

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

February 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Mayor Craig called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

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.

Victoria Sullivan, 1056 S. Beech Street, stated:

I come before you tonight to thank Alderman Levasseur for his response to the situation with the Cracker Barrel encampment. We, the citizens who live in that area, have been trying to get a resolution to the situation for over a year. We were told that it was reported and the encampment was going to be taken care of. That was in the summer of 2021. Then in early fall we were told that the city couldn't do anything about it because it was private property. In November, we were told that the property owner had been contacted and it would be cleaned up before Christmas. Well that obviously has not happened. The citizens of Ward 9 had a neighborhood meeting where we met with city leaders and Ms. Green. We were told at that meeting that the owners of the land were facing a \$30,000-\$40,000 cost to clean-up the area and they didn't have the means to do that. If the city contacted the owners when we first brought it to your attention, the owner would not be facing such an enormous cost. At the last Aldermanic meeting there was a significant back and forth about how to pay for the clean-up. Since we were told that the owner couldn't afford it and the city couldn't fund it, I reached out to the Governor to see if there were state funds available. The Governor suggested that the city use some of the \$10 million ARPA funds that it received. I then reached out to

Alderman Levasseur to inquire about the ARPA funds and he told me that he met with the property owner and he is working with Walmart to get it cleaned up. He also told us that the owner is paying for a good portion of the clean-up. Although this is great news and I thank the alderman for his help, this contradicted everything that we had been told about the property and the owner up to this point. Something isn't right here. I also want to bring to your attention the fact that we have a panhandler who sits in the road at the corner of Hanover and Beech Street during heavy traffic times. This person was almost hit by a bus right in front of me and is causing cars to swerve and causing a very dangerous traffic situation. I did call the MPD who said they were aware of the situation and frankly they sounded like they were very frustrated about it. I am pretty sure that if I chose to stand in the road obstructing traffic that I would face consequences. Our laws must be enforced uniformly for the safety of all of our citizens. We need to support our officers in all of their efforts across the board. The final issue I am speaking to you about this evening is bail reform. Two weeks ago I came before this Board asking for a letter to be sent in support of that bill. This Board, including the Mayor, seemed to understand the importance of changing the PR bail system during the last election cycle. On Wednesday, I testified in support of the bail reform bill as did our Police Chief. It was incredibly disappointing that this Board could not find the time to send a letter in support of the bill. The Mayor did, however, have the time to send a letter in opposition to a different bill that impacts our city very little. Our law enforcement officers deserve our support. Our citizens, our businesses and our officers are suffering because of this law. Once again, Nero plays the fiddle while the city burns. We must do better for our city, our citizens and our businesses.

Daniel Mowery, 112 Holt Avenue, stated:

I am known as the mayor of my neighborhood. I have organized two block parties where we raised a lot of money - \$1,200 for the mounted police, \$550 for the Fire Department, over 350 jackets, gloves, hats and blankets for the homeless plus we donated over 250 toys to Toys for Tots in December and also during our summer block party we had over 300 attendees. At our Christmas block party, we had 250 attendees. Our neighborhood has spent almost \$9,000 for these block parties. Why I am here is this grant. Since we are not a non-profit organization, we would have to spend \$600 for a SAM certificate in order to apply for the grant. Did any of you know this? So we ask

you for money and get this. We get charged for a police detail, which is fine. The Manchester Police Department has done a great job and the Manchester Fire Department has done a great job for our block parties and we thank them and we thank Alderman Levasseur, Alderman Shaw and former Alderman Terrio for all they have done for our neighborhood. We ask you to help us get our grant without spending \$600. Thank you.

Brittany Ping, 408 Rimmon Street, stated:

I have two things to speak to you about. One of them is the impact of the recent assessments on property taxes and the other is on a resolution that is on your agenda tonight. I want to give you a full three minutes on the impact of the recent assessments to our property taxes for multi-family homeowners in our city and how the HUD data that was just released on fair market rent for 2022 doesn't even take into account what I know as a property manager in the city which is that mortgage companies and other escrow agents are starting to notify owners on the additional funding that they need to pay as a result of the increases. Professionally, I have had to move from annual evaluation of market rate conditions to quarterly just to provide my fiduciary responsibility to my clients. I have a second point to bring up so I am just going to give you my quick personal anecdote. I have owner occupied a three-family in the city for five years. The 61% increase in the assessed valuation of my home resulted in a 15.14% increase in my taxes. This is about average for three-family homes in our city. My mortgage company has increased my escrow for property taxes by \$2,400 a year. That is \$200/month. You can imagine what I have told my two tenants about March 2022 rent. My second point that I wanted to talk to you about was when I was reviewing the agenda for this meeting yesterday, I read that Alderman Long has presented a resolution to support a minimum wage of \$15/hour for all city employees that is being referred to the Committee on HR/Insurance. As a small business owner with two HR degrees and the ability to Google a lot of things, I have a few points to make. Number one, a resolution is a feel good measure that doesn't actually accomplish anything. This is a budgetary item issue but I do agree based on my other points that HR should probably look at salary grade scales to match prevailing wages in our city. Number two, I wondered how many employees in the city were actually making under \$15/hour. The 2020 city salary data that I found published in the Union Leader in 10/21, so the most

recent could find, showed 905 listed employees and their salaries for that calendar year. One hundred and twenty-nine of them have a reported gross salary under \$31,200 a year which is \$15/hour. Seventy-nine of them are under \$15,000 a year or the state minimum wage. Many of these 79 seem to be what one can only assume to be new hires or people that left employment in the city in that calendar year because they are from departments like Police or Fire or in the schools as nurses or even an aide in the Mayor's Office who made \$9,000 that year. Number three is I wondered what we were paying incoming city employees. We have 37 jobs posted on the city website so if you are looking for a job, please go and apply. Only two of them offered less than \$15. Both are part-time entry-level positions that require only a high school diploma or GED and a vague "some experience" in the specific field of occupation. They are both listed at grade 10 for \$13.45/hour. One of them is a Temporary Laborer-Forestry in the Water Works Department with no benefits and the other is Health Aide to help the nurses in schools but the listing didn't state if it was eligible for benefits. Wrapping up, I would say that your HR team needs to regrade that laborer role. Entry-level laborers in the Manchester area are starting at \$16.21 based on NH Occupational & Wage Data released through NH Employment Security in June 2021. Thank you so much for listening.

Jessica Margeson, 474 Cartier Street, stated:

I am here tonight to talk about the 79-E and affordable housing and I am also here to talk about the \$15 minimum wage; it all ties together. In our city we have seen our rents skyrocket. We have seen restrictions come about because of the skyrocketing rent where your rent is held to guidelines. They are looking for 30% of your income to be the rent. To even equal that, the amount you need to bring in is astronomical. At \$15/hour, you then qualify working 40 hours a week for \$779/month in rent. In this city as we see our rents skyrocket to where many of our citizens who formed the city and built the city up can barely hold on to stay in, I think it is imperative. I, myself, have suffered from the low rates that we have offered to our paraprofessionals in this city. For three years my son has not been able to have a paraprofessional because there was not one available to him. Lowering the guidelines sometimes would help get some in because they do have some tough guidelines to meet for a very low salary. We can't even afford to pay these people to live in our own city. I think the least we owe them is \$15/hour. With the

lack of affordable housing in this city, it is greatly needed and how this ties into the 79-E is the 79-E tax credit...if they would include some affordable apartments in there, that could extend their tax break four more years but they aren't even willing to do that. For someone not even willing to give the community just a little bit, like keeping the front of 24 Depot Street or throwing in a small 10% of affordable apartments in there, why are we going to let them keep money that our city desperately needs to be able to raise the wages of our employees that help all of our citizens? Thank you.

David Holt, 207 N. Main Street, Concord stated:

I am not a resident of Manchester but am here on behalf of the State Employees Association Service Employees International Union, 1984. We are part of the Alliance for Moral Economy whose campaign is the Raise Up NH campaign and we are here to support the resolution for a \$15/hour minimum wage. It is not only a moral decision but it is also an economic one as it will stimulate the economy, bring in better employees to the City of Manchester and raise the bar for other employees. Thank you very much.

Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

Employment. True there are plenty of jobs out there but let me give you this situation. I work part-time. It is a seasonal job. There are four to five months where my income doesn't equal enough to pay my rent. So what happens then? My rent was raised by 85%. I got a letter from the landlord last week and they claim I am paying 50%. Even that...right now I am working 4-8 hours a week for the next month. I can't live on that. If I go and apply for another job, how many will hire me for one month? They are looking for part-time people that will be there long term so it makes it very difficult. I am not necessarily talking just for myself but I am trying to tell you that here in this city and in this state there are a lot of seasonal jobs and we don't consider that and that three to five months out of the year there are no jobs and the income goes all the way down. That is one reason why some people become homeless because by that time you can get evicted if you don't pay your rent for three, four or five months. The federal funds we have now won't last forever. There are emergencies purposes to use them now but we need to find a better way. There should be, within your rent scale, the consideration that you are only working regular hours and there are four or five months when you don't work or you only work eight hours a week which doesn't pay the rent. We are

talking about citizens who work hard here in the city. These aren't lazy people. They are working as much as they can. If I could work full-time I would but I can't anymore for health reasons. I appreciate my job and I don't want to lose it so I have to stick with it. It pays a lot more than a lot of other places would hire me to begin with. The point I am trying to make is there are a lot of citizens in this city, especially in the winter months, who are hurting. I want you guys to remember that when people sometimes become homeless. Not everybody who becomes homeless is on drugs. A lot of people don't want to be homeless. I just wanted to make sure that you understand that there are circumstances that sometimes should be taken into consideration. Thank you.

Viola Kasimi, Concord, stated:

I am here today representing the Granite State Organizing Project which is a grassroots organization here in Manchester. We have members all over the city. Some of them are teachers and some are students and some are family members, parents and from faith congregations as well. I am here to ask the Board to support the resolution to raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour for city employees including school district staff. We know that school district staff, like paraprofessionals, don't make \$15/hour. Some get paid \$11, \$12 or \$13/hour and they have to work two or three jobs to sustain themselves. Some of them that I have spoken to love the work that they do. They do the most important work in our schools supporting the students and teachers and they should be able to afford to live in our city. I am really urging the Board today to consider that. In looking at the current cost of living in Manchester, the rents are very expensive and according to the National Housing Coalition, rent for a two-bedroom apartment is roughly \$1,200 and that is the bare minimum. For someone who is working, to afford the rent alone is extremely expensive. I am hoping that this Board will consider raising wages for our employees and make sure we continue to support the economy of Manchester. Thank you for your time.

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

PRESENTATIONS

2. Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Update by Fred McNeill, Chief Engineer.

Kevin Sheppard, Public Works Director, stated to my far right is Tim Clougherty, Deputy Public Works Director and Fred McNeill, our Chief Engineer who will be making a presentation. Also with us tonight is Dave Polcari from our consultant, CDM Smith who is in the audience in case there are any questions that we feel would be best for him to answer. I will turn it over to Tim to give a quick introduction.

Tim Clougherty, Deputy Public Works Director, stated the purpose of tonight's meeting is to update the Board and also to educate the newly elected officials on where we stand relative to our Environmental Protection Division's progress on improving water quality and that is specifically by eliminating combined sewer overflow, also known as CSO. Aside from the environmental benefits that these projects will have, the entire program we are going to talk about is necessitated by the Clean Water Act of 1972. The city is obligated to perform these measures per a consent decree entered into with the federal government. Fred McNeill, the city's Chief Environmental Engineer, is going to provide an overview.

Fred McNeill, Chief Engineer, Environmental Protection Division, stated I have been privileged to have my position for the past 15 years and am proud to say that I am entering my 41st year as a water professional. Manchester's CSO Program Past, Present and Future 1995-2040. That is not a typo. It is a 45-year program and as you will see there will still be a lot more to come. We last updated the Board in late 2019 when we were entering our Phase II and this is an update of the rest of the program. Let me give you a little background on EPD and review our past year's work, current work and future work. Then I will summarize the presentation with some action items and take any questions that you may have. The Environmental Protection Division was created in 1975 and we are really the city's wastewater utility. We are a division of the Department of Public Works and we are an Enterprise. That means that none of our funding comes from the tax rate but from our fees. We have a staff of 44 at 300 Wilson Street. That is where we house our administrative operations and maintenance staff. It is a beautiful 15-acre campus on the banks of the Merrimack river with 10 buildings

down there. We have the largest wastewater treatment plant north of Boston. It was constructed in 1975. We serve Manchester and three neighboring communities – Bedford, Goffstown and Londonderry with a metro population of about 172,000. We are always investing in that plant. We invested about \$75 million in the last 15 years. This is really the frontline of the city's environmental stewardship. We have operators manning this plant 24/7, 365 days a year. Here is a little bit about the infrastructure that the city owns and maintains. We have 390 miles of sewers. That is to Boston and back four times almost. 50% is what we call combined which we are addressing now. We have 11,000 man-holes and 15 CSO outfalls. Again, a theme you will hear is aging and failing infrastructure. 100 miles of our pipe is over 100 years old and reached the end of its useful life and could fail at any time. Luckily, we have a proactive program to address that called CMOM's and it has been ongoing for 12 years now. In addition to all the pipelines, we need pump stations in areas to pump the flows to the treatment plant. We have 11 pump stations offsite constructed from 1973 until the most recent in 2014. Some are small and just serve a few neighborhoods and others are large like the one we have on the west side that services the entire west side of the city. We also manage a lot of the city's drainage or stormwater systems. That is another 190 miles of pipe. If we throw in Manchester Water Works' 500 miles of pipe, that is 1,000 miles of pipe under the city streets. That is a lot of infrastructure to own and maintain. Along with our drainage system, we have 14,000 catch basins and 3,000 manholes. Again, we have a proactive maintenance program that is federally mandated called MS4. Again, we are trying to address that aging and failing infrastructure. What is a combined sewer overflow? A briefing paper was provided with your agenda tonight where we tried to explain it. This was common engineering practice from the late 1800's all the way up to the 1950's. It was to build a single pipe underground to service both stormwater and wastewater. What happened in a storm event is all of the stormwater would go down into the pipe and exceed the pipes capacity. Again, the 1800's the easiest thing to do was just put it in the river. That was a natural wastewater disposal area anyhow and that is what they did. It wasn't just Manchester. This was standard construction practice throughout the eastern part of the United States. A little about Manchester's CSO history. In 1994, the Federal Clean Water Act was amended with a CSO control policy to eliminate CSO's. The bottom line is to improve the water quality of the Merrimack River. We can all appreciate that the Merrimack River has been

the economic engine of Manchester and most of NH for centuries. It is also the source of drinking water for 500,000 people. In addition, Manchester Water Works is building a new treatment plant and will be drawing water from the river. Again, it is critical for water quality of the Merrimack River. We started with a bunch of engineering studies and in 1999 we entered into a consent order with the Department of Justice EPA and the state regulated Department of Environmental Services on a two-phase CSO program. First, we would tackle the west side of Manchester in the first 10 years and the east side would follow. Phase I, 1999-2009. It was an extremely successful program. \$58 million was invested in the infrastructure on the west side of Manchester. There were eight construction contracts and 53 miles of new or rehabbed pipe. Again, that is from here to Boston new pipe. It exceeded all project objectives. We reduced CSO discharges into the Merrimack River from the west side by 99%. That was a huge success. Most importantly, the program was completed on schedule and on budget. We try to leverage this work as much as we can. On top of the 53 miles of new pipe, we had a complete infrastructure upgrade that will last the city for the next 50 years. After we put our pipe in the ground, we rebuilt 26 miles of road. Water Works installed nine miles of new water pipes. Our sister utility Liberty installed 14 miles of gas line. We also did 8 miles of curbing, 6 miles of sidewalk, and created all ADA accessible ramps. It was a complete infrastructure upgrade that will last for the next 50 years. We didn't only have concrete benefits like this, we had social benefits. Environmental Justice is a key initiative for EPA and again it means "all residents deserve to live in a clean and healthful environment." We checked all of those boxes as we did the west side – urban revitalization, ADA compliant, green infrastructure, and a positive impact on the local economy. Now we are ready for Phase II. We wrapped up Phase I and submitted a new plan to EPA in March 2010 that proposed a Phase II for 20 years and a Phase III for another 20 years. The focus is a plan with the successful themes from Phase I – infrastructure upgrade, environmental justice, and urban revitalization. However, EPA is occasionally a little slow to react so in the first five years we had minimal contact with them but we knew we had to complete this work and we wanted to be proactive and build from the momentum of Phase I. We did three Phase II projects totaling about \$40 million. If you remember, on Chestnut Street it took us about five years to go from Valley Street all the way to Bridge Street. Again, we rebuild that whole area with a new drainage system. Again, we took a proactive approach. Finally, on

9/28/20 we entered into a Phase II consent decree with the Department of Justice and EPA and DES. Currently Phase II is estimated at \$338 million over the next 20 years. You see the centerpiece of it is the removal of the Cemetery Brook. We will talk about that in more detail. Also, sewer separation, Christian Brook, Wastewater Treatment Plant work, and program assessment. It is one of the largest public works projects the city will ever undertake. The last project of this size was when they built the canals to harness the energy and run the mills when they built 93 and 293 around the city. That is the size and scope of this project. Where are we currently with this Phase II? We have eight projects going on. The big one, Cemetery Brook, we will talk about later. Christian Brook Phase I is a \$15 million infrastructure project that is going to start this spring and basically go from the McIntyre Ski Area down North Street to Walnut Street. We also have a \$22 million project going on at the plant. We have a CSO real-time notification, program system optimization, signs and reporting. Everything is going into this huge civil engineering project. Let me talk a little about Cemetery Brook. It is really the centerpiece of Phase II. It is the largest drainage base in the city. It starts at Stevens Pond and goes all the way to the Merrimack River. If you look at Fisher Cat Stadium from the 293 side, you see a big horseshoe hole in the side of the riverbank. That is the Cemetery Brook and that is where it discharges to the river and that is what we are going to eliminate. Seventy percent of our CSO discharge comes from the Cemetery Brook so again it is the biggest bang for our buck and provides the greatest environmental impact for our investment. What does relocating Cemetery Brook look like? Here is an engineering map. It starts just south of Queen City Bridge and goes right up Queen City Avenue and then at Willow Street we jump on the old rail trail and follow that through our urban area through the city and it will come right up to Elliot Hospital and then we will pop out at Mammoth Road where the old CVS was which ironically is across from the new CVS. That is where the project will end. It is a two-mile long route from Queen City Bridge to Mammoth Road. Originally we saw this work being what we call open cut. When I say open cut that is conventional construction and we go in with a big backhoe and dig a big hole in the ground and put pipe in. This is so large that it is going to take four construction contracts and 13.5 years. We reevaluated things and ultimately the engineer's report recommended tunneling technology. A single contract done in six years which is less than half the time. There will be huge benefits for our residents because let me tell you that a construction project of that size

and scope would be catastrophic to our residents. Queen City Avenue would be partially closed for three years. You think it is difficult going over the bridge now? If we were there digging a hole 30' deep, it would be even more difficult. So this would greatly reduce economic impact to local businesses, reduce traffic impacts, utility relocations, and nuisance noise. It is really for the benefit of our residents. Not only does it benefit our residents but it benefits the CSO program. Again, we would complete that seven and a half years sooner than we would with an open cut. That gives us greater flexibility for the future work that is coming after that. Also, as we said the bottom line is the environmental impact on the Merrimack River. We would see much quicker results with that. It would reduce CSO discharges and reduce flow to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. So it would be a win-win situation. What does this tunnel look like? It looks something like this. It starts at the Merrimack River, is two miles long and pops up at Mammoth Road. It is 12' in diameter which is twice as tall as I am and would be 30'-80' deep. As I said, one of the largest civil engineering projects undertaken by the city. Now the big question is how do we pay for all of this? First, let me go through a little bit of our great history. Throughout the CSO program we have only had two sets of rate increases – one from 2007-2010 which was a four-year rate increase and actually because we were not starting the Phase II program immediately we did a 7% decrease in 2011. Again, I am still waiting for Xfinity or some of the other utility vendors to give me a decrease like that. We had no rate increases for 10 years. To fund Phase II, once we finalized it, we came before the Board in 2019 and five years of 4% rate increases were approved. Today, Manchester's average rate is \$436 per year, well below the state average of \$766. By comparison, here are some of the surrounding communities. We are 43% below the state average. You will see on the high end is Portsmouth. They are another CSO community. They spent hundreds of millions on their CSO project plus they just invested \$85 million in a new wastewater treatment plan. You see Dover at \$900 annually. Again, similar to us they had to treat for nutrients at their wastewater treatment plant. You see the state average in red at \$766 and you see Manchester in yellow at our \$436. Where do we go from here? Again, we always want to have competitive rates for our residents so this is a graph showing how we project our future rates. Again, we expect to be about 20% below the state average as we move forward. No one has a crystal ball for predicting rates. If you told me three years we would be facing a worldwide pandemic, a workforce shortage

and supply chain problems, I would have said what are you talking about but again we all face that now. What do our rates look like in the future? As I shared with you, we will have 4% a year increases until 2024. Our current projection after that, starting in 2025, would be 9% rate increases for the next five years. We generally look at about five year increments. That is still projected to be about 20% below the state average. I talked about leveraging our work. We also try to leverage all aspects of this program. One of them is federal assistance. EPD was just awarded \$2 million this year for the CSO program from the state ARPA money. There is infrastructure money coming out and we are in line for that. We will be revaluating the rates in 2024 before any rate increases occur. Believe it or not, after all of this work there is still a Phase III. Unfortunately, my professional career will not go 80 years so I could do the 2040-2060 program but there are five CSO bases remaining and four outfalls. We estimated that work at about \$200 million back in 2010. What that will cost in 2040 with future regulations we really have no idea. Again, that is the future that we have in front of us to address our CSO's and the water quality in the Merrimack River. In summary, this whole program is Merrimack River water quality. We talked about it being an economic engine for the state. We talked about 600,000 people drawing their drinking water out of that. We talked about the Manchester Water Works new plan for drawing drinking water out of there. This is a federally mandated program. We negotiated this for two years with the DOJ, EPA and DES. It was executed in 2020 and we have to move forward with it. Again, we hope to leverage all of this work as we did in Phase I. We are looking for complete infrastructure upgrades – new roads, curbing, and sidewalks. If you go to Chestnut Street you will see the decorative sidewalks on Hanover Street in front of the Palace Theatre. We did that. The first bike lanes in Manchester were on Chestnut Street and we did that. Even the horseshoe park behind Wolfe Park, we went through there and revitalized that. Again, we try to maximize all of this work like urban revitalization, environmental justice, and a positive impact to the local economy. We try to make this program as beneficial as it can be for all aspects to the city. What do we need tonight? Again, we are looking for the Board's approval to move forward with the recommended Phase II plan as presented. That means that we will be submitting the tunneling option to EPA and DES and ultimately moving forward with the land acquisitions and easements that are required to execute this project. With that, I would be happy to answer any questions.

Alderman Long stated thank you for the presentation. The \$2 million in ARPA funding was from the city's appropriation correct or was it from the state? Is there any availability within the state to leverage the \$2 million that the city appropriated?

Mr. McNeill responded I see these people on a regular basis and behind closed doors I am always pounding on them for more money for Manchester and they are aware of that and very helpful. The first installment was distributed evenly to all communities. All communities got \$2 million maximum in this first round of ARPA funding. Even small communities got \$2 million. They are aware of our needs and we have had several funding meetings with them as we develop the CSO program.

Alderman Long asked so did I just hear that you got \$2 million from the state.

Mayor Craig responded yes every community did.

Alderman Long asked so you got \$4 million in ARPA funding.

Mr. McNeill answered no we had one \$2 million award for 2022.

Alderman Long stated I thought the city also appropriated some of our ARPA funding.

Mayor Craig replied we did and it was to address water drainage issues and not the CSO.

Alderman Long asked regarding the infrastructure bill, do you anticipate some funding from that for the CSO.

Mr. McNeill answered yes.

Alderman Long asked with respect to the agreement we made back in 1995, are we on course and are the feds happy with our progression.

Mr. Sheppard asked if you are referring to the consent decree then yes. We have been moving forward and following the schedule that was agreed to.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated thank you for all of this work. I am incredibly proud of what the city is doing and what you guys are doing. The one thing that troubled me is the Cemetery Brook project. You showed it stopping at Mammoth Road and just east of there is where we have a ton of problems in Ward 5. I know you guys are aware of those and I was hoping this was going to go right up there.

Mr. O'Neill replied we do plan on doing that, alderman, but not with the tunnel technology. That will be conventional open cut piping and that will come after the tunnel. We are aware about the issues down in the Huntington area.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated there is a lot of work going on there now.

Mr. O'Neill responded you are correct. For a short-term mitigation, we have been working on the other side of that in the Revere/Oakland area for the past six months. We will also be there this spring. We have invested close to \$1 million in short-term mitigation measures in that area to alleviate flooding.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I appreciate that, especially from Mammoth Road to Page Street. That would be great.

Alderman Stewart stated thank you for the great presentation. Certainly it is very exciting on a number of fronts. I know the people in the northwest part of Ward 2 are very excited about the Christian Brook project that will be kicking off this spring. I know you said that overall the Christian Brook project would be a \$31 million project and I believe I read that a \$15 million portion of it will begin this spring. Can you talk a little more about the overall Christian Brook timeline of what is happening?

Mr. McNeill answered that is going to be two three-year construction periods. We are going to start with the spring of this year and it will be two years of installing pipe. Then in the third year we will come back and rebuild the roads. That is the main pipe coming

down from McIntyre to Walnut Street. After that three-year period, we have contract two which is all of the connections to this main pipe. That will be another three-year period. Again, the first two years is pipe installation and then in the last year we come and rebuild the roads.

Alderman Stewart stated one of the benefits is that this will help reduce flooding in these areas so hopefully at the end of this we should see less flooded streets and basements and backyards. Is that correct?

Mr. Sheppard responded yes that is the intent of the separation.

Alderman Levasseur asked what is the difference in the impact between stormwater coming out of one pipe and sewer out of another. I would I think that the stormwater helps push out the sewer. When one is working and one is not working what is the...you are still getting I would think a lot more bacteria coming out of one pipe only that doesn't have the stormwater in it whereas in the other way it would be more diluted and the stormwater would be able to clean out the pipes a little bit more.

Mr. McNeill stated if I can just go back to this slide, what happens when there is not a storm event is all of that water comes to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. All of that water, including the clean stormwater comes to the plant. When there is a storm event as shown on the right, that is when the discharge happens to the river and that water is going out. What we call the first flush is heavily contaminated with wastewater. After that, it is 95% clean water but that first flush is what does it.

Alderman Levasseur asked so everything that comes from the sewer goes to the treatment plan.

Mr. McNeill answered that is correct. To put it in perspective, we treat about five million gallons a day of clean water. That is bigger than 95% of the treatment plants in northern New England. Not only do we have the benefit of water quality by removing it at the treatment plant but we substantially decrease our operating costs. To put things in perspective, we are one of the largest electrical users in the state at about \$1.5

million a year because we have to pump all of that water. If we can take out a substantial amount that would present significant cost savings to our rate payers.

Alderman Levasseur stated I appreciate that clarification. On the issue of the pipes, are you putting in new pipe...when you say you are separating I am assuming these pipes are joined at the hip somewhere so are they being removed completely or is there just a section that is being removed and new piping is being put in?

Mr. McNeill replied the existing infrastructure or piping will stay in place and be used as a sewer system. We are basically constructing a new drainage system and that is what we did on the west side.

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to approve moving forward with Phase II.*

3. Covid-19 Public Health Update.

Anna Thomas, Public Health Director, stated I will be brief. Today we are reporting 423 active cases of Covid-19 in Manchester compared to 2,500 active cases four weeks or a month ago. To date, we have about 30,000 cases among Manchester residents throughout the entire pandemic. Sadly, we mourn and remember close to 300 Manchester resident lives lost and within the Manchester school district we have had close to 3,000 cases this school year among students and staff with 49 cases currently occurring within all schools. We feel that we have finally reached our peak as we talked about weeks ago and we are starting to enjoy the downward trend that we are also experiencing across the country. It is important to note that all of the data that is available to us currently is severely underreported for two reasons. One, that the NH Department of Health and Human Services is lagging in their ability to update the state dashboard which is where we draw all of our data so we don't actually have a true number of prevalence in the community currently. It is only as good as what is reported in there. Also, because of the wide availability of home testing, there is a lot of testing that is happening and people are testing positive and not reporting whether or not they are a case so there is a lot of activity happening in the homes that doesn't necessarily

make it to the state database. Based on the data that we have, four weeks ago our 14 day, and again this is one of those big measures that we look at when we make these determinations for community mitigation efforts, was 3,545 per 100,000 population. Today it is 754.8 per 100,000. Keep in mind that to be below substantial we have to be 100 per 100,000 or below. We would prefer to be 50 or below which is minimal. We are still about seven and a half times the rate of where we want to be and in addition to that our seven-day test positivity rate four weeks ago was 29% and it is now 8.7%. Ideally, we want that number to be at 5%. We are definitely moving in the right direction. As far as our inpatient hospitalizations are concerned, four weeks ago we had 94 patients between the two hospitals in hospital beds who were Covid positive and today we have 25 beds filled. That is, again, a great improvement. We are continuing to do what we can to vaccinate the community. We just had another vaccination night at Beech Street Elementary School and vaccinated 140 people. We continue to make our clinics available and those times are posted on our website. People can walk-in. There is a fixed site now as well through the NH DHHS and ConvenientMD at 840 Hooksett Road, Unit 8B. That is seven days a week 8 AM until 2 PM. Again, people can walk right in seven days a week. We are awaiting the guidance for children who are age six months to four years old. We are told that the state's immunization strategy for that age group will primarily rely on the primary care clinics. Certainly because that is such a vulnerable group and the providers really have the medical history of these children, it is really the best place for that to be provided as opposed to us doing big clinics. Certainly one of the questions is around this mask rule and what we should do about that. My recommendation to you would be that we sunset the mask rule by the end of the month. I think a lot of communities are moving in that direction. It gives you two more weeks to kind of get through one more incubation period if you will and I would like to vacate those hospital beds in the two hospitals and feel a little bit more comfortable with our numbers. I think you can, with confidence, feel like that could be lifted for city employees and city buildings and hopefully we just continue to do away with this pandemic altogether and focus on other essential services that the city is asking us to spend time on. We are looking forward to spending more time on a lot of the work we are doing in the community around community needs assessments and getting back into neighborhoods and getting back to the business of life. We are happy to see the things that are happening in the community around Covid but we are not

100% there. We are so close and I just want to stay optimistic and encourage us to remain vigilant.

Alderman Stewart stated thank you. I always appreciate these Manchester specific updates and the perspective that you are able to give as to where we fit in the grand scheme of things. We certainly appreciate all that you and your staff have done through this pandemic. I think I speak for pretty much everyone here that we certainly respect the advice that you give and because of that, and because of Director Thomas's recommendation, I would *move to sunset the mask rule at the end of the month.*

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

Alderman Sharonov stated a couple of weeks ago you sent an Excel spreadsheet I think or some kind of document showing the current vaccination rate in Manchester and I think it was right around 52%. Do you know what it is now?

Ms. Thomas responded here is the dilemma with that and I am always hesitant to send that spreadsheet but I want you to have it because that is what we have access to. What happened with vaccination numbers in this state and this is statewide and not just our community is when they lifted the state of emergency, the state no longer required reporting of vaccination numbers by the pharmacies and all of the federally funded programs. That includes your VA hospitals and your federally qualified health centers, the prison systems and any of the nursing homes that would have provided vaccination. All of those numbers are not included in the number that you saw on that spreadsheet. What has been frustrating is we actually don't know what our true vaccination rate is. It is at least that number. I would say because we have so many more of those facilities in Manchester it has to be a lot higher. I don't know if I want to take a stab at guesstimating what that number would be but we have so many nursing homes in this community. We certainly have other federal programs like the VA, and those are all numbers that need to be in that total number but we don't actually have a true number for that unfortunately.

Alderman Levasseur asked are you planning on shutting down any of the things that you guys are doing like the Hunts Pool testing site. What is your plan after March? Are we just going to let Rite-Aid and the regular people take over?

Ms. Thomas answered those are state driven facilities and they are looking to end those services at the end of March. Everything will be pushed to the pharmacies. Thank you for asking.

Alderman Levasseur asked and as far as walk-in's at the Health Department, will you still be doing it year-round.

Ms. Thomas responded yes we will always do immunizations of all types, not just Covid, but right now for the public's knowledge our clinics are running Mondays from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM, Tuesdays from 9 AM until 11:30 AM and on Thursdays from 3 PM to 6 PM. People can just walk-in and we will take care of you.

Alderman Levasseur asked is your recommendation about masks going to be for school facilities also. You weren't at the meeting last night but I think somebody probably wanted to ask you.

Mayor Craig stated we talked about it last night at the school board meeting.

Alderman Levasseur stated I know the mayor said we were going to look at it after the holidays or vacation but I wasn't sure if you have an opinion on that.

Ms. Thomas stated we work with the school district on a regular basis. We have multiple meetings and we had meetings leading up to the school board meeting last night to talk about that. We said let's take a look at the numbers after the break and see where we are. Where the most evidence lies that we can determine in masking is in the school environment. It is really not just the protection of the kids because we know kids are actually faring better with Covid compared to adults. It is really for the protection of the staff. So once you get these teachers infected, it is taking out whole classrooms and there is not enough staff to backfill. I hear this from principals all the time in both

private schools and public schools. It is kind of that extra layer. It is the same thing that we are doing with city buildings. We are really just protecting the city employees at this point and I think that is a prudent measure.

Alderman Levasseur asked when you look at the drops in the numbers statewide, can you take those numbers and look at the numbers in the schools and see whether the percentage drops are equal, the same or not the same or one is a different animal because they are more combined. Are there any numbers that show that the numbers statewide are dropping and the school numbers are dropping at the same time?

Ms. Thomas responded I think they are both dropping at the same time. I think what we are seeing in the schools is commensurate with what we are seeing in the state, which is encouraging. I am hoping that this sort of quells in the next few weeks and we can all get back to whatever normal is going to be again. I am hopeful for that and I think that is why the school district wanted to wait until after the break to reevaluate. The big thing for them is clusters in classrooms when they have three or more kids or staff involved. It just changes the dynamic of how they teach and who is in the room and who is not. I think they are just trying to avoid having anybody do anything remotely. That gives them a little bit of a breather to get through the break and we will reevaluate it then.

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept BMA Minutes

4. Minutes from the August 3, September 7 and October 5 Public Participation, BMA and Finance meetings, the two Special BMA meetings held on September 28 and the Special BMA held on October 5.

Accept and Remand Funds

5. Donation of \$50 from an anonymous donor for the Fire Department.

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

6. 50/50 Sidewalk Petitions
Residential:
 - 214 Sagamore StreetCommercial:
 - 642 Huse Road

Information to be Received and Filed

7. Communications from Xfinity regarding programming changes and their yearly annual notice.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

8. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Seventy One Dollars and 43/100 (\$28,571.43) for the FY 2022 CIP 412322 2021 Homeland Security Grant Program Award-Hazmat.”

“Amending the FY2020, FY2021 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Three Hundred Sixteen Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars and 25/100 (\$316,338.25) to the FY 2022 CIP 710322 Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program.”

“Amending the FY2021 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Twelve Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Nine Dollars and 76/100 (\$12,229.76) to the FY 2022 CIP 710422 ADA/School Sidewalk Improvement.”

“Amending the FY2021 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) to the FY 2022 CIP 811722 Southern NH Build Back Better Regional Challenge.”

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

9. Proposed Resolution from Alderman Long supporting a minimum wage of \$15.00 per hour for City employees.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

10. Recommending that the summary of abatement requests submitted by Fred McNeill, Chief Engineer, 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 \$28,571.43 for CIP 412322 2021 Homeland Security Grant Program Award-Hazmat 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 \$316,338.25 to CIP 710322 Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
13. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$12,229.76 to CIP 710422 ADA/School Sidewalk Improvement 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 \$7,500 to CIP 811722 Southern NH Build Back Better Regional Challenge be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
15. Recommending that the communication from Anna Thomas, Public Health Director, requesting a line item adjustment to the Budget Authorization for CIP 212322 ARPA Community Health Worker Program be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
16. Recommending that the communication from Owen Friend-Gray, Highway Chief Engineer, requesting a project extension for CIP 711313 Goffs Falls Road Bridge Replacement through 6/30/2022 be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
17. Recommending that the communication from John Goldhardt, Superintendent, requesting a project extension for CIP 310219 PSI Funds Grants for Security & IT through 12/31/22 be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

18. Recommending that the request from EPD for authorization to interchange their Electrician I (grade 18) and Electrician II (grade 19) positions be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman George-Kelly who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

19. Recommending that the following traffic regulations be approved:
15-MINUTE PARKING
On Bremer Street, north side, from Rimmon Street to Hevey Street East Back
Alderman Gamache
On Chestnut Street, west side, from a point 137 feet north of Hanover Street to a point 22 feet further north.
Alderman Long
1 HOUR PARKING
On Bremer Street, north side, from Hevey Street to Hevey Street East Back
Alderman Gamache

NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Cleveland Street, north side, from a point 40 feet west of Second Street to Third Street

Alderman Barry

HANDICAP PARKING ONLY

On Cleveland Street, north side, from Second Street to a point 40 feet west

Alderman Barry

RESCIND 1 HOUR PARKING

On Bremer Street, north side, from Rimmon Street to Hevey Street (ORD 2693)

Alderman Gamache

RESCIND NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Taylor Street, west side, from Howe Street to a point 55 feet south
(ORD 6196)

Alderman Heath

On Cleveland Street, north side, from Second Street to Third Street

(ORD 10770)

Alderman Barry

2 HOUR PARKING-METERS

On Chestnut Street, west side, from a point 75 feet north of Hanover Street to a point 62 feet further north

Alderman Long

RESCIND 2 HOUR PARKING-METERS

On Chestnut Street, west side, from a point 75 feet north of Hanover Street to Amherst Street

(ORD 2830)

Alderman Long

(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman George-Kelly who was absent)

20. Recommending that the request from the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee to paint shamrocks at the intersection of Elm and Hanover Streets and Elm and Pleasant Streets on March 5, with a rain date of March 12 be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman George-Kelly who was absent)
21. Recommending that the recommendation from the Department of Public Works to provide a single left turn lane, a center left/through lane, and a right turn lane at the signal at the end of the Amoskeag Bridge to allow two lanes to turn left onto Elm Street northbound be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman George-Kelly who was absent)
22. Recommending that the request to use Arms Park for a 100th Birthday Dedication for Ralph Baer on Saturday, May 21, 2022 be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman George-Kelly who was absent)

HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF **ALDERMAN**

LEVASSEUR, DULY SECONDED BY **ALDERMAN HEATH**, THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS APPROVED.

REGULAR BUSINESS

23. Communication from Jennifer Farmer advising the Board of her resignation from the Board of Registrars, effective 1/4/2022.

*On motion of **Alderman Levasseur**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to accept the resignation with regret.*

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

There were none.

25. Confirmation(s) to be presented by Mayor Craig:
Senior Services Commission
Pat Kalik, term to expire January 1, 2025
Heritage Commission
Susan Berry, term to expire July 1, 2024

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

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

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

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

*On motion of **Alderman T. Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman Barry**, it was voted to ratify the agreement.*

28. Communication from Timothy Clougherty, Deputy Public Works Director, requesting that the Mayor be authorized to sign the modified lease agreement for the Landfill Solar Array Project.

*On motion of **Alderman Levasseur**, duly seconded by **Alderman T. Sapienza**, it was voted to authorize the Mayor to sign the modified lease agreement.*

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

Sharon Wickens, Finance Director, stated the FY22 general fund expenditure and revenue forecast as of 2/15/22 based on department head estimates shows that the current projected general fund operating surplus for FY22 is \$181,000. The operating surplus is comprised of an expenditure surplus of \$1,201,500, a revenue deficit of \$2,975,000 and the use of \$1,954,500 in ARPA revenue replacement funds. The revenue deficit is the same. It is interest income which is down about \$800,000 and parking revenue another \$800,000. The biggest mover is again motor vehicle registrations. It moved to the red in January another \$240,000 bringing it to about \$948,000. There is a little bit of a glimmer of hope though. The Tax Collector is seeing in February, and I know we are only two weeks in, but she is seeing that we are collecting 10% more in those first two weeks than we did in February 2021. I take that as a sign that maybe in this last quarter we will stabilize a little bit at least to just make budget so we can stop going into the red every month. Health insurance continues to trend over budget. We have asked for some more reports from USI, our health care consultant. It looks like December is coming in very high. I am not sure if we are waiting for stop-loss payments or what but we should be getting information by the end of this week to further analyze where we are with health care. The expenditure surplus also includes \$340,000 from the contingency account. There were 23 retirements through February 11 compared with 28 a year ago. Severance paid through February 11 amounts to \$854,148 compared to \$1,271,841 a year ago. The severance reserve account has a balance of \$1,009,768 as of February 11. Also for your information, you have overtime reports and a summary by department of the severance paid through January 31, 2022.

Alderman Long stated just for clarification, we have a revenue deficit of \$2,975,000 and the use of \$1.9 million. Is that \$1.9 million added to the \$2.9 million?

Ms. Wickens responded we are down \$2,975,000. Revenue replacement funds will bring you to FY19 levels on the revenues that are down. We can use \$1,954,000 to just get back to FY19.

Alderman Long asked and that is towards the \$2.9 million.

Ms. Wickens replied yes so now you are really down about \$1 million.

Alderman Levasseur asked will we be looking at tapping into the rainy day fund for revenue shortages at some point or is that not something we are concerned about.

Ms. Wickens answered it is something that we will watch.

Alderman Levasseur asked if you come up with a \$1 million revenue shortage of a \$1.5 million revenue shortage, you have to make that up and the only way you make that up is a hiring freeze or layoffs or you are planning on capping all of this money in a very short period of time. Where are we going with this?

Ms. Wickens responded departments may start returning funds back to the general fund. There are departments that are having trouble hiring so they have expenditure surplus. They don't normally start returning that until the last quarter so maybe in March we will see some expenditure surplus come in. You are correct that if that didn't happen then the rainy day fund definitely would be an option. If all revenues continue to be down once we look at them, the rainy day fund could make up some of that shortfall.

Mayor Craig stated in addition to the ARPA funds.

Ms. Wickens stated the ARPA funds would make up a portion of it but if we were still down \$1 million to Alderman Levasseur's point, the rainy day fund could make that up if there was no expenditure surplus.

Alderman Levasseur asked when is this going to become important or relevant or an emergency where the Board needs to step up and do something. Do you know about extra money coming in from the other departments or where that number is as far as what might be extra or are you making an estimated guess?

Ms. Wickens responded I have had some department heads say that they expect to probably return some surplus. Take Public Works for example, normally they won't return a surplus until the winter is over. They want to make sure that the winter weather

is behind them. Director Sheppard has indicated that it looks like they could be sending \$300,000 or \$400,000 our way possibly once things shake out. You also have Welfare who hasn't been using all of their general assistance money and I expect some of that to start to come in. The departments that have had trouble hiring I expect would start to return some.

Alderman Levasseur stated I get it but if we are in June and we are down \$1 million, we are not laying people off in June. We are going to be in March. When is the determination going to be as to what our revenue loss is? We can't go into the next budget with a revenue shortage. I don't want this Board being surprised on June 1 with someone saying well we didn't make up that \$1 million and we need to take it out of rainy day because we have no other choices. Right now we might have some choices but I don't see anybody running around with their pants on fire. It seems like this is the time to get moving on this. Are you projecting that we are going to balance out by June 30 right now?

Ms. Wickens replied I think we will be pretty close to balancing with what I am hearing, however, I will know a lot more by March because that is when people are going to start to return money or not.

Alderman Levasseur asked at the end of February/March or at the end of March.

Ms. Wickens responded at the end of February/March.

Alderman Levasseur asked so on March 7th you think you will have a better idea.

Ms. Wickens replied I will have talked to departments to see what is starting to come back.

Alderman Levasseur stated I am just saying that I don't know what the Mayor has in her toolkit to be able to say okay we need to have a hiring freeze, which isn't really hard because I don't think we are getting too many people hired but whatever needs to be done needs to be done before we have to go to...again if we come into June and you

tell us we need to take money out of the rainy day fund and we are not talking about it today, that is going to be a problem. There will be people who are not happy about that.

Ms. Wickens stated the only revenue I am concerned with to be honest with you that is short is the motor vehicles. At this point, motor vehicles had to be down \$730,000 before the ARPA funds kicked in. That is why when you look at the projection report you see it is down \$948,000 but ARPA funds are kicking in \$221,000. It finally hit that \$730,000. Now if it continues to be down, we do have ARPA funds that will supplement that.

Alderman Levasseur asked do you see any chance of seeing extra money in severance. We are probably going to go right down like we usually do?

Ms. Wickens answered we may have a little bit extra in severance. If you look at where we are now which is \$800,00 and last year we were at almost \$1.3 million...we are projecting it is going to be \$1.4 or \$1.5 million right now but you can always have people that all of the sudden put their papers in that we didn't know about.

Alderman Levasseur asked what about health insurance. Are we ahead or behind or even on that?

Ms. Wickens replied we are behind but we do have a reserve. We have almost \$1.9 million in reserve if we absolutely had to take it. We are looking at that closely right now.

Alderman Levasseur asked do we have any other reserves that are not the rainy day fund that we could tap into.

Ms. Wickens responded I am watching worker's compensation. Again, we have reserves for that. Health care and worker's comp...CGL is close but it may shake out to be okay. I think we will know a little bit more in March but I am not crazy concerned because we finally hit the point where ARPA funds are coming in and I know that

expenditure surpluses are going to come in. This \$181,000 is the worst it is going to be. I think we are going to see that go up.

Alderman Cavanaugh asked what is the total in the rainy day fund now.

Ms. Wickens answered \$12,318,000.

Alderman Long stated with respect to the ARPA money, how much is in there through 2026 that is unrestricted that we could use for this. I know we appropriated some money. We only used \$900,000 in the last budget correct?

Ms. Wickens replied yes but we also used money out of that fund to pay the stipends and there were a few projects identified as coming in lower than what we thought. We have probably about \$3.9 million or \$4 million in ARPA funds still. I am using \$2 million of it but we still have that available to us.

Alderman Long asked with respect to that ARPA funding, does that have to be appropriated for FY24. It seems like in FY25 and FY26 we can't use that to make up a revenue shortfall so that should be appropriated by December 2024 correct.

Mayor Craig answered yes.

Alderman Long asked are we getting interest on that money by any chance.

Ms. Wickens responded it is in a project and does not earn interest. Right now the interest rate is only .02.

Alderman Long asked is the second check coming in May.

Ms. Wickens answered yes.

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

Mayor Craig called the meeting back to order.

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

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

“Amending the FY2021 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Twelve Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Nine Dollars and 76/100 (\$12,229.76) to the FY 2022 CIP 710422 ADA/School Sidewalk Improvement.”

“Amending the FY2020, FY2021 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Three Hundred Sixteen Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars and 25/100 (\$316,338.25) to the FY 2022 CIP 710322 Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program.”

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Seventy One Dollars and 43/100 (\$28,571.43) for the FY 2022 CIP 412322 2021 Homeland Security Grant Program Award-Hazmat.”

“Amending the FY2021 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) to the FY 2022 CIP 811722 Southern NH Build Back Better Regional Challenge.”

ought to pass and be Enrolled.

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

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

There were none.

34. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Seventy One Dollars and 43/100 (\$28,571.43) for the FY 2022 CIP 412322 2021 Homeland Security Grant Program Award-Hazmat.”

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“Amending the FY2021 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) to the FY 2022 CIP 811722 Southern NH Build Back Better Regional Challenge.”

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

*On motion of **Alderman Stewart**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted that the Resolutions be Enrolled.*

*On motion of **Alderman T. Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, 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.

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

A True Record. Attest.

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

City Clerk