

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

June 04, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Mayor Gatsas called the meeting to order.

Mayor Gatsas stated I'd like to ask Alderman Osborne to introduce the wonderful students who are here from Wilson Elementary School who are going to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alderman Osborne stated we have Ward 5 residents and students from Wilson Elementary School to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance this evening. They are Makia Collins, Matthew Coughlin and Jaritza Rodriguez.

Mayor Gatsas stated I'd ask us all to remain standing, and if we can keep the Glennon family in our thoughts and prayers, it would be appreciated.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

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 their name and address when recognized, and give your comments.

Mr. Steven Thompson, 1911 Elm Street, stated good evening. I'm the general manager of XO on Elm Street. I understand that it's up for vote today to continue the block parties that happened on Hanover Street in front of Penuche's and Ignite and Hooked. I put together a petition, and I believe you all have a copy. It was circulated. In that is a list of businesses that last year were affected by blocking Hanover Street. It is well detailed on that. The managers or owners who signed represent the employees as well as themselves and their greater interest. We're

just hoping you will consider what is contained in that before you make a vote on it.

Mr. Edward Sekenski, 37 Manchester Street, stated. Also I am here hoping to ask for you to vote no on the Hanover Street closing. I just want to go into a little bit more detail. When the Verizon or the Palace Theatre have an event, Manchester Street gets blocked up, there is no parking. There is a garage and that's full. Our customers around Elm Street and Manchester Street have a hard time finding parking spaces. Most of the customers down there are complaining that if there are no parking spaces they won't come visit us. If you close Hanover Street... Last year there was a recession and it was felt by all of the restaurants and businesses downtown. Since last fall five businesses have closed and one has not even opened, and that was the Italian bakery. If you do want to close Hanover Street, I would suggest if you could try to make it fair for everybody and shut down Elm Street, use a bus, let the customers park on the two back streets and let the bus go around and around and drop them off in every corner. That is a suggestion. I'm sure not everybody will go for it, but at least it will be fair and equal to all the businesses downtown. This winter was very, very tough for everyone and all of the businesses felt it. Spring wasn't that great, it wasn't really a spring, we're just starting to spring back, and now everybody, if this vote goes through and shut down Hanover Street, is going to feel it all again next year. You will see another business close and another is up for sale, so I hope that you take these advisements and the petition and please do not vote on the Hanover Street shut-down. Thank you.

Mr. Nick Want, 623 Belmont Street stated, I have appeared before you many times, and we're at a crux now and really a tipping point for this city. We have the opportunity tonight, we're going to look to vote on and approve this school budget going forward. You've had two budgets that have been presented to you in the past. One is the tax cap budget, and the other one, I think, has been well articulated as the minimum budget required to meet minimum state requirements for funding of the schools. So we're at this point for a decision. The board is now deciding the future of Manchester, I think everybody would agree, and again, it has been well spoken to the value of a strong education system is the core value of a city and the reason why people stay in a city as opposed to the reasons why people may leave a city. So tonight as you consider where we're going forward, you're really considering do you really represent the values of the city of Manchester, and I hope that you do. Many, many people in the city of

Manchester, myself included, love this city. We choose to make our livelihood here, we own property in the city, and we pay taxes in the city, and we're willing to pay those taxes to support the city that we love. Coming up is an election this year, in the fall timeframe... At this time, education is a core tenant for the value systems of the Citizens of Manchester Schools and all citizens in Manchester. So this time when you're looking that we have monies available to potentially to be put towards funding the schools, it's imperative that at an absolute minimum, the courage, the foresight, and the understanding to at least fund us to the minimum required level advocated to meet state standards... Who would want to live in a city where the stewards of the values of the city are not even willing to fund the schools to the minimum level prescribed by the state in which we live. We're very close, as money is available that should be allocated to that cause, and I would ask you to think very hard and clearly about your positions in the city, who you represent, and what your expectations are for the city going forward and to value one of the core tenants, which is education. Again, it's difficult, but it's not easy to make decisions in a difficult time, but it takes strength, it takes leadership, and it takes courage to realize the position that we're in and the steps that must be taken going forward. I thank you all for your time, I thank you for your service to the city, I really do, it's not easy sitting up there and listening to people like me coming up and talking to you, but I appreciate the majority of you, appreciate the value that the city should put on education and where you fit within the core of the city, and the citizens of Manchester are looking forward to you representing our values going forward. Thank you.

Mr. Carl Hebert, 355 Bridge Street, stated good evening. I have spoken to you folks a few times in the past year. I've only been active in city politics, except for voting I should say, since the school issue started becoming so desperate. In that time I did a little checking on my family and friends and facebook friends and have counted five families that I grew up with, went to Central with and/or the University of New Hampshire, who have left the city and moved to Bow and Londonderry and Goffstown, and the primary reason is our school system and they've moved out in the last year. I just had a friend who left the military and came back home to New Hampshire and did not even consider any properties in Manchester. And that is powerful to me, and I am seriously considering relocating because if we don't support these schools and we don't start turning the reputation around, this city will go the way of Lowell or Haverhill. I hope that you folks will support the schools. Thank you.

*There being no one else present to speak, on motion of **Alderman Roy**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.*

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

A True Record. Attest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Normand". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

City Clerk