

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

August 4, 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 Girard.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

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

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

Absent: Alderman Clancy

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.

Jim Nielsen, 45 Sagamore Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Elm Street Curfew Ordinance), stated: I am puzzled by the ordinance being requested to curtail Elm Street access as a means to deal with the gathering of people and cruising on Elm Street. So far, I have not heard any details about the causes for this ordinance other than a lot of people are gathering in the downtown area and most of them are from out of town. Merchants and other businesses are concerned that vandalism, mischief and mayhem will or does take place and, therefore, we should clear the streets because it is unsafe. We have spent millions to spruce up the City and make it attractive for investment and to lure people back to the City after the business day. So far, it has brought back people for certain special events in the City, evening diners and social gathering at many commercial night spots throughout the downtown/intown area. But the most obvious and visible group of people to frequent downtown are those who go cruising Elm Street, particularly during the good weather. My goodness! They are demonstrating an American ritual that had

been set for them by many of us who are now adults and I might add by some who now sit on this Aldermanic board. It was in my teenage years that I first wrote a letter to the editor that in 1956 a headline proclaimed a rock and roll riot and it was implied that teenagers were influenced by a rock and roll dance to commit mayhem. What it amounted to was car shaking at Massabesic Lake. I know because I was there at the Pine Island Park dance and knew many who were involved in the shaking incident. I use this example because things were implied about young people then that weren't so and also because many of us who had summer jobs often hung around Elm Street. We even got arrested because we walked up and down Elm Street too often on busy Thursday night when the sidewalks were packed with people. But Thursday night on Elm Street, back then, was the place to be and many of us, if we could find someone who had a car, took off as far as 40 or 50 miles to hang out in other cities and towns just to have something to do. For the most part, we weren't disruptive. We were bored and just wanted something new and different to do. What is it we expect these young people to do? Because people are hanging around, does it make the situation bad? Where do we want them to go? Does this mean that if Manchester is going to clear its streets at 10 PM because we can't have people hanging around that I should expect the same treatment when I go to visit cities like Boston and Concord or towns in the Greater Manchester area? Since I like to cruise throughout the state, should my actions be suspect? When I check on certain street people in the mid-evenings and early morning to see if they have eaten or provide food or clothing, will I be stopped because I have cruised Elm Street too often? We have created a downtown environment that is relatively safe and the age group many of us represent certainly is not going to be cruising on a regular basis, but is it just possible that hanging around is not necessarily bad and could it have a positive effect because at least we know where some young people are and we hope they are safe? I might agree that there are better places to be and better uses of their time, but can you say you didn't do some of these things that are very similar? Maybe it also provides us with the opportunity to create a safe environment for those who find this need together. I know I did when I was their age. Although I did not have to deal with some of the more sinister problems they face in this day and age which, though we may not wish to admit it, may have had their beginnings in my day and age. But I also do not mean to suggest that if there is a problem in downtown that it should not be dealt with. The young people who avail themselves to the lure of the night, exciting as it may seem, must heed the traffic laws and drive civilly. Vandalism and individual hostility should not be tolerated. Laws concerning personal property, drugs and alcohol and theft should be strictly enforced and perhaps the regulars of this activity need a community education about what the limits are for their behavior if they are going to participate in the activities of cruising and hanging around. A police presence must be evident so that all of us feel relatively safe in the downtown/intown area to prevent incidences from occurring and to reinforce the laws and ordinances that the City has established for civil behavior among us. We were all young once. We did many of the things that these young people do, but I urge both the proposer of this ordinance and this Aldermanic board not to pass this proposed ordinance and to get out there in the streets to see if we really have a problem or are we just observing the behavior of the most recent group of people who like to hang around.

Frank J. Durham, 3100 Brown Avenue, Manchester, NH (Re: Airport) stated: I live directly across the street from the airport entrance. I have a house that is half packed with boxes because the airport came through and they did two inspections on our home and were ready to give a bid but the funding was not allowed and the bond was not approved. The airport has bent over backwards with us to help us in the move and I have read the newspaper and I have read the articles and there have been comments made that they have strong armed people on the south end and they have done nothing but, in my opinion, help to make the transaction smooth. Brown Avenue has a traffic problem. I live right there at the lights and I have seen at least 30 or 40 accidents a year and I am not home all of the time. Taking the houses, I understand that people have lived there for years. This is set that they have to move. I mean we have to move also. It has got to be expanded and the airport needs to expand. It is growing dramatically and this is a place that the City of Manchester has a lot of potential for the City and I just wish that you would please approve the bond and allow them to continue on with the work that they are doing there. We have children that have to start school in September and I don't know where they are going to register now because I am not sure if we are going to be in school and have to pull them out a month later to move to another district. Thank you.

Carol Durham, 3100 Brown Avenue, Manchester, NH (Re: Airport) stated: As my husband said, our house is located right directly across the street from the entrance to the airport. If you are going down Brown Avenue, instead of taking a left into the airport you would take a right into my driveway. As he said, my house is half packed and we are in limbo. My children are not registered in school at this time because I don't know where to register them. They keep asking every day, "Mommy, where are we going to live?" I don't know. "When are we moving?" I don't know. I think that the bond not passing was in a sense cruel to the people that are ready to go because we are in limbo. We don't know when we are moving or where we are going and I strongly ask that the Board of Aldermen approve this bond. As my husband said, the airport has bent over backwards. They have spent hours on the phone with me, talking with me, explaining everything and putting my fears to rest and I feel very comfortable in dealing with the airport and I feel as though they will treat us very fairly and I just wish that you would please reconsider and pass the airport project.

Bert Bingel, 154 Head Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Year 2000) stated: I have a bit more of a mundane subject, not as hot right now as the airport but one that I think the City needs to consider. We are less than a year and a half away from the Year 2000 issue. I head up an MIS Department for a textile corporation and have been working on our Year 2000 compliance project for six months now and it is quite a project and in the process I decided that I needed to know what the City is doing to attain Year 2000 compliance. We have to be worried about this because older systems, and in computer terms a year and a half to two years is an older system, those can have problems processing those dates after December 31, 1999. It is not something

that can be dealt with in a very short term. You need to have started that process already. In particular, we have to be concerned about the computer controlled communications devices for our emergency services. We don't want them to be down on January 1 of the Year 2000. We have to be concerned about those back up systems that keep track of word processing and spreadsheets, budgets, management's forecasts and just about everything that you keep on the computer. My tax records. I don't want to find out in January that I am actually 88 years delinquent in paying my City taxes. We do need to see it. It is, like I said, not a very glamorous issue. It is one that can be difficult to come to terms with but I would like to know where I can see the working copy of the City of Manchester's Year 2000 Compliance statement with particular attention to how they are going to attain Year 2000 compliance and testing and how they are going to manage to replace those systems if they have to be replaced. That is about all I have to say.

Joan Wright, 3316 Brown Avenue, Manchester, NH (Re: Airport) stated: I am here on the airport issue. For five years, my husband and I, along with a lot of my other neighbors, have been sitting on a very slippery see-saw. First we are not, then we are, then we are not, then we are. I am half packed. I have been half packed for six months. I thought everything was all set. We have looked at houses that we have had to let go by. I am getting tired of it. Mr. Testa has figuratively been spanked, the political egos in this room have been stroked and now I think it is time that those of us on the third part of that triangle are given a little bit of consideration. I am sure that the gentlemen on this board would not like to have their wives whispering sweet nothings into their ear about fall cleaning (should I or shouldn't I), should I or shouldn't I pack, do I clean the drapes, do I clean the floor. We have been waiting to move for a long time and I think it is about time that you allow us to. I think it is time that those of us that live in this fly safety zone and in the other areas in the immediate airport be allowed to pick up our lives and not live in limbo. Thank you.

Raymond Buckley, 161 Faith Lane, Manchester, NH (Re: Airport) stated: I am one of only two elected officials in the City of Manchester that live south of the airport. I signed up to speak about the airport, but it is really about a larger issue I think. The fact that many members of the public and certain elected officials felt last month that they were being pushed beyond the limits of their ability to accept. I don't believe that either elected officials, whether they are Aldermen or State Representatives, while they are being responsive to their constituents, should either be attacked or any implied threats made by a department head in the City of Manchester. The legitimate concerns of the people in the airport neighborhood should have been properly addressed. The crisis that we are not involved in was created by a lack of planning by one department head. This airport issue is enormous. It is complicated and it is extraordinarily disruptive to the lives of many of my neighbors and certainly the people that I represent in the Legislature. Those of us who hold public service positions, positions of public trust, when our constituents come to us with legitimate concerns, whether they are traffic concerns or funding

concerns, and we ask that they be properly addressed, we expect to be treated with the same sort of respect that we treat those other people because after all we are all supposed to be responsive to the citizens of Manchester but most of all I don't think the citizens of Manchester should ever again be used as pawns in trying to make a political point. That is not about solving problems and I thought that is why all of us either ran for public office in Manchester or accepted positions of public trust. The next time that we come forward with a situation like this, I encourage that everyone work together first, solve the people's concerns, and only through thoughtful leadership will we truly move forward as a city. Thank you.

Walter Stiles, 226 Sagamore Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Airport) stated: I have lived at 226 Sagamore Street for 75 years. It has been a long time and it has also been a long time since I have appeared at one of these hearings and it reminds me of that song that came out in World War II, "Kiss Me Once and Kiss Me Twice, Kiss Me Once Again". It has been a long, long time but I am glad to be back on this issue anyway because I feel very strongly about it and of course one of the reasons why I refrain from going to this Board here at the citizens hearings is because I did not want to alienate anybody who might possibly want to contribute to the City Hall Restoration here in Manchester. So let me say this to you folks, I am still working at it. We haven't made the goal but we are working at it. Right now I am in the City Hall, the location down there in the black building and I am selling these buttons right here and I will be there, I won't be there tomorrow because I have got to go to a funeral, but I will be there most everyday for several hours a day and for \$2 you can make a contribution to the City Hall Restoration. Already, 275 or so people have bought these buttons, but tonight I am concerned about the airport. I read Mike Cousineau's article in the paper yesterday, "Airport Work Resumption Remains Iffy." Well that gave me the heebie jeebies to be very honest with you because I don't think that we should, you know, be at the point we are at right now here at the airport in Manchester. So, as I say that is the article and I say, members of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, that we can't afford to blow this wonderful program that is going on at the airport here in the City of Manchester. I know it has been mentioned about taking the matter to Concord. Hey, I was in Concord. Concord has got enough to handle without handling the airport here in Manchester. I am sure that all of you, you will be able to handle the thing okay. So lets not kill the goose that laid the golden egg. In fact, in today's paper here is an article by Northwest Airlines. Hey, between Southwest and Northwest, the traffic has increased tremendously and I tell you I am just amazed because you know way back when I was a boy my dad used to take my two brothers and myself down to the airport. It was the Manchester Airport. That was before they even named it Grenier Field and we used to fly in the biplanes down there and for \$1 they would take you up, you put on your lucky Lindy hat and they would take you up in those biplanes and you would fly over the City of Manchester and come down. That was just as good as going to Pine Island Park. So, I mean I have lived through all this stuff so I know what I am talking about. Now, as I say what we need is solidarity in this whole matter. Now today if any of you invested in the stock market, you know what happened in the stock market today? It went down 299 and what does it mean? It means that people are skittish

about what is going on. They don't know, you see. Also, people get skittish, any potential airline that might want to come into the City of Manchester might get a little skittish about it and say hey if they can't get their act together I don't think we are going to take our airline into the City of Manchester Airport and also, I guess for a fine some of the airlines are already here and if they feel as though you don't have any solidarity, they could possibly withdraw from the airport. I know that you people can resolve the issue. I am sure you can. There isn't an issue in the world that can't be resolved if you put your heads together and you know look to each other for cooperation. In fact, I want to tell you about the airport. My older brother was on the commission down there at the airport when Mike Goodwin was down there and I talked with my brother the other day and he said "Gee, I hope they resolve that situation" because you know this whole expansion down through the years was even on paper when he was at the airport. So now we need solidarity as I said and we have got enough problems without adding to them. Now the immediate needs, the parking garage, Brown Avenue widening is necessary. There is no question about it. If you go down to the airport you know darn well. You can't even find a parking place down there and of course you certainly need a parking garage and Brown Avenue is a very busy place, there is no question. Greater technology is on the way. We know that. You read the Wall Street Journal and it tells all about greater technology. You know folks, when I hear an airplane flying over the City of Manchester I say to myself there is another tax stabilizer right there. There is another tax stabilizer. In fact, I have used this time and time again. I have said to people in my City Hall Restoration work, I have said you know people come into Manchester in that beautiful \$65 million airport and they come down to City Hall and the place is a disaster. Well that has had some affect. We are making progress. We have raised a few hundred and somewhat thousand dollars in the City Hall Restoration in the private sector. Now in closing, I just would like to ask you to put aside your differences and resolve them tonight. I am sure you can do that. I mean you are reasonable people and it certainly can be done. It will be good for the overall citizenry here in the City of Manchester. Some of these people have spoken about the uncertainty. Sure it is uncertain. Resolve it and lets move on. Remember that... I think I would like to say just something about Fred Testa. You know he is like I am. I joined the Marine Corps. on November 6, 1942 here in Manchester and I am an impetuous son-of-a-gun, there is no question about it. I know the clock is...I would like to say he is a fighter, I am a fighter. I have been fighting for the City Hall and I know he has been fighting for the Manchester Airport. In closing, my grammar school class ode, at Straw School when I graduated, I said the world is full of the possible but you got to fight to win it. Thank you.

Mayor Wieczorek recessed the meeting.

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting back to order.

George Chaprass, 69 Lucille Street, Manchester, NH stated: I am thinking about MediaOne. Economics and politics and sex and religion are all separate words and for tonight, at least, we should drop the sex and religion except for EWTN and advanced pay-per-view, the two

extremes. Lets talk about in between the extremes. Economics and politics are separate words but the concepts are linked forever. All economic events occur in some political system, for example, marriage, and all political events occur in some economic context which is usually why politicians are around. Show me the money. That is what it is all about. There are landscapes and seascapes and there are cityscapes. What I gave to Bob Pariseau and to the Mayor is a channel scape. A channel scape that shows what life was like in Manchester in 1992 when the cable company was here and what things are like now in 1998 before the fall with MediaOne. The little check marks mean we have it. There is an awful lot more coming and I will draw prettier pictures after the fall, but what we have to have is data. Like they used to say on Dragnet, "Just the facts, Ma'am". These are the first few facts. What was in 1992 and what is in 1998 but that is not enough. That tells us about the here and now in Manchester but it doesn't tell us anything else. What about Fairfax, VA? What about Chevy Chase, MD? What about Olden, UT? What do they get? How much are they paying for it? What we need is more than just a map of Manchester. We need a map of all the cities in the country that are just like us and what are they getting and how much are they paying for it. That is what we need, I think. I would like to get into two particulars and then I will surrender.

Mayor Wieczorek stated you have gone on much longer than two minutes. Let me ask Alderman Pariseau, are you still having public hearings regarding cable television.

Alderman Pariseau replied yes, we have one more scheduled.

Mayor Wieczorek stated my recommendation is that you also go to the public hearing.

Mr. Chaprass replied I have gone to them, your Honor. What I will do is I will surrender the mic as you suggest and come to the next Aldermanic meeting and pick up where I left off.

David Ladd, 8 Green Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Airport) stated: I am in business on 8 Green Street at the Manchester Airport. I am President of Wiggins Airways and Stead Aviation. I am not a resident of NH, but I am a native of NH. I grew up here and I graduated in 1993 from the University of New Hampshire and after 45 years I am glad to be back. A principal part of our business is servicing and running airplanes for Federal Express and UPS. We operate 40 airplanes for them. Some eight years ago we started operating airplanes out of Mancheser.

Wiggins is an employee-owned company. We have been in business in Massachusetts serving the Boston market for 70 years. Based on what we saw in the master plan and the growth of Manchester and what we knew was coming, we made the difficult decision to turn our back on our 70 year old business in Massachusetts, spend several million dollars last year buying Stead Aviation, we are going to invest six million dollars this year building a 95,000 square foot facility in Manchester, not Londonderry, which will yield you \$180,000 a year in taxes. Next year we are going to spend two million dollars more building a fuel farm. This airport has got an unbelievably good future, but I must tell you gentlemen that what is going on here now at the present time is not of interest just to the people of Manchester. What you do here tonight is being watched in Memphis, it is being watched in Louisville, it is being watched in Minneapolis, it is being watched in Texas and it is being watched where every major airline in this country is active. People are very concerned about the situation here. I think the future that this airport has and the opportunity that this City has is unparalleled. I am privy, being as I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Regional Airline Association and I can tell you that the opportunity that this City has is tremendous. The reason is that from the very beginning this City was welcoming to the airlines. Most places today where airlines go, the immediate first thing that happens is the formation of a committee, lets stop flights at night, lets have a curfew, lets do this, lets do that. Manchester has not done that and as a result you see what is taking place. You have it in your hands right now to continue this and I urge you please do not lose the opportunity to fulfill the future that this airport and this City has at this point in time. Thank you very much.

Steven Vaillancourt, 161 Faith Lane, Manchester, NH (Re: Airport) stated:

I am one of your three State Representatives from Ward 8, home of the airport. What the previous speaker alluded to is part of the problem I fear. I represent all of the people of Ward 8, not just the ones who have had their houses postponed or taken, not just the ones who have to go through this barricade that we have created there, but all of the people of Ward 8 and all of the people of Manchester who have had to face the nightmare that unsubstantiated, uncontrolled growth has caused. Nobody wants to kill the goose that laid the golden egg to paraphrase a new mantra that has been developed here tonight. I was just getting used to the old mantra, this is the engine of economic growth and to that I would add the words yes, indeed it is, but it is time that this engine needs a tune-up if not a complete overhaul. To go back to the new mantra of the goose that laid the golden egg, I don't want to kill the goose. I don't want to stop it from laying the golden egg, but for my constituents of Ward 8 and South Manchester and, indeed, in Litchfield, I don't want the goose soiling my living room rug anymore either. I think we have a simple responsibility to all of our citizens to assure that airport expansion, and you may recall that I have been a supporter of airport expansion, reasonable, orderly, responsible, planned growth at the airport. I have been in favor of that even when it has not been popular to be in favor of it. We have simply gotten to the point where we need a plan. We cannot have unfettered growth and we have to have some response to the people that live in South

Manchester. We had no response when they decided to change that traffic signal going into the airport and it doesn't take a \$10,000 or \$20,000 study. All you need is somebody there to determine that the people in the right lane are not turning left. 90% of them are still going straight. 90% of them are being inconvenienced. It doesn't take anything except a bit of fair play if some of you would be willing to sit down and do that instead of going hog wild to try to create this economic growth at the expense of other people. A little fairness, a little reasonableness to the people that live in the area. Talk to them. Ask them before you change the pattern. And what about the access road which I have supported from the outset? I called Bob Barry at the Department of Transportation in Concord the other day and he says after 10 years they are in limbo again because the manager of the airport has changed the plans and the new entrance is not going to be at St. Francis Church anymore, they have moved it south. Do you know that? Do the people of Manchester know that? Do the State Legislators who are planning that airport access road know of it? I suspect none of them have been consulted and I think it is time to consult people, to plan in advance, and to make growth, growth yes, but orderly and in consistence with responsible treatment of people that live and suffer in the area. We can do both if you have the will to do both. Thank you.

B. J. Perry, 1080 Montgomery Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Airport) stated: I own and operate KRL Electronics in Manchester and I have lived here all my life. I am also on the Airport Authority but I am not here in that capacity tonight. I am here as a businessman. A couple of things I have noticed in the area and I don't live in the area of the airport but I work in the area and I have been there for 13 years. Brown Avenue already has a problem. It has been going on for awhile and it is a nightmare. South Willow Street has the same problem. You are not going to get in and out quickly. It is there. The parking at the airport is a problem. When my customers come in, they have a hard time finding a parking space or when we go out for long term parking it is congested. We have a problem. We need to upgrade the area and now is the time to do it. We can sit and wait. We can sit on our hands and wait and do nothing. For me, we have had about a million and a half dollars of new revenue come in because of the Manchester Airport because some of my customers are able to get in and out of the airport and not take an hour or an hour and a half to drive down to Boston and back and forth. When I go on vacation, I know it is nice to go in and I know with the increase in the airlines it is nice to have the one-stop cities that we didn't have before so that we don't spend a day traveling to get to our vacation and a day traveling to get back. Same thing on business. I don't like waiting half a day or wasting a half a day when I can fly in and fly out of Manchester very quickly. More airlines mean more business. We do need increased accessibility to the airport. The roads are necessary. We have to have them. Bottom line is it takes money to make money and it takes people getting together. I think just as a citizen and talking to other people from some of the different wards, there are a lot of different agendas going on here. We are not on the same agenda. We need to get on the agenda of the airport. The previous gentleman talked about planning. As an Airport Authority member I can say that I have seen some planning. I am new and I am learning, but there is a lot going on and as a private citizen we need to spend money to

make money. We need to get it together. We need to work together. We need to stop fighting. We need to get on the same agenda and I think if people start to realize that they have different agendas and the agenda is not always for the good of the City of Manchester they need to realize get off the saw horse and get onto the agenda, get with it. Thank you.

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, 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 can be presented and on motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk