

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

**February 6, 1996**

**7:00 PM**

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

Mayor Wieczorek called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Ald. Domaingue.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. There were twelve Aldermen present.

**Present:** Ald. Wihby, Elise, Reiniger, Sysyn, Clancy, Soucy, Shea, Domaingue, Pariseau, Cashin, Robert, Hirschmann

Mayor Wieczorek advised that the purpose of the special meeting was to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person would be given only one opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the chair.

Mayor Wieczorek requested that any resident wishing to speak should come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments and requested that each resident keep their comments to a minimum, if they could, so the Board meeting could convene at its regular time.

Park Linscomb, 217 Trolley Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

I come as a concerned parent of a student in the band program at Memorial High School. As the President of the Memorial Music Support Group, the Memorial POPS, and as a concerned citizen of the City of Manchester I'll keep my remarks brief because as you've already requested and as you've seen there are many others waiting to speak from across the City on this important issue. I'm here to respectfully but strongly call for action on the part of this body to fund the purchase of uniforms for the Memorial Band in time for marching season this fall. Last year, Memorial had to finally lay aside their 19-year old worn out uniforms and make due with berets and pullover jackets purchased by the students themselves, by the Music Support Group, and by the Memorial Booster Club. Now, whether it's through guarantees to the School Board or a deal worked out with the uniform company or some other avenue, please we'd request very much that you get this business done before March 1st which is the deadline for ordering uniforms, so we can have them by this fall. Please don't let Memorial be remembered in all of the picture

taken during the celebrated Sesquicentennial year as the stepchild band that didn't have the uniforms. You'll make us look bad, you'll make the Manchester School Department look bad, you'll make yourselves look bad, and you can make the City of Manchester look bad for years and years to come. So, please, fund us now so we can have the uniforms in time for the Fall of 1996. And, secondly, make provisions in future budgets for the Education Department so they can properly fund music in our schools. Thank you.

John Desrochers, 8 Kearsarge Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

I'm here regarding the Memorial High School Band uniform. I'm the current Vice-President of the West High Music Supporters. This issue has been with us since I have been involved with West High School over eight years now. One school or another has been involved in uniforms. It's been a continuing uphill battle for all schools. This is our Sesquicentennial year. Will Memorial march down Elm Street and perform at any other functions without band uniforms? These are our children, students, but more so they are musicians. If any of you have been to any of these concerts or any of their performances. These children deserve to be treated fairly. We feel that the City should provide for uniforms. Band is a graded subject. The City requires the bands to be a performance at football games, parades, and other civic functions. If they are going to require these children/musicians to be there, then they should support them by buying band uniforms. As parent groups, we are here to support the music programs. Support them in the bells and the whistles and the City that the City does not provide. Uniforms are a basic part of a marching program and that is something that the City should provide. The parents should not have to go out and fund raise to try and pick up and in this case I think it's \$30,000 for uniforms, it's not right. We did it at West, it's a tremendous effort. The parents at Memorial shouldn't have to. That's all I have to say, thank you.

Michael O'Meara, 172 Cedar Hill Drive, Manchester, NH, stated:

I'm here tonight to strongly urge that the Board make sure that the Memorial High School Band is provided with uniforms this fall for the marching season. I, also feel that the City of Manchester over the years has been lax in providing proper funding for the Arts programs in the City. I see an awful lot of money that's spent on the Athletic programs and I think that it's time we acknowledge the importance of the Arts programs in the City. Thank you, Sir.

Robert J. Charron, 306 B Cohas Avenue, Manchester, NH, stated:

I'm here tonight to speak to you about the issue of band uniforms for Memorial High School. As I speak here to you tonight there are school activities going on throughout the City. If you go to Memorial tonight you'll find that there's JV basketball going on, Varsity basketball going on, there are cheerleaders there present. All of these students, participants all have uniforms and rightfully so. But, there's another group of students there tonight also participating in a school function as school participants and those are

members of the band, they don't have uniforms. There's something wrong with that picture when the athletes and all the other participants can have what they need but people that are involved in band have to take a back seat. There are students currently at Memorial High School that are in their third year and some of these students have never had a uniform. These students will have the distinction of graduating from Memorial High School not ever having had a uniform. I can speak from experience. My son is one of these students, he's in his third year, he's a junior and he's never had a uniform. One good thing about it though is that he has gained some experience over these three years and he could probably go and campaign for Lamar Alexander, he had to purchase a red flannel shirt and that was his uniform for the last three years. Those of us that travel to the band show in Dover were taken in awe by why we saw from the other schools there. We saw schools from Salem, Timberlane, Milford, Keene, and Dover and made our schools look sick. Not because our kids can't compete, our kids can compete on a musical balance but they couldn't compete with them with regards to how they looked and their decorum. They were pitiful. I'm here to ask you, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen several months ago were ready to take a vote on a Central issue and suddenly and very fortunately an anonymous donor came forward and provided the money for uniforms. At that time, I felt that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the members of that Board had the opportunity to take care of all of the students in the City of Manchester. They could have acted that night and made a guarantee for Memorial and these students would have uniforms. I'm here to ask you to look at this and to take a vote on this and to guarantee that these students will have a uniform this year. Thank you.

Mike Rockwell, 66 Nashua Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

I'd just like to talk about the past contracts that have been given to City departments and so on. In 1989, 1990, 1991 teachers, Fire, Police, and School Principals received eight, eight, and eight - twenty-four percent right across the board. Non-affiliated employees received 4.5, 6, and 6 percent a total of 16.5 percent. Come to AFSCME, Water Works, MESPR they received 4.5 and 6 percent and zero a 10.5 percent total. The new Mayor, Mr. Wiczorek, said that the well had run dry on the third year but that these three groups would be the first to be taken care of for the next series of contracts and raises. In 1994, 1995 and 1996 teachers/school principals zero, 2.5, and 2.5 percent plus they kept Blue Cross and they got their longevity steps. Now, longevity steps are five percent per year for the first 13 years of teaching. The Fire Department - zero, 2.5 and 2.5 - a five percent per year plus Blue Cross, plus longevity steps, and backpay. Non-affiliated, non-union employees zero, 2.5 and 2.5 percent, Blue Choice, and their longevity steps and department heads, management in the City, got 17 percent plus Blue Choice, plus backpay. AFSCME was asked to settle for zero, 2.5, and 3.5 and keep Blue Cross, no backpay, and it was voted down. The Water Works had a tentative agreement zero, 4.1, 2.5 plus 2.5 and take Blue Choice and no backpay and that was voted down. Thank you, Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Lawrence Allard, 177 Sherwood Drive, Manchester, NH, stated:

I'm the Vice-President of the Memorial High School Music Department Support Group, also known as the Memorial POPS. The past, the present, the future. Several years ago you heard the pleas of the West High School Band parents asking you to replace old uniforms which had seen better days. After numerous delays, they finally got them without the City's help. Recently, you heard the begging again. This time from the Central High School Band parents. They met with delay upon delay and the students were forced to march without a uniform. Finally, an anonymous donor stepped to the plate and the uniforms were ordered. Again, without the City's help. But, that's all in the past. We're here in the present with the same need as the others and time is not on our side. Our parents come before you tonight to plead our case with various points for you to consider. I will only ask you to consider the time factor. As a newly formed support group, the Memorial POPS was not aware of the time required to select a uniform design, secure the funding, and have them manufactured. In December, we met with the uniform sales representative and selected the design. A mock-up sample arrived just today. Unfortunately, the manufacturing time is the problem. It will take six months to produce the uniforms, therefore, if we don't place the purchase order by March 1st the uniforms will not be here for the fall marching season. We are asking you to look to the future, just a few short months. Waiting until the 1996-1997 budget means we can't place the order until July which means the uniforms won't arrive until January and may not be used until the 1997 Memorial Day Parade. Time is against us right now, but you have the power to change that by guaranteeing the funds to the Board of School Committee today so they can give us the okay to place a purchase order by March 1st approximately 100 students will be able to respectfully and proudly represent the pride and spirit of the citizens of Manchester. Thank you.

Linda Garrish, 7 Irwin Drive, Manchester, NH, stated:

I really think it's fortunate for the parents of the Memorial High School Band students that this is February and this is one of the two evenings for the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to hear public hearings because had it been July, it would have been too late for these parents to express their reasonable concerns and their pride in their students and the pride the students have in their music and their representation of their schools. I think perhaps it's time for us to put our pride in our Manchester Sesquicentennial into action, into works, and think about the fact that Sesquicentennial is not about buildings, it's not about events, it's about people and what made this City and our children and our band members are a piece of this City and they are what make it what it is. The perfect segue here is that I'm here really to speak about your need to reinstate public forums. I think it is shameful that this Board as representatives in a democracy have chosen to ignore the opportunity for the public to have its say. Is not government in a democratic America, by the people, with the people, for the people, I said that wrong but that doesn't matter. The fact is that people is of the emphasis here. That elected official's responsibilities do not stop the day they are elected. You need to continue to be responsive to the people of this

City. There is absolutely no way that you can be responsive to all of the concerns confronting a City of a hundred thousand people, the on-going fluid, dynamic concerns that are ever-changing with public forums twice-a-year. It is not possible for you to be responsive, to be accountable, to be efficient without the public having an opportunity to have its say. Rules are fine, limits are fine. I think we all need to respect that but it is essential that today in an era when people distrust public officials and government and our losing their faith that you reinstate this opportunity so that they can renew their faith in you as elected officials. Your responsibility doesn't stop the day you're elected. We can't think that you're going to just do what's best for us without having some input to you and our responsibility as citizens does not stop the day we vote for you. We need to continue to monitor, we need to continue to let you know what our concerns are in a changing world. So, I ask you to take pride in the people of your City, what this City is all about, and to reinstate public forums. I know there has been a concern of some of you, I think, however, that the suggestion that no one speak for more than twice during a year is ludicrous. It is hard for me, even in this short period of time to think of the many, many, many issues I need to address and to think which ones I need to address right now because I might not get another opportunity but once another time this year. I can't pick and choose, I can't know what issues are going to confront this City later on down the road this year. So, I think it is important to reinstate public forums as they were. The last piece that I would like to say to you is that I think it is past time and it is an important time to honor and to fairly and equitably resolve the contracts to public employees who have been without contracts for too long a period of time, it is discriminatory to pass some contracts and then to ignore the others. Thank you.

Shirley Frank, 65 Victoria Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

I wish that you people would consider to vote to reinstate the monthly public forum. Give us back our voice. Why should the majority be punished for the few that disrupted the previous meetings. Thank you.

Erich Zimmermann, 63 Oakdale Avenue, Manchester, NH, stated:

I'd like to first offer a warm welcome to the new members of the Board. A few months ago at the request of Ald. Pariseau, nine members of the Board voted to eliminate public participation at the meetings. While the reasons given were varied, the end result was that you've given the appearance that you consider the public's input as merely a nuisance that tends to lengthen your meetings and leave you open to public criticism. As a private businessman, I consider the opinions of the people I serve an invaluable aid to improving the quality of my service. Criticism is often more helpful than praise because it highlights the areas where improvement is most needed. I'm sure that you, Mayor, would agree with me and all the members of the Chamber of Commerce that none of us would want an article appearing in **The Union Leader** tomorrow stating that our company was no longer accepting complaints from our customers either due to time constraints or an unwillingness to be criticized. Nor, would we want to advertise that the length of

customer complaints should be limited to three minutes twice-a-year. No doubt we could all agree that this would sound a death knell for any such business. Why is it then in government service just the opposite view prevails? While I think, Ald. Domaingue for attempting to correct an injustice, I feel her proposal does not go far enough. I believe that public input should be allowed at least monthly at Aldermanic meetings with time limits but no frequency limit. I also believe the public should be allowed to speak at Committee meetings. The upcoming Charter revision should include expanded public participation to prevent having our right to be heard from being abridged again. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

Andy Jackson, 199 Westwood Drive, Manchester, NH, stated:

I, too, would like to request that the forum be reinstated for many of the previous reasons. I realize that there are some comments made that some of you may not like, perhaps unjustifiably, maybe not, but I think it's an extremely important input that you need and I hope you'll consider it. Thank you.

Debbey Brown, 1137 Union Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

I am a resident in Ward 1 and I am also Vice-President of CHAMPS (Central High Association of Music Parents Supporters). I have given the Clerk an article to pass out to all of you tonight because I feel this will save time. The issue we, as parents, present to you tonight is band uniforms. Yes, the article before you is concerning approximately \$28,000 for Central High School Band uniforms and as we all know, \$28,257.75 was donated anonymously to the City to cover the remaining costs for the Central High Band uniforms. God bless that donor. So, why am I a Central High School student's parent here tonight. I am here to ask you to vote on the motion made at the School Board meeting. The motion being that the School Board would fund the \$28,000 plus for band uniforms if the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen would pledge to back up this expense with City funds should the Board of School Committee run short of funds at the end of their fiscal year. Parents from all three of Manchester's high schools worked together to obtain funding for Central's Band uniforms from the School Board. Since the School Board voted to spend this money for band uniforms why must it be for Central's Band. Memorial's High School Band will be the only High School Band in Manchester without a uniform when the football and marching season begins in September. If you vote to back the School Board tonight, the uniform can be ordered before March 1st, the order deadline for a fall delivery. As I stated before, parents from all three of Manchester's high schools worked very hard together in a unified effort to reach the goal of new uniforms. Why must these uniforms be green - red is a wonderful color also. A uniform, is a uniform regardless of the color or which school receives it. We would like to see all of the high school bands in uniforms this fall at Gill Stadium, wouldn't you.

Thank you.

Mayor Wieczorek called a recess of the special meeting to allow the regular meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to convene.

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting back to order.

Norma Champagne, 1015 Somerville Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

I'm here regarding also the forum to be reinstated that we will be able to speak to all of you with our concerns of the City of Manchester and I do hope that you will reinstate it. I wasn't here the night I heard there was a lot of problems, but I think that some people have probably learned their lesson, so I'm hoping that you're going to reinstate it. Also, I'm a previous parent of a school band member and I was very active in CHAMPS myself at Central High and at that time they didn't have the greatest uniforms either, but I am very glad that the parents are concerned and I definitely, if I can help them out will be glad to back them in that area, also. Thank you very much.

Victor Goulet, 24 Brad Court, Manchester, NH, stated:

That's a small cul-de-sac off of Huse Road and I'm here this evening to address the rezoning request that Bills on Second Reading heard tonight for rezoning a parcel of property at So. Willow Street and Huse Road changing the zoning from current industrial to commercial zoning. The Planning Board unanimously voted to recommend that this not be rezoned, sent that recommendation to Bills on Second Reading and in a split vote this evening three to two, hardly a mandate Bills on Second Reading will be sending a favorable decision on the rezoning request to this Board and as a neighbor there are two concerns I would like this Board to consider before you vote on that rezoning request. One has to deal with the encroachment of commercial off of So. Willow Street into industrial and residential areas and the other is the impact of traffic. Our Master Plan which this Board approved in 1993 called for the potential to rezone commercial in that vicinity right along So. Willow Street. The rezoning request that was presented tonight includes the parcel a quarter-of-a-mile up Huse Road and even in their explanation letter the engineer for the applicant states "there is no doubt that we have requested a larger B-2 zone than that indicated in the Master Plan." This was done to accommodate the Marriott Hotel and I contend that it was indeed not for the Marriott Hotel but to accommodate retail/business on that corner because the Marriott Hotel according to the plan that they submitted can probably fit a footprint on the parcel that could be rezoned commercial. The other issue and also addressed in the Master Plan is traffic and concerning So. Willow Street is says "there is significant issues related to the ability of the transportation system to absorb higher traffic volume that commercial development traditionally generates." It also addresses the need to buffer nearby residential developments from the effect high-intensity commercial development and it states "in order to protect the stability and quality of life of residential neighborhoods in the vicinity of So. Willow Street that certain criteria needs to be developed to evaluate the petition to include the potential traffic impact that projected commercial users be evaluated in terms of available

traffic capacity and where the capacity may be reduced as a result of the rezoning that provisions be made from mitigating that impact. In addition, the proposed district should be evaluated to ensure that possible projects will not encourage additional traffic impacts upon residential areas located on side streets of So. Willow Street. It calls for a traffic impact. Certain selected actions could be taken to help mitigate the situation. Traffic studies should take into account subjective levels of impact on residential areas to include levels of service at intersections. These studies should also recommend measures to mitigate any adverse impacts and recommended measures include proposed improvements to existing street network as to return it to no less than predevelopment levels of service." And, I've studied the Traffic Impact Study and it does not in its mitigation plan bring back the load to predevelopment levels. I would encourage you to study this traffic study impact analysis before you vote on this, it's available at the Planning Department and I'm sure the Planning staff would be happy to review it and its mitigation plan which I found to be in failure in at least two issues. So, I would encourage you to please take those steps before you vote and in closing I would also like to encourage you to continue with the public forums as it gives citizens and residents such as myself and people with other concerns an opportunity to address the Board in whole on several topics. Thank you very much.

Brian Mitchell, 82 Carnegie Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

I'm not going to be redundant and repeat what's been said about different groups getting different increases and different contracts, I think everybody here knows what groups got what and what we've been going through the past several months. I know the Board's been working very hard to try to come up with fair and equitable settlements for my group which is AFSCME, I just want to point out that there is an AFSCME member in everybody's life in the City of Manchester, every day of the week providing service for each and every citizen in Manchester and I would just urge the Board to try to come up with a fair and equitable settlement and I would offer my services to help to do that in any way that we can. Thank you.

On motion of Ald. Soucy, duly seconded by Ald. Pariseau, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and to receive and file any written documentation presented.

There being no further business to come before the special meeting of the Board, on motion of Ald. Wihby, duly seconded by Ald. Robert, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk