

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN**

**January 18, 2000**

**6:30 PM**

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

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

Present: Aldermen Levasseur, Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea,  
Vaillancourt, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, Hirschmann

Absent: Aldermen Wihby and Gatsas

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting was to meet with the Manchester Delegation of the State House of Representatives to discuss legislation of particular relevance to the City of Manchester and requested that Alderman Vaillancourt introduce those members present.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I am Chairman of the Manchester Legislative Delegation. I serve on the House Finance Committee, Division I which deals with everything except Transportation, Health & Human Services and Education and also Division IV which is the Claremont Division. I'm a Democrat from Ward 8. If the reps would stand I will try to introduce everyone starting with Roland Turgeon who is a Democrat from Ward 11 (Transportation Committee). I have prepared a handout that is going around giving everyone's name and committee and phone number, I believe it's listed by Wards. Here's another gentleman from the Transportation Committee George LaPorte, Democrat from Ward 3. And, standing next to him Education Committee, John White, Democrat from Ward 10. Roland Beaupre my colleague from Ward 8, a Republican (Public Works & Highways). Win McCarty, also from Public Works & Highways, a Republican from Ward 2 and standing next to him a Democrat from Ward 2, also Public Works & Highways, looks like we can get anything through that Committee, Dick Ahern. Behind Dick is Ben Baroody, Democrat - Ward 6 (Labor). Back on this side we missed Jim McDonald, Democrat - Ward 5 (State/Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs). Way in the back is Ray Buckley, another of my Ward 8 colleagues, a Democrat on Election Law and I believe also on the Rules Committee. Standing next to him Jeff Goley, Democrat - Ward 1 (Labor). Marc Pappas, a Republican from Ward 11 (Commerce). If anyone comes in the meeting I'll try and introduce them as they come in. Anyone else that would like to be introduced or recognized. I invited our three Senators to be with us tonight as well. Senator Patricia Krueger called me last night and she sounded worse than I did about a week ago, I've never heard anybody that had the flu as badly as Patricia, so I don't think she can make it, but she's working very hard. She represents Wards 1, 2 and 12 as well as some of the northern and outlying towns. Senator Lou D'Allesandro represents Wards 3, 4, 10 and 11 and Goffstown, is Lou here and our other Senator John King represents 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and the Town of Auburn. Would any of the delegation who happen to be here like to discuss particular legislation that they are either

sponsoring or that is before their Committee now that you believe has particular relevance to the City and might affect the City or might be something you would want to either lobby us in favor of supporting or against supporting. Our Deputy Clerk had a couple of bills, but why don't we start if any Reps would like to or, your Honor, would you like.

Mayor Baines stated you can come forward if you'd like to discuss pieces of legislation, you're invited to do so at this time.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I have three pieces of legislation that I've introduced that I would like to discuss with you briefly. A couple of them will be coming up tomorrow, actually, before my own Committee of Finance. We did have a hearing last week on HB1487 FN Local. FN means it has a fiscal note attached which probably means that if it passes through the Committee it goes to would come to the Finance Committee eventually and then have to come back to the House for a second vote. This is something that I've discussed with Kevin Clougherty, it is going to the Municipal and County Government Committee...as I say, it has been there and what this would do would be to reduce the amount of interest a city or town could charge on delinquent taxes. Briefly, my rationale for this...the amount right now is 12% and this amount was instituted back when interest rates were way, way up, back in the early 80's, I believe, it was set at 12%. It seems to me that this is too much. I have no problem with VISA or any other public company trying to make a profit, but when interest rates, I believe the City can borrow money for about five or six percent now which you would have to do if you can't collect your property taxes. It seems to me that a float of six or seven percent is too much and the cities and towns are making five or six or seven percent float on people who are least able to pay. People who cannot afford to pay their taxes on time. Now, I certainly think we should have a manner for charging them something, but I think it should be something just slightly above what the going interest rate the City would have to use if they borrowed. Representative Marple from Hooksett was the primary sponsor of the bill, I co-sponsored it. Representative Tony Simon from Ward 4 is on the Committee, he had several questions when the hearing was held last week. The way the bill is currently worded...it would limit the amount a city or town can charge to one percent over a rate that would be established as the 30-year prime lending rate. Representative Simon and the Committee might decide to change that instead of having a floating sum go to seven or eight percent or something, but the idea behind the bill was to get it down so it would not be as high as 12%. I'm not sure how this will go, I'm not sure if the City Clerk's Office is taking position of if you have, your Honor. I do understand from talking with Kevin Clougherty that only about ten or eleven percent of taxpayers don't pay on time. So, that's one of the bills I've introduced and I'm sure we can discuss that if anyone has a comment on that.

State Representative Buckley stated I guess the question for you as the Chair of the Board of Aldermen...I'm not quite sure what the purpose of this meeting is. Is there an agenda to this meeting.

Mayor Baines replied the purpose of this meeting is to just hear and have an informal discussion relative to legislation that is pending before State government at this time and just to share any thoughts that the Legislators would have with the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

State Representative Buckley stated I sent a memo to the members of the City Delegation last year photocopying it to the Delegation with a memo to the Chair of the Delegation suggesting that the Delegation get together to discuss its goals, its role, its purposes and what we want to accomplish this session and also to have an opportunity to discuss legislation where we would have the listing of the legislation that the Manchester Legislators have all sponsored and where it is, how many people have missed. Where, at this point, since State Representative Vaillancourt's response handwritten back on the memo to me was that that's the purpose of this meeting. Could you tell me where on that agenda these discussions are going to occur.

Mayor Baines replied they are occurring right now Representative Buckley.

Alderman Vaillancourt interjected yes, Representative Buckley, the Assistant City Clerk has something that she'd like to discuss with you about Election Law.

State Representative Buckley stated I guess my question on the agenda was, your Honor, where is it that the Delegation is going to be able to have a conversation on what it sees as its role in this Legislative Session. What our goals are, what is it that we as a Legislative Delegation is to accomplish. I believe this is the first actual meeting that the Chair has called in nearly a year, so I was wondering when it is during this meeting, is it this meeting or is there a meeting later tonight that the Delegation is suppose to get it. It looks like eleven of the 36 members that have responded to the Chair's call to come here tonight, but I think we could start initiating that sort of conversation. I guess I would rather that the Chair of the Delegation respond to when is the Delegation going to meet again, if it is going to meet again, if it is ever going to meet again, when is it that the Delegation is going to get together to discuss what it is that we as a group are going to do. I expected from your response that we were going to have a listing of the bills and copies of the bills that were pertinent to Manchester; that's traditionally...

Alderman Vaillancourt interjected the purpose of this meeting was so that you could bring forward the bills that you believe are relevant to the City and discuss them here tonight. I have discussed one of my bills, I have others that I will be discussing, but I didn't want to dominate the meeting. I wanted to offer other people the opportunity to do that. I was under the impression that various people were going to come forward with various bills. I talked with some people who have and as I mentioned the City Clerk and other members of City government have come forward with bills that they would like to discuss to see if we can get an idea of what is mutually agreeable between the Aldermanic Board and the State Delegation.

State Representative Buckley asked do you have copies of the bills here for all of us to take a look at it.

Alderman Vaillancourt replied I have copies of the bills. If you deem that we want to make copies, I would be happy to share copies with you. I did not, being a conservative and not wanting to waste copying, did not make copies of the bills, no, but I do have copies of them.

Mayor Baines stated what I would suggest is it would be very beneficial if the Delegation would get together and again get organized in terms of the issues that are going to be pending before the State Legislature affecting the City of Manchester, so we could have that kind of a dialogue and that would be most helpful if you would schedule something like that and I think that would take Representative Buckley's concerns under consideration and deal with them appropriately. Would that go along with what you're stating here this evening.

State Representative Buckley stated I'm just curious since State Representative Vaillancourt's response back to me, your Honor, was that tonight was the night that the Delegation was going to caucus and have those discussions tonight, it doesn't appear that that would be appropriate.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I didn't say the Delegation was going to caucus, the purpose of this meeting was to bring forward like we did last year, I believe it was in February, we decided to do it at the earliest opportunity this year because the Legislative Session is moving along very quickly. All the bills have been scheduled for a hearing so that anyone...instead of discussing the form that you seem to want to do, so that anyone could discuss particular bills that the City would find relevant and to take a position on. And, as I say, we do have one bill that affects your Committee and I believe the City wants to take a position in opposition to that that the Delegation should hear.

Mayor Baines stated I would like to call a halt to this banter that's going on back and forth and proceed and we'll just see if there are any other members of the Delegation who wish to speak and if not we'll adjourn this meeting and we could reschedule another opportunity to meet with the Delegation.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated the Clerk's Office had three bills that came to our attention today actually one of which we had been involved with...SB407 which we had actually worked with some committee members trying to get the bill put in. It has to do with dog licensing and I know it's headed over to the House at this point. The bill in its current form does clarify some stuff that the Police Department, the City Solicitor and the City Clerk's Office was requesting for the City of Manchester and other communities as well. However, it did not go as far as the City of Manchester had asked. It's a rather cumbersome process to go out and issue the warrants and actually come down to the summons process. It is very difficult for the City of Manchester because we're talking about 8,000 dogs, we're not talking about three or four hundred dogs the way some communities are. So, we will be asking when it hits the House for some amendments to that bill, I don't know that we'll be successful, but any support that can be given by the Manchester Delegation obviously we'll be looking for that. Additionally, a bill came to my attention today which is going before the Election Law Committee tomorrow, as I understand it. Actually, it's still in the Senate, but it will be headed over to Election Law. It is also a Senate

Bill and was introduced by Rick Trombly and in essence it would reduce the cost that we charge for our checklists from \$25.00 per ward to \$25.00 for the entire City. That, obviously, does not cover the cost of the printing that the City has to do for its 47,000 number list. So, we will be testifying against that bill tomorrow and if we don't succeed in the Senate we would be looking for help in the House. In addition, there is another one which I only unfortunately received today that has an LSR number...I don't know what the bill number is, I know it has to do with publishing notices of agendas for council meetings or in this instance the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. It would actually require us to put a legal advertisement in the paper including every single agenda item that is on the agenda. So, in this instance like for tonight's meeting it's about 15 pages worth. It would be a very costly item for the City of Manchester to do that. We do post them publicly now and have them available and we do try and get the major topics in the press. So, we will be looking for support in killing that bill when it comes around.

State Representative McDonald, Representative from Ward 5 which is the Beech Street School in Manchester stated I have a couple of bills that I've co-signed onto that are significant of course, in my mind, they're not economically significant to the City of Manchester and one is facing a greater hunger of Ireland, the Great Potato Famine and led to believe that the Irish suffered the devastation of their population because there was a blight in the potato crop. Information has since surfaced in the last half decade, the last five years that indeed that was not the main reason for the Great Hunger and the Great Hunger is taught in our history books, your Honor, being an educator is incorrect; that the Irish people stood at the...working in the bayonets and food was taken from their great country and exported to England and they actually died of starvation. Starvation perpetrated by the English King at that time which is one of the bills that has been heard just recently at the House, which will go over to the Senate and I'm quite sure it will pass the Education Committee and be forwarded to the Senate. That bill was sponsored by Bill McCarthy who is also a Rep from Ward 5, he's home with the flu tonight, I called him but he just can't move. The second item and as you know I'm a Democrat, an avid Right To Life person and right now there are four bills on the House Calendar on the Right To Life. The bill I'm primarily interested in because I know that perhaps the other three will never happen in my lifetime (on abortion) and also, your Honor, with your background as an educator is notification of the parents on a minor child that's pregnant. Right now, in our great State of New Hampshire (Live Free Or Die) that a young girl, a minor girl comes to a guidance counselor in New Hampshire and tells the guidance counselor that she is pregnant and she's afraid to tell her parents, that young girl can be taken without the parent's notification for an abortion. The hearing for that bill is coming up February 15th at 1:30 and that issue is so great is not being held in a normal hearing room, it's being held on the floor of the Representatives and the reason for that is that it's forecasted that there is going to be a tremendous turnout for something of that nature and I'm a co-signer on that bill. Other than that I'll answer any questions anybody might have on those two bills. But, the first one primarily is the history books are wrong, they just haven't covered the entire truth. It's called the Irish Holocaust, same as the German Holocaust, these people were starved to death. And, for the record, your Honor, I'm also one of your Police Commissioners.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated we have been joined by another Rep, Representative Jim Craig, Democrat from Ward 2 on the Judiciary Committee and we do have something that's pending before the House, I believe it was special ordered to the next time we meet regarding the term limits, the Constitutional Amendment, the term limits for judges. Maybe you could fill us in on what's going on with that bill, I know you're writing the majority report on that.

State Representative Craig stated I wasn't prepared to do that, but I'd be happy to fill you in on it. There is a bill pending that's going to be coming up for a vote next week which would change the way the judges are appointed. Now, they're appointed by the Governor and Council for life or until they turn 70 years old. The bill asks that the judges be reappointed every seven years by Governor and Council. The Judiciary Committee heard testimony on that through the regular committee and the sub-committee this summer and basically all we heard was if you take away the Claremont issue which has everybody up in arms up in Concord and elsewhere the only thing that's wrong with the judges are sometimes they're rude, sometimes they're late and sometimes they're arrogant, whatever that means. So, for that the bill wants to change the balance of power so that every time a judge hears one of your cases, if you're against someone who's in tight with the Governor or a Governor's Councilor you have to worry about whether that judge is going to decide the case fairly or with one eye on his next appointment in seven years. So, the Judiciary Committee, for that reason, and because the Judiciary Committee felt that it would be harder to get good lawyers to become judges because...not saying that I'm not a good lawyer or anything, but someone in my position (48 years old) if I were asked to be a judge I would think that I could go and if I aggravate someone I would be out of a job when I'm 55 years old...I've got two kids coming into college and I may be out of a job, my practice has gone south because I haven't been paying attention to it for seven years and I've aggravated half the lawyers in the area from judicial opinions. So, the Committee didn't think it was a good idea for that reason as well. But, really it's a fundamental issue of changing the balance of power that the constitution requires that there be between the Judiciary, the Executive and the Legislative and it takes it away from the Judiciary and gives it to the other two and basically everything we've heard is because of the Claremont decision and basically it would take the courts power to make those decisions that are hard to make, that need to be as independently made as they can be and it would take that away from the judges. So, that's coming up next week and we're hoping that it will be defeated on the floor.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I understand there will be a floor fight on the bill and it is a constitutional amendment so people should know that in order to pass it would need three-fifth's of the members of the House total, not only members present, but total which at this point is 239 and as I understand the committee report was overwhelmingly not to put that on the ballot.

State Representative Craig stated it was 13 to 2.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated we have also been joined by State Representative Carol Williams from Ward 3, a Democrat who is on the Resources & Recreation Committee and I believe she mentioned to me that she has something that she wanted to bring to our attention.

State Representative Buckley interjected I just want to interrupt, I think you very well know that I'm a co-sponsor of the bill that Attorney Craig just represented. I think probably both sides, if you are going to call on Legislators to sit here and have the floor fights that we're going to have...still I'd like to point out that in your scratch note to me that you said that the purpose of this meeting was to have discussion and representation of bills that people sponsored...I'm still waiting as we now have 12, so we have exactly one-third of the Delegation here. So, I guess we can have the continuation of the floor fight if you wish, but I would like you to determine a time when the members of the Delegation are actually going to get together and discuss the legislation that's going to be affecting the City of Manchester.

Mayor Baines stated, Representative Buckley, it seems to me that we're almost appearing that we're on the floor of the House right now and we're on the floor of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen which we're asking for input on legislation and I would hope that that discussion that you have pursued could take place...

State Representative Buckley interjected, your Honor, I would totally agree but Attorney Craig's last comments didn't have anything to do with the piece of legislation that's actually going to affect the taxpayers of the City of Manchester as Representative Vaillancourt states.

Mayor Baines stated okay, thanks, I appreciate your comments but I would say it might affect the people of Manchester in the way they're represented, so I think it's an appropriate introduction at this meeting. Any other comments from any other Representatives, please come forward.

State Representative George LaPorte stated I represent Ward 3 and I'm glad to be in my home. Right now, I'm on Transportation and we have a bill on Driver's Ed reimbursement. It will affect the School Department more than the City, but right now if you take Driver's Ed in a public school you get \$150 back from the State and that usually goes towards books and things like that. What the bill that's before my committee and was already heard this summer and will come out of sub-committee with a favorable vote that the money, the \$150 would go back to the individual student whether they take it in a commercial school or a public school. So, the money that they're using now in the public schools to buy books and stuff that \$150 they won't have, it will go back to the students. So, the cost of taking Driver's Ed in public schools may go up and that may affect the tax rates.

Mayor Baines stated a student who takes Driver's Ed and would normally pay that fee that might differ from community-to-community whether that is a cost that is picked up by the individual school district, but it's been our experience here that the students pay for their own fees for Driver Education.

State Representative LaPorte stated there is that but they still get \$150 back from the State to the tune of close to \$2 million from what I remember. So, that may affect the cost.

State Representative Pappas stated I'm Marc Pappas representing District 47. Mr. Mayor, I'd like to thank you for inviting us here this evening, but I don't think we're accomplishing much. Our time is very limited, you have to get back into session at seven-thirty, is there an appropriate time that we could schedule tonight so that the Delegation knows when the next meeting will be because we've had problems in the past scheduling meetings, we'd like to have a specific time and possibly have a work session where we can get together.

Mayor Baines stated first of all, I didn't see that anywhere in my responsibilities as Mayor to determine when the Legislative Delegation was to get together. It seems like you have some internal issues and I would suggest that you get together and solve them and try not to get me to solve them for you because I don't have the authority to do so, although I wish I did.

State Representative Pappas reiterated we'd just like a time tonight before we get back together, before we take up any more of your time we'll get our act together.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated there are a couple of other very important bills to the City of Manchester that I thought we should discuss and get some input on here and I would certainly be happy if any of my colleagues would like to give Representatives Buckley and Craig some guidance on the floor fight that they're planning on that bill on the judges next week. But, I did have one that's coming up tomorrow that's very relevant to the City of Manchester, it's going to be heard in the Finance Committee and it is the so-called Rooms & Meals Tax Bill that I instituted and some people, including the media, attacked me when I instituted this because they thought it was a bill, if I may mention the word that we'll be mentioning later tonight, take money away from the Civic Center. This is a bill that was instituted, it's 153-FN-Local, so it does have local impact. What this bill would do...right now, we have an 8% Rooms & Meals Tax. This bill would allow every city and town in the State to add four percent onto the Rooms Tax, at their own discretion. This would be for local control. In other words, if Manchester chose to add 4% onto the Rooms Tax, only the Rooms Tax, not the Meals Tax that money would stay in the city or town it is instituted in. I'm sure one of the arguments against this, I like to argue both sides, would be that this would provide a patchwork...some cities and town might have it, some might not. But, this was inspired by a Rep as we heard earlier was home ill tonight, Representative McCarthy. He mentioned how if you go to New York City or Buffalo or Springfield or any other city in the country, probably in North America you're not only paying a state rooms tax, but you're also paying a local tax. We did some work, although the fiscal note is not completely together. This would provide approximately, again it's only approximately about \$4 million a year to the City of Manchester. Now, to arrive at that figure you have to take the total amount that people are spending for rooms inside the City of Manchester and multiply that by 4%. The bill needs a great deal of work and I'm sure there'll be a tremendous amount of opposition when it's heard tomorrow and the other part of this bill would be to have the State retain the portion of the Rooms & Meals Tax that currently comes back to the cities and towns which this year is about \$25 million and the reason for this is because the State is currently giving back \$825 million for the Claremont solution, so now the State has a \$30 million deficit

and it's going to be more than that because we voted to increase the exemption for the Interest & Dividends Tax last week, if that goes all the way through. The Senate is working on getting rid of the Legacy & Succession Tax which could add another \$30-40 million to the deficit. So, this would allow the State to keep that money and, of course, this will be controversial as well. But, I certainly would like to get input as to whether you think it's a good idea, first of all, to add this four percent, to have this four percent add on. Again, it would be at local discretion. Every city and town...this Body would vote on whether Manchester wants to add that four percent. The argument against it could be "no" people won't stay in Manchester, they'll go to Londonderry or Derry if we have an extra four percent on our rooms here. So, I would certainly appreciate any input that you would have as the legislative body that would be voting on this when it comes before this Board, if it gets that far.

Alderman Pariseau asked, Steve, currently how much does the State get from Rooms Tax here in Manchester.

Alderman Vaillancourt replied this is the problem dealing with the data. Right now, they haven't broken it down as to how much comes from rooms and how much comes from meals and they have another problem in that if there is a hotel or a motel that has different branches throughout the State, in other words, if there is a Holiday Inn in Manchester they might not necessarily file for just Manchester. But, if you extrapolate at bringing in another \$4 million at four percent...the State would keep the eight percent.

Alderman Pariseau stated the City still loses.

Alderman Vaillancourt replied no, actually, the City would gain. Because right now the City, this year, I believe gets back...well, you'll find out in the Civic Center discussion about \$2.5 million from the Rooms & Meals Tax and that's going to go up incrementally as you now. Now, again, the data that we have so far to the best of our ability is that Manchester would gain around \$4 million by this extra four percent tax...only on rooms. But, that has to be refined.

State Representative Williams stated I wanted to have you be aware that in the Resource, Recreation & Development Committee I left there today to go to a specific hearing at Education because pending was a bill that would give credit to elementary and secondary school children who study ASL (American Sign Language). Presently, that's the study of the terminology that is used for people who are deaf, but what has happened is there is such a shortage of interpreters we are thinking that (a) this would not cost any money because if it's already taught we just ask that the student get credit such as to Spanish or French or any other language that's taught at school, but it also may encourage children to go onto a career in the profession of interpreting for the deaf which is really in short supply. There just aren't enough interpreters for the demand and we're hoping that that would kind of give them an incentive. The other issue is that we felt that if children were exposed American Sign Language perhaps in primary grades that children who were deaf may be part of the inclusion in activities, recreation or any other school activity a little bit more and also perhaps just generally speaking people who are around others who are

studying American Sign Language sometimes can pick up a little bit here and there. So, basically, it would not cost the City any money, but if it is being taught we would just like the schools to give credit for that as a foreign language.

State Representative White stated I'm on Education and we have a couple of bills coming in which may be of interest to you as Chairman of the School Board as well. Two of them have to do with Special Ed costs. Everybody is trying to solve the problem of costs of Special Education. These are just committees that are going to be formed. One, to study the feasibility of assessing taxes for Special Ed at the county level and I don't know exactly how that is going to be accomplished, but the committee would investigate. Another would be to study the statewide delivery of Special Ed programs and services. Again, a commission to study. We're great people for study committees in education and finally, we'll be meeting next week to discuss and work on HB 21-FN-L relative to the definition and administration of inadequate education. You know that that has been quite a bone of contention. What constitutes adequacy. Now, Representative Ahern the Chairperson of Education and Representative Iris Estabrook have come forth with this bill and I'll just let you know because it isn't suppose to cost school districts any money. The money is supposed to be State money for new personnel in order to carry this out, but the bill...just the analysis, that's all I'll give you...requires each school district to prepare and implement quality standards and a local education improvement and assessment plan. Second, it establishes procedures for the Department of Education to identify local school districts which are in need of assistance. Third, it establishes procedures for the Department of Education to assist in improving the overall quality of educational programs and services offered by such districts. Fourth, it establishes a special projects and district improvement fund within the Department of Education. And, five, it amends the administration of the statewide assessment and improvement program to more effectively measure growth and pupil performance. It would add three additional tests. We now test grades 3, 6 and 10. This would, I believe, add three additional in the following years as a follow-up. And, again, this is just a proposal. It's going to be worked on in committee...it will be a long time before it comes out to the full House.

Mayor Baines stated that sounds like the best news of your whole report. More tests for the kids.

State Representative White stated I guess the theory being...is that the way to measure the success of a school district or a school. I don't know.

Senator D'Allesandro stated I was asked by the City, the previous administration, to submit three pieces of legislation and they will be coming up for hearings. One of them had to do with dog licensing and that seems to be on track and we're okay with that, it's co-sponsored by Senator Wheeler.

Mayor Baines interjected we do have some issues with that and I'd like to make sure you discuss that with Ms. Johnson later.

Senator D'Allesandro stated the second piece of legislation had to do with the Retirement System. You know the last session of the Legislature we had to do some emergency legislation in order that the retirees would receive their benefits and those who were thinking of retiring would be able to retire without any problems. So, I was requested to put in a piece of legislation that would allow for the City of Manchester to (a) retain its own retirement, but (b) once you've had a referendum in the City that would be the final issue and you would not have to go back to the State Legislature. I've received a number of calls from constituents who have some concerns about that bill, but that bill was sponsored at the behest of City government. The third piece of legislation had to do with the recovery of monies spent by a municipality as an intervenor in an electric case. Again, it was asked by the City, the City had spent almost a million dollars in intervenors status...there is a stipulation in the current law that says you can only recover up to \$10,000; that's the maximum that can be recovered. Under this piece of legislation municipalities would be able to recover more than just the \$10,000. Those were the three pieces that I was asked to sponsor. Katie Wheeler is the prime sponsor of the dog bill and I'm the prime sponsor in those other two bills. I don't have copies of the legislation with me, we're a little late in getting things drafted, but I will have them available for your office and certainly any discussion prior to the hearing I'd appreciate from members of the Board and yourself.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated we did have another purpose that we wanted to meet tonight, the City Clerk and I talked about putting this at the end of the agenda and Senator D'Allesandro perhaps could lead us into this. A couple of years ago when you were Chairman of the Delegation there was a meeting every week, I believe, with department heads...Monday mornings and the Legislators. One of the things we wanted to decide tonight is if your Honor and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen felt it would be a useful time of the department heads and if the Delegation wished to do that and if you could give us, from your experience, if it would be necessary to hold this kind of meeting every week, every other week, once-a-month...to get a feeling for that kind of communication that we should try to get together and if the City wishes to do this.

Senator D'Allesandro stated I think the meetings were productive when pieces of legislation that involved individual departments were coming before the Legislature and that department head who had a concern about that piece of legislation would be present and give an iteration as to what the City's position was with regard to that piece of legislation. I think it is very important to all of the municipalities to follow the legislation that directly affects the communities. So, on an as needed basis it makes sense to meet. We have the capability now to extrapolate from the data base all of the bills that pertain to the City. So, those bills should be brought down, shared with the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen and I think at that point in time discussion should be on-going with the department heads because their input would be required in terms of how this Delegation should be voting on particular issues and I think it's a rather critical period in the legislation. We still have education to deal with and there are a number of other things that deal with the municipalities. So, I think it is worthwhile to do on an as needed basis when those items comes before you that directly affect the community.

Mayor Baines stated this wasn't done last year.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated no, it was not. It was done...I think we had one or two meetings last year, but it was done...did you meet every other week or every week.

Senator D'Allesandro replied we tried to meet every other week during the legislative session.

Mayor Baines stated I'd like the opportunity to discuss that with the departments heads, I'll be meeting with them Friday and we can get back to you.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I think one of the problems was that the participation was only eight or nine or ten at some of the meetings. Would some of the Reps here like to do that. Could we get a show of hands of people that would like to continue to do that if the department heads and the Mayor is so inclined.

Alderman O'Neil stated, your Honor, you indicated you were meeting with the department heads...we adopted a policy of the last Board that department heads were to notify the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen when they were to appear to testify in Concord. It was lukewarm, it wasn't that every department did it and I hope we...we ran into cases where the Board wasn't aware of departments testifying on certain legislation, so we thought that would be helpful and secondly, I think one of the intents was to limit the amount of representatives from the City going up there because there are some times when we can have six, eight representatives from the City of Manchester which I think is unnecessary.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business can be presented without unanimous consent, on motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Lopez, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk