

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

February 1, 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 Long.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Cavanaugh, Stewart, Long, T. Sapienza, Sharonov, Trisciani, Levasseur, Heath, E. Sapienza, Barry, Gamache

Absent: Aldermen Fajardo and George-Kelly

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Craig advised that the 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.

Jessica Margeson, 474 Cartier Street, stated:

I am not here to speak about affordable housing again but a few different topics. 79-E is a recent one in debate right now over 21 Auburn Street and 24 Depot Street. While 21 Auburn Street meets the classification for revitalization, 24 Depot Street does not. While our city has such a lack of affordable housing right now, especially at 30% and 50%, we need to create some type of incentives. We don't have anything in place right now but it is something we need to work towards because we are going to lose a lot of our workforce housing at the moment. All of the properties that have put in apartments in the past couple of years have all been advertised at market rate and are quite expensive. While we have a lot in the pipeline to come, we don't have anything right

now and we don't have a lot of hope for a lot more to come because while 450 is a large number, I estimate that just with the people I deal with, the number is three times that amount that we need. I ask that you give careful consideration when they come to speak to you about the 79-E application.

Sarah Jane Knoy, 65 Victoria Street, stated:

I am the Director of the Granite State Organizing Project and I am here tonight to thank you, Mayor Craig, for creating the Manchester Housing Commission which I believe you made nominations to a few weeks ago that will come before the Board tonight for confirmation. I think this Housing Commission is a very important step for this city. I am very proud that the city is moving ahead with this and I just wanted to say that Jessica Margeson who just spoke has been known to me since 2008 and she has been an active advocate for all types of affordable housing and an active tenant advocate. She knows housing issues inside and out. I hope that you will confirm her nomination this evening and I would also like to ask that as we look at the development of the property near Market Basket that affordable housing be included. I think that every new development or redevelopment in Manchester should include at least 10-20% of the units affordable to people who are keeping our city running by working in our assistive living facilities, our grocery stores and our coffee shops. Thank you very much for listening to my comments.

Brittany LeClear-Ping, 408 Rimmon Street, stated:

I am a 10-year resident of our wonderful city and I am here to give you an account as a concerned citizen and real estate professional in our city. I am also a small business owner and one of the founders of a non-profit that prides itself on cleaning our community. Generally, I focus on positive changes that I can make to improve the circumstances I am seeing instead of complaining but honestly I feel like it is time to start complaining. As I was preparing this speech, I got a call that one of our work vehicles parked in its normal space rented at St. Marie's Church and Preschool off of Amory Street has been shot by a pellet gun and two windows had been busted out. These types of random crimes are only becoming more frequent in our city. I have kept quiet and cleaned up glass stemmed pipes or needles or beer cans or nips from my yard, the yards of the properties I manage, the sidewalks, the alleys and the streets

where I hang out with my children and I walk my animals and I spend time with my friends. I have watched panhandlers stand outside in the middle of the street when their normal spots are flooded with water or piled high with snow. I have watched the same man panhandle by holding a shivering puppy a block away from Central High on Friday Afternoons when school lets out. I have called the city about removing new graffiti from Dow Street and from Wayne Street and from Laurel Street and I wait six or eight weeks or I am still waiting months to get it done. I am here begging for anyone who is listening to me to stop watching and start reporting. Something changed and my world view snapped when I called the Manchester Police line on the way to pick up my children from school last week because my usual Amoskeag Bridge panhandler had collapsed in his chair and was not responsive. I still don't know if that man is okay. I am tired of watching and waiting for a solution when it comes to our city leaders that are blind to the impacts to me and the rest of our citizens. I remember that I can't fix something as a property manager if my tenants don't tell me what is going on. So if I am seeing these things and I am not saying something and not demanding something how can I expect you to do something about it? I am certain you don't drive this city like I do every day. I am certain you may live in a cute, off-the-path residential area and not in the zone or in the heights or near the Cracker Barrel encampment and you don't experience this as your everyday life. My apologies if I am wrong about that but if I am wrong why haven't you said something? I have many anecdotes but I recently made a bit of a stink with the members of this Board with regards to a vacant commercial space at 201 Merrimack Street and the homeless encampment that has developed at that property. I gained an interest and retain an interest as I manage the building next door. I want to thank both aldermen at-large for working with me on this but our work isn't done. I am not here to say yeah we did it. The Homeless Director went out and they aren't gone. I called at 12:30 PM today and at 3:30 PM today and I drove by again and they are still there with a No Trespass order. When the police come to enforce this No Trespass order, the campers simply move for a short period of time to a café where they can't lay down or to the porch next door where they hope they don't get called to be shooed away again. This city is beautiful and it is vibrant and it is full of promise but it is time to stop pretending like we don't have increased crime and homelessness and drug use. It is past time for people like me to start reporting it so this Board can have a clear view of what is actually happening. Thank you very much.

Victoria Sullivan, 1056 S. Beech Street, stated:

I live near the Cracker Barrel encampment. Just six days after being released on PR bail, Amori Diol was arrested for allegedly raping a woman for two hours in the Valley Street Cemetery. Diol has a criminal record dating back to 2011. Enrique Castro hit a child in the back of the head and threatened to hit another with a hammer. Despite having numerous interactions with the Manchester Police Department, Castro was released on PR bail. Joseph Flynn, a registered sex offender, was arrested for possession of crack cocaine. Flynn had a history of failing to register as required by law but nonetheless was released on PR bail. In 2018, then state Senator Dan Feltes was the prime sponsor of Senate Bill 556 which changed our bail reform laws to allow any person claiming they were indigent to be released on their own personal recognizance. This created a system whereby people were released with no known address, no financial reason to appear in court, and no responsibility for their alleged crime and actions. This has created a catch and release program which has resulted in repeat offenders going on to commit violent acts. No person should be held simply because they are too impoverished to pay their bail. All people are innocent until proven guilty. However, there has been a clear pattern of systemic abuse of this bail reform bill which is endangering our citizenry. This has been a frustration for police departments across the state who work to get dangerous people off the streets only to see them released within hours. On Friday, the House Criminal Justice Committee will be hearing House Bill 1476. The Honorable Barbara Shaw was a co-sponsor of this bill. This bill provides that a person who commits an offense while on bail shall be detained without bail pending a hearing before a judge. I ask that this Board send a letter in support of HB1476 stating the detrimental impact that this well-intentioned but poorly executed bail reform bill has had on our community. Senator Jeb Bradley also has sponsored a Senate Bill 294 to address additional parts of the bail reform. In the public hearing on this bill, the Nashua Chief of Police shared a case regarding a domestic assault that resulted in the arrest of a person who had brought a weapon to the house, forced his way in and assaulted a woman. The officers involved expressed three different times to the bail commissioners the subject's violent history and that the lethality assessment was the highest possible. The bail commissioners still released the subject on \$200 bail. The subject then proceeded to go back to the victim's house, force his way in, beat

and rape the victim for the rest of the night. This bill also addressed people who habitually fail to appear for their court dates. This is a pressing matter for our community. It has been brought up every election cycle for the past four years and yet I have not heard this Board discuss it at all. I ask that this pressing matter is met with urgency from this Board and that you send letters supporting both bills that I just stated. Thank you.

Dam Wright, Maple Street, stated:

Tonight I am going to be brief and I am going to be nice. I am speaking on behalf of the Katie Mitchell Memorial Foundation specifically. Some of our members have been here recently. Some of them have spoken and some have been not so nice. We understand that. We are choosing to take a position of cooperation and positivity with the city and this Board and the Homelessness Initiatives Coordinator in the hopes that this will help bring us closer to getting what is needed by the local homeless community. The main reason that I came up tonight was to make sure that anyone else who does come up and speak with negativity or in any other fashion is recognized as not being a member of our group and not speaking on our behalf. Please bear that in mind. Going forward we are going to try to work together and get this done.

Carol Sternberg stated:

I just very briefly want to nominate Jessica Margeson to your Housing Commission. As a member of GSOP, I have seen how familiar she is with housing issues here in Manchester and how hard she works to help the residents of our city. I think she would be a really wonderful addition. Thank you.

Brandon Lemay, 36 Lynx Way, stated:

I am here to speak in support of Jessica Margeson's nomination to the Housing Commission. I think it was a really good appointment and I think it is really important because we need to have tenants who have had real experiences with housing and stability on that commission. We need people who have understood what it is like to get an eviction notice during Covid through no fault of their own. We need people on this commission who know what it is like to think about how you are going to house your children as a single mother when vacancy rates are so low. I just really want to praise

this nomination. Jessica is going to be a wonderful addition. Thank you for the nomination.

Stan Garrity, 166 Parker Street, stated:

Last September I came before the Board with the idea of putting some historic markers around town of our Black history. I am here today to say that will be a reality.

Tomorrow at noon time I will be placing the first sign in front of The Bookery about the Underground Railroad. We are moving forward.

Anthony Harris, 136 Bridge Street, stated:

I have been coming to the aldermanic meetings for the past couple of months and I have heard Mayor Craig and the aldermen and Schonna Green, the Homelessness Initiatives Director, getting slandered. I just wanted to say today that I have been working closely with Schonna Green and I have been watching what she has been doing. This homelessness group that was coming in during the last few months slandering her, she has been working with them. They actually came together and I feel like they are working towards solutions. I don't see anyone here today giving her praise for that so I am going to do it. I think Schonna Green is doing an amazing job. I think she is doing a phenomenal job and I am looking forward to continuing to work with her and affecting the change that is actually needed for our city. Thank you for listening to me tonight.

Alderman Long moved to take all comments under advisement and to receive and file any written documentation. ***Alderman Cavanaugh*** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Craig stated just as a reminder, since we have a few aldermen who are remote, we have to take roll calls for every vote.

PRESENTATIONS

2. COVID-19 Public Health Update from Anna Thomas, Public Health Director.

Mayor Craig stated we have the pleasure of having Phil Alexakos with us this evening to give the presentation.

Phil Alexakos, Chief Operations Officer, stated Director Thomas was unable to make it tonight so I will be providing the Covid-19 update. When looking at both the risk of Covid transmission and its impacts on our health care and service delivery systems, we look at several different factors. I want to use a similar framework that Anna uses in giving you some data points to be able to track where we are in this pandemic. Our current new case rate over the past 14 days is 1,986.9 per 100,000. As a reminder, we want that number to be below 100 per 100,000 to be considered less than substantial community transmission. Our current test positivity rate for the last seven days is 15.7% and we want that to be below 5%. As mentioned during the Governor's press conference last week, the data is significantly under reported because the state is one to two weeks behind in processing new cases due to the recent surge. Additionally, with the increased number of at home test kits and the underreporting of those results, these numbers are helpful but they should not be used in a vacuum. As of yesterday, 53 in-patient beds were occupied with Covid positive individuals at our two hospitals. Of those whose vaccination status is known, 66% of those are either unvaccinated or not up-to-date meaning they haven't had a booster. This has been a relatively consistent proportion through the last several months. Approximately 90% of all ICU beds are occupied and that doesn't take into account staffing shortages and other factors. While we are encouraged to see a gradual decline in hospitalization numbers since our last report, the rate of new cases continues to be 20 times what is considered substantial. Additionally, we are consistently tracking cases in our city workforce and in order to best assure that we will not experience any interruptions in services that our citizens expect, we should do everything that we can to promote all of the mitigation tools that we have at our disposal. Therefore, we support the mask rule that was approved by the Board on 12/21 for city buildings and ask that it stay in place to protect city employees and visitors to our buildings and to promote efforts that help reduce the risk of transmission. We will gladly provide updated data on all of the above metrics to help guide your decision-making at the next BMA meeting on 2/15 and beyond. On a more positive note, we are happy to announce that ConvenientMD, in partnership with NHDHHS, has opened a free seven days a week walk-in Covid vaccine clinic at 840 Hooksett Road in

the Northside Plaza area. This site is open daily from 8 AM until 2 PM. In addition, the Health Department is offering Covid vaccines at all of our regular immunization clinics on Tuesdays from 9 AM until 11:30 AM and Thursdays from 3 PM until 6 PM to give folks who may not be able to make it during the times at the state fixed site.

Additionally, free Covid-19 PCR testing continues at Hunt Memorial Pool at 297 Maple Street seven days a week with no appointment needed. That is going on from 9 AM until 3 PM. As of last week, results were being provided within 1-2 days. One other program that I want to make sure folks are aware of is free rapid Antigen tests are available at covidtest.gov. You can get four per home. I just received mine on Friday so they are being sent out as was promised. Lastly, I wanted to take just a few minutes to talk about some pretty astounding pieces of data which really don't do justice to convey just how hard your local Health Department has worked over the past almost two years now. The City of Manchester has responded in unprecedented ways to the impacts created by Covid-19 and in that we have had to adjust the work that we typically do to an all hands on deck approach. The flexibility and competency of our staff have allowed us to provide the following services from March 2020 to present seven days a week, 365 days a year. We ran a mobile testing site which was the first community in the state to independently do so and completed several thousand Covid tests notifying people of their results, conducting contract tracing for positive cases for Manchester residents and our partners at Manchester Fire were also very helpful in that endeavor. We stood up an alternative care site at the Southern NH University campus. We were the first in the state to establish that as part of hospital surge preparedness. We had 350 beds available if needed. We have investigated nearly 30,000 cases, followed-up on close contacts, identified clusters and outbreaks and we are only one of two communities in the state to independently do so. We supported the Manchester school district in their Covid-19 planning and response, including vaccinations for staff, students and families. We answered over 11,000 requests for information, testing, family supports and complaints relative to Covid-19. Finally, we provided or assisted with the provision of 25,000 Covid vaccinations at over 250 clinics serving our first responders, health professionals, school personnel, critical infrastructure and many of our most vulnerable citizens partnering with community advocacy groups, those who serve those communities, providing vaccinations in a manner to reduce barriers to access. I am very proud to be part of such a dedicated team of professionals whose

sole mission is to improve the health and lives of Manchester residents, businesses and visitors.

Mayor Craig stated thank you very much for all that you and the Health Department are doing. It is greatly appreciated.

3. Winter Shelter Update from Schonna Green, Director of Homelessness Initiatives and representatives from 1269 Cafe.

Schonna Green, Director of Homelessness Initiatives, stated before we get started, I just wanted to give you a quick synopsis of where we are as a department in dealing with the homeless issues here in this city. I put together a synopsis from my point of entry. From April until present, we had a total of 88 encampments in the city. Closed to date are 52, currently open is 36, privately owned is 50, state-owned is about 2 and city-owned is 36. From April until January 2022 a total of 27 closures. It is what it is and we are going to work through it. Manchester Mental Health reports, and this is really important, that as of January they housed a total of 34. From September through January, Gate House housed in respite care 32. I think this is where we need to focus as it relates to helping the chronic homeless population. Affordable housing and capacity building...we have a development that is going to be coming through which will hopefully create 140-150 units. We have another development that is already on its way. It is a for profit developer creating five units of affordable housing, which is Craig St. Pierre. We have 168 Merrimack Street which is 17 units of SRO's purchased and currently being updated. We have a new project coming on Willow Street, hopefully a townhome project. Those are all for profits. We have a new housing program that is coming on that is a non-profit. All of these entities have received training from NH Housing Finance and they are applying for funding whether it is state tax credit programs and/or small grants to help us to house the people that are most in need here. Under the HOPE Program, the distribution center located at 587 Maple Street to support all homeless and housing endeavors, is currently putting together a receivership account to start raising funds early for the winter sheltering program and warming station so that by next year it will be an erector set. We should not be running around trying to figure out who is going to do what and who is on first base and all of that. Every single year it gets cold. My goal is to start raising awareness and raising the

funds so that we have enough subsidy when the time comes. That is something we are working on to support a lot of organizations here that are providing services for the homeless with support dollars. Sometimes they can go out and get funding to build these facilities but they also need money to operate the facilities as it relates to staff. I think this is an opportunity to get the city to get around HOPE so that we can start to concentrate our efforts on all of the non-profits and for profits that are providing these services. Bear with me. Regarding mental health, we brought Gate House in in September and they really did a great job. As of right now, the Gate House mental health service providers are being invited to the table to help with the mental health outreach initiative that goes on here. Also, Gate House has hired another staff person and dedicated that person to the City of Manchester. That person will be working with the Health Department on outreach services. They also are working with 1269 Café and plan on sending somebody there one to two days a week to help out with that. I think that is a great start. Also, under Manchester Mental Healthy, they are looking to restructure their current outreach efforts. They are looking to perhaps make some changes so I am meeting with Peter Janelle once a week and we are looking at a way to get the churches involved. The churches here are housing some of the homeless and they are not being accounted for. We put together a tool and Brandon Lemay who works in IT will be able to use this tool with all of our churches and it will report directly to Manchester Mental Health so when FIT and HMIS are putting their numbers together we are not running into the HIPAA compliance and it is going to give us a better idea of what we are really looking at as far as duplication and who is really being counted. That is something that we are working on and I think that is another critical piece in trying to create a better service delivery system. The last thing that I have before we go into the great work that these women next to me are doing, is under the Manchester Continuum of Care, they just started the process of the annual count which is a requirement by HUD. All Continuum Care agencies throughout the U.S. have to provide in the last week of January a count of their homeless. That is what just took place last week on the streets of Manchester and it is called the Point in Time Count. Between FIT and a few of the other organizations, we counted the homeless on the streets between 2 AM and 6 AM in the freezing cold. As of today, the numbers came in at about 60. We counted about 60 persons and that was with both facilities at total capacity for that evening anyway. That is basically it. I want to give a special thanks to Alderman Long

for coming in and meeting with the advocacy group that has been coming to all of the meetings. We are trying to find a better way. There is a lot of work that needs to be done and there is a space at the table for everybody to help. We are trying to put them together with Gate House to create an additional hot team out there on the streets to help bring the people in for services. With that, to the right of me is Mary from 1269 Café who is providing the warming station. The capacity is 50 but with the Fire Department right next door we do have the ability, under public assembly and only if we have operational dollars and additional security, to increase capacity if need be. To my left is Maria Devlin from FIT with the homeless shelter program. They are going to explain to you what they do. Thank you.

Maria Devlin, FIT, stated many of you have actually been to our adult shelter in the past year or two and have done a tour with us. We are able to provide 138 beds for men and women at our overnight shelter on a nightly basis. Last year though we actually touched more than 800 people. So 800 people actually came through the doors of our adult shelter in one way, shape or form and worked with us to find a permanent living situation. They came from the area jails or the hospitals and were with us for a little while and then moved on. Although we have 138 beds that are utilized on a nightly basis, last year we touched over 800 individuals who in one way, shape or form struggled at one point in time with homelessness. As Schonna said, we are really focusing on the more chronically homeless. That is the group of people who we see for example at our shelter on more of a nightly basis. There needs to be opportunities for them. One of the projects that FIT is working on is an 11 unit building on Union Street. We were hoping that it was going to get done by the end of March which would coincide with the closure of the warming center but it is probably going to be delayed just like everything else right now until the end of April. We are definitely looking at housing individuals in that building when it is ready. Those will be more specifically for people moving out of our shelter and there will be supportive services. We also served 73 families last year at our family shelter. I think that is important. We often forget about our families. We talk a lot about the people we see in the street but we worked with 73 families last year in conjunction with the city Welfare Office at our family shelter on Lake Avenue. We are clearly working in conjunction with 1269 Café and Hope for Recovery

on the warming center because when we are full there is a place for people to go in the winter who have no other place. Mary, I will now turn it over to you.

Mary Chevalier, 1269 Café, stated I am a founder and on the Board of Directors and I just want to clarify that I am not a paid position but a volunteer so it is harder to fire me. Craig and I are sometimes referred to as the owners or things like that. We don't own it. 1269 Café is the entity that owns the building. We did partner with Hope for NH Recovery in November to brainstorm a plan also working with the city, the Fire Department, and Manchester Mental Health and FIT to have a safe place for people to be this winter. We realized that FIT, even if it wasn't at capacity, not everyone fits into that box so we wanted to give people a little more flexibility in a very dangerous time of the year. Our capacity is 50 people. During the super cold we did flex some and luckily at the time we had a classroom on the first floor so we could add a little extra capacity then. That has changed a little bit but 50 is comfortable and it is safe and it is pretty much the number that we hit. If you are a numbers person, 3,722 repeats have walked through our doors between 8 PM and 7 AM since December 1. We hit a low of 41 and a high of 81 and those were both in the first week and I think it was novelty and it was nicer weather. 55-75 come through the doors and on average about 42 people spend the whole 11 hours with us. The purpose of a warming station we always said was fatality prevention and harm reduction from the cold. That was our intention. It was to keep people safe from the cold but if you are a person who is vulnerable to that cold, you are vulnerable to so many other things. It pains me to say it but the amount of Narcan we have used and truly the lives that have been saved in that space...it breaks my heart but it happened and I am so grateful that there was a safe place and that these people could be given another chance. We partner with Hope for NH and we have 1269 and we have some guys and girls from sober houses who are part of our staff. 1269 is a predominantly volunteer-based organization. We have one full-time person that we just funded through the Allen Peterson Memorial Golf Fund for the first time last year and had Brynn our site manager. We also have two part-time positions that just recently got hired. Everybody else is a volunteer except the seasonal overnight positions. Originally it was 11 PM until 7 AM when we were going to partner with Hope and then we said shelters close at 6 PM or 7 PM so we open at 8 PM. We open to new guests on the hour. Come on through. If you are fidgety and you don't really want to

come in until 11 PM, come in then. I will give you an example of one of our crazy nights. Two weeks ago, on January 18, I believe it was a super cold night. Fifty-four people came through our doors at 8 PM. Brynn and I were running that check-in shift. We had an extra classroom upstairs on the first floor that wasn't being used and we threw six people that we very much trusted, and it is a very sad thing when you look at fifty-four people who are in your space and you are lucky if you can find six and that was at the 8 PM, 9 PM and 10 PM entry when we selected a few and sent them upstairs so we didn't have to send people away. It is a hard thing to do. I will also say that we have a No Thank You list. We say all are welcome but all behaviors are not. It is the safety of the flock that we really have to protect. You might hear things and probably a lot of the things you hear are true in some shape or form because we have never done this before. We have been around for 12 years and started at 1269 Elm Street and we are just trying to be the hands and feet of Jesus without beating everybody over the head with Jesus. Really we are just trying to love people and meet their practical needs with the food pantry and showers and all of those things we do during the week. We added this on and I will tell you that it is kind of backbreaking. If you ever want to come and see what is going on, call me whether you want to come during opening ceremonies or you want to come during lunch. We are serving 100 or so people that walk through our doors just for coffee in the morning and lunch and showers and the food pantry three times a week. At night we are opening our doors to another 70 or 80 people. On our second floor we were emergency sheltering some guys. We started with 7 in December and I think we are up to 11. There have probably been 8 or so that floated in and out for various reasons. There is a lot of stuff going on there but being a safe environment for people and being good neighbors...I always say it is like the 12 Commandments; be a good neighbor, don't litter, you know act like you love this place and it is important to you and you want it to be here but there are always a few and it is just hard and that is why they are there with us that night. I probably said too much or not enough but that is kind of what is going on at the warming station. Like I said, if you want to come by we would love to have you. If you would like to volunteer sometime in the morning, we try to open by 9 AM or 9:30 AM. I will say this, my residents that are upstairs, those guys are awesome. Some get up and go to work in the morning and a bunch of them go to work at odd hours and they come downstairs and do their chores and help us open up in the morning. We clear everybody out at 7 AM. That is true. It is a hard thing to do

when I have to say at 7 AM sorry you have to go and you can come back as soon as we flip it and clean it and let my guys come downstairs and have breakfast and have a few minutes. It is 24/7 basically but for our homeless people some days it is 17 out of 24 hours in a day that we are open and it is mostly volunteer. We are pivoting as much as we can to keep everybody safe but it doesn't keep everybody happy. I will say as far as Maria making plans for when spring comes, April 1 we are all done. On March 31 the warming station is done if we all survive it. We will say that we plan to do this next year if Schonna can raise some funding through HOPE so we don't have to scramble. We put this together. We are not ask for money kind of people and never have been. We are privately funded and always have been. We have received a few grants through ESG for showers and things that we have added but we do our own thing. We went out and raised money. We figured \$65,000 probably but it is really like \$125,000 that it is going to cost to just man this, not including all the water and other stuff. We are really grateful to those of you who put a good word in for us with various foundations and individuals. It looks like we are within the range of meeting what we think the total cost is going to be. We are really grateful and we would love to do this again next year and if we can start planning for it after we all debrief for a little while, I think it is a great model of something that gives the non-traditional an opportunity to have a safe place to be.

Mayor Craig stated thank you for that overview and I just want to thank all three of you for all of the work that you have done this winter and beyond. It is great to see this collaboration that is before us today. I want you to know that we really appreciate it.

Alderman Levasseur stated Mary you said there was a big use of Narcan at 1269. Is there Narcan being used in your building?

Ms. Chevalier replied yes.

Alderman Levasseur asked so people are allowed to shoot up.

Ms. Chevalier responded hell no. You have no idea what we have done to pivot to avoid having people overdose but where there is a will there is a way. Do you want to know what I have done and I am sure people will tell you how peeved they are? I was

gone on vacation. Craig and I took a vacation for the first time ever that was a long period of time and came back. It had become almost a regular occurrence. So it is like when the parents are gone the kids wear down the babysitter. It became too frequent so on the way driving back from Florida we made all new rules. Only one bathroom open at night and sign-up with the bathroom attendant. I had to hire a new bathroom attendant for a six hour shift every night so that they can take your name and you can go in one at a time. The attendant goes in and opens the stall and after you leave they look and make sure...we have a blue light in there so you can't really see your veins. However, where there is a will there is always a way. I will say that it is insane how prevalent...it used to be Spice. Doesn't anyone smoke weed and trip anymore? Spice was a bad thing and now everybody is doing heroin and they are killing themselves. I saw somebody the other day and Fentanyl is her drug of choice and she has been resuscitated a number of times. There is no way I would say that is okay but I am grateful that we have Narcan and we have people willing to use it.

Alderman Levasseur stated I just wanted to bring that up because I didn't want anyone to construe that...you are saying all of these people are using Narcan and your building so we are kind of...I don't know much about how they do it or what happens but my assumption is you only use Narcan when you are overdosing and you are only overdosing when you shoot up. I don't think you shoot up and have a reaction four hours later. My understanding is it is within 5-10 minutes. I just wanted that clarified.

Ms. Chevalier stated Alderman Levasseur if you ever want to come for announcements and opening ceremonies you will hear me say all are welcome but all behaviors are not and we are not a safe injection zone.

Alderman Levasseur stated okay I just wanted that clarified for your benefit first of all. Secondly, when you are seeing your shift at 8 AM is that an overflow from the shelter being released in the morning.

Ms. Chevalier replied our guys leave at 7 AM and like I said once I have enough volunteers and we have tightened up around 9 AM or 9:30 AM sometimes it is people

from the shelter who just want a change of scenery and they come and hang out with us for a little while.

Alderman Levasseur stated it is just during the cold season I would imagine that they would want to stay in for the whole day.

Ms. Chevalier stated once the nicer weather comes we open by 10:30 AM or so. We have a fairly steady...I always say we are not just a homeless ministry though. We serve the poor and people on the edge. We have a food pantry and things like that so sometimes it is just somebody who is lonely and lives in a rooming house or in senior housing who just likes a friendly place and some windows and a cheerful atmosphere to come and hang out with their friends. It makes their buck go a little bit further if they avail themselves of some of the services. Yesterday we had this nice guy, James. He comes and plays the guitar during lunch. We just try to create a welcoming environment for anybody who wants to come in. Like I said, it is safety of the flock and we work hard and it is hard to be a good neighbor and keep a safe space. We like the Hope for NH partnership because that is part of our overnight crew and they recognize the struggle that people are in. If somebody ever has a moment where they decide they want to do something else, we have great people on-site to help walk them through to the next step.

Alderman Levasseur asked have you seen a turnover from year to year of different people or do you know of any people who have successfully transitioned into a better situation or do you see the same people.

Ms. Chevalier responded all of the above. We have been around for 12 years and I can tell you people I have known for 10, 11 or 12 years. There are new faces that I see all the time. I see some people who kind of bounce in and out a little bit. We like to think of ourselves as a safety net so maybe you have a little balance and we can keep you from going any further. Sometimes, we just hold you there for a while because that is what it is. It is a horrible thing to say. A lot of times though when you don't see somebody your question unfortunately is are they dead or in jail or did they make it through to the other side. There is no better feeling than going to the diner and seeing somebody that you

knew three years ago and hadn't seen and they say oh I got a girlfriend and a dog and an apartment and a car. We don't usually see that though. We see a lot of new faces coming in.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I have a question for Schonna. When you get a report of a homeless camp, does your reaction to that vary depending on whether it is city, state, county or private property?

Ms. Green answered yes. We have a reporting system so somebody goes online and they report an encampment. It comes directly to my email. I open it and depending on the level of the issue. If it is not an issue I put it on the encampment report on Wednesdays when the whole encampment team meets. That team is comprised of representatives from DPW, Fire, Police and Manchester Mental Health. We go over which ones need to be closed right away because there might be a safety issue going on or there might be a situation where it has expanded and there are a lot of complaints coming from the area. If it is on city property, there is a process. If it is state property it takes a little longer and there are phone calls that have to be made and we have to set up No Trespassing and stuff like that. When it is private property, it can really take some time. I am glad you brought that up because I meant to talk about that because we have people in the city who are very upset with the encampment that is right now directly under the Cracker Barrel sign on Frontage Road. That is private property. The owner is not from here. He is in another state and we have been going back and forth. He did give us the authorization to trespass and we did. DPW is estimating that the clean-up will be anywhere between \$30,000-\$40,000 and the owner does not have the availability to put up the funding to clean that area. The community that lives in the surrounding area is very upset because it is extremely filthy and they want it picked up. With that being said, I would like to say thank you to June and Mr. Levasseur because last week we went out in ward 9. They put together a community group and they also met with the Police Chief regarding putting together a neighborhood policing group. When I explained to them the process and what we do here, I can say the next day or within 24 hours I got an email from the organizer that stated they were interested in helping and asking how to get involved in volunteering. If we can do it really fast, it is

usually a city park. It would be off the encampment sheet in a week. If it is a private landlord, it takes a little time to get it cleared up.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked as the Director of Homelessness Initiatives, what is your input here. Should the city go ahead and do the cleanup and let's worry about the cost later?

Ms. Green answered with this particular property, I have been going back and forth with Alderman Long and Mayor Craig. We also spoke with the Solicitor's Office. I know that if we go through the process the goal is to insure that the city gets the money back and the only way to do that is to lien the property and there is a process that has to happen where the owner is giving ample time in which to cure the problem. If he doesn't cure the problem, then there is another letter and eventually it goes through the court system in order for the city to be in a position to put a lien on the property and clean it legally. One of the things that I did offer the owner was the opportunity to write a letter to the mayor and the Board explaining his hardship and asking us to clean the property and give us authority to lien the property, which would keep the expenses down for everybody. That is something he is looking at. I also spoke with Alderman Long about some other options because the land is not buildable, however, it does have a billboard signage opportunity which I felt could make revenue for the Affordable Housing Trust if we just purchase it.

Alderman Long stated I just want to reiterate what you said Your Honor. It is great seeing these three faces in front of us – Maria, Schonna and Mary. You guys do outstanding work. I know Mary that you don't do it for me but for Jesus but I will take that. I just think we have a group of people tending to our homeless that is beyond. I talk to Keene and Somersworth and the mayor meets with other cities regarding homelessness. Is everybody doing 100% okay? No but we are striving for that and we have been reaching those goals. I want to thank the three of you.

Alderman Sharonov stated Maria you said that you have encountered 800 individuals and 73 families. Is that in the span of 2021?

Ms. Devlin answered yes.

Alderman Sharonov asked do you know the percentage...I know it is not a requirement but do you know how many of those people were from Manchester. Do you track any kind of demographics?

Ms. Devlin answered we do but I don't have that with me. These folks are pretty smart and most of them say they are from Manchester. We can pull that out of the HMIS system but the majority are saying they are from Manchester.

Alderman Sharonov stated at the time that I was taking a tour in December, there were some concerns about lack of storage lockers. Has the shelter had a chance to install those?

Ms. Devlin replied yes we installed lockers which I think this body has heard some concerns about. The lockers have been installed so every person has their own locker. Some of those lockers are secured within a room and others are not fully secured but belongings were not secured before anyway because they were just in large plastic bags. The lockers have provided us the opportunity to clean much better throughout the shelter and bedbugs are way down so the lockers are doing what they were meant to do.

Alderman Sharonov asked and you have one for every person.

Ms. Devlin responded actually we have extra. I think we put in 150 so that if people go to the hospital their stuff can stay in that locker and a new resident coming in that night can have their own locker.

Alderman Sharonov stated I want to thank all three of you for the information.

Alderman George-Kelly stated this is a question for Schonna. I was wondering if you could tell me if there is a time when an encampment comes across your desk that you make the decision not to clear it or address it in any way.

Ms. Green answered the goal when I got here, and I have said this so many times...this is an ugly position when it comes to walking the line. That is all I can call it is walking the line. We have members of our society that own property and pay taxes and their children go to school here and they have a right to have a free backyard. Then we have the humanitarian issue that we are dealing with on the social services part where we have a duty to insure the safety of almost everybody that we can. One of the things that we did is when I presented the HOPE Initiative, I broke down the entire process regarding what we would do to evaluate all the encampments. One of the things I stated and everybody thought was a good idea was that if there are only two or three people and they are not bothering the community and they are safe and mental health outreach is seeing them on a daily basis and making sure they are okay, we will leave them alone. If it is an encampment that is posing a safety issue like one of these "we built this city" type of encampments and they are taking over and imploding, then we have to go in. Again, the goal is to insure that the people most in need are getting the services that they need and we need to be that vehicle any time that we can. When we have to close an encampment, we close the encampment but we think of the person in the encampment. At the last meeting I spoke about it and I am going to speak about it again. We closed an encampment that was out there for over three and a half years and as soon as that gentleman called me, I knew I wasn't going home until I found him and his wife housing. That is the commitment that needs to be made. A lot of people think that it is money but it is not. It is the commitment of all of the agencies coming together and tagging each other with this critical emergency of getting people off the street. Can we get them all? No but can we try? The answer is yes. It is not our goal to sweep encampments. It is really not the goal but until we can come up with something better and still provide a service in which everybody is safe and the taxpaying citizens here are happy, that is the only available tool that we have to use. For those of you that are familiar with how ugly these encampment sweeps get, keep in mind that we haven't been in the newspaper in a long time yet we closed over 52. We have to be doing something right. We just have to take our time and snip at this one step at a time.

Alderman Fajardo stated I wanted to ask from your perspective, Ms. Green, what you see as the biggest gap currently when you are describing the steps that you have to follow in order to breakup an encampment with the goal being to have minimal harm imposed on the people there. What are the biggest gaps that you see today in essentially facilitating a new place for the displaced people to go to?

Ms. Green answered I think first and foremost there are many barriers that this chronic population is experiencing from mental health to the lack of affordable housing but many of us as service providers know that the lack of affordability isn't necessarily the type of housing that they need to have first. They need to go through those processes and we need to set them up. We need to make sure that we are really putting an emphasis on permanent supportive housing. Some people will need permanent supportive housing for the rest of their lives. We keep merging the two and every time I come I try to separate and get everybody to understand that affordable housing for somebody that is the victim of domestic violence or affordable housing for somebody that is in a service industry position or just lost their job or is just getting a new job. That is a little bit of a different track. Somebody that is experiencing mental health that needs services on a continuum, we need to provide those services. For someone that needs respite and then goes through transitional housing, we need that as well. So permanent supportive housing I would think is the next biggest gap that we are looking at basically because with the affordable housing right now we are looking to bring almost 300 units to the city and that is going to cover from zero...well there is a 10% set aside on one of them for homeless so from 0 to almost 60-70% of area median income. That is not necessarily going to touch the chronic homeless that we are talking about. The chronic homeless and the mental health that need permanent housing would be the next gap we have to fill for our city.

Alderman Levasseur stated Alderman George-Kelly that was a very good question. Are there any people living at the Cracker Barrel site right now?

Ms. Green replied there are 3-7 camping sites there. Most of them did leave because we are really communicating with the Manchester Outreach Collaborative. Usually when we are looking at closing a site, we are giving all of the supportive services in the

community an opportunity to get out there and try to house them before we go in. We were going to close and post that site about three weeks ago or closer to four and the outreach team went out and started letting them know. Many of them left on their own but it is my understanding that maybe seven have come back. Typically, what the officers are saying is that when we clear an encampment, if we can't clean it up and fence it off right away, some of them come back.

Alderman Levasseur stated the reason for that question is if the city in our many branches of individuals and department heads, etc. are allowing people to live on private property in that manner, they are basically condoning it and by doing so it is harder to make a landlord responsible for having to clean it up. If we had stopped it in its track the first or second or third or fifth month, it wouldn't have grown to a point where it is \$30,000-\$40,000 to clean up. That is why I asked the question. If you are still allowing people to live there then that is a problem for me.

Mayor Craig stated the private property owner is letting people live there.

Alderman Levasseur asked so if he has given you the okay to trespass then the police should be booting them out.

Ms. Green responded and they have. What has happened is prior to me finding out about this, the Police Department mentioned that they had been trying to get them to do a trespass for quite some time and he had not done it. He had not given them authorization. By the time he gave us the authorization and they were ready to go out, this other situation popped up. If we go in and do the trespass, we need to be able to clean it up right away. When I started discussing with the owner what the cost would be, that is when it went downhill.

Alderman Levasseur stated so he is giving you the ability to trespass so there should be no people living on that property anymore. Mary I just want to say that the reputation of your organization is stellar. You are known for being very strict and please don't ever apologize for being a Christian and don't ever feel bad. You should be proud of yourself

and you should be proud of what you guys do and you should be very proud of being a Christian as I am.

Mayor Craig stated thank you very much for coming here and for all that you are doing in our community.

CONSENT AGENDA

Information to be Received and Filed

4. Communication from Xfinity regarding a programming change.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

5. Resolutions:

"Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Three Million Six Hundred Seventy One Thousand Seven Hundred One Dollars (\$3,671,701) for the FY2022 CIP 811422 ARPA-Revenue Replacement (Budget)."

"Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000) for the FY2022 CIP 412222 Department of Justice Investigation."

"Amending the FY2022, FY2021, FY2019 and FY2016 Community Improvement Programs, authorizing, appropriating and decreasing funds in the amount of Forty Three Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$43,250,000) from Various EPD Projects."

"Amending the FY2022, FY2021, FY2019 and FY2016 Community Improvement Programs, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Forty Three Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$43,250,000) for Various EPD Projects."

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

6. Advising that the update on the Revolving Loan Fund has been accepted.
(*Unanimous vote*)

7. Advising that the Finance Department reports:
 - Accounts receivable over 90 days
 - Aging report
 - Outstanding receivableshave been accepted.
(*Unanimous vote*)
8. Advising that the Financial Report for the six months of fiscal year 2022 has been accepted.
(*Unanimous vote*)

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

10. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization appropriating funds in the amount of \$8,000 for CIP 412222 Department of Justice Investigation, be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
11. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization authorizing, appropriating, and transferring funds in the amount of \$3,671,701 for CIP 811422 ARPA – Revenue Replacement, be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
12. Recommending that the Amending Resolutions and Budget Authorizations authorizing, appropriating, and transferring funds in the amount of \$43,250,000 for CIP 712722 Various Capital Improvement Projects to several EPD projects, be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
13. Recommending that the communication from Leon LaFreniere, Planning & Community Development Director, requesting an amendment to CIP 212422 ARPA – Ready, Set, LAUNCH changing the administering department from the Health Department to the Planning & Community Development Department, be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
14. Recommending that the communication from the Planning & Community Development Director requesting an amendment to CIP 810822 ARPA – Small Business Grants & Program Assistance changing the administering department from the Economic Development Department to the Planning & Community Development Department, be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)
15. Recommending that the communication from the Planning & Community Development Director requesting project extensions for CIP 611221 TWH Cares and CIP 811921 Cultural Competency Training through June 30, 2022, be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)

16. Recommending that the communication from Mark Gomez, Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Chief, requesting an amendment to CIP 511222 – ARPA Park Rangers by making various line item adjustments to the budget authorization to account for anticipated expenses, be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
17. Recommending that the communication from the property owners of 1044 Hayward Street requesting subordination of a City lien in the amount of \$31,650 be approved conditional on completion of lead remediation.
(Unanimous vote)
18. Recommending that the petition to discontinue a portion of West Central Street be approved and referred to a road hearing to be scheduled at a later date.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

19. Recommending that the request from the Public Works Director to add one (1) Parks Project Manager, grade 20, to the Parks, Recreation and Cemetery complement be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Sharonov who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND BUILDINGS

20. Recommending that the offer to convey property located on Brandon Street (TM 497/13) to the City be received and filed.
(Unanimous vote)
21. Recommending that the request from the Airport Director to declare City property located in Londonderry surplus and authorize a direct sale/lease to the purchaser currently leasing a portion of the property be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

*HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, **ALDERMAN CAVANAUGH** MOVED THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED. **ALDERMAN LONG** DULY SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR CRAIG CALLED FOR A VOTE. THE MOTION CARRIED ON A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.*

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON BILLS ON SECOND READING

9. Recommending that Ordinance Amendment:

“Amending Section 33.046 (Entrance Pay Rates) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by changing the approval process for Steps 2-5.”

be approved and referred to the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment & Revenue Administration to be enrolled.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman E. Sapienza who was opposed)

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I just wanted to say that I voted against this in committee and I am reluctant to give the department heads that kind of authority. It is all department heads. If one employee is brought to a step 2, 3, 4 or 5 from their date of hire, all employees in that department will be brought to that level. I am just not comfortable with that. I think we have to be a little more cautious. My understanding is well it is a real pain in the neck and it has to go through a whole process. Well there is a reason for that. It is not supposed to be easy to spend that kind of money. That is why I was opposed to it in committee.

Alderman Long moved to accept the report and adopt its recommendation. **Alderman Cavanaugh** duly seconded the motion. Aldermen Cavanaugh, Stewart, Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, Trisciani, Levasseur, Heath, Barry, Gamache and George-Kelly voted yea. Aldermen Sharonov and E. Sapienza voted nay. The motion carried.

REGULAR BUSINESS

22. Communication from Armand Forest advising the Board of his resignation from the Highway Commission, effective 1/24/2022.

Alderman Long moved to accept with regret. **Alderman T. Sapienza** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

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

There were none.

24. Confirmation(s) to be presented by Mayor Craig:

Conservation Commission

Emmanuel Uwizeye as an alternate member, term to expire August 1, 2024

Heritage Commission

Peter Richard as an alternate member, term to expire July 1, 2022

Board of Registrars

Elizabeth Wester as a regular member, term to expire May 1, 2022

Manchester Development Corporation

Maria Mongan as a regular member, term to expire March 11, 2025

Highway Commission

Arthur Gatzoulis as a regular member, term to expire January 15, 2025

Housing Commission

Jean Noel Mugabo as a regular member, term to expire January 1, 2025

Zachery Palmer as a regular member, term to expire January 1, 2025

Peter Capano as a regular member, term to expire January 1, 2025

Jessica Margeson as a regular member, term to expire January 1, 2025

Christopher Wellington as a regular member, term to expire January 1, 2025

Joseph Wichert as an alternate member, term to expire January 1, 2025

Kate Marquis as an alternate member, term to expire January 1, 2025

Alderman Long moved to confirm the nominations as presented. Alderman T.

Sapienza duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Craig stated we have Kate Marquis and Jessica Margeson here this evening. Congratulations.

25. Confirmation of Jodie Nazaka for the position of Economic Development Director.

Alderman T. Sapienza moved to confirm the nomination. Alderman Stewart duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

Alderman Levasseur stated mayor that was a great pick.

Mayor Craig stated she is a good person for the job.

26. Applications for Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive, RSA 79- E, for property located at 21 West Auburn Street and 24 Depot Street.

Alderman Long moved to refer the applications to a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, February 15 at 5 PM. **Alderman Trisciani** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

27. Tentative Agreement between the City and the Teamsters Local 633, Welfare Department.

Alderman Cavanaugh moved to ratify and layover. **Alderman Stewart** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

28. Tentative Agreement between the City and AFSCME Council 93, Local 298, Facilities.

Alderman Cavanaugh moved to ratify and layover. **Alderman Gamache** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

29. Communication from Alderman Sharonov recommending an amendment to Rule 16 of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Alderman Sharonov moved to approve. **Alderman Levasseur** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. Aldermen Cavanaugh, Stewart, Long, Trisciani, Heath, Barry, and Gamache voted nay. Aldermen Fajardo, T. Sapienza, Sharonov, Levasseur, E. Sapienza and George-Kelly voted yea. The motion failed.

Alderman Cavanaugh moved to receive and file. **Alderman Long** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. Aldermen Cavanaugh, Stewart, Long, Fajardo, Trisciani, Heath, Barry, Gamache and George-Kelly voted yea. Aldermen T. Sapienza, Sharonov, Levasseur and E. Sapienza voted nay. The motion carried.

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

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the Fire Department be authorized to apply for the FY21 SAFER grant, which would allow them to hire eight full-time firefighters.

Alderman T. Sapienza moved to accept the report and adopt its recommendation.

Alderman Stewart duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. Aldermen Cavanaugh, Stewart, Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, Sharonov, Trisciani, Heath, E. Sapienza, Barry, Gamache and George-Kelly voted yea. Alderman Levasseur voted nay. The motion carried.

Alderman Trisciani moved to recess the meeting to allow the Committee on Finance to meet. **Alderman Long** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Craig called the meeting back to order.

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

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

"Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Three Million Six Hundred Seventy One Thousand Seven Hundred One Dollars (\$3,671,701) for the FY2022 CIP 811422 ARPA-Revenue Replacement (Budget)."

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ought to pass and be Enrolled.

Alderman Long moved to accept the report and adopt its recommendation. **Alderman Heath** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

34. Report(s) of the Committee on Human Resources/Insurance, if available.

There were none.

35. Report(s) of the Committee on Public Safety, Health & Traffic, if available.

There were none.

36. Resolutions:

"Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Three Million Six Hundred Seventy One Thousand Seven Hundred One Dollars (\$3,671,701) for the FY2022 CIP 811422 ARPA-Revenue Replacement (Budget)."

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Alderman Cavanaugh moved to waive the reading by titles only and Enroll. Alderman Stewart duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

37. Ordinance:

"Amending Section 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Parks Project Manager) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

Alderman Long moved to waive the reading by title only and Ordain. Alderman E. Sapienza duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Long stated I am hearing about the property under the Cracker Barrel sign that they are looking for \$30,000 to \$40,000 to clean it up. As Schonna said once you close an encampment you need to clean it up otherwise people will be coming back. Is there an avenue where we could lien the property for the clean-up cost? I don't know if the Solicitor would know.

Emily Rice, Solicitor, stated our office has been working with the group to discuss this property and others. I have not checked in to see what happened last week. That is certainly an option but I think I need to say that it is not necessarily a seamless option. It is certainly something that can be further explored to the extent it hasn't been already.

Alderman Long stated personally I just find it unacceptable when the neighborhood needs it cleaned up that we wait for whatever the statutory process is.

Alderman Long moved to use \$40,000 from the contingency account to clean-up the area and lien the property. Alderman Trisciani duly seconded the motion.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I like your idea Alderman Long but the problem with putting a lien on the property is you can't automatically...I think the Solicitor will agree that you can't just go and put a lien on a property. It is not that easy. If you do it and you don't do it the right way, it could be fraudulent. We have to be careful when we say lien the property. If the Solicitor wants to weigh in on that, please do.

Solicitor Rice stated I think we have to be very, very careful that we don't do anything that puts the city in a position where it owns the property. I don't know anything about the solvency or insolvency of this particular owner. Certainly this Board can vote to take money and apply that money to the clean-up but there is no guarantee that you are going to get the money back.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked could we separate the two items in the motion.

Mayor Craig stated the concern I have is if this city is going to allocate funds to a clean-up of a private property, the funds have to be paid back to the city because again it is a private property.

Alderman Levasseur stated first of all I don't know if the Solicitor has had contact with the owner for permission to go in and clean it up or whether we have to get a court order to go on to somebody's property and do whatever we want. At the Ward 9 meeting that myself, Alderman Stewart and Alderman Trisciani attended there were a lot of people that were very willing to do a lot of work cleaning that up on a volunteer basis. It was a matter of whether or not we could get lots of trucks and lots of people to go and take the stuff over to the dump. I think there is a lot of community support to do that. I am not really high on...the guy is an out of town person and it is a piece of land that you wouldn't even know was a piece of land. It seemed like WalMart owned it for a long time because no one could figure out who the person was. I guess it is private property and we don't have a right to go and kick people off but I don't buy that. By the time we find the property owner there is a camp there. I just see so many legal traps for this. I am also very concerned about our contingency budget which is on the low side anyway and our revenues are down. I just see too many traps at this point. I would rather we try to contact the owner first and ask him for permission to clean up and see if we can find volunteers in the city and the ward specifically and work with the Highway Department to see if we can do something to clean that property up. I am sure there would be a lot of people willing to do it. That way we can avoid the lien and the litigation and the cost to the city as much as possible. I would like to see those steps taken first and if the guy doesn't talk to us or communicate with us or offer some opportunities to clean it up himself then maybe we can use the stronger arm of the government. I think people in Ward 9 said they would help clean the place up. That is my perspective.

Alderman Trisciani stated I think at the meeting one of the other things we discussed is while I appreciate that the people that live in Ward 9 are willing to take this on and clean it up, I think the reason we are going to an outside company to do this is due to the fact that it is hazardous waste. If it were that easy, DPW would be there tomorrow cleaning it up. I think the reason we are going outside and the reason we need to expend this money is that it is not something that an average person can go and clean up safely. I

think we have to take that risk into consideration. I think the other challenge we have is we still need to go after him for a lien. I am sorry but continuing to wait is getting ridiculous. It is just getting worse and the trash is spreading and we are creating more of a problem and more of a risk to the neighborhood and the area. I think we need to do something. It is not just vacant property. This property owner is taking revenues from Cracker Barrel for that sign to the tune of \$8,000/month. There is money on this property and I think we need to take two paths at the same time. Continue with the lien process but I also think we need to give some relief to the neighborhood and clean it up.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated DPW does a great job in my ward. I ask them to pick up trash all the time and they get right out there and pick it up but we often run into a situation where we can't pick something up because it is on private property and we have to deal with those issues. I don't see how this is any different. What are we going to do make a motion tonight to spend money and go on private property and remove it? We had Schonna here and she said she is working on it. Why don't we let her do her job instead of micromanaging her? Let her do her job. When she needs the money, she will come here and ask for it. I would assume that she is working on this with the Solicitor. Is that not already ongoing?

Solicitor Rice replied yes it is ongoing.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I don't know how you get past the going onto private property and cleaning it up without going through the process.

Alderman Levasseur stated regarding the issue that we had under the bridge, the city cleaned that up. Our Highway Department was over there with its bulldozers.

Mayor Craig stated we own that property. The city owned it.

Alderman Levasseur stated I thought the state owned it. Was there money that we got to clean it up? It was a lot.

Mayor Craig replied I believe we got the money from the state. I know when there is a building in the city and it is not safe the city has the authority to communicate with that owner and they have to board up the windows and it has to be safe. I feel like this is a situation where while it is not a building it is not a safe environment so while we are also going the track of cleaning the property can we also go with a nuisance property that is causing health concerns and damages to the neighbors?

Solicitor Rice responded as I said, I know this has been an ongoing discussion and I am afraid I don't have the latest and greatest information. I believe that Alderman T. Sapienza is correct and there have been ongoing communications between Ms. Green and this particular property owner. I don't know what this particular property owner's attitude is. In other words, one thing Ms. Green mentioned earlier this evening is that he doesn't have the financial means to clean up the property himself. I heard her say that tonight. I don't know whether or not he is willing or unwilling...let's say for example this Board votes to allocate \$40,000 or something close to that from contingency. I don't know that we have permission to enter the property in order to do that clean-up. I think what Your Honor is referring to is the law of nuisance. It could potentially offer us a remedy here but I can't give you an opinion tonight as to whether or not we have jumped through all the hoops and had all of the communications that one would want to have before doing that.

Mayor Craig stated I believe Alderman Long and Alderman Trisciani made the motion. Can we ask the Solicitor to work with Ms. Green to confirm what has been done to date and can we investigate the nuisance law to see if that applies and if the owner does get revenue on a monthly or annual basis if he will transfer those funds to us if we make the upfront investment in cleaning the property?

Solicitor Rice stated again I did not check with Greg Muller who has been meeting weekly with the group but I do know that this property has been under discussion. Again, I am not able to tell the Board in a granular fashion precisely what has occurred but I believe we have been looking at all of those options. I think the important thing to understand is that if the property owner does not agree, none of those things are going to happen quickly. I just want the Board to understand that there may be a significant

time lag between the city spending funds to cleaning up that property and recouping any of those funds if they can be recouped from this particular property owner which is what pursuing an action under the law of nuisance would ultimately accomplish if the city were to be successful. We are more than happy to continue looking at it.

Mayor Craig asked and reporting back at the next meeting.

Solicitor answered sure I would be happy to do that.

Alderman Trisciani stated I would like to see us be a little bit more aggressive in our options and not settle for just well we have to do this or we have to do that. This gentleman clearly has money coming in every month. I can't sit here and listen to he doesn't have the money to do it. It is property that is sitting there and I am sure he probably...who knows what it has in the tax database on what he owes. I just think we need to take action on this and we can't continue to wait. It is not fair to the residents in Ward 9 and it is not fair to what it is doing to that area and the rail trail and everything around it.

Alderman Long stated I would like to go forward with the motion. My priority is the neighborhood and getting it cleaned up. Schonna has spoken to the owner who is allowing the police to go in and ask people to leave. I think he is cooperative. He just told her he doesn't have the money. That would be the first thing out of my mouth if I owned a piece of property and I needed to put money into it. I don't know about the nuisance law. I don't know about the liens. All I know is there is a neighborhood that is looking to get an area cleaned up. There are people going there to live. The last I heard it was three and today she said it is possibly up to seven. That is very typical. If you leave an area uncleaned, you are going to get people back there. The bottom line is if we allocate up to \$40,000 from contingency and he doesn't allow us to clean up his property, we are not spending that money. I would like the Solicitor to pursue recouping that money. I don't think we are going to get a guarantee that it is going to be recouped. I don't think we are going to get that a month from now or even two months from now.

Mayor Craig stated we could have a much better idea in two weeks though and take an informed vote.

Alderman Long stated this is important to me.

Mayor Craig replied I am not saying it isn't important. We all agree that it is extremely important.

Alderman Long stated I don't want to withdraw the motion. I am informed. There is a neighborhood asking for help and let's give it to them.

Alderman Fajardo stated I just wanted to get a sense, and maybe this has been covered in conversation, of how quickly we think we can move if we go the route of not allocating the funds and let Schonna and the Solicitor work on it. What are we looking at in terms of a delay for Ward 9 to see any relief here? It seems like we could know the answers in a few weeks.

Alderman Barry stated so what you are saying Alderman Long is that we will put the money aside and check with the property owner to make sure he is okay with it.

Alderman Long responded we will need his permission to do it.

Mayor Craig stated of course he is going to say yes.

Alderman Barry replied but does he have to agree to pay us the money back. I think we have to be very careful with this. I have a property in Ward 10 that is contaminated and we have a developer that wants to buy that property and if he catches wind that we are cleaning up properties for private entities it opens up a can of worms.

Alderman Long stated we are spending money on police resources and the Fire Department going out there and checking on people.

Mayor Craig stated I think there is no question that we all want this property cleaned yesterday or months ago but it is a private property and private property owners have responsibility for their property. We need to make sure that our team has communicated effectively with everything that we just talked about tonight to make sure he understands that this needs to be cleaned up or we are going to take legal action.

Alderman Levasseur asked Leon can you come up because you have more experience dealing with this than anybody. There have been many times you have come to the Board and asked for money to take down a property. Prior to asking us for the money, you have gone through all the steps to get the authority to do so.

Leon LaFreniere, Planning & Community Development Director, stated it is a rather lengthy procedure. We have to petition the court to gain authorization to mediate the hazard once it is determined to exist. I can tell you that we have never used RSA 155-B in the context of just cleaning up a property. We have only used it to take down a hazardous structure. That is something we would have to look into to see if the statute would enable us to clean-up a property or not. Under 155-B we are empowered to, at the city's expense, remediate the hazard and place a lien that has the same status as a property tax lien.

Alderman Levasseur asked but prior to do any kind of lien you had to go somewhere to get that lien to the court I would imagine.

Mr. LaFreniere answered yes. After gaining authorization from the BMA to petition the court, we petition the court to permit us to remediate the hazard. That can only take place after a series of steps and notifications to the property owner. After the court is all done, an accounting is made of all of the expenses related to that and then we go back to the court to gain authorization to place a lien on the property.

Alderman Levasseur asked have you ever been denied the money by the Board once you have come to us for money to take something down that you have gotten a court order for.

Mr. LaFreniere responded I can think of no case when the Board has chosen not to authorize the money.

Alderman Levasseur stated I think a compromise in this situation is to just start the process the way we normally do, get that going as quickly as possible and then when he comes back to us and says we have all our ducks in a row we give them the money. I don't want to give them the money and then have it take three years to get this done through the court system. We must do this legally. Believe me I hear about it more than anybody. I have been listening to and dealing with a lot of the people in that ward and I know how hungry they are to get it cleaned up but we really do have to follow the legal process. I think Leon who has been through it many, many times and we have really pushed him hard for a lot of properties to be taken down that have been eyesores forever and you guys have done a really good job in the last three or four years taken down a lot of these properties so if the process is known by anybody, obviously Leon knows it and I think we should just follow that process and have him come back and I would be more than happy to give him the money. I want to see the process done first legally.

Mayor Craig asked Mr. Clougherty to come forward to let the Board know from a timing perspective when a team could address this.

Timothy Clougherty, Deputy Public Works Director, stated I think one of the biggest challenges that you face at that site is the snow. I don't think that anybody could adequately or safely clean-up that site under whatever we have right now which is like 10" to 12" of snow. We are supposed to get some warming tomorrow and then it is going to get colder which means there will be a layer of ice. I don't know how many people have walked through some of these camps but there is litter everywhere. There is litter on the way into the camp and litter on the way out and litter 30' or 40' into the woods. When we go in to do one of these things we want to make sure that we are doing it as comprehensively as possible so it is left in a pristine condition. I don't think that will be possible until that snow clears whether it is city forces...I would not recommend that we have our employees go in there now. It is not just the fact that you are not going to see all the litter but you also have other hazardous substances like

needles and things like that that won't be seen by individuals in the snow trying to pick things up. It is not a safe situation. I would recommend that the Board take the time and go through the process. I am not sure exactly how that is going to end up but the safest and most adequate time to do that is going to be when the snow clears.

Alderman Levasseur asked can I offer a friendly amendment to start the process under 155-B and then come back to the Board at a later date for the money. I think we should immediately start the process.

Alderman Long asked Tim are you suggesting that your guys can clean that up when the time is right.

Mr. Clougherty answered no I am definitely not.

Alderman Long asked so as far as a hazardous team getting in there...my concern is getting it clean. What you are saying is it is not able to be cleaned until the snow is gone?

Mr. Clougherty responded it is not possible. They would be there forever and it would cost three times as much.

Alderman Long stated well if that is the case...I was under the impression that somebody could clean that area up. I will take your opinion that you don't think it can happen in the snow.

Mr. Clougherty stated I am not familiar with what kind of structures are there or anything like that. Maybe if those can be taken down that is something that could be an interim measure if it is deemed that it is legal but that is not going to be an entirely clean site. It will be an unwelcome site I would think to individuals that are without homes but you don't have the ability to completely clean the site until the weather improves.

Alderman Long stated when we go in and clean it, I want it cleaned. You are saying that it is not going to happen with the snow.

Mr. Clougherty stated it was hard enough when they did Douglas Street in the middle of June.

Alderman Long asked how long has the communication been going on between the Solicitor and the property owner. A few weeks or a month?

Solicitor Rice answered I can't address precisely how long. I can tell you, and I think Ms. Green echoed this, that this is one of the properties that has been under discussion for a period of time. I would ask the Board that if you are inclined to make a motion tonight that you not tie our hands by including a specific statute because I think there are a number of statutory schemes that could potentially apply here. I would be more than happy to provide the Board with the detail and give you our recommendation at the next meeting which I think is two weeks from now.

Alderman Long withdrew his motion. Alderman Trisciani withdrew her second.

Alderman Trisciani stated I will wait until the next meeting but I don't want to see this drag on. If you can come back to us at the next meeting with very clear cut where we are in the process today, then we can come up with some creative and aggressive thoughts to do this. I think just going through the process and telling the folks at the Ward 9 meeting that we are going through the process is not enough. We need that detail and if we can see that at the next meeting that would allow us to make a more informed decision on what to do.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I want an action plan along with the status report. I think what we are doing here tonight is getting in the way of our professionals and we are starting to micromanage and that is not the way to go.

Mayor Craig stated one thing I want to mention to the Board is as part of the American Rescue Plan recommendations that the previous Board approved, the city launched the Community Activation & Event Grant Program today making up to \$10,000 in grants available to residents, neighborhood groups and community members who want to plan

certain events or put projects in place throughout the city. It is open and available now. There is a website where they can get information. It is Manchesternh.gov/ARP. I really hope that folks take advantage of this. It is an exciting opportunity as residents know what our community needs.

Alderman Sharonov asked is this for future events or can it apply retroactively.

Mayor Craig answered future events.

Alderman Levasseur asked can somebody please have a big pumpkin event over at Veteran's Park during Halloween. We should be the biggest one in the state. We have the best park for it.

Alderman E. Sapienza moved to recess the meeting pursuant to RSA 91-A:2 I(b) for consultation with legal counsel. ***Alderman Long*** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Craig called the meeting back to order.

There being no further business, ***Alderman Barry*** moved to adjourn. ***Alderman Gamache*** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

A True Record. Attest.

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

City Clerk