

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC HEARING RE: FY2000 PROPOSED BUDGET)**

May 25, 1999

7:00 PM

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

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

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

Absent: Aldermen Reiniger, Clancy

Mayor Wieczorek advised that the purpose of the special meeting is a public hearing on the proposed municipal budget as required under the provisions of RSA 44-10 and in satisfaction of the requirements of Section 121(b) of the State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act of 1972 as amended and in the City Charter, which calls for appropriations for the so-called operating budget expenditures and Manchester Transit Authority municipal fund subsidy to be financed through revenues of the General Fund; operating expenses of the Environmental Protection Division to be funded through Sewer User Rental Charges; operating expenses of the Manchester Airport Authority to be funded through Airport Revenue Funds; operating expenses of the Recreation Division to be funded through Recreation User Charges; operating budget expenditures of the Central Business Service District to be funded through the Central Business Service District Fund; and Aggregation Fees for budget expenditures of the Aggregation Program.

The Clerk presented the proposed Appropriating Resolutions:

"Appropriating to the Manchester Aggregation Program the sum of \$808,118 from Aggregation Fees for the Fiscal Year 2000."

"A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester Airport Authority the sum of \$24,837,000 from Special Airport Revenue Funds for Fiscal Year 2000."

"A Resolution Appropriating to the Central Business Service District the sum of \$225,000 from Central Business Service District Funds for Fiscal Year 2000."

"A Resolution appropriating the sum of \$3,300,415 from Recreation User Charges to the Recreation Division for Fiscal Year 2000."

"A Resolution appropriating the sum of \$9,997,760 from Sewer User Rental Charges to the Environmental Protection Division for Fiscal Year 2000."

"A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester Transit Authority the sum of \$651,000 for the Fiscal Year 2000."

"Raising Monies and Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2000."

Mayor Wieczorek presented a budget message:

Members of the Honorable Board of Mayor and Aldermen, Department Heads and ladies and gentlemen, the budget presented before you tonight is that which I proposed to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen on March 31, 1999 as required by the City Charter. As you may know, the Mayor's budget is the beginning of the budget process. This is even truer today than in years past due to the changes in the way our state funds education. Some of the base assumptions that my budget was predicated on such as health insurance, City retirement, and benefit figures, County tax, tax base, tax overlay, and most importantly the City's share of State Foundation Aid were preliminary estimates based on the best information available at that time. Many of these numbers have changed, most for the good. We will continue to whittle away at all spending to bring the tax rate as low as possible. The proposed budget before you tonight has an estimated tax rate increase of 1.35% or \$.44. Please keep in mind that these numbers do not include an additional eleven million dollars in State Foundation Aid. Without changing the spending in my proposed budget, the tax rate would be cut by 6.18% or \$2.01. The Mayor's proposed budget includes the following increase costs over FY1999:

1. School: My proposed school budget fully funds the requested budget of the Manchester School Board. Included in that amount is 77 new teachers, the payoff of the leases, an \$800,00 increase in text books, an increase in transportation costs, increases in Special Education and ESL, and \$1 million in capital improvements already dedicated to the CIP Budget. Added to the School Board's request is \$2.3 million in raises for teachers, principals, and other certified school staff.
2. Public Building Services: At the recommendation of the Public Works Director and his consultant, I have added \$1.4 million to the Public Building Services budget to address custodial, preventive maintenance and capital outlay needs.
3. Police: The Police Department is requesting an increase of over \$350,000 to pay for patrolmen previously paid through federal grant monies. The success attained by the MPD over the last few years seems to justify the need to keep these positions.
4. Highway: The Highway budget is increased by \$800,000 to address two issues. First, the tonnage of solid waste collected by the Department has seen a sharp increase over the last fiscal year. This is largely due to the good economy and further reminds us that we all must do more to recycle. Second, this budget reflects the policy change we made last year to move the salaries and benefits of street reconstruction from the CIP process into the operating budget of the Highway Department. This change will give the Highway Department more flexibility to work on street, sidewalk and sewer maintenance programs than before.
5. Fringe Benefits: This budget projects an increase of \$3.2 million in fringe benefits (Health, Dental, FICA). These costs have risen dramatically during the past year and have forced us to review how we offer these benefits to City workers.

6. Maturing Debt: Maturing debt and interest is up by almost \$2.5 million. This increase is necessary if we are to continue making the progress we have in the last few years of rebuilding our infrastructure, creating economic development, and in general, making Manchester a better place to live. Among many great projects we are working on are:

1. Parkside Middle School Addition
2. Hackett Hill Acquisition
3. Livingston Park
4. West Memorial Field
5. Street Reconstruction Projects
6. The Riverwalk
7. Fire Facilities Improvements (Somerville and Bodwell Roads)
8. New Police Station and home for Health & Human Services Departments.

Conclusion:

When my Budget Team started this budget process back in January, they worked with me to separate frivolous, unnecessary spending requests from many worthy ones. I think they did a good job at doing this.

Today, we start determining which proposed spending increases we really can afford. I want to reemphasize to this Board and the people of Manchester that the budget presented tonight is the starting point of the budget process and I fully expect this Board to work together to reduce the tax rate and finally bring tax relief to our citizens. Since my budget was presented, there have been some changes with the Aldermen's budget. I am going to have Alderman Wihby speak of the changes that have been made.

Alderman Wihby stated basically, Your Honor, the biggest change is in the revenues, the Claremont money, the additional Claremont revenue. In expenditure-wise there is two hundred and seventy five thousand dollars that were taken out of the Parks and Recreation enterprise fund and put towards the general fund towards the swimming pools. There is an additional two new positions, one in Highway and one in Parks. There is additional corrections to the salary account, forty-five thousand dollars to put officers in schools and also for a police grant. The security coordinator, the City retirement increase, your number has gone up two hundred and sixty three thousand there are two new positions that were in the budget that were dropped, the Solicitor and the Information Systems that somehow got lost in the numbers. Basically, that is the only changes from your number, Your Honor, from what we are looking at today.

Mayor Wiczorek advised that the meeting shall be open to public comments; that each person when recognized shall come to the nearest microphone, state their name and address in a clear loud voice for the record; that each person shall be given one opportunity to speak and comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak; that once all present have been allowed to speak should there be a topic not discussed those wishing to speak a second time shall be provided the opportunity to do so.

Lloyd Basinow, 503 Amherst Street, Manchester, NH stated:

You should have before you or will have a copy of this statement that I am going to read. For ten years, the taxpayers heard nothing but excuses and complaints from the present administration on how poverty stricken the City treasury was and why our taxes had to continually increase along with City fees, licenses, and other charges. You tried to bag and tag us with a new refuse disposal tax and to repair our streets, you imposed a special surcharge on auto registrations. You now want to spend the taxpayer money on unnecessary expenses and increase the bond debt, such as Riverwalk, Civic Center and a new stadium. Since Manchester is about to hit the jackpot with a windfall of over thirty million dollars resulting from the Claremont education debacle, it is time to give the taxpayers a substantial tax break and to provide for common sense needs of the community. First, we call upon the Board of Aldermen to immediately eliminate the unnecessary road repair surcharge on motor vehicle registrations and Reclamation dual charge for auto waste materials. Second, with approximately three million dollars, the Board of Aldermen, under their direct control, create a special school text book and equipment account to modernize every public school in the city. Let the School Department submit the bills for payment from this account, which would be separate from the school budget and would prevent the School Department from transferring the money for other uses, which they have so often done in the past. Third, by using most of the Claremont revenue surplus to reduce the present municipal bonding debt the taxpayers today and in future years can enjoy substantial property tax reductions which will occur when the debt service part of the annual budget is reduced thereby cutting the tax rate. Our children and grandchildren will be the beneficiaries of a reduced city debt when they are not forced to pay high interest on borrowed funds. Finally, the safety and protection of our children and their teachers is paramount to the welfare of our community. Use some of the Claremont surplus funds to put metal detectors in every public school building and give hand-held units to every driver of our school busses. If any local problem occurs prior to the installation of these detectors, the parents and taxpayers will hold each member of the Board of Alderman personally responsible for negligence and dereliction of office.

Leona Dykstra, 21 Tennyson Drive, Manchester, NH stated:

I have been a lifelong resident of Manchester and I have been a taxpayer for over thirty-five years in the City. When I was reading the paper the other day, you are having this hearing to get a viewpoint on how people feel and taxes and that is a good thing. There was something mentioned that whether we supported our increase spending or lowering taxes, put me down for lowering taxes because that is what I am here for. On May 4th I spoke before this Board asking for tax relief for the citizens of Manchester. Because of Claremont, Manchester is getting over thirty-six million in state aid which would reduce our taxes by over eight dollars per thousand. All of these numbers are very familiar to you so I am not going to be going over them; they do keep changing all of the time. What I do want to mention is the fact that they do keep changing. They went down to two dollars and forty-four cents on May 4th, and then again to two dollars and thirty-six cents, which is about seven and a quarter percent cut on the tax rate because of increased spending. It is really kind of hard to keep up and I can understand the problems you have with numbers not jiving and different things changing. It is certainly hard for some of us

citizens to keep up with it. Right now under the amended one hundred and eighty-nine million-dollar budget, the further reduction would be to five point three-eight percent. That would even give us a reduction of under the two dollars per thousand. At that meeting, I asked you to give the taxpayers the six dollars and you keep the two dollars and I am glad to hear that some of you feel that that number is realistic. Although the numbers do keep changing, the bottom line should reflect a serious substantial amount of tax relief for all citizens. Especially our elderly on fixed incomes. I am confident that this Board will make the necessary cuts and control spending because it is right, because it is needed to restore the confidence in our elected officials and because we simply deserve it. This money belongs to the citizens of Manchester. The responsibility of how it is spent belongs to you, the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen. Fund education, it is important, it is to me and to all of us. But please lower our taxes also. This may your one time opportunity to help the citizens of Manchester. The ball is in your court, please do not drop it because you may never have the chance to play again. Thank you very much.

Larry Constantine, 39 Devco Drive, Manchester, NH stated:

I live at 39 Devco Drive, the home of all the potholes in Manchester Ward 9. Mr. Mayor, members of the Aldermanic Board and those members of the School Board who may be present, I will not bore you with a long dissertation. Manchester will receive in the vicinity of thirty-six to thirty-eight million dollars for school aid in tax relief. It is my belief and those I speak for that a ratio of approximately sixty-fourty percent should go for tax relief, the forty percent for schools. Our schools are a disgrace. The city's population will grow in the coming years and the common sense dictates that the schools will have to expand and be modernized. Our streets must be repaved; our wastewater treatment will have to be expanded. We all know that this tax dollars. At present, you are bonding the Civic Center, the pension fund, the new police station and more. Bonding is just mortgaging the future and our future in the City of Manchester is heavily mortgaged. It is easy going in and hard getting out. We the taxpayers want every dollar spent prudently and want to see some quality. Tonight listen and abide by what you hear, we the taxpayers want to change now. Tax relief is the first step. Thank you.

Arthur Adamakos, 1196 Union Street, Manchester, NH stated:

It seems like every year I am here speaking to you for some issue or another. Most of the time, I am however here at 1 Crusader Way. I have come to speak to you this evening regarding an issue that is important to me. Just a brief report card for all of you, as you all know we had a tough budget year last year regarding the School Department. It has been a tough year meeting the needs of young people in our City. Even though that we have been dealing with issues such as aftermath of Columbine, people are on edge. Education has taken place. However, it has been a struggle. What has been more disheartening to me is the fact that during the year, our entire School Department was pink-slipped because of the Claremont decision. Especially trying to provide the best education that we can to our students, just the thought of the idea that we may not have jobs come June 30th was not a position I wanted to find myself in. Once Claremont was decided upon, to my dismay, I now read in the paper and I have heard it from a number of people that we are now looking at tax cuts because of the Claremont decision. Claremont is an education equity decision; it is not a tax cut subsidy. If we are taking money to

cut the taxes, we are actually taking away money from the kids of the City of Manchester. The sad part about it is, if we do take money away from them this year, when will we ever get caught up? We are not going to get caught up now. I think it is going to be a difficult time. Two-thirds of our district is ready for retirement; we are getting more and more retirements as the years go by. I however, will be with you for another seventeen years. Seventeen years worth of speaking before you. It is getting increasingly difficult to find qualified people to work with our young people simply because they can work in the community that will value education more than our community. Manchester is my adopted home, I was not born here, I was born in Nashua forty-three years ago but I have been living here ever since I became an administrator because I feel that this is my place to be. I will be here for another seventeen years fighting for our kids. If not now, when will we be even with everyone else? Thank you very much.

Ellen Healy, Manchester Education Association, stated:

Good evening, in the next few weeks you will be asked to make some very difficult decisions and I do not envy your position. I ask in your deliberations that you do consider the children of this city. As we move toward the twenty-first century, we need to implement education reform initiatives in Manchester to provide for the needs of our children so that they can be better serviced in the next century. You need to provide more funding from the Claremont monies that are coming in. These are monies that had previously been paid by local tax dollars so you are not looking at extra money coming in from the State. I would simply remind you that as leaders of this community, we can no longer afford to provide our children with an adequate education. We need to provide them with an excellent education and your help is catamount in this process. Thank you.

Betty Breuder, 3 Newfane Road, Bedford, NH stated:

I am here on behalf of Hillsborough County Right To Life. I come here speaking as a parent of nine children. In opposition to funding of child health services and child and family services. Both of these agencies are abortion agents. They advise minors where to have their babies killed. Child Health Services annual report 1995 to 1996 documents its alliance with Planned Parenthood the primary baby killer in the nation. Child Health Services promotes free sex, birth control, and abortion to minors behind parents' backs. I attended the Manchester Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Conference in June of 1997 and witnessed Dr. Thelma Deegs revealing her strategy for counseling minors whom she suspects are sexually active. She said that she separates them from their parents, schedules a pseudo follow-up appointment such as tonsillitis or dermatitis and then makes sure that they have what she considers responsible sex. In other words, has them use birth control. But we all know that children should not be having sex, children should not be having babies and children should not be killing babies. This is a very destructive method that Child Health Services is giving to our youth. Child Health Services now has its own teen clinic that targets the underserved and unaccounted for which is a seemingly noble mission but it masks the eugenic agenda of population control. The agency helps poor teens by killing their offspring without parental consent, minors are given powerful drugs such as the pill, Deprovera and the morning after pill to chemically kill their babies. Society has thus "served" by reducing the poor in numbers. I have been out on the sidewalk,

and I have been talked with these teens, they are confused, they are desperately looking for solutions and answers. This is not the way to help them. Kids need encouragement. They will look up to our aspirations and fulfill them if we have faith and believe in them if we send them in the right direction and clearly they are being sent in the wrong direction. They are caught up in a cycle where they are becoming not only physically harmed but emotionally traumatized. One girl told me that she is at the point where she cannot trust anyone now. This is not good; this is unhealthy for marriage. I would urge you not to fund these agencies because not-for-profit agencies should be supported by on a volunteer basis.

Katy Krammes, 54 Dewey Street, Manchester, NH stated:

My husband and I have two children. I have a second grader at Highland Goffs Falls School. I am also the fundraising coordinator for the Highland Goffs Falls PTO. I feel that for years now the number one city has ignored its most cherished asset, our children. Our city's habitual neglect of our schools and our teachers is a shame. The parents of all our Highland Goffs Falls students with a concern with regard to the lack of technology in our schools have raised thousands of dollars to purchase computers for our children's use in their classrooms. The PTO has used raised funds to purchase paper and gym equipment. Our gym teacher came to our meeting and asked among other things, if we were able to purchase one additional volleyball net. Having an additional net would allow more students to participate at one time, not to just sit and watch while the other students were playing. We even purchased audio cassette players for our teachers to assist in teaching their new language arts program that was just implemented. These players were not included in the school budget and not supplied due to the lack of funds. Our parents do moan and groan when we kick off yet another fundraiser but they realize that our children would be lacking an essential knowledge once they move on to the middle school if the necessary basic items were not provided. I personally feel that our children should be raising funds for class trips and for special speakers not for the basic items that the school department cannot supply us. Due to the lack of adequate funding, the students in the number one city are being short-changed. They will not be able to compete on the same playing field once they start applying for and entering college. You can change it. Please allow the Claremont school funding monies to be utilized in just that way, to fund our schools and to provide better futures for our children. Thank you for making us truly the number one city. Thank you.

Don Pomeroy, 255 Greeley Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I come to you concerned about this Claremont funding issue. I think my concern is that you do not rush into spending this money without applying it to tax reduction because there is a lot of question as to whether it will continue. I am not sure you are going to get it in subsequent years. If you do spend it then you are going to be in the same position you are with the federal grants to the Police Department. Federal money paid for additional members to the Police Department and now because these people have come on board and because they are doing a good job, the local taxpayers are expected to pickup the bill for continuing the program. I see this happening with the Claremont decision. In addition to address schools a little bit, I would like to see you come up with some way of measuring what the schools are doing. I habitually see high school graduates who cannot multiply and divide without a calculator. If you talk to them about

interests and discounts they do not have a clue as to what you are talking about. They are incapable of balancing a checkbook just in the math area. In practical areas, they are equally bad. I interviewed a fellow last week that could not make out an employment application. These are pretty basic things and I think that the schools are not failing because of lack of money, they are failing because of lack of direction. I have had students come to me and say I am going to a four year college and I say find what are you going to take? Well I do not know. What are you going to do when you get out of college? Well I do not know, but I am going to college. That may be very well but I think a true measure of the school is the student who is qualified to go to college, goes to college for four years, gets out of college and joins society as a productive person in the field that they went to college for. You can find people with college degrees making burgers at McDonalds and Burger King. Thank you for listening.

Kathy Staub, 374 Laurel Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here tonight as a parent and a citizen and as a taxpayer. What Katy said earlier about parents being tired of fundraisers is true because I can tell you that I am getting... ten years ago when the economy in this city went into the tank, the teachers and the school administration were told to tighten their belts. But it was okay because people were leaving the city in droves and they were taking their children with them. Well the economy started to increase and people began to come back and they came to bring their children with them. Some of these people came from foreign countries and some of these people came from cities that did not have a very good school system and they needed extra help. These people have come here and still the city is telling the teachers and the school administration to tighten their belts. I can tell you that as a parent I am getting tired of sending my children into the streets to sell candy bars to try to make up the difference. As a citizen, I would like to say that I think your approach to this funding the School Department is wrong. You tend to look at it the same way you look at sewerage treatment or trash collection. It has to be done as cheaply and as expediently as possible with a minimum amount of effort. I would like you to re-think that. I would like you to think about the education of the children in this city as an economic issue because the strength of this city has always been its work force. Giving children a nineteenth century education and sending them into the twenty first-century work force is going to leave us at a great disadvantage. We have to create a work force of young people who are able to do the new high tech jobs, the new biotechnology jobs. We have to have an educated work force, a work force that is familiar with modern technology, not just multiplication, division. They have to know how to use computers and the Internet. A quality school system will attract quality people to this city. Only an irresponsible parent would bring their child to a city and expose them to a substandard school system. We do not want irresponsible people living in our city. Manchester has worked for one hundred and fifty years because it has always provided social mobility. Many of us have grandparents who came off the boat and they got their first jobs in the mills and they worked there, and this is true today, people are coming here with nothing but the shirts on...Sixty-one million dollars is what we spent last year on the education department in this city. As a taxpayer that is spending sixty-one million dollars of my money or our money on an education system that does not work is a bigger waste of money than spending enough to do the job right.

Steve Donahue, 573 Vinton Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am also here representing the Association of Manchester Principals and ask for your serious consideration of full funding of the request for education for our students in our city. As been said before me, we are dealing with students and trying to train them and educate them not in the same way that you and myself were educated thirty and forty and more years ago, but to educate them for the next millenium. We need to prepare them as workers, in and for a different society than we grew in and we need the resources in which to do that. I ask for your funding for education for adequate staffing at all levels, particularly in the middle school levels. We need to provide effective teams of teachers to meet the varied needs of our students. We need to provide allied art teachers to introduce to a variety of technological and other arts so that we might encourage our students within the schools, not only in the middle schools, but beyond. We need staffing to adequately provide reduced class sizes for the early elementary grades so that we might produce better literate readers among our students. We know that the growth in the high schools are with us and will continue in the years and their serious staffing needs there. The middle schools we are using fourteen-year-old math text book series, fourteen-year-old language arts series. We hope we have a committee in process to work on the math series. We hope very much to be able to fund a new math series and to go on from there. In addition to these series as a one-time purchase we also need to continue to provide the materials and the supplies to continue to use textbooks and their peripheral items that we need to give our students hands-on experience particularly before the high school level. Lastly, in terms of your consideration we have and will continue to have serious facility needs. We have older school buildings. We do not have enough space for all our students. We have buildings that need to be refurbished. We have not enough space for our students. This is an area that is particular at the middle schools this coming year but will continue in the upcoming years, particularly in the high school areas and we need to address these not only tonight but in continued years. As a member of the association, as a parent, as a citizen, as a taxpayer of Manchester I urge your full funding of the education budget.

Harold Levine, 49 Hillcroft Road, Manchester, NH stated:

I feel that I should not even be here tonight or any of us taxpayers because the Mayor's budget was proposed and alongside of yours on anticipated revenue on the Claremont decision. We cannot run a business on anticipated revenue and we know we cannot run a city the size of Manchester or any town or city on anticipated revenue. How many years down the road will this problem with Claremont be addressed? Before the city gets money to fund this proposed budget. It is just crazy that you people who are supposed to be representing the taxpayers of Manchester and anticipate all that I have read in the paper in the last year or two you want to put in Riverwalk. Everything is being bonded. We are going to bond our grandchildren, great-grandchildren to death. That is all you hear from the Finance Department, bonding, bonding, bonding. This all is added on to our tax bills. If the Finance Department cannot present an adequate budget to the Aldermen and the Mayor than maybe it is about time we get rid of people in the Finance Department. Nobody has once said about consolidation. I remember sitting in front of you, ladies and gentlemen, last year; the City Solicitor's Office proposed six hundred thousand dollars to run that one department. I read in the Union Leader last week or maybe two

weeks ago, they need another person. I think if a department like that was put out to the private sector, it would probably be done for half of what it is costing taxpayer's money to fund its City Solicitors Office. The taxpayers of Manchester cannot get one ruling from the City Solicitors Office, it seems as though they are just set up to take care of the problems of the Mayor and the Aldermanic Board. Every department is asking for more personnel and that happens in an election year, and you probably give it to them. You people along with the Mayor, spend hundreds of thousands of dollars every year. Last year I was following just the consolidation of garages. That cost the taxpayers twenty-five thousand dollars. I am just wondering if you ladies and gentlemen of the Aldermanic Board ever got a copy of that consolidation. I cannot see where spending hundreds of thousands of dollars for consultant and never utilizing.

Tracy Miller, 106 Hunters Village Way, stated:

I am sorry to be back here again with the same problem year after year. I feel the Claremont money should go to the schools. If you bring them up to quality standard, you won't have a budget problem and it will keep the tax rate down in the future. As far as closing MST, you do not know how many quality students come out of there and how many students would have dropped out. How many of the other schools use the facilities and the students that are at MST. If you close that down for another building, that is going to be a shame and a disappointment. It is the only star in the school system. It is the only quality thing you have. As far as any public city owned building, why can't we use that to house students? Or use a mill building, rent it out. The developers, I last heard, the housing developers pay one thousand dollars per house to go to the School Department for the school funding. How much does it cost to educate a child K-12, I am sure that it is a lot more than one thousand dollars. You are giving the airport twenty-five million, they have already messed up with their soundproofing, they spent all of that money and they are tearing it down. Now they are changing the entrance. The school is doing a lot better than that and you are giving them money all of the time without any problem. How much money are we making from the airport? How much money are we making from the lottery? How much money are we making getting reimbursed from the government for the school education from State and Federal levels? You are going into things half-planned. You approved the middle school concept and all along I could not figure out how you were going to pay for it. Here you are not able to pay for it. These kids are coming out not educated. How you can put sewerage up above the same rate as the kids is beyond me. The Claremont money is a school thing from school tax, why is it being used for the city budget? Why is the eighty thousand-dollar clean-up mess that the other company, why aren't we going after that company to pay for that? You keep forgetting about these kids and you are pushing them through, you are not showing them any respect. For these kids to do fundraisers to raise money just for the simple things that they should be getting from this city, it is sending the wrong message. It is really sad after all of these years you still have the same problem and the quality of the school system has gone down even more.

Billy Dodd, 181 Mammoth Road, Manchester, NH stated:

Just to bring up the same fact that the lady just brought up, you want to give the airport another twenty-four million dollars for something that is running way over budget out there. Why does

the City of Manchester have to keep bailing out the airport? I believe Rockingham County has the sheriff's deputies over there, how much is Rockingham County, the town of Londonderry, how much are they putting into the airport. Why do you guys keep throwing the credit card out on the table and say charge it to the taxpayers of Manchester? Your information system in your budget, one point seven million dollars, is your same computer expert going to be in charge of that, the school department cannot communicate properly with the big computer you have now. Eleven million dollars for your Police Department and Fire Department for their budgets and a new fire station and police station. I think Manchester is big enough that you probably should have a sizable station on the West Side of the river also instead of putting everything in one spot. Claremont settlement, that seems to be a big topic tonight. You are supposed to be the wisest people in the city in spending our money properly. What you should do the first year, if I tried to go out and get a loan on money that I thought was going to be coming in and I did not know how much it was going to be or when it was going to be coming, the bank would laugh me out of the building. What you guys need to do is set that money aside, whatever you are going to get the first year. Do not spend a nickel of it; see how much you are going to get. Then the second year, you spend the money that you have already got in your pocket. Buy text books this year out of my tax dollars and make sure that every kid in this city, whatever grade he is in, whatever level he is in in high school, they all have the same books and they are current. Do that this year, now. When you do get your Claremont money in, set aside a dedicated amount of that, like ten million bucks to go towards school buildings, refurbishing or whatever. Give us some tax relief the second year, out of that money that you have already got in your hand. Then each year, with the School Department, you should be setting aside some money for a dedicated building fund so that buildings can be maintained and new additions put on. You ought to delay instituting your middle school program. They want to put forty-five new teachers in. I do not know how much thought has gone into that, but you also want to put in a whole bunch of portable classrooms. I have not heard anybody talk about any type of sunset policy on those portable classrooms. You have a school board member that says he went to them in the third grade and they are still sitting there. Unless you come up with some type of sunset policy on portable classrooms to where you are going to get rid of them in four, five, six years and have a permanent building, you go from there.

Tracy Gallagher, 238 Youville Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here to advocate for a seldom-recognized group of students in Manchester, our gifted students. This group is generally defined as the top one to two percent of the population as determined by IQ scores. These children learn very differently from the norm. Highly gifted learners learn in large chunks and absorb information more quickly and in more depth. It is not uncommon for them to learn at twice or three times the rate of their classmates. Additionally, they normally have acquired the skills and knowledge for their age appropriate grade years before they enter that grade. Average curriculum is not advanced nor detailed enough for these students and moves at a painfully slow pace for the inquisitive minds. We are wasting tax dollars to have these children sit idle in class while their peers are learning and they are not. It is the highly gifted students, not the least abled that will learn less new material at school in any given year. However, while Manchester maintains a multitude of options for the least abled,

there presently is not one single resource for the group of students learning least? There are no specialists, no tutors; psychologists or teachers trained to aid in the education of gifted students. There are ultimately no opportunities within the Manchester Public Schools for our gifted. By not educating these children at their own skill level, these kids are left to believe that educating the typical child is more important than educating them. By ignoring their innate desires to learn, we are not only prioritizing and putting them at the bottom of the list, we are conveying that high intellect is not of value or a trait the school is willing to ignore. They take a backseat to their classmates and perhaps want to learn most of all. Manchester now faces the best opportunity to finally accommodate the needs of our highly gifted students. Funding needs to be available to schools for that purpose. Teachers should be educated in regard to gifted needs. Gifted and talented coordinator positions desperately need to be created. Foremost, as a qualified source to advocate for their unique social, emotional and academic needs, but also to ease the burden from the classroom teacher in educating our most precocious children. Gifted children are entitled to the same opportunities as their peers, and equal opportunity does not mean a one size fits all education but rather equal opportunities to learn.

Debby Bingelis, 171 Central Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I would like to tell you a story. Once upon a time there was a little girl named Katie. From the very beginning it was obvious that Katie was not like most other children. She began to crawl early; she began to talk early. When she was two years old, while most other kids were playing putting blocks one on top of the other, Katie was building pyramids and intricate structures. When she was three, Katie and I got our first car. We had always had a rough time financially and this was a very big deal for us. We would go for short rides around the city and she would probably announce we had just turned left onto Elm or had just taken a right onto Bridge Street and that we were headed East towards the sunrise. One night while we were eating supper, we were talking about some mechanical problems that the car was having. She informed me that it was probably the catalytic converter and if I so chose, we could order another one from Pep Boys and she proceeded to tell me that the phone number was 624-6277. We had no phone at that time and she would not have cause to study any phone numbers. It was just how she remembered things. At five, Katie attended Head Start. She would often play by herself and build houses out of Legos with windows and landscaping. When we went for rides, one of our fun games was to count to one thousand backwards and forwards, then count by fives and tens. In Head Start, she began reading the slogans on the teacher's T-shirts out loud. They suggested I might want to have her tested as a gifted child. At this time, Katie was exceptionally happy and eager to learn. She was accepted to Kids College, an enrichment program for gifted and talented children. We made volcanoes at home and she read chapter books voraciously. She was thrilled with learning and asked tons of questions. Then Katie started school and she learned a lot. She learned that she indeed was very different from the other students. She learned that what she wanted to learn did not matter. That she needed to fit into a mold and that suddenly it was not okay to be different. It was something to be ashamed of and not be proud of. She learned that she was not going to be given fifth grade math and that she was not going to learn algebra or chemistry. She learned that when you read fifth grade chapter books for pleasure, the hundred most frequently used words are sheer boredom. Most important of all, she

has learned that being gifted is not as wonderful as she thought it would be. She cries and begs me not to take her to school. It is heart wrenching and unnecessary. She sees school as a problem to be endured, not a place to be enjoyed. That is a very sad lesson for a first grader to have mastered. She does not need to learn that five plus four equals nine. She learned that years ago. She is an exceptionally intuitive child and highly sensitive to her environment. She is not lost on the fact that ESL students get lots of extra help and that misbehaved children get the most attention. If you think that perhaps gifted education is a matter that does not apply to you, you are sadly mistaken. We all know people who were gifted children: Albert Einstein, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, J. Robert Oppenheimer and Thomas Edison. There are two other gifted children I forgot to mention, Theodore Kazinski was also a gifted child as was Adolf Hitler.

Fatima Deek, 1830 Front Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I have three children. The State has a special program for needy kids so they can meet their need. Which is really wonderful, but what about the kids who whatever parents do and school is doing is not meeting their need. I do not think that the taxpayers do mind using their tax money for good useful programs. What do you have to say to so many parents who cannot afford sending their kids to good programs that would meet their needs? A program in the State includes Art and Science museums. They charge a lot of money for example if the parents would take their three kids to a science museum, that would cost, just three times a week, sixty dollars. These children are the future of this country. These children as they grow with a good education program, they will shine just like the sun. They can make us hold our heads up and they can make us put our heads down. As parents and as a country, let's give these kids a chance for good education programs. That is how we can turn our kids from violence and gangs and strange scary groups. Let us fill their emptiness and losses with good useful programs because that is how they will become responsible and useful and learn what is important. Thank you.

Lisa Pierce, 235 Mast Road, Manchester, NH stated:

There is a meeting across town for the Parkside Middle School and I am really sorry that I missed that but I thought that this was very important. I am here today because of what I overheard a group of school children from different areas of the city discussing. They were talking of the events that they have experienced in the school this year. This is what I heard, and I quote; No one is on our side. They don't listen. How do we get them to listen? Kind of scary, isn't it? The fact that we are still trying to convince the leaders of this city to take action to improve the city school is devastating. These problems have been brewing for years and you were aware of them because I have college-age children and I was speaking before you then, a long time ago. A blind eye has been effectively turned regarding the educational crisis for so long that we are now talking of neglect and placing the youngest citizens in jeopardy. We cannot tolerate this any longer. Point in any direction you choose, it is not going to go away. You are telling me to send my child to school with inadequate accommodations; worst yet, you are telling the children they are not worth library books, updated textbooks, writing material. Is there no shame? You have heard specifics over and over and over again. We stand united and

hold you responsible for the safety and education of the children while they are in your care. It is simple, you support education, you support the kids.

Aroline Godbout, 203 Mayflower Drive, Manchester, NH stated:

I am very concerned about the plan to implement the middle school concept at Hillside and Southside next year. Since there is no room for the sixth graders, eight portable classrooms will be placed at each of these schools. The portable classrooms have been described to me as temporary solution to the overcrowding. City history tells me that this is not necessarily the case. Portable classrooms have been in use on the West Side for twenty-five years. The cost to purchase these portables was reported to be about two hundred thousand dollars. What about the additional cost for plumbing and wiring to the existing building. Let us stop wasting money on temporary solutions and put our taxes into a permanent building. Other concerns I have with portable classrooms stem from safety and health issues. Is it appropriate to add more students to a school that have already exceeded their core capacity? Has the Risk Manager for the city been asked to make recommendations? Does the Health Department routinely inspect the portables? In Ontario, the concern for health hazards has resulted in the education amendment act of 1998 regarding mold contamination in portable classrooms. The bill requires School Boards to conduct regular testing and inspection for a specific type of mold contamination in portable classrooms. If mold contamination is found, it must be cleaned up or the students must be removed to another classroom. Do we have regular inspections of our portable classrooms? Are we even able to keep them clean? I am very concerned that the School Department has inadequately planned for the implementation of the middle school concept. Why haven't our sixth grade teachers been trained in the team approach. Will the day before the students arrive be enough time for the teachers to meet and make their team plans. I urge you to consider leaving our students in their current schools for sixth grade eliminating the overcrowding at the middle school level. According to the figures of the NASDAQ study that is on-going now, the current capacity of K-8 is eleven thousand sixty. The number of students currently in grades K-8 is approximately eleven thousand. Our city should have some standards regarding the facilities our school children occupy. Our standards should not be so low that we will allow trailers to house our newest school philosophy. I ask that we not fund the School Department's plan to purchase portables. Instead, let us build the schools that we need. Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Kalinski, 644 Oak Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I would like to ask the Board to delay the implementation of the middle schools in Manchester with the use of portable classrooms until the NASDAQ facility study is completed and recommendations made. I believe that our tax dollars should be used for a permanent facility that can accommodate all students. I also have a copy of a signed petition by those opposed to the middle school concept at Hillside Junior High next year to present which contains 320 signatures.

Steve Vaillancourt, 161 Faith Lane, Manchester, NH stated:

I am a State Rep from Ward 8 and Chairman of the Manchester Delegation. We are talking about Claremont. It seems like it's Claremont by day, Claremont by night, Claremont all the time, all Claremont. When I walked in earlier about an hour and ten minutes ago, I heard the word lie being used and there was some animosity. It almost reminded me that I was back in Concord. Only in Concord, we do not call people liars, we say my gentlemanly colleague from Salem or Exeter or whatever. But there are a lot of lies that go forth in Concord and probably here as well. Claremont is viewed by many as an obligation by the State. The State is going to be sending Manchester approximately thirty-seven million dollars this year. Last year you got about four and one-half million dollars for education, that is about a thirty-two million-dollar bonus from last year. There is certainly an obligation for the State, but it is also an opportunity for the City of Manchester. It is up to you at the local level to decide how you spend the money that we have labored so hard to try to get back to you from Concord. Let me assure all of you who have expressed doubts about that money coming back, that money will be coming back. Not only this year or next year but I would say indefinitely into the future unless for some reason there is an amendment to take it away. I believe, as my former colleague Leona Dykstra has expressed tonight, that most of the money you are getting back should be used for tax reduction. The thirty-seven million dollars that Manchester will be getting back will fund an education level of forty-two hundred per student. Obviously, you cannot use it all for tax reduction because you will have to spend some of that thirty-seven million to get you back to where you are per student now, about three dollars per thousand on the tax rate. Perhaps you might want to spend another three dollars on the tax rate to improve education. I certainly think the goal should be to take at least two out of every three dollars that you are getting back and reduce the tax rate. Your goal should be at least to reduce the tax rate by six dollars per thousand. You can do that and still provide additional benefits to education. I want to talk a little more about missed opportunities. You could have reduced the tax rate by ten dollars per thousand, had not a couple of things happened. A couple of weeks ago if video gambling expanded video lottery had passed, the tax rate could have been reduced by up to another dollar fifty to two dollars per thousand. Today thanks, Your Honor to your lack of being attentive at the switch, I wrote a letter to all of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, to yourself and called your office several times, but you lifted not a finger to help the City of Manchester keep six and a half million dollars that it lost this very day in Concord because nine Republican Representatives and one Democratic Representative decided that they were going to vote the way of Salem and Exeter and other towns rather than representing the City of Manchester. Ten dollars on the tax rate could have been reduced if certain people had not been at the switch. I am a little bit angry tonight and I am a little bit angry at some of the lies that will probably be spread to you, but I hope you will read the information I have given to you, it is the truth. Thank you.

Brad Cook, 150 Heather Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I have been a resident of Manchester for twenty-six years and I have the opportunity to serve on the School Board at-large and as Chairman of the Finance Committee. For the twenty-six years

I have lived here, I have talked to elected officials every year about schools. Every year I have heard, if we only had the money we would be able to afford better schools. We have got the money. We have an historic opportunity today, you have it, we have it, to move Manchester schools forward to seek excellence to get better. The Claremont case, which we have discussed, presents us with that opportunity for better or for worst. The Claremont case was not about property tax relief. The Claremont case was about tax equity and the ability of all communities in New Hampshire to have the opportunity to provide the same level of education regardless of their circumstances. As we know, Manchester has some unique circumstances as the biggest city in the State. It also was about what kind of education we should supply to our students as their right. Their education that we are to provide is more than reading, writing and basic math according to the language of that case. It is to prepare our students to be able to function in the twenty-first century as youthful citizens who can operate in a high tech environment. The School Board as presented you with a budget; we prepared a budget that did not exceed what we anticipated our revenues to be under the old system without any tax increase. The Mayor, to his credit, adopted that budget in his budget. That budget allows us to start to do fabulous things. We requested from the principals, what their needs were and we got fifteen million dollars worth of requests. We paired that down to about five million dollars worth of requests, as you know. Let me address the middle schools, which are the primary component that gets funded. The middle schools were adopted by the School Department and this Board in 1994. The middle school concept is not up for debate for adoption, it is adopted. The question is implementation. I have a student going to Hillside next year and if I thought for a second that was going to be an unsafe environment, I would not advise him to go, I would not push for him to go, in fact I would be doing everything I could not to have him go. Every one of our middle school principals is in favor of implementation of this system this year. We will have capacity problems but we will be able to deal with them with the modular classrooms, which are entirely different from those things that have been referred to before. You have an opportunity to do great things for Manchester. The Mayor, I hope, will stick to his guns on the budget he has presented you and I hope that you will do the right thing to adopt it as presented because this opportunity will not come by again. Please do not blow it.

Norma Champagne, 233 Tarrytown Road, Manchester, NH stated:

I think some of our priorities tonight should be number one is the schools. I have been a foster grandparent in one of the inner-city schools and I can tell you how these schools really need a lot of help. I have grandchildren going to these schools and they have been disarray for a long time. We do need tax relief as a taxpayer. We should have that, but our priority with that money coming from Claremont should go to the schools. We do not need another new Police Station; we just spent a lot of money adding onto the one we have now. We do need another Fire Station on Bodwell Road that is very important. I see where you are going to be appropriating money to the Manchester Transit Authority. You know that you have a lot of problems down there with management. You should be looking at what you are going to do with the people that are running that department before you start spending money and giving them money. They are not doing the best job for the City of Manchester or to their School Department with their busses for the schools. I was reading the paper and I think it is a good

idea that you should try to implement the uniforms for the City of Manchester, that would be a good pilot program. That would help a lot. Charter schools; I do not think they have said too much about Charter Schools tonight but I think that is another good way. You should be doing a lot of thinking about the school system, our young people and I am for the taxpayer, it is not that, but if we are going to get this money let's do it now, do not wait forever because our schools have been in a mess for I do not know since when. Thank you.

Nick Brattan, 169 Fleming Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I, like most taxpaying residents of this city, welcome tax relief. More importantly have children both at Weston Elementary and Central High School. I plead with you, do not give us tax relief at the cost of my children's education. Schools need to be fully funded. The decreases you have handed the School Department year after year has caused long term harm. This must stop. Once upon a time you Board Members entered an elementary school and then a high school. Thank God your cities supported your schools. Thank God your city attracted quality educators. Tonight we heard from an administrator who spoke of being here for another seventeen years. I credit this administrator for having a long-term plan. We must demand that the planning brains of our city responsibly think long-term and not year to year. Please direct the Claremont monies properly to our children's education. Thank you.

Dennis O'Dowd, 40 Dwight Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I have been a resident of this city all of my life. The Mayor said, in his budget message tonight, that we all would like to see Manchester be an even better place to live. I agree, but I am here to say that it is the investment in the education of our young people that is essential to do this. Our city schools are not in good shape in terms of staffing, facilities, supplies and equipment. Every year, in this city, it is the same deal. Our elected School Board proposes a budget that it deems necessary and adequate to fund the city's school system and each year, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen fail to appropriate the money that is requested. Education is the loser and it is our city's students, Manchester's future, who ultimately suffer. Now the State has earmarked money to support education and our city will benefit. This city has an obligation to use the Claremont money to finally make it possible for Manchester to offer the best education for our city's children. Thank you.

Paul Harcz, 34 Everett Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am a member of Access Manchester, which advises the City on access issues. I also am a complainant and/or resolution with the office for civil rights with the U.S. Department of Education on the Manchester School Administrative Unit. We are in some cases, twenty-five years behind some fundamental civil rights legislation; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. According to our consolidated plan, we have more than fifteen thousand residents with substantial physical or mental disabilities in 1994 that is growing. We have bathrooms in schools where we have kids in wheelchairs that are not fully accessible. We have none of this uniformly throughout the city raised character and Braille signage for a low-vision and visional impaired students and population. We have a transition plan, which has been produced years after the fact, it was supposed to have been done on

January 26, 1992 to identify physical and structural barriers. In other plans that have not been fully implemented to identify communications and other barriers. We have roughly eight million dollars that has been identified on just removal of some structural barriers to give people some physical access to our schools, to our public institutions. I urge the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to use at least a certain portion of the Claremont monies to bring in and fully integrate all of our citizens into the mainstream, which is what the ADA and other legislation is about. That we have kids who cannot be effectively taught Braille in a mainstream environment because we have no equipment, that we have kids who cannot utilize restrooms or sports facilities or get from point A to B. It is a tragedy and is a human waste. We are not so rich in this society that we can waste any individual. I urge us not to be penny-wise and pound foolish but to make the investment in our present and our future and to come into compliance with fundamental Civil Rights mandates that are long standing. I ask nothing short of making all people with disabilities a part of this city and our school system not apart from. I thank you.

Irene Robie, 1046 Hayward Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am just one of the many senior citizens that devotes my time and my energy and my talent volunteering throughout the city at any time, any hour of the day or the night. You will find us in schools reading to children, you will find us working in the classroom, in the offices, the library, on the school grounds. You will also find us in the Elliot and CMC hospitals. There is not a non-profit organization that has not had our help to mail out their free bulletins that they need so badly. Two or three weeks ago, we had a lovely lunch that was served to us. There were three hundred and fifty senior citizens who had devoted hours of volunteering to the City of Manchester. We feel that we help with the budget that you are always talking about. One of the questions that comes up very frequently, but no one seems to be able to get an answer is why don't we have a central senior center here in Manchester. We have one on Hanover Street, you cannot get anywhere near it, there is no parking available. It is a lovely building, it must cost a fortune and there is plenty of room, but no parking space. There is one over the West Side, it is an old building, used to be a Fire Department or a Library. The rooms are very small and they are very active and again the parking is another problem. Over at the West Side one, they have a very popular line-dancing program. People will go there two hours ahead to be able to get in because they can't get more than fifty people. Line dancing is not just a social thing for the seniors; it is a form of exercise. But you cannot exercise dancing when your elbows are digging into your body and your steps are very small because it is so crowded. We have several who spoke to the Aldermen, we even cornered the Mayor one time at Dunkin' Donuts and we all got the same answer. The budget, I did not know that they did not have the programs, we will have to think about it, we will get right on it now, but we never hear. We also heard that we were going to get the Brown School, there would be plenty of parking space. The latest thing is they are going to have a new Police Department, we are going to have that building. At my age, I want to go dancing and I do not have very many more years. When are we going to get it? Thank you very much.

Gregg Szot, 127 Westwood Drive, Manchester, NH stated:

I would like to thank all of you for your efforts; I do not know how you all do it because you are here night after night doing everything, giving us the opportunity to say things. I do not mind paying the current tax rate that I am paying as long as we get a decent plan and system for the schools and for the infrastructure of the city. If we are going to end up with Claremont money, which I have my doubts to start with anyway. I know Mr. Vaillancourt said we would be guaranteed it, but let us spend sixty percent of it first year on the schools. I do not know how we are going to spend what we do not have, but take the forty- percent and save it, and then spend it the second year if you do have it. If it continues, then we can plan further from there to build a new Police Station, to build a new Fire Department, part of the problem may be too is informing the Fire Department better as to you close off a street on Wyoming Ave or O'Malley Street, they are not even informed that it is closed off so they go to answer a fire call and they go the wrong way. Part of the problem is communication. I came in here thinking the fifty-fifty split would probably be good. But sixty-forty would be even better and I do not care if I do not get tax relief, as long as we get a decent school system and a decent plan for the city. I would like to know why we spend two hundred million dollars on an airport and why can't the airport, it is economic fund, why don't we make them pay for the schools. They certainly put enough burden on everything else, let them help out the school system. Thank you.

William Dugan, 111 Wheelock Street, Manchester, NH stated:

As a relatively new resident of Manchester, living here for the past two years, I have tried to catch up on the school issues. What a two years it has been, given the developments of the past two years, school funding for capital projects must be fully realized. Education curriculum should be a challenge, physical infrastructure should not. Second, tax relief based on Claremont is not an option. These funds should go to the school system. Educational programs must be fully funded. Highly desirable high tech jobs of the future are dependent upon the funding of programs now. Technological advances will not wait for the Manchester School District to catch up. I urge you to support the Mayor's budget on school funding. Thank you.

George Behm, 135 English Village Road, Manchester, NH stated:

I have heard a lot of good discussion this evening concerning tax relief, adequate funding, a lot of different things that involve the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen. One of the things that I have not heard is bring into account the reinstatement of the superintendent of the School Board and not only the reinstatement of that superintendent but giving him an eight thousand dollar raise on top of that. How much of that eight thousand dollars could have gone to fund some of the volley ball nets and some of the other things that we have our children raising money for. Why are we focusing on the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen when the realistic budget projections comes down not to the folks standing here before us but to those who sit on the School Board. I believe, I feel very strongly that they should be held to a higher accountability for the access that our children deserve and to stop focusing on things that are not necessary and start focusing on things that are; such as new text books instead of raises. New text books instead of seventy-seven new teachers. When are we going to learn that not throwing more

money into a pool is not the way to solve the problem? The way to solve the problem is to figure out exactly what the problem is and then come up with constructive and creative ways in order to solve that problem.

Leslie Stewart, 205 North Bend Drive, Manchester, NH stated:

I serve on the Board of School Committee representing Ward 1. I have had the privilege this term to serve as the Chairman of the Athletic Committee. One third of our high school students currently participate in inter-scholastic athletics. Of those students, over sixty percent earn honors and high honors during their high school years. At the same time, our city has had the privilege of having many teams earn State Championships. I urge you to support the athletic budget as we have presented it because athletics and academics work together, hand-in-hand as you can see. I also ask that you support it because the sense of pride and personal achievement that students and our school and our community earn from these endeavors will serve us well as we move forward. Thank you.

Winston McCarty, 1514 Wellington Road, Manchester, NH stated:

I am State Representative from Ward 2. I would like to congratulate you Mayor Wieczorek and the Honorable Aldermen for making this city one of the best places to live in this country. I want to remind you that you did that with tight budgets. We do not need to go on a spending spree to make this place better. There can be some cuts in the increase that have been proposed to you. I did not have a chance to study this much, but I looked at one item on the Mayor's budget and it looks like it is getting about a twenty-five percent increase. You ought to study the budget hard, keep it tight and you will keep Manchester a good place to live. Thank you.

Mayor Wieczorek advised that there was no one else present wishing to speak. On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted refer the Appropriating Resolutions to the Committee on Finance for further consideration, with reports to be made to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen at a later date.

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

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk