

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

March 2, 1999

7:00 PM

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

Mayor Wieczorek called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Absent: Alderman Pinard

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.

Billy Dodd, Manchester, NH stated last Thursday there was an article in the Union Leader which was kind of funny about "name the civic center." They went on to say that several companies had expressed an interest in paying a fee for naming rights on the civic center and they mentioned a possible fee of \$200,000 for a set number of years. Along with that, they would get an extra like luxury box and advertising inside. To that idea, I would like to express my interest in you guys to tell them bologna on that one. If anyone wants a luxury box in there or they want to pay for advertising, have them get in line and pay the going fee like everybody else. Let's do something really unique with the civic center. Let's call it the Manchester Civic Center. We, the taxpayers, are paying for it. Let's face it, your referendum question last year, when you read between the lines, we really got fleeced on that one. You didn't really inform us so that people could be informed voters as to the meals & rooms portion that we get back from the State, that you were going to use that to pay for the civic center when that was being used to offset some of our taxes. Well if you are going to use that for the civic center, you have got to make up that portion somehow. I urge all of the residents of the City to contact you guys on the

Board and say that you won't stand for anything less than calling this the Manchester Civic Center because we are the people who are paying for it. My other topic is parking. I would like to see this Board go on record concerning a new parking garage. My question is, do we need one for the civic center. I think I already know the answer to that question. I don't think you are going to go on record and put in ink that you are really going to need a parking garage for everything going on downtown, especially the civic center, any time before November because then you would have to tell the voters that you are really going to be using some tax dollars for the civic center to pay for the new parking garage. The other thing on parking, several weeks ago there was an interesting article in the paper about parking down in the Millyard and it went on to talk about several people, Tom O'Reilly from Logo Logic Limited, EPE Corporation

President Jim Bell, talking about not having enough parking down there. I don't know if these gentlemen own the buildings down there or if they are just renting. Mr. Bell has already said that, according to the paper here that he has already bought land in Bedford and he is moving out of the City. The article goes on to state that 2/3 of the Millyard's 3.2 million square feet is occupied. You have got 1/3 left to occupy down there. Amoskeag Industries did a study that you need 4,000 to 5,000 more parking spaces down there. In just some rough calculations, if you need another 4,000 or 5,000 parking spaces and you have only got 1/3 of the Millyard district left to occupy, then you probably already have 12,000 to 15,000 parking spaces down there. If you need another 4,000 or 5,000, I hate to be funny but are we supplying parking for some carp that are going to come up out of the river and bask in the sun? They went on to talk about what it would cost to alleviate the problem down there - 730 spaces, \$715,000; 1,600 spaces, \$31 million plus the cost of the land. They said it would alleviate the parking needs for Singer Park, the Millyard, the Center of New Hampshire and the Riverwalk. Parking garages are expensive, typically ranging \$4.5 to \$5 million for 300 spaces. My question is, if these guys really want to stay in the City, why are they going to Bedford to buy line. Whatever this individual from the EPE Corporation spent for his land and for a building over there, why don't some of the individuals down there get together and buy some land and build a parking garage and charge some fees and they would have their parking. Why is everybody always coming to the City and saying solve my problems for me. I think there has to be some cooperation here. These guys want everything, but they don't want to put any money forward for it. Something else that I would like to see you guys do, and I don't know if anybody else is going to speak tonight but I think for a City of 100,000 people or so, 1/2 hour for the residents to come in and speak their piece once a month is a little on the skimpy side. Maybe you ought to try twice a month. Another suggestion is, for the people who do come down here and have some questions; they don't get any feedback unless they read it in the paper. They get to walk out of here feeling a little good that they made some comments. I think it would be kind of unique if you guys got together and whatever ward a person came from and they had some questions, that Alderman would answer those people back and put something in ink so that it is something tangible to go on and the person really feels like he is getting some feedback from you people. Otherwise, you come down here and you speak your piece and that is it, but there is never really any feedback coming from the other side. That is just a suggestion.

Alderman Wihby stated the Civic Center sub-committee had four public hearings and at those public hearings we made sure that we let the residents know that we were using the increment in the rooms & meals tax. It was very clear. We had diagrams up there and it was up on the screen and everything else so I think that people knew it was being used and they understand it is being used.

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 further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business could be presented and on motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk