

**BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

March 5, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Mayor Gatsas called the meeting to order.

Mayor Gatsas stated I'd like to ask Alderman Katsiantonis and Alderman Corriveau to introduce the students from Green Acres Elementary School who are going to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alderman Katsiantonis stated I'm honored to introduce Ward 8 resident and student from Green Acres Elementary School to lead us in this evening's Pledge of Allegiance: Isabelle Strandson.

Alderman Corriveau stated I'm honored to introduce Ward 6 resident and student from Green Acres Elementary School to lead us in this evening's Pledge of Allegiance: Asia Mercier. Thank you for joining us this evening.

Alderman Shaw stated Your Honor, I'd like to recognize the principal of Green Acres Elementary School, Rick Norton, a former colleague.

Mayor Gatsas stated if we could all remain standing for a moment of silence, and if we could keep Fred Caphorie's family in our prayers and also the Jerome Duval family for his mother and the Shanahan family as well.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Craig, Ludwig, Long, Roy, Osborne, Corriveau, O'Neil, Shea,
Katsiantonis, Shaw, Greazzo
Alderman Arnold arrived late

Absent: Aldermen Levasseur and Gamache

Messrs: J. Gile

Mayor Gatsas advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments

shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair; that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state your name and address when recognized, and give your comments.

There was no one wishing to speak.

Mayor Gatsas asked is there anyone wishing to speak?

Mayor Gatsas stated without exception, in the pink package that's before us, if we could go over a few things that are in there. There is an invitation for all board members for the annual meeting of the Manchester Development Corporation. The date is Friday, April 12th, 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., at Public Service of New Hampshire on North Commercial Street. Also, you will find an update of some of the work that we've been doing for MEDO. The lot that we sold to Dunkin Donuts; there were two lots that you will see. That transaction has closed, and also Mr. Andre and his wife donated back to the City the second lot that's on Second Street, the smaller of the two lots. We also have going to MDC this Friday a contract for the lot across the street. There is a confidential clause tied to it, and also that person says that they need the City lot that was just donated back to the City for parking. I can only tell you we're not doing a transaction, I'm just trying to bring you abreast of what's happening out there just so you know.

Alderman O'Neil stated I have a question. On the MDC lot, that will eventually come to us for a vote?

Mayor Gatsas replied it will eventually come to us for a vote, and also the parcel that was given back to the City from Dunkin Donuts will also be part of that package, so that will be before us to have discussion about that. Hopefully MDC will be voting or getting the contract on Friday and having a conversation about what they want to do. It's something that I think the City is going to be interested in having there, so I think that certainly the dialogue will continue and both of them are taxpaying entities, therefore, the property will get on the tax rolls. I wish I could give you direct answers, but because nothing has happened at MDC at this point. Confidentiality was passed along to us and we've been working through the issues. I can tell you that there is a tradeshow that's already been paid for by the City that is in Boston. My staff will go down and man it and they've taken a couple of days of practice for putting up the booth. I think the only three people who might not be able to fit in the boxes downstairs might be Alderman O'Neil, myself and Alderman Roy, but everybody else would fit in the boxes that are going to

Boston. I can tell you that it took them the better part of a day to put it up and it takes about ten minutes to take down. They'll be down there manning it and it's already been paid for by the City so we figured we might as well go down and see what the tradeshow are like. I can tell you that they've done some work on finding out if anybody else from New Hampshire participates and there isn't anybody. We have giveaways that we will take with us. There are hats, some key magnets and a few other things that they will be participating in so hopefully whoever is talking to them. They insisted that I go down and spend a couple of hours to see what it is like being at a tradeshow and whether it makes sense and whether it's something we should continue as a City. At least then somebody can come back and tell us, and if any of you would like to go down and sit in the booth and represent the City, we can get you the information and certainly everybody is welcome to go down. It is two days in April; I can get you the dates and the times and the location so if anybody wants to go down, I'm sure that they would enjoy your company. Sam will get it out to you quickly. There are no updates for legislation. I guess you're going to have a pretty long day in the House tomorrow, from my understanding, so we will see if there are any amendments that affect us in the City for the bills that will be going over to the Senate, and we certainly will bring that up and address them. Does anybody have anything else that they'd like to bring up now rather than waiting until the end of the evening? It is up to the will of the board if they'd like to do it.

Alderman O'Neil stated I have one item. If you recall, many meetings ago I was asked to work with staff to come up with a next step regarding negotiations. We've had a couple of meetings and this is our recommendation. Maybe we should wait until new business.

Mayor Gatsas asked this is to extend the current contracts?

Alderman O'Neil replied if the board chose to extend the current contracts and not start new negotiations if there was an opportunity. If the board chooses to not do it, then we're going to have to go to plan B, which we're working on, which is going to require a commitment of funds in next year's budget to negotiate with them like if we're starting from scratch.

Mayor Gatsas asked when you say next year's budget, Alderman; they're going to start negotiating now so that we can have a contract in place for July 1st?

Alderman O'Neil asked regarding this memo, Your Honor?

Mayor Gatsas replied yes.

Alderman O'Neil responded this is specifically a last attempt to get an extension done, which is financially in our best interest because otherwise the employees stay on the 5% healthcare, \$5.00 co-pays, that can go on for months, years without a contract. If it is not the will of the board, we're going to have to commit some money towards the end of this year to start formal, new negotiations with them. But it is going to be some commitment this year and a fair amount of money next year, based on the estimate we have, to bring in a negotiator to work on both of them.

Mayor Gatsas stated but I thought the board took a position to bring in a negotiator to start negotiations of the contracts before next year.

Alderman O'Neil responded no, what I believe the board took a position on was to make sure that we're in compliance with the next steps. We already have the letter out. Jane, correct me if I'm wrong, we have the letter out to the police support staff and we do not have to have the letter out to the steel workers until 60 days before that contract expires.

Ms. Jane Gile, Human Resources Director, replied 60 days before the contract expires for the steel workers and the contract expires on June 30, 2013.

Mayor Gatsas stated my understanding was that we were going to try and get contracts ready for July 1st.

Alderman O'Neil asked new contracts?

Mayor Gatsas replied new contracts. We were going to try and negotiate those.

Alderman O'Neil stated we better come up with a lot more than \$5,000 to do that.

Mayor Gatsas stated I don't disagree with you.

Alderman O'Neil stated that wasn't clear from the board. We were asked to put, I believe, we can check minutes, together two steps. One is if we wanted to take one last effort at extensions. If we don't, then we're going to have to commit funds this year and next year to bring in a negotiator and that could go on a year. In the meantime, the

employees are going to continue to pay \$5.00 co-pays and all of that. I stand corrected, if that wasn't the intent of the board.

Alderman Long stated thank you, Your Honor. I was under the impression that we said no to the extension and that if we could negotiate by July 1st, we could negotiate by July 1st. I'm not sure if there was an appropriation. I know there was an RFP to go out for a negotiator, but I don't know if there was an appropriation.

Mayor Gatsas responded there wasn't an appropriation.

Alderman Long stated but the process was set up to go out for an RFP.

Mayor Gatsas stated I believe so.

Alderman Craig stated that was my understanding as well. I thought that we said no to extending the contracts because we couldn't after discussion. So we had talked about whether or not we could utilize a negotiator through the School District and/or get one for the City on its own, and that's what I thought we were going to be doing. Thank you.

Alderman O'Neil stated I'll speak for myself, but I sat twice with Bill Sanders, Jane Gile, and Tom Clark and that was not our understanding. We can go back and check the minutes, but I think the night that we talked about this we were all over the place on what to do. If the board wants to take that vote, we should clarify that tonight, and I'll work with the three department heads to come up with a plan to start formal negotiations. But it's going to cost us a fair amount of money to do that, both this fiscal year and next fiscal year.

Alderman Shea stated thank you, Your Honor. Did the three people agree or was this your own idea, if I may ask?

Mayor Gatsas replied sure.

Alderman Shea asked is this your own idea or did the three people that you discussed, Jane Gile, Bill Sanders and Tom Clark, mention that you should do this?

Alderman O'Neil asked to do what, Alderman Shea?

Alderman Shea replied whatever you have proposed here, to spend \$5,000 for a negotiator.

Alderman O'Neil stated to speak for myself, and if any of them want to chime in, I don't believe it was clear from this board what the next step was.

Alderman Shea responded no, no, no. But this is your own idea; that's not the concern.

Alderman O'Neil asked what's on here?

Alderman Shea replied on here you met with three other people.

Alderman O'Neil stated correct.

Alderman Shea stated after the meeting, did the three people agree what you have indicated in here.

Alderman O'Neil replied yes. They agreed this would be a next step if we wanted to take one more step at the contract extensions, yes.

Alderman Shea asked they did agree with what you're proposing?

Alderman O'Neil replied yes. But if the board wants to clarify and doesn't want to take it, and then we need to commit funds this year and commit funds next year for Jane to go out and get a negotiator.

Alderman Shea stated I don't really think it's fair for the other unions to have someone come in, and we've discussed this. I would think if we do this, this would at least be the fourth time for the Water Works, and I'm sure it hasn't had anything to do with the police. But, again, it's now March, so we're talking about maybe April, May and June. I say we should negotiate with them for a new contract, and whether they agree or disagree, that's fine with me. But I don't concur with doing anything at this time. Thank you.

Mayor Gatsas asked Alderman Long, do you have a motion?

Alderman Long replied I do, Your Honor.

Alderman Long moved to not extend the police and steel workers contracts and go out with an RFP for a negotiator.

Mayor Gatsas stated just to follow up to where you are, if we can get a RFP out on the street so that we can get something back to this board at the next meeting. I thought we did it, but I guess not.

Alderman Roy duly seconded the motion to not extend the police and steel workers contracts and go out with an RFP for a negotiator.

Alderman O'Neil stated the board was all over the place the night this discussion went on. It was all over the place. It was not clear what the intent was. So if the board wants to do that, that's fine. Now, one of the other discussions that night was do we piggyback off the School District, who has selected a negotiator. And I believe, Jane, you can nod, the rate was comparable to other rates. Jane has reached out to firms, she reached out to the Municipal Resources, Inc. and everything is comparable to what the School District is being told, and they have selected a negotiator. I don't know if the negotiator sat down.

Mayor Gatsas asked on the school side?

Alderman O'Neil asked again, does the board want us to piggyback off from that or go out for a new RFP? Be clear with your intention.

Mayor Gatsas stated let's get through the first motion and also, come back in two weeks, March 19th, to report to this board on what they have.

Alderman Long approved an amendment to the motion that they come back by March 19, 2013, to report the results to the board. Alderman Roy duly seconded the amendment to the motion. Mayor Gatsas called for a vote on the amended motion. With no one voting in opposition, the motion as amended carried.

Alderman O'Neil stated Your Honor, just for clarification. There is no interest in piggybacking off from the School District's negotiator?

Mayor Gatsas replied let's get through this one and then we'll get there.

Alderman O'Neil stated you said go out for an RFP for a negotiator. You can't piggyback off the School District then.

Alderman Long stated if I could, Your Honor. I would think that would be part of the RFP. If we could piggyback off from the negotiator, that firm could give us a bid and we're hoping there would be cost savings because they are going to the school, but I don't know that.

Alderman O'Neil stated if we keep it under a certain dollar value, and I wish Mr. Sanders was here, we have to get three quotes and not even do a RFP, which will speed up the process.

Mayor Gatsas stated Alderman O'Neil, if you're suggesting that we go with the piggybacking off the School District, I don't have a problem with that. I guess all we need to do is find out if we're going to piggyback, if they've done municipalities or do they just do schools. I have to believe that the discussions that I sat in on, they probably do other than just schools but I could be wrong. And if that's the case, I don't even know what we're paying on the school side for the negotiator.

Alderman O'Neil stated if I may, Your Honor, how about the staff committee, with or without me, comes back with a formal recommendation, we stay under \$25,000, I believe I'm correct on that, we can just do the quotes, if we're going to spend more money than that, then we have to do the formal RFPs. I for one don't want to spend a lot of money on this because we have so many other needs. I don't want to be paying \$50,000 or \$100,000 to negotiate the two contracts.

Mayor Gatsas stated and I don't disagree with you.

Alderman Long stated thank you, Your Honor. Just a clarification as to the RFP process. I'm thinking that I'd be interested to put in the bid and I would quote a price, I would look at the contracts that you have, they are online publicly, and I would put in the bid based on what I've seen here. I agree that if the savings of \$50,000 in a year and we're going to spend \$150,000 to negotiate it, I agree with you. I don't want it to be absorbing it in this negotiation. But are we tying our hands if we limit a bid?

Mayor Gatsas replied let me call the negotiator from the school side. I will get back to you tomorrow with a number of what he says to me if we can piggyback along with him. I'm not going to make any decision; I will get it to this full board, and Alderman O'Neil can look at it, if he'd like to do a telephone poll, saying yes or no, after all the board members see it, then we can ratify it at the next meeting.

Alderman Long asked would that be a special service where we wouldn't have to go out to bid?

Mayor Gatsas replied again, if it is under \$25,000, we don't have to go out to bid. City Solicitor, I'm not sure, if we can amend the procurement code by unanimous consent.

Alderman O'Neil stated I want to keep the cost of this under control. I don't want hours upon hours of meetings where the bill is getting run up. That's why in the discussion we had if that's the decision the board made, Bill, Jane and Tom can certainly, Tom Arnold was not present in the meeting; Tom Clark was there. I think our recommendation would be to keep cost control on it, which would mean we do don't do a RFP then.

Mayor Gatsas asked is that alright with everybody?

Alderman Arnold stated thank you very much. Just for clarification, we're not going to issue the RFP right now, you're going to speak to the negotiator and see what they come back with.

Mayor Gatsas replied I will call them tomorrow morning first thing, and I will get the information to everybody. If Alderman O'Neil feels comfortable, then we can do a phone poll and ratify it at the next meeting. Is everybody all set with that?

Mr. Howard McCarthy stated I couldn't find a parking place.

Mayor Gatsas stated the only problem is, Mr. McCarthy, that if we allow you to speak now, we're going to break precedent and then other people are going to come in late to the meeting and say that they missed the time and they're going to want to speak.

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

A True Record. Attest.



Assistant City Clerk