

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

April 02, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Mayor Gatsas called the meeting to order.

Mayor Gatsas called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Absent: Alderman Katsiantonis

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 and any comments must be directed to the Chair; that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Mr. Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. The last time I spoke I spoke about the recycling barrels. The next morning, Wednesday morning at nine o'clock it was picked up. It is a problem that they say it is not on the curb, but they picked it up today and it is on the same curb where it has been for five weeks. It is on the curb. That is where we put our trash, on the curb. Last night or last month, you guys said that you have no money, but you spend a lot of money on making sure that Memorial High School can go live on channel 22, where Central High School is central to our city, not on the south end, not at one end of the city. For those who need to walk to those meetings can get there since we don't have bus transportation after six o'clock. That is why you were empty last night, lots of people couldn't get there. And then, of all that money you spent, today you are re-aring that on the educational station. A lot of senior called me today and asked why it wasn't on. I said you have to go to channel 16, but that is education. We have a government station for a reason. It seems to show the perception that we are trying to hide things. I know you are not, but that should repeat on channel 22, the

government station. That is what people expect. That is why we have a government station, for the events that have to do with our government. A town meeting is a government event. You know, they talk saying that there is no money, but the only thing that we are raising are salaries. They are running around talking about raising the mayor's salary by 59%. I will be the first to say that the salary of the mayor needs to go up because \$68,000 for the last 20 years doesn't go very far, but to raise it 59% and then to add 6% every year is not the way to go either. That is the way for the charter not to pass. They are also talking about raising the School Committeemen and the aldermanic board's salary by 150%. Let's not kid ourselves. It is not the people who gave the elected officials permission to have benefits. You do not pay your school or City part time employees any benefits. When you run for office you know what you get into. It is \$5,000 for the aldermen and that is supposed to be it. If we are really out of money, let's be careful where we are spending it and let's start right here in our backyard.

Mr. Howard McCarthy, 52 Valentine Drive, stated:

I just drive up from Massachusetts, Your Honor. I just got here 15 minutes ago so I am on time. Do you notice something? Just the Bobsie twins are here tonight, Howard McCarthy and Glenn Ouellette. There are 55,000 registered voters and only two people show up. Doesn't that show you something, something about people who are not interested in politics or voting or the minority and not the majority? Don't you want to do something about that? I do. Your Honor, I went before the Charter Commission a couple of weeks ago and I asked for five minutes and they turned me down. It was sort of a joke with how about three, how about four. They were joking around. It was serious stuff. They didn't analyze exactly what is going on. I did a little research. Up in Concord they have five minutes, three minutes and one minute. If you can't accomplish what you want to say in five, they give you three more and one more. Here we only get three minutes. You know and I know that if you have some issues that you want to get across you cannot get it across in three minutes. Get off your high horse and let's talk sense. I hope you that if this comes around to you, you might consider those five minutes. Here we are with two people. Suppose we did have five minutes. That would be a total of ten minutes. Let's analyze the whole thing. Your Honor, I have been doing this a couple of years and I don't think I have accomplished one thing. I want to tell you something that happened about 70 years. When I was 17 I was on a golf team and we were playing Salem, Massachusetts. We had six on the team, but only five showed up and we teed off with two and two but when it came to me I had to play two people. We were on the eight hole at the Salem country club and a car drive up. It was the superintendent of schools and he came over to me and said, Howard, how are you doing. I said we are tied, Mr. Welsh. He said do me a favor, kick their butt. This was a rivalry

that went back 100 years. Your Honor, we lost that match, but I won. I beat those two guys. On that Friday in the newspaper it said Salem golf team beats Peabody two to one. I kept looking at that paper and I looked at that one and it got bigger and bigger. I said to myself, that is me. I did something. I did something for my school. I did something for my city and I did something for myself. It was the first time in my life at 17 that I accomplished something. I hope I accomplish something here. Thank you.

There being none one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

Mayor Gatsas stated if we can get some other business done at this time. Mr. O'Maley, come on in with your contingency. Before we get started, today is autism awareness day. Our office continues to support light it up blue. We have a lamp with a blue light bulb in our office that you can see coming down Hanover Street. Next year, I would like to find a way to light up all of City Hall blue on the outside so we can show our support for parents, teachers, friends and relatives who are working hard to raise awareness and help us understand autism. A deep debt of gratitude is always due to those people who work with those children. Also, I have some tickets here for Beatlemania. It is a fundraiser for Central High School Music Department. It is Friday, April 12th. They are \$25 for the upper balcony, \$35, \$30 and \$45 tickets. If anyone would like to buy some, I have some here. I would love to sell them to you. The kids are raising money and it sounds like it is going to be a great show. Certainly, I would encourage us as a board to see if we can't help them out. The kids are playing also. Kevin O'Maley, can you come up with your group please? Back in September we started a project at the Odd Fellows Building. We had a pretty tough timeline in place and that timeline we were only looking to complete 52% of the building so that the funds that we received from the federal government wouldn't lapse. Kevin O'Maley, Eric Krueger and Chris Proulx from our facilities office have done an unbelievable job. Not only are we 52% complete, I think Leon came before you this evening in CIP to ask for execution of the leases so we actually have, not only MCRC on the first and second floor and they have been in for about two weeks and if you haven't been down to see it, you need to stop by because the gentlemen behind me did an incredible job. Not only is it on time, but it is under budget. We didn't even have plans when we started in September and we have completed the project and it is something that we should all take a look at and be very proud of. Millstone Construction, Frank LeMay and CM Architects, gentlemen I can

tell you that I didn't think that you were going to finish. I was believing that you were going to finish, but when I went by there in December I said that they are never going to be done by March. I congratulate you and applaud you for the hardwork that you have participated in. We have a couple of proclamations here that I would like to present to you. First, Fred, let's bring you up because you didn't have a design on a piece of paper when we started.

The City of Manchester, a Resolution:

Be it known that the Office of the Mayor extends its sincere appreciation to CMK Architects in recognition of exceeding client expectations at the Odd Fellows Building and supporting the City of Manchester in executing a significant project with an aggressive schedule;

Be it further known that the Office of the Mayor extends its best wishes for continued success and that this resolution be duly signed by the Mayor of Manchester.

Mr. Fred Matuszewski, CMK Architects, thank you very much. It was a great opportunity.

Mayor Gatsas stated

The City of Manchester, a Resolution:

Be it known that the Office of the Mayor extends its sincere appreciation to Milestone Construction in recognition of exceeding client expectations at the Odd Fellows Building and supporting the City of Manchester in executing a significant project with an aggressive schedule;

Be it further known that the Office of the Mayor extends its best wishes for continued success and that this resolution be duly signed by the Mayor of Manchester.

Mayor Gatsas stated Frank, thank you very much.

Mr. Fred LeMay, Millstone Construction, stated all I can say is that this doesn't happen unless the whole team jumps in and makes it happen. The City worked just as hard. Kevin O'Maley, his staff, Eric, Fred, Leon. Everyone worked to make this happen so it

is not just us.

Mayor Gatsas stated I know Leon is standing in the back of the room, but I can tell you that this project was dropped in his lap and I think that what he came forward with and the ability to complete it in the time schedule that we had, all we need to do is get the CDFA funds sold and we will have a project that is totally completed and certainly I hope that we can bring that forward and bring it to fruition. Leon, I want to thank you for your work because certainly you were there everyday, paying attention and making sure it was done. Kevin, for your department and their hard work, I congratulate you also. Thank you.

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

A True Record. Attest.



City Clerk