

## **BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN**

**February 19, 2013**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Mayor Gatsas** called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Craig, Ludwig, Long, Roy, Osborne, Corriveau, O'Neil,  
Levasseur, Shea, Katsiantonis, Shaw, Greazzo, Gamache, Arnold

### **Mayor's FY 2014 Budget Presentation**

**Mayor Gatsas** stated aldermen, members of the School Board, department heads and the citizens of Manchester, good evening. Thank you for your time. I understand that board meetings can be lengthy and I do appreciate the extra time out of the schedule to allow for this presentation. I wanted to present my budget to you ahead of schedule because I believe that time is of the essence. I feel that it is of the greatest importance that we begin the deliberation and conversation regarding the budget sooner rather than later. No doubt there are many obstacles we face in this budget. I believe they can be overcome in this tax cap budget. I do not pretend that the road ahead is easy. This road is difficult, most notably for the schools, but there's nothing that's insurmountable or impossible. I would like to begin this presentation by highlighting the many successes we have realized throughout the year. First, in health insurance. Due to the changes we made in co-pays and premiums on the City side we had originally estimated \$2.5 million dollars of savings to City taxpayers. I am pleased that the savings we've realized are higher at approximately \$3.2 million. Further because of the increased opt-out

provision that we instituted we have realized additional savings. In our last plan year we had 44 employees opt-out. This year we more than doubled that number and we have 93. Based on the average premium payment, minus the collective total of the stipend we have realized nearly an additional \$1million in savings - just on premium payments alone. This morning I had the opportunity to meet with representatives from Anthem to review the positive changes that have occurred in our utilization. These are a direct outcome of the plan changes. Emergency room visits are down 8.6%, our generic prescription drug fill rates have increased almost 5%, and we have seen an increase in annual well care visits, PSA screening rates and cholesterol screening rates. Ladies and gentlemen, here in Manchester we are changing the equation when it comes to healthcare. This is real progress.

Everyone in this city from those of us sitting in these seats, to the police and firemen, to the laborer at Public Works, to the individuals here at city hall you are agents of change and you should be commended. Another success we can champion is the completion of the Manchester Municipal Complex, on time and under budget. It's hard to believe that a little over three years ago the municipal complex was a drawing on a piece of paper. Today it is a state of the art facility that we, but most importantly, the citizens of the Queen City can be proud of. This facility belongs to our citizens and on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> I invite every citizen to come and celebrate the official opening of this complex. At the complex we have established the Central Fleet Maintenance Department, another success we can champion. Have there been bumps in the road? Sure. But today we have one place that services our city fleet as opposed to various maintenance garages across the city. We have centralized purchasing and inventory. We have a two shift system in place to maintain our vehicles so our vehicles spend less time being repaired and more time on the road. No doubt the centralized operations have created great efficiencies. Kudos to the team that saw this complex from concept to completion; if I tried to name everyone I would miss someone and I don't want to do that. I think I speak for everyone when I say great job! Now to the FY2014

budget you have before you this evening. Budgets are difficult but we are not unique and we are not alone. Across this country from Washington D.C. to the State of New Hampshire, to the family sitting at the kitchen table on Belmont Street times are tough. But at the end we have a responsibility to achieve balance. The budget before you this evening achieves balance and meets the requirements of the tax cap. The bottom-line of the budget this evening includes a 2.16% tax increase. This increase is less than the amount allowable by the tax cap. There is a tenth of a percentage point difference between the allowable 2.17%. This is a result of the Finance Department's programming and the way that "the round" is produced. An explanation has been provided to you in your package. The obstacles we had in this budget were many. We had to make up an additional \$4.1 million in State retirement costs between the City and the schools. As a result the severance line-item of this budget remains unfunded and the individual departments will have to make up the severance costs of their retiring employees. The alternative would be to reduce line items which would result in layoffs and that is unacceptable. However, should any surplus become available or additional savings realized I would ask that we work to fund this line item in the budget. At the beginning of my budget deliberations I gave every City department a starting point of the 2013 budget number minus one percent. You will see in the analysis most departments were able to meet this request. For the other departments that had difficulty, and came up a little short, we were able to work together to meet their needs. On the City side there are no layoffs. This budget funds the safety needs of our city. It will continue to provide the city services that our residents expect and deserve. Also I have applied the surplus of \$750,000 that was presented to this board to a prepayment of city retirement. In the Highway Department budget we have moved the employee who was regularly funded through CDBG to the general fund. Included in your package is a department by department analysis of changes from 2104 verse 2013. Also on the city side the motorized equipment replacement program is funded and back to the replacement

schedule that we had. With this we will replace a much needed pumper in the Fire Department. Replace aging snow removal equipment and the program merges the highway and parks funding for increased efficiency. Just as I have in years past I would like us to use this opportunity to recognize our City department heads for working diligently, and without complaint, to get the job done so we can move forward. For people at home trust me when I say we have outstanding department heads in this city. They work day in and day out to provide you with quality services - efficiently. Thanks to each of you. As I said before it is my hope that we can begin budget deliberations as soon as possible and report out a budget well before the usual end of June timeline. I think that it is imperative to do this for the School District. They need time to plan and I believe we have a responsibility to give the School District the information they need to be successful and prepared on the first day of school. For this to happen, the Board of School Committee must bring forward a budget, hold a public hearing and present it to this board. The aldermen's work and this hopeful expedited timeline can only be met if we work in tandem. Before I address the school budget specifically I am pleased to report that the search for a new superintendent is going well. We expect to have hired a new superintendent by mid-April. My hope is that we will put forward a community effort to welcome the new superintendent and make whoever he or she is feel right at home. And to Dr. Brennan, you have dedicated yourself to this district and to this community. You gave us nothing less than 110%. Thank you for putting us first and everything else second. I hope in this next chapter of your life you put your wife, your family and yourself first, in that order, and everything else second. Thank you, Dr. Brennan. While the beginning of the School District started out with difficulty, I believe we were able to work through the issues. We continue to provide the children in our School District an outstanding education. Manchester is certainly unique when it comes to educating our children and we have our own set of challenges. But I believe it is this very uniqueness that sets us above and apart from the rest. Our student body is diverse, they are well-rounded,

they are smart and they are resilient. Our principals, our teachers, our administration and everyone else in between go above and beyond everyday for our students and we thank them. Our schools are a vital part of this community and despite these budgetary challenges we are faced with, they will continue to thrive because of our students unwavering desire to succeed. Just this year the Manchester School of Technology became a full-time technical high school. For the first time they enrolled a freshmen class of 83 students. By making MST available full-time we are providing our students, who are not necessarily on the college track, and who find learning in the traditional environment difficult, with the technical skills and job-training skills they will learn to be ready for employment immediately following their graduation. I am so proud and honored to be a part of this important change and life-change for many Manchester students. I look forward to the first official MST graduation in 2016. Also in this time the Board of School Committee has worked diligently to unify course offerings and they continue to work on a successful plan for redistricting. For the Manchester School District this budget appropriates \$155,724,449, the maximum amount allowable under the tax cap. In total the tax cap raises approximately \$4.1 million. Schools receive approximately \$3.3 million of that increase and the City receives the additional \$800,000 to meet budgetary needs. In your package this evening is a chart illustrating the share of schools verse City over the past two years. No doubt this will be difficult. As I said before budgets are never easy but the task at hand is not impossible or insurmountable. There are real savings that can be realized in the schools throughout changes in benefit plans. Also in your budget package this evening is a proposal that I hope the board of aldermen, in conjunction with the Board of School Committee, will approve sooner than later. This is a proposal to bring \$2.8 million in much needed technology to our city schools and improve safety. With this proposal we will: increase bandwidth in our schools and; bring WiFi to all city schools for an approximate cost of \$500,000; \$1.5 million will be spent for the purchase of 5000 computers and

tablets; \$300,000 toward professional development for professional development for teachers and integrated curriculum development. This proposal also increases safety in our schools by: Updating and replacing the telephone systems for an approximate cost of \$300,000; Updating and replacing the intercom systems for an approximate cost of \$200,000. The telephone and intercom systems being suggested are the systems in place, and tested, at the new Manchester Police Department. I believe that this proposal is necessary and even in these trying times this proposal is prudent. I also believe that the time to put this plan into action is now. If we act swiftly we can realize these changes and updates in our schools by September 1<sup>st</sup>. The \$2.8 million will be bonded. However the School District would not have to find new revenue to cover the bond payment. The annual book payment of approximately \$420,000 would cover \$2.8 million in bonding over a seven year period. At the conclusion of the seven years, we would end the deferral of the book loan and begin re-making payments to the City. Further, I believe that changes within the line items and the use of \$1 million of expendable trust and eliminating \$450,000 in the equipment line item because of bonding, combined with the reduction of other line items we can reach our goal with no layoffs in the School District. For the community improvement program our opportunity is certainly not what it used to be. With the dramatic funding decreases from our entitlement grants the City faces considerable challenges. Last year we saw an 8% cut in CDBG which is our single largest funding source within CIP. There was a 31% cut in HOME funds. This year in FY2014 we are anticipating an additional 10% reduction from this year's allocations in both CDBG and HOME. Obviously these decreases have an effect on our ability to fund very worthy projects that we all want to see succeed but, very simply, we do not have the capacity. This year the anticipated entitlement allocation plus program income for FY2014 is approximately \$2.2 million. The total City and non-city funding requests this year totaled approximately \$71.8 million. This year we will: Fund the 50/50 sidewalk program; Fund municipal infrastructure projects

including the reconstruction of streets; Fund the school dental van servicing low income areas and; Continue Weed & Seed Officer support. We will also continue with our CIP support of non-profit programming for over 20 agencies serving the city of Manchester. They include: City Year, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Program, the Child Advocacy Center, the Holy Cross Family Learning Center, the BRING-IT Program, the Y.O.U. program at the Y.M.C.A, Meals on Wheels and the Manchester Community Health Center. These agencies perform a variety of much needed services in our community. I would like to offer our thanks to these agencies for their contribution and participation in our community. I do have a few concluding remarks, but before I do that, I'd like to pause and thank a few people: The team from the planning department: Leon, Kerrie, Todd and Elise who worked to put together the CIP budget. A lot has happened and I thank you for keeping it together; Bill Sanders and Guy and the entire team in the Finance Department. Thanks for all your hard work, help and advice on this budget. It's always a pleasure. Matt Normand and his team for making sure the details are in place. Last, and certainly never least, to my team at home, my wife Cassandra, my mother Pauline and my brother Michael and my team here at City Hall, Sam, Carrie and Vicki. Thank you all for your time, your patience and your understanding. I sincerely hope that we can work together throughout this budget process to achieve the balance the citizens of this city expect and deserve. Even though this presentation would normally signal the end of a mayor's involvement with the budget process I hope you will not consider it the end of my involvement. To the members of this board and the members of the School Board, I remain committed to seeing this budget through to the end, helping in whatever way possible and making myself available to you should you have any questions about the budget I've presented to you. My door is always open. Once again thank you for your time this evening and Godspeed.

*Alderman Shea moved to move the presented budget to the next regular board meeting following the public hearing, to be scheduled by the City Clerk at the earliest possible time offered by the City Charter. Alderman Katsiantonis duly seconded the motion.*

**Alderman Levasseur** stated I have a parliamentary question. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Before we can go to a public hearing on the budget, does the School Board have to vote on their budget first and have a public hearing and then we combine them at the same time? How does that process work?

**Mayor Gatsas** replied I will allow the city solicitor to weigh in on that.

**Mr. Thomas Clark**, City Solicitor, stated it is the mayor's budget as proposed that goes to the public hearing. The Board of School Committee has to submit a proposed budget to this board after they have had a public hearing on it. The board in the past has also referred other proposed budgets to the public hearing for comment if they wanted to, but once you've had your public hearing on the mayor's budget, then the deliberations begin and you can make amendments and include consideration of any school budget that comes forward.

**Alderman Levasseur** stated I thought we did a joint meeting with the School Board and the aldermanic board for the public hearing. Or is it that we just invite the School Board?

**Mr. Clark** replied I think you invite them. It is a hearing of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

**Alderman Levasseur** stated okay, thank you.

**Alderman Craig** stated thank you, Your Honor. Are we going to have Dr. Brennan come to our board and present his budget so that we can ask questions?

**Mayor Gatsas** replied I think I might have mentioned it. I would hope that the board comes forward and presents a budget, goes to a public hearing on the school side, and then presents a budget to this board.

**Alderman Craig** asked and can I ask the same on the city side? Can we have department heads come forward so they can talk?

**Mayor Gatsas** replied absolutely. Every department head should come forward. I think it's a process that we need to do so that we have a clear understanding and hopefully with your help we will find some ways to get some line items like the reserves back in place and maybe we can do that. I'm not looking forward to taking this out until June; I think it's important that we need to do it sooner rather than later. I would ask that the bonding discussion happens sooner rather than later so that we can be prepared to be ready in September for the students with the bandwidth, the WiFi and the computers.

**Alderman Craig** stated thank you.

**Alderman Arnold** stated thank you very much, Your Honor. So after we have the public hearing the board can then begin its public deliberations? Is that the expectation of the board? So we will hold questions tonight?

**Mayor Gatsas** responded this moves into the finance committee so in lays over in there.

**City Clerk Matthew Normand** replied on the next agenda, March 5<sup>th</sup>, it will be on the consent agenda for referral into finance. If you recall, they have to lay over on the table five days after they have come out, the committee report of finance. The resolutions will be ought to pass and layover so it is five days before they can be amended, but the public hearing we anticipate being on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. here at city hall.

**Alderman Arnold** stated thanks for the clarification.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated if you would give me the indulgence for one minute, I notice that Dr. Brennan has appeared at the back of the room. I know he wasn't here to hear my comments, but I would ask him to come on in so that I can give you my comments, Dr. Brennan. "And to Dr. Brennan. You have dedicated yourself to this district and to this community. You gave us nothing less than 110%. Thank you for putting us first and everything else second. I hope in this next chapter of your life you put your wife, your family and yourself first, in that order, and everything else second. Thank you Dr. Brennan."

**Alderman Craig** stated thank you, Your Honor. When we're having public comment, can we have it at Memorial High School or somewhere that will allow for a larger crowd, because I don't want what happened last year to happen again.

**Mayor Gatsas** replied that would be up to this board. In the past we've had it here and we've had nobody come, and some years we have a lot of people come. Is there an expenditure to use Memorial?

**City Clerk Normand** replied there is. It is about \$2,000 for sound service.

**Alderman Craig** asked can I make that motion?

**Alderman O'Neil** stated if I may, Your Honor. The clerk and I have talked about this as we tried to come up with a date that would be acceptable to the mayor and to the board. There is a cost available; we hate to pay for it and no one shows up. It is the wish of the board.

*Alderman Craig moved to hold the public hearing on the city budget at Memorial High School. Alderman Long duly seconded the motion.*

**Alderman Craig** stated I would rather not have people down the stairs waiting to speak.

*Mayor Gatsas called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried with Aldermen Greazzo, Levasseur, Osborne, and Roy voting in opposition.*

**Alderman Shea** stated if you could repeat the motion.

**Alderman Craig** replied I suggested the motion to hold the public forum at Memorial High School so that it would accommodate more people, so that everyone who went would have an opportunity to speak instead of waiting on the stairs and then leaving.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated Your Honor, your comments regarding the technology bond... I would suggest that it should start on our end at the CIP Committee and then reporting out to the full board, which would be our normal procedure. So I think whoever is going to do this needs to put together a very detailed package for the committee, work with Alderman Roy, I don't know if he'll need a special night for it or not, and then give it plenty of time to get over to the full board for

discussion. It is very important. I think we can move quickly on our end but the information has to be prepared when it goes to committee.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated alderman, I don't disagree with you. But I would first ask that we allow the School Board to tell us that that's what they want to do.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated Your Honor, there was a comment made about up and running by September. We can move quickly on our end.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated I know we can. It needs to come from the School Board first.

**Alderman O'Neil** responded that's fine.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated and I know this board can act very prudently and very quickly.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated the sooner they get it to us the sooner we can start working on it from our end. Thank you.

**Alderman Arnold** asked where are they in their deliberations?

**Mayor Gatsas** replied the budget is on the table.

**Alderman Arnold** asked any expectations?

**Mayor Gatsas** replied the budget is on the table. I would hope that they'd be calling for a board meeting and the public meeting right after that.

## **CONSENT AGENDA (ITEMS 4-26)**

**Mayor Gatsas** advised if you desire to remove any of the following items from the Consent Agenda, please so indicate. If none of the items are to be removed, one motion only will be taken at the conclusion of the presentation.

### **Accept BMA Minutes**

5. Minutes from meetings held September 4, 2012 (BMA) and October 16, 2012, (Sp BMA Rezoning).

### **Approve under supervision of the Department of Highways**

6. Pole Petitions:  
  
11-1400 (8) Lowell/Jane Street  
11-1406 (1) So. Willow Street  
11-1407 (1) Riverdale Avenue

### **Approve under supervision of the Department of Highways, subject to funding availability**

7. Sidewalk Petitions:  
  
387-389 Orange Street

### **Information to be Received and Filed**

8. Comcast franchise fee payment accounting documentation.
9. Communication from William Sanders, Finance Officer, regarding final CPI-U for 2014 budget.

## **REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES**

### **COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**10.** Resolutions:

“Amending the FY 2013 Community Improvement Program, by transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Twenty Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$120,500) for the FY 2013 CIP 412613 Fire Station Alerting System.”

“Amending the FY 2013 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$12,500) for the FY 2013 CIP 810413 Odd Fellows Hall Improvements Project.”

“Amending the FY 2010 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Three Hundred Eighty One Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty One Dollars (\$381,851) for the FY 2010 CIP 612210 Neighborhood Stabilization Project.”

“Amending the FY 2013 Community Improvement Program, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$28,000) for FY 2013 CIP 611513 Rapid Rehousing–Housing Relocation and Stabilization.”

### **COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE**

**11.** Communication from Leon LaFreniere, Planning and Community Development Director, regarding a reorganization of CIP staff.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT**

- 12.**        Recommending that the request from Mayor Gatsas to create a special account within CIP to accept the donation from MembersFirst Credit Union for underwriting and printing costs of the City newsletter be approved.  
*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Gamache who was absent)*
  
- 14.**        Recommending that the request from SNHPC for a prioritized list of projects for Manchester for possible inclusion in the FY 2015 - FY 2024 Ten-Year Plan be approved.

A prioritized list from the Public Works Director has also been included.  
*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Gamache who was absent)*
  
- 15.**        Recommending that the Fire Chief be permitted to accept grant funds for a Fire Station Alerting System with the 20% match to come from the Hackett Hill Fire Station Project.  
*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Gamache who was absent)*
  
- 16.**        Recommending that the request for acceptance and reallocation of funds in the amount of \$381,851 for CIP project #612210 - Neighborhood Stabilization Program I be approved.  
*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Gamache who was absent)*
  
- 17.**        Recommending that the request for acceptance and reallocation of funds in the amount of \$12,500 for CIP project #810413 - Odd Fellows Improvements Project be approved.  
*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Gamache who was absent)*

18. Recommending that the request for a transfer of funds and a name change to bring the CIP into alignment with the Substantial Amendment and HUD's focus on Rapid Rehousing be approved.  
*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Gamache who was absent)*
  
19. Recommending that the request from the Director of Planning & Community Development to change the terms of assistance for the Lead Hazard Control Program be approved.  
*(Aldermen Roy, Shea and Craig voted yea, Alderman Greazzo voted nay and Alderman Gamache was absent)*
  
20. Recommending that the request for lien subordination totaling \$56,480 for 211 Douglas Street property be approved.  
*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Gamache who was absent)*

#### **COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE**

22. Recommending that the ordinance related to military leave for employees, submitted by the Chief of Police, be approved and forwarded to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review.  
*(Unanimous vote)*

#### **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC**

23. Recommending that the following regulations governing standing, stopping, parking and operation of vehicles, be adopted pursuant to Chapter 70 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester and put into effect when duly advertised and the districts affected thereby duly posted as required by the provisions of that Chapter and Chapter 335 of the Sessions Laws of 1951.

#### **NO PARKING ANYTIME – EMERGENCY ORDINANCE:**

On Woodland Avenue, both sides, from Hanover Street to Trinity Street  
Alderman Osborne

On Belmont Street, west side, from Massabesic Street to Cedar Street  
Alderman Osborne  
On Orange Street, south side, from Beech Street to Maple Street  
Alderman Ludwig

**RESCIND 15 MINUTE PARKING – EMERGENCY ORDINANCE:**

On Belmont Street, west side, from Massabesic Street to Cedar Street  
(Ord. 9839)  
Alderman Osborne

**RESCIND NO PARKING LOADING ZONE:**

On Hanson Street, from a point 80 feet east of Elm Street to a point 110  
feet easterly (Ord. 3114)  
Alderman Long

**RESCIND STOP SIGN:**

On Hanson Street at Elm Street – NEC (Ord. 0856)  
Alderman Long

**RESCIND ONE HOUR PARKING:**

On Hayward Street, north side, from Hall Street to Belmont Street (Ord.  
3128)  
Alderman Shea  
On Second Street, west side, from a point 200 feet north of Blaine Street  
to a point 200 feet northerly ( Ord. 6088)  
On Second Street, west side, from Walker Street Northback Street to a  
point 40 feet northerly (Ord. 6087)  
Alderman Greazzo  
On Ash Street, east side, from North Street to a point 138 feet south of  
Webster Street(Ord. 2569)  
Alderman Ludwig

**RESCIND Parking 1 Hour for Public on Police Business only:**

Chestnut Street, west side, from Manchester Street to Merrimack Street  
(Ord. 8271)  
Alderman Long

**RESCIND Parking for Police Vehicles only:**

Manchester Street, south side, from a point 25 feet east of Chestnut Street  
to a point 90 feet east (Ord. 8274)  
Alderman Long  
Manchester Street, south side, from a point 155 feet east of Chestnut  
Street to Pine Street (Ord. 8373)

Alderman Long

**RESCIND One Hour Parking – Public on Police/Fire Business:**

Merrimack Street, north side, from Chestnut Street to a point 90 feet east  
(Ord. 6497)

Alderman Long

**Parking 10 hours 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Monday-Friday  
(single space meters):**

Merrimack Street, north side, from Chestnut Street to a point 90 feet east

Alderman Long

**Parking 10 hours 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Monday-Friday  
(pay and display):**

Merrimack Street, south side, from Chestnut Street to a point 133 feet east

Alderman Long

Manchester Street, south side, from Chestnut Street to Pine Street

Alderman Long

Chestnut Street, west side, from Manchester Street to Merrimack Street

Alderman Long

**Parking for Fire Department Vehicles only:**

Merrimack Street, south side, from a point 133 feet east of Chestnut Street  
to Pine Street

Alderman Long

**RESCIND NO PARKING ANYTIME:**

On Ash Street, east side, from Webster Street to a point 138 feet southerly  
(Ord. 2568)

Alderman Ludwig

**STOP SIGNS:**

On Clement Street at Dickey Street – NWC, SEC

Alderman Greazzo

*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Gamache who was  
absent)*

24. Recommending that the request the abi Innovation Hub for the use of a portion of Arms Parking Lot for a fundraising event scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2013, be approved.  
*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Gamache who was absent)*

25. Recommending that the request from the NH Fisher Cats and Clear Channel Media Entertainment for the use of Arms Parking Lot for a skyshow/fireworks event to be held on Sunday, May 26, 2013, be approved.  
*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Gamache who was absent)*
26. Recommending that the request from the National MS Society for the use of Arms Parking Lot for their 2013 Walk MS Manchester Event on Sunday, April 14, 2013, be approved.  
*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Gamache who was absent)*

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

**Alderman Greazzo** stated I want to be on record as being opposed to item 13 and item 19.

**13. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT**

Recommending that the following recommendations for sewer abatement requests submitted by Fred McNeill, Chief Engineer, be accepted:

568 Rimmon Street  
1334 Hanover Street  
40 Sullivan Street  
456 North Adams Street  
245 Lindstrom Lane  
246 Blevens Drive  
437 Elgin Avenue

37 Thistle Way  
*(Aldermen Roy, Shea and Craig voted yea, Alderman Greazzo voted nay  
and Alderman Gamache was absent)*

**Alderman Roy** stated thank you, Your Honor. As I was going through the agenda, I realized that in this list 1364 Chestnut Street was not included. It was in the packet but it wasn't on the list that's here. I was going to ask the clerk and I didn't have a chance tonight. Did that go through with the rest of them from the committee?

**City Clerk Normand** replied my recollection is that there were two addresses didn't pass from committee. They did not have the required votes by a majority of the committee. I believe that was one of the addresses.

**Alderman Roy** stated so it did not pass. I know I was in opposition to this one and I wanted to make sure that that was the case and that it hadn't been missed here and it was going to go through because I was going to speak to it. If that did not pass along with another one, that's fine. I believe Alderman Craig has something as well.

**Alderman Craig** stated thank you, Your Honor. I wanted to speak to that address because I did vote in favor of approving that. The highway commission recommended to approve it, that address in terms of what they encountered met all of the criteria that was set up by the CIP committee with the process that EPD follows. So I'd like to make a motion to amend the report to include the address 1364 Chestnut Street.

**Alderman Roy** stated thank you, Your Honor. It met the criteria. Even though they come forward with a suggestion to the committee doesn't mean that we have to pass it. And in this case we've got an individual who talked to the contractor

who put in the sprinkler system and the contractor told this individual that it wouldn't pay for itself for several years, so it was a conscience decision by the property owner not to put in a deduct meter. They knew about the program, they said I'm not going to do it. Four years later they want us to forgive a substantial amount of money. If it had been six months or a year later, I'd say okay, they didn't realize how expensive it was going to be, but they waited four years and now they want us to forgive it. Essentially they're asking us to forgive a bad decision on their part. I don't think it's appropriate for us to be writing that money off and that's why I voted against it in committee and I'll vote against it again here.

**Alderman Craig** stated if I could clarify. I'm not sure if you want to take a look at page 13.2. This address isn't a significant amount of money when compared to the others that the highway commission has recommended, so I would beg to differ on what you said. And, again, the highway commission is responsible for looking at every one of these claims and we give them the authority to determine, based on the program that we put forward, they use the criteria we gave them to approve or not, and yes, we have the final say, but we've given them the authority, they've looked at this and spoken to residents and they have suggested that we provide the abatement. Again, I would like to make that motion if there is a second.

***Alderman Craig** moved to amend the report to include 1364 Chestnut Street.*

**Alderman O'Neil** stated a question for Alderman Roy. That was your committee, CIP?

**Alderman Roy** replied correct.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated with some of these in the past where there has been some history, we've asked that they agree as part of the abatement to install the deduct meter. Was that agreed to on all that you passed and what was the status of the two that you denied? Do you happen to know?

**Alderman Roy** replied I believe that we don't have them agree to installing a deduct meter; they know that if they don't install a deduct meter, that their request in the future would be denied.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated that is a policy we've passed. Correct?

**Alderman Roy** asked that the request in the future would be denied if they came forward again?

**Alderman O'Neil** replied correct.

**Alderman Roy** replied yes, that is. What was the second part of your question?

**Alderman O'Neil** replied was that a condition on the ones you approved?

**Alderman Roy** replied it would be because that's our policy going forward.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated if I may ask, someone could be approved and it's not a requirement of the approval that they install the deduct meter? Is that correct?

**Alderman Roy** replied correct.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated they just can't come back a second time.

**Alderman Roy** replied that's correct, and there are some of these cases in here where a hot water heater let go and the water went into the dirt floor and you can understand that. But when you have a sprinkler system that's installed and you don't put a deduct meter on it because you don't think it's going to save you enough, if you're wrong, that is a chance you took and that's where I'm going with this case.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated thank you for the clarification. There is a difference between a hot water heater and a lawn sprinkler system. The deduct meters are all related to the outside water.

**Alderman Roy** stated sometimes it's a toilet that's running that they didn't know because the tenants didn't tell them and we understand that.

**Alderman Shea** stated thank you, Your Honor. I think the confusion is that in years past, and I think Alderman O'Neil was on the CIP committee at the time, when these were submitted to the CIP members, we made a distinction or a judgment on these, and then there was the discussion as to whether or not we should just go along with what the water commissioners approved or disapproved. I think that's where the ambivalence is resting right now because, at least in my case, sometimes we were denying the same things that now are being approved, and we find in certain instances there's not the consistency in terms of putting in a deduct meter or other things like that. So that is where the confusion might rest, in my judgment and in my opinion. That's where I think we're starting to get a little bit of confusion as far as whether or not we should approve or disapprove certain items. That is just a clarification I wanted to mention. Thank you, Your Honor.

**Alderman Levasseur** asked did you get a second to her motion?

***Alderman Levasseur** duly seconded the motion to amend the report to include 1364 Chestnut Street.*

***Mayor Gatsas** suggested a roll call vote on the motion. Aldermen Craig, Ludwig, Long, Osborne, Corriveau, Levasseur, Shea, Shaw, and Gamache voted yea. Aldermen Arnold, Roy, O'Neil, Katsiantonis, and Greazzo voted nay. The motion carried.*

*On motion of **Alderman Craig**, duly seconded by **Alderman Levasseur**, it was voted to approve the report as amended. The motion carried with Aldermen Roy, Katsiantonis and Greazzo voting in opposition.*

21.       Recommending that the updated FMLA policy be approved.  
          *(Unanimous vote)*

**Alderman Shea** stated this is a family medical leave policy which was approved by the Committee on Human Resources/Insurance, however, I'd like to refer it back to committee at this time.

*On motion of **Alderman Shea**, duly seconded by **Alderman Levasseur**, it was voted to send this item back to the Committee on Human Resources/Insurance.*

### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

27.       Nomination(s) to be presented by Mayor Gatsas, if available.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated pursuant to section 3.14B of the City Charter, please find the following nominations.

June Trisciani to succeed herself as a member of the Heritage Commission, term to expire January 1, 2016;

Patricia Howard to succeed herself as an alternate member of the Heritage Commission, term to expire January 1, 2016;

Craig Donais to fulfill a vacancy as a member of the Conduct Board, term to expire October 1, 2015; and

Michael Harrington to succeed Joe Dion as an alternate member of the Planning Board, term to expire May 1, 2014.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated these nominations will lay over to the next meeting of the board pursuant to Rule 20 of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

**28.** Confirmation(s) to be presented by Mayor Gatsas:

Sara Beaudry to succeed Brother Paul Crawford (term-limited) as a member of the Office of Youth Services Advisory Board, term to expire January 1, 2016;

Thomas Puthota to succeed himself as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, term to expire March 1, 2016;

Allen Hendershot to succeed himself as an alternative member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, term to expire March 1, 2016;

Bill Bevelaqua to succeed himself as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, term to expire March 1, 2016;

Michael O'Donoghue to succeed Craig Donais (term-limited) as a member of the Personnel Appeals Board, term to expire March 1, 2016;

Angela Richardson to succeed herself as a member of the Personnel Appeals Board, term to expire March 1, 2016.

*Alderman O'Neil moved to approve these confirmations. Alderman Long duly seconded the motion.*

**Alderman O'Neil** stated Your Honor, just read Bill Bevelaqua again. I thought you said Planning Board and I just want to make sure.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated Bill Bevelaqua to succeed himself as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, term to expire March 1, 2016.

*Mayor Gatsas called for a vote on the motion to approve the confirmations. There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

**29.** Legislative Updates.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated they are in your packet. Aldermen Long, Shaw or Katsiantonis, do you have anything to report?

**Alderman Long** stated I don't.

**Alderman Shaw** stated I don't.

**Mayor Gatsas** asked any questions of the legislation before us?

**Alderman O'Neil** stated Your Honor, I have one comment. I learned from Alderman Long earlier that crossover is not until April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated not too far away.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated it's later than it used to be. I always thought it centered around school vacation in February.

**Alderman Arnold** stated thank you very much, Your Honor. This legislative updates packet has a bunch of proposed position letters. Is that right?

**Mayor Gatsas** responded I think those letters were enclosed. Does anybody have objection with any of the letters?

**Alderman Arnold** stated I'm just reading them. I don't know if Alderman Long wants to comment on them.

**Alderman Long** stated in order to understand that there is a response on this printout, which will give you the department who has issue with it and what the issue is, it would be quicker to go through that.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated I guess my understanding is the responses with that chart was in your package that was delivered Friday. The letters were just drafted today.

**Alderman Levasseur** stated well Mr. Mayor, it looks like this esteemed board likes to send letters to the governor, and the esteemed governor has decided that she's going to put \$80 million into her budget from the hope and prayer that somehow gambling gets passed in the state, and I would like to see this esteemed body, with all of its amazing power and authority over the legislature in Concord, write a letter to them instead of asking them to spend the money as pieces of a pie, that instead we ask them to send that money back to the towns and cities for tax relief. I understand that they pushed \$5 million down on us for this year's budget. If they're going to use that money, they should use that money to relieve the property tax burden on all of us that has been downshifted to us by our wonderful state legislature. My understanding is we're supposed to get some pieces of that

money, and I don't know if maybe in 2014 or whether it is included in this budget, but if you're going to get \$80 million and you've stuck the State of New Hampshire, its towns and its cities, with \$80 million worth of downshifting, it would make sense that that money would come back to the towns and the cities to relieve the burden that they've thrust upon us. I don't know if the board is thinking in that way, but maybe it's something we should consider since I think we sent out about 10 letters last week or two weeks ago. I don't know what the mayor's position on that is, but I'm sure you'd like to get that money back for the downshifting that they've given to us.

**Mayor Gatsas** responded I'd like it all back. I'd like the rooms and meals that they have frozen for the last four years, I'd like the revenue sharing that they took away from us four years ago, that was \$4 million to the City, I'd like to have them take the cap off the educational funding formula so that we could pick up another \$20 million. As I said in my remarks, I don't know where they're going to find that money. I certainly would like it, but I don't know where they're going to find it.

**Alderman Levasseur** stated I would think that our board, with as many legislators that we have on there, would express that. We're not asking for a handout; we're not asking for any money that raise any taxes; we're asking for property tax relief from the money they downshifted to us.

**Mayor Gatsas** asked any discussion on the letters that were in the packet?

**Alderman Arnold** stated on the matrix that followed the letters where it has been sent to and then there's a department. I presume that the response represents the department head's position in every instance?

**Mayor Gatsas** responded I believe that's the way it is constructed on that sheet.

**Alderman Arnold** stated okay. Thank you very much.

*Alderman Long moved to approve the letters included in item 29. Alderman Roy duly seconded the motion.*

**Alderman O'Neil** stated I have a follow-up on Alderman Arnold's question. It says sent to and the department head can take a position on it. Is the department head going to inform the board or are we using this matrix as how the board is getting informed?

**Mayor Gatsas** replied I believe the information that you have before you is that if the department is opposed to the legislation, that's what we would be saying. If the department head was in favor of the legislation, that's what the letter would reflect.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated not to put this burden on your staff, but we're going to get some in between times here where, I think it is good that we're tracking it as one document, but I wouldn't want to see a position on a report and find out a week later a department head was up there because they haven't reported to Sam on what they were doing taking a position.

**Mayor Gatsas** responded I would hope that they would notify us, at least my office, before they go, and we would put that on the next matrix that comes before you.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated the next matrix is too late. If they're going to notify you, they should notify the board because I don't want to get caught, as has happened over the years, where I'll run into a member of the legislature and they'll say why did the City take a position, yes, department X was up there. I don't want to be put in that position.

**Mayor Gatsas** responded I don't know how you're going to correct that.

**Alderman O'Neil** interjected I'll make a motion that if they're going to take a position, they inform the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

*Alderman O'Neil moved that department heads notify the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of their position on legislation.*

**Mayor Gatsas** asked what is the position once they notify this board?

**Alderman O'Neil** replied at least we know what's going on and it's not two weeks later for us to get this matrix report.

**Mayor Gatsas** asked what if you're opposed to it as a board member? Then what do we do?

**Alderman Levasseur** replied at least we'll know.

**Alderman O'Neil** replied at least we'll know what's going on.

**Alderman Long** stated thank you, Your Honor. I believe that the department heads know that they don't take a position for the City of Manchester, so they don't take a position for the City of Manchester. A few years ago when we started

this process so that if they want to take a position for the City of Manchester, it has to be approved through the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Now I know one of the department heads went up there and he didn't take a position on a policy, he explained his opposition because of the administration of this particular bill was going to create for all the assessors, he is the president of the Assessors' Association, so we didn't take a position as the City of Manchester. And I believe the department heads know that, and I know I've been getting calls or emails from them for bills that they're tracking, whether they're going up there or not. If they want to go up there, I believe they go through the mayor. Do they go through you? They ought to be going through you.

**Mayor Gatsas** responded yes.

**Alderman Long** stated and I guess what we're asking is that if they go through you to go up there and testify, then the full board would be notified.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated I have no problem with that.

**Alderman Long** stated but you are right; I would still hope that they wouldn't go up there taking a position for the City.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated just as the way of discussion; the CHINS update passed out of committee of family law today 19 – 0. It looks like they're talking about, or having discussions in the House. It will be on the calendar, I believe, next week to see if some of the CHINS financing doesn't come back to the City.

***Alderman Long** seconded the motion that department heads notify the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of their position on legislation. Mayor Gatsas called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

**Alderman Shaw** stated I just wanted to tell you about a bill that was ITL'd in education today. It would have affected the recording of students who have unexcused absences, not truancy, but just for the average daily membership. It used to be calculated monthly and then how much funding we would get and the city was affected, but now it is done yearly. And with the new recording with the department of education, the ten days seemed unreasonable because it violates the IDEA, which is the disabilities act, and also it violates the truancy law, or interferes with it, because that is ten days. It would have created more money for the schools because they would have had to hire more resource officers or another truant officer to go and track down the kids that didn't show up for ten days, unexcused absences. But this way it stays the way it is and hopefully it will pass the House and not add extra expenses into the school districts around the state.

*Mayor Gatsas called for a vote on the motion to approve the letters included in item 29. There being none opposed, the motion carried. Alderman Arnold abstained from voting to approve letters referring to House Bills 286, 318 and 619.*

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

**Mayor Gatsas** 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 FY 2013 Community Improvement Program, by transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Twenty Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$120,500) for the FY 2013 CIP 412613 Fire Station Alerting System.”

“Amending the FY 2013 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$12,500) for the FY 2013 CIP 810413 Odd Fellows Hall Improvements Project.”

“Amending the FY 2010 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Three Hundred Eighty One Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty One Dollars (\$381,851) for the FY 2010 CIP 612210 Neighborhood Stabilization Project.”

“Amending the FY 2013 Community Improvement Program, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$28,000) for FY 2013 CIP 611513 Rapid Rehousing–Housing Relocation and Stabilization.”

ought to pass and be Enrolled.

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

**33.** Report(s) of the Special Joint Committee on Education, if available.

There were no reports.

**34.** Report(s) of the Committee on Lands and Buildings, if available.

There were no reports.

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

There were no reports.

- 36.** Report(s) of the Committee on Administration/Information Systems, if available.

There were no reports.

- 37.** Resolutions:

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

"Amending the FY 2013 Community Improvement Program, by transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Twenty Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$120,500) for the FY 2013 CIP 412613 Fire Station Alerting System."

"Amending the FY 2013 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$12,500) for the FY 2013 CIP 810413 Odd Fellows Hall Improvements Project."

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“Amending the FY 2013 Community Improvement Program, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$28,000) for FY 2013 CIP 611513 Rapid Rehousing–Housing Relocation and Stabilization.”

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

**38. Ordinances:**

*On motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Long, it was voted to waive readings by title only.*

“Amending Chapter 70: Motor Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester; 70.06 by amending the definitions for Commercial Motor Vehicle and Trailer.”

“Amending Chapter 70 Motor Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by clarifying the definition of a commercial vehicle in section §70.36(C) Stopping, Standing or Parking Prohibited.”

*On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Katsiantonis, it was voted that the ordinances be ordained. The motion carried with Aldermen Shaw and Greazzo voting in opposition.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Communications**

**Mayor Gatsas** stated we have a communication from Joe Dion, a resignation letter with regrets.

*On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Roy, it was voted to accept the resignation with regret. .*

**Mayor Gatsas** stated the policemen's ball is Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Radisson at \$35 per ticket.

**B. Aldermen**

**Alderman Greazzo** stated there was an article in Sunday's paper, I believe, about unpaid sewer charges. There is nothing on my sewer bill that said I had that much outstanding at the Tax Collector's Office. Is there a way that we can get that added to the bill, what your previous outstanding balances are that has been sent over to the tax assessors office?

**Mayor Gatsas** responded you can meet with Kevin Sheppard after the meeting and tell him what your concerns are, and maybe they can take care of that concern at EPD.

**Alderman Greazzo** asked Highway is doing the billing for EPD?

**Mayor Gatsas** replied it is under his department.

**Alderman Greazzo** stated okay, thank you.

**Alderman Levasseur** asked did you say the public hearing on the budget is going to be March 4<sup>th</sup>?

**City Clerk Normand** replied that was the initial discussion. Now that it is at Memorial, I need to arrange sound as well as the facility.

**Alderman Levasseur** stated I'm for Memorial; thank you.

### **TABLED ITEMS**

- 39.** Petition to release and discharge a portion of Hayward North Back Street.  
*(Note: Tabled 4/03/2012)*

This item remained on the table.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

A True Record. Attest.



Assistant City Clerk