

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

March 3, 1998

7:00 PM

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

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

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

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

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Klock, Reiniger, Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, Shea,
O'Neil, Girard, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, Hirschmann

Absent: Alderman Rivard

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 come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Jay Lewis, 50 W. Rosedale Avenue, Manchester, NH (Re: Airport Expansion), stated:

I have some concerns about the expansion of the Airport and I'd just like to read this. I'm here to speak about the Airport expansion. The Airport wants to expand both runways and have a new access road. I'm not against doing things that better the City, but I'm against not going through on agreements. The Airport agreed to soundproof our schools, churches, homes around the Airport and certain noise contours. This was in 1992. For a year-and-a-half there was no soundproofing done because of lack of money, but now they have money to expand and to buyout churches and schools for three million. Bakersville School was supposed to be soundproofed, but in six years nothing has been done to it. I will read you what Alderman Pariseau said on February 20, 1992 at a public meeting. Alderman Pariseau stated "we wish to be assured that this project progresses, the people affected by the noise are not forgotten; that promises have been made to the residents of Wards 8 & 9, but he has not seen anything cast in concrete and he does not want the Airport Authority to think that they are going to keep growing and hope the problem will go away; that he has still not seen anything done with what was proposed for the noise abatement and he would feel more comfortable if he had something in

writing and what the Airport proposes to take care of the problem.” The Airport says noise contours have changed. Only because they didn’t take accurate readings. No readings were done past 293 and no readings were done in the early morning or late night when most bigger planes are flying. Most complaints were done early morning and late night by the people. When planes circle around town they do it outside the area tested. The Airport says new contours are for the year 2000, but I was told by Rick Fixler that it was for the year 2015. They say December 31, 1999 is the last year of the Stage II engines and that Stage III must be used, but two years is enough time for that to change. John Silver of the FAA said that Washington has not yet approved these new contours. I have two books here from the Airport: one, that says Final Draft of January 1997 and then the book that anybody can get at their local library or this one that I got out of the State Library is just a draft and it’s dated February 1997 which is after the final draft. I’m asking and I can’t understand why the people don’t get the final draft. I’m asking the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to look into this deeper for the children because you people have the last say, it’s says that the local government has all the power over the Airport. We don’t want broken promises like Sudam. Old promises should be kept before allowing new promises. Thank you very much. The only other thing I would like, if I could ask is that I asked my Alderman to talk to Mr. Testa at the Airport and I would like him to tell the Board how Mr. Testa replied when you tried to ask him questions for me, if that’s allowable.

Mayor Wieczorek replied no, we’re not going to be getting into a dialogue. This is your opportunity to speak and we will consider any...

Mr. Lewis stated I was told by my Alderman when he asked Mr. Testa about this Airport thing, he said because he spoke to...if it’s anything to do with Mr. Lewis he would not discuss anything with Mr. Pariseau and I think that’s wrong, I think all Mayor and Aldermen should be answered by people who run stuff in the City, how else do us taxpayers get anything done but by going to our Aldermen. Thank you.

Shawn Riley, 1840 Front Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Ambulance Contract), stated:

Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for allowing me this opportunity to address the Board. I come here this evening to express my opinion about the upcoming ambulance contract. I come here as a private citizen who has been an ambulance patient and who also has a elderly grandfather also living in this community. To make a full disclosure before I make my brief statement, I have been working in this City for the past ten years in ambulances. I have worked for both companies - Chaulk Ambulance which had the 911 contract is now known as American Medical Response and also Rockingham Ambulance which now holds the 911 contract. I have worked as a paramedic in the streets for both companies and I have also worked at a management level for both companies and the reason that I am here tonight is the Traffic and Public Safety Committee has opted to continue negotiations with Rockingham Ambulance without releasing an RFP. I certainly understand the wisdom of the Traffic Committee and all members of the Board as this contract is for a dollar a year and it makes a lot of fiscal sense, however, there are things about EMS that are often hidden...not to endorse one company or the other...I feel that

oftentimes private ambulances can be deceptive in their negotiations. I know from first-hand experience that both companies have not met their obligation to the terms of the contract in the past and this concerns me as a resident of Manchester and as I said at this time I do not represent either ambulance company, I have not affiliation with either company, I work as a firefighter outside of the community of Manchester. And, another thing that is a concern is not releasing an RFP and simply negotiating with Rockingham Ambulance, Rockingham Ambulance as you may or may not be aware is owned by Optima Health and that is certainly my opinion, probably not the most fair business practice. If an RFP is released, of course, would like an opportunity to direct letters to my Alderman and anybody who would be appropriate expressing my specific concerns with contract violations in the past. To you and I we see ambulance comes, what color it is does not necessarily make a difference. The two people inside are what make the difference and the two people in the ambulance aren't the ones that come and stand in front of this Board and make promises to you. I know again that very, very specific, or very critical obligations are currently not being met and in the past from both companies have not been met and I think that's something that is worthy of being addressed for the safety of the community and I do hope that you will take that into consideration and I would certainly be willing to speak with anybody if you had more direct questions. I do thank you, Mr. Mayor and Board of Aldermen, for this opportunity, I hope I have not exceeded my time.

Steve Vaillancourt, 161 Faith Lane, Manchester, NH (Re: Civic Center), stated:

We did in Public Works today at the State Capital discuss the 10-year Highway Plan and the Airport Access Road came up, but I'm not here to talk about that tonight, I would be happy to discuss it with you later. I'm here to discuss the Civic Center. When I was living in Berlin, Germany back in 1992 one of my favorite ways to pass a few idle moments was to watch what they called "Hutchenspielers" on the street corners conducting their illegal activities. Now, these were young foreigners "Austlanders" we were told trying to engage Berliners, usually unsuspecting tourists in what was known as the old shell game...that is what we would call it. You see "Hutchen" is the German word meaning "little hat" and "Spiel" means "game", thus the "little hat game" or the old shell game as we would call it. It was impossible to win, the hand after all is quicker than the eye and Police were constantly warning the public via loudspeakers not to get hoodwinked by the "Hutchenspielers". They could never catch the "Hutchenspielers" who simply would pick up their shells and move onto another location as police approached "Hutchenspielers" would get another group of gullible tourists. When the image of these "Hutchenspielers" came back into my mind last Wednesday night as I sat in this room listening to the latest sell job by Scheer Sports, Ogden Entertainment, and other civic center proponents. These people, it seems to me, are a little more than shell game artists "Hutchenspielers", I thought, only in this case it's a legal shell game and the people of Manchester are the unsuspecting victims. Like the "Hutchenspielers" in Berlin, I suspect that shell game artists will pick up their wares and move onto another unsuspecting community when we see through their game and say no. We were told more than a year ago that substantial private monies would be available for building a civic center. Even a few weeks ago we were told that that number would be in the 20% range. These monies, we were told, would come from naming rights,

advertising in the building, luxury seats and boxes, concessions and parking revenues, maybe even a portion of the sale of each ticket. Yet, last Wednesday night the shell game artists let it slip that the City will get revenues only from naming rights. All advertising revenues, all monies from luxury seats and boxes, every advertising dollar, every dollar from concessions and parking, and ever penny from tickets sold would go to Ogden Entertainment in an attempt to reach the break even point. Nothing, I repeat nothing will go to the City to pay off debt service except the naming rights. I suppose they could get a few million if they were to call it the OptimaPlex. As far as Ogden is concerned there was an article in *The Boston Globe* yesterday that pointed out how they are trying to get \$2 million more from Providence to update the civic center which has operated in the red every year since 1991, I left a copy with your Clerk. If you listened closely enough last Wednesday night you heard as they moved their shells around they told you to reach a break even point they would need to have 4,200 in average at every event of 145 a year. Now, that's average mind you not hit that mark once or twice. So, if they only get 3,000 for every hockey game they would miss the mark by 50,000 a year. If you miss that I'm sure you picked up on the parking scam. Tuesday night civic center proponents assured Aldermen here that on-street parking would be the primary source of parking, they made a big point of it. But, the next night in they came and they revealed their projections that they would need 2,200 off-street parking places to which they would charge \$3.00 to \$7.00 per spot. Now, if you take the average of \$5.00 multiply that by 2,200 times 145 events, a little multiplication is all you need to find out that they are expecting to raise \$1,595,000 in parking fees; that's part of the operating monies Ogden plans to keep, not to share with the City of Manchester for debt service. Now, Skip Ashooh had to assure people that a hockey team would only come here once we agreed to the building. I want to congratulate Chairman Wihby for pointing out to Mr. Ashooh that he had it backwards that we would need to have the hockey team and everything else in place before this Board would even consider putting this to the people for a referendum. Chairman Wihby deserves congratulations for recognizing this Catch 22, the shell game artists are trying to put forward. I'd also like to thank Alderman Rivard for questioning the parking revenue scheme, thank Alderman Thibault for pointing out how a hockey team north of our border recently lost \$2 million, I thank Aldermen O'Neil and Hirschmann for raising the question of whether the Staples site is the best, and also to thank Aldermen Pinard and Pariseau and as always Alderman Shea for asking just how much this building will cost Manchester taxpayers; that's the question that Ogden and their friends know the answer to, all it takes is a little more arithmetic, but they don't want you to hear that answer. Mr. Mayor, they're asking you to let the games begin. But, in this case it's not ordinary game, it's the old shell game. A game that should be banished here on the streets of Manchester just as surely as the "Hutchenspielers" game was as banished on the streets of Berlin when I was there. Thank you, I do have the remarks that I've given to the Clerk in written form.

There being no one further to speak, on motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

There being no further business to come before the special meeting, on motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Clancy, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk