

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

May 6, 1997

7:00 PM

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

Mayor Wieczorek called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Wihby.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

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

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Elise, Sysyn, Clancy, Soucy, Shea, Cashin,
Robert and Hirschmann

Absent: Alderman Reiniger, Domaingue and Pariseau

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 will 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.

Diane Giroux, 841 Somerville Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

My concern is with Continental Cablevision. I have found they have very graphic images coming through on their channels such as SPICE, 51 Pay-Per-View and 52. The scrambling is effective when you have a cable box bringing it in, but if you are a cable-ready TV, it will freeze frame for up to 5 seconds. I have teenage children and I'm sure a lot of other parents do. I would like Continental Cablevision to do something about this. I realize pulling the channels would probably be unlikely, but if they could at least send a separate cover, outside of the billing, that explains to people that if you have a cable-ready TV these images will freeze frame and believe me they are explicit. Possibly, parents could have done what I have done and put a filter on their TV and that works tremendously. Thank you very much.

Harold Levine, 49 Hillcroft Road, Manchester, NH, stated:

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Aldermanic Board, it should not be very hard for you people on the Aldermanic Board to reduce the Mayor's budget as there seems to be a lot of fat in it. Just take the Highway Department. If the buddy system there is eliminated, able-bodied people would be producing instead of just riding around. I'm talking about the crew trucks and the scavenger trucks. We seem to be the only City and I think I brought this up to the Mayor back in November and to the Aldermanic Board many times that we seem to send three or four men on a crew truck to pick up a thousand, maybe two thousand pounds of cold patch and I just can't see this with four people going to Hooksett or wherever they go to pick up cold patch. We've got the same problem existing with the scavenger. I've discussed this with the Mayor about why we send three men down to Londonderry on every truck and why there is not another truck or two which they have in reserve to put these crews working instead of just riding around. This is something that is just starting in the City of Manchester and it will probably continue once this new sanitary landfill or drop-off center goes up in Auburn and then I think it will cost the taxpayers of Manchester a lot more money. So, I think this is a main issue for the Aldermanic Board to consider how to eliminate a lot of these particular buddy systems at the Highway Department and then the problem really starts with you people because you are the ladies and gentlemen who keep reappointing these people to the various commissions of Manchester. It seems some of these people have been on some of these commissions the last 10, 15, or 20 years. I take issue with the Mayor - there are two committees that seem to have been meeting for the last year, year-and-a-half and yet the taxpayers haven't seen anything as far as what has happened with these. One is the commission on starting a centralized purchasing, if that is getting on the ball and the main issue I'm going to talk about which I've spoken to many is why hasn't the consolidation of the City garages and motor pool been implemented. There is an awful lot of cost savings right there and I think you people as you progress with this current budget think of some of these and really put your minds together to start implementing and I think the Mayor should, at least, address the taxpayers of Manchester on these two very important issues that add a lot of money to our present budget. Thank you.

Joan Desrosiers, 115 So. Cypress Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

I am here to object to our cable company monopoly they have in Manchester and I am requesting you, Mr. Mayor, to intervene on behalf of the citizens of Manchester and see if we can get another alternate cable company that we could have a better choice. I do not like their cutting off Channel 8 which is a local program, I don't know if anybody is aware of it. But, Channel 8 refuses to pay the money to the cable and it is a local program. I assume that the cable company - Continental Cable - had an obligation to show low programming to local people and I want to thank you very much.

Mayor Wiczorek stated they are going to be speaking here tonight. As a matter of fact, those of you who are interested in cable, they will be here this evening making a presentation at the meeting. So, if you want to stay, you can hear what they have to say.

Marilyn Pena, 56 Highwood Drive, Manchester, NH, stated:

I've got a desperate situation in my home. I brought my mother, age 84, who is suffering from Alzheimer's and my father (88) and he's suffering from Senile Dementia and he is confined to a wheelchair. I am trying to provide for them in my home and the City of Manchester has been giving me a pretty difficult time. They are telling me that I am using my house as an illegal dwelling because I have an additional sink. The sink has been the issue. I need to have the sink because I have 24-hour caregivers in my home. My parents can't be left alone at all, not even for five minutes and to remove that sink would mean my caregivers would go and my mother and father would be placed in a nursing home and I really don't think...all I'm trying to do is protect and keep my family together and I really don't think it should have become the adversarial situation that it has become and I guess what I'm doing, Mr. Mayor and Board of Aldermen, I'm asking for your help. I need your support. I feel I am doing what is right and what is humane and it has turned into a nightmare.

Alderman Wihby asked do you have anybody else in the house that lives with you that is not a relative.

Ms. Pena replied I have the caregivers for my mother and father.

Alderman Wihby asked do they live there.

Ms. Pena replied, yes, because my mother and father are both disabled, very disabled.

Alderman Cashin asked who are you dealing with, Ma'am, the Building Department.

Ms. Pena replied I have dealt with the ZBA. I've been to four Zoning Board of Adjustment meetings, I've been denied all four times. I offered, my husband and I offered to sign, I think they called it a negative covenant on the deed which would mean that my house is not a two-family, it is a single-family and anytime anybody ever bought the house or wanted to sell the house after me, it would be clearly stated on the deed that it is not a two-family, it is a single-family. I was denied that. Right now, where we are now is that we have had to hire two lawyers on behalf of my mother and father and one lawyer on behalf of my husband and me and I don't know if I should say this, but I guess if there is no resolution with the City, there is going to be legal action on behalf of my mother and father. I feel I have the right to keep them at home. I am their daughter, I am my father's legal guardian and I'm caring for him in the way that I feel is the best for him. I don't want them in a nursing home, they are my family.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I have asked my assistant Richard, to make a note of that and we'll check that out.

Ms. Pena stated thank you very much.

Mayor Wiczorek advised that there being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Soucy, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business could be presented, on motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Soucy, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk