

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(Called by a Majority of the Aldermen)**

June 23, 1997

**Immediately Upon Conclusion
of the 2nd Special Meeting of the Board
Memorial High Gymnasium**

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

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

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

3. Report of the Committee on Bills on Second Reading recommending that Ordinance:

“Amending Section 32.122(B) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by adding wording to allow for appointments of alternates to the Heritage Commission by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.”

ought to pass.

Alderman Hirschmann moved to accept the report. Alderman Elise seconded the motion.

Alderman Reiniger stated it seems that the new charter takes effect July 1 and he did not see why they shouldn't wait until then to look at further changes.

Alderman Elise stated in this particular case it is important that they do take action before July 1st otherwise the aldermen wouldn't have the ability to do this. That is the reason why we are doing this. Alderman Elise stated she had seconded the passage of the committee report.

Alderman Domaingue stated that was her question, given the amount of discussion we had this evening on the new city charter she was wondering what reading they had from the city solicitor's office and as to whether or not this would be in conflict with the new city charter when it took effect July 1st and what she heard was that this provision would be in conflict with it as of July 1st.

Mayor Wieczorek responded this was correct.

Solicitor Clark stated as of July 1st this would be in conflict with the new charter.

Alderman Domaingue stated that she was more than willing to support this particular effort so long so long as I am not in the process of thwarting the will of the people in the city charter and if what I'm being told tonight is that this is an end run around it, I'm not sure I want to be a part of it.

Alderman Robert stated he just wanted to reiterate what is being said. I'm on the record years ago as supporting a strong mayor form of government. The present charter that we are moving to adopt is a step in that direction. This ordinance quite frankly is a step backwards. It makes for a weaker commission structure, it makes for less effective government. Not to mention that

it would be in conflict with the charter just in a matter of weeks. I don't think it's good for the city. I think it's maneuvering by individuals that really is not in the best interest of the city, and I can't support that.

Alderman Elise stated she resented the last comment that this was maneuvering on individuals that don't have the best interest of the city at heart. Most people sitting here know that most of my efforts have been motivated in that area. To address the structure of the present charter. This board does have the ability tonight to pass this report, to suspend the rules, and support the nomination of Bernie Cowette to the Heritage Commission, and to confirm him this evening. And the intent of this action this evening is to do that, based on the fact that Bernie has contributed quite a bit to the creation of this ordinance which took several years to complete. He does have the best interest of the city at heart. No, this does not follow the proposed charter, or the charter that will take effect in July but at this time we have the power to do this and what I am asking the Board to do is to amend the ordinance under our present charter to support the nomination of Bernie Cowette to the Heritage Commission and confirm it this evening. There is no evil motive to this at all. We have the ability to do that this evening and I am asking the Board to do that this evening. If some members of the Board decide not to do that, that's up to their prerogative, they have a vote to do that. I don't think we need to get into this any longer, it doesn't need a lot of explanation as it has gotten a lot of play in the press as well as she had discussed this individually with many of the aldermen. Alderman Elise suggested if any alderman felt it was bad for the city then they should not vote for it.

Alderman Soucy moved to the question. Alderman Pariseau seconded the move to the question. Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote. A roll call was taken at the request of Alderman Reiniger. Aldermen Reiniger, Domaingue, Pariseau and Robert voted nay. Aldermen Sysyn abstained. Aldermen Clancy, Soucy, Shea, Cashin, Hirschmann, Wihby and Elise voted yea.

Mayor Wieczorek vetoed the action stating he thought it was highly inappropriate that we try to do this and somebody stated it was an end around to try to make a change for the next eight days and he did not think it was the proper thing to do. He thought this thing had gone on long enough, it was time they put it to bed.

Alderman Elise moved to override the mayor's veto. Alderman Hirschmann seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wihby, Elise, Clancy, Soucy, Shea, Cashin and Hirschmann voted yea. Aldermen Reiniger, Domaingue, Pariseau, and Robert voted nay. Alderman Sysyn abstained. The motion failed for lack of a two thirds majority vote.

There being no further business to come before the Special Meeting, on motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Robert, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk