

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CIVIC CENTER

March 12, 2013

4:00 p.m.

Chairman O'Neil called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen O'Neil, Long, Shea

Alderman Corriveau arrived late

Absent: Alderman Ludwig

Mssrs.: T. Bechert, B. Boyer, W. Sanders

Chairman O'Neil stated I did speak with Alderman Ludwig and he has a bad cold. He was going to pass on coming out if he didn't have to.

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Annual financial report of the Verizon Wireless Arena/SMG.

Chairman O'Neil stated we have representatives from SMG and we also have representatives from the Finance Department for any questions. This is fairly routine.

Alderman Long stated on page 3.3, I think the contract was redone in 2010. It looks like there has been an increase in assets. How does advanced ticket sales go into liability and accumulated deficit? What seems to be the driver?

Mr. Tim Bechert, SMG, replied I am going to defer to Brian Boyer. Brian is our director of finance, for those of you who have not met him.

Mr. Brian Boyer, SMG Director of Finance, asked would you mind repeating the question, Alderman?

Alderman Long replied I'm trying to get my head around where we have it broken up between assets and then liabilities and accumulated deficit and the driver seems to be the advance ticket sales. I'm wondering how the advanced ticket sales become a liability.

Mr. Boyer responded that is money that we received for shows that have not happened. At some point, once a show happens, then that liability will then decrease with part of it being revenue and part of it going to the promoter.

Alderman Long asked when the event happens, does it leave this liability and accumulated deficit or does it stay there?

Mr. Boyer replied it gets paid out, yes.

Alderman Long stated looking at this, it appears that there has been an increase. Am I seeing this correctly?

Mr. Boyer replied that is correct. What happens is we had an onslaught of shows that came in November, December, January, February, more so than we did previous years and that is where you are seeing a comparison because we had so much cash on hand and liabilities on hand because of the upcoming shows

Alderman Long asked and the fiscal year is October 31st?

Mr. Bechert replied October 31st.

Alderman Shea stated what I would like to get a handle on so that the people listening can understand. Could you explain, Bill, if you want to come up, how the payments are made and you people, in your responsibility toward the community or toward SMG or toward the other people so there would be some sort of idea as far as how long this progression will go on in terms of the City and their obligation and so forth, so if this could be done... Bill, I know you don't necessarily have the figures before you, but I'm trying to figure when this was built, now that it is in existence and the City's obligation through the rooms and meals and so forth and when we hope that this bond will be paid off.

Mr. William Sanders, Finance Officer, responded the Verizon Center was built in 1999/2000 time frame. It has been in existence for ten years. There was a predecessor company prior to SMG that managed the arena for the City. SMG came on seven or eight years ago.

Mr. Bechert stated we have been there from the onset, but the name changed.

Mr. Sanders stated under the contract with SMG today, they guarantee the City that the City will incur no operating losses or any incremental costs with the arena and the arena operations, and for that they receive a management fee and other incentives to maximize the utility and the profitability of the arena. The arena was financed with bonds that were issued by the Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Authority. The bonds that were issued back in 2000 are not guarantee, in any way by the City of Manchester nor do we have any financial obligation towards those bonds. The bonds are to be financed with rooms and meals money that we receive from the State. We have, in the course of the last three years, the rooms and meals money has been level funded by the State and that has had an adverse affect on the funding of the bond payments. The aldermen and the City have continued to transfer the maximum amount to the debt service

reserve fund at Bank of New York who is the trustee for these bonds. There continues to be a slight shortfall each year of about \$500,000 to \$700,000 that has been paid out of the debt service reserve fund to this point in time. The City, as I said, doesn't have any obligation on the bonds. We do not make up the shortfall. We are not obligated to make up the shortfall, nor is the State, but they obviously, by controlling the amount of rooms and meals money that is transferred to the cities and towns of New Hampshire, have a direct impact on the funded status of these bonds. The bonds were, I believe, 25-year bonds when we issued them. They will mature in 2025. The current annual debt service in the bonds is about \$5.6 million. All bonds have been paid and interest paid on due dates up until this point in time. As I mentioned, we have the shortfall, the debt service reserve fund has been drawn on by the trustee and there is about four years left in that debt service reserve to make up shortfalls. I guess I would also add that in Governor Hassan's most recent budget proposal she is increasing the amount of rooms and meals tax that is going to be distributed to the cities and towns. As I understand it, it is about a \$5 million increase starting in 2015, of which we would estimate about \$400,000 to \$500,000 of that which would come to the City of Manchester. Once again, we are a conduit; it would pass right through to the trustee to service the bonds. We have contractually obligated ourselves to transfer substantially all of the rooms and meals money. We cannot take advantage of it ourselves. That would be a big help on this debt service shortfall that we have, although we hope, for the good of the bond holders, the people who bought these bonds, that the amount will be increased even further soon, in the next year or two, to fully fund the bonds. At this point in time, alderman, the bonds are current and have been paid. There is a default issue with the drawings on the debt service reserve fund and the failure to restore them, but our hands are tied there in terms of being able to do that because the money from the rooms and meals has been level funded to cities and towns. Does that answer your question?

Alderman Shea replied yes. The bonds were renegotiated in 2010 according to...
Were they?

Mr. Sanders replied no, these bonds have never been refinanced.

Alderman Shea asked how much are we paying on those? Do you know the rate?

Mr. Sanders replied the interest rate is somewhat high, actually. Once again, we are not paying anything. The City is not. We are not a party to the bonds. The interest rate, as we get into the longer term items, is probably in the 4% to 7% range.

Alderman Shea stated we are dependent upon the rooms and meals as city to pay off the bonds.

Mr. Sanders stated I would only say it slightly different only because I want to make sure that you understand that these are not bonds of the City of Manchester. The bond holders are dependent on rooms and meals money from the State to fund the bonds.

Alderman Shea stated that come back to Manchester.

Mr. Sanders stated they come to Manchester and literally within hours are transferred to the trustee at the Bank of New York.

Alderman Shea asked do we put aside a certain amount every year, normally, from the rooms and meals, for that reserve fund?

Mr. Sanders replied one of the appropriations that the aldermen do each year, when they do the budget, is to appropriate the rooms and meals money to the debt service accounts at Bank of New York. The only amount we keep is \$454,000 of the roughly \$4.8 million that is received and that \$454,000 was the amount that we received way back when in the mid 1990s and we leveled that, but all the rest of it goes to the service of the bonds. If we were to fail to appropriate them we would be in violation of our commitments.

Alderman Shea stated repairs to the civic center are the obligation on part of whom?

Mr. Sanders replied the repairs; SMG has made contributions to a capital reserve fund for capital improvements to the arena. From time to time they request draw downs to use for capital improvements for the arena for chillers and zambonis and kitchen equipment and all sorts of capital improvements, which we have approved. They provide us the receipts and all the information. Ms. Wickens sent you a letter telling you there was about \$1,717,689.10 remaining in that capital reserve fund for future capital improvements at the arena.

Alderman Shea stated thank you for the background.

Alderman Corriveau asked Bill, if we are unable to renegotiate the bonds who is about to? Who does have that authority? Is it the State?

Mr. Sanders replied the Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Alderman Corriveau stated walk me though this: I'm hoping my line of thinking is right. If those bonds are renegotiated and we can mitigate the debt service, although the money, we never actually see the money because we are a pass

through, wouldn't that still aid in our ability to pay off money principle at a faster rate?

Mr. Sanders replied these are very unusual bonds. I don't mean for the whole session to be about these bonds for a lot of reasons, but the City owns the arena. There is no mortgage on the arena. The bond holders have no rights to the arena. We own it free and clear and that is why we can retain, under and operating agreement, SMG to operate it. I don't believe, and I'm somewhat hesitant to get too deep into this, Alderman, you could refinance these bonds without a guarantee from some city or state that they shall be repaid by that city or state. I would note, in the current situation, want the City of Manchester to be part of any refinancing where we don't have a guarantee of rooms and meals money.

Alderman Corriveau stated such a guarantee would not exist right now. It does not exist right now.

Mr. Sanders stated these bonds are not our obligation. The bond holders cannot look to the City. They cannot look to the State. They can only look to the rooms and meals money. It is a very unusual bond that I think was negotiated very interestingly in another financial time that would not be able to be replicated today, absent making it a general obligation bond of the City, which would increase our debt service significantly or a general obligation bond to the State. There are risks that the bond holders hold and you get an interest rate because of the risk they hold.

Alderman Corriveau stated I apologize if I missed this part of your testimony; the jump, in the value of total assets, from \$3.3 million to \$4.9 million, what were the reasons behind that from one year to another?

Mr. Boyer replied the majority of that would be the ticket revenue that was absorbed through sales of the events that were forthcoming so they have not happened yet.

Mr. Bechert stated our fiscal year ends October 31st. We have shows playing up until October 31st, but we have shows that we have booked and that are on sale for November. We were very heavy in our calendar year. This calendar year, in November, we had four sold out shows. That revenue is shown there, but we will be drawing down once the show plays and the show settles, the cash is distributed to the band, to the promoter and to us as well.

Alderman Long asked is the bond interest still 6.72%?

Mr. Sanders replied that is probably a good average rate,. I was saying between 5% and 7% right at the moment.

Alderman Long asked and these are tax free bonds, so the City can't make a profit? We can't get \$100,000 and put it in our general fund, correct?

Mr. Sanders replied yes, we can. Under our contract with SMG that was renegotiated in 2010, there are provisions, based on the profitability of operation where there is a cascade of funds as they call it. They fund the capital reserve fund. Going down that list of cascading list, a payment to the City of Manchester is considered about the third or fourth payment. Since 2010 we have not received a payment. Right now we would be eligible to receive, there is a complicated IRS arithmetic that we have to go through each year, if it happened we could receive, and I think it is about \$300,000 a year that we are eligible for without impacting the tax free nature of the bonds.

Alderman Long asked how much is in the debt service reserve fund right now?

Mr. Sanders replied it is about \$2.4 or \$2.5 million at Bank of New York.

Alderman Long asked how many years have we been \$500,000 short?

Mr. Sanders replied probably about three or four. It started off at lower numbers and we have been drawing down. I think our most recent draw down was about \$600,000 in January.

Alderman Long asked when rooms and meals taxes come in, if it is above the debt service, the rest of that goes into the general fund?

Mr. Sanders replied it does not. It all has to go to the Bank of New York and any excess goes in to fund the debt service. That is how it was built up over the years when we were collecting more from the State on rooms and meals than we were paying in debt service. The structure of the loan is a little bit of a hockey stick, I guess; it was back-ended. We are at maximum debt service now at about \$5.6 million, but we are not receiving \$5.6 million of rooms and meals money.

Chairman O'Neil stated just for clarification and if memory serves me right, there were two different meals and rooms funds: one was the normal one that has gone on for years, but then the late Senator John King introduced a bill and got passed the surplus rooms and meals and I think that is what funded that portion of the debt service. I think I am correct on that, but always stand corrected. It was in the mid or late 1990 where there was a surplus rooms and meals that existed. The State had more rooms and meals than they were giving out to the communities under the old law so they created this second law.

Mr. Sanders stated that is before my time here in Manchester, so I'm sure that is true, Alderman. The objective, it may not have been written in law, but I think the intent was that 28% or more of rooms and meals money would be allocated to the cities and towns of New Hampshire and the State retained about 70% to 72%. At that rate we were doing pretty well, up through 2009 and we were generating surplus that was put into the debt service reserve fund. With the leveling of the payments and distributions to the cities and towns, the collections at the State have actually increased in rooms and meals. The State of New Hampshire collects more money in rooms and meals than they did today than they did in 2009; they collect more than they did in 2010; they collect more than they did in 2011. Camp grounds have been added. Rooms and meals has gone up so the percentage with the level funding, the percentage that cities and towns are sharing in today has declined. I think the most recent information that I have seen is that cities and towns are now receiving 25% or 26%. Even a restoration of that old 28% or 29% sharing formula would be helpful, but I recognize that the State has financial issues, but I think their concerns and our concerns are aligned on the Verizon Center and this matter. I have been working on a letter that we were going to be showing to the mayor in the next couple of days, with the support of the aldermen to the governor and others to encourage the effort that is being made to increase it next year and hopefully encourage even greater allocation and appropriation of rooms and meals money to all cities and towns in the state.

Alderman Shea asked in the year 2015, the bond will be paid. Is that correct?

Mr. Sanders replied yes, that is correct.

Alderman Shea asked who will own the civic center then?

Mr. Sanders replied we own it today and we will own it then. The arena is not pledged on the bonds. It is not a mortgage; we own it.

Alderman Shea asked so we will own it then, as we own it now?

Mr. Sanders replied we will indeed. Yes, sir.

Alderman Shea asked Tim, in order for the civic center to operate, could you give us a little background as far as how you meet your obligations? Is that possible that you could delineate some of the things that are possible? Not specific amounts, necessarily, but some of the enterprises or the activities or whatever that allow you to operate either at a profit or sustain your operation?

Mr. Bechert replied very simply speaking, we have a saying in our business; we are the dates and space business. It is all about renting space and accumulating as many dates for activities as possible and you do that a number of different ways. One of them, obviously, is having a tenant in the building. The Manchester Monarchs have been a fantastic partner; have led the league in attendance for several years when we opened the building up. Their presence helps with club seats, suite sales, advertising, sponsorships, all of which the arena participates in. Probably a bigger profit margin, as operators, is on the concerts. They are the single biggest drivers of revenue to the arena. We have been very fortunate that we have done a remarkable job since opening up. This last year we finishes number seven in the country, 15,000 seats or less. We have always ranked in the top ten since we opened up in 2010. It speaks greatly to the City and to the state, broadening that net and the people have responded. I think what we have all seen in the last 10, 11, or 12 years is that people no longer have to travel to be entertained; they can do so in their own backyard. Because of the response of the people buying the tickets, it makes my job a little bit easier when I am trying to tell Elton John to come back for a third or fourth time or Dave Matthews to come play for a second time. The concerts are our biggest generators to that bottom

line. We do flat shows, if you will; home and garden shows, which we have shied away from. They are not as profitable; they occupy a lot more dates, which tie my hands when I am trying to bring in the bigger profit entertainment programs.

Those, very simply speaking, are the types of things that we look for. We are trying to bring in quality programming that fit everyone across the board, trying to please everybody at some point in time. With our history and our experience in the business, it is concerts, family shows, tenants and that also enables us to do some of the charitable work that we do and making it a true civic center by doing the graduations, the battle of the badges, by doing the state hockey championships. It is not lost on us that this is a City owned building. You are the client. You are the first priority in everything that we do and we hope we are doing everyone proud here. We think we are doing a pretty good job and we are very bullish on the future and we look forward to continuing to bring entertainment that keeps the people in New Hampshire happy.

Chairman O'Neil stated Tim, you mentioned the high school hockey championship. I wasn't able to get to the Manchester game, but I drove up Elm Street at one point during the day and it was alive. Were there three games?

Mr. Bechert replied we had four.

Chairman O'Neil stated there had to be people coming in from all over the state. They were coming out of restaurants so it is exactly what we were looking for.

Mr. Bechert stated I think it has done remarkably well. Credit goes to you in this room and others who aren't here obviously, but it was by design and not my default and I think the effort that was put in to getting this building done and the time it took to get it done, it wasn't done on the fly, that's for sure, you all know that better than I do, but I think the results have been phenomenal. We are still the

envy of most communities across the country, certainly in the secondary and tertiary markets. This is a project that people look to and try to duplicate and try to replicate and we are proud of that. It gives us an opportunity in our industry to stick our chest out and say they are responding and that helps us to continue to move forward.

Chairman O'Neil stated would it be appropriate, I think battle of the badges is coming up, to give a plug for that?

Mr. Bechert stated it is the New Hampshire firefighters and police. This year is unique. In year's past it has always been the two competing against each other. This year the firefighters and the policemen will be skating on the same teams. I think it is divided east and west, but all the money that is raised goes to CHAD, the children's hospital up at Dartmouth, which is a cause that is very personal to me, but anyone who has a child in the state can be very proud of that operation and what they do for the health of our children. It makes us proud to give the arena to organizations like that and let them raise money for the benefit for all the kids in the State of New Hampshire.

Chairman O'Neil stated it is a great hockey game if you have a chance. It is coming up this Saturday night if you have a chance to get down to it.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Shea**, it was voted to accept the annual financial report.*

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 4 of the agenda:

4. Communication from Sharon Wickens, Assistant Director-Treasury, regarding the Civic Center Capital Improvement Fund as of October 31, 2012.

On motion of Alderman Long, duly seconded by Alderman Corriveau, it was voted to discuss this item.

Chairman O'Neil stated we know what the number is; \$1.7 million. I know you have had some activity this year with it.

Mr. Bechert stated we have, but not a lot which is great. The building is holding up wonderfully well. Without tooting our own horn, our engineering staff and our electrical staff, the guys work hard around the clock to protect the City's asset. We take a great amount of pride in that building and one of the things that makes us smile the biggest is when people come in and people don't realize it is as old as it is, not that it is a dinosaur by any stretch. We have been able to keep things functioning fairly smoothly. It is getting to that time when things are going to start to wear down and part of our annual presentation to you is our capital improvement budget and we forecast that out seven years in advance so there are no surprises. Some of the things that we have tackled this past year were a new boiler that we had to replace; we bought a new zamboni which replaced the used one that got us through the first ten years which was fantastic. We actually had some work done on the roof a couple of years ago. Our roof has a 15-year warranty. We discovered that some of the membrane around the outside was curling up and leaking a little bit of water. We repaired it and it will buy us another seven to nine years before we have to start looking at that as an expenditure. Generally speaking, things have been holding up really well and we are prepared for most to come our way. There are always going to be emergencies, but fortunately, knock on wood, we haven't had too many of those, but we are prepared for when they come.

Chairman O'Neil stated I don't know if you know off the top of your head, but you had asked me to come over just to look at it, but the hot water tank is not like a hot water tank in our homes.

Mr. Bechert stated no, it is a little bigger.

Chairman O'Neil asked do you know how many gallons, off the top of your head?

Mr. Bechert replied I don't.

Chairman O'Neil stated it was the biggest hot water tank I have ever seen in my life.

Mr. Bechert stated it is big. It is bigger than you and I stacked on top of one another.

Chairman O'Neil stated it is through those proactive efforts of our staff that they saw that it was starting to leak a little bit and they turned around and got it replaced very quickly before it blew out all over the place.

Mr. Bechert stated we have a proprietary piece of software called smart maintenance that truly helps us on a daily basis to gauge all of the assets of that building. Everything goes through check points, everything is monitored, all the data is inputted and that helps us do our regularly scheduled maintenance on them and lets us know when things need to be looked at over a certain period of time, whether it is through service agreements or whether the warranties are coming up. It is one of those things that we as a company bring to the table that certainly helps to protect the asset and we get to lie down at night and sleep quietly on our pillows knowing that things are being addressed and taking care of so we are not showing

up to work the next day and finding out... A car might drive through the building, but that's about it.

Chairman O'Neil stated I know you contacted the manufacturer on some warranty work on both chillers.

Mr. Bechert stated with the help of the mayor, yes. That was a very expensive project. You were looking at least \$150,000 that ended up costing us \$10,000. By doing that we have probably bought another 10 or 15 years before we have to address that issue and that was at no cost, or \$10,000.

Chairman O'Neil asked anything on the radar screen? You talked about the roof before and you did a little bit of work, which may have bought us more time, but eventually we are going to have to see a new roof over there.

Mr. Bechert stated over time. Fortunately for us, the type of roof that we have is a rubber membrane so it is not the end of the work to replace that, but it is a big project. It is probably not the most expensive thing that we will be looking at down the road, but it is on our radar. So far it has performed well. The issue that we did have was addressed, under warranty, and that bought us probably at least eight more years.

Alderman Long stated Tim, you project seven years for future improvements. We have \$1.7 million. Do you see, what Alderman O'Neil asked earlier, five or ten years from now, something that we will have to do where the capital improvement fund won't handle that? Is there something after 15 years or 20 years?

Mr. Bechert replied as a necessity, I don't believe so. I think we handled it. I say that cautiously because I think what we are seeing in our industry, especially with tenants, something that may be requested. It is not needed by any stretch of the imagination, but would it help improve somewhere down the line to improve the fan experience, would be a scoreboard. The one we have was state of the art 11 years ago, not so much now, but it is still a video score board. It is operating fine. It is still under service contract, but somewhere down the road, whether it is the Monarchs or whomever, may say let's look to improve the fan experience. That is not anything that we are obligated to provide. I think that would be more of a discussion with the tenant and finding out a way to fund it. Other than that, I think as operators we pretty much know what to expect and when to expect it.

Alderman Long asked as far as structural integrity, electrical, piping, those are all good? Projected seven years down the road?

Mr. Bechert stated we are good.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Long, it was voted to accept the capital improvement fund report.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman O'Neil stated I have one item I would like to bring up. I talked to Tim briefly about this when we were going over the agenda a couple weeks ago. I was reading an article in the paper regarding Hartford and they have a new building manager and one of the items that the paper indicated was that they have taken a significant hit when the casinos opened up in Connecticut. It may have even spilt over to the City of Springfield, Massachusetts. I know it is something that Tim indicated that SMG is watching on our behalf and I appreciate that, watching out

for your client as you are, but I think it is something that Alderman Long and I have spoken about and I have also spoken with Senator D'Allesandro. The entertainment portion of any of these gaming complexes could cause a significant financial hit on the Verizon Wireless Arena and even places like the Palace Theater. I know Massachusetts has tried to wrestle with this. I'm aware that in Springfield that MGM in their proposal they are not going to build an entertainment portion in their casino if they are selected; they are going to use the arena, which I think happens to be across the street. They have guaranteed in their proposal that is what they are going to do. I think it is something that this committee and the board needs to go on record with the legislature. I have been trying to think if there is another public facility out there that provides entertainment and I can't come up with one. There are many private sector facilities. I think we have to go on record asking the legislature to make sure that the best interests of the City of Manchester are protected. We were talking about some of the other challenges with the rooms and meals. This could have a huge, significant impact on our facility. The article, and I apologize for not bringing it with me, but in Googling I may not have gotten it out of the original article, but the casinos literally give away the entertainment to get people in. Tim could never compete with that. It is something that I would ask this board to consider taking a vote on and sending it to the full board. Alderman Long, I don't know what an appropriate motion would be. Is it to rule out entertainment as part of it, ask for consideration? We are on the hook if a casino gets built and there is an entertainment portion of it, we are on the hook for it.

Alderman Long stated I spoke with Peter Ramsey at the Palace and he doesn't feel that it is going to affect him. His niche is different than what they would want to bring in. They are not going to bring in Oklahoma. It is not as much an issue there, but with the civic center, it is a municipally owned building, and we want to make sure that it continues to thrive. We are looking at putting language in, when

it comes into the House that would guarantee that he will remain successful. As far as a motion, without language, we can make a motion to ensure that the City's interest with respect to the civic center is being considered with whatever proposal comes forward. I figured that if it was in North Conway it is not a problem, but if it is in North Conway it is a problem. Even the ones in Massachusetts may be a problem. I'll move that as the gambling issue goes through the general court that all efforts be made in ensuring that Manchester's interest with respect to the civic center is in the language of the final outcome of the bill.

Chairman O'Neil stated and I think that is all we can do, be general now. I did inform Senator D'Allesandro who is one of the sponsors that I was going to bring this up. It is of great concern to me.

Alderman Long moved that all efforts be taken to protect the City's interests with respect to the civic center and the proposed casino legislation. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Shea.

Alderman Corriveau asked Tim, would you mind publicly commenting on that? I assume that as soon as this board takes public action asking the legislature to possibly exempt entertainment from a possible southern New Hampshire casino, it is immediately going to come back to you for your thoughts. Any initial thoughts you might have on that?

Mr. Bechert replied as Alderman O'Neil said, it is a concern. In the business, specifically here in the northeast we have seen what Mohegan Sun, which is three states away, has done. It continues, to this day, to impact us here in Manchester. My concern would obviously be something closer. It doesn't even have to be the same size; if it is closer it is going to have an impact and it isn't necessarily going to be a positive one. It is a concern. Other than that, I think we need to continue

to monitor what is going on, what the process is going to be and how, to your point, Aldermen O'Neil and Long, how we can best protect the City's asset, which is the Verizon Wireless Arena. That is our primary function as well. We want to continue to be successful. We will do what we can with your help, with your support, following your lead or taking the charge if need be to assure that that is what happens.

Chairman O'Neil stated we would refer this to the full board next week and then once we have that the clerk can get something to you just so you know that we officially passed it. Obviously Alderman Long will make sure that it goes out to the delegation through you. They were having all these discussions so I read the article on Hartford and I didn't even think about it, but I am thinking about it today. I can tell you that.

Mr. Bechert stated you are not alone.

Chairman O'Neil called for a vote on the motion that all efforts be taken to protect the City's interests with respect to the civic center and the proposed casino legislation. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

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

A True Record. Attest.



Clerk of Committee