

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

November 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. Cashin.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

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

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

Absent: Ald. Wihby, Soucy, 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 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.

Sgt. Ronald Robidas, Manchester Police Department (Re: MAPS), stated:

The members of MAPS asked me to speak with you this evening on their behalf seeking your help. In the near future, you'll be presented with another contract from our organization. As you well know, we've not had a raise in over five years and have been without a contract of any sort for nearly three years. This has caused severe hardship on our members and has drastically affected the morale. The offer that which will be presented to you, we believe is a fair one. If you recall we came to you with a contract, you sent it back to our organization advising there were particular areas of concern you wished for us to address. We have done so and this contract addresses your concerns about health insurance in addition to several concerns of management, while attempting to address the concerns of our members. Ladies and Gentlemen, in the past we've put the

divisiveness behind us, a new labor contract benefits everyone, the City, the Police Supervisors and the citizens of Manchester. The contract will be presented to the Police Commission tomorrow and has the full support of the Police Administration and the support of a majority of our members. The contract is fair and very low in cost to the City. In order to put this ugly era behind us, we're asking for your support. Finally, when you consider this contract we ask you to recall that we've remained professionals during these difficult times, fulfilling our responsibilities to the department, the City, and probably most importantly to the residents of Manchester. We have negotiated endlessly in good faith, we have watched our salaries fall to the point where we are twenty to twenty-five percent behind our peers, yet we have not expressed a desire nor an expectation that this will be corrected at once. This contract represents the last step in a long journey, but perhaps the start of a new, more cooperative journey. It is time we take that step together and we can accomplish this task with your support. Thank you very much.

Christian Skinner, 986 Union Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

I just recently opened up a cafe in Manchester on Second Street called the Narrow Way Cafe and my father's a Reverend and he's involved with it, it's a family-run business basically. I'm trying to do like a Christian Coffee House atmosphere. I have a pool table, pinball, there's a front room that's like a more mellow cafe feeling, there's a back room with amusement devices and I'm running into some problems with the Manchester Police. They won't sign off on my entertainment license and it's just sad that there's a number of clubs in the City, alcohol clubs where people can go and watch bands, but there's no place for young people to go and be entertained in a smoke-free, drug-free, alcohol-free environment and that's basically my concern. I've been open about a month and a half and I have already requested a hearing to come before the Board of Aldermen. Dale Robinson over at the Police Department told me to do so, so that's basically it and that's all I wanted to say.

Mayor Wiczorek stated I understand that is scheduled with the Committee on Administration for next week.

Ald. Cashin asked if a representative of the Police Department be at that meeting.

Ben Spellman, 53 Dutton Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

I'd just like to brush up on what Christian said. I'm one of the people who goes to the Narrow Way Cafe and I think it's a very good place to go because like he said it's drug-free, it's smoke-free, alcohol-free and I guess one of the reasons they gave him for not giving him his permit was that he's right across from the Coliseum Club which is an alcohol serving place and they said they had a lot of problems with that and they didn't want to have anymore and I don't really see how many problems they can get from a club like Christian's running. It's just a small cafe, it's a place for kids to go, it doesn't cost a lot of money and it's very rare to find one of those around in Manchester, New Hampshire. It's a really good step in the right direction for like kids that just want to like find something to do and you can only go to the Girls and Boys Club for so long before you have to find some other place and that's about it.

Peter Leonard, 502 Chestnut Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

I'm the brand new State Rep for Manchester and I'm just saying that any bills coming from this office, I'm going to see if I can pass them up at the Legislature for you to help Manchester out.

Brian Jolley, 397 Hill Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

I'm a patron of the Narrow Way Cafe and before it opened there was really no place for people on the west side, younger people to go. I'm also, my friends and I are also starting a band and we have no place to play really where we can get some experience and Christian's Cafe offers an opportunity, if he has the proper licensing.

On motion of Ald. Shea, 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. Shea, duly seconded by Ald. Pariseau, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk