

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

March 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Mayor Craig called the meeting to order.

Mayor Craig called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman T. Sapienza.

A moment of silence was observed with Mayor Craig asking that everyone keep the people of the Ukraine as well as the many Manchester families who have loved ones there in their thoughts and prayers.

Alderman Stewart stated also the family of School Committee Member Ben Dion.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Alderman Stewart, Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, Trisciani, Levasseur, Heath, E. Sapienza, Barry, Gamache, George-Kelly

Absent: Aldermen Cavanaugh and Sharonov

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Craig advised that this public comment session, not to exceed 30 minutes, is an opportunity for residents of Manchester to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak and all comments shall be limited to three minutes. Any comments must be directed to the Chair. When your name is called, please step forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state your name and address when recognized and give your comments.

Mary Roberge, 1023 Merrill Street stated:

I am the immediate neighbor to Hallsville School. I was a bit dismayed when I read in today's paper the plans for Hallsville School without input from the residents that surround the school. When the school was decommissioned, Mayor Craig said that the city would get input from the neighbors. When I talked to Alderman Heath, I was told that it would be a good idea to get this input from the neighbors and that it might even be a good idea to have this meeting at Hallsville School. I called the Mayor's Office and

I was told that a meeting for the residents had taken place at some Code-A-Palooza and that the meeting notice had been posted on a billboard announcing a meeting last week at the Chamber on Hanover Street. My question is, why was there a billboard notice and where was this billboard? Why were the neighborhood residents not contacted to insure that they knew about this meeting? These plans do have an impact on us as residents and the neighborhood that we live in. Merrill Street is a very short, old street. It really can't handle two-way traffic and there have been numerous times when there have been parking issues with residents being blocked in their driveways and not being able to get out onto the street when the school was there. We should have been told about this and we should have had our input, especially me because I am the immediate neighbor and everybody can look directly into my house and I do value my privacy. The decision to use Hallsville as a multi-functional building will drain the resources of the neighborhood, will definitely increase traffic flow and make this a neighborhood that is not desirable to live in. I am asking people to not approve this plan or to go into this plan without a lot of consideration and I definitely think we need to get the input from the residents. It is time that this city does listen to the people who actually live in the neighborhood. It is a great idea. I am all for elderly housing. I even think a community center would be great. They have been playing pickle ball all winter and we haven't had any issues and it is a great resource but we need to get the input from the residents. You can't just swap us off. We live there. Thank you for listening to me.

Carol Sternberg, 66 Larchmont Road, stated:

I am also a member of GSOP. I am very interested in having this resolution to support the increase to the minimum wage for city workers passed. I find that city workers are some of the hardest working people that you ever run into. If you have ever had a child in school you see how much they help the teacher or if you ever help with lunches which I have done in the past and you see how hard working and how early they come in to work or if you see those workers who are out in the park areas keeping them safe and keeping them clean...I think a big problem when the wage is what it is for these people is that rents have gone up, especially in the last five years. They have gone up about 25% and what that means is if you have a rent of \$1,000 it is actually \$1,250. I guess you are supported to take 1/3 of the family's income and that is supposed to go to

housing. These paraprofessionals are having to put in much more than 1/3 of what they are making. The other problem, too, is we really have a very low amount of housing available in Manchester compared to the rest of the state and certainly compared to the national average. Again, I would just like to say that I think it is really important to give these people an increase. Thank you.

Glen Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

Yes, spring is coming. The one thing I want to say is I was listening to the committee meetings on Channel 22. Let's never forget that seniors in this city take care of a lot of parent's children. Basically a lot of it is for mental health or for drug addiction. Combining kids that have been abused with elderly people who have never abused people it not such a bad combination. We do need some assistance in that area. I don't know if that is the right fit but I am sure you guys are going to find out. I think it is time that here in our city we pay electricity for our street lighting. Maybe it would be good to start a program so at least every season or twice a year all lights are checked. There is one street where it took six months for five lights in a row to be replaced. That is an entire block on a three lane road on Lake Avenue and next to two senior high rises. It shouldn't take so long for us to figure out that it is dark and we are paying for it no matter what I am told because it doesn't go by a meter. There is a set price. That would be a benefit to our community. Another thing is as we start closing these schools, it is very important as to who gets them and what we do to that area. I am glad that the committee this evening did agree that it was a good idea to hold a community meeting, especially with the abutters. That is always important on any property that is sold in that area. Also now that spring is here and I am happy to hear that some of the activities we have outside are coming back, I am hoping and I haven't heard so I don't know but I am hoping that somebody like Intown is back because spring is coming and we need to have our downtown cleaned. It is going to need it. Number two, maybe it is time to bring back concerts downtown. It is time to open up the city and bring back to Manchester the great downtown that we have been known for to give the people a cleaner look at our city and to tell them that we care about our city and they can come downtown and do activities in a safe manner. We have done it before and I know we can do it again. I have confidence in our Police Department that it can be done. With that, I will bid you goodnight.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept BMA Minutes

2. Minutes from the October 19 Special BMA, Public Participation, BMA and Finance meetings; the November 16 Public Participation and BMA meetings; the December 7 Special BMA, Public Participation, BMA and Finance meetings; and the December 21 Public Participation, BMA and Finance meetings.

Approve Under Supervision of the Department of Highways

3. Pole petition:
11-1731 Grove Street (1)

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

4. 50/50 Sidewalk Petitions
Residential:
 - 129 North Adams Street
 - 185 Pearl Street
 - 238 Young Street
 - 250 North Bay Street
 - 48 Roycraft Road
 - 627 Cilley Road
 - 895 Belmont Street
 - 129 Knowlton Street
 - 251 North Bay Street

Information to be Received and Filed

5. Communication from Peter Chiesa, Deputy City Solicitor, providing an update on pending lawsuits against the City.
6. Communication from Xfinity regarding programming changes.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

7. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY 2021 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and transferring funds in the amount of Ten Thousand Two Hundred Seventeen Dollars and 74/100 (\$10,217.74) for the FY 2022 CIP 711322 MS4 Study, Design, and Construction.”

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and transferring funds in the amount of Six Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$6,750,000) for the FY2022 CIP 711122 CSO Cemetery Brook - Design.”

“Amending the FY 2020, FY 2021 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and transferring funds in the amount of Two Hundred Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Eight Dollars and 22/100 (\$214,598.22) for the FY 2022 CIP 711022 CMOM Study, Design, and Construction.”

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the FY 2022 CIP 511322 Recreation Programming.”

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Seven Hundred Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty One Dollars (\$710,731) for the FY 2022 CIP 213022 Workforce Development Grant.”

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Million Six Hundred Seventy Two Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Five Dollars and Forty Five Cents (\$1,672,765.45) for the FY 2022 CIP 811422 ARPA-Revenue Replacement (Budget).”

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

- 8.** Recommending the summary of abatement requests submitted by Fred McNeill, Chief Engineer be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 9.** Recommending that the draft policy for subordination of city liens submitted by Leon LaFreniere, Planning and Community Development Director, be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

- 10.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$710,731 for CIP 213022 Workforce Development Grant be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 11.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$10,000 for CIP 511322 Recreation Programming be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 12.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$214,598.22 to CIP 711022 CMOM Study, Design and Construction be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 13.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$6,750,000 to CIP 711122 CSO Cemetery Brook-Design be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 14.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$10,217.74 to CIP 711322 MS4 Study, Design and Construction be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 15.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$1,672,765.45 to CIP 811422 ARPA-Revenue Replacement (Budget) be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 16.** Recommending that the request from Fred McNeill, Chief Engineer, to close out two CIP Projects be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 17.** Recommending that the request from Andre Parent, Fire Chief, for the extension of various CIP Projects until 6/30/2022 be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 18.** Recommending that the communication from Jonathan Hopkins, Central Fleet Director, requesting authorization to accept bids and sign contracts to purchase up to 15 Ford Explorers for the Police Department before approval of the FY23 MER budget be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

19. Recommending that the request from the Public Works Director for a new job classification, Recreation Coordinator (Grade 16) be added to his complement, be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
20. Recommending that the request from the Public Works Director to reclassify the Recreation Maintenance Supervisor II position from a Grade 17 to a Grade 18, be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Sharonov who was opposed)
21. Recommending that the request from the Health Department Director to reorganize and reclassify numerous positions within the department, be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
22. Recommending that the request from the City Solicitor to reclassify two Legal Assistant I (Grade 12) positions to Legal Assistant II (Grade 14), be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
23. Recommending that the request from the Water Works Director to replace four vacant Public Service Worker II (Grade 13) positions with four Public Service Worker III (Grade 14) positions within his complement, be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

24. Recommending that the following traffic regulations be approved:
NO PARKING ANYTIME
On Brockton Street, south side, from a point 50 feet east of Bismark Street to Brock Street
Alderman Barry
On Victoria Street, north side, from W River Drive westerly to the dead end
Alderman Cavanaugh
RESCIND NO PARKING ANYTIME
On Brockton Street, south side, from Bismark Street to Brock Street (ORD 10769)
Alderman Barry
RESCIND HANDICAP PARKING ONLY
On Hanover Street, south side, from a point 80 feet east of Beech Street to a point 20 feet east
(ORD 3104)
Alderman Fajardo
(Unanimous vote)

25. Recommending that the request from Kerry Morelli for permission to use Arms Lot for DEKA's ARMI BioFabUSA Spring Meeting in the Millyard from June 6 to June 10, 2022 be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

*HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF **ALDERMAN LEVASSEUR**, DULY SECONDED BY **ALDERMAN STEWART**, THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS APPROVED.*

REGULAR BUSINESS

Matthew Normand, City Clerk, stated I have an announcement. The results of the election Ward 9 are there were 1,115 votes cast which is most likely a record for a special election in Manchester. James Burkush received 645 votes and Victoria Sullivan received 460 votes. Those aren't official.

26. Nomination(s) to be presented by Mayor Craig, if available.

There were none.

27. Updated Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Manchester and Bird Rides, Inc. to provide stand-up electric scooter sharing services through March 1, 2024.

*On motion of **Alderman Stewart**, duly seconded by **Alderman T. Sapienza**, it was voted to approve.*

28. Budget projections to be submitted by Sharon Wickens, Finance Officer, if available.

Sharon Wickens, Finance Officer, stated before you is the FY22 general fund and expenditure revenue forecast as of March 15, 2022 based on department head estimates. The current projected general fund operating surplus is flat or \$0. This amount is comprised of an expenditure surplus of \$279,000, a revenue deficit of \$3,135,000, the use of \$2,059,500 in ARPA revenue replacement funds and an anticipated draw on the health insurance reserve account in the amount of \$796,500. The revenue deficit is primarily due to interest income, parking revenue and motor vehicle registration. The only slight positive that we have is that motor vehicle

registrations for February did end on a positive note where it beat the FY21 February number by about 5%. It is small but it is better than we have seen so it gives me some encouragement that maybe going through the spring we might remain flat or get a little bit more. Any gain on any of these revenue sources will decrease the need for ARPA funds. The real elephant in the room is health insurance, which is trending significantly above the plan. In December, there were 11 members reaching the high claim category of over \$100,000 but less than \$250,000 stop loss. Typically, when two members reach the high claim category this would be considered an elevated month. High claim utilization continues through the month of January and preliminary February numbers are showing that it is still hot. It has been widely reported that Anthem has been having problems with a new claims management system. One of these problems was the inability of the city's health care consultant, USI, to access claim information on a timely basis. December detailed reporting from USI was not received and reviewed by the city until the first week in March. January reporting was received just last week. USI is also reporting a delay in claims processing by Anthem as December claim information received reflects claims going back to August and a few even back further than that. We are not sure if the delay in claims is because Anthem has this new system. Anthem is claiming it is the providers that are billing them late. We are still trying to get to the bottom of why this is happening. Both Anthem and USI are calling this high claim activity a Covid anomaly that is being experienced by most of their customers. Neither can recall ever seeing a spike of this magnitude. The health insurance reserve account has a balance of \$1,863,627. Any health insurance created deficit can be replenished by a draw on reserves. The surplus also includes \$340,000 from the contingency account. There were 30 retirements through March compared with 30 retirements at this same time last year. Severance paid through March 11 amounts to \$1,024,915 compared to \$1,387,404 a year ago. The severance reserve account has a balance of \$838,970 as of March 11. I would like to say that the claims that we are experiencing are off the charts. At first glance, you would think that they had to be wrong. Trying to dig through December was very difficult. Anthem's systems were down through the end of January and well into February and really have just come up so we could identify what some of the causes were. Health insurance is down \$1.9 million through January. To put that into a little bit of perspective for you, when I said that we have 11 high claimants and there are 11 members that have serious health conditions and normally

we might only see 2, those 11 claimants represent \$2.5 million in increased claims. We are down \$1.9 million. I am not saying that this is all that but this is definitely a driver. I think claims are either not being presented to Anthem timely or Anthem is backlogged. If we continue to see this spike, we will deplete the reserve unless something is done quickly. It is something that I didn't anticipate and our health consultant didn't anticipate and our HR Benefits Coordinator didn't anticipate. We were blindsided by this. We were only short going into December by about \$250,000. I could see that claims were going up and I figured it might be \$750,000 but pulling all of this information apart was frightening to say the least. It is very concerning and like I said February is trending up and we could easily be \$2.3 million short by the end of February. This just keeps ticking up here. I can't even predict what is going to happen. Does anyone have any questions or comments?

Mayor Craig stated if you want, we could have the health care consultant come to our next meeting and talk through the information they are seeing in the city as well as with other clients.

Alderman Levasseur asked is there a sense of urgency yet. The last time we met we talked about you having information for us as far as whether we should have a...

Ms. Wickens interjected I thought we would have better numbers before this meeting. I knew the numbers were trending up but I didn't think it was anything we might not be able to manage through. When I saw what this came to when we finally had all of the reports and all of the numbers through January, it is really high. I wish I had seen that.

Alderman Levasseur stated so there are about 110 days left before the end of the fiscal year. Do we need a promotion and hiring freeze? I recommended that a month ago. I don't think I have to make a motion to do that but I see a lot of promotions and they cost a lot of money. I don't know what you are projecting for possible revenue deficit by...well the Mayor is doing her budget proposal so I don't know if that is included in the numbers.

Ms. Wickens responded regarding the revenue losses we are experiencing, the ARPA funds have been making up for that so anything we save pretty much is just a reduction in what we use in ARPA funds. If there is a little bit of an increase, it definitely increases the ARPA funding. Health insurance doesn't have that luxury. We have a reserve fund which has \$1.8 million in it. I agree with you that we should use anything we have in our toolbox to try to mitigate some of this draw on the reserve.

Mayor Craig stated since I have been mayor, there has been a hiring freeze. The vote was taken on 8/2/2016 giving the mayor the authority to make the decision on whether or not the hires would be made in working with the department heads. I have communicated to many of the departments with requests that have come in lately that we are going to have to hold those.

Alderman Levasseur stated well I have seen a lot of promotions in a couple of departments and I know those cost a lot of money. I think that should have been instituted only because I see how fast time is moving on us and how we are not just going to make up this revenue. I know there is money in the rainy day fund but whether you feel like...well not you but whether the Board thinks it is time to take some out of there I don't know. That may be a decision that is made. I don't know what we have in our toolbox that we can institute that gets us a number or if there is a projection of what that number could be if we did use some of these things in our toolbox. I don't know if it is \$200,000 or \$300,000 or whatever but every dollar you can save is obviously a better way to go. I have never seen you nervous before and I have never seen you come out like this.

Ms. Wickens stated this was a complete shock to me. It was a complete shock to Human Resources. It was a complete shock to our health care consultant. We left rates flat based on the advice of our health care consultant. We don't have that same consultant now so now we have the two of them coming in and saying two different things. I think a lot of people are in this boat and you are right. I was shaken when I started seeing this. I don't want to admit it but I will. I heard your words and I remembered what you said at the last meeting and I haven't forgotten them nor will I.

Mayor Craig stated just to be clear, that is not a decrease in revenue. This is a direct result of the significant increase in health care costs. ARPA dollars are taking care of most of the revenues. It is this health care increase that we saw and will continue to watch, obviously very closely.

Alderman Levasseur stated like Alderman Barry said, this was to be expected because a lot of people put off a lot of things for two years during Covid and now people have to get things done. A lot of people are probably terrified that they haven't been able to see their doctors in two years and maybe they are finding things that they would have found earlier. These are definitely the pitfalls of what happened when people couldn't get a doctor's appointment. You still can't get appointments. It is amazing to me how far out the scheduling is. I have had to wait three months for something that is not important but it is important to me. They are just booked. I can understand that but again we are talking about an expense issue and we do have a reserve account for that.

Mayor Craig stated we have \$1.8 million in the health care reserve and we are using almost half of it right now. Obviously anything we can do we should do so we prevent dipping into those reserve accounts. This is the first time that I can recall, having been involved in the City of Manchester, where we are projecting no surplus. For those of you who have been on the Board, you know that the surplus we usually get we use for severance, the rainy day fund and to decrease the tax rate. We are not going to have that this year and that is another thing to keep in mind as we head into next year's budget. To your point, hiring is going to change a little bit. We are not going to be hiring as freely as we have in the past.

Alderman Trisciani stated it sounds, Sharon, like you have two consultants that you are dealing with that need to do a little bit of research or try to get their stories straight or is it just one consultant that we have.

Ms. Wickens responded we have one health care consultant but that company began on July 1 so when we set the rates for this year we had a different consultant. Now we have a new one and yes it is conflicting stories between what Anthem and the providers are saying. We are trying to get to the bottom of that because old claims are being

presented. Why? If they were presented in a timely fashion, we may have seen this issue a lot sooner.

Alderman Trisciani stated I would tend to agree with the Mayor's original proposal to get the consultant here at the next meeting. We can give them a few weeks to try to get some of that information sorted out and then present that to us so we can get the real picture. It sounds like yes this is absolutely a shock but it also sounds like there are a lot of questions that we need to sort out. I think we need to get our heads around that information before making any further decisions.

Mayor Craig stated it would also be helpful for projections going forward for this fiscal year and the next.

Ms. Wickens stated I think if we implemented a hiring freeze, as difficult as that is and I hear that, it is just until the end of the year so we are only talking three months. I wish it were longer but I am sure the other department heads do not. It really should be any unnecessary spending. Any surplus that we can generate...day-to-day operations absolutely have to happen but if I planned on going to a conference, I probably won't. I want to generate as much surplus out of Finance as I can to try to help and I would ask all of the departments to be conscious of that.

Alderman Fajardo stated that was going to be my question. What are some of the tools in our toolbox and what kind of creative thinking can we muster to maybe add some that we haven't previously accessed. It sounds like you are also thinking that way.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated it says right here that it has been widely reported that Anthem has been having problems with their new claims management system. The idea that the doctors and hospitals aren't sending out the bills seems kind of silly to me. Obviously they are sending them to Anthem and Anthem's computers aren't working right. It has been widely reported that they are having problems with their new claims management system so it is clearly a problem with Anthem.

Ms. Wickens stated right and a quick Google of this situation brought up several news reports. It is not just NH. This is nationwide where people are having issues and providers are saying they haven't been paid. Anthem is insisting that they are up-to-date and these are coming in late.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated of course they are. They are an insurance company.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked when we reference a hiring freeze, are we talking across-the-board. The reason I ask is I don't want to see a situation where we say with Police have a hiring freeze and have to make up for the lack of staffing by paying people time and a half.

Mayor Craig replied that is what happens with the promotions that Alderman Levasseur is talking about. Typically, first responders have fallen out of the hiring freeze. Again, I will be working with the department heads so if we end up paying more because we are not making that hire, that is where our discussions come in.

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

Mayor Craig called the meeting back to order.

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

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

"Amending the FY 2021 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and transferring funds in the amount of Ten Thousand Two Hundred Seventeen Dollars and 74/100 (\$10,217.74) for the FY 2022 CIP 711322 MS4 Study, Design, and Construction."

"Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and transferring funds in the amount of Six Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$6,750,000) for the FY2022 CIP 711122 CSO Cemetery Brook - Design."

"Amending the FY 2020, FY 2021 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and transferring funds in the amount of Two Hundred

Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Eight Dollars and 22/100 (\$214,598.22) for the FY 2022 CIP 711022 CMOM Study, Design, and Construction.”

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the FY 2022 CIP 511322 Recreation Programming.”

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Seven Hundred Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty One Dollars (\$710,731) for the FY 2022 CIP 213022 Workforce Development Grant.”

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Million Six Hundred Seventy Two Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Five Dollars and Forty Five Cents (\$1,672,765.45) for the FY 2022 CIP 811422 ARPA-Revenue Replacement (Budget).

ought to pass and be enrolled.

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

- 32.** Report(s) of the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment & Revenue Administration, if available.

The Committee on Accounts, Enrollment & Revenue Administration respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the Purchase & Sales agreement for four parcels located on Cleveland and Blaine Streets be approved with a closing date no later than April 5, 2022.

The Committee further recommends that the Assessor abate \$169,049.27 owed in back tax interest and that clean-up of the property begin immediately.

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

- 33.** Report(s) of the Committee on Lands & Buildings, if available.

The Committee on Lands & Buildings respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from Mayor Craig to name the Brown & Mitchell Park after Alderman Barbara Shaw be approved.

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

34. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY 2021 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and transferring funds in the amount of Ten Thousand Two Hundred Seventeen Dollars and 74/100 (\$10,217.74) for the FY 2022 CIP 711322 MS4 Study, Design, and Construction.”

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

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

35. Ordinances:

"Amending Section 33.026 (Legal Assistant II) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Section 33.026 (Public Service Worker III) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Section 33.025 & 33.026 (Recreation Maintenance Supervisor II) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Sections 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Recreation Coordinator, Seasonal/Temp) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Sections 33.025 & 33.026 (Environmental Health Specialist I) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Sections 33.025 & 33.026 (Environmental Health Specialist II) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Sections 33.025 & 33.026 (Environmental Health Supervisor) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Sections 33.025 & 33.026 (Public Health Specialist I) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Sections 33.025 & 33.026 (Public Health Specialist II) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Sections 33.025 & 33.026 (Public Health Specialist III) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Sections 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Health Financial Administrator) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

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

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman T. Sapienza**, it was voted to Ordain.*

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Long stated I would like to see some sort of report on ARPA funding. Could CIP staff give us a report? I don't need it next month but whenever they can get the information to us. Leon, do you think you will be able to do that? I just want to be assured that we are spending what we anticipated spending and see what is not being spent because we are going to need to reallocate that if need be. That is what I am looking for.

Alderman Long moved to have CIP provide a report regarding ARPA funding to the full Board. ***Alderman Barry*** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked that report should show what has been allocated and what has been reduced because I know when we take money out for revenue replacement it has to come from an account we already allocated.

Mayor Craig stated right. For this year for example, some of the programs weren't implemented so those funds have gone into revenue replacement.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated that should be shown on the report.

Mayor Craig stated it will be actuals to date and projections going forward.

Mayor Craig called for a vote. *There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

Alderman Levasseur stated I have a question on the school budget. I tried to watch the school board meeting but it went quickly last night. I saw two votes. One for paraprofessionals and one for teachers but I didn't know what the vote was concerning them. Were there contracts voted on last night?

Mayor Craig answered for the paraprofessionals they did a retention and recruitment bonus with ESSR funds. What were the other ones? I know there were a few.

Alderman Levasseur responded I thought it was teachers. Something went by really quick and I couldn't imagine it was authorizing those. On their budget, did they already do their presentation? I know there was a public hearing.

Mayor Craig stated they presented the budget to the school board. I can have them send it to the aldermen and I am sure that they will be coming here to make a presentation.

Alderman Levasseur asked and what was their request.

Mayor Craig answered the tax cap.

Alderman Levasseur asked so \$4 million.

Mayor Craig replied well after the tax cap it is \$3 million and change and they received I think another \$1.9 million from the state so their total ask is about \$5 million.

Alderman Levasseur asked and that stays at the tax cap number of 3.57%.

Mayor Craig responded yes.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I want to speak to the Hallsville School project. I think we absolutely need to start getting input from the neighbors. It needs to be a widely publicized meeting and it needs to be held at Hallsville and not on Hanover Street. I am a pretty close neighbor to Hallsville; 1,000 feet down the street. The same thing with Southern NH Service's project at the OLPH site. In the end, the OLPH property turned out to be a really nice project but without input from the neighbors it wouldn't have been a nice project. It would have been a monster. What is there today is not recognizable compared to what Southern NH Services originally proposed. After hearing from the neighbors tonight, I think this is way too premature although I do support the concept. We need to listen to the neighbors because it was the neighbors who fixed the project at OLPH. Southern NH Services ended up doing a good job but they were dragged there. They didn't do it willingly. I remember it well.

Mayor Craig stated the meetings that happened on Hanover Street were regarding the zoning code and getting community input on that. That was different than meeting with neighbors regarding Hallsville. I agree with you that we need to bring the neighbors in. The city received a proposal and from a process perspective we brought it forward to the Board but it was tabled and it was clear and it has been the intent to involve the neighbors in this decision so that will happen.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated we need to involve them in the beginning not when it gets to the Planning Board.

Alderman Heath stated I have already spoken with Kevin Sheppard and we will set-up a meeting as soon as possible and we will make sure that we get the information out. I will work with Alderman Long and Southern NH Services. Basically we should just ask the neighbors what they are thinking.

Alderman Trisciani stated one of the things we did talk about in the meeting was potentially other people coming forward with ideas. Is that on the table or off the table? What is the process or how would someone go about that if they were interested in proposing something else and purchasing the property?

Mayor Craig stated it is up to this Board. We got the information from the Assessor's Office and the Planning Department and the normal course of action is this Board can decide to put the property out to bid and anybody can bid on it. I would suggest if we are going to do something like that that we are specific on what the uses are. We need to meet with the neighbors first to get an idea and a sense on what the neighbors are interested in. Personally I think we do have a pretty good sense as to what services are needed in the city where that building is located. One of the things that has been very important is preserving the building and making sure that it builds up the neighborhood and doesn't distract from it.

Alderman Trisciani stated I agree 1,000% with everything you said. My concern is if we are having a neighborhood meeting with Southern NH Services we are pretty much

saying this is a done deal and what do you all think about it. I think we have to decide if it is a neighborhood meeting to talk to the neighbors and charrette something and get their feeling about it or is it...

Mayor Craig interjected it is a neighborhood meeting hosted by the City of Manchester. Southern NH Services can go and address any questions if any come up from the neighbors but this is a neighborhood meeting hosted by the City of Manchester to get feedback from the residents.

Alderman Long stated with respect to other proposals, if somebody wants to submit a proposal they can because this is not a done deal. It has been tabled. We are open to any proposals.

Alderman Trisciani responded thank you for that. It was just more of a point of clarification on what do we do now.

Alderman Levasseur stated to the Chairman's point, if he thinks there should be some more proposals it should go to an RFP and then we can see if there are any and it would make our decision much easier. You don't want to leave anything on the table. I think it was brought up by our Assessor's Office in the letter he wrote that is in the agenda packet. I guess we would have had to make a motion to deem it surplus and then...

Mayor Craig interjected no matter what we need to do that.

Alderman Levasseur stated I just think that because of the housing shortage we are in the cost of materials is ridiculous and somebody may see this as an opportunity because it is a good shell and has good parking and is in a good area. I think there is a building down further on Wilson Street that somebody took over that was a former school and they turned it into something just beautiful. I have seen what they did with the Straw Street School and they put in elderly housing on the Brown Street School site. I just think there are some opportunities...it would make it easier to vote for this if we knew there was nothing else out there. I think it should go to an RFP and then let's see

if anybody is interested in coming in. One of the big developers could say this may be a project where there is money on the state level and they can bring in some housing. It is a good area for it. I don't know if you need a motion but I would move that we put it out for an RFP.

Mayor Craig stated it is tabled in committee.

Alderman Heath stated I think it is important that we hear from the neighbors before we do anything else. I think a lot of us got the information and the proposal sounds great actually but I think we need to hear from the residents at Hallsville School. Actually, I remember clearly that we said we would have a meeting and I would like to keep my commitment to the neighbors. I think it is important to do that and we will get that set up. I think that is important before we start talking about RFP's or doing something on a greater scale.

Mayor Craig stated right and we want to be specific in the RFP on what we are looking for. The one thing I want to make sure this Board keeps in mind is this is a city-owned property so we have the authority to say whether it is affordable or workforce housing or whatever when a lot of times with the developments that are happening in the city it is private property and the city has no say. I really want to make sure that if we are talking housing we are thinking affordable.

Alderman Long stated I want to clarify that if we are looking to sell the building then that would have to be established before we go out for an RFP because nobody is going to put in a proposal not knowing because that is a lot of investment. With respect to the lease, all we would have to do is deem it a public benefit. We would still own the building. If we are looking to sell it, we would deem it surplus but if we are looking to lease it, it would be deemed a public benefit. Even in the sale I think deeming it a public benefit would suffice.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated just for clarification, the RFP would be specific and narrowly focused. Is that what we are saying?

Mayor Craig answered it can be and I think it should be. If we get feedback from the neighborhood and they say it is a perfect place for senior affordable housing, which we know is needed in the city, then I would suggest we put that in the RFP so somebody doesn't respond to it who wants to make high end expensive apartments.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked so rather than just say throwing it open to whatever. Perhaps somebody could respond with something we haven't even thought of.

Mayor Craig replied number one, we talk to the neighbors and then we can decide.

Alderman Long asked with respect to the neighborhood meeting. Who is going to set that up? Is Alderman Heath going to set that up? I am trying to figure out who is going to do that.

Mayor Craig stated our office can help but it is Alderman Heath's ward.

Alderman Heath stated I would be happy to work with you, Alderman Long, and the Mayor's Office to get this set-up. Kevin Sheppard has already told me that I just need to give him a date and we can make the arrangements to hold it at the school.

Mayor Craig stated I am giving my state of the city next Wednesday, March 23 at 4 PM at the Institute of Politics. It will be streaming live on Channel 22. The St. Patrick's Day Parade is Sunday, March 27 at noon along Elm Street. I will be giving my budget address on Tuesday, March 29 at 5:30 PM here in the Chambers and again it will be streaming live on Channel 22. Just as a reminder, throughout the month of March residents should be parking on the odd side of the street.

Alderman Long stated I want to thank my beloved wife, Karen, for making these pins for those marching in the parade. I showed it to the Mayor and she commented that I should talk to my wife because we already have shenanigans going on so we don't have to start that now.

Mayor Craig stated yes thank you Karen.

*On motion of **Alderman Trisciani**, duly seconded by **Alderman T. Sapienza**, it was voted to recess the meeting pursuant to RSA 91-A:2, I(a) for strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining.*

Mayor Craig called the meeting back to order.

***Alderman E. Sapienza** moved to enter non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3(II)(e): Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened or claimed against the public body or any subdivision thereof. **Alderman Long** duly seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.*

Mayor Craig called the meeting back to order.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Fajardo**, 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