

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

July 2, 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. Shea.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

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

Present: Aldermen Elise, Sysyn, Clancy, Soucy, Shea, Domaingue, Pariseau, Cashin and Hirschmann.

Aldermen Reiniger and Robert arrived late.

Absent: Ald. Wihby

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.

Colette Musick, 80 Val Street, Manchester, NH, (Re: Pepperidge Drive closing) stated:

I am here as a resident of Val Street to voice my strong opposition to the potential closing of Pepperidge Drive. First, let me present to you a petition signed by 146 residents of Kenberma, Gem, Val, Murphy, Thomas and Devco Drive, along with Franklin, Cave and Columbia Roads. This petition expresses our displeasure with this proposal and our disappointment at being omitted from any discussions held on this potential closing, especially as it will have a negative impact upon our residential community. First, by blocking access to Pepperidge Drive, those of us with young children would be prohibited from using this road to transport our kids to Highland School. In so doing, we will now be forced to go towards South Willow Street which is already very congested, or South Beech to Brown Avenue. Both routes will add approximately 10-15 minutes to the commute. Quite honestly, this is not fair as Pepperidge Drive is a public road and as taxpayers why should we have to detour around. This is no different than residents cutting through our neighborhood to go to Bradlee's or Shop 'N Save. If Pepperidge Drive is closed, cars coming off Brown Avenue will now be cutting through our streets to get to their destinations, thereby increasing cars through our neighborhood. Secondly, if allowances are made for

one street closure rest assured that everyone will be trying to close off their residential areas as well. Proof of this is Alderman Wihby - is looking to close off some streets in the north end. Where will it end? Driving around the City will be like figuring out a puzzle. Traffic is a fact of life when you live in the city. There are alternatives that we can take to help reduce or slow down traffic such as stop signs or speed bumps, but street closures are absurd. As taxpayers,, we have every right to all public roads. Merely because someone has found a quicker route does not warrant a street closure. I bet everyone here has some short cuts they use frequently to get to where their going and most are probably through a residential community. In closing, there has been talk of closing the entrance to Connecting Road from Brown Avenue. I urge you not to approve this. If there is ever a fire in my home, I do not want the lives of my children jeopardized because a fire truck either does not have the necessary equipment to open the gate, or the equipment malfunctions. Seconds could means the lives of my children. Thank you very much.

Roger Mitchell, 41 Val Street, Manchester, NH, (Re: Pepperidge Drive closing) stated:

Mrs. Musick pretty much said everything I wanted to say except for one thing. She mentioned fire, I'm concerned about ambulances and Police. In an emergency lives and seconds mean time and a person in trouble that needs an ambulance have to stop to find a key to unlock a gate or whatever they have to do to get up to the house to save a person, a few seconds could be just a little bit too late. Thank you.

Leo Gove, 144 Kenberma Street, Manchester, NH, (Re: Pepperidge Drive closing) stated:

I understand the proposal to close this street would be about July 15th. I don't think that's the right time to do it and I'll tell you why. There's a lot of people on vacation, the mother's won't be bothered at that time. Wait until school starts and then you can create some fireworks.

Gregg Szot, 127 Westwood Drive, Manchester, NH, (Re: Pepperidge Drive closing) stated:

I'd like to start off by thanking all of the Aldermanic people for being here to try to see if we can go forward with some kind of a solution for something or talk about it or at least try to address something. I'd like to thank the Police Department and Fire Department because they do a great job. This originally started out not as a fight which seems to be what's occurring now. I don't know how this came about to be a fight. This was trying to take charge of our neighborhood (i.e., to what's happening to our neighborhood to what's happening to the inner-city of Manchester) is being overrun by people who don't have any concern for kids, for people who live in the area, for the pets that you have that are run over. There's so many businesses the Mall, the 99, HQ, K-Mart, AutoFair Auto Centers, Kids 'R Us, Toys 'R Us, Midas Muffler, Blue Cross, I suppose the biggest one would possibly be the Post Office that everybody seems to go to. We have septic service trucks going through our neighborhood to get to the City Wastewater Treatment Plant, we have NYNEX trucks, we have Post Office traffic in addition to Post Office trucks, we have school buses that don't even service our neighborhood going through there, Bailey Distributors, UPS, Federal Express. The Airport causes a major part of it because it's a way to get around Brown Avenue and Willow Street. In 1995, there was 451,000 enplanements for the City of Manchester's Airport, by the year 2000 they estimate 650,000 thousand. In 1995, they had 110 million

pounds of cargo go through year and in the year 2000 they figure they're going to have 143 million pounds. Where do you think this is coming from the traffic is going there. I have to, if we can't seal off the hill I would like to at least seal off the hill which I think the lady that spoke first said it's a suicide corner, it certainly is. I think it would be best suited for everybody to seal it off completely, make some kind of an obstacle that a fire engine could drive over so they could access both neighborhoods, both neighborhoods could use each other's thoroughfares. It seems like that side likes our side better, I don't have a problem with that. I suppose it could wind up going both ways.

Larry Constantine, 39 Devco Drive, Manchester, NH, (Re: Pepperidge Drive closing) stated:

I've lived on Devco Drive now for just about 10 years and the traffic on Thomas Street is just as bad as it is over on Westwood Drive. The cars are coming through there from the shopping malls and from South Willow Street but we can't close off the neighborhoods. The streets are for everybody and we all pay taxes and the poor people over on Connecting Road shouldn't...we don't have **The Union Leader** in our back pocket over there, we have no politicians, we get along pretty good, but we do need some road servicing over there, it would help a little bit. I find this whole thing ridiculous that there are so many children in our neighborhood plus we have an apartment building with a whole slew more. They have to go to Highland Goffs Falls School, they have to go up Pepperidge Drive. I'm sorry for those people, but it's a public thoroughfare and that's the way it should remain. Thank you.

John Vattes, 35 Devco Drive, Manchester, NH, (Re: Pepperidge Drive closing) stated:

The way I look at it, if you're going to be closing off Pepperidge hill that leaves Westwood Drive as the only entrance and the only people that would be going in there are the people that live there. Hence, you have a private area. If you have a private area, I for one, don't want my tax dollars going to pay for their garbage pickup, I don't want to pay for their snow removal, their street repair or anything else that my tax dollars go for because I no longer have access to this private way and that's the only think I have to say.

R. Gosselin, Manchester, NH, (Re: Pepperidge Drive closing) stated:

I think the two previous speakers just about said it all.

R. Leathers, 335 Sewall Street, Manchester, NH, (Re: Pepperidge Drive closing) stated:

I'm here to vote my opposition to that also simply because what it does is it dumps a problem from Ward 8 onto Ward 9 which isn't any better suited for the problem that's already there. We have 3,000 plus vehicles that are supposedly driving through Westwood, Sherwood Drives and all of those are going to be transferred to Brown Avenue, Goffs Falls Road, South Beech Street, Sewall, President, Gold Street which already have all traffic going through there along with heavy commercial trucks which are allowed especially on Ross Avenue. So, I think it should remain open because it's not curing any problems anywhere else.

Ed Lemire, 54 Devco Drive, Manchester, NH, (Re: Pepperidge Drive closing) stated:

I, also oppose the closing of Pepperidge hill for many of the reasons that have already been stated. I also have two kids at Highland Goffs Falls School and to force them to go around, force them into more traffic, I think jeopardizes their safety more than I want to deal with. One of my children is handicapped and would have to add another potential dangerous issue is not necessary and uncalled for. Thank you.

Gary O'Connor, 33 Sherwood Drive, Manchester, NH, (Re: Blockade) stated:

I would just like to say that I am opposed to any form of blockade whatsoever. Period. I moved to my area for a matter of convenience and accessibility. I had my choice of moving to Donahue, to Sherwood, Westwood, any of those areas. I chose convenience. I work at the Post Office, my wife works at Blue Cross. A 12 minute walk to both areas - convenient and I use Connecting Road and Thomas Street to go to Shop 'N Save. So, I decided to give myself a little example to see how long it takes to go to Shop 'N Save from my area. Traveling through Goffs Falls Road to South Willow Street it's 2.2 miles and it took 12 minutes. To go from Shop 'N Save through Ross Avenue, Thomas Street, to my house took 3 minutes. That's nine extra minutes of drive time, that's all nine extra minutes of pollutants going up into the air. Now, I think this problem has been going on, I can't see why we can't have a couple of cops. I've asked Jackie Domaingue before and they said or the Police said, I guess they don't have the manpower to do it. Well, pretty funny when I see these department heads getting their raises through the back door. They have two cops up there maybe a couple of times staggered through the week, they could pay their salaries with people going through the stop signs up there. But, I do feel that it's a matter of convenience for me living there and I can see these people standpoint too if people have to go to Goffs Falls Road. If there is going to be a blockade of any sort which I still am against then just close off Brown Avenue. Period. This is crazy, this really is. I thank you.

Raymond Jackson, 44 Kenberma Street, Manchester, NH, (Re: Pepperidge Drive) stated:

I agree with everything that Mrs. Musick says, what else can I add. Thank you.

Robert Duffey, 351 Chestnut Street, Manchester, NH, (Re: Maps Contract) stated:

With apologies to my fellow citizens, I'm going to change the subject if I may. I'm here tonight as most of you know me, I'm President of the Manchester Association of Police Supervisors and if any of you want to talk to me about your problems over there I'd be happy to talk to you about it. But, tonight you're going to be presented a proposed agreement between the Police Supervisors Union and the City and hopefully you've received and read a letter that I sent to each of you and I'm here tonight to personally urge your approval of that contract. I think you know by now we haven't had any raises in our union for nearly five years, that's nothing new. The contract is one that is more than fair to the City and the membership and the fact of the matter is that the bulk of the increase is being paid for by the membership agreeing in the spirit of cooperation which we all try to do accepting a less desirable insurance plan than what we have now. But, I guess what I'm asking you to do tonight is look beyond the dollars and the cents of this contract. I think you all know that through the lack of contracts and the

lack of raises morale hasn't been too great at the Police Department both in supervisory and rank-and-file, and we have a chance here to have a really fresh start, I think. I think this is a fair contract from both sides, I think that you have to keep in mind that we are starting to lose people. Now, when you lose a patrolman with a year on the job, that's unfortunate, he goes down to Salem to make money, but when you start to lose 18 and 20 year lieutenants because they're taking their retirement and leaving that's very unfortunate. You can't replace those people, folks, you just can't. I would remind you also with all due respect that we willingly did give up raises in the past when times were tough for the City and I guess what we're asking you now is that you maybe begin to set that situation right. There is a moral responsibility, I think, at stake here. There's a moral responsibility we all have to these citizens out here and there's also a moral responsibility that you folks have as the governing body to take care of the long-term City employees and these are long-term City employees. As a senior member of that group and as a Captain and a senior member of the administration staff, I really, really worry about the loss of qualified personnel that we're going to be looking at. Please remember also that most of these people live in the City, they're your constituents, they're real people trying to bring up families just these folks are here without a raise for five years. We're asking, I guess, for very little in this contract but that that loyalty be recognized and rewarded. We've negotiated long and sometimes frustrating hours to reach this accord and we would ask you to take this opportunity to send a fresh start, a message to the employees who do care about the long-term employees who are daily putting themselves in harms way for everybody in this room. Thank you.

John Duclos, 95 Donahue Drive, Manchester, NH, (Re: Pepperidge Drive) stated:

We have a problem on Donahue Drive and in our neighborhood and that problem is the problem of safety and the problem is brought about because we have too many vehicles driving through our streets and because the streets were not designed to be a thoroughfare, they were designed to be neighborhood streets. People who cut through our neighborhood cut through our neighborhood because they're in a hurry and when they're in a hurry they speed and when they speed they endanger the lives of our children, of ourselves, and our grandchildren. We have stop signs in the neighborhood, people go through those stop signs without stopping. Sometimes two in a row, sometimes three in a row and what does this permit them to do. It permits them to travel through the neighborhood at an increased rate of speed. Again, that is a problem. We had a public hearing. At that hearing were members of the Police Department and the Fire Department. We discussed the issues of emergency vehicles. Those problems have been resolved. What we're asking you here tonight or what I'm asking and what other members of our neighborhood are asking you is to solve a problem. The problem is safety and it's only going to get worse because we're going to have an increase in the mall, we're going to have an increase with the hotel, and you know that the area is going to continue to be developed. The people who are cutting through the neighborhood are going to be inconvenienced, but those people are going through residential streets that were not meant to be thoroughfares. I understand that there are problems in a lot of the City and I think that every issue needs to be looked at on a one-to-one basis. We have a safety problem and we as a neighborhood and I as a taxpayer are presenting you with the solution and that solution is to close Pepperidge Drive. Thank you.

Raymond Ducharme, 104 Val Street, Manchester, NH, (Re: Pepperidge Drive) stated:

I have been a resident of this neighborhood for the past 25 years. When I moved into this neighborhood we already knew about the problem with the aircraft taking off from the airfield and the increase in traffic and I chose this neighborhood for the convenience and location that it was in and I'm sure that a lot of these residents did the same thing. I used to work right up at Grenier Field, it was very convenient to go to work from there and close to the malls, close to everything. One reason I'm here tonight though is my wife doesn't like driving on the highways. She'll go all the way through every street in Manchester including a lot of private neighborhoods and any shortcut she can find and I take the highway, I'm there half-an-hour before she gets there. So, that's one problem and if that gate goes up, now if she ever had to go to the Post Office she has to get on the highway, go around by the Mall of NH, and then take Goffs Falls Road down to the Post Office. So, on behalf of my wife I guess, that's my opposition.

Gene Piecuch, 141 Donahue Drive, Manchester, NH, (Re: Pepperidge Drive) stated:

I would like to see if there is going to be any way to stop traffic in the neighborhood is to stop traffic at Brown Avenue to allow the people on , Val, Devco and that area to have access to Pepperidge Drive. The traffic in that area in the years that I've lived there which is about 33 years has increased probably a hundred fold. The City has allowed continuous businesses to be developed in that area and not only that but we have the Waste Treatment Plant, we have the Airport and that's going to increase, and the traffic that we have now is unbelievable, the speed that some of these people go through down Donahue Drive is unbelievable and when you ask them to please stop down you get the middle finger every time. I don't think that that neighborhood is a thruway for anything, for any business. We've spoken to the people at the Post Office, we've spoken to people at UPS, the situation has not improved, there are signs there that that's not a thruway for trucks, we have trucks, dump trucks pulling lawn mowers and everything else. So, like I say, I propose that we block off Brown Avenue and make that an area as a neighborhood, not a thruway to the Post Office. We had bumper-to-bumper traffic at Christmas. We could not even get out of our driveway or get in our driveway, the people would not allow us to get in or out, it was just bumper-to-bumper traffic and my only other comment is I'd like to thank the Alderman for his comment for allowing me to make a choice of either moving to Sanbornton or Hampstead, that was a very intelligent statement, he just decreased by property by \$10,000.

Norman Methot, 45 Gem Drive, Manchester, NH, (Re: Connecting/ Blockade) stated:

I'm all for the blockade, a little opposition here. The reason being is that the difference in traffic would not be progressed over onto Connecting Road right because people coming in from Harvey Road would just get on the highway where they're supposed to over by the Mall, but because of the Mall and especially in the winter time it's even worse with the congested traffic and people are probably using that gateway to Brown Avenue even more so and I pity the people on Donahue having to go through all of that. As far as us on Gem Drive getting over to the Post Office or getting over to the school, I timed the difference today from my home to the school, from my home going from Connecting up Pepperidge

and then going from the highway getting on by HQ and coming onto the school and the difference was only a minute and a half. I stopped at all of the stop signs and that's probably what all of the difference is. I stopped at all of the stop signs and did the time problems through the neighborhood and it took approximately two minutes to get through your neighborhood and I know some people probably do it in much better time. I'm not for blocking Brown Avenue, I run out of my home, I service people and need to get quick access to the highway to get onto the highway going to Maine or wherever. I do oppose it, we may be able to help our situation later is to put lights right there at the bottom of Brown at Connecting and Brown Avenue. We can't hardly even take a left to come up the hills anyway and one more thing I wanted to mention is that the people that bring their people to school from our neighborhood don't usually use it in the winter time because they can't get up that hill anyway and that's all I have to say, so thank you.

Diane Roberge, 70 Gem Drive, Manchester, NH, (Re: Connecting/ Blockade) stated:

I sympathize the people on the other hill. When cars go through your neighborhood at excessive speeds and you have children you worry for their safety. Are you waiting for a death to happen on that hill before you really do something about it. The convenience of going through that neighborhood is what people look for, so people are a little inconvenienced and they have to go around. Whose life are you looking to trade off, your children or just the inconvenience of the traffic going through. What about a proposition of putting a "Do Not Enter" sign at a certain time of the day, that way nobody can enter your neighborhood during these certain times and if they do then they are faced with a fine. Of course, then there is always the enforcement of that because I've seen the "Do Not Enter" signs in Hudson where they have those problems. Initially I had my nose out of joint because I wasn't told about this but in reviewing it and realizing what they have to go through, I agree with them that they should be doing something. Thank you.

Dave Janick, 83 Langdon Street, Manchester, NH, (Re: Ban on Bars vs. Private Clubs) stated:

I want to talk about something beside traffic problems that was brought to my attention in yesterday's **Union Leader** which was an article that would propose a new law where public night clubs, bars so to speak would be restricted and private clubs would be given more rights and leniency in the form of entertainment that they offer to the adult public. Now, I'm not here to support or condone certain types of behavior, I just think that in America it's important that no American of legal age be treated as second class citizens and restricted in where they choose to go and what they choose to view or listen to. That's all I had to say and I'd like to recommend that further study is done before this law is put into effect. Thank you very much.

John McDermott, 156 Donahue Drive, Manchester, NH, (Re: Pepperidge Drive) stated:

I'd like to thank the Board of Mayor and Aldermen the opportunity to speak this evening. I've lived on Donahue Drive for 32 years and in that time I've had probably as many friends and acquaintances on Kenberma hill as I have on my own hill. What I do not want to see is a friction caused between the two hills. This is not a friction between two neighborly neighborhoods, friends that have been that long 32

years. I think it's a problem derived from the City itself, maybe 15 to 20 years ago building up all around us and causing all this neighborhood friction that's causing now. But, I would like to say that for anybody that lives anywhere in the City I don't think and I would like them to ask themselves would they like 1,700 cars driving by their house every single day of the year at speeds faster than the posted speeds. Would they like trucks going by their house every day of the year when they shouldn't be there. Would they also like to drive out of their driveway, back out of their driveway look three houses down to the corner see nobody in sight so they can drive out of their driveway and when they come out to the street and are about to head down they look in their rearview mirror and somebody is right in their bumper. They obviously came around the corner speeding and down the street speeding. I think there are solutions to these problems. I think, as intelligent people that we all are from both hills and from the City we can arrive at some amiable solutions to this problem. One has been and was laughed at but I think they ought to think about it, closing off Brown Avenue. The people from Kenberma hill that use our hill to go to school, we could go out Goffs Falls Road, they could go out the other area. We'd all have the private neighborhood that we wanted 20, 30 years ago.

Theresa Dunbar, 2110 Goffs Falls Road, Manchester, NH (Re: Ward 8 Traffic) stated:

I am in Ward 8, but I guess I'm with the group where we don't get any respect, let's say. It was nice to know, to find out that there was a public meeting, but I don't think anyone on Goffs Falls Road knew about it or all along the side streets, so we didn't have any say, it was here we are. We learned about it a few days ago when somebody in Sunset Manor let the cat out of the bag. Now, I'm opposed to the closure of Pepperidge Drive because it would impact us on Goffs Falls Road and nobody seems to be concerned, nobody's mentioned Goffs Falls Road and I'm glad I'm here tonight. We have an over abundance of traffic, certainly anybody knows that. We have everything, you name it. You talk about having trucks, I don't think they have trucks like we do. We have the big trucks, the ones that reposition your pictures on the walls, the ones that make your plates rattle and it's nonstop and just before I came out tonight you should have seen the cars whizzing and everything that the people say that live in Sunset Manor, every complaint they have I would say we have triple. Thank you for listening.

On motion of Ald. Soucy, duly seconded by Ald. Clancy, 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. Pariseau, duly seconded by Ald. Sysyn, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk