

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

**June 5, 2000**

**7:00 PM**

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

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

Mayor 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.

Chris Herbert of 20 Old Wellington Road, Ward 4 stated:

I am the School Board Member for Ward 4. I just wanted to tell the Board of Mayor and Aldermen even though we have had a lot of differences over our budget debates and we will continue to have differences. Everybody on the School Board, including myself, appreciates the time that you have to spend going over all of these things. Sometimes we know it is very difficult. As soon as you finish this budget cycle you should open up immediately in some official capacity your next budget cycle. You ought to start that budget cycle with a question to City department heads including the School District and that is what could we do next year to make services better. The reason I would like you to explicitly ask this question because if it is the first step you take in your budget cycle it sets a tone for the entire City in terms of how they are going to respond to that question. If you set a positive tone then you will get responses that you have not gotten in the past. In the past, the budget cycle seemed to be very defensive and backwards looking. As a result, we end up at the end of the year like a "Chinese fire drill". If we start out earlier and we start out with a positive tone from the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and you do set the tone for the entire City including the School District. If you ask what is it we could do next year to improve services we will get some answers that will surprise you. You will be pleasantly surprised at what we could do that is affordable and we will start off on the

right foot. As for this budget cycle, the fact that there was supposed to be a big demonstration outside and there is not. It is a small town after all and word got out that the figures were agreed upon. I appreciate the work you have done so far and I would appreciate it even more if next year we started out on the right foot and if we do that and ask the right question, we will come up with a better solution to all our problems and it will be better for the taxpayers as well as better for our department heads in providing a service.

Billy Dodd of 181 Mammoth Road, Ward 6 stated:

We are termed as a property-poor city. Thirty-two million dollars coming from Claremont and we are building a Civic Center. The word "fire" should come into mind. Finance, insurance and real estate you have heard it before. Finance the 4% Steven Sterns is getting that for taking these bonds to market two million. Insurance to insure the bonds 1.7 and the real estate is valued at one thing and then it went up 1.9 million and he is getting a charitable contribution for that. Finance, insurance and real estate, that was the whole thing from the beginning. You guys already squirreled away 3 ½ million dollars before you issue the fifty million dollars in bonds. We were only supposed to go fifty million but we are going more. We are going to pay the remaining 20% out of that 80% that we are financing the bond money that we get from the revenues of the Civic Center. I hope *The Union Leader* reporter will get it right for once and stop using a file paragraph that we are paying 80% from Meals and Rooms Tax. Carry that a little bit further and say that the City is paying the remaining 20% from the 20% of the revenues that they are going to get out of the building. We are paying 100%. The citizens of Manchester are the only risk-takers in this project. The other thing that seems to be missing from the whole scope of City Government, there is a triangle. The Aldermanic Board, the School Board and the Planning Board I get the impression from reading in the newspaper that nobody knows what the other Board is doing. Do you guys know how many new housing starts you have this year. How many do you have planned for the next ten years. You do not know what is going on. You need to do a better planning on it. There was an article in the newspaper last week about the immigrants coming into the City. That is great. But English as a second language from 1995 has gone from 400 students up to over 1,300 students and over 1.2 million dollars additional cost. The Federal Government only gave us \$73,000 to help cover that. You guys need to get up on a soapbox and start screaming for more money and more special education money that we should be getting.

Chris Dodd of 113 North Eastgate Way, Ward 6 stated:

I read the article in the newspaper last week about the proposed parking ride downtown and would ask you as the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to take a look at that and think more on the lines of putting it off for awhile and maybe building a garage down there. For the Civic Center coming up the congestion with the anticipated Granite Street Bridge going up maybe think about having a garage in there Civic Center being built and a Park-N-Ride. Six hundred spots are good for the time being but need to look at the long range forecast. Maybe think about putting a Park-N-Ride on Interstate 93 where most of the traffic goes down to Boston and then up through the North Country. Where the Raytheon buildings are now right before Exit 6 on Interstate 93

maybe think of that spot or some other area. Another thing I read in the newspaper was that Mr. Baldwin is looking at selling the team already. It looks like the whole process that we went through over the past year. He had the liquid net worth to cover everything and now he might be in the business of backing out or selling to a more lucrative investor. Hopefully, the new owner whoever he decides to sell to...the one I have been hearing about now is the owner of Staples center and the LA Kings. Hopefully it sounds like his liquid net worth and his reputation is a little more reputable than Mr. Baldwin is. But I would hope that either the Board of Mayor and Aldermen or the Special Committee on the Civic Center would take a look at the background of this individual and put as much effort into it and hopefully it will not cost us the same amount of money that it did for Price, Waterhouse, Cooper to come in but take a look at this individual as well and his background and hopefully the integrity of the original process does not go "down the tubes" on that. Another thing, looking over the past few weeks about two weeks ago was the 2010 long range forecast. I would hope that the City is looking at seriously investing in the City and maybe investing in some long-term bonds or notes either five or ten years. Right now with the interest rates being pretty good on some of the longer-term notes and bonds out there. Take a look at investing in the City, putting a portion of the budget towards that aspect and hopefully in the future we could set a plan down and stick to that.

Lloyd Basinow of 503 Amherst Street, Ward 4 stated:

The U.S. Congress is presently undertaking a complete investigation of Water Fluoridation. The investigating committee is very, very unhappy with both the answers it has received and the lack of answers. A letter was sent to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, unfortunately it arrived too late to get on this week's agenda and I have asked the City Clerk to distribute a copy of it to you even though it may be on the agenda for next month. In *The Union Leader* on May 17, 2000 on page B2 there was a news story relative to fluoridation challenged under the Disabilities Act. In this story, a dentist, Dr. Michael Esley made the following statement: "there is absolutely no disability, disease or condition of any kind that fluoridated water has any impact on". I would like to introduce this Board to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services toxicological profile on fluorides. It lists all of the different subsets of the population that cannot safely consume fluoride. It gives the reason. This will be the people's fourth exhibit before the Federal District Court when we go to court against the City of Manchester and the Manchester Water Works. You also have been given a Water Quality Report just issued a few short weeks ago by the Water Department. In that report, the Water Department admits they intend to poison the elderly, babies and medically disabled. This will be the people's fifth exhibit. You will see on the inside we have red highlighted the following paragraph that lists some of the same people who cannot take fluoride as is in the U.S. Health Department. We look forward with much anticipation to when the Health Department and its leadership, Mr. Rusczek and Mr. DiPentima will be appearing before the Federal District Court under subpoena to answer some very interesting questions in the very near future.

Bryan Murray of 16 Wedgewood Lane stated:

I would like to compliment the heavy lifters on the Aldermanic Board for coming up with a palatable budget that taxpayers can accept based on the best numbers that the Aldermen could get. Unfortunately, I do not believe you got all of the numbers. Specifically, the School Board has not been open in the past in providing the numbers necessary for you to do an effective and efficient job in developing a budget. I would like to talk about access to public records specifically in a personal nature access to the Mayor's Committee on tuition towns where operating under a platform of taking the doors off of City Hall this committee was not advertised in accordance with the right to know law within the State of New Hampshire. Unfortunately, I do not believe this committee will get the information they need to make a viable recommendation to the Mayor other than to create the perception that this was a political red herring meant to deflect the initial and overriding base issue. On July 1<sup>st</sup> I do not think nor expect to have a valid recommendation presented to the Mayor based on real numbers that could effectively and efficiently protect my interest as a taxpayer within the City of Manchester. This is complicated by the fact that it is very difficult to communicate with the City of Manchester or the School District of Manchester when we have a 1.5 or 1.6 million dollar budget with the information technology with the City. The Mayor or any City department head's Email address is not even placed on their website. This is unconscionable and unacceptable. However, this is the same situation that exists within the School District. This could be corrected overnight. You just need to take strong and stringent action to open up access to the taxpayer.

Murray Onigman of 324 Walnut Street, Ward 2 stated:

I am here because I am concerned about the fractionalization of this Board. I think it all began when they gave themselves a raise and Anderson showed up here with a suitcase of 1,500 coupons he ran in *The Union Leader* and said take back your raise. I feel that we, the public, are now the enemy. When we called for a review of the question of the Civic Center it came out eight to six with the former Mayor and eight to six with the new Mayor. Then one of you used a soundbite on our chief principal person of this Board, the Mayor, and used the word "Jesse James". But what he does not remember is Jesse James had a gang of eight and held up those trains and I would like to use my own soundbite and call it "The Wiz Gang". We have a "Wiz Gang" of eight fractionalizing this Board who are going to solve not only those questions with the Civic Center but also the questions of the budget. We have one Mayor and he is in charge of the City. None of you are lawyers or accountants or retired CEOs of large corporations. I place my trust in the Mayor of the City to carry out the laws of this City and bring us to fruition. However, you have made a decision that will lead this City by the year 2003 to become the 23<sup>rd</sup> City in the United States since 1776 to declare bankruptcy on that big ditch up the street.

Leona Dykstra of 21 Tennyson Drive, Ward 2 stated:

I want to discuss MCTV but first of all I was reading in the newspaper again today and I do not know how this Board comes up with the money. A month ago you did not have money and the taxes are going up \$2.00. All of a sudden we are saving \$.16. Couldn't you have found that

money a month ago and saved people a lot of aggravation. I have been here and I am tired of the games that this Board seems to be playing and I just hope the people are fed up with it too. Are they talking about saving \$100,000 out of the school budget and you did not bother them to take themselves \$150,000 raise. I find it very hypocritical and it is bothersome and I hope people are getting fed-up with it. On the MCTV issue, I do not know why this Board with its problems wants to get involved with MCTV. Right now, are you going to make it a department. I see that it is listed in your budget. You were on the Charter Commission, Your Honor, I certainly was on the Charter Commission and it says here that...it is going to give a lot of power to the Aldermen and I think it is working fine and I do not know why the Aldermen have to get involved at all. Right now under departments, the Mayor can remove department heads with nine members of the Board. The Aldermen also can vote to establish or eliminate so they have the power to put MCTV in as a department then they can eliminate it if they feel like it. They can combine it, reorganize it, restructure it; they can do almost anything they want with it. But the thing is under the Charter "in exercising the powers set forth herein the Aldermen shall detail, in any ordinance passed, the scope and duties of any department and shall have the power to consolidate". I have not seen it yet and I hope the public gets to see what this is going to look like. If you are just going to pass a budget tonight where it says MCTV on the line item, don't you want to know what it is going to do or what is going to happen. I believe in freedom of speech and certainly our constitution demands that we have freedom of speech. Some Aldermen are probably not too happy with some of the things that are said but the thing is under freedom of speech if you are in politics you have to take what you get. If you cannot take it, get out of politics.

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Clancy, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk