

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

November 17, 1998

7:30 PM

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

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

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, O'Neil, Girard, Rivard, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, and Hirschmann

Absent: Alderman Shea

Presentation to the November recipient(s) of the Spirit of Manchester award.

Mayor Wieczorek stated the Spirit of Manchester Award Committee recently convened and selected an organization to be honored in the month of November for outstanding service to the City of Manchester. The parameters of the award state that the recipient should "have contributed to the improvement of the quality of life in Manchester" performing acts that are clearly "above and beyond the call of duty". This month's winner is Utility Service and Assistance. This company has been the leading force behind the annual lighting of the Christmas Tree at Massabesic Circle by donating the lights, wiring, labor, and special equipment necessary for this project at no cost to the City. In recent years, the project has become an expanded community effort as local businesses have raised funds to pay the electric bill while Utility Service and Assistance continues to donate all other aspects of the project. The lighted Christmas tree is on display from the Sunday after Thanksgiving until New Year's Day. This project provides a festive atmosphere for area residents as well as countless motorists who travel the circle and surrounding roadways. Here to receive the award from Utility Service and Assistance are Tom Skiffington, Roman Olifczak and Guy Normand. I will ask them to come forward and also ask Alderman Real Pinard who has been personally involved in the fundraising to present the certificate and pin on behalf of the citizens of the City.

Alderman Pinard stated it gives me great pleasure that after nine years that these people and it has only been possible through you people at US & A Guy, Tom, and Roman that we will be celebrating our tenth anniversary this year.

Mr. Olifczak stated Tom and Guy and I appreciate the recognition and also the employees of US & A also.

Mayor Wieczorek stated thank you very much on behalf of the City, we appreciate it.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Wieczorek advised if you desire to remove any of the following items from the Consent Agenda, please so indicate. If none of the items are to be removed, one motion only will be taken at the conclusion of the presentation.

Ratify and Confirm Poll

- A. Conducted November 6, 1998 approving a request from Mayor Wieczorek that \$2,500.00 from Civic Contributions be given to the Christmas Parade on Elm Street Committee for this year's activities.

Informational to be Received and Filed

- B. Minutes of a meeting of the Airport Authority held on September 24, 1998.
- C. Official results of the Special Municipal General Election held on November 3, 1998 submitted by the City Clerk.
- E. Communication from Ellen Healy, President of the Manchester Education Association expressing her gratitude regarding the resolution of the school budget deficit and funding for the teachers' contract.
- G. Communication from Patricia Juranty, State of NH, Department of Environmental Services regarding the 1999 Local Government Finance Test.
- H. Communication from Kathy Vickers, Chairman of the NH Tax Collectors and City and Town Clerks' Associations announcing that Tricia Piecuch has attained the status of Certified Deputy City Clerk.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

- J. Communication from the Health Officer seeking approval to provide accounting support from the Health Department to complete OYS payroll and accounting requirements.
- K. Communication from the Health Officer seeking to reclassify one part-time HIV Community Health Nurse position.

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

- L.** Communication from Mr. Patrick Mulhern and Ms. Cecile Gravel regarding the parking situation around Central High School wishing to discuss a permanent solution to this problem.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

- M.** Recommending that certain regulations governing standing, stopping and parking be adopted and put into effect when duly advertised.

HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF ALDERMAN O'NEIL, DULY SECONDED BY ALDERMAN PARISEAU, IT WAS VOTED THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED.

- D.** Communications from Lloyd Basinow regarding potential problems and questions relative to the proposed civic center.
- I.** Communication from Mr. Wilson-Napier urging the Board reject the recent results of the civic center referendum vote held on November 3, 1998.

Alderman Girard stated if I could I'd like to address both Items D and I at the same time. These are letters that were written by people who during the public referendum opposed the civic center and the letters continue their opposition. I pulled these letters because I would like to make a public appeal to them and to everyone on both sides of the issue to realize that the voters have spoken and to not minimize the support that the public has given this and to not try to interfere with this process as it goes forward. The questions that this Board has raised and are being addressed through the Special Committee and through this Board as it goes through the process will be answered but I don't think the process is going to be a beneficial one if people continue to after-the-fact fight the battle that they have now lost, so that is why I pulled those, your Honor.

Alderman Girard moved to receive and file Items D and I. Alderman Klock duly seconded by Alderman Klock. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

- F.** Communication from Thomas O'Rourke, MediaOne, announcing that Jennifer Shipe has recently joined MediaOne as Manager of Government Affairs for their New Hampshire and Maine service areas.

Alderman Thibault stated I'd like to let the Board know that today I called Jennifer Shipe of MediaOne to let her know about the concerns of the people in my area, Ward 11 that have called me that are really upset about this EWTN channel that has been taken off. Many of the elderly

people especially in the high-rises and the scattered sites are really upset to see that they've taken this off and I just wanted her to know, I guess she just came in at MediaOne as a prime person in this and I told her that I was also on that Committee and that I would be looking at this very closely and that if she could get this information to her superiors that it would be very, very helpful to us. Thank you.

Alderman Thibault moved to receive and file the communication. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Introduction of intern by Alderman Klock.

Alderman Klock stated I'd like to introduce my intern, Matt Biondi, he's a Junior at Central High and I'd like everyone to welcome him. Thank you.

Nominations to be presented by Mayor Wiczorek.

Mayor Wiczorek advised that the nomination for the Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Commission had gone beyond the 90 day limitation set by Charter and the nomination now belonged to the Board of Aldermen.

Alderman Girard nominated Joseph Sullivan of 180 Laval Street to fill the vacant position on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Alderman Thibault nominated Russell Ouellette of 351 Wayne Street of Manchester in Ward 11 for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mayor Wiczorek asked if both nominees were union members. Aldermen Girard and Thibault replied in the affirmative.

Alderman Pinard moved to nominate John Trisciani of 320 Laydon Street for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Alderman Pariseau moved to close nominations. Alderman Cashin duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

A report of the Committee on Community Improvement was presented recommending that a request from the Planning Director seeking authorization to apply to the CDFR for \$500,000 under the Community Development Investment Program for the Riverwalk be approved.

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Reiniger, it was voted to accept, receive and adopt the report of the Committee.

A report of the Committee on Community Improvement was presented recommending that Bond Resolution:

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$140,000) for the further investigation into the purchase of the Amoskeag Hydro Station.”

be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Alderman Wihby moved to accept the report and refer the bond resolution to the Committee on Finance. Alderman Clancy duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Hirschmann asked will these funds be coming from Manchester Development Corporation.

Mr. Sherman replied the funds will be coming from the issuance of bonds, it will be part of the whole acquisition of the project.

Alderman Hirschmann asked why don't we use some of the money that the Manchester Development Corporation has right now.

Mayor Wiczorek asked why.

Alderman Hirschmann replied I know they just closed out a bonding and got \$380,000 kicked back to them, why don't we use some of that.

Mayor Wiczorek stated I think the idea of money being in the Economic Development funds is for economic development.

Alderman Hirschmann stated this is what it is, isn't it.

Mayor Wiczorek stated this can be taken from a bond and the purpose of this is to just permit them to continue the exploration of this to find out if, in fact, this is something that the City should pursue.

Alderman Hirschmann asked what does the money represent, a study.

Mr. Sherman stated what we actually did was we came in with a two-phase budget (\$140,000), what we're going to be bringing into the Board at the next meeting would be a start-up form for only \$63,000 of that and what that will do is allow us to get an engineer on-site to do safety engineering testing that they need to do and be able to evaluate the valuation of the facility to be able to then bring that back to the Board and say our Phase I due diligence says either recommends that you go forward or stop the process right here and if you do choose to go forward this is the value that we think you should be offering to acquire the facility.

Alderman Cashin stated this is the first step in purchasing, right.

Mr. Sherman stated we wanted to go through as we explained back in April that we wanted to do the due diligence work on the facility. Again, when they come back with the value and they come back with the report on the condition of the facility then the Board would then take another vote on whether to take the next step and go forward to a second due diligence.

Alderman Cashin stated you know, based on past history around here that if we vote \$140,000 it's going to be pretty difficult to vote against down the road. You know that and I know that, so this is the first step in the purchase of it.

Mr. Sherman stated I would assume that if the report comes back and says that the facility has problems with it, that we wouldn't go forward.

Alderman Cashin stated my problem with this...we've got problem with education and a lot of other things around here, I just don't think this is the time to be doing this. It may be a good plan and maybe down the road a little bit, we ought to look into it, but this is not the time to do it.

Mayor Wieczorek stated there will be no down the road, Alderman, that's the unfortunate part of it.

Alderman Cashin stated, your Honor, when there's a will there's a way. Right now, I think we've got other problems to consider in this City and I don't think, in my mind this is not a major priority, I'm sorry.

Alderman Wihby stated I thought the plan was that this was good for the city and that we could get electricity cheaper or sell it at making a profit. If that's so, then aren't the funds that we make from that or that we save from that electricity is going to help this City.

Alderman Cashin stated that's fine and if it works you're probably right, but there's no guarantees in what you're saying, Dave, you know that and I know that.

Alderman Wihby stated I think at this point unless we do this \$140,000 study we're never going to know.

Alderman Cashin reiterated once you commit to the \$140,000 you're going to be pretty hard pressed to walk away from this.

Mayor Wieczorek interjected I don't think so, not if it's a bad deal. You'll need ten votes to walk away from it if it's a bad deal, in my judgment.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote on the motion to accept the report and refer the Bond Resolution to the Committee on Finance. The motion carried with Alderman Cashin duly recorded in opposition and Alderman Hirschmann duly recorded as abstaining.

Report of Committee on Traffic/Public Safety recommending that a request for no parking on Elm Street from Webster to Granite Streets on Sunday, November 29, 1998 from 12:00 to 6:00 PM for the Christmas Parade be approved.

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Clancy, it was voted to accept, receive and adopt the report of the Committee

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to recess the regular meeting to allow the Committee on Finance to meet.

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting back to order.

OTHER BUSINESS

A report of the Committee on Finance was presented recommending that Bond Resolution:

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$140,000) for the further investigation into the purchase of the Amoskeag Hydro Station.”

ought to pass and layover.

Alderman Wihby moved to accept, receive and adopt the report of the Committee. Alderman Clancy duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Cashin duly recorded in opposition and Alderman Hirschmann duly recorded as abstaining.

Communication from Michael Roche, Chairman of the City of Manchester Employees' Contributory Retirement Board of Trustees, seeking a paid leave of absence to attend the 7th Annual Public Funds Board Forum sponsored by the Institute for International Research to be held in San Francisco from November 22-24, 1998.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I have a letter here to the Board from Tom Bowen, Director of the Water Works saying:

In accordance with discussions with Michael Roche relative to paid leave of absence to attend Retirement Board conferences and meetings, the Water Works has previously agreed to recommend two days paid leave per year during such times as Mr. Roche is the duly elected Chairman of the Retirement Board and one day per year during such times as he is simply a duly elected member of the Board. Since he is currently Chairman of the Retirement Board we would, therefore, recommend to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen that two days of paid leave be granted to Mr. Roche.

Alderman Pariseau moved to grant two days paid leave to Mr. Roche. Alderman Rivard duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Thibault stated I can't understand why we are singling this person out here that is going to a Research Institute conference and we're trying to limit him to two days where many of the other people of the City have gone to these conferences for three days and we never question it. I'm appalled that Tom Bowen would do something like this. Here's a man that's trying to do his job both as a union rep and also on the Retirement Board and we're going to penalize him one day so that he can find out what he should do on the Retirement Board, I think it's wrong and I hope that this Board goes along with me in making sure that he gets the three days needed to do this job. Thank you.

Alderman Pariseau stated this has been an on-going problem over the years and it got into a really tedious episode back a few years ago and I think we would have to adhere to the recommendations of the department head. We're not micro-managing Water Works and if Mr. Roche needs another day off, fine, let him use annual leave. He also has a third job.

Alderman Girard stated in defense of Mr. Bowen if memory serves. He has always supported Mr. Roche's requests to this Board even though this Board has rarely supported those requests. I don't think it's fair to single out Mr. Bowen here for any kind of derision, I think he's always been supportive of Mr. Roche's requests.

Alderman O'Neil stated, your Honor, as you stated this is not a new issue. It goes back to when I first served on this Board in 1985 and it always seems that he's singled out. Other City representatives go to this thing for whatever days it takes to go to it and he's always singled out. Does anybody know of any other representatives from the City are going to this.

Mr. Hobson replied I'm not aware.

Alderman O'Neil stated in the past, other City agencies have been represented and got the full time and he seems to get singled out.

Mayor Wieczorek stated it would be just somebody that is serving on the Retirement Board.

Alderman O'Neil stated if memory serves me right, the Finance Officer in the past has gone to these things.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I don't ever remember, since I've been in office the Finance Officer going.

Alderman Cashin asked, Randy, hasn't he gone.

Mr. Sherman replied yes, he did. He went to Philadelphia for one week or so.

Alderman O'Neil stated others have gone and this same issue comes up and I just think we should grant him the three days.

Alderman Thibault interjected I agree, your Honor.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote on the motion to grant his two days paid leave.

A roll call vote was requested by Alderman Cashin. Aldermen Cashin, Thibault, Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, O'Neil and Girard voted nay. Aldermen Hirschmann, Wihby, Klock, Reiniger, Rivard and Pariseau voted yea. The motion failed.

Alderman O'Neil moved that a three-day leave of absence be granted. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was requested by Alderman Wihby. Aldermen Wihby, Klock, Reiniger, Pariseau and Hirschmann voted nay. Aldermen Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, O'Neil, Girard, Rivard, Cashin and Thibault voted yea. The motion carried.

Bond Resolution:

“Authorizing Additional Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Million Sixty Two Thousand and Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,062,500) for the FY99 School Lease Programs.”

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted that the bond resolution be read by title only, and it was so done.

Alderman Wihby moved that the bond resolution pass and be enrolled. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Girard commented I voted for this lease at the last Board meeting and I'm going to today, but I just wanted to note that I'm voting for it under protest because the School Administration committed the City to the leases before getting the approval of this bond and I don't think that should go without notice; that's my comment, your Honor.

Alderman Thibault asked is this money going to be used for books and that type of thing because I went into Memorial last week and again I have to say that it is terrible to see some of the books in some of these schools and I cannot imagine any teacher that would have to teach a class with books that were in that class and these are the books we're teaching our kids with. So, yes, I'm very happy to see something like this go if it's going to be used for that though I'd like to make sure that it be used for books.

Mayor Wieczorek stated you can't do that. We've already gone through this whole thing with this and we're at the final stages here. Part of it is for the portables, some of it is for the language books that we have and what was the other one...the computer system.

Alderman Thibault asked isn't there a method that we could set in place here to make sure that some of these schools get the proper books, isn't there a way we can force this.

Mayor Wieczorek stated you grant a bottom line to the School Board, they decide how to spend the money. So, if they don't have it.

Alderman Thibault stated I just think it's terrible that we're in that situation, your Honor. Thank you.

Alderman Girard stated I have a question for Mr. Sherman or for whoever can answer it. Do we know how many additional trailers the School Department had to lease because they did not open the new Middle School to its full capacity.

Mayor Wieczorek replied no, I can't tell you how many we had there.

Alderman Girard asked do we know how much of this \$2,062,500 is for the trailers.

Mr. O'Shea replied the question was how many had to be leased because we did not open the school, the answer is none.

Alderman Wihby asked, Dick, is this the right number, the \$2,062,500

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried.

TABLED ITEM

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Klock, it was voted to remove the following item from the table for discussion.

Minutes of meetings held August 4, 1998 (two meetings); August 18, 1998; and September 1, 1998 (three meetings).

Alderman Pariseau moved to accept the minutes. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Klock stated I passed out a folder to everybody on this year's Renaissance. I am working with the group that's putting it on this year. If you remember last year this was a showcase of the artisans in the Langer Mill Building that brought over about 2,000 people to the mills that evening, it's about a 4-hour stint. This year they're doing it again in the same mill and they're focusing their efforts on youth and the culture of the City and the host this year is going to be the Manchester Community Music School and again it's December 5 from 5:00 to 9:00 and if you can mark it on your calendar. The information in the packets is from last year, but note it's just a different date the 5th of December and they're trying to focus on the past, present and future of the Millyards. Past being the Millyard, present being the City's ethnic diversity, and the future which is the youth and it's promising to be a really, really neat event focused around the youth, so try to make it. Thanks.

Alderman Girard stated I just want to note my opposition to an item on the Traffic Committee report and I apologize for not addressing it on the Consent Agenda. It's Item M and it's No Parking on Coolidge Avenue east side from Bremer to a point 120 feet southerly. That stretch of road runs right by the front of St. Patrick's Church and it is used by parishioners of the Church for mass and other reasons and I think to put No Parking on that street is really going to have a negative impact on the Church and the neighborhood, so I'd like to be recorded as opposed to that.

Alderman Thibault stated that was asked by me and the two people that live right on the corner of Bremer and Coolidge where I asked to have this done are both people (paraplegics) and have a very hard time to get around and by opening that section we're probably taking two parking spaces there way above the street and I would really appreciate the Board to let this go by because it's really needed.

Mayor Wieczorek stated it's already gone by.

Alderman Clancy stated I'd like to congratulate Tricia Piecuch from the City Clerk's Office. She's become a Certified Deputy City Clerk by the New Hampshire Towns and Cities Association.

Alderman Clancy stated I've received many calls about the TV station, the media, the Court channel. Many people want to see the Court channel back on the tubes especially paralegals and young lawyers and stuff like that. So, I wish you'd get that back on.

Alderman Reiniger stated many residents of the Downtown are concerned about the issues of site selection around the Civic Center. I just wondered if you or Chairman Wihby could explain to the public what the procedure will be from this point on in addressing the site selection issue.

Mayor Wieczorek replied there is a meeting that's going to be held, I believe, next Wednesday.

Alderman Wihby stated all of the Aldermen should have it in front of them. There's a meeting next Tuesday where the Civic Center Committee will take any suggestions that the Aldermen have and we will review every one with the MDC Committee, so whoever has a site location that they want to have reviewed, get it into the City Clerk's Office before Friday and then next Tuesday we'll be reviewing all the different site locations that the Aldermen feel we should look into.

Alderman Hirschmann stated a quick public service announcement for Channel 16 and everybody. On November 9th there was a tragic fire in my ward where a 30-unit condominium complex started on fire called the Devonshire Village Apartments and there was some life lost, a gentleman passed away in the fire and the firefighters saved about five different people in the process and what I'd like to tell everybody is that The American Red Cross is taking donations for the Devonshire Village Apartment Relief, it's the holiday season coming up and there was about 30 families displaced to the Ramada Inn and I guess at the same time we could really thank the Fire Department for saving the lives of the people they did and in coming through and saving half of the complex.

Mayor Wieczorek stated while you're talking about people and generosity, also an item that probably escaped...there was a burglary of toys from St. Andrews Episcopal Church next to West High School and when they discovered that that was missing the kids at the school collected, they had about \$600 worth of toys, they collected \$1,200 and brought that over there. This is an indication of what really happens because the people really give.

Alderman Thibault stated one of the men from West High School is here right now that I'd like to thank for doing something like that. These guys stand to be commended, your Honor.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated the letter that Alderman Wihby referred to was sent to the Aldermen's homes, I know that it's not right in front of you. The other items I wanted to point out is the issue with regards to Coolidge Avenue. There was a portion of Coolidge Avenue that was pulled off the Traffic agenda, I will go back and reference that and make sure that it is in that portion because if it is, it is not part of the report.

Alderman Pinard stated to remind everybody, the 29th is the Christmas Parade thanks to Mike Lopez. Again, he's come forward and took the Chairmanship and I'm sure that Mike would like to see the Board of Mayor and Aldermen participate in the Christmas Parade and I think it starts at four. Any other questions ask Mike and the day after Thanksgiving, the lighting of the tree at Massabesic Circle and you're all welcome.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk