

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

March 7, 2000

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance; this function led by Alderman O'Neil.

Mayor Baines asked that two young members of the community be remembered in our thoughts during a moment of silence.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting was to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Jeanne Kidd, Croteau Court, Manchester, NH stated:

I have been a secretary. I have a confidential clearance. I have worked for defense contractors and I will say no more about that tonight. The purpose for my visit tonight is if you will look at the handout I gave you, it is the picture of the jacket of two books. The first one called Cross Currents is about electromagnetic radiation and the danger to your health. The second one is called The Mapping of the Mind: The Secrets of the Human Brain and How It Works. The purpose, again, for my visit tonight is to tell you that scientific knowledge now has gotten to the point with MRI imaging that they can read your mind. Let me quote, "by taking a series of functional MRI images, recorders can create computer-generated movies of the brain in action. Thinking, reading, seeing, speaking. A researcher using FMRI can follow the process of the brain working together as the person sees a word and silently speaks it. It is all software and processing." This goes into invasion of privacy and personal security plus national security since we are a nation of people. The second book is by Dr. Becker and let me quote him. "While the military was vigorously denying the very existence of bio-effects from electromagnetic field exposure, such bio-effects were actually being explored as potential weapons. Weapons with the enormous advantage of being totally silent and imperceptible. A new class of

weapons based on electro-magnetic fields has been added to the muscles of the military. C-3 doctrine still growing, it would appear that the military may yet be able to completely control the minds of the civilian population.” So part of this problem is I would like to have people like you people think about legislation in two folds. One that encrypts the brain like we have scramblers for our telephone and our other electronic equipment so that someone cannot effectively read your brain waves, put it into a computer and effectively read your private thoughts and your mind. Not only for personal security, but for legal security and national security. The second part is that electro-magnetic fields, the radiation that is poured into people’s brains during this experiment, possibly can cause tumors and cancer and no one has done any real, in-depth research. Since I am involved in this program on an unwilling basis, I would like to ask for helpful legislation.

Mayor Baines stated we do have 19 speakers scheduled for this evening and we do have to convene the regular meeting at 7:30 PM.

Buddy Stewart, Joliette Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here on behalf of MCTV. In the upcoming negotiations with cable, I would hope that it would be considered that we get more of a grant. The last substantial grant that we received was back in 1990 and a lot has changed in the last 10 years. It is becoming increasingly difficult to get studio time at MCTV and right now currently we are full to capacity. There are no new producers that we can accept just because of capacity issues. I would hope that in the upcoming negotiations that would be strongly considered. Thanks.

Harriet Bingle, 154 Head Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I came to speak to you this evening on a couple of issues. I recently attended a public meeting on the West Side library. The present library there is woefully small to provide access to the many services that the City’s library system has to offer. The proposed move to and renovation of the Brown Street School seems an equitable solution for the situation and I want you to support its funding. In conjunction with the renovation of the Brown Street School, there are plans to provide space for an MCTV studio. I am a producer with MCTV and I am thrilled to think that we could have this kind of location on the west side providing access to this medium and to have a greater amount of the west side residents being able to use this resource. MCTV touches the lives of many in our community by providing programming on local politics, sports, even our parades. I encourage you to support a greater percentage of the negotiated PEG access fees to be used to support MCTV, it’s capital improvement needs for equipment, upgrading and studio location expansion. I also want to see a greater expansion in the City’s recycling program with more items being accepted for pick-up, increasing the frequency of pick-up in certain business areas, providing incentives for businesses and residents that do recycle and I also look forward to the present administration being a leader in supporting, encouraging and participating in recycling.

Carlos Gonzalez, 1826 Front Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here on behalf of Manchester Community Television. I want to use one quote from the Bible to all of the representatives of the government of Manchester which is that “we need not to fall in love with the love of money” and to be generous. All men need to be generous, as well as government or any private company and then all of you will be blessed for you will be sharing the wealth and the food with the poor. Basically, MCTV has more than doubled in programming. Right now there are two programs and the needs are there and they will continue to grow. The budget, as it is today, is only 2%. 1% coming from cable fees and 1% coming from school or government. Having said that, there is a need to have 5%. An increase in the budget from 2% to 5%. Bedford already allocates 4% and another city that does that is Lowell, MA to fund government access cable television. Remember that we need to be responsible, but we need to be generous and I am going to tell you that MCTV deserves better. MCTV is growing. The people of Manchester see it and are watching that you do what is right. I encourage you, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, to increase the MCTV budget so that the needs for facilities and a new location, personnel and technology are met. Rely in the Lord and do good and he will give all of you the desires of your heart. Thank you.

Eli Connerton, 142 Ashland Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here to speak to urge you to support MCTV in its upcoming franchise negotiations with the cable company. I am a senior at Central High School, as well as a student producer at MCTV. Although I will not directly benefit from the upcoming cable negotiations, I believe that the students that come after me deserve the same opportunities that I have had. The instruction and experiences that I have received at MCTV will serve as a jump-start for me in my pursuit of a career in the upcoming future. However, if MCTV’s facilities and equipment are not upgraded, the students that follow me will not have the same edge that I have gained. It is for this reason most of all that I ask you to fully support MCTV in the upcoming cable negotiations. Thank you.

Amanda Abbott, 51 Donald Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am the Development Coordinator at the Manchester Historic Association and I am here on behalf of the Board and staff tonight. The Board of Trustees and staff of the Manchester Historic Association would like to encourage you to support the resolution regarding the passage of Senate Bill 401, the Land & Community Heritage Investment Program. At its meeting on February 16, the Historic Association’s Board unanimously passed a resolution in support of the program and we urge the City of Manchester to support the enactment of the bill. One of the major goals of the Manchester Historic Association is to encourage the preservation of historic resources in the City. The proposed land and community investment program would be a valuable resource for anyone wanting to preserve and renovate the many historic buildings in the Millyard and elsewhere in the City. The private/public partnership focus of the program, along with its emphasis on community-based projects, make an ideal program for individuals and organizations wishing to improve the community and boost the economy through preservation

efforts. All of us at the Manchester Historic Association encourage you to cast a vote in favor of the resolution supporting the enactment of Senate Bill 401, establishing the Land & Community Heritage Investment Program. Thank you for your support.

Jackie Domaingue, 102 Donahue Drive, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here tonight very simply to urge you to be a very strong advocate on behalf of Manchester Community Television in your upcoming negotiations. Probably the best example of why that is so important was last night's public forum in Ward 8 with Mayor Baines. Your publicly funded community television program was there from the very beginning and the very end of this very important meeting. They covered every aspect of it, heard the questions and will share it with the rest of the City. Many of the problems that were highlighted last night are shared throughout every ward in this City. Your privately funded corporate Channel 9 walked in the door at about 8:30 PM when about 1/3 of the constituents had left and most of the topics had already been discussed. Our community cable channel is not only an educational tool that teaches the students in your education system about the technology of media, but it also becomes a very educational forum, sharing the information through the expression of a variety of cultural groups that represent our City in Manchester. It is a window on us. It is a mirror that is reflecting our past, the present and opening the door to the future possibilities that this City has to offer. It can be a very effective marketing tool. By airing Manchester's creativity and a very important life line to the people you want to reach who cannot come out to your meetings and who cannot speak on their own behalf; the elderly and the homebound. Please be a strong advocate on behalf of this very important media presence for Manchester, Manchester Community Television. Thank you.

Chris Dodd, 113 North East Gateway, Manchester, NH stated:

There are a few things that I would like to speak about. On some of the recent shows on MCTV, Aldermen were making comments about my Alderman, Alderman Pinard. Some comments came up about the civic center that Alderman Pinard was not as knowledgeable as he should be and that the civic center decision was above his head. I take offense to that. He is an elected Alderman for that ward and the person that made that comment, Alderman Hirschmann, I hold you responsible for that and don't appreciate that as a citizen of Ward 6. Some other comments made between other Aldermen going back and forth...we all respect your position here in the community, but we do not respect the bickering going back and forth. That taints your position as an Alderman. I am not speaking just about Alderman Hirschmann, but all Aldermen as well. Next, before you I placed an article from *The Boston Globe*. Last week, on March 1, Hampden Superior Court Judge Constance Sweeney put down a ruling saying that Mayor Albano in Springfield, MA improperly used the city's eminent domain powers to take privately owned land to build a minor league park. This case can be used as precedence here in New Hampshire and I urge the Mayor and Aldermen to speak with the City Solicitor and take a look at this 89 page document before you waste more of the taxpayers money in a lengthy court case using this precedent. The next issue was in last week's paper. A proposal of the Veteran's of Foreign War,

Post 8214, a homeless veteran shelter. Right now they are in the process of getting a permit for that and it has not all been worked out, but I would urge you to look into this further and see if that can happen. We here, in Manchester, are known as an enterprise community. We do help out refugees of foreign wars and help them. I would urge you to put every effort you can forth to take care of our own veterans of foreign wars. Thank you.

Peter Capano, Ash Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I, too, come here before you to praise MCTV. I find that Grace Sullivan and her staff are very competent and you only have to watch a few shows to know the quality and quantity of them. My experience with MCTV goes back about eight years. I am a producer there. Not only have I produced shows that have originated in classrooms in the City and in churches in the City, but as a Highway Department employee we have also made use of that resource to get the word out to the public on issues such as recycling, garbage routes and even informational pieces on the landfill. It does serve a very wide-ranging audience and I urge you to listen to the arguments, listen to the requests and meet them if you possibly can.

Michael Walsh, Bell Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I have to claim ignorance because I don't know where we got the money for the civic center land. Can anybody tell me whether that land has been purchased?

Mr. Clougherty replied no.

Mr. Walsh stated I used to be in town government in Milford, NH and one of the things that we did in order to bring business into the inner City and we are talking about basically Elm Street, was offer tax incentives for people to move their businesses here but I think that the infrastructure of Manchester...we need to do something about it. It is going to cost us a lot of money. We can't have the buses going up and down with their only station being here on Elm Street. That is the first thing I want to get to is that it is going to cost us some money. I am not against the civic center. I am not pro civic center either. I am just a concerned citizen. The second point I want to bring up is I live over on Bell Street, which is across from Gill Stadium. Every summer since I have lived there, the residents can't find any parking. People come in and they park on Bell Street, Grove Street, Green Street, and Auburn Street. People get home from work and they can't find a place to park. They have to park three blocks away because people are at these functions and on Saturdays or Thursdays, there are like three games in a row. People are getting their early before other people have left. I would like to request that we think about having residential parking at some time like 5 PM and 11 PM. Thank you.

Mayor Baines stated we are going to ask the other people coming up to speak to sit at the desk to maybe alleviate the technical difficulties we are having.

George Chaprass, 69 Lucille Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I was going to pass because I have to get my ducks in order before I start screaming at you again monthly, but two things came up with the previous speakers. Number one, I don't even know where MCTV is located. I don't have any personal interest or job as a producer or anything like that. I just like it and I would like to second everything they said. It is a way to get things done. It is a way for people who can't get to these meetings to see them on television, which makes me a television star in the supermarket, which is great because I will never make it to New York or Hollywood. Please keep my hope alive and keep MCTV going. Number two, that very kind lady who spoke to you about Mapping of the Mind and the rest of it, I have all the respect in the world for what she has to say and what she thinks, but just to provide some balance, the mind is the brain's operating system. Just like computers have operating systems, which make them do things, we don't know what the mind is. The mind is probably the brain. Mind equals brain. If not exactly that, then the mind is the software that makes the brain do things and everything is fine. We don't even know just what happens when I do this. The operating system made the finger go down and makes it go up again and for God sakes we don't know how it works. Even the great scientists don't yet. So what the kind lady said is probably true, but it is not going to come to happen for maybe another of couple of hundred years. Good night. I will be back screaming at you next month.

Denise Turcotte, 971 Chestnut Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I have been a resident of Manchester for over 30 years. I taught Ecology and environmental courses at Notre Dame College. I have used Livingston Park, Cedar Swamp at Hackett Hill, as well as many of the areas around Massabesic Lake as environmental studies for my students. I believe in the need for preservation of our urban ponds, our forest lands, and all of our significant ecological lands here in the Manchester area. The need to preserve bio-diversity for our future and the future of the generations after us. I also believe in the preservation of the historical properties that we have here in the Manchester area so I come tonight on behalf of Senate Bill 401 and ask you to support Manchester's resolution on the establishment of a Land & Community Heritage Investment Program. Thank you very much.

Senator Lou D'Allesandro, 332 St. James Avenue, Manchester, NH stated:

First I would like to compliment the public on their willingness to come out and speak to you. I think it takes a lot of courage for an average citizen to come before this Board and articulate their concerns and the people of Manchester are to be commended for that activity. It is a wonderful thing and it provides an opportunity for good interaction between elected public officials and the people they represent. I come here tonight on behalf of Manchester Community Television and I do this for two reasons. There is an academic side of MCTV and there is a public access side. The academic side provides an opportunity for youngsters to become involved in a field that will eventually lead to employment and to a vocation that in many instances is profitable. Some of these students go on to distinguished colleges and universities and through the exposure created by MCTV they have an opportunity to find out

what the visual media is really all about and what opportunities are presented to them in terms of visual media and they go on to post secondary education and earn degrees. On the other side, public access. One of the crying shames of the last century was the fact that we didn't improve communication between elected officials and their constituency. Public access provides an opportunity for the public to be fully aware of what is going on. It provides an opportunity for individuals to bring to a venue that was not available in the past, an opportunity to express themselves. That is what America is all about. It seems to me that what we should be doing is providing the financial support to enhance this situation so that more people can become involved, thus providing a better situation for our community, for our State and truly for our nation. We are, in our lifetimes, presented with very few significant opportunities and certainly this is a significant one. Thank you.

Mayor Baines recessed the meeting to call the Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called the meeting back to order.

Marcy Lyman, 450 North River Road, Manchester, NH stated:

I would like to speak to you in support of and urge your support of the resolution in support of Senate Bill 401. I have worked in the conservation community in the State for over 20 years. I want to describe the land, the water, the cultural resources of the City of Manchester both for our economic community vitality and health. Senate Bill 401 provides a vehicle for communities like Manchester to invest in those assets so that they will be available for future generations and for all of us as we work to continue to provide opportunities for the citizens of this community. I urge your support. It is a good program. It has worked in the past with the Trust for NH Lands. This is another iteration of that and it will be a successful program. We urge your support.

Murray Onigman, 324 Walnut Street, Manchester, NH stated:

The one thing I think I am going to bring out tonight is there are three civic centers that have been considered by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. In about 1977, I think Alderman 10 loaded on the very first one. I got a phone call from Bob Lobel at a local station and he said the Aldermen and the Mayor are bringing up a civic center. He told me that Jack Nicholson from the Boston Garden who was in charge of public relations was going to come in from Portland, ME. He had left the Garden. He and I left the Boston Garden at the same time. I was Director of Advertising. So Lobel asked me to come to the proceedings. I said I can't make it, but I will be back the next day and I would love to know what happened with the Board of Mayor and Aldermen on the civic center. He said it was only \$8 million and they turned it down because it was too much money. \$8 million and it was too much money. All of that being true, I think we are almost at \$8 million with the acquiring of the land, with the architect's two years and we are looking at an overrun on diesel fuel for the next two years at \$2/gallon and four miles to the gallon and those derricks working on Elm Street pushing it up another \$15 million. The overrun

is going to be bigger than the Big Dig in Boston. Anyhow, here we are stuck at the highest buck you could build one. You had one then at \$8 million. I just want to get to the second civic center. That was called the Centerplex down here on Canal Street. I went to the State House on that one and the former Mayor came in at 9 AM and told us about the parking. They were going to build a parking lot at the end of Canal Street and they were going to put in tracks and a choo-choo train was going to come to the building. Can you imagine it is ten below zero, middle of winter, hockey game, pick up 300 people while 4,000 wait and it goes choo-chooing down to their cars and they get into their cars and go home. This is what he explained to the State House Committee and they turned down a \$50 million State bond. You are putting out a bond against us based on rooms & meals tax, which bond is City and no taxes being put on it because the City owns the building so there is no property tax.

Jennifer Goodman, 496 Hanover Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am the Director of the NH Preservation Alliance, which is the statewide non-profit historic preservation membership group and the Vice Chair of Citizens for Land & Community Heritage, which is a coalition of over 100 organizations in support of the Land & Community Heritage Program that you have heard about this evening. So, wearing those hats you will not be surprised that I am here to strongly urge your support of the resolution that is before you. This program, the Land & Community Heritage Program, will be very important to Manchester and I believe it is important for the great historic city of Manchester to send a signal to establish a green light of recommending the creation of this program. You all know the importance of natural area conservation and historic preservation activities to the City's livability and its economic vitality. You also know the cost of losing these irreplaceable historic preservation and land conservation resources. This voluntary matching grant program described in the Land & Community Heritage Program will boost local efforts and build local support for these kinds of projects and compliment existing programs. It will do things like offer bricks and mortar restoration grants for many of the historic churches in Manchester, older schools, and museums. It could offer feasibility study money to explore the reuse of under used or abandoned historic Mill buildings or downtown commercial buildings. It could also provide what I call a funding gap in efforts to create affordable housing in historic, older buildings. Again, I urge your support of the resolution of Senate Bill 401 designed to support that initiative and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Jennifer Devarney, 485 Sheffield Road, Manchester, NH stated:

I speak to you tonight to ask you to back MCTV during the franchise negotiations with MediaOne. As an educational access producer at MCTV, I have set short and long-term goals and have begun to plan my future. Before going to MCTV, I had never even thought about going to college, but now I have seen the connection between school and real life through my experiences as a producer. I am an A/B student and am planning on attending a four-year college with a major in communications, of course. Please insure that my story is not only one,

but many to come by supporting MCTV during the upcoming franchise negotiations. Thank you.

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

I think the turn out that you have here tonight is probably going to dictate a change in your public forum to more than two minutes or possibly having it on the first and third Tuesday nights of the month. It seems like if you are going to generate a lot of support you are going to need some more time. The other thing is that for you eight people who voted for the civic center, Mr. Hirschmann made a comment in the paper saying it is more than hockey. That is just it. You guys have made the civic center hockey is the key ingredient. When the hockey team fails, all of those luxury box people are going to be asking for refunds. All of the advertising people are going to be asking for refunds. When it fails, the whole project is going to be in jeopardy. School budget. There was a nice article in the paper today. \$1.5 million deficit probably. They asked for \$102 million. You didn't give it to them, but they are going to spend it. Mr. Brad Cook was in here a couple of weeks ago and Mr. Gatsas you couldn't get a straight answer to a question to save your life. He is a very good lawyer. He was side-stepping all of the questions. They are going to overspend their budget and Mr. Tanguay as the Superintendent is going to get his pay raise come June and you guys can't do a thing about it. Just give him more money. Another thing is the Police Station. I believe that building is only about between 25 and 30 years old. It is not falling apart. It is just simply over crowded, but you gentlemen have given the Police Chief the green light to go out and spend \$14 million for a brand new Police Station that is going to take a sizable chunk of land off of the tax roles. The building is just over crowded. Build another precinct station, probably on the West Side. Relieve the overcrowding and now you are doing something constructive. Look at Bass Island Park. I think that would be a very suitable place for a police station. Another thing I would like to comment on real quickly is the company that wants to come in and put in the cement storage towers down by the rail bed, I don't think you need to get too concerned about towers that are going to be a maximum of what they had in the paper of 100 feet high above ground. When they built the skyscrapers here on Elm Street that drastically changed the outlook of the City. That is industrial land down there and that is a tax base that is coming in. Do something aesthetically with the outside of them and they will blend in with Riverwalk no problem.

Barbara Hagan, 154 Winter Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am not here to cast dispersions on the Aldermen or to accuse the Aldermen of anything. I am here tonight to speak about an issue that has been quiet for awhile, but it is coming around again. It is the Optima Health issue and the issue of our two hospitals coming apart in Probate Court. I have been following this issue for six years and I am concerned. I want to just read something very briefly. It is a short paragraph from the infamous Attorney General's report dated March 10, 1998. "Optima has failed to inform and include the community and the Director of Charitable Trusts regarding the charitable identities of CMC and Elliot Hospital." The process in Probate Court right now is supposed to be including the public. I have attended most of the

Probate Court sessions. They are a dog and pony show and then all of the attorneys and the powers-to-be meet in the room in the back and make the decisions and then they come forward and they do very brief court sessions. The public is not going to get a chance to comment on the final dissolution until those papers are final so our input is at the end. I am concerned that our elected officials are being wined and dined and I just want to remind you that the people of the City of Manchester voted not once, but twice to dissolve these two hospitals and to reinstitute the charitable missions that are so near and dear to us. I just want you to be careful because the skids are being greased and the writing is on the wall and the taxpayers are watching. We want our Aldermen to follow our mandate and to assure that these two hospitals will, in fact, be separated and have their original intents, specifically Catholic Medical Center retaining its identify as a Catholic hospital. Thank you very much for your time.

Kathleen Souza, 628 Belmont Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I will follow-up Barbara's comments. She was talking about the dissolution of Optima being in Probate Court right now and basically the people that wanted CMC back are not afraid that it is not coming back. We are afraid that we won't keep it. We are afraid that no sooner will we get it back then there will be plans for another merger. The writing is on the wall. When Barbara talked about the skids being greased, I believe that was an accurate analogy. Let me explain. When the Attorney General said that Optima was doing a disservice and illegally joining these hospitals, he said it was because they were violating the mission statements. Now in the very first part of the document that Barbara just held up, it says that they effectively terminated the century old charitable mission of CMC and its predecessors to serve as an acute care Catholic hospital within the City of Manchester. That is the key of our concern. We not only want back CMC, but we want back the mission. The mission is the warranty. To get back the hospital without the mission is like getting an appliance back from repair without the warranty. How long is it going to work is anyone's guess. Let me explain why we are afraid we are going to lose the mission. The Diocese of Manchester has asked the Probate Court to accept a new mission statement. It is very clear. "Catholic Medical Center is a Catholic health care organization whose purpose is to extend Christ healing ministry" and it goes on. No where is the word hospital, let alone acute care, mentioned. A Catholic organization could be a daycare center, an adult center, or a foot center. It doesn't have to be a hospital. With this important wording left out of the mission statement, the skids are greased so that if money becomes an issue or other things become more important than having a Catholic full-service hospital, they will be able to do it and the Attorney General will have no woe because the new mission statement will have been approved in this court process. Please, in your dealings with any of the officials in any public forums or any opportunities to speak, please speak for the citizens that wanted their hospital back to say we not only want it back, we want the assurance, we want the mission statement and we want to keep it. Thank you.

Mayor Baines advised that there being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Wihby, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee