

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

September 1, 1998

7:00 PM

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Mayor Wieczorek advised that the purpose of the special meeting is 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.

Harold Levine, 49 Hillcroft Road, Manchester, NH stated tonight I just want to speak briefly because that is all we can speak is two minutes, on the report I have had for three months that was commissioned by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on Fleet Management and Operations, Consolidation of Garages and Motor Pools. I have been lucky to have this particular report for the last three months. I don't know if any of you ladies and gentlemen have been privileged to receive this report. According to the consultants who did this report, there is a lot to be desired in our running of our garages and our motor pools. It seems, according to this report, that one day a person could be a so called grease monkey and because of people leaving becomes the, more or less, manager of that garage whether he is qualified or not. This has been costing us a lot of money. In this report, it seems throughout all of our City garages there is no way of the garages being able to control inventory such as parts. They have no computer system for it, etc., etc. and this is costing the taxpayers a bundle of money. I feel that this is a report that possibly the Mayor should put on his next agenda if possible for discussion because it is a report that goes for five years to implement this particular plan directly but if we don't get started we will never see or reap the savings that, according to the consultants, of within five years by leasing vehicles, by consolidating garages and motor pool up to possibly \$1 million a year and I feel this is a great injustice to the taxpayers of Manchester if we have spent \$20,000 on this report and this was a Committee set-up, I think, at the time ex-Alderman Tom Roberts chaired it and I don't know who is chairing it now from the Aldermanic Board, with all the various department heads and a couple of select civilians to look into this. Now this is a report for \$20,000 and it is just laying and collecting dust. I feel that as a taxpayer of Manchester that we should be able to

reap this particular situation and start gaining or finding out why there is no inventory control amongst parts, etc. in the City of Manchester garages. It seems, and there is one other question, I noticed yesterday all of the sudden the City wants to get involved with the dam that possibly PSNH might be selling and I don't think electric companies need the City of Manchester as partners. I think they can run the operation a lot more efficiently then we can and I would like to know and maybe the Mayor can answer me, I see there is an MAAL or some other initial on the second floor. Is this a new department that the City has or how long this has been going on. There is a young lady's name mentioned in the paper. Thank you.

Mayor Wieczorek stated the rest of the speakers that I have on the list please try to hold it to two minutes because at 7:30 p.m. we are going to stop and start the Aldermanic meeting.

Jackie Manning, Manchester, NH stated I am 40 years old and I have lived here all my life and I have experienced a tragedy. My son, Tim Manning died on August 12, 1998. He was 18 years old and he loved all sports. He participated in what the City had to offer him in his growing years. His true love and passion was skateboarding which is a sport that is growing nation-wide. The one thing that Tim dreamed of was having a skateboard park in Manchester. Tim felt that many kids in the City needed a place to skate without being harassed. As you know, they are all over, everywhere, businesses, all over. There are small towns surrounding Manchester with skateboard parks, but Manchester doesn't have anything yet. Why should Manchester drag its feet and do nothing for the Manchester kids? They need to give them a skateboard park. It is a positive thing. The kids get together. It is very positive. We have already started a fund at St. Mary's Bank for the skateboard park to help with the City to give the kids what they need. They need many things but this is one thing. As you know it is overwhelming in the City with skaters everywhere. The only thing I would ask is when we do get this park built, that it be in memory of Timmy. Thank you.

Mayor Wieczorek stated on behalf of this Board, I would like to express our condolences to you and you will be happy to know that we are taking a very good, long look at how we can develop a skateboard park here because we recognize that there are a lot of young people that do like to skateboard.

Justin Martel, 80 Erskine Avenue, Manchester, NH stated I have been a resident of Manchester most of my life. I am 24 years old and I am a skateboarder too. I have been working with the City with Regis and we have developed a plan for a skateboard park and we have done all our homework pretty much, gotten everything together and put our proposals in and we really haven't heard much since then. The last I had heard it was supposed to go to the City and proposals were being made and we had three companies and the last that I heard was that we had proposed it to all of Manchester to get everybody involved with it. So, I don't know what is going on with that but I think things need to start rolling a little bit quicker because this started in the summer time and school is in session now and winter is coming and nothing is going on

yet. I mean if there is anything I can do at my end to push a little bit faster, I can gather people and I am willing to put it all on the line for this so that is pretty much all I have to say.

Mayor Wieczorek stated thank you and you may want to contact Mrs. Dastin because I know she has been working trying to get something put together.

Moe Montminy, Sr., Manchester, NH stated I am 49 years old and I have lived in Manchester all of my life until recently. I also have a business in Manchester. I am here to ask you to look closer at the way the homes are being bought out down off of Brown Avenue. My house was recently acquired by the airport and all of the meetings that I had, I went to every single one of them, we were promised that you will never lose money on your house, you will be provided for, everything. I lost \$73,000. Mr. Testa made promises that he has not kept. I built a \$46,000 garage. Before I built it, I went to them. I asked them if they were going to take my house and they said no but if we do we will compensate you for the garage. So I built it. Shortly after building it I got a letter, we are taking it. At all of the meetings he promised I will make up the difference to the appraised value of the garage and what you spent. I had an itemized bill for him, \$46,000. They allowed \$6,000. This is a two and a half story garage. It had a 14' ceiling, it had a lift in it. I had a ballroom upstairs because my wife and I compete in ballroom dancing. I lost all of that. Okay, at the closing we were supposed to close at a certain time. We were to be given a certified check for the difference. My wife and I get to the closing, 30 minutes before we get to the closing I get a page and it is Fred. He says oh by the way I just found a lien on your house. You have 30 minutes to get rid of it or you can't sign. So I had to scramble and come up with the money for the amount of what the lien was otherwise I couldn't sign on my new home which was within 45 minutes after signing with him. We get to the closing and Fred Testa proceeds to give my wife a nervous breakdown and I am not kidding about that. He tells her, oh by the way I am going on vacation for two weeks and you are not going to get checks for two weeks. We are supposed to close in 30 to 45 minutes on another house. After my wife finishes sobbing and I sort of got a little upset, not too much, but a little, Fred pulls a checkbook out of his pocket and says well I will give you checks out of this book. It was a Foundation. Alderman Cashin has copies of everything. Then he proceeds to give us personal checks from some checkbook, some Foundation, I don't know what it is. After that, we were number one \$20,000 short because he held out \$20,000 for the lien that was on the house from years ago and should have been gone, makes out the first check \$40,000 short again, over and above the \$20,000 and then once I show him that he has made a big mistake, he gives me a check for the difference. It is a total fiasco. I should not have lost money. I lost a total of \$73,000 on my house and we were promised that we would not lose money on our homes and I had waterfront property and he said that meant nothing. I think you should look. People down in the Brown Avenue area, Homestead Avenue, Devin Street, talk to them. These people are very unhappy. They are being told that if they don't like the price, write a letter to Fred or get a lawyer. That is not the way it should be handled. These people have lived there, most of them, all their lives and they are being thrown out of their homes. I want what is due me. He owes me \$40,000 and I want it. As I have given all of the papers, I don't know if you (Alderman Cashin) have them

here or where they are but I showed the pictures of the houses they compared my house to. Houses that don't even have a garage that are worth more than my house just down the street. They are not doing this right. You have got to look at it. People are getting very frustrated and I am one of them. If I don't get what is coming to me then I will have to seek other avenues to get after it but I would appreciate if somebody would at least look into it.

Alderman Cashin asked, Moe, were you in touch with the City Solicitor's Office today.

Mr. Montminy answered yes after several attempts and with your help, thank you very much, they finally called me back today. I think we had been doing this for how long?

Alderman Cashin replied it was a while.

Mr. Montminy responded it has been quite awhile and they finally called me back today saying that whoever it was, was busy and would get back to me hopefully tomorrow but the gentleman from the City Solicitor's Office, I think it is Tom Arnold, he will tell you. He was there. He will tell you what Fred did to my wife at that closing. It wasn't funny.

Alderman Cashin stated someone from the City Solicitor's Office will call you in the morning.

Jim Wilson-Napier, Pine Street, Manchester, NH stated I am here to address you regarding the civic center. First I would like to thank the Committee's unanimous referral of last night. I think it is very important that we recognize that people have a right to vote on this most momentous and most costly project and I ask the Mayor and ladies and gentlemen of the Board to allow us the opportunity to exercise that right in referendum in November.

George Chaprass, 69 Lucille Street, Manchester, NH stated I gave some of you gentlemen an eight page packet of documents. It will help you understand what I am trying to say. The basis of my words are the eight pages I have given to some folks tonight. Pages 1 and 4 are a civic center committee document of 3-April-1997. Believe it or not, I was on that committee then. The document is a civic center talking point. A talking point is a series of questions and answers. Whatever question a person may ask a proponent, that question is squeezed into one of the questions on the document and the standard answer, the prescribed answer, is given. It is the script. The scripture according to Ashooh, according to Ashooh and Snow. Very nice. I think it is old testament. Look at question four on Page 1. Question: Will the civic center cost \$45 million or \$90 million? Answer: The \$90 million amount results when you add interest to the cost of the house, the facility. It would be like saying that the cost of your house is the purchase price plus all the interest that will be paid on the mortgage. Mortgage. That is what the cost of the house is. The cost is really the principal, the interest, the points, the closing costs and so forth. That \$96 million that Alderman Shea mentioned is the cost.

Mayor Wieczorek stated Mr. Chaprass your time is up. This is the fourth time you have spoken now at these public hearings regarding the same subject. I think people understand your position.

Mr. Chaprass stated I am going to insist on 20 seconds. Page 2 and 3 of the packet are a copy of the truth and lending statement that must accompany every mortgage. The right most block on Page 2 is the total of payments. I will get to the rest of this next time but I am going to stay until it is finished.

JoAnn St. Pierre, Manchester NH stated I am here on behalf of For Manchester located at 65 Market Street. There are many wonderful events and activities taking place or being planned that will showcase the City to a great many people and we just wanted to keep you informed of those. The Downtown Farmer's Market, in its second season, continues to draw approximately 2,000 visitors each week. Up to 30 vendors provide a wide variety of products including fresh vegetables, beautiful flowers and items such as cheese and honey. The market continues through the fall and ends on October 22. Fugi Film and Ritz Camera Centers are the event sponsors for the First Annual For Manchester Community Photography Contest called Light Up The Night. The contest begins this month and runs through October with a special Light Up The Night event planned for Thursday, October 22. The contest is open to professional and amateur photographers of all ages. There will be cash prizes and a display reception is in the planning stages. Riverfest weekend is a well-known and anticipated yearly event. This year, in an effort to provide a greater diversity of family fun, For Manchester and the Manchester Artist's Association will host Art in the Park, a fine arts festival that same weekend, September 12 and 13. Visitors to the festival will have the opportunity to view and purchase works of art from over 50 local and regional artists. There will be musical programs throughout the weekend by the NH Symphony Orchestra, NH Philharmonic and Choral groups, as well as hands-on art activities for children. There will even be a musical instrument petting zoo. Because we were so excited about this project, the Arts in the Park Committee invited the Amoskeag Fishways and First Place, the City's new science museum and technology center to participate. To our delight, both have chosen to do so and will open their doors to the public that weekend. For Manchester invites you and the public to participate in all these activities. It is great to know that so many citizens are volunteering their time and talents for initiatives that make Manchester the best small City in the east. Thank you.

David Boutin, 105 Braeburn Drive, Manchester, NH stated just quickly, back in November of 1997 you all recall when MediaOne announced that our cable TV rates were going up 20% and based on what I heard from my constituents and I am sure you heard the same, I filed a bill in January to establish a study committee. That committee was established and is now working. My purpose of standing before you tonight is to inform you that on Wednesday, September 23 the legislative panel dealing with cable TV rates and programming will hold a public hearing here at 7 PM and I would urge you all to come and let your constituents know and we would like to hear from them as to what their issues are.

Alderman Pariseau stated I just want to let Mr. Boutin know that this Board took action relative to the social contract with MediaOne rate increases that were imposed last January. Apparently we received word from the FCC, I don't know when and I don't think the City Solicitor has it yet, but they denied our appeal and are going to deny all further inquiries to this matter.

Mr. Boutin replied there is a move in Congress now on the behalf of Congressman Markey from Massachusetts and Congressman Tosin from North Carolina to extend the deregulation rate for cable TV and that is a pretty critical date because if that date goes by they will have unfeted ability to raise our rates without any concerns whatsoever from the City itself. There are a lot of other things going on and people in Washington are starting to hear us out here in the hinterland.

Alderman Girard stated, Representative Boutin, just a quick question. The public hearing that this committee will be holding is specifically about rates?

Mr. Boutin replied it is about any issue that the public would like to address concerning cable.

Alderman Girard asked and that was September 23.

Mr. Boutin answered September 23, 7 PM. There will be a presentation by the New England Cable TV Association to start off the hearing and then we will allow the public to speak.

Alderman Wihby asked, Alderman Pariseau, what did that mean when they denied it. Meaning we challenged the price? Is that what we tried to do?

Alderman Pariseau answered that is what we tried to do. We challenged the rate increase.

Solicitor Clark stated under the Federal Cable Act, if you have complaints from constituents about the rates and rate increases you have a right to file a challenge with the FCC. It is a form and I don't know the exact number but you can file it complaining that the rates have been raised too high. That was filed on behalf of the City through our office and just late yesterday afternoon I received a copy of the FCC founding and they found that the MediaOne rate increases were reasonable.

Alderman Wihby asked so where do we go now. We can still go out to contract or whatever?

Alderman Pariseau answered we are still going through negotiations for the cable contract.

Robert Baines, 70 Rosemont Avenue, Manchester, NH stated I presently am spending most of my time at 9 Notre Dame Avenue so I will use that as my address this evening. I am here tonight because Alderman Thibault and Alderman Hirschmann made a surprise visit to our school today and I thank them for doing so because had it not been for their personal

intervention, our students would be returning to a school tomorrow with the restrooms in the same condition which they left school last June. So just think of your own home if no one had cleaned your toilets and facilities since last June. That is what our teachers came back to today at our school. Classrooms, there were still classrooms that had not been cleaned since last June. Hallways and stairways that were an absolute mess. The locker rooms in which this City invested I think over \$300,000, I think we did the locker rooms about three years ago, have not been cleaned all summer despite the fact that the football team has been in there every day using the shower facilities. The place was a mess. I have tried, since I came back to town, to get certain action. I have come into school when we were registering new students and found garbage in front of the main office. I couldn't even get the hallway washed or waxed. I sent memorandums to PBS. I made calls to PBS. I cajoled, I threatened, I did everything possible except call elected officials. I had thought that people such as principals and other people needed to try to work through the channels. Well the channels are not working. The school is an embarrassment, I believe, to our community. The school grounds have not been kept up. We have been trying to get shrubs cut and it is just a despicable situation. You would not want your children coming back to school to face these conditions and think about all these teachers that came back with all the problems that are facing them and walked in to try to use a restroom at the school that was absolutely filthy. These are conditions that were witnessed by the Aldermen. I am sure they have a huge crew over at West High School tonight but they would not have been there this evening if the two Aldermen had not intervened. Mayor, this system is not working. It has to be corrected. The children of the City deserve better. The west side deserves better and it is time that people stood up and demanded at least that we have clean places to teach and learn. That is basic for my kids and it should be basic for your kids.

Alderman Thibault stated I would just like to reiterate what Principal Baines just spoke about. I was there today with Alderman Hirschmann for about three and a half hours and, your Honor, again I have to say that I am ashamed that that school is in my district. It is unbelievable how we, on the west side, seem to get always the last services at the last minute and I agree with Mr. Baines that tonight there are probably 20 people out there with mops on both ends of that stick to try to clean it so that it will be possible for people to walk in there tomorrow and not feel that they will have to throw up. I mean it is just disgusting and I have brought this up to this Board before and someday I hope that most of this Board takes the time to go and look at some of these schools. I am not lying to you when I tell you that some of these schools are filthy dirty and I am not saying that we should go back to our own janitors, that is not what I am saying. What I am saying is if we are, in fact, paying a group of people to clean our schools and they are not doing it, well dammit lets get someone else in there that can.

Mayor Wiczorek stated I am sorry the school you went to wasn't too good. I was in four schools today and the four that I went to were okay according to the principals.

Alderman Thibault replied I am not knocking that, your Honor.

Mayor Wieczorek stated we are going to check.

Alderman Cashin stated I don't want to invade the issue but I was at West High for the public hearing and I will tell you I was ashamed of the auditorium. It was awful and there is no excuse for it, your Honor. You know every time...for years I have been bringing up the same thing about the problems with the schools and the head of the department and all that stuff and everybody said it was personal. Now you are hearing it from people. This is an older Alderman but he is back and he is saying the same thing. We have got a problem, your Honor, and it is not personal and something has got to be done about it. It is not just West High School. It just happens to be West High that we are talking about. You have got to do something about it, your Honor, and I am willing to do anything it takes but I need your support to get it done.

Mayor Wieczorek replied we will take a look at that, I promise.

Alderman Shea stated may I add, your Honor, that I asked you months ago to look into this situation and you said that you and Mr. Houle were going to look into it. Well the situation still exists and I might add, Mr. Baines, that I was in Hallsville School, excuse me when I was the Alderman and we went to Hallsville School for a meeting all of the teachers thanked me because the night before the meeting they had eight custodians in there cleaning the schools so they asked me to continue to have monthly meetings so they would continue to clean the school. That is what their response was for that so maybe some schools are clean but I think other schools are not being properly cared for.

Don Welch, 147 Boutwell Avenue, Manchester, NH stated the other night I spoke before the Committee on the Civic Center in opposition to the civic center as it is structured and as it has been presented. I commend this Board for sending this back to the people for a vote. I still have a couple of questions left that I wanted to ask the full Board. Currently my understanding is that \$180,000 of taxpayers money has been spent on this civic center. Between now and the referendum vote, can this Board tell me how much money they have allocated to spend, whether it is for securing these contracts with the six so-called elements of this civic center and if one of them doesn't go, is it going to be \$1 million or \$1.5 million between now and November? I recall during the last election cycle we had a referendum question. Two weeks prior to that referendum question there was a major media blitz and that was the Optima Health two acute care facilities. I just want to know what the people in this City are going to be up against as we get towards November. I am still in opposition to the civic center as it has been presented and I would like to know if you can verify that \$180,000 has been spent and how much money between now and November this Board has allocated either in the past or any time soon for this referendum question.

Mayor Wieczorek stated Alderman Wihby, who is the Chairman of that sub-committee indicated that not all of that money has been used.

Alderman Wihby stated I don't think we used the whole \$180,000 yet and as of today there is nothing in the future that is allocated.

Mr. Boutin asked can you tell me how do you secure contracts prior to the referendum.

Alderman Girard stated I just wanted to make a point that the \$180,000 that was spent was not general fund, property tax dollars. They were from the reserves of the Manchester Development Corporation.

Mr. Ashooh stated it is correct that \$180,000 was appropriated on February 25, 1997 out of economic development funds that came to this City for that service. We expended most of those funds, I think our last count probably left \$3,000 or \$4,000 behind but we still have some travel budgets that have not been submitted. As far as securing contracts for the next phase, it will not be done before the referendum because in order for that to take place, this Board would have to bond an additional amount to do the Phase II work. If you recall, this is a three phase project and the second phase would require an expenditure of somewhere between \$1 million and \$2 million to do the detailed drawings with the architect so that Ogden Services and Enron could then detail their contributions to the building and we could complete the numbers. Therefore, the referendum question as proposed is on the maximum exposure that the City would have and then going forward. All of those component parts of the civic center would then fall into place to be passed on by this Board so that before they bonded the money, all of the contracts would be in place. Separate expenditure, separate bonding after the referendum.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Girard, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and to receive and file any written documentation presented.

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

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk