work with the Police Department to change this policy. Show the community that accountability applies equally to everyone. Show the people of Manchester that their voices matter because government exists to serve the people. And the people are asking you to act.

Ophelia Burnett, Manchester: I am a member of the community. I live on Elm Street in Manchester. I am the Healing Justice Program associate with American Friends Service Committee, a board member of Black Lives Matter, and I am the lead organizer for the Justice for Nick campaign. For the past seven months, I have stood beside the Turenne family every step of the way. I often think about what this journey would have looked like had someone not reached out to me about Nick's case. I searched high and low to find the Turenne family because I knew they shouldn't have to navigate this alone had I not been able to connect with them. They would have been left alone trying to understand an overwhelming process without consistent support, guidance, or someone to help them. Without someone to help them ask questions, connect with resources, and advocate alongside them. No family should have to endure that. That is why I am asking this council to establish a guaranteed victim and family advocate for every family impacted by police involved shootings through the entire process, and not only until charges are pressed. Families deserve someone in their corner from day one, someone to help them navigate one of the most traumatic experiences of their lives with dignity, transparency and compassion. I am also asking the council to modify the Manchester Police Department's five day return to duty policy following an officer involved shooting. When a life has been taken and an investigation is still active, officers involved should remain on administrative leave until the investigation is complete. This is not about assigning guilt before the facts are known. It's about protecting the integrity of the investigation and maintaining public

confidence in the process. When officers returned to active duty while the investigation is still ongoing, many community members perceive that the outcome has already been decided before all questions have been answered. Whether or not that perception reflects reality, it erodes public trust, and trust is essential for affecting policy and healthy communities. From the beginning, I've always said that the Justice for Nickenley campaign has never been about just one family alone. It's always been about ensuring that no family walks this road alone again out of tragedy. We have the opportunity to create meaningful change. I ask you to stand with this community by strengthening support for families, improving transparency, and adopting policies that help build trust between our residents and those sworn to protect them.

Aiden Tulodo, Kingston NH: How's everybody doing today? I just wanted to talk about the budget that the CDBG-CV project that's increasing funding to emergency services. I think that's a great idea and a great allocation of resources. As we know, the budgets have been cut from other departments I believe by 2%, like education was cut. The police department I don't believe was cut, though. I think this is a great way to use resources to better and help the community. What had happened with Nickenley Turenne, a man who was murdered by the Manchester Police Department, possibly could have been prevented by something like this, buy a budget increase to help with unhoused people, to help with people who have housing issues. And it could have prevented a murder. We're asking for an allocation using money differently, cutting the police department's funding, just as you have cut education and other departments. It doesn't really make sense why the police budget is still the same and hasn't been cut like the others. Especially when what changes have come from it? Because so far, we've had a man be killed. That's what change has come from it. So I urge you to continue to move with putting funding towards the community and not towards people who have guns in their hands that shoot at the community. And we don't want more arrests. Like someone has said earlier in this meeting, how they were surprised that there was only four undocumented immigrants that were arrested, it doesn't really make sense to me because we don't want people being arrested because that means there's more crime happening. So we want to prevent the crime from happening, and we also want repercussions when something like that happens. As was said before, redoing the five day return to work policy, if someone has murdered someone and killed someone, we don't think they should be back out on the

street with a gun because they could be doing the same thing again, until the investigation at least has been cleared.

Rayden Farrington, Greenville NH: I've traveled this way, all this way, to stand in solidarity with my friends and members of this community to challenge the culture of brutality that our policing has in this state. What happened to Nickenley Turenne is unacceptable. As someone who has experienced police brutality to direct members of my family, I can say for certainty that I would never want anything like this to happen to anyone else. And I ask that at the very start to challenge this perception of brutality and this distrust of our police officers in this state and in this city that you do challenge and change the five day return to work policy after a fatal shooting, and to provide a victim advocate for the family members of that person involved in a fatal shooting to try and mend some of the distrust and the lack of care and support for the other side of the community that the police are there to protect and serve. If we actually want to protect and serve these people, we need to create an environment in which people can feel protected and served by police and not fear for their lives whenever they're involved.

Jon Blanchette, Manchester: I'm here today because I've seen the body cam footage that was put out about the man who was shot, Mr. Turenne. I've seen the body cam footage. I've seen all the documents that the state put out, and I've concluded that this man did not need to die that day. Every chance that the police had to dial things down and take the temp down, instead of taking it down, they raised it. They ratcheted it up. I feel like they're not adequately trained to deal with somebody having a crisis. This man, this poor young man who should be here with us today, he was going through a crisis and the police responded by coming out with guns drawn, ready to shoot. This is very disturbing to me. I would like to see that the police receive better training to deal with situations like this because this man should not be dead today. I think it's crazy that an officer can be involved in a shooting, then be back out on the street within five days. I mean, that's crazy. The city does not currently have a contract with ICE and it should definitely stay that way.

Rolf Vanbibber, Manchester: I have lived in Nashua right after the period where they decided to make homelessness illegal, make sleeping outside in a tent illegal, and I was sleeping in my car at the time. I would drive occasionally up to Manchester, too. I was

sleeping about a mile and a half away from where Nickenley was shot for sleeping in his vehicle as well. I was by myself. I didn't have any weapons. I don't want to talk to the police either. Honestly, if you're sleeping in your car and it's the winter, you're already pretty on edge. There's a flashlight coming in through your window. The human thing to do, if you're already afraid of the police, is probably going to be to run. Whether they should have shot him or not shouldn't be debated. He didn't have a gun. He didn't show anybody a gun. The community here, the people that I want to actually speak to instead of the Board of Aldermen, should question themselves and question the government really on why it takes about five days for them to come to the conclusion that these police should be back out on the streets, but it takes seven months for them to release a report actually justifying the killing over something like this: taking something out of my pocket, I could be shot at 18 times for that. Police shooting at each other. Actually, if you've looked at the report, you've probably seen that other police were in the line of fire there. That's not keeping our community safe. And this kid, he was a son of an immigrant family. These people deserve to come here and live the American dream. That's the reason that you guys come here and you say the pledge every time that you come in, right? You stand to that flag and you say that you want to respect life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, liberty and justice for all. Come on, guys, really? Stand on it. Look at these people. Look at the people sleeping on the benches outside when you walk in here, every time you come and meet, and treat them like humans. And don't use the police to just terminate whoever speaks up against you. The masses who vote you in are overwhelmingly poor. It doesn't matter if they're black. It doesn't matter if they're immigrants. It doesn't matter if they're white or gay, whatever. They are poor and they sleep outside and they look suspicious to some other people. That doesn't mean you should come at them with a gun and assume ill intentions of them all the time, weapons drawn. Treat them like people. Treat them with empathy, please.

Billie Da Molin, Nashua NH: I have a friend from where I live. And on Christmas Day last year, he woke up to banging on his door thinking it was his roommate. He went to open it, and to his surprise, police barged in batons drawn and beat him half to death. Then they dragged him out of his house and demanded money like a bunch of thugs. And the crime that this man committed was being too poor to afford a home. He was able to get enough money to get off the streets, but it wasn't enough to pay the \$1,000 fine. On

December 6th, Nickenley Turenne was murdered by police after receiving a call of someone sleeping in their car near a school. Mere minutes after arriving, a dozen shots were fired at him, killing him. Two different cities and two different sets of laws; one where homelessness is illegal and one where it isn't. And nearly the same ending, except the worst one was in the city where it's not illegal. Do these actions of brutality remind you of people who serve and protect the public and who keep us safe? Do you think that these actions make us, the public, think that the police are acting in our best interest? Do you think it makes us feel safe? Because it doesn't. The police don't work to keep our community safe, because you have shown and continue to show that it endangers us. Your police are thugs, a private army recruited from the populace in which they oppress on your behalf, whose only differentiation from the militias like the Proud Boys, the white nationalist groups, is that one side is sanctioned by the state and one isn't. There will be those who say that we can reform our way out of this system of inherent violence, that we can take away their weapons or give them more training, or try to change our policies. But you cannot reform the rabies out of a dog. If a dog was biting children and was rabid and running loose, you can't just put a muzzle on it or tie it to a tree and say, problem solved, because that's not going to get rid of the danger. The police, for hundreds of years, have shown consistently, constantly, that they will murder without punishment on their behalf. The people who they murder will be punished. The people who they fail to murder will be punished harder. The only way you can end this violence is to stop giving these lunatics guns, because the people who sign up to be police don't have safety in mind. They're fine with murder. How is that good for our safety?

Kathleen Carswell, Ward 4: I have been a member of Manchester for 64 years, and I have a couple of issues still to bring up to you. First, please tell me I'm wrong, that I read that the Manchester school buses are going to be taken out and stored in Candia, where they're going to be maintained instead of here in Manchester. Who's paying that bill? I hope to hell it's not my landlord because my rent has already gone up and I'm on a foot and a half on a banana peel to be evicted because I won't be able to pay my rent and I can never get into housing or a decent place. No one lets you know that they got housing help or you can get it. I have been on housing help for ten years and I didn't know you can. You're allowed one bedroom for one person. We don't even have the funds to help

you pay your rent on housing help. They have \$1,100. You tell me where I'm going to find an apartment for \$1,100 in the city of Manchester today. Nowhere. It should be \$1,700. But they don't have the funds from the federal government. We should be writing them to get that money here because they've been out of it for years. Also, the sex offenders, I find out now and I saw him personally, I have one living two doors down from me. And believe me, he doesn't want to be back in my neighborhood. He doesn't want to be back in my parking lot. He's a level three. I've seen on my website that I go on. That's legit. A person has ten, not one, not two, ten counts against them. Why are they on the street all of a sudden? They're homeless. So we got homeless pedophiles and sex offenders roaming the streets of Manchester. If they can't come out of prison, provide you with an address, permanent address where they can be checked in on bi weekly. I say not monthly either. If they can't do that, you give them an ankle monitor and have them check in bi weekly until they can come up with an address. Make this city safe. It is not. And myself being abused when I was young, I lived this every day. Every single day. More and more are homeless. It's disgusting. It's bad enough we got a homeless problem. We're trying to deal with in the city. Now we get sex offenders. It's like we got a blinking light: come to Manchester and do what you want. I'm tired of it. And I'll be here every single time to bring this issue until it's addressed correctly.

Heather Cunningham, Manchester: It's my first time here, so I'm a little bit nervous, but these are the facts as they were presented to me originally on December 6th. Officers Baliko, Chan, and Lambert shot to kill an unarmed member of my community, Nickenley Turenne. They fired 18 shots shooting to kill, 72% of which missed their intended murder victim and hit the surrounding ground, asphalt, houses. They were in a crowded neighborhood with five officers there with crossfire between three of them. In a number of days, they were very shortly put back onto the force, seven months short of when we got an actual report out. That is seven months where three men who shot to kill were put back onto the police force in an inherent position of power with guns going around doing what they do. It's an inconceivable oversight to the point where when it was presented to me, it wasn't even one of the things that was being explicitly hounded on. There were such glaring issues, like the fact that an unarmed man was chased, corralled, and then murdered in front of somebody's house. The report that we did get seven months later was inherently biased. It was discriminatory. It was obscene. It was disgusting. I had come

home from work. I have an annotated copy of it with me here. I keep rereading it because every time I go through it, I figure out I learned something new that I didn't realize was there before about how mistreated my community is, about how explicit the abuse of power my oppressors are, the police are. It's an inherent abuse. I'm here because I want to see some kind of policy change. I want to inspire some reform. I believe in incrementalism. I think that the starts that I would expect to see would make it harder for people who just killed a man to get their gun and their job right back where they were a week, two weeks, three weeks later. I want it to be harder for people like them to get away with that.

Mayor Ruais asked if there was anyone else present wishing to speak.

There were none.

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

PRESENTATION

2. Presentation from the Economic Development Office regarding the Arms Park Brownfields Study.

Jodie Nazaka, Economic Development Director: With me tonight, we have two of the teammates that have worked on this project. We have Cam Prolman, Senior Planner with the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, also with us tonight is Judd Newcomb, Geologist and Senior Project Manager with Credere Associates, LLC. I'm going to turn most of the presentation over to them as the subject matter experts. But the reason we're here tonight, at last month's meeting, there was a resident that brought up some questions about the development potential of Arms parking lot. And then it prompted several aldermen to ask a couple questions about the status of the brownfield study and assessment that we've been working on for the last several years. Happy to say that we've been moving ahead for the last couple of years with phase one and phase two. And this is going to be a summary of those activities. And with that, I'm going to turn it over to Cam and Judd.

Cam Prolman, Senior Planner with Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission: For those who don't know about SNHPC, we are the regional planning commission serving the City of Manchester and the surrounding 13 communities. We have administered a US EPA Brownfields Assessment grant for many years now, and we have done several projects in the city. I was told to keep this very brief. So, if anyone has questions, feel free to just ask. I want to start with what is a brownfield? According to the EPA, it is a property where expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. The picture you see up there, that is what Elliot at River's Edge used to look like. Through SNHPC's grant funds some years ago, it was able to use those assessment funds and ultimately redevelop the site into what it is today. I bring this up because we are here to talk about Arms Park. I am not a brownfields expert, but I am here with Judd Newcomb from Credere Associates. Credere is the qualified environmental professional serving as really the lead for this brownfield grant that the planning commission has. And so early on, we spoke with Jodie and Economic Development about what potential sites the city may be interested in, and Arms Park was one of them. I'm going to give a little context for this. So, it's a 4.32-acre riverfront site, historically part of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company mill complex. It was a picker house, a dye house, bleach house, a boiler house. Textile operations continued into the 1960s, later becoming the Arms Textile Manufacturing Co. And some of you may be aware that there was an anthrax outbreak documented from contaminated imported goat hair. There was a complex decontamination effort in 1971 and ultimately it was demolished by 1976.

J. Nazaka: I just would like to provide a little bit more context here, because as long as I've been alive as a Manchester resident, I think there's been this understanding that the Arms parking lot, former mill complex site, is completely contaminated and we will never be able to do anything with it because of this anthrax outbreak. I've learned quite a bit about anthrax through this process over the last two years. It's interesting to know that this outbreak happened almost 70 years ago in 1957. As Cam mentioned, it was from the inhalation of contaminated goat hair that was used to line men's suit jackets. Anthrax actually is a spore forming bacterium, and it's typically found in cattle and goats, and they ingest it in the fields where they're grazing. They usually end up getting sick from inhaling

it and when they pass away, they become one with nature again. And usually other cows, goats will graze in those areas and also pick it up, and that's what happened in this case. The textiles that were used to line the men's suit coats were contaminated with it. Nine people got sick in the fall of 1957. Unfortunately, four people died from that, making it at the time the deadliest outbreak of anthrax in the country's history. It actually continued to operate after that initial outbreak for another ten years. Once they figured out what the cause of the anthrax outbreak was, it was handled. And then, the only reason that the mill closed was actually because the company had gone out of business. At that time when the company closed, that's when authorities came in and they decided after much review to decontaminate in what was claimed as the largest decontamination project in the country or maybe in the world at that time. They decontaminated the site and then they ultimately took it down brick by brick and removed many of the bricks, if not all of them, and then burned the remaining wood that was on site and then it was sealed over with the parking lot. It is interesting to note that that entire mill complex, although there was a large outbreak there, it was never actually a massive contamination site that caused it to close down.

C. Prolman: That's really why we're here, or partially why we're here. The assessment was conducted again through our brownfields grant to better understand the environmental conditions at the park and support informed redevelopment planning for the city. By characterizing contaminants and identifying management requirements, the city can confidently move forward when evaluating future uses of the property. So, with that, I'm going to turn it over to Judd Newcomb, our brownfields expert, to talk about the findings and the process for this.

Judd Newcomb, Geologist and Senior Project Manager with Credere Associates, LLC: The general environmental process is to do a phase one environmental site assessment, which was a desk study. You're looking at the EPA records, the New Hampshire DES records, Manchester records, historical records, whatever we can find, and come up with a list of potential environmental concerns. In the case of Arms Park, other than the historical anecdotal information about the anthrax, there was actually no records on it other than some off-site contaminants in groundwater that are flowing on the site. So, this turned more into a research project for us. I want to be very clear that the anthrax is not

weaponized in any way, shape, or form. But part of the investigation was to do a geophysical survey to find where the old buildings were, what might be buried at the site, and what other things we miss while we're doing our testing. And in that process, we are also doing other research in order to figure out how we can actually test the site for anthrax, to confirm that nothing is there, because other than governmental agencies, there's not really commercial or retail laboratories in the country that test for this that aren't agricultural. So, we actually developed a relationship with the University of Florida to plan our investigation. And when we went out there, we did soil and groundwater testing throughout the site in the areas of the old buildings and the boiler houses where there might be tanks and any other potential sources. And in the process of that, we consistently ran anthrax field test kits that were developed by the Department of Homeland Security, where basically you test them in the field. We did not find any evidence of anthrax in any sample, nor did the University of Florida who ran duplicate and additional samples to that. All we have found in the results of phase two, which is the testing, is just like any city, there's historical fill materials and what they fill the old foundations in with crushed brick and things like that, a little bit of ash, but it's really nothing to write home about. It's what we term urban fill and it is considered a background condition by the New Hampshire DES. So, during any other future redevelopment, there might be some soil that needs to go to a landfill. But there's nothing that requires remediation as respect to the old mill building. Really the only concern at the property is there is upstream chlorinated solvents from some of the other mills that are flowing in deep in groundwater down towards the river underneath the parking lot. And that is also a totally manageable situation. Just like anybody installing a residential radon system, we can put what they call sub-slab depressurization systems if a developer came in and did any new building. So really any of the ongoing or future work that might need to be done would be ongoing groundwater testing or if the New Hampshire DES decides that there is any other additional testing they may want to support. The property owners are actually currently doing some other high technical investigations to determine what they might be able to clean up. Other than that, it's just general construction practices. We develop a soil management plan in addition to a remedial action plan that basically says when a developer comes in to dig foundations, this is how they're going to manage the soil. All that can be used as a marketing tool if redevelopment is planned.

C. Prolman: We were asked to come here tonight to talk about the results of these environmental site assessments. They are publicly available, but sometimes they can be kind of tough to get your head around. And so, we kind of just wanted to for the record, just show that what was found at the site is typical, as Judd said, in many urban settings. The recommendations from the phase two ESA arguably are relatively minimal. We're very happy about that. Manchester is home for the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission. And I know the city, through the master plan, has a vision for the reuse of that site.

J. Nazaka: To close, the image that's on the screen is an artistic rendering from the 2021 Manchester Master Plan where we asked the community to re-envision several pieces of properties or several areas of the city. Not surprising, one of the areas that came up most was Arms Park and Arms parking lot. And this was a vision that shows what the potential could look like with adding some green space, more of a riverfront riverwalk development. A little hard to see in the small image, but there actually is still a parking area there. It's a parking garage that's flanked with mixed use commercial residential development, also high tech uses, mirroring what's already in the millyard. So as Cam and Judd said, this was just intended as a quick update to let everyone know that after many years, we have finally concluded with a site assessment of this property to find that there's nothing unusual here, and it is not prohibited for any future development. There's nothing in the works or planned, this was just step one to get us to a point if the city, if and when the city, ever decides to do something with the property.

Alderman Terrio: How long can the anthrax bacteria lay dormant in soil? Forever? Ten years? It seems like it's been about 70 years.

J. Newcomb: I honestly don't know the answer to that question offhand. I believe it's probably in the 70 to 100 years range, but my recollection of the building is they treated the entire interior of the building with chlorine. Then they tore it down, re-chlorinated the brick, buried them elsewhere, and burned the other materials. So, everything would have been kept to the inside of the building.

Alderman Fajardo: Can you clarify the city own Arms lot?

J. Nazaka: Yes. It's a city owned parking lot. The green space is owned by Parks and Rec, and the parking lot area is owned by City Parking.

Alderman Fajardo: I didn't realize that. I thought just the green space was city property.

Alderman Kaw-uh: What comes next? So, this is good news; surprisingly good news. What might be the next steps in this process? Maybe Jodie might be the one who knows more about that.

J. Nazaka: This was definitely a very exciting first step in the process to understand what the options are for the city. As I mentioned, there is nothing currently in the works. I think it would involve, if anything was to happen in that area, some stakeholder engagement with some of the major mill owners. We already know through the master plan process what the city envisions that future area to look like. I think now it's just a matter of there are some major users in the mill yard that have used that parking lot through rented permit spaces. So having conversations with a lot of them about what they would like to see and how we can advance this property in the city because it is extremely prime real estate in the City of Manchester.

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept BMA Minutes

3. Minutes from the July 7 Committee on Finance, Special BMA - Road Hearing, and BMA meetings.

Accept and Remand Funds

4. Communication from Charleen Michaud, Welfare Director, requesting permission to accept a donation of \$275 from NHPHC for the Bob Powers Food Pantry.

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

5. 50/50 Sidewalk Petitions

Residential:

- 5 Woodman Avenue
- 34 Elizabeth Avenue
- 42 Alfred Street
- 61 Whitford Street
- 68 Kearsarge Street
- 144 North Adams Street
- 435-437 Walnut Street
- 585 Belmont Street
- 747 Beech Street
- 1137 Union Street

Commercial:

- 669 Union Street
- 754 Chestnut Street

Information to be Received and Filed

- 6.** Communication from the Office of the City Solicitor regarding lawsuits filed against the City.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

7. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2027 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$33,000) for the FY2027 CIPC300040327 Hazardous Materials Grant.”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty-Three Thousand Six Hundred Five Dollars and Ninety-Nine Cents (\$23,605.99) for the FY2026 CIP C410021726 Oral Health Program.”

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2027 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars(\$1,100,000) for the FY2027 CIP C500070427 Canal St Multi-Modal Trail (TAP 4).”

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

8. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$33,000 for CIP C300040327 Hazardous Materials Grant be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)
9. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$23,605.99 for CIP C410021726 Oral Health Program be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)
10. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$1,100,000 for CIP C500070427 Canal St Multi-Modal Trail (TAP 4) be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)
11. Recommending that the request from the Fire Chief for permission to apply for the FY25 Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$337,399, be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)
12. Recommending that the request from the City Solicitor for an extension of CIP 811025 Independent City Auditor to September 1, 2026, be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)
13. Recommending that the request from the Planning and Community Development Director for an extension of CIP C200060326 Dilapidated Building Demolition to June 30, 2027, be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)
14. Recommending that the request from the Safari Youth Club for reimbursement of \$5,000 for a community event be received and filed.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)
15. Recommending that the request from the Information Systems Director for an extension of CIP 810625 Munis ERP Financial System to June 30, 2034, be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

16. Recommending that the request from the Water Works Director for the addition of one (1) Assistant Water Works Director position, grade 130, to the department's complement be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND BUILDINGS

18. Recommending that the request from Aranco Oil Company, Inc. for approval of a revocable license agreement that will allow for the installation of associated landscaping and flags within the right-of-way near 1265 South Willow Street be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Aldermen Bonilla and Kantor, who were absent)
19. Recommending that the request from New Hampshire Group, LLC, for approval of a revocable license agreement that will allow for the construction of a pylon sign and modified associated landscaping and grading within the right-of-way near 1279 South Willow Street be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Aldermen Bonilla and Kantor, who were absent)
20. Recommending that the request regarding purchasing city-owned lot 866-23 on Broadhead Avenue be received and filed.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Aldermen Bonilla and Kantor, who were absent)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

21. Recommending that the request from the organizers of GLENDI for the closure of Kenney Street at Hanover Street, and Amherst Street at Hilton Street, from 10AM to 11PM on September 18-19, and from 11AM to 5PM on September 20, for its annual festival, be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Aldermen Goonan and Bonilla, who were absent)
22. Recommending that the petition for reduction of on-street parking on Pine Street be received and filed.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Aldermen Goonan and Bonilla, who were absent)

23. Recommending that the request from SMMA for the following traffic changes near Beech Street Elementary School be approved:

ONE-WAY STREET

Green Street, in the westbound direction, one-way from Beech Street to Union Street

NO PARKING BUS STOP

On Green Street, on the north side, from 55 feet west of the existing Beech Street front of curb to a point 180 feet further west

NO PARKING LOADING & UNLOADING ZONE

On Beech Street, on the west side, from 9 feet south of the proposed Summer Street front of curb to a point 112 feet further south

RESCIND NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Beech Street, on the west side, from Summer Street to Green Street (ORD 2646)

RESCIND STOP SIGN

On Green Street at Beech Street, south-west corner (ORD 0811)

(Unanimous vote with the exception of Aldermen Goonan and Bonilla, who were absent)

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOL, OTHER DRUGS & YOUTH SERVICES

24. Advising that it has accepted the presentation from the Health Department on Manchester's Youth Service Ecosystem.

***ON MOTION OF ALDERMAN DEXTER, DULY SECONDED BY ALDERMAN O'NEIL,
IT WAS VOTED THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED.***

COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND BUILDINGS

17. Recommending that the request from the Water Works Director to waive building permit fees charged for the department's administration and garage facility on Lake Shore Road in exchange for the transfer of the 281 Lincoln Street building, garage, and parking area for use by the City, be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Aldermen Bonilla and Kantor, who were absent)

Mayor Ruais requested that agenda item 17 be removed from the consent agenda.

Mayor Ruais: Item 17 was a recommendation that the request from the Water Works Director to waive building permit fees charged for the departments administration and garage facility be approved. So, waiving the fees for the construction of the new building. I just wanted to bring two items to the board, or two pieces to consider as we're looking

at this. As we all know, we have 17 contracts that are coming up in the next year; eleven on the city side, six on the school district side. Director Belanger did not factor these funds, I believe it was \$290,000, into the budget. So, these would be surplus dollars that we could potentially utilize next year to keep the tax rate low and help pay for the contracts and other additional costs that we always experience during the budget process. So that's one item. The second piece to this is actually a piece of the conversation that Alderman Burkush brought up in Accounts and several others, Alderman Terrio. So, when that building becomes available next year, my intent over the next month is to bring together our department heads and talk about which forward facing departments might make sense to utilize that Water Works building that we're going to get at the municipal complex over there. That could include potentially, if the board were to so choose, or the departments were to make the argument, somebody like Tax over there, or we could put Planning over there. Something like that could be in store for a reorg. The building itself is in good working condition. But if we were to move forward facing departments like our Tax Collector's office, just to use an example, there could perhaps be some renovation work that would be necessary to do. We talked about the space today, this evening, on the Tax Collector's office. We could hire an additional ten employees over there, but if we don't have the space in that building or in that office, it's not going to do us much good. So just a couple of things that I wanted the board to consider before we waive these permit fees, that we could potentially use those dollars for upfit next year if we had to upfit the existing Water Works building. And two, with the union contracts that are coming up, with the budget challenges that we know we're going to have, we can utilize those surplus funds to keep the tax rate low next year.

Alderman Trisciani: When we looked at this on Lands and Buildings, we had made the determination to not do it, but I would like to say that if the board so wishes to collect the fees, then I think that those fees should be earmarked for potentially moving departments into that building and not just thrown into the general fund, because there is going to be a fee for moving. There's going to be a fee for probably furnishing it. While the building is in decent shape now and could be used, I think my preference, if this decision is made by the board, is that money is earmarked and not just thrown into the general fund.

Mayor Ruais: That's a good point. I talked to Director Wickens about this. If there is an account that could be set up or removed from the general fund, that could be utilized for purposes such as that, either specific to a move or that we can hold aside for surplus funds for next year. I agree, we shouldn't just be picking \$10,000 out of it here or there to pay for things over the course of the year.

Alderman Barry: I agree, we're expecting approximately \$290,000 for permit fees. If we're going to outfit or fit out that building with departments and if it doesn't reach that threshold of the \$290,000, I think we need to make sure that we have a remedy for the balance of the funds to use as we please.

Alderman O'Neil: I thought there was, way back, some agreement on in lieu of them moving that the building becomes available. I thought that's where this whole discussion started about waiving the fees. I don't even know if it's in the budget or not, but I thought it was a reasonable request. Any renovations will go through \$300,000 very quickly. So, if we're going to make a commitment to reuse that building, I think we're going to have to make more money than \$290,000 available to do it, in my opinion.

Mayor Ruais: For point of reference, in 2024, when I first got in, there was conversation about offices over at McGregor Street because there used to be city offices over there and they were talking about renovations over there at the time, and I believe those would have cost up to \$600,000, if memory serves, that's what it was going to cost. And speaking with director Croasdale this morning, he doesn't think that the renovation costs, I don't want to put words in your mouth, but I think you thought that it would be significantly less than \$300,000.

Phil Croasdale, Water Works Director: Well, for Lincoln Street, yes. I think there's some things that we would probably want to take a look at. It's a 75 year old building. It does have still in the first two floors, asbestos in the ceiling. Probably, that doesn't have to be addressed. If you want to change out the ceiling tiles, the drop ceiling, then you have to. You can't take that down without addressing the asbestos, but if you leave the ceilings the way they are, it's fine. Eventually you might want to take a look at some of the wiring. There's a lot of new wiring, but there might be some that needs updating on the heating

system. I talked to people at Facilities. That could be addressed, but there's different things you can do now. You can put units on the ceiling and then just run them down the walls and into the building at a lower cost than doing what we have now, which is a full-blown boiler and air conditioning system. There are things you can do for substantially less money. But other than that, a little bit of lipstick, paint, whatever. We put in new cubicles about six years ago on the first floor and second floor. You can do the same thing and have some offices. It's ready to move right in, turnkey, as long as we vacuum it and clean it up a little bit when we leave. I think it's ready to go.

Alderman O'Neil: It's turnkey if it's one use; if there's going to be multiple departments there it is not turnkey. Use of the garage has come up. Can that be turned into space?

P. Croasdale: That's your discussion; whatever you guys want to do with it, how you have to modify it.

Mayor Ruais: What I didn't want to do is come to the board next year during my budget address in March and say we have this bond request in here and somebody say, well, why didn't you anticipate this going forward? We've been talking about potentially utilizing that office space. It is the board's discretion on what we want to do here, but I didn't want to not plan ahead for that.

Alderman Kaw-uh: On the Land and Buildings Committee, you made a pretty compelling case for why we should go ahead with the request to waive those fees. I was initially opposed to it, but through the discussion, my mind was changed. I guess I wanted to ask, is the budget for your major projects that you're taking on right now, would this money have been essential for those projects? Your budget is going to be impacted by our decision tonight in either a good way or bad way.

P. Croasdale: The permit fees are already in our budget. Our guaranteed maximum price with Harvey construction, that would be lowered by obviously the \$300,000. We're all team players here; we're a city department. Certainly, we could use the money to theoretically lower the rates, but we could use the money in some aspect. If the city has better use for the money, I'm good. I can talk to my board about that.

Alderman Kantor: Water Works has been a great neighbor for ward six, and we appreciate you, but it is going to be a negative impact with all of the trucks going down there and the privacy and all the traffic. We did discuss possibly you putting in sidewalk.

P. Croasdale: That won't change that discussion and we can still have that discussion about that, potentially looking at the total cost of the project and what we're bonding, I think there is going to be room for something. But we have to talk to the Highway Department about that to bring them in.

Alderman Kantor: We really would like that sidewalk to make it as safe as possible because of all the people that walk that area, and the crazy people that are driving down that street.

P. Croasdale: Not us.

Alderman Kantor: No, I'm not saying it's you. You guys are great neighbors.

P. Croasdale: We're well aware of all the issues on Lake Shore Road. And, you know, we try to work with the neighborhood as well as best we can.

Alderman Trisciani: I think given the new information I would like to make a motion that we actually do reverse our decision on the Land and Buildings Committee.

Alderman Trisciani moved to receive and file the request to waive building permit fees, and further to collect building permit fees charged to Water Works and establish a non-lapsing dedicated account into which all collected funds will be deposited for future department moves and uses in the Lincoln Street facility. Alderman Kaw-uh duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Trisciani: As long as the \$290,000 is going into an account that is earmarked for department moves and department uses in that building, it sounds like we could use up to \$300,000 if we're dealing with asbestos and things like that.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote. Alderman Sapienza requested a roll call vote.

Alderman Terrio: This is going to lock us into using the money for this.

Alderman Trisciani: Any leftover money can default afterwards.

Alderman O'Neil: There is not going to be left over money. We're kidding ourselves. We'll burn through that \$300,000 pretty quick.

Aldermen Sapienza, Kantor, O'Neil, and Terrio voted nay. Aldermen Burkush, Barry, Vincent, Thomas, Kaw-uh, Goonan, Dexter, Fajardo, Bonilla, and Trisciani voted yea. The motion carried.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- 25.** Communication from Donald Waldron, advising the Board of his resignation as a member of the Conservation Commission.

*On motion of **Alderman Kaw-uh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Dexter**, it was voted to accept with regret.*

- 26.** Confirmations:

Board of Health

Mary Naczas Seigle to succeed herself as nurse representative, term to expire July 1, 2028

Patricia Anglin to succeed herself as labor representative, term to expire July 1, 2029

Ashwini Saxena to succeed himself as a physician member, term to expire July 1, 2028

Conservation Commission

Lauren Zielinski to succeed herself as a regular member, term to expire August 1, 2029

Thomas Palangas to succeed himself as a regular member, term to expire August 1, 2029

Patrick Chabot filling a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire August 1, 2029

Heritage Commission

Heidi Hamer to succeed herself as a regular member, term to expire July 1, 2029

Steve Hebsch to succeed Stan Garrity as a regular member, term to expire

July 1, 2029

Lisa Walsh to succeed Kaleigh Shaughnessy as a regular member, term to expire July 1, 2028

Planning Board

Stephen Meno to succeed himself as a regular member, term to expire May 1, 2029

Peter Winslow to succeed himself as a regular member, term to expire May 1, 2029

Safety Review Board

Zachary Silva to serve as the citizen member

Alderman Goonan to serve as the Aldermanic Representative

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Barry**, it was voted to confirm the nominations as presented, with **Alderman Kantor** being duly recorded in opposition.*

27. Communication from Jeff Belanger, Planning and Community Development Director, requesting authorization to commence proceedings to demolish and remove hazardous buildings located at 44 Vinton Street.

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

28. Communication from Attorney A. Eli Leino, on behalf of client GCS QOZB LLC, requesting subordination of the City's lien on the property at 31 Central Street.
Ladies and Gentlemen, what is your pleasure?

*On motion of **Alderman Dexter**, duly seconded by **Alderman Bonilla**, it was voted to approve.*

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

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the Resolution Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of \$27,000 for CIP C330040426 Women's Locker Room Expansion be approved and referred to the Committee on Finance.

***Alderman Goonan** moved to accept the committee's report and adopt its recommendation. **Alderman O'Neil** duly seconded the motion.*

Alderman Kantor: I was just wondering, I just wanted to make sure, it says women's locker room, and that's going to be only biological women.

Mayor Ruais: Chief Marr is nodding his head; 100%.

Alderman Kantor: Thank you. I just wanted to confirm.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the reduction of funds in the amount of \$70,000 for CIP 211723 Opioid Litigation Settlement Trust be approved and referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from the Planning and Community Development Director for permission to apply for funding from the Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program be approved.

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

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from the Heritage Commission for permission to apply for funding from the State of New Hampshire to place Central High School on the National Register of Historic Places be approved.

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

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

31. Mayor Ruais called the meeting back to order.

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

The Committee on Finance respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the following Resolutions ought to pass and be Enrolled:

“Amending the FY2027 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$33,000) for the FY2027 CIPC300040327 Hazardous Materials Grant.”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty-Three Thousand Six Hundred Five Dollars and Ninety-Nine Cents (\$23,605.99) for the FY2026 CIP C410021726 Oral Health Program.”

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2027 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars(\$1,100,000) for the FY2027 CIP C500070427 Canal St Multi-Modal Trail (TAP 4).”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, decreasing funds in the amount of Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000) for the FY2023 211723 Opioid Litigation Settlement Trust.”

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

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

The Committee on Finance respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the following Bond Resolution ought to pass and layover:

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Twenty Seven Thousand Dollars (\$27,000) for the 2026 CIP C330040426 Women's Locker Room Expansion."

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

33. Report(s) of remaining committees, if available.

The Committee on Human Resources/Insurance respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from the Assessors' Office to convert one (1) Customer Service Representative III position, grade 108, from part-time to full-time status, be approved.

*On motion of **Alderman Goonan**, duly seconded by **Alderman Trisciani**, it was voted to accept the committee's report and adopt its recommendation.*

The Committee on Human Resources/Insurance respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from the Assistant Chief of Police to integrate the Parking Division into the organizational structure of the Police Department be approved.

***Alderman Burkush** moved to accept the committee's report and adopt its recommendation. **Alderman Kaw-uh** duly seconded the motion.*

Alderman Kaw-uh: I am generally in support of this, I just had a question though about part of the reorganization. It looks like we're losing the parking manager position, and I was wondering if the parking manager was consulted as part of these deliberations.

Mayor Ruais: We had conversations among the finance director, HR director, among the police department, and among the parking manager as well about the transition and what that would look like and the need going forward for that and consultation with the police department. We made a decision to move forward.

Alderman Kaw-uh: I heard, and I don't know if this is true, but I had heard that the parking manager apparently left or is no longer working for the city. I was wondering, since they were managing an enterprise, like as a director of that division, was the board ever informed of that change? When did that happen? I'm just confused, I feel like that's a pretty substantial change.

Mayor Ruais: In the letter that AC Loui had sent to the board, he said over the next month, they're going to utilize this opportunity to determine what is needed in that department going forward. There's going to be a sworn officer, and if you want to speak to your letter.

Alderman Kaw-uh: I'm familiar with the letter. It was more about the manager that we had, or I thought we had, currently.

Mayor Ruais: The current individual that is now managing parking is working operationally along with the police department.

Alderman Kaw-uh: Sorry if I'm not being clear; I thought we had Faye Morrison as parking manager. When did that change?

Mayor Ruais: July.

Alderman Kaw-uh: I don't remember the board receiving any information. I don't know if that's common practice with enterprises, if the director leaves or something or the manager of an enterprise leaves. Is that normal practice for the board to be informed?

Mayor Ruais: For a director of a department, if there were a termination or something, there would be a notification. This was not a termination. I think we want to be careful

about talking about personnel matters in public. This was a resignation, but I would defer to our solicitor. I don't want to go too far into the conversation regarding that.

Alderman Kaw-uh: My general feeling is that if we have a change in leadership of any enterprise, just moving forward, even if it can't be some sort of public discussion, I would love to hear about it since we are supposed to be helping make decisions on behalf of the city. It would be great if we were kept in the loop on what's going on. So, just a request moving forward.

Mayor Ruais: Understood.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee on Human Resources/Insurance respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from the Tax Collector for the addition of two (2) Municipal Revenue Clerk positions, grade 108, to the department's complement be approved, and further that the department's office hours be adjusted to 8:00AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Friday.

Alderman Terrio: The committee members are here; you can speak to this better than I can. I wasn't sure, did you guys agree to the 4:30PM close time? I definitely support the two extra employees. Did the committee support the adjust of hours?

Alderman Vincent: I did not support the 4:30 closing time. I think there was a good option put on the table to let them work it out with the new employees, see how that pans out, and then we can address that. I think it's a knee jerk reaction to just close the hours down because they're overworked; they're getting more employees. I get everything, but at the end of the day, I stated that we are in the people business and we do need to take care of our constituents and citizens.

Alderman Terrio: I don't want to step on toes, but we definitely need two more people there. I had a discussion with Alderman Bonilla, a lot of our residents get out of work at

5:00. This is going to be tough for them to register their cars. I would like the board to weigh in on closing at 4:30 p.m. I don't really feel comfortable with them closing at 4:30 p.m., but I definitely support two more positions there. They need them badly.

Alderman O'Neil: Part of the discussion, Alderman Vincent did bring it up, and I think we did have some discussion. People can come in, if it's 5 p.m. now, they can come in at five of. And it can take up to two hours for the line to work its way through. I think it was a great point brought up by Alderman Vincent, but in the end Brenda is here. It was her recommendation. So, they're not actually closing the doors at 4:30. If you're in line, you're going to get served. Am I correct, Brenda?

Brenda Masewic Adams, Tax Collector: Yes. So, the door will close at 4:30. But all residents that are in the office waiting will be helped, as we do now. Currently, we have excess customers that we have been waiting on and a lot of them come in last minute. And so that's aiding in staff leaving quite late. So, for example, today the last staff left at 5:45. I'm trying to balance work life for staff and maintain the service that we have. We have the drop box. We have online services and we have mailing services. So, it's just trying to retain the staff we do have, and when we do onboard additional staffing, we can hang on to those also.

Alderman Terrio: I'm going to go with this now, but I would hope that you would explore, for instance, I know one day a week I think the Clerk's office is open until 8:00PM. Maybe explore that in the future, possibly Saturdays, half a day or something. I came in early and it's not your fault, it's not your department's fault that you're overworked, but it took me almost two hours to register my car. I work nights, so it's not a big deal for me. I can rearrange my schedule, but a lot of people, they're in school, they're working, whatever. So, 8 to 4:30 is just kind of tight. I can support this for now, but I hope you would explore maybe extended hours one day a week or something else, something flexible to help residents.

Alderman Fajardo: Two points come to mind. One, from the discussion you mentioned a flexible shift differential between an earlier start time for some and then a shifted start time for others. I think I heard you say it was only 15 minutes.

B. Masewic Adams: Yes. So currently, we have some start at eight and then leave at five and others coming at 8:15 to end at 5:15. But with the inflow of residents due to the city growing, the 8 to 5 staff are now staying to assist the closing staff so everyone can leave.

Alderman Fajardo: I was wondering if it would be helpful to further stagger that shift, but it sounds like it doesn't address the need. People coming in late would just be waiting longer.

B. Masewic Adams: So, in 2025 we had 65,000 visits into the office doors. So far this year we've had 35,000. So as the city grows, this issue is going to continue. And the staff has lives; they have kids and they're not seeing them. I'm just trying to balance everything out. And as we have new applicants through the interview process, they're also asking about that.

Alderman Fajardo: If in the future, once you're able to balance the staffing out, if it seems like it's more manageable, would you consider adjusting the hours back?

B. Masewic Adams: Yes, absolutely.

Alderman Fajardo: Then I definitely defer to what you think is best for the department.

Alderman Dexter: I have concerns about the hours, and I'd like to see us break this up into two votes. I'm fully in support of adding the staff. I've seen the work that the tax collectors do and the great response that they have to the people. It's a stressful time for people to pay their tax bills and to register their cars. And adding the time constraints to them is, I think, a burden. If you're increasing the amount of people needing services, why are we cutting the hours? I find that very hard to swallow. I'd like to see us divide that up into two votes. I can't support changing the hours right now, but I can support the added people.

Alderman Bonilla: When would this go into effect, this proposed time change?

B. Masewic Adams: About a month out. I do plan to coordinate with our internal services to get the word out that it's coming and in the process have signage throughout the office so that as residents enter and exit they can have a visual, but also have Nixle alerts periodically also for a few months. My plan is twice a month so that we can hit at least probably like a year to get into that whole cycle. Because if we do it now, someone in December would not know. So just to get it out there periodically, but on a regular basis, covering all resources we can to get the word out.

Alderman Bonilla: What is the average time per resident spent? How long do we spend per resident when they're registering their cars? What's the average time?

B. Masewic Adams: It depends on the transaction. If it's a renewal, a simple renewal, it can be approximately five minutes. If it's something more in-depth, trust and other types of transactions, that can take 15 minutes or so. But then we have to reach out to the state, so that adds another time frame to that. The state typically has a wait time. Sometimes that's 30 minutes, sometimes it's 45 minutes. So, it depends on what's going on with the transaction itself. It's not like going to the grocery store and picking up sugar and cashing out; it's a lot more involved.

Alderman Bonilla: When you talk about flex time, the way I think about flex time is if they stay until 6:45, then they can come in two hours later. Can you help me understand why that's not a thing in your eyes?

B. Masewic Adams: Because we're so busy, that would backfire the next morning because we wouldn't have enough staff to open the doors.

Alderman Bonilla: But what about when you have two additional staffers? Could you do that? The way I think about it, is that if the school board meets here on Mondays, pretty late at night, we could stay open late, right? We already have our security person here to provide an opportunity to allow our employees to flex so that they can sleep in, take care of their families. I believe the current system we have is not enough, recognizing that myself and so many other aldermen represent people who work their shift are blue collar. They work physical labor jobs, and already on its own, it's difficult because you have to

take time off to register your vehicles or to seek childcare to be here. So, for me, would you be open to, when you get the additional staff, to allow your staff to flex based on the hours they make and maybe even consider the idea? The school board already meets here at City Hall. We have security, and it would be an open opportunity, maybe eight, maybe seven, to give a chance to our families to finally register their vehicles without having to go through so many obstacles. But again, Brenda, I'm not trying to throw any more additional work on you. That's really how I see it. I also do appreciate and love our staff here because our job is to also make sure that our staff are protected, that they are advocated for, and that they have a great work life balance, too.

Mayor Ruais: Well, number one, I think just hearing the conversation on the board, I would agree with Alderman Dexter that we should probably bifurcate these two. A suggestion that I would make, and the board is free to do with it what it will, but I think hearing the conversation on the board, I'd love to have a further conversation with you about this. I think to me, flex hours could look like Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Three staffers come in from 11 to 7, and they can handle overflow at the end of the day. Maybe those are the new three staffers that are coming on. So, what I think I would like to do is if we pass the additional staffers, table the second part of this, come back in September because it sounds like this wasn't going to be implemented tomorrow anyway. We obviously have to alert the public if there's going to be a change in hours. So maybe we spend some more time talking about this and bring back a recommendation to the board.

Alderman Sapienza: Yes. Great idea.

Alderman O'Neil: At one time before you were the Director didn't you work late one night? We had late hours.

B. Masewic Adams: Yes. It was 2015 or 2016, somewhere in that area. We closed 8 p.m. on Tuesday nights. It was every Tuesday night.

Alderman O'Neil: I like the suggestion; maybe we keep the discussion going on about that. I think my colleagues are right on. Some people just can't get there. I want to be

supportive of you. I'm going to absolutely support the staff. I think we need to look at the hours a little more.

Alderman Kaw-uh: I like the idea of the flex hours. Definitely in favor of adding the clerk positions. I still would support the temporary restriction of hours because my understanding is that the staff in the office is very much overburdened right now and at the risk of burnout. I believe some staff have left. And you can correct me if I'm wrong, but there has been turnover already, and I would worry that postponing this decision before we have a perfect solution would lead to a potential loss of additional staff. So that would be my one word of caution. But otherwise, I support the long-term goal of having flex time.

*On motion of **Alderman Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman Terrio**, it was voted to bifurcate the committee's report between the request for additional positions and the request for an adjustment of hours.*

Alderman Sapienza: I'm just going to make a quick suggestion. Might be a stupid suggestion, but I'm just going to throw it out there. We go with the new hours for short term, and then we get the two new people on board as soon as possible, and then we go back and revisit the hours and we go back to normal hours. I'm just throwing that out there, if that's a possible solution.

*On motion of **Alderman Terrio**, duly seconded by **Alderman Trisciani**, it was voted to approve the request for the addition of two (2) Municipal Revenue Clerk positions, grade 108, to the department's complement.*

Mayor Ruais: Where do we want to go from here? My recommendation would be that we table this discussion and then come back in a month.

***Alderman Sapienza** moved to table the request from the Tax Collector to adjust the department's office hours to 8:00AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Friday. **Alderman Dexter** duly seconded the motion. Alderman Kaw-uh requested a roll call vote.*

Alderman Trisciani: Since we're going to revisit this in September, can we also look at what the cost would be to implement an appointment system that might help?

B. Masewic Adams: \$24,000.

Alderman Trisciani: I think we should also in September, talk about an appointment system and what impact that would have.

Mayor Ruais: Is four weeks enough time to put that together? I'd be all in favor of any way that we can speed up and make this more efficient, and to come back with a recommendation or an idea on how to do that. I know you guys are swamped. I don't want to add anything to your plate, but if it's something that we could do to come back and have that discussion with you, it sounds like you have some background in it. You knew the price right off the bat.

B. Masewic Adams: I'm already looking into that system to implement because we do get a lot of phone calls about appointments. I do believe that it will help with controlling the flow of traffic at our office, utilizing a lot of the down time by filling those up and we'll realize some efficiencies there. But right now, staff are burnt out, people have left and so far, it's the topic of how does our office maintain work life balance for staff and with our office. I mentioned earlier that it takes about five years to learn the job. There's a lot of ins and outs on the city side, on the state side, especially with motor vehicles. It's not an easy uplift. And if we can keep employees that we hire, that's always the goal. If we can balance that out, I do not mind adjusting after we onboard multiple employees so we can see how we can bridge the gap and meet the additional needs.

Alderman Trisciani: To follow up on that, if we vote to go to the 4:30 today, that means that at least gives you time to plan in your hiring to at least start that in the month of September to give you some relief. If we wait until September, then we're pushing out another month and risking more additional staff burnout.

B. Masewic Adams: Right. The additional staffing now, because someone has left the pool, right now, we're going to select candidates from that pool to fill these two and try to onboard them as soon as we can.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote. Aldermen Kaw-uh, Goonan, Fajardo, Trisciani, Terrio, and Burkush voted nay. Aldermen Dexter, Bonilla, Kantor, O'Neil, Sapienza, Barry, Vincent, and Thomas voted yea. The motion carried.

The Committee on Human Resources/Insurance respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from the Solicitor for the addition of one Legal Assistant II position, grade 107, to the department's complement, be approved.

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

34. Resolutions:

"Amending the FY2027 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$33,000) for the FY2027 CIPC300040327 Hazardous Materials Grant."

"Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty-Three Thousand Six Hundred Five Dollars and Ninety-Nine Cents (\$23,605.99) for the FY2026 CIP C410021726 Oral Health Program."

"Amending the FY2022 and FY2027 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars(\$1,100,000) for the FY2027 CIP C500070427 Canal St Multi-Modal Trail (TAP 4)."

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, decreasing funds in the amount of Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000) for the FY2023 211723 Opioid Litigation Settlement Trust."

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

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

35. Bond Resolutions:

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000) for the 2027 CIP C100070127 Purchase of 6 Buses (Fleet Replacement)."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the 2027 CIP C100070227 Purchase of 5 Buses (Fleet Replacement)."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000) for the 2027 CIP C100080127 Information Technology Infrastructure & Chromebooks."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Seven Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$760,000) for the 2027 CIP C130080127 Technology Bond."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Four Million Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$4,525,000) for the 2027 CIP C130080227 Munis ERP Financial System."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000) for the 2027 CIP C210070127 FY27 Deferred Maintenance - Municipal."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Ten Dollars (\$322,310) for the 2027 CIP C210070227 JFK Coliseum Chiller Plant."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Million Five Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$3,550,000) for the 2027 CIP C210070327 Deferred Maintenance Program."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,500,000) for the 2027 CIP C230070327 Motorized Equipment Replacement."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,400,000) for the 2027 CIP C300040127 Public Safety Communication System Upgrade."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the 2027 CIP C300040227 Gear Equipment Replacement."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the 2027 CIP C500070127 FY27 Parks Paving."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) for the 2027 CIP C500070227 FY27 Roadway Program."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Twenty Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$20,800,000) for the 2027 CIP C500070327 Raise - City Funds (DPW - Highway)."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the 2027 CIP C650050127 Parks Deferred Maintenance."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the 2027 CIP C650050327 Park Playground Replacement and Retrofitting."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the 2027 CIP C650050727 School Playground Replacement."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2027 CIP C650050827 School Parking Lot Rehabilitation."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the 2027 CIP C650050927 School Deferred Maintenance - P&R."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$5,300,000) for 2027 CIP #C270070127 MS4/DCMOM Construction to pay for the construction phase for MS4 and drainage improvements to the City's storm water system by the Environmental Protection Division, and for the payment of all other incidental costs related thereto. Projects include but are not limited to: construction phase of MS4 and infrastructure improvements to the City's drainage and storm water system."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Six Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$6,500,000) for 2027 CIP #C270070527 CMOM C-6 Construction to pay for the construction phase for the ongoing improvements to the City's sewer system by the Environmental Protection Division, and for the payment of all other incidental costs related thereto. Projects include but are not limited to: construction of the ongoing improvements to the City's sewer system."

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Thirty Million Dollars (\$30,000,000) for 2027 CIP #C270070627 WWTP Pump Station Upgrade Construction to pay for the construction phase for the WWTP Pump Station Upgrade project by the Environmental Protection Division, and for the payment of all other incidental costs related thereto. Projects include but are not limited to: construction phase for the WWTP Pump Station Upgrade project.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) for 2027 CIP #C270070727 Queen City Ave Separation C-8 Design to pay for the construction phase for the design phase for the Queen City Ave CSO separation project by the Environmental Protection Division, and for the payment of all other incidental costs related thereto. Projects include but are not limited to: design phase for the Queen City Ave CSO Separation project.”

*On motion of **Alderman Dexter**, duly seconded by **Alderman Goonan**, it was voted to table Bond Resolution: "Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Twenty Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$20,800,000) for the 2027 CIP C500070327 Raise - City Funds (DPW - Highway)."*

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

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

36. Ordinance:

“Amending Section 33.024, 33.025, & 33.026 (Assistant Water Works Director) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

*On motion of **Alderman Trisciani**, duly seconded by **Alderman Sapienza**, it was voted to waive the reading by title only.*

*On motion of **Alderman Dexter**, duly seconded by **Alderman Fajardo**, it was that the Ordinance Amendment ought to pass and be Ordained.*

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Kantor: I'd like to ask if MPD is going to be deputized by ICE. There are federal funds available to the city if we do this. I know MPD does communicate and cooperate with ICE, but this would just simplify it. Tiny Troy, New Hampshire, has been deputized and they have made numerous arrests.

Peter Marr, Chief of Police: No; I don't have any plans to do that. I'm currently working with approximately thirty vacancies plus another seven that are in the academy, so they're not useful to me until February. I'm looking at 37 vacancies really until February. We have the ICE office of the state in our city. It is staffed and part of my job is managing the resources of the Manchester Police Department. I don't think having our officers do federal work when their office is here, their agents are here, I don't think it's a good use of resources.

Alderman Kantor: Well, you do receive federal funds for your time and so forth. And it would make it easier for the transition from custody. It is actually a phone call. And I think it takes two seconds to pick up the phone and say, I have someone here and could you come and pick them up? I do know with the homeless shelter at 200 Elm Street, they don't check IDs. And how about the other homeless shelters? I mean, to me it's about simplifying and it would let the officers do their jobs and make it easier.

P. Marr: In order to do that, we would have to identify 4 to 6 officers to do what you're talking about: working, booking and make that call. The problem is we don't have standard booking officers. People don't join the police department to be in booking, which is essentially almost a corrections type of role. So that's a rotating basis. In order to send officers to get the training that is required to happen, you would have to find six officers. And there's no way I would be able to find six officers that would volunteer to not be a police officer anymore and to sit in booking for their entire shift for the rest of their careers. So that's the other problem with that; that booking officer is a constantly rotating basis.

Alderman Kantor: How did Troy, New Hampshire, do it if they only had three officers?

P. Marr: I'm not here to talk about Troy. I don't work in Troy. I do know that we're the busiest police department in the State of New Hampshire, by far. I don't know if they have the capacity. I'm guessing they do have the time to do that there; we don't.

Alderman Kantor: So, you don't have time to make a phone call?

P. Marr: No, ma'am; I just explained. In order to be a part of the program, you have to send your people to training. I can't send my entire department to training, and they wouldn't take it. It would be six officers, but there's no designated full time booking officer. Nobody wants to do that job. So, we rotate that. Because we rotate that, there are no people. I can't send the entire department to this training. So, it's really not an option.

Alderman Bonilla: I can't imagine us for one second to think that this is the right thing to do. I'd never allow me holding this road to deputize our police department. I would never. We have spent years cultivating relationships with members of our community through our meetings held at the Manchester Police Department, for years, with our immigrant communities or our refugees communities. We need them to call. We need them to cooperate, especially with an investigation for our Manchester Police Department. The police have committed to protecting and serving all. I mean serving all, regardless of status in our city; protecting and serving everybody. That would destroy and cause harm to so many members and relationships again, that we have spent years in our community

here. So, for me, I would not ever entertain any of this. We're not doing it. Our police department is not doing it. We are working diligently and serving everybody, every resident in this city. So again, I would never allow that for our police department.

Alderman Barry: Chief, I know back in my days in law enforcement, I was on the fugitive unit within the sheriff's office, as well as on numerous fugitive task forces. Now, when the federal administration first implemented this, they were going after the worst of the worst. To me, the worst of the worst should already have warrants. You're not going to go on traffic stops and hope that you're going to be stopping someone that may be illegal or may have a warrant. You're going to have probable cause to actually even stop them. With the latest incidents, one in Maine and the one the week prior to the incident in Maine, ICE agents pulled over two different people, one in Maine and one the week prior. And they shot and killed two people. And come to find out, those two people weren't even the target. They were the wrong people. Do I want the liability that the city would have to face? We're self-insured, to have people that we don't even know what their training is? It's very little training; I'm hearing 47 days. I'm hearing 82 days. I'm hearing who knows what the amount of training that these people are getting. But obviously, it's not great training if you're going to be pulling people over and shooting them and shooting the wrong people, being engaged with someone that wasn't even your initial target. Going back to when I was working in the fugitive unit, 17 years I worked at the sheriff's office, specifically chasing fugitives, these are all felon warrants that I was working on. I also worked on the Fugitive Task Force with the US Marshals, the FBI, the local police, the state police, ICE agents. We've all worked together. But we had specific people that we were looking for. We weren't fishing in a barrel. We were going out looking for people that were already wanted that we knew were wanted; the worst of the worst, and we would apprehend them. The way it's happening now is they're just going out there and hoping. And whether it's in Troy, New Hampshire, where you're going from a speed limit of 50 to 30 and you're pulling people over because that's an easy catch. They have the time and they have the manpower, even though they only have 2 or 3 people working for that department. They have the time to do it because what else is happening in Troy, New Hampshire? It's right next to the Massachusetts border. So, they're catching people that are coming over the state border, going from a 50mph limit down to a 30. So, it's an

easy catch. And then they're asking for identification after they pull them over. I hope that even in the future we don't even entertain this.

Alderman Sapienza: Chief, the Manchester Police Department does communicate and cooperate with the federal authorities, correct?

P. Marr: That's correct.

Alderman Sapienza: That's great, and I applaud that. Essentially what this boils down to is increasing the communication and cooperation with the federal authorities. I can't see how you wouldn't want to do that. I've been told that it would be a demand on the Manchester Police and you don't have the time, you don't have the resources, and so on and so forth. But couldn't something like this decrease the demand on the police department if you partnered with our federal partners? I mean, the ICE office is literally right down the street. This would be partnering with them. This would be help. It could decrease the workload. Also, there are federal dollars available. There are federal dollars available if you take part. I called ICE, I spoke with you, I spoke with the mayor, I spoke with the good folks at the Troy Police Department. I asked them, because I read the article in the Keene Sentinel, how could anybody read the article in the Keene Sentinel, read about the job that the Troy Police Department is doing, and not ask themselves, well, why is it not happening here? I asked him, how are you doing this? Is there some secret sauce? Is there some magic formula? He said: no, it's quite simple. If we pull somebody over, we do a check on them, which is pretty routine. And if we find out they're here illegally, we contact ICE. It's very simple. It boils down to communication, communication, communication, communication, and cooperation. What the ICE officer told me was even if it was booking to booking, so let's take the patrolmen out of it, the patrolmen are over there burdened, they're busy, I get it, even if the booking department handled this.

P. Marr: It's the same department.

Alderman Sapienza: So the patrolman on duty then handles the booking.

P. Marr: Yes. Every day it's a rotation. So, a patrolman today, they show up for roll call and they get told by the sergeant you're in booking today. So, today they're the booking officer. Tomorrow they're out and another officer is going to be a booking officer. It is constantly changing.

Alderman Sapienza: The day that patrolman is the booking officer, when someone comes in, when they're running their checks, if they're wanted by the federal authorities, is it too much to ask that the booking department contacts the federal authorities and say, we have that person here?

P. Marr: We do that already, sir.

Alderman Sapienza: One thing that I want to be clear about, one thing that the ICE officer told me is, I know that you communicate and cooperate with the federal authorities. In fact, they get the arrest reports daily from MPD. Even if they didn't, they could get them from Ink link; they're not confidential. But the problem is the addresses and the names that the federal authorities are getting are quite often fake. So, when they go out and they go to apprehend these people, the suspects are in the wind. So, if it went from custody to custody, it would cut down on that. I don't see how it can be wrong for myself as an alderman or anybody as an alderman, to say they would like to see the communication and the cooperation between the Manchester Police Department improve, because it's already happening. All the naysayers: just know that it's already happening. I'm just asking, and Alderman Kantor and maybe a few others, are just asking that we improve upon it and connect the bureaucratic dots. I don't see it as asking a lot. And quite frankly, what I'm hearing is excuses. The police just got two new contracts. Can we just ask that we improve the communication and cooperation between the Manchester Police Department and the federal authorities in the pursuit of law and order and the pursuit of the rule of law?

Alderman O'Neil: Chief, you talked about this a year ago, this communication and cooperation that goes on every day between the Manchester Police Department and various federal agencies.

P. Marr: Correct.

Alderman O'Neil: U.S. Marshals, FBI, ATF, I could go on and on. So, we're acting like this doesn't happen. It goes on every day in the Manchester Police Department with the federal partners. I don't know why we have to all of a sudden say they have to get trained and we have to improve communication. They do this every single day with all the federal law enforcement agencies. I don't know why we're spending time on this. It goes on every single day with the Manchester Police. We are lucky we have the police department we do and the partnerships they have across all federal law enforcement agencies. I don't know why we're saying they have to improve communication and cooperation. They already do it.

Alderman Trisciani: This conversation can go on for hours and hours and hours. I would like to suspend the rules and take a vote that we support the existing arrangement that our police department has with federal law enforcement agencies.

Alderman Sapienza: What are we doing?

Mayor Ruais: What would this look like?

Alderman Trisciani: It's a vote that we support what the what the department is doing today.

Alderman Trisciani moved to suspend the rules and support the Manchester Police Department's existing arrangement and practices with federal law enforcement agencies. Alderman Fajardo duly seconded the motion. Alderman Trisciani requested a roll call vote.

Alderman Sapienza: So, we don't want to have a suspect go from the custody of the Manchester Police Department to the custody of the federal authorities?

Alderman Trisciani: It is my time on the floor; the motion has been seconded by Alderman Fajardo.

Mayor Ruais: We have an existing policy in place that speaks to how we address this. So, is that effectively what you're asking to support?

Alderman Trisciani: I'm saying we keep the policy as is and we support our police department in their decision.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote. Aldermen Trisciani, O'Neil, Burkush, Barry, Vincent, Thomas, Kaw-uh, Goonan, Dexter, Fajardo, and Bonilla voted yea. Aldermen Sapienza and Kantor voted nay. Alderman Terrio abstained. The motion carried.

Alderman Sapienza: How are fireworks handled? I'm hearing a lot of complaints from constituents about fireworks. What is the policy when someone calls complaining their neighbor is lighting off fireworks? Someone comes and tells them to stop?

P. Marr: Basically. I'm just answering off the cuff: 99% of the time, we'll show up and no one is setting off fireworks. It's very rare that we find people in the act setting off fireworks. If we do, there are city ordinances that should be issued and we should issue those city ordinances.

Alderman Sapienza: And that's something we can work on to make them stiffer, but I guess that's on us.

Alderman O'Neil: If we could send to Alderman Thomas's committee, there's been a lot of discussion about youth and what to do with youth services, and are we properly serving youth. I'm convinced the four health targets that Director Thomas has talked about, I'd like to see us send those to Alderman Thomas's committee and that we actually adopt

them. I think they'll help us set some framework. Those are mortality, readiness, absenteeism, and graduation rate. I think the community would do well if everybody was on the same page with that.

Mayor Ruais: To your point, one update that I would give on this, we had our second community meeting this past Friday, and I think there were 67 different groups that were represented there. One of the things that I stated at that meeting, and previously in a subsequent interview that I had given, was that my intent is to bring in consultation with the aldermen on the board, bring together a series of recommendations for how we can address the identified challenges that the city is facing right now, and how can we incorporate that from a policy standpoint, whether it's through Office of Youth Services, working with them or different community groups within the city. I intend already to bring a plan forward with the aldermen's blessing over the next month or two. If we want to adopt those as a core framework.

Alderman O'Neil: Director Thomas and folks from the United Way and Manchester Proud talked about these very four items before the committee. I'm convinced more than ever we're going to move in all kinds of different directions as a community if we don't adopt some measures. The second thing is just to say thank you to all the departments involved with the approval of this certificate of occupancy for the Stebbins Center. It was important to get the Stebbins Center open. The Boys and Girls Club couldn't get their daycare permit from the state, which required other departmental approval until the certificate of occupancy was granted. So, a shout out to all the departments who are involved with it. Thank you for getting that building approved and open and the part with the daycare license.

Alderman Dexter: I'd like to take a moment and highlight some of the upcoming community events and initiatives taking place in Manchester. First, I want to remind everyone that the Manchester Jazz Festival is taking place this week, and that event brings out outstanding musicians, visitors, and energy to our city, and I encourage all residents to check out the performances and support that great community tradition. I also want to highlight the city's newly announced movies in the park series this summer

and fall. There will be four free movies, two taking place at Veterans Memorial Park and two at Derryfield Park. The first movie in the series will be The Wild Robot on Friday, August 7th at Veterans Park beginning at 8:15 p.m. While there will be no Levitt AMP Music Series concert this Thursday due to the annual Delta Dental Elliot Corporate Road race, the series returns on August 13th. Activities begin at 5:00PM, music begins at 6PM and it's going to be featuring the Old Hat String Band. Over the course of the Levitt concert series, one thing that has stood out to me most has been seeing people of all ages up on their feet, dancing, singing along, and enjoying themselves here in Veterans Park. The atmosphere has been tremendous and serves as a reminder of the importance for investing in community events that bring people together. I'd also like to recognize Aldermen Fajardo, Bonilla, and Barry, and even Glenn Ouellette, for joining me in supporting the series. Together, we've had the opportunity to see firsthand the positive impact of these concerts. I'd also like to mention Final Fridays, which will continue through October. This last Friday's event was a tremendous success, with strong attendance bringing great energy downtown from participating residents, visitors, businesses, and artists and community organizations. Finally, I'd like to provide a brief update on Visit MHT. Visit MHT is Manchester's destination marketing organization created to promote Manchester as a destination for tourism, conventions, sporting events, entertainment, and business travel by bringing together those local businesses, cultural organizations, hospitality partners, and community leaders. Visit MHT helps showcase everything our city has to offer and attracts visitors who spend in support of our local economy. The Visit MHT board has been organized and been actively working through this process of hiring its first executive director. We are excited to be hosting a launch event on September 30th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Rex Theatre. I encourage residents, business owners, and community stakeholders to attend and learn more about Visit MHT's vision and promoting Manchester and creating new opportunities for our city.

Alderman Trisciani: Are you running the books on the over-under for the mayor's time for the road race?

Alderman Dexter: I am not, but that would be a great fundraiser.

Mayor Ruais: Significantly slower than last year. I have not had the time or the energy or the inclination with the newborn at home to get out as much as I should. So, my time is going to suffer.

Alderman Bonilla: I wanted to give insight to this month's events. This month so many things are happening. In particular, August is Overdose Awareness Month. So, with grant funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, our amazing Director Thomas from the Health Department as well as our Arts Commission, they've brought the Into the Light project to the Manchester community during Overdose Awareness Month. This exhibit is an anti-stigma initiative and features graphite portraits and narratives of loved ones lost during drug addiction. It puts human faces and voices at the center of Manchester's struggle with substance use disorder. The artwork is currently displayed at City Hall downstairs during this month. Nationally, over 600 stories have been featured, including five Manchester residents, especially including one of our own from the PHAST Team. Her son is also downstairs as well being featured. So please take a look. For those in our communities, we see you, we're here with you. This impacts us all here in this chamber. So again, thank you, Director Thomas, for bringing this to the city.

Mayor Ruais: Thank you, Alderman Bonilla. It's a beautiful tribute downstairs.

Alderman Barry: This coming Sunday, August 9th, on Harvell Street, at Sullivan-Lally Park from noon to three, Chris Brickley and his dad, Bill Brickley, are sponsoring a charity free throw event at the basketball court. Mayor, I saw you hit one of two.

Mayor Ruais: I was one for two. I missed the first one, but I brought it home on the second, and then I walked away wisely.

Alderman Barry: It's this coming Sunday. It's going to be a great event and I know they're stepping up again. And, they're working with our parks department to hopefully get some lights for the basketball courts coming soon. And everyone's welcome.

Mayor Ruais: Number one, the City Clerk's Office is open until 8 p.m. every Tuesday through September 1st for voter registration and absentee requests. Any members of the public that want to come in and avail themselves of that opportunity, they are welcome to do so. The second item that I would reference quickly, and I mentioned it because I got a couple questions on it this morning, there was an RFP that went out on the construction of the bottom level at 200 Elm Street. I just wanted to talk about that quickly because this is something that I referenced. I have the minutes here, the board minutes from February 17th, where I talked about one of the items in the funding package is dollars that would allow for us to renovate the bottom floor. Renovating that bottom floor allows us to co-locate services on that site. So, what we've talked about with the mental health center, that budget vote was taken on February 17th. We passed that, it allowed us to renovate that bottom floor. I talked about it in subsequent interviews in April in the Union Leader, I talked about the lift that was going to be installed there to make sure that we're compliant with ADA. I talked about that back on January 21st in my letter to the Chairman of CIP. There's nothing new that's going on down there that hasn't already been voted on and approved by the board. This is just the RFP that has gone out. So, nothing new, no clandestine operations. It's been approved and discussed upon the board multiple times since January 21st.

Alderman Kantor: I'm just wondering about the ten offices. I know you were going to be bringing people in.

Mayor Ruais: So that would be the construction of the entire floor. I had this conversation with Facilities and with Chief Cashin, who's been working on that location. It's not going to be ten offices that are going to be constructed. That's the larger construction project if in the future we were able to do that entire floor. We don't have ten community partners that are going to be in there at this time. At present, it would be one office for each and one office for the mental health center. As you know, April 21st was when we announced that partnership with them through opioid abatement funding, that the mental health center would have co-located services available on that site. There's one other group that I can't talk about just yet, but there's one other group that I'm talking to about joining. There was another one, Hope for New Hampshire Recovery has explicitly stated out loud

that they'd like to co-locate there. So, there's about 3 or 4 that I would like. But if we were to move forward with a larger expansion, then I would of course come to the board and discuss that more fully because additional dollars would be required. But what I said in February was that the dollars that were set aside for those renovations, I believe it would be up to \$125,000, but when we put out an RFP, it was for the construction of the entire thing. We don't have \$400,000. We're not doing ten offices at the bottom.

Alderman Kantor: That's good to know. Are the people that are partnering going to be paying rent?

Mayor Ruais: That's one of the things that I referenced here.

Alderman Kantor: It just wasn't clear.

Mayor Ruais: In my February document, what I talked about was that the rent for the entire year was \$132,000 total for the entire building, significantly less than the \$30,000 a month that we were paying at 39 Beach Street. But the intent on that bottom level is to have them pay rent; I'm not looking necessarily to make money off of it, but all it would take is 3 or 4 partners and we could cover the \$6,000 a month in rent for that bottom level, and suddenly it becomes a self-sustaining entity.

Alderman Kantor: When I did ask a lot of questions, because I believe we should be checking IDs, and I believe we should check to see if anyone has a warrant for their arrest because we have to protect the vulnerable people there, you did say that we weren't in the shelter business, but here it says: shelters operated by the City of Manchester.

Mayor Ruais: I talked to the individual with CDBG before the meeting, and I expressly said that that language needed to change. This is not a city run shelter. I had that conversation with our grant coordinator. These are not city run shelters. The board approved a contract with ECEL. ECEL is the one that is operating that shelter on a daily

basis. One of the conversations that the board previously had is having our homeless coordinator down there at the shelter, which is now in place.

Alderman Kantor: I just thought we were getting out of the shelter business.

Mayor Ruais: The conversation that we had last year was the importance of winter warming. That was a unanimous belief on the board that we don't want people out in the cold when it's freezing outside. The additional conversation that I had is we don't want 20 people who are in wheelchairs to be wheeling around the city with oxygen devices and oxygen masks. So, I brought that recommendation to the board that we reduced the shelter space in the city from 40 beds to 20 beds, but care for the individuals that are most aged and infirm and the most vulnerable within our community.

Alderman Kantor: I guess my big concern is just having a certified organization there.

Mayor Ruais: Understood.

Alderman Thomas: These partners can get these people insurance through the state. They can give them services which the insurance will pay for. And hopefully their mental health will kind of be a little bit better from the services that they wouldn't ordinarily get on the street.

Mayor Ruais: From an efficiency standpoint, what is more efficient? To have 20 different community outreach workers in the city going around to encampments all over the city, or having one special location where Squad 1, where our community policing team, where our outreach like ROAR and PHAST can say, go to 200 Elm, get connected to services, break the cycle that you're in, and get into more stable living? I think it's much more efficient and effective. We're not creating services. We're running a better continuum within the city.

TABLED ITEMS

- 37.** Petition to discontinue a portion of North Church Street.
(Note: Tabled on July 7, 2026.)
- 38.** Petition to discontinue the Caron Street turn-around.
(Note: Tabled on July 7, 2026.)

These items remained on the table.

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Barry**, duly seconded by **Alderman Vincent**, 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: 9:30PM
Minutes Prepared By: Michael Intranuovo*