

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

February 15, 2000

7:30 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines stated before we call the roll, Troop 135 is a legendary Troop here in Manchester, I've had the occasion to attend so many Eagle Scout ceremonies that they finally made me an Honorary Member a number of years ago and it's wonderful to see all of us involved in promoting youth in our community that young boys like you still are interested in scouting, not only that but have made a tremendous commitment and in making a difference in our community. So, we want to welcome you to our meeting this evening and really commend you for what you're doing for scouting and for what you're doing for our community and thank all of the leaders, as well, for all you do and, of course, Steve Tellier is the Leader over there and Scout Master and we ask you to continue your good work and anybody that we can support we would be more than willing to do so. So, thank you for being with us this evening.

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

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

Absent: Alderman Pariseau

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Informational to be Received and Filed

- A. Copies of minutes of the Manchester Airport Authority held on December 30, 1999.
- B. Copies of minutes of the Manchester Transit Authority held on November 22, 1999 and copies of the Financial and Ridership reports for the months of November and December, 1999.
- E. Communications from Arthur Dion of 175 Revere Avenue expressing his concerns with various matters (i.e., MTA, Highway, EPD, ZBA, etc.).

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- G. Copy of a communication from Attorney Robert Ciandella to the Finance Officer submitting an outline of a recent presentation made to the NH Municipal Association Conference relating to the state of telecommunications infrastructure describing various approaches which can be used by the City to address these issues.

- H.** Communication from Fred Harris, President of Riverfest, Inc., seeking permission of various requests as outlined below during the Riverfest celebration scheduled for September 8, 9 & 10, 2000:
- (a) designation of the area generally bordered by Elm Street to the east, Brook Street to the North, Granite Street to the south, and the Merrimack River to the west as the "Riverfest Area";
 - (b) requesting those possessing valid Arms lease stickers be allowed to park "free-of-charge" in either the Canal Street or Wall Street garages from September 5-11, 2000;
 - (c) the closure of Arms Parking Lot from September 5-11, 2000;
 - (d) closure of the Bedford Street Parking Lot for additional tent set up and other activities; and
 - (e) requesting that the City Clerk be instructed not to issue permits to any vendors in this area during the Riverfest celebration scheduled for September 8, 9, and 10, 2000.
- (Note: concurrent referral to the Committee on Traffic/Public Safety.)**
- I.** Application from Steven Schubert requesting a carnival license from April 13-23, 2000 for the annual Spring Carnival to be held at Singer Family Park, all proceeds to benefit the Central High School Gridiron Club.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

J. Resolutions:

"Amending the 1999 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Six Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Six Dollars (\$6,686) for the 1999 CIP #221199 Refugee Health Program."

"Amending the 2000 Community Improvement Program, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2000 650200 1037 Elm Street Rehabilitation Project."

"Amending the 2000 Community Improvement Program, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) for the 2000 650500 Section 108 Economic Development Loan Fund."

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) from Contingency to Civic Contributions for the NH Charitable Foundation as Startup Monies to Develop a Comprehensive Cultural Plan for the City of Manchester."

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) from Contingency to Civic Contributions for Riverfest, which will be paid back as a priority with proceeds from this year's event."

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to request a transfer of up to Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) from Proceeds of Land Sales at Manchester Airport administered by the Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Authority to City Solicitor's Incidental Account for the Payment of 1999 Real Estate Taxes on the Rubenstein Property."

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

- K.** Communication from the Superintendent of the Hillsborough County Department of Corrections announcing that the Community Service - Inmate Work Program is due to resume on or about March 27, 2000.

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

- L.** Communication from the St. Patrick's Parade Committee requesting "No Parking" on both side of Elm Street from Bridge Street to Lake Avenue on Sunday, March 26th and also requesting the painting of a 5th shamrock at the intersection of Elm and Pleasant Streets and one additional shamrock at the intersection of Elm and Hanover Streets.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

- N.** Recommending that:

- 1) Current outstanding bills with the City's Police, Highway, Parks and Recreation Departments for Riverfest 1999 be held as open receivables. The Riverfest Committee has agreed to pay such bills from cash receipts this year.
- 2) The Riverfest Committee be advanced funding in the amount of \$15,000 for this year's event. Such funds are anticipated to be repaid to the City at such time as the event experiences a "good year" and is able to return them. It is suggested that the funds, when returned, be accepted and remanded to a Riverfest account for future needs that may occur, and for such purpose a resolution has been submitted.

The Committee notes that such recommendations follow a lengthy discussion and review of account expenditures and receivables and historical information that was provided to the Committee.

COMMITTEE ON BILLS ON SECOND READING

- O.** Recommending that Ordinance:

"Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by adding a new Section 130.42, Establishing Public Housing Drug Free Zones."

ought to pass.

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

- P.** Recommending that Resolutions:

"Amending the 1999 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Six Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Six Dollars (\$6,686) for the 1999 CIP #221199 Refugee Health Program."

"Amending the 2000 Community Improvement Program, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2000 650200 1037 Elm Street Rehabilitation Project."

"Amending the 2000 Community Improvement Program, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) for the 2000 650500 Section 108 Economic Development Loan Fund."

be approved.

- R.** Recommending that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen find the subject area of a petition to discontinue a paper street known as Felton Street to have been released and discharged pursuant to RSA 231:51; and for such reason the petition to discontinue be denied.

- S. Recommending that a petition to discontinue a portion of Leandre Street submitted by Cal Colby, Jr. be referred to the next Road Hearing.

COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND BUILDINGS

- T. Recommending that a request from the American Lung Association for permission to display a Volkswagen Bug GL at City Hall Plaza for a few days in March to promote their "Get Bugged About Smoking" campaign be granted and approved.

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

- V. Recommending that a request from Charles Gordon of Cruising Downtown for various street closures, including Elm Street and related areas for an event to be held on June 24, 2000 and use of Arms Park on the same day be granted and approved subject to approval of Police, Fire, Highway, Parks, Risk, Traffic and City Clerk.
- W. Recommending that a request from Intown Manchester for the use of Hanover Street on Thursday, July 6, 13, 20, 27, August 3 and 17 from 6-9 PM for Hanover Happenings, a weekly street festival featuring live theater, dance and music be granted and approved subject to approval of Police Fire, Highway, Risk, Traffic and City Clerk.
- X. Recommending that a request from WGIR AM/FM for closure of streets and the use of Arms Park and the Bridge Street Bridge for their 9th Annual memorial Day Weekend fireworks display scheduled for Sunday, May 28, 2000, with a rain date of Monday, May 29, 2000 be granted and approved under the supervision of the Police, Fire, Highway, Risk, Traffic, and City Clerk.
- Y. Advising that it has approved implementation of the Elm Street Traffic Signal Coordinator Study.
- Z. Recommending that certain regulations governing standing, stopping and parking, be adopted and put into effect when duly advertised.

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

- C. Copy of a communication from the City Clerk to the State Registrar and Chief of the NH Bureau of Vital Records advising that the City of Manchester can no longer issue birth records for any births occurring after January 1, 2000 until such time as a resolution has been found with respect to the implementation of the VRV 2000 on-line program.

Alderman Shea asked Deputy Clerk Johnson to explain a little bit about this problem to Board members and the community at-large.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated a copy of the communication was forwarded to the Board as the Bureau of Vital Records is the agency that the City Clerk's Office works with to issue marriage, death and birth certificates and they're in the process of going on an on-line program and basically what happened is Manchester was not considered a priority and as a result of that the Information Systems Department was not receiving the assistance it needed and we are unable to issue any records from January 1st forward because we're not getting the correct information.

Unfortunately, we're still not on-line. I did speak with the State today, they have responded to this communication and appear to have put Manchester at the top of the list at this point. We anticipate that they will come up with a temporary resolution within a week and then we did work to get what we term a VITTS Program, it's a cable access to the State and that passed Governor and Council at its last meeting, so we're hoping that the VITTS people will be able to resolve the problem for us inside of three or four weeks. But, in the interim they are coming up with a temporary solution for us that we hope to be able to be issuing by next week those new records.

Alderman Shea asked if a person were to have a problem and they were referred to an Alderman, we would refer them to your office and you in turn would let them know how to go about...

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied in getting a birth record, yes. What we've told people this week was they could get it through the State agency itself because they have them there, unfortunately, we didn't have all of the information to be able to issue them. Hopefully, by next week we will be able to do that. So, I would have them call our office and we can keep them updated at that point.

Alderman Shea moved that Item C be received and filed. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

- D.** Communication from the St. Patrick's Parade Committee extending an invitation to Board members to participate in the parade on Sunday, March 26th and requesting RSVP's be phoned in to Jim Sheehan at 623-1977.

Alderman O'Neil stated that the St. Patrick's Day Parade is Sunday, March 26th, we'll step off at one o'clock and there's an invitation to all the members of the Board to march in it. This year, the Parade is honoring the Veteran's of the Korean War in honor of their 50th Anniversary of the war and that Sr. Angie Whidden who is the founder of New Horizons is the Grand Marshall this year. So, we hope all can participate and as always we receive great support from our various City departments in putting this on and moved that Item D be received and filed. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

- F.** Communication from the State of NH, Dept. of Environmental Services advising of additional information required relative to the City's financial assurance requirements for the unlined landfill through the LOGO financial test.

Alderman Shea asked if the Highway Department had submitted the additional information which had been requested.

Mr. Thomas replied this is annual reporting that the State asked for regarding the Landfill project. It has been turned over to the Finance Department and is in the processing of responding to it.

Alderman Shea asked is it usually a problem every year because if I recall we had that same correspondence with last year or the year before.

Mr. Thomas stated they're hot on the City's trail. The Finance Department is stretched in a lot of different ways and unfortunately it gets past down on the list of priorities, but it has been focused on by the Finance Department and is in the process of responding. It is basically financial assurances that the State wants.

Alderman Shea moved that Item F be receive and filed. Alderman Clancy duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

- M.** Communication from the Economic Development Director submitting a spread sheet showing expenses paid through January 31, 2000 in connection with the Phase II Civic Center budget.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated regarding Item M, I did not see any item on the agenda regarding the so-called Civic Center, so I thought I would take this off as a means of addressing this issue. I believe at the last Board meeting, we were assured that this Board would be informed every step of the way and that an update would be forthcoming on a regular basis and then we read in the newspaper that one of the four banks seems to have pulled out, we're not sure which one. So, I'm just wondering if there is going to be an update on this item tonight under some other part of the agenda.

Alderman Wihby responded that the Special Committee on the Civic Center will be meeting on the 22nd.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated while I am somewhat disconcerted that items like this appear in the paper when I think that the proper forum should be for items like this to come to elected officials. We have the same problem at the Hillsborough County Delegation regarding the Hillsborough County Jail...when nobody in the delegation knew any except what they read in the paper. I think this is an abrogation of our responsibilities and I was hoping that we could get away from this. I also do have four or five items I wish to handout tonight. Two letters from Mayor John Mongan which have been sent to me. One was dated February 9th and another one which I just received in the mail this afternoon, I have not had a chance to make copies of yet. I also received some documentation on the Whittemore Center in Durham showing that where it not for a \$1.3 million recreation fee paid by the students at UNH the Whittemore Center would not be operating in the black. I also got the...

Mayor Baines interjected in all due respect, if we're going to focus on the business at hand and you know procedures as well as I do we're talking about a communication from the Economic Development Director submitting a spreadsheet showing expenses paid through January 31, 2000 in connection with Phase II of the Civic Center budget. If you'd like to confine your discussion to that item...as you know that would be in accordance with the procedures to be followed. So, if you'd...

Alderman Vaillancourt interjected I am submitting all of these documents and I'm just giving you the packet. The other two documents are some attendance figures I managed to get from Lowell and Portland.

Mayor Baines stated thank you very much and called for a motion on Item M.

Alderman Pinard moved that Item M be referred to the Special Committee on the Civic Center. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Q. Recommending that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen accept the Manchester Water Works budget transmittal and report of 1999.

Alderman Gatsas stated I have some questions, I was not available for the CIP Committee and I was the one that had referred this item to Committee and I was wondering if they could come forward and I could ask them a few of the questions. I was wondering if you could help me clarify a couple of things. I think there was a statement made at CIP that if there was a change in water rates that it would cost somewhere in the vicinity of \$200,000 to effect those rates and I think the reduction that I talked about for the last five years was intown water rates which we can change up or down at any time without any PUC approvals and without any cost to the City, is that correct.

Mr. Bowen replied yes it is.

Alderman Gatsas stated the next question I have is the five percent water rate reduction or the \$400,000 I was talking about and the motions that I made and President Soucy had seconded a few years ago was based on the City rates. Now, can you tell me how many customers we have in the City, roughly.

Mr. Bowen replied approximately 26,000.

Alderman Gatsas stated okay 26,000, so the water rate reduction based on \$400,000 if we were eliminating...obviously, I have a copy of the last three year's statements here which shows a profit of about a million dollars a year. Now, that doesn't include depreciation and we all know that depreciation is an item that we deduct when we're a tax paying entity. Now, the Water Works is not a tax paying entity, so again that depreciation number is a paper number to the

Water Works. So, if we took that depreciation and dropped it down it would really be about a \$2.5 million profit. Is that correct.

Mr. Bowen replied in the affirmative.

Alderman Gatsas asked can you tell me at this point why we went from about forty a ratepayer in the City to sixteen. Maybe sixteen was a number you were talking about, the total ratepayers.

Mr. Bowen replied a five percent reduction in the water rates, if the water rates for a single family residential customer are in the range of \$166. Five percent of that number is approximately \$8.00 a year and \$8.00 a year divided by four quarters would be \$2.00 a quarter.

Alderman Gatsas stated okay, but my motion to reduce water rates was based on the total operating revenue of \$9 million which a five percent reduction of that would be about \$450,000 that would go back directly to the ratepayers in the City.

Mr. Bowen stated I have no information about what your motion was, Alderman.

Alderman Gatsas stated for the last five years you never understood my motion.

Mr. Bowen stated your motion was for a five percent reduction in water rates.

Alderman Gatsas interjected based on the revenues. So, all I'm looking for is my clear answers when you said to the CIP that it was about a \$200,000 cost to Water Works to change that and also that the million dollars was there to reduce bonding. Now, if we look at this and go back to retained earnings, we'll take a look that retained earnings in just the last three years has jumped \$9 million on the retained earnings side, is that correct.

Mr. Bowen responded in the affirmative.

Alderman Gatsas stated I just wanted to make sure that the CIP people got the right information that it really wasn't a cost to the City. Thank you.

Alderman Pinard moved to accept, receive and adopt the report of the Committee on CIP.

Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Report of the Committee on Lands and Buildings

- U. Advising that it has voted to allow the Police Department to proceed with site selection for a new Police station.

Alderman Levasseur stated it's concerning the Police Department, the ability to proceed with the site selection for a new Police station. In Committee, we discussed the fact that they're allowed to proceed to look for a site and the question that concerned the Committee was whether they

would be any money in the CIP budget to purchase a Police station. I'd hate to send these professionals who are working in the City working for the Police station on a wild goose chase looking for sites if there's not going to be any money in the CIP budget for them and I was wondering if you could give us some sort of an indication on what your plan is for that as far as money for a site.

Alderman Cashin stated as Chairman of Lands and Buildings what we said is that they can continue looking at a site at no cost to the City, so there's no money involved here.

Alderman Levasseur stated it doesn't matter about the money for them to go look at the sites, it's still a time factor, in their minds they think they're going to be getting a site, they're going to go through a site selection process and if there's no money in there for the budget now, then why are we even allowing this to go forward.

Alderman Cashin stated I think we were very explicit at the Lands and Buildings Committee. We told them there could be no commitment until we knew what the budget was for CIP.

Alderman Levasseur stated that's the question. I'm wondering if you have any plans to do that. If you don't have any plans for putting money in the budget for it now, should we even allow this process to go any further.

Alderman O'Neil stated I've had a number of discussions with you with regards to the entire CIP budget and every time you've indicated you're continuing to work on it, you're waiting to gather information and I certainly don't want to speak for you, but I do want to speak to the conversations we've had with regards to CIP and you're looking at everything from schools to Police to Fire to infrastructure and when you're ready to present the budget that's when we'll know when to move.

Mayor Baines stated I've also made it very clear to the Chairman of the CIP that that will be an inclusive process, the people be a part of the decision-making process that I end up with and we have tremendous requests for CIP, don't we Mr. MacKenzie. So, we have a tremendous task before us and I think Alderman Cashin's committee handled that appropriately, I think everybody is clear, they understood that this is under a very difficult situation right now because of the demands of the City, but we're not prepared to announce the CIP budget at this time.

Alderman Wihby asked, your Honor, can you explain to us when you would expect the Aldermen to have the CIP budget and when do we expect voting and the same with the budget material.

Mayor Baines asked, Mr. MacKenzie, would you outline the schedule...I thought we had distributed that schedule.

Mr. MacKenzie stated there is a schedule that would bring and again hopefully we'll be looking at an expedited process so projects could occur this summer. It is proposed that the Mayor would be presenting the CIP budget at the first meeting in March, then the Board would review it for approximately a month, looking for actions...there'd basically be two meetings where actions would be required at the April meetings.

Alderman Wihby stated so we'd be looking at the first meeting in April to have the CIP budget done.

Mr. MacKenzie replied yes, that is correct.

Alderman O'Neil asked might it be possible that the Planning staff send out that tentative CIP schedule to the Board members.

Mayor Baines replied we will definitely do that. I thought you had already received it.

Alderman O'Neil stated we may have, your Honor, but it might be good to get it out again.

Alderman Wihby asked are we just talking the expedited or the whole CIP.

Mr. MacKenzie responded we think you should see the entire CIP budget, so you'd be reviewing the entire budget.

Alderman Vaillancourt commented that I did have the opportunity to tour the Police Department a week or so ago and the very gracious invitation from the Police Chief and unless they knew that I was coming and quickly moved boxes and boxes of evidence from its usual storage place into the area where the heating facility is located, I was absolutely appalled that we do not have the proper space. So, I would certainly move that we go forward with looking for a new site selection and hope that we can do as much as possible to expedite this. So, I move the question.

Mayor Baines stated before I accept your motion, I urge you to continue your tour of public facilities throughout the City.

Alderman Hirschmann stated with regard to that issue, your Honor, I do wish the current site The Ralph Miller Public Safety Center be included on their list because I do feel that a building addition and expansion is a viable process and if they did do a study of their existing space we might not need a site selection process.

Mayor Baines stated I appreciate your comments and we'll be looking at all possible options in terms of that project.

Alderman Vaillancourt moved to receive and file Item U. Alderman Hirschmann duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

6. Introduction by Alderman Shea of Mr. Patrick "Pat" Bernard as an Aldermanic intern.

Alderman Shea stated the Aldermanic Intern Program actually goes back to when Francoise Elise was on the Board and she began to have interns. So, I do have an Intern and I'd like to give a brief biography. Patrick Bernard attended Hallsville School and from there he went onto Southside Jr. High School. He is now presently a senior at Memorial High School. At Memorial Pat has played football and was recently the varsity football captain. He is also the captain of both the winter and the spring track teams. During his junior year, he was Treasurer/Director of Operations for the Devine, Millimet Explorers of Law. He is presently involved in the Student Council, the Latin Club, the Astronomy Club, the JCL and he plays CYO basketball. In the fall, he will be attending college most likely at UNH where he has been accepted for early admission. So, I'd like to introduce my inter, Pat Bernard.

7. Communication from Alderman Levasseur submitting his resignation as a member of the Committee on Joint School Buildings.

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Lopez, it was voted to accept the resignation of Alderman Levasseur as a member of the Committee on Joint School Buildings.

8. Mayor Baines made the following nominations:

Building Board of Appeals:

Fred Matuszewski to succeed himself, term to expire January 8, 2005.

Manchester Development Corporation Board of Directors:

Scott Ellison to succeed Pamela Diamantis, term to expire March 11, 2000;

Scott Ellison to succeed himself, term to expire March 11, 2003.

Highway Commission:

George Gott to succeed himself, term to expire January 15, 2003.

As per the rules of the Board, these nominations will layover until the next meeting of the Board.

9. Confirmation of the nomination of Robert J. Jobin to succeed himself as a member of the Highway Commission, term to expire January 15, 2003.

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Clancy, it was voted to confirm the nomination of Robert J. Jobin to succeed himself as a member of the Highway Commission, term to expire January 15, 2003.

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

Mayor Baines called the meeting back to order.

OTHER BUSINESS

12. A report of the Committee on Finance was presented recommending that Resolutions:

"Amending the 1999 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Six Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Six Dollars (\$6,686) for the 1999 CIP #221199 Refugee Health Program."

"Amending the 2000 Community Improvement Program, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2000 650200 1037 Elm Street Rehabilitation Project."

"Amending the 2000 Community Improvement Program, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) for the 2000 650500 Section 108 Economic Development Loan Fund."

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) from Contingency to Civic Contributions for the NH Charitable Foundation as Startup Monies to Develop a Comprehensive Cultural Plan for the City of Manchester."

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) from Contingency to Civic Contributions for Riverfest, which will be paid back as a priority with proceeds from this year's event."

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to request a transfer of up to Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) from Proceeds of Land Sales at Manchester Airport administered by the Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Authority to City Solicitor's Incidental Account for the Payment of 1999 Real Estate Taxes on the Rubenstein Property."

ought to pass and be Enrolled

Alderman Thibault moved to accept, receive and adopt the first report of the Committee on Finance. Alderman Hirschmann duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

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

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Six Hundred Sixty Thousand One Hundred Sixty-eight Dollars (\$660,168) for the FY2000 School District Lease Programs (portable classrooms at Hillside and Southside Middle Schools.)"

ought to pass and layover; and further recommends that the School Board be asked to reconsider their position regarding the leasing of portable classrooms.

Alderman Pinard moved to accept, receive and adopt the second report of the Committee on Finance. Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

13. Communication from the Building Commissioner submitting a petition for demolition and removal of a hazardous building located at 218-220 Pine Street.

Alderman Clancy moved to make findings and issue an order to correct the existing hazardous condition by demolishing and removing the building located at 218-220 Pine Street and filling any cellar hole. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas stated obviously it is going to cost the City something to remove this building. What is the plan for that lot once that building is removed.

Mr. LaFreniere replied that lot is owned in private ownership at this time and until such time as non performance of liens in the form of tax liens or liens for this sort of work runs the statutory time limit, the City would not be empowered to take the property. So, we're not proposing at this juncture to take the property; that said there are existing tax liens and existing wastewater liens on the property and there's a clock that's already in motion.

Alderman Gatsas asked of mortgages.

Mr. LaFreniere stated there are some liens and judgments against the property. We understand that some of these have been satisfied as a result of insurance settlements. The City Solicitor can probably respond more in depth about that from the standpoint of...I know Dan Muller has spent considerable time and effort trying to research the lien history at the Registry on this property. What our practice is typically in case of property held in private ownership, this is a first step. We now take this petition and move forward and order the demolition of the structure to the owner. When the owner does not perform as we expect may be the case in this instance, we'll go to the Court and ask for authorization to move forward and execute the demolition using City funds and will place commensurate liens on the property to cover the costs of that demolition including administrative costs.

Alderman Gatsas asked what do you assume your cost is going to be.

Mr. LaFreniere replied it's difficult to say at this point, we haven't done any research in the form of soliciting bids. We do have some experience in structures of this nature. We may be in a situation where we could receive bids anywhere from thirty to fifty thousand dollars depending on the presence of hazardous materials.

Alderman Gatsas moved that Item 13 be referred to the Committee on Lands and Buildings until we get an idea of what the cost is to the City and whether we can recoup our money.

Mayor Baines asked if there is a delay, will that affect anything.

Mr. LaFreniere replied any delay on this process obviously will result a delay in removing the hazard. We would typically only bring properties to the Board that we have no other means of affecting a compliance order on and this is the case here. We have essentially an owner that has vacated his responsibilities on the property and the statutory process enables the municipality to move forward and abate the hazard. We could as a municipality choose not to do that, but then we're burdened with having that hazard existing there and no means of getting it abated.

Mayor Baines noted there is already a motion on the floor.

Alderman Sysyn commented I have been working three years to get a building down in my ward that was burned out...three years...it's in court now. We gave permission to the City to take it down and it's still in court.

Alderman Clancy asked why is the cost to tear this building down so high. Is there any asbestos.

Mr. LaFreniere replied we are anticipating that given the age of the building that some hazardous materials are in there and probably some asbestos. Again, I'm reluctant to try to nail any particular cost down. A recent experience with the Smoscean Building, for example, was that our low bid was in the vicinity of \$35,000 and the bid range went up to about \$56,000 for the removal of that project.

Alderman Clancy asked do you have monies in your budget for this.

Mr. LaFreniere replied this particular property is in the target area. So, we're anticipating using SPOT clearance funds that come from CDBG funds that have already been allocated by this Board for this type of purpose.

Alderman Wihby stated normally these only come to us when there's a hazardous situation and I think if we delay this any longer to look into it, we're talking probably another month before we take it up. I think there's some liability if we sit around and not do anything.

Alderman Lopez stated maybe that was my question. If we don't act on this, is this is a liability.

Mr. LaFreniere replied we have made a determination that the building is hazardous in its current condition. Both from the standpoint of being an attractive nuisance as well because we can't attest to what the structural stability of the building is at this present time. I don't believe that the hazard is eminent in the form of the building collapsing, for example, but it is deteriorating rapidly because it's completely open to the weather. So, it is definitely a hazard.

Alderman Cashin stated I have a question in reference to Alderman Sysyn. She mentioned that she has a building that she's been waiting to have demolished. Isn't that in the target area also.

Mr. LaFreniere replied it's 47 Nashua Street and that is also in the target area.

Alderman Cashin stated you're saying you can tear this one down because it's in the target area, why hasn't her's been torn down.

Mr. LaFreniere stated what I'm saying is the source of the funds that we would utilize to tear this building down would be, as a matter of course, from the same funding source. Because these buildings are held in private ownership the statute defines a specific course of action must be taken. As a municipal organization...go on somebody's property and tear down their building. There has been a very long and sorted history associated with that particular property in the form of changes of ownership and bankruptcy filings and banks taking the property over and it has been a particular problem and I have never, in my experience, had a property that has gone through as many different fits and starts as that particular project has. I think that we're finally underway with that, once again, through the courts to hopefully get an order in the short term.

Alderman Cashin stated I'm not trying to give you a hard time, but I wouldn't have any problem as Chairman of Lands and Buildings to turn these things over to Lands and Buildings with the understanding that you keep along the process, do whatever you have to do, but we kind of keep an eye on it to find out where they are, so at least we could answer the questions that an Alderman might bring up and that might not be a bad idea.

Alderman Shea stated I think that brings us to the question that has been raised several times about property that disintegrates, that people like...the property at the corner of Union and Shasta that is just a terrible thing and nobody can do a thing about it because it seems that the law protects these people who boarded it up and put some kind of thing that doesn't allow people to break into it, but they are eyesores and legislation, I believe, was filed somewhere up in Brunswick, Maine where they're taking these places. It's too bad that we couldn't work together as a body and say this place has been vacant for ten years or five years or three years and it's about time that we get rid of this blight in the neighborhood, it just add up that we can't do anything about it. A house has to be almost falling apart before we do anything about it and I don't think that's a prudent way to approach it, Leon. Maybe you can investigate and come back to Lands and Buildings or some committee and say finally we have some teeth into these things.

Mr. LaFreniere stated we'd be happy to do that. It would dovetail well with an initiative that we have underway currently in the department; that being to essentially compile an inventory of all of these structures through the City that are in some form of blighted status and our goal is, as we develop this inventory, to take that a step further and develop an action plan for each property. Now, obviously, we are constrained by the limitations in the statute which really deal with hazardous structures. Do not deal as effectively with structures that have purely aesthetic constraints imposed on them, but I think that we're working in the direction of trying to develop

an inventory that will both identify the condition of these properties as well as prioritize for our efforts how we should approach getting some sort of compliance and as I indicated the development of an action plan to effect that.

Alderman Shea in reference to statutes asked is it the State that requires, are you asking the State or the City to change statutes and I don't want to prolong this, but is it the State that need to change the statutes or the City, where does it begin.

Mr. LaFreniere replied it's a multi-level process. Our Building Code provides for a certain level of standards that must be adhered to with regard to the maintenance of structures, both in terms of any hazards that they might represent as well as their functional performance, the safety considerations if they're occupied. In the event, that we have a failure to gain compliance using our local Building Code this particular course of action that we are asking you to take here is RSA 155-B that permits the municipality to petition the court to ask for permission to tear down this otherwise privately-held property or to abate the hazard, I believe is more closely...it reflects what the statute says. Usually, where we use this is only in the most extreme cases where we can't be in compliance. Where we have an unresponsive property owner or a property owner who has abandoned his responsibility to maintain the property.

Mayor Baines suggested Alderman Cashin's committee could have another discussion about this and see if there is some way that we can expedite this and thank you for your testimony and called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

14. Communication from the State of NH, Department of Children, Youth & Families extending an invitation to a City representative to attend a one-day seminar on delinquency prevention efforts on February 22, 2000 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at The Margate on Winnipesaukee.

Alderman Shea moved to nominate Regis Lemaire, Director of the Office of Youth Services to be the City representative. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

15. Resolutions:

"Amending the 1999 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Six Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Six Dollars (\$6,686) for the 1999 CIP #221199 Refugee Health Program."

"Amending the 2000 Community Improvement Program, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2000 650200 1037 Elm Street Rehabilitation Project."

"Amending the 2000 Community Improvement Program, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) for the 2000 650500 Section 108 Economic Development Loan Fund."

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) from Contingency to Civic Contributions for the NH Charitable Foundation as Startup Monies to Develop a Comprehensive Cultural Plan for the City of Manchester."

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) from Contingency to Civic Contributions for Riverfest, which will be paid back as a priority with proceeds from this year's event."

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to request a transfer of up to Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) from Proceeds of Land Sales at Manchester Airport administered by the Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Authority to City Solicitor's Incidental Account for the Payment of 1999 Real Estate Taxes on the Rubenstein Property."

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Lopez, it was voted that the Resolutions be read by titles only, and it was so done.

Alderman Pinard moved that the Resolutions pass and be Enrolled. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

16. NEW BUSINESS

Communication relative to a proposed amendment dealing with taxicabs.

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted that the communication be referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading.

Communication from the Riverside Antique Show.

On motion of Alderman Levasseur, duly seconded by Alderman Lopez, it was voted to refer the communication from Riverside to the Special Committee on the Civic Center.

Communication from Mayor Baines regarding civic contributions advising that the Finance Department would processing billing of the Arts Commission.

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to approve the communication from Mayor Baines.

Alderman O'Neil stated we received today, maybe yesterday, a communication from Bob Beaurivage, Deputy Director of Water Works regarding legislation. I think it's fantastic. I have to believe that other departments are going up there and aren't forwarding us their positions, but my only concern with this one is that it doesn't let us know what the City's position is on any of these bills. So, maybe if your office could work with the departments on clearing that up. Again, I appreciate it and I think we need to remind some of our other departments, I think Carol

spoke on one issue at one point, Frank Thomas has spoken, but I have to believe that other departments going up there.

Mayor Baines stated we are attempting to coordinate it and again David Scannell from my office is handling that.

Alderman Wihby stated I have two items. They're almost related, but not quite. Is the Riverfront Committee having a meeting on the 22nd and that's just for that proposal. So, I guess I can wait until then. But, I guess my concern was reading the article in the newspaper about that building on the corner and it was taken for taxes and then it wasn't taken for taxes and something happened and all that. Are you familiar with that, your Honor.

Mayor Baines replied I don't have the history on that to participate in the discussion.

Alderman O'Neil stated it would be my opinion and only my opinion that there was a window of opportunity for us to do something and we didn't do it. Now, it's tied up in court.

Alderman Wihby asked can we have her come in to the next meeting just to explain what happened and if that was due to us not meeting.

Alderman O'Neil stated I just want to make it clear that that's my opinion, that there was a window.

Mayor Baines stated again, I do not have the history on that, but I would be glad to work on it.

Alderman Wihby stated the second item is on the Riverfront. I know that when we passed this proposal my thought was that we were going to do and Alderman O'Neil can probably answer it, but the big economic development part of this was Granite Street north and we decided that we were going to do an area on the other side of the street because we could start that sooner and we had to wait for other construction projects and now I guess the proposal is going to be we do a different area which is closer to Queen City Avenue, so we're not taking that middle but going more south.

Alderman O'Neil stated at the last meeting of the Riverfront Committee there was some discussion with the consultants and City staff about where to proceed. Knowing very well that there was the need to have a special meeting with the Board, the recommendation from the Committee to the Board next week will be that we do Phase I(b) which is from the railroad trestle southerly, it's the cheapest portion to do (southerly toward Queen City Avenue), but a second recommendation is we commit design money to start Phase III which is the Granite Street Bridge northerly and tie it in with the improvements that are going to be done in that area.

Alderman Wihby asked if we do do the first part I(b) could we start on the north of Granite Street and not do the other one.

Alderman O'Neil replied I think one of the discussions had to do with the design and construction of I(b) could be done very quickly, it's about 60 to 90 days to design, it's pretty much flat, most of it is a sewer easement currently...that the design northerly is a little more involved and could take up to six months to design...there's some issues with the river and keeping in mind that the Granite Street Bridge is probably going to be widened there, so that's what was discussed and presented by the consultants at the last meeting.

Alderman Wihby stated even if we had the money from I(b) you don't think we'd move forward on the northern portion of Granite.

Alderman O'Neil replied because it would take a little longer to design. I think in working with the Planning staff we're taking a look again at everything and actual commitments of money and we may be able to commit some money to start construction, but I do know that the design of that portion was very involved. So, we thought that was a step in the right direction. Again, that is all going to be presented to the Board next week.

Alderman Lopez stated I'd like to address my remarks to the City Solicitor and the Finance Officer. I've had some questions and some people have advocated certain things and we received correspondence tonight in reference to the ten Aldermen that have to vote for bonding...speaking about the Civic Center...and also the bonding itself as to whether or not the Rooms & Meals money could be used to bond \$50 million and I'd like to clear that up for the public so that we completely understand and we can taken them in any order of the vote, first of all, from the City Solicitor and then the bonding from the Finance Officer.

Solicitor Clark stated to pass a bond resolution you do have to have ten vote. This Board was presented with a bond resolution on the Civic Center project in December of 1998, I believe and it did pass by the required ten votes at that time.

Mayor Baines stated I'm glad you asked for clarification because that question has come up several times, when was the vote actually taken. The next question is related to whether that money could be used for bonding to pay off school construction or other things of that nature, could we also have clarification on that too.

Mr. Clougherty stated there are two sections in the statutes that we deal with. One is a section that's entitled "Municipal Revenue Bonds" and under Municipal Revenue Bonds you can issue them for basically enterprises or cash generating facilities. So, you can issue them for the Airport or that type of an operation and that's what's happening with the Civic Center. You're taking that money out of the General Fund, putting it to the side to be used to support a tax generating facility, that's one section of statute and when you're out there what happens is just

that revenue stream is what's used to support that bond and that itself is what's the measure of the credit worthiness of the bond issue. So, you're able to take that revenue stream and issue \$50 million. The other section of statutes that we deal with is for roads and city buildings and schools and because they don't generate revenue, they're not revenue generating facilities you can't issue revenue bonds for them, you have to issue what's known as General Obligation. And, when they consider general obligation debt, the major consideration that they look at in terms of your debt capacity and they being the Wall Street investors and the credit rating agencies is how much valuation you have, not how much revenue you have necessarily. So, the biggest measure there is if your valuation goes up. So, because you would have the Rooms & Meals money in the General Fund it doesn't increase the real property value of the City in and of itself and that doesn't give you additional bonding capacity.

Mayor Baines stated so basically the money could not be used for that purpose.

Alderman Shea stated I attended a meeting of the CIP Committee and I want to compliment Alderman O'Neil for making it an open meeting which was very good and enlightening. Mr. Vaillancourt and I did attend and I also want to compliment Alderman Cashin for doing the same thing for the Lands and Buildings meeting and I think it really helps out the members of the Board if they're not on the committee to be able to go in and listen and then possibly participate if they have an opportunity to do so. And, a second point, your Honor, is I want to express Mr. Morin's gratefulness to the City, he has a Sunoco station on Valley Street and it's been in the family for many, many years and he wanted me publicly to express his appreciation to the community for the support that they gave him. He was devastated at first, but when the community rallied around him and his son and the other members he certainly appreciates that. So, that's a neighborhood kind of situation and we want to make sure that we help our people in the neighborhood who run small businesses and I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I was bringing this up because I thought the Clerk was going to...it's informational...the Committee on Administration unanimously moved tonight to revoke the entertainment license for The Pyramid Entertainment Complex...it was a business license and there were provisions in there that was felt were violated.

Mayor Baines asked does that require full Board action.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied no.

Mayor Baines commended the Board for taking that stand. I think it's time that we stood up to the situation as we talk about quality of life in our neighborhoods; that is certainly a situation as I've heard Alderman Cashin speak about that on many occasions over the years and we stand fully behind the action that the Committee took and I commend the Committee for that action.

Alderman Cashin stated I'd like to thank the Committee for their support.

Alderman Levasseur stated since I've only been here five weeks, one of the reasons why I got into government was to see how the City was working and what was going on behind the scenes as a person who's been in business in Manchester and lived here all of my life...last week at the audit meeting, we started at six-thirty and I don't think we finished until ten-thirty. I just want to say thank you to Carol Johnson, Deputy City Clerk for being there with us the whole time. She was phenomenal, she stayed with us the whole time. It's amazing to me that these City workers come to work as early as they do and stay as late as they do to make sure that we have what we need to move along the process and I just want to say that so far I've been completely impressed with the City staff.

Mayor Baines stated I appreciate your comments and I reiterate them. As a new Mayor that staff has been invaluable to me in trying to fulfill our responsibilities and I cannot say enough about the staff in City Hall.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I see our friend is not here now, but I'd like to bring up the matter as we try to make government open and comfortable for the public of an armed Policeman being in these Chambers most of the time. Is it the policy of the City to have an armed Policeman here when there are meetings here all the time. What is our policy on that.

Mayor Baines stated Policemen when they are on duty are always armed, that's part of the way...the idea of a Policeman being on duty at City Hall I'll ask the Clerk to give the history on that.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated generally speaking the Clerk's Office controls the security contract and we have a security guard in the building, but when we expect a larger than normal crowd we will sometimes request the Police Department to have an officer available just to make sure that everything is okay.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I would just like to express my opposition to the fact that during Aldermanic meetings and when you have various meetings in this room that there's no threat to the public, that Police officers are here with an armed weapon and I don't think it's the kind of thing we need, I think it sends the wrong message.

Mayor Baines stated I have great admiration and respect for our Police Department as we all do and my experience with them I do not look at them as a threat. They're part of our community, they're in our schools, they're in our community and I welcome seeing them and I think it's nice that they're here to watch government in action.

Alderman O'Neil stated it's unfortunate today but there are problems, we had a citizen around Inauguration Day that the Police officers had to prevent from coming beyond the gates. It's a way of life, the State's no different. It is my understanding that they have a uniformed trooper in both the State House and the Annex now. It's unfortunate, but I appreciate the Police

Department and the support they give the City Clerk down here and I feel a little bit safer. In my history here we have had some citizens that have threatened Aldermen before.

Mayor Baines stated it's an interesting comment and it's become a way of life for a lot of my colleagues who are mayor's right now too and I think we should be very grateful in our City that that is not a concern that we have and I had a conversation with Mayor Mennino about that a couple of weeks ago and he felt a bit envious of me that I could just get in my car and go about and do what I need to do and I think that speaks a lot for our great City and the security that this Police Department has brought to the City as well.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated we do have Police officials at the State House and the Legislative Office Building, but they do not go into committee hearings whether it's testimony unless there's a reason to be called in and I noticed we don't have an officer here now, so apparently the officer's not here permanently, just wanders around.

Mayor Baines asked, Chief, would you like to respond. Please come forward. And, while you're on the way up, I'd like to commend you for the recent report that you issued on crime statistics which indicate that our Police Department is out there doing a terrific job as we all know and appreciate.

Chief Driscoll stated thank you, Mayor, I appreciate the letter that you wrote to the Police Department on that issue. I feel very comfortable having a Police officer here. He's here prior to the meeting, just to keep order, to answer questions, to help people come and go. He is, of course, armed. He's armed because that is part of his uniform. He would not put on his uniform without being armed. I would tell you that tonight at about eight o'clock when things seemed to be going rather well at this meeting, I dismissed him. He has a lot more important things to do, but I think it is a very important part of his responsibilities to be here as the meeting opens and gets started. There have been times in the past when I thought I would be needed or that he would be needed and I feel very comfortable with that. He is here for the citizens of Manchester to make them feel more secure, not to alarm them.

Mayor Baines asked are there any questions of the Chief or further comments. Unless the Board were to take any action that policy will continue and I also want to commend you for the efforts to secure the funding for those DWI checkpoints too and you may want to briefly comment and I was also pleased to hear that a lot of people stopped were very pleased that the Police were out there doing that too.

Chief Driscoll stated that's true. We do a survey, people are stopped for less than two minutes, they are given a thank you card from both myself and Col. Sloper of the NH State Police. We did identify two 15 year olds that were driving on that particular evening, there were a number of summonses given, there were two DWI's taken off the streets of Manchester and we think that's a very successful program. It's funded by the NH Highway Safety Agency, no cost to the City. We work hand-in-hand with the NH State Police. We are the first of 21 communities that

will participate in that program this year and we will be doing it again later on and it's a good partnership and it makes for a safer community.

Mayor Baines stated we are beginning to plan our Mayor's "Night Out" as we promised that we'd be doing. We're doing one so far in Ward 7 later in March and one in Ward 8, I think we're working with the two Aldermen involved and if you're interested in working with our office to schedule such an event we're more than willing to do that and other Aldermen that are willing to come and just listen to some of the things that are happening in the community. We're also going to be joining the airwaves soon to give some competition to some of my colleagues sitting in this room perhaps with a different slant, but we'll be doing a live call-in program from my office beginning in March. We believe it's the 22nd of March and we'll have more information on that. I hope that our first guests will be the Co-Chairs of the Task Force for Manchester's Future. We have identified a Co-Chair of the Committee and will be making an announcement later this week and I'll be meeting with Dr. Dupuis, I believe on Friday morning to begin the next phase of that process which is well underway. You all should be aware that we did have a "Get Acquainted" meeting with representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers yesterday to talk about their involvement in helping communities address building needs in the community. I met with the General in charge of the Army Corps when I was in Washington a few weeks ago and learned, to my surprise, that they were heavily involved with communities across the country helping communities as another government agency address some of the critical needs. They first got involved in the DC situation with their schools...we don't compare to that, I will assure you...it was just an initial discussion, we don't know if it's going to be possible, there may be some procurement issues and things like that, but we were very encouraged by the discussion and the availability of an organization with that kind of credibility to come in and do an objective analysis of where we are in terms of our buildings across the City. I've also been meeting with a core group and will continue meeting to talk about our Higher Ed Research Development Initiative...perhaps in the Millyard area, working with higher ed to entice people to come into Manchester, to engage in some of that high technical research opportunities. We had an initial meeting and are very encouraged by that and we are going to continue those discussions soon. I attended the Manchester Development Corporation retreat on Friday (all day)...as a couple of the Aldermen also attended with us and you should know that the two areas that were identified by MDC for continued work and included very high on the list the Civic Center and the second almost equal to it were the parking issues related to the Downtown and Millyard areas. Another area that we are going to be working with MDC on is developing a high-class web site for the City and I met with the representative from MDC who will be working with us on that and we'll be having some initial meetings shortly. We have also had some initial meetings with a upstart group of people called GovWorks.Com which is in the process of working with communities across the country to allow citizens to access government services such as paying their bills on-line and we've had initial discussions with Diane Prew and Information Services and some of the key departments across the City, it's just an exploratory effort. I did brief Alderman Gatsas on it, he wasn't available last week and I'll be doing a follow-up with him on that as we try to move government into the age providing services to the consumers in the way their dealing with private business. So, I think there's some opportunities

there, we're not going to reach there tomorrow or perhaps the next few months, but it's a goal that we're working toward and I think it has unique possibilities for our community. I also attended a meeting of the NH Municipal Association last week, an organization that is very important to our State and we pay significant dues to it, by the way, and need to take advantage of the different activities. Their major initiative is to pass a Home Rule Referendum this fall which will be Ballot Question #1 which will really streamline the process of addressing the needs of local governments without having to go to the Legislature and I don't know if Alderman Vaillancourt would like to speak to that, I'm not sure where you're at on that issue. If you know there are a lot of things you have to go to Concord for to get enabled to do and Home Rule will basically eliminate that step and perhaps even make our Legislature more efficient in terms of dealing with some of the critical issues, so that they don't have to deal with things that really should be under local control and local options. I maybe coming back to you soon with a resolution in support of that because the key thing from my perspective is awareness, that the people understand that local governments across the State are behind that and we need to think about that and there may be people with contrary opinions, but I think we need to get involved with that and again some wonderful people involved. And, finally, the last two things I was at Bakersville School today, it was just a wonderful opportunity to go in and I'd hope that you are invited into the schools as I seem to be quite a bit lately and take 15 or 20 minutes and go and read to some of the children in the schools and see how appreciative they are which is kind of a fun thing to do and I want to commend Principal Egan for the students down there and the faculty; that's my alma mater, he did say he tells people I spent ten years there, but I'd like to correct the record...I was only there nine. It was nine years back then because we started with kindergarten with Miss Gallagher.

Alderman Sysyn interjected I started there but I left in the third grade.

Mayor Baines stated finally The Chase Block...some exciting things happening there. Anybody want to comment on that. I know there's an open house on Thursday. It's an exciting private business partnership that I think is going to really help the Downtown effort and I commend those who worked together to make that a reality and I'm very encouraged about that and I met with the developers involved and I am very encouraged that something like that can still happen in City government to make our Downtown a better place for all of us.

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

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk