

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
(PUBLIC HEARING - FY '98 BUDGET)**

**June 10, 1997**

**7:00 PM  
Manchester High School West  
9 Notre Dame Avenue (Auditorium)**

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

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

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

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

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

Mayor Wieczorek advised that the first purpose of the meeting is a public hearing upon the proposed Community Improvement Program of the City of Manchester including activities for the 1998 to 2003 period; that the second purpose of the meeting is to conduct a public hearing on the proposed municipal budget as required under the provisions of RSA 44-10 and in satisfaction of the requirements of Section 121(b) of the State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act of 1972 as amended, which calls for appropriations for the so-called operating budget expenditures and Manchester Transit Authority municipal fund subsidy to be financed through revenues of the General Fund; operating expenses of the Environmental Protection Division to be funded through Sewer User Rental Charges; operating expenses of the Manchester Airport Authority to be funded through Airport Revenue Funds; operating expenses of the Recreation Division to be funded through Recreation User Charges; operating budget expenditures of the Central Business Service District to be funded through the Central Business Service District Fund; and Aggregation Fees for budget expenditures of the Aggregation Program.

Mayor Wieczorek requested that the Clerk present the proposed Resolutions.

The Clerk presented the proposed Resolutions as follows:

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester Airport Authority the sum of \$12,975,285 from Special Airport Revenue Funds for Fiscal Year 1998.”

“Appropriating to the Central Business Service District the sum of \$175,000 from Central Business Service District Funds for Fiscal Year 1998.”

“A Resolution appropriating the sum of \$2,637,542 from Recreation User Charges to the Recreation Division for Fiscal Year 1998.”

“A Resolution appropriating the sum of \$9,259,964 from Sewer User Rental Charges to the Environmental Protection Division for Fiscal Year 1998.”

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester Transit Authority the sum of \$900,000 for the Fiscal Year 1998.”

“Appropriating to the Manchester Aggregation Program the sum of \$1,058,685 from Aggregation Fees for the Fiscal Year 1998.”

“Raising Monies and Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 1998.”

“Amending a Resolution ‘Approving the Community Improvement Program for 1998, Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefor, and Authorizing Implementation of Said Program’.”

Mayor Wieczorek stated the budget before you tonight is that which I proposed to the Board of Aldermen on April 1, 1997. As you may know, the Mayor’s budget is the beginning of the public budget process. The numbers available to me as I develop my proposal to the Board are soft and always subject to change. Some of the base assumptions that my budget was predicated on such as the tax base, Overlay account, County tax, health insurance and various retirement and benefit figures were preliminary estimates based on incomplete data. As the process wears on these numbers become more firm as information becomes available. Thus far, several of these numbers have been changed to reflect the more accurate information that has been produced. In addition to these changes, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen has taken action to remove auto registration fees and to settle numerous labor contracts. Beyond these changes there are several others on which the specifics are not yet available such as the finalization of the State budget. In that regard, I was in Concord today and I am optimistic that the funding to the City will be better than in year’s past. As these items become available they will be brought before the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for appropriate action. The proposal before you tonight has an estimated tax rate increase of 3.3% or \$1.03 per thousand. As mentioned previously because the Mayor’s budget is only the beginning of the process various assumptions have already been changed and changes will continue to be made until all this data is firm. My expectation is the final budget will responsibly meet the City’s needs and have the lowest possible impact on the taxpayers. I look forward to working with the Board of Mayor and Aldermen over the next couple of weeks to finalize the budget and requested Robert MacKenzie, the Director of Planning, make a presentation.

Mr. MacKenzie stated I will be very brief tonight. Not only because it’s hot in here but because we also had a special public hearing specifically on the CIP Program; that was a very well-attended meeting, we got a lot of public input from that. The CIP Program basically includes all the major capital improvements in the City and special projects of the City. It’s designed to provide an open and public process and strong accountability and to minimize the tax impact of major capital improvements over a number of years. It’s also useful for planning out major projects that sometimes take two to three or four years to accomplish. This year the CIP Program includes almost \$59 million in total. Of that total though, less than a quarter is based upon the property tax. The balance is from Federal and State funds and other private investments. I won’t go into any details on the projects that are actually included in that. There

are handouts available that specifies all of the particular projects. I would note though that we are covering most of the infrastructure of the City. We have road reconstruction, we have utility improvements, we have bridge rehabilitation, we have garage improvements, we have City Hall renovations, parks improvements in a number of the areas of the City and a variety of School improvement projects. Following the public hearing on the CIP in March, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen has been reviewing it and they've made several amendments to that. Those amendments, many of those directly related to the comments that were provided by the public and just to give you an example of some of those changes - a signalization program was added for the intersection of Cilley Road and Taylor Street in the southend of the City, a difficult traffic situation; the Center of New Hampshire Parking Garage improvements was switched from the auto registration surcharge to a bond project; the School Park Improvements program was doubled from \$150,000 to \$300,000 to handle improvements at Weston School and at Highland Goffs Falls School; and there were several other smaller amendments made to the program. That's all I had to present tonight, that concludes my presentation and I would be available to any of the Board members or the general public to try to answer any questions at a later date. Thank you.

Mayor Wieczorek advised that the meeting shall now be open to public comment; that each person when recognized shall come to the nearest microphone, state their name and address in a clear loud voice for the record; that each person shall be given one opportunity to speak and comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak; that once all present have been allowed to speak should there be a topic not discussed those wishing to speak a second time shall be provided the opportunity to do so.

Bob Barry, 51 W. Elmwood Avenue, Manchester, NH, stated:

Mr. Mayor and Members of the Board, I truly believe that to hold a public hearing on these figures that we have received this evening is a total waste of the valuable time of each person here. Why, year-after-year must we play this game. These figures are a farce bearing absolutely no resemblance to what the final budget will be. When will we who pay the taxes upon which the budget relies be credited with the intelligence we have and receive a budget proposal that can be truthfully debated. When will we get figures that reflect, at least, a token effort to inform us of where we wish our money to go. Each year we must hear the rhetoric that the tax rate will be this and then that and finally the other thing. I repeat, the figures are a scam perpetrated upon the taxpayers of Manchester. Thank you.

Lloyd Basinow, 503 Amherst Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

I was going to open up with the salutation greetings from the oppressed taxpayers of Manchester, but I've noted that they've been so oppressed that they're not even here tonight. On May 6th, the Director of Public Buildings Services requested \$50,000 for needed repairs to our school buildings. He said he really needed \$100,000. but would try to do with only \$50,000 until the new budget. He got only \$25,000 after being told there was only \$85,000 in the Contingency fund. But, the Mayor has stashed away over \$3.1 million of our money for a civic center and he says he hasn't got enough money to repair our school buildings. Now, there are \$666,000 in the reserve account for the civic center. But, last October the Mayor went to the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration reporting he was holding back an unbudgeted net surplus balance of \$2,458,806 of our money. This caused an inflated tax rate the Tax Assessors have given me and calculated at sixty-six cents more per thousand valuation that it had to be. The increase of \$1.21 should have been no more than fifty-five cents. In other words, a home valued at \$100,000 the homeowner overpaid \$66 more than should have been necessary. The bottom line is that the taxpayers of Manchester are already being taxed for a civic center without ever having had any public hearing or benefit of a referendum and here is the documented evidence with the Mayor's signature and his fingerprints all over them and tomorrow the Board of Aldermen will receive copies. We need that money to build, repair and maintain our schools and to buy paper, modern textbooks and equipment. We need that money to put more Police onto our crime infested streets in unmarked patrol cars and to adequately compensate them for services rendered. We need to build a modern incinerator that would not only pay for itself in less than 10 years, but would also immediately save the taxpayers over a million dollars per year on the tax rate. We need the money to repair and maintain our streets infrastructure, sidewalks and sewers. We need property tax relief while at the same time providing our municipal employees with needed cost-of-living adjustments and to cover the municipal payroll already granted. We need money to pay down the current bonded debt of over \$188.4 million so that our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren will not be made to suffer the cost of this generation's follies. We don't need and can't afford a civic center, so the Mayor and build a Taj Mahal with his name on its plaque. Unless our money is used for the purposes it was intended we are going to have a substantial tax rate increase every year to follow. For over 30 years I have worked for the benefit of this community and its taxpayers. I intend to expose the fraud, deceptions and abuses perpetrated against the welfare of this community and the violation of trust within the Office of Mayor. Tonight, I declare I am a candidate for the Office of Mayor of this most gracious City and will officially file my candidacy on July 25th. I consider the present City administration to be the most corrupt since Roland Vallee was Mayor. It's time to clean house and by the way, Mayor, I wouldn't want this to be your only bad day, so I am saving the real good stuff for later in the campaign.

Ralph Chase, 12 Fernand Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

I was bribed to come to this so-called budget meeting. Knowing full well that none of you knew what the new tax rate was going to be, shame on you all, we knew that because Mr. Wihby spoke to us at the Taxpayer's meeting last night and told us that you didn't know anything about it. If you really wish to save some big money in this City, you ought to try things such as Indianapolis did. They put their highway work out to bid and then they let the Highway Department of the City bid the job also and they were amazed when their City department met the contractor's bid and while doing so found they could function with 50% of the people in the City Highway Department, they cut the payroll, completed the work, fired 50% of the Highway Department, saved \$13 million and that would be a welcome tax cut for the City of Manchester. Look around you, Mr. Mayor and Aldermen. Thank you very much.

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

I have a couple of questions and then some comments. The first question was the Aldermanic Board voted to eliminate the motor vehicle registration fee. Why do you now include it in your budget for '98 - thirty odd dollars. And, also, I would like to see some of this...used to offset some of this tax too instead of using it, holding it for the CenterPlex which I'm not sure will ever be here. This is probably and I hate to admit it, one of the most disgusting political ploys that I have ever seen, I have to agree with Bob Barry earlier. This should be a public hearing of the Manchester budget. No reference at this point or no reasonable figures have been arrived from a consensus of the Mayor and Aldermen which I think is the final budget. I can't believe this information at this time is ready for public participation and secondly, the location that you picked, whoever did it tonight doesn't seem all that well. It probably is the most inaccessible of all the possible places that you could have picked and the parking's even worse. Now, you look around who wants to come over here, it sort of looks like it was by design. Granted, I'm told that the new Charter here that is suppose to take place in July permits this at this point and again this is one of the problems that we're having from this well, well planned new Charter and I think we are in for a lot of more problems from it. I believe that has it, thank you.

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

Mayor Wieczorek, I would like to know why you are adding more members to your staff plus raises. Most of all, the Mayors for the City of Manchester before you many years only had one assistant. I say one assistant. Why do you need three. Should you rely this for more, why can't you rely on the Aldermanic Board to help you.

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

I spoke to you people last month at one of the Aldermanic meetings that the private citizens could speak and I mentioned then about what I thought was too much fat in the Mayor's budget. But, yet it's five weeks and there's been nothing in the papers, nothing has been done about it. I am just going to reiterate what I said before. We are to save money to the taxpayers. I proposed six years ago to the Mayor about the consolidation of garages and a motor pool. I mean a motor

pool the way the government runs, not the way some of the City employees would run it and that it would have to be a person outside of the City employed to run this. I suggested to the Mayor off and on over the last six years about getting some of these rider resources in that would show you within a month how to consolidate garages, how to consolidate equipment and really this has been dragging on, I think, for about two years. I mean, fine, there are other people that have problems with the Mayor, he doesn't listen. It seems that if somebody like myself has an idea, we can't get on the committee to present our views and we just seem to be talking for nothing. Well, I don't feel as though...I think this is something you, Aldermen, on the Board should take under the handle. If the Mayor doesn't want to save money for the City with consolidation of a motor pool and garages then I think you people should. I don't know who's on the committee, it's never been in the papers. It's the same thing I spoke about about the centralized purchasing which I think the Alderman from Ward 12 told me there was such a thing, but how many people have you laid off who were so-called purchasing agents if you do have the centralized purchasing. You don't start a new department without using the resources from another department and the way you are doing it, I can assure you the City is not going to save any money at the present time. I also spoke about the buddy system at the Highway Department. This has been going on ever since I can remember and there's a big savings. I can't see why we have to...I don't care if the rubbish department has the contract and how they're doing it, but meanwhile it's costing...they could do it for a lot less. Why do we have to send down three men on the truck to Exit 5 off 93 in Londonderry. No other city does it. I traveled New England as a business person and I see our equipment is in the worse looking shape as always because our so-called...never take a rag to wipe a truck down and I can assure you they have plenty of time. But there are so many loose ends going on, so I say and also with the Police Department, I've spoken to the Chief, I've spoken to the Mayor about it, about the Police Chief not enforcing RSA's as far as commercial vehicles and especially working companies parking their trucks overnight on City streets and on sidewalks, but they never get tagged, why. These are all the things that the taxpayers are getting pretty irked about. I, myself, am and I think there is so much fat in this particular budget that I hope that within the next two or three weeks that you really tackle it and take the bull by the horn. Thank you.

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

For a change you've all heard from me from one time or another, the Board. Tonight, I'm lost for words because words have been taken out of my mouth. I agree with my husband and Mr. Barry. The Mayor, your budget numbers look like 3.5% and it really looks like 7% with the raises and the registration charges. Is this being done because it's an election year and your comment in the paper about the union people and your departments heads have been waiting seven years for raises. Well, I think the taxpayers have been waiting a long time also to have the taxes stay the same or lowered. Thank you.

Eileen Burns, Riddle Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

I'm here, I don't like to speak publicly, but I'm doing it tonight. Mayor Wieczorek, I want to know why you're having a personnel study for the figure of \$200,000. I'd recommend that you eliminate this study for the consideration of the taxpayers of Manchester. Between the high electric - I moved up here to get away from all of that and I am right in the middle of it and another thing that is a pet peeve of mine, I want to know why that the largest City in the State of New Hampshire has one lousy hospital in Manchester, the largest City, I just don't understand how you let them get away with this. It's sad because I know coming from New York you wait three hours to get into an emergency room and get waited on by a doctor and this I see happening at Elliot, I just don't understand this, how could you do this. Thank you.

Mayor Wieczorek advised that all wishing to speak having been heard, on motion of Alderman Soucy, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to refer the Resolutions to the Committee on Finance for further consideration, with reports to be made to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen at a later date.

There being no further business to come before the public hearing, on motion of Alderman Clancy, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk