

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

May 5, 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 Pariseau.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

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; that 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.

Andre Gelinas, 333 Mystic Street, Manchester, NH stated there are people who live south of me on Titus Avenue who are having their houses soundproofed now. We are back to back, but I live on Mystic and they live on Titus. From what I hear from the Airport, I don't like because they are going to abandon the soundproofing from Mystic Street on. We are on the same sound level as what all these houses are. What is going on? I would like to have an answer to that. What is going on? Who can I see? Who can I talk to? You can't talk to anybody at the Airport, they push you to someone else and you go talk to someone else. So I am here tonight to ask you what you can do.

Mayor Wieczorek stated the Airport is usually who you talk to if it is anything regarding the Airport.

Mr. Gelinas replied I can't get no place with them.

Mayor Wieczorek asked you can't get any place with them. Who have you tried to talk?

Mr. Gelinas answered I have talked to Mr. Testa many times. I have talked to Bill Dorr.

Mayor Wieczorek asked what does he tell you.

Mr. Gelinas answered well you know he talks from both sides of his mouth so I can't make out what he is saying. I would like for you to find out what is going on. Are we not going to get the soundproofing and why should he stop right in our backyards and not keep on going. Now when these planes land, they are at least, they are not more than 1,500 feet over my head and they are going to tell me they are affected but I am not. Mr. Mayor, I would like to have an answer.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I will talk to him myself, but I don't know what the answer to this is but I will try to find out. I know that there has to be a dividing line somewhere and if you are on that line we could just keep going.

Mr. Gelinas stated well they were supposed to have run some new sound levels. The sound level from my neighbor in my backyard is the same as mine.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I will check that. He apparently knows your name because you said you have spoken to him several times so I will talk to him.

Mr. Gelinas stated I would appreciate it if you could see what you can do and get back to me. Give me an answer in writing, please.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I will give you an answer.

Tyler Shaff, Amherst, NH stated I have two issues that I would like to address briefly. First I would like to propose for consideration that the Manchester Police Department buy Ford Motor Company vehicles for police cruisers. Ford Motor Company offers the Crown Victoria as a rear wheel drive vehicle and also consideration should be given to the newly redesigned Taurus. It is a front-wheel drive vehicle and it is my understanding that Ford offers both vehicles. I would also like to see the City of Manchester renew its commitment to urban renewal, specifically in the Millyard. That is all I have tonight. Thank you.

Steven Vaillancourt, 161 Faith Lane, Manchester, NH stated I live in Ward 8 and am one of your three state representatives from the Ward. I was under the impression that a group of Aldermen was going to be traveling to Worcester on an outing to the Civic Center down there so I know that whenever I travel in a group I like to have some reading material so although your trip has been postponed I now understand, I thought I would supply you with a couple of pieces of reading material which have come to state reps in the past month or so. One is from the very conservative think tank called the Brook Institute and the Heartland Institute and it entitled "Sport Stadium Madness, Why It Started and How to Stop It". It is a four-page article. Another I found just today which Alderman Pariseau told me you might have received yourselves from a

magazine called Governing called "The Stadium Trap". It is also four pages. It talks about how cities like Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Columbus, OH, Milwaukee, Seattle, Minneapolis have all rejected sport stadiums by as much as a 2-1 or 3-1 margin despite the fact that proponents have outspent the opponents of these ventures by as much as a 250-1 margin. I thought that would be interesting as you carry on with your research concerning the Civic Center. I was also in Montreal recently. I like to go up there in the Spring. You know that gambling is legal up there. A nice big casino with 3,000 slot machines and a couple of nice blackjack games. I spent three hours to lose \$10. Popcorn and a movie is more than that, but anyway a year ago I reported that the Montreal Expos wanted to build a downtown stadium at the cost of taxpayer expense in Montreal, but it was opposed 3-1 by the citizens there, even if it meant losing the Expos. Well here we are a year later and Mayor Pierre Bourque, no relation to Raymond Bourque I would assume, wants the City now to help with tax breaks to the Expos so they can build a quarter of a billion dollar downtown stadium. That is Canadian dollars so I assume is \$180 million U.S. The only problem is the City of Montreal is running a \$50 million deficit so the Mayor wants the Province of Quebec to reimburse the City. The only problem there is the Province of Quebec is closing hospitals because they can't afford to run them and there is thought that there will be a little backlash if they try to help the Expos. Closing hospitals. Does that sound familiar? Anyway while I was there over the weekend the Expos were drawing a grand total of 8,000 per game which reminds me of when I sat in this building, in this room about three months ago and heard Civic Center proponents tell you that you are averaging around 6,000 people per game in cities like Springfield, Portland and New Haven. Well, trust but verify, I just happen to get the attendance figures and they overstated it by about 20%. Well, I heard recently Mr. Mayor that you appeared before the Chamber of Commerce and you said that the movers and shakers of the Civic Center would have to drag opponents along. Well, usually that is accompanied by the modifiers dragged kicking and screaming. Well, you are going to have to drag us along because as these two articles point out, this is not an idea whose time has come. I will just read one paragraph, "Bolstered by an increasing body of evidence indicating that the economic benefits of new stadiums are at best modest, opponents now have the statistical ammunition to fight back against the dizzying array of rosy economic impact studies churned out by pro-stadium forces. It is no longer so easy to dismiss stadium foes as anti-tax zealots or as the usual mob of cranks and naysayers." Naysayers, I have heard that word used in our own City here. And for those of you who say this is a stadium instead of a Civic Center, just keep in mind that about 40% of the games would be for minor league, not major league events and this is not a team that we have had and are threatening to lose. By the way, Pittsburgh and Minnesota say go if you want. Pittsburgh is one of the best teams in the National Football League as that will point out. So I won't be dragged along kicking and screaming, but I certainly will look forward to the results of your trip to Worcester. If I might just briefly on one other topic Mr. Mayor, the Union Leader has been reporting about how the Airport access road is in trouble and I think this is one subject I agree with you more than disagree with you on. I spoke with Bob Barry of the Department of Transportation today and the reports that the sky is falling are greatly exaggerated. The House voted unanimously to accept a 10 year plan which includes the access road. The fact that three Senators, not from our

area, and an Executive Councilor from the Seacoast are opposing this should not make us think that this is a project in trouble. I believe Bob Barry and the D.O.T. are listening to concerns as Alderman Rivard expressed to people in our Ward 8 area and as far as the environmental concerns, well I am an environmentalist. I had proposed legislation to ban trapping, but I believe if we listen to every environmentalist, we never would have built the interstate highway system. We might not have even had the Pony Express because that undoubtedly went through some wetlands. So if you recall, we had a petition last year signed by 36 representatives, all of Manchester's delegation, in support of this. I ask Aldermen to sign a similar pledge. Although the Mayor signed it, Aldermen refused to join in that support. I would ask you tonight to reconsider that which was laid on the table by the previous Board of Aldermen. We need your help as Representative Boutin recognizes here and he is now going on with an effort to try to get a new petition of support. Having led that drive last year, I certainly support his efforts this year. So one out of two ain't bad. Thank you.

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Klock, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

Mayor Wiczorek advised that this being a special meeting of the Board, no further business can be presented, and on motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk