

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

May 7, 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. Hirschmann.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

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

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

Absent: Ald. Robert

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 shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the 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.

Harold Levine, 49 Hillcroft Road, Manchester, NH, (Re: City Government), stated:

I submitted to the City Clerk a letter that I've written to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and I really had no intent of speaking tonight, so I hope that you Ladies and Gentlemen of the Aldermanic Board and the Mayor read the letter. My main reason for speaking tonight is when you open the paper at six-thirty in the morning, you see departments heads, this one's short \$200,000, this one can't do this and that, but it's ridiculous at quarter of eight this morning, I happen to have my business at Pine and Valley Street and the City trucks are going back and forth and here is a City truck with a crew truck, three or four men in it, nothing on it, but just joy riding down and disappearing. About quarter after eleven I had to be at an account Carol Cable on the west side McGregor Street and all of a sudden Mr. Thomas says he has no money, but he sends three men to pick up a load of loam. This stuff keeps going on day in, day out and it's ridiculous and I happen to get a newsletter today and, in brief, I just wanted to mention it, it's by Governor Steve Merrill "In New Hampshire we have done more with less." Every family and every small business in this State must balance its budget and we

ought to balance our City budget. Not, by asking more from our taxpayers, but asking more from ourselves referring to the City department heads, City workers, etc. I think I am going to go back to last month when the Mayor presented his budget and he did mention a gentleman who is an employee of the City of Manchester, I don't think I have to mention his name, it's mentioned in the letter and I have discussed the consolidation of City garages and the motor pool with the Mayor over the last four, or five, or six years and also many other things and the person he mentioned to me is not qualified, it had to be somebody with a background in mechanics, somebody who knows fleet management and I don't think we have a City employee who is qualified to take that position, it's not as easy a position as you think. Also, he was also mentioning possibly for centralized purchasing. My letter states that my reasons opposing this particular person. So, I'm going to wrap it up that these are two new departments and I hope the Aldermanic Board does, when they decide if they do implement these two departments that the average public citizen of Manchester or whoever will have a chance to bid on these positions and the most qualified person picked. Thank you.

Lloyd Basinow, 503 Amherst Street, Manchester, NH, (Re: Downtown Revitalization), stated:

I am Vice-Chairman of the Elm Street Citizens Revitalization Committee. For over 30 years City officials have complained about the decreasing Downtown tax base. Tonight with private investment, we are now proposing the construction of the largest multiplex combination mall, civic center, and underground garage north of Boston, all in one building to help revitalize the Elm Street Central Business District. Its ideal location is less than five minutes drive to the expressway I-293 for all north and southbound traffic, all existing on and off ramps for both directions. It is convenient to Manchester's west side. For future expansion there is adjacent land available for the construction of ultraplex towers high rise for additional parking, hotel, and office space which could tie directly into the civic center. No roadwork is required. Depending upon the number of levels of parking there would be space for over 2,000 cars. The mall would have space for over 100 shops and restaurants. Now, considering the poor financial track record for civic centers around the country most cannot even meet their basic maintenance and operating expenses and I point to Peoria Civic Center which annually runs three quarters of a million dollars in the red and Peoria has a population of 127,000 people. We submit that the mall is necessary to carry any deficit of the civic center to ensure that the taxpayers will have no future increased tax burden. We propose discontinuing Kidder Street thru traffic, the taking of one private parking lot at Kidder and Canal and one building known as 101 Charles Way so that the project can go unobstructed from Elm Street to Canal. Kidder Street adds over 40 feet to the mall which would give 240 feet of frontage on Elm Street while traversing Bridge Street adds over a 130 feet for a 370 foot-wide civic center. Relative to private financing that would be accomplished by allowing the citizens of Manchester and surrounding towns to invest in the project and reap above-average returns by purchasing special municipal redevelopment bonds which could be

freely traded on the open bond market. The good news is State Representative Ray Buckley has informed me that this session of the Legislature has passed legislation which allows the Manchester Finance Department to issue broker free, tax free ultraplex municipal redevelopment bonds. It is now possible to put this civic center project onto fast track for early completion. In conclusion, I'd like to say that community revitalization doesn't have to hurt. We believe Manchester residents are ready to invest in our community's future and only need the chance to participate. We have the ideal location, we have public support, we have the means of financing, the State Legislature is with us and there is no opposition. Only this Board of Mayor and Aldermen can kill this civic center project. As they say in hockey the puck is now in your court. We ask that this Board of Mayor and Aldermen appoint a special ultraplex commission to get the project underway within the next sixty days.

Mayor Wieczorek asked, Lloyd, can you tell me who the Chairman is of the Elm Street Citizens Revitalization Committee.

Mr. Basinow replied it was Paul Archambeault.

Henry Sylvestre, 33 Donna Avenue, Manchester, NH, (Re: Various Municipal Services) stated:

I've got three items here I'd like to talk about. The first one is a trash collection. I followed a recycling truck the other morning, it had one man on that truck, he drives and he picks up the recycled things, loads the truck himself, hops in the truck, drives to the next bucket and so on. The yard waste truck...two men on a truck, one driver, one man picks up all the yard waste, dumps it in the truck. The City of Manchester...three men in a truck and they take turns going down the street, one guy gets his barrel, the other guy gets the next barrel and so on. I've watched them, they take turns. We could kind of look at this situation. Proctor Road -- I think some people are making a career over there, that job's been going on for close to a year now, just a short street, short road. I went by there today, it was eleven-thirty, I was at Candia Road and Proctor Road. I looked down there I couldn't see anybody. I drove down there, there's a grader there, there's a guy sitting in the grader, somebody talking to him, the machine running doing nothing. So, I backed out of there went up Lake Shore Road and now it's getting to be about twenty minutes to twelve, four-five guys in the truck driving away from the job. I went up to Proctor Road on Lake Shore, nobody around. Oh, by the way, I saw another truck two men driving away from the job...twenty minutes of twelve. Went to Sandy's down at the rotary there's one of the trucks with the five guys. What time do these guys go to lunch, how long do they stay for lunch. A couple of weeks ago I went to Lake Shore Road at about ten minutes of two there's four guys sitting in a truck doing nothing. The next day, I went by there five minutes of three, the trucks leaving the job. What time do they go back to the yard? We should check these people. City buses, nobody on the City buses. I don't know what they charge for fares now. Why don't we eliminate the fare, charge 20 cents

or 25 cents and put some bodies in these buses. The bus driver must be more lonesome than the Maytag serviceman, really. I think we should put some people on those buses, even if they ride for nothing. We're paying for them anyway, right. I guess that's it. Thank you.

On motion of Ald. Clancy, 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. Reiniger, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk