

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

July 19, 2000

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Sysyn.

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, and 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.

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

At a previous public forum I did express my concerns about MCTV becoming a department without the process of an ordinance and the ability, I also question that, of the Aldermen in making it a department by just adding that \$325,000 in a line item to the City budget. I believe now that an ordinance may be proposed and if so I just hope that there will be a public hearing because I think public input into this is very important to the people. I, along with about 30 others, have been waiting patiently for our training, which will enable us to have our own programs on public access TV. We are looking forward to it. It has been awhile. The money was allocated in that line item, but for a period of time nothing was happening. Being fearful that so much time would lapse that I might be taping my show from the local nursing home, I did contact the Mayor's Office about my concerns. Your Honor, I want to tell you that your staff was very helpful and very supportive. A letter was sent from you to the proper people to move this process

forward so I do want to thank you, your Honor, for your help. We are looking forward to having our programs and I am sure you are all as anxious as I am to not only see me on TV but the other people who will be participating. Thank you very much for your time.

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

The first thing this morning when I looked at the Union Leader I see that we are in deep trouble with the grounds at the civic center. It seems that we have had a committee that has lied to us since Day 1 referring to the Board of Aldermen, the Mayor and the past Mayor and also mainly to the taxpayers. I believe we had City employees on this Committee and for some reason they seem to have represented certain interests rather than the taxpayers of Manchester. I can't see how our Finance Office signed off on all of these forms knowing that possibly there was contamination in that lot and that we might need more money. That happened about two weeks ago in the paper for another \$300,000 and today it is another \$600,000 and who knows what else. I know that I just sold a piece of property to a conglomerate from South Carolina and it is unbelievable how many months it took just to do all the different surveys. I think it is about time that the Old Boy's Network get together and disband this particular Civic Center Committee. They have lied to us since Day 1 and I think it is about time that members of the or I should say workers from the City of Manchester who are on this Committee and did not report these different actions should be brought before an open Board and if it means their jobs, it means their jobs. The taxpayers pocketbooks are just going a little too far with this particular white elephant. Another thing I am here to speak about is I read in the paper that the consultants are looking at all of our City buildings for \$299,000. To me, it is a waste of money. We have two departments – we have the Department of Building Services who should have an up-to-date record of everything that goes on in every City building if we have the right employee and also the School Department should know what goes on in his or her particular meeting.

Mayor Baines stated I know there are some people here from the MTA. This is not a forum to discuss personnel issues. You can talk about general issues, but this is not the appropriate forum to discuss personalities or personnel.

Lyn Swazey, 15 Prospect Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I have been chosen to discuss with you concerns with our present management team at the MTA. Some of you may remember that we have been down this road before and since October of 1998 when Don Clay and John Webster took over...

Mayor Baines interjected we are not going to discuss management issues in a public forum. There is an appropriate way to deal with that and this is not the appropriate way.

Ms. Swazey stated we are faced with a problem in our new system regarding the passengers riding our system. Our passengers have been trying very hard to adjust to the new system and it has proven very difficult for them. The only thing that they have asked of us is that we change our signs at the end of the line instead of at the beginning of our route so they know where we are going instead of where we have been. They are inconvenienced by the present way that we are doing this and all they want is to not be more inconvenienced by having to ride numerous buses in order to reach their final destination. It is a simple request. It will not interfere with our new system in any way, but we have been forced to tell them that we cannot and will not do it otherwise we would be disciplined in order to accommodate them. We also have problems with a survey sheet that is masquerading as a tabulation sheet. This is a serious issue to our safety. We always have a pen in our hand and a clipboard in our faces, even when we are only stopped momentarily. This causes us to not be able to concentrate on our driving. We are distracted. We are at intersections and traffic lights counting people on and off our buses and our safety officer has not yet been able to relieve us of this duty and we have had some serious problems regarding that as well. Many of us are unable to do them, but we are required to do so.

Barb Condon, 353 Megan Drive, Manchester, NH stated:

I have a question before I start. You say you are not here to discuss management issues. Now would violations that are violations of laws and policies...

Mayor Baines interjected this is not the appropriate forum for that. I would ask the City Solicitor to just explain about the MTA and its relationship to City government.

Deputy Solicitor Arnold stated the MTA is a separate corporation under the authority of the MTA Authority. The Board does not have direct authority over that corporation and the leverage, I guess as you put it, comes through the Board's appropriation to the MTA. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen do not have direct control over the Manchester Transit Authority.

Mayor Baines stated it is an independent authority in City government. The Board of Aldermen and the Mayor are absent that authority like with a regular department of City government.

Alderman Hirschmann stated if you are a resident of Manchester state your name and address and address us and it doesn't matter if it is with the MTA or...

Mayor Baines interjected we will listen to any issues.

Alderman Hirschmann stated if she is a Manchester resident who wants to come to a public forum, you tell us what is on your mind.

Alderman Levasseur stated there is a Committee that deals with MTA issues.

Mayor Baines replied yes.

Alderman Hirschmann stated this is a public hearing.

Mayor Baines replied but we are not going to get into personnel issues in any department in City government in a public forum.

Alderman Hirschmann stated, your Honor, I was one of the Aldermen who set the monthly public hearing so that the public could come and tell us what is on their minds. They have a right to do that.

Alderman Cashin stated I totally agree with the Mayor on this one. We cannot get into administrative problems at this level. If you do, you are going to open doors that you can't close.

Ms. Condon asked you are calling these administrative problems but these are regarding the safety of your public and the residents of Manchester.

Mayor Baines answered if you want to discuss safety issues, that is fine. We are just not going to address personalities. You can proceed on that matter.

Ms. Condon stated I will start with safety then. I am an employee of the MTA. A safety issue that I consider pertinent regarding the MTA occurred with an employee by the name of Diane Krueger. I have letters and documentation regarding John Webster, Superintendent of Transportation bringing medication, an open container into work, and his attempt to force her to take this medication on company time in the beginning of her shift on January 10.

Mayor Baines stated we cannot go down this avenue in a public forum talking about personalities and personnel within departments. They have a right to privacy. This is not the appropriate forum for personnel issues. If you continue down that line, we are going to have to stop that. If that is the line of your testimony this evening, I apologize, but we

cannot allow that in a public forum. That is an appropriate matter within your agency and your department.

Alderman Cashin asked have you (Ms. Condon) met with the MTA Committee of the Board of Aldermen.

Ms. Condon answered no but I have called Bob and I wanted to know how he felt and that we had been put on the agenda and according to the letter that was documented for this meeting it was to discuss issues of the MTA and safety.

Alderman Pariseau stated there is an item on the agenda under new business; a letter from Alderman Pinard and Alderman Shea, which is to be referred to the Special MTA Committee. All of these issues should come before that Committee.

Mayor Baines stated I have also sent a letter to the general manager of the MTA talking about my concerns and the need for a joint meeting between the MTA Commissioners and the Special Committee and I will be attending that meeting and will be glad to notify the people of the date and time of that meeting in which we are going to attempt to mediate some of the concerns that are coming forward.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated no one is more in favor of open government than I am. In the last meeting when we went into executive session for the hydro plant I voted against going into executive session. I don't believe there were executive session materials. I think what you could do is discuss personnel matters in a general term and safety issues in a general manner without mentioning specific individuals and that would be accepted.

Mayor Baines replied that is correct.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked could we use that as kind of a middle ground here. Without disparaging a particular individual, comment about the system and use specific instances to elaborate about the system that is the problem.

Mayor Baines answered I would concur with that.

Ms. Condon asked so as long as I don't use anyone's name in management and as long as I don't use any employee's names it is appropriate to say what I would like to say here.

Mayor Baines answered yes.

Ms. Condon asked am I allowed to submit documentation to this Board or which Board do I submit documentation to.

Mayor Baines answered you can submit it to the Clerk and the Clerk will take it from there.

Alderman Cashin stated you have a letter on the agenda right now that we will be acting on later. What we will do is refer that letter to Alderman Pariseau's Committee and they will invite you in and you can talk about anything at that point in time with the Committee. This is an open forum. I don't think you really want to talk about all of the things that you are bringing up here.

Mayor Baines replied she probably does in a very general sense. Would you proceed, Barbara? I am going to start your two minutes right now.

Ms. Condon stated safety issues at the company. Certain individuals in high positions are trying to force certain drivers to take drugs. It is a clear violation of the Federal Transit Administration and the Manchester Transit Authority Drug and Alcohol Policy. We had a pregnant individual who was told by someone of authority that she was not entitled to any type of sick pay or sick leave or maternity leave for her pregnancy and this individual had to go to the Human Rights Commission to get this issue resolved. We had another individual who was a high person in management who tried to press criminal charges regarding a statement that was made in regards to a father's love for his daughter. You have people who received suspensions from work for missing work with a doctor's note. We have two buses that are written down as spares. By Federal law, they do not meet Federal guidelines. These buses are not to be used on City lines. They are used on City lines at starting times as early as 5:15 AM, 5:30 AM and 6:30 AM.

Alderman Levasseur stated as a person who sits on the MTA Committee I just want you to understand that we look forward to hearing everything that you said and we will meet with you.

John J. McDonough, 1122 Belmont Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I will be brief tonight. Not that I don't have much to say. I have a lot to say but I suffer from stage fright whenever the opportunity exists to address such a prestigious assembly as this. I think it is folly to fly in the face of law and logic. I am speaking now of the attempts of the City to absorb the School District as one of its departments. Five times this case has gone to court and I hope our fledgling barrister over there in Ward 3 will appreciate that. Five times. Three times at the Superior Court, one of which I was the

principle because I was a teacher at Central High and I wanted to soar in the political stratosphere and come down here and join the luminaries in the Aldermanic Chamber. As soon as I filed, a probrium like you wouldn't believe swirled around my poor head. The man in the street and the people in general were magnificent, but officialdom from the Mayor, the City Solicitor, City Clerk, Superintendent of Schools, Chairman of the Charter Commission, all said you cannot do it because it is forbidden and they used to read from this book, this Charter, as if they were reading Holy writ, but to me it sounded very hollow as if it came from the Hobo News and I did not believe it. Of course, the Supreme Court had twice ruled on this 5-0 that the School District is separate so we all ended up in court and Judge Murphy, a very fine jurist indeed, when he handed down his decision he said in essence the School District is separate from the City of Manchester and that has been well settled in law for a long time. Therefore, he said Mr. McDonough can indeed discharge the twin obligations of being an Alderman and a teacher. Your Honor, I hate to say tonight that really I am pregnant with discontent and disillusionment that in the face of these five court decisions yet everybody comes back and says once again, only because the faces have changed. Now on that Board that I served when everything was very crystal clear after all of these decisions, there were two members who are still on the present Board. One is the Honorable Dean from Ward 10 and the other one from Ward 11, the distinguished Alderman Hank Thibault who gained a certain measure of immortality when he opened the Bartlett Street staircase. Your Honor, look at the MTA. She sat here while I slumbered. Just one more sentence. What you people are trying to do is create a turshum quid by taking two elements from diverse groups and making them one and that is wrong. On a personal note, the rumors are ripe out there on the highways and the byways of the City that you are vying with Bernie Streeter down in Nashua for honors as Rookie of the Year and I hope you stand tall and stern here so that we will not see you be a victim of the sophomore jinx before indeed you become a sophomore.

Julia Fish, 135 Massabesic Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am a new resident in Manchester. I have lived all over this nation and I have lived all of over this world and I can surely say that what has happened to your transportation system is a disgrace. I won't name names because we are not allowed to, but I have had conversations with your Superintendent, which were insulting to me. When I explained that I was unable to drive because of a disability but that I had three jobs, two full-time and one part-time in this City, I was told I guess you can't be that disabled. Now I don't know how you guys handle it here, but when you change schedules around you have to have meetings. You can't have one person who doesn't ride the bus system sit there and tell you where your ridership is. You want to attract industry? You want this City to

grow? You better have bus lines that can support your workers and you do not have that and that is a major concern of this City here and now.

Mayor Baines recessed the meeting.

Mayor Baines called the meeting back to order.

Hilary Grubbs, 60 Liberty Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I agree with everything that Julia just spoke about with regards to the bus station and the new schedule. I also agree with Lyn Swazey with regards to the signs. Small pet peeve. Other than that, I agree with what she said. Valley/Taylor is gone. This has affected many people. Regardless of whether these people in the Valley/Taylor district are in the zone or not is really irrelevant. These people work. These people have motivation to make money and they need a place to go. Julia is disabled. She cannot walk to the nearest bus stop since Valley/Taylor has been taken off the line. Therefore, it needs to be there. This has inconvenienced her. She has to spend at least \$50/week now on taxis and I am sure this has affected many more people. Just to wrap it up, I am unimpressed with the current bus schedule changes. Thank you.

Mary Nenopoulos, 35 Cricket Lane, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here to represent part of our area. My husband's office was at 60 Salmon Street and Dr. Larabee is trying to build a modern building in a Victorian area. It would be wonderful if he could see that it would be an eyesore. I feel that of course he has the right to build on his land. He has had it for many years, but I think he should have some compassion for the area that he is building on. I think the building is so large that we will have a traffic problem at Salmon and Bay Street. I realize that he has parking underneath. I just feel that he really doesn't care what he is doing to the rest of the area. We are upset. We feel that he is thumbing his nose at the residents and the City. I hope you will give serious consideration to putting some control on this building. I know that it is not the place of the Board to do that, but there has to be some way of doing a little better job. I appreciate your time.

Mayor Baines stated for everyone's information, Alderman Pariseau has just informed me that the MTA Committee will be meeting at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, July 26. It will be here in the Aldermanic Chambers.

Gregory Sargent, 377 Greeley Street, Manchester, NH stated:

At this time I would like to pass out some information that I have researched and a letter that I wrote. I am here to talk about Hackett Hill. Hackett Hill is in the Northwest corner of our wonderful City. It is also home to a current University of New Hampshire building called French Hall. This building is situated on eight and a half acres of the 820 acres that is up in that corner. It has 20 classrooms with chalkboards and desks currently in them. It has faculty offices, library space, a room set-up for a computer lab, student lounge, several conference rooms, and parking for over 350 cars. This building is an option, it is a solution and it is part of a vision. It is an option for you as the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to give to the School District or let us use as a school building. It is a solution to our overcrowding problem at Manchester high schools. NESDC says that we are overcrowded by 1,500 this year. That is a debatable number. The numbers say that this building could hold 400 to 600 students. That would be a nice, large chunk out of that 1,500. The building, according to the Manchester Economic Development Office, is going for \$1.8 million give or take a few thousand. My vision for this building as well as that of many other members of the Manchester School Board is to create an Arts & Science or a magnate school there. Situating a business park right there, we could have special mentoring programs, internships, guest lecturers and many other special programs. Having a magnate school in that spot could also attract high quality businesses to that area, which I am sure is what we desire. The building could also be used in tandem. A magnate school, an alternative school, which would be a revenue source. A magnate school or a preschool, which is something that the City needs for the developmental pre-school that we have. The \$1.8 million is much cheaper than the \$32 million and the \$76 million options that we have available. This school is not a total answer. We still need to renovate the other three high schools and we still need to add more rooms to each of those. It is, however, an option that I think the Board of Mayor and Aldermen should take seriously and it is an option that the School Board would like to see realized. My special thanks to Jay Taylor and the Manchester Economic Development Office for their help.

Mayor Baines stated, Gregory, just for your information we have been having some internal discussions about that type of approach for that facility. I have convened a meeting. I think it is set for August 2. We are inviting people from the School District and people from City Hall to discuss that. We will get further information out to both Boards about that meeting.

Don Welch, 147 Boutwell Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I brought to the City Clerk's Office a press release from our group, Citizens Against the Civic Center. You should find it in your package. For the benefit of the public, I am going to read it.

In light of today's news that the site contamination clean-up cost will exceed \$1.1 million dollars, CACC (Citizens Against the Civic Center) will be calling upon Mayor Bob Baines to reign in the out-of-control spending now taking place just months into the building process. The time has come to have the Attorney General's Office look into these contamination cost overruns. I personally will hand deliver to the Mayor this formal request in the next few days. The request will ask the Mayor to utilize the AG's office in this investigation instead of the Manchester Police Department because they have been a party to this process.

The Mayor shall utilize State statutes, specifically the misapplication of property, which is Statute 638:11, which deals with "substantial risk of loss" to the owner of property, specifically the taxpayer, and Official Oppression 643:1, which deals with public servants who, if with a purpose to benefit another, knowingly commits an unauthorized act or knowingly refrains from performing a duty imposed on him by law or clearly inherent in the nature of his office. I will, in the next few days, provide the Mayor and the press with details as to why these statutes are applicable.

CACC Vice-Chairman Jeff Michelsen responded to today's news of still more cost overruns by saying, "Why am I not surprised? This is just another day in the barnyard; the fact is that when you wrestle with pigs you both get dirty, and the pig likes it." He added that nothing regarding this woeful project could illicit surprise at this point.

I would like to remind the taxpayers that eight months ago the same individuals who are spending the \$2.8 million in contingency funds told the people in this community that most, if not all, of these monies would be returned back to the City."

Now I would like to briefly comment on this. Mr. Baines, you don't need me to go forward on this. This City with this project...it has been one thing after another and I am sick and tired of hearing we have contingency money. If that is the fact, that we put this contingency money aside, we still have another year and a half to go on this project and that money is going to be far from gone. What is going to happen next? You are going to see a decrease in the quality of the materials and the products that are supposed to be in this. There are going to be design-engineering changes. This thing is never going to end. We have been saying this for a year and a half. You asked me a few months ago to get behind this thing, which would be the prudent thing to do at this point seeing that we are building this. It makes sense. We can't fight on one side of the aisle saying that this is a waste of taxpayer's money and then not get behind it and try to derail this thing. The fact of the matter is that I don't have to derail it. This thing is derailing itself. You came forward to this community in November with leadership qualities. I am asking you to please step in. Call the Attorney General's Office and ask them to ask the questions. Who, what, when, where and why? This contamination was known long ago. Mr. Levasseur is not a practicing attorney but he is getting ready to take his bar. I have studied law and I can tell you right now that maybe Gilbane is responsible for these monies. They took the contract. I don't know. If everybody keeps telling you that they

didn't know about contamination, I have a tape from a year and a half ago that people came before this Board and say there was contamination down there.

Mayor Baines stated as you know, my door is always open and I would be glad to sit down and talk with you.

Mr. Welch replied I will be bringing forward some documents for you to look at.

Rose Bonnett, 323 Franklin Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I have been taking the bus all my life and the buses have always been good for me but now there are so many changes in the bus schedule that a lot of people don't realize that they changed the bus stop. They have Veteran's Park as a main bus stop where they are changing the signs there. People don't realize it and they are getting in the bus and are on the wrong bus. They are changing the buses where it used to be on that side they are changing them on the other side at the Center of New Hampshire. I think the signs...they are not changing them until they get in town and I think the signs should be changed the minute they hit Elm Street. Now, when they come down Elm Street there is no more stopping in front of Wall Street or City Hall. They will let you off, but they won't pick you up. A lot of people are still waiting there for buses and cannot get them because they have to walk down to the Center of New Hampshire to catch the bus. A lot of the routes have changed now. They have changed the names on some of the buses so some people don't even know where they are going and then they are not going the same route. They go one way and come back another way. People that live on one part of the line figure they are going to come back the same way but they don't. They are coming back some other way so they have to come all the way back downtown, take a transfer and go on the same route going up again to go back home. That is all I have to say but I think they should do something about the buses and go back to the old schedule.

Mayor Baines stated just as a reminder we have sent a letter about it. On this issue alone, we have received the most complaints of any issue since I arrived in the Mayor's Office.

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

I guess if I tell a joke and get you to laugh I can squeeze a little more out of my two minutes up here. All you have to do is look at the big hole up on Elm Street and there are six of you here that will be laughing, I know. The rest of you should have tears. Back in the beginning of the year, your Honor, when you held up the paperwork and said the banks had just signed on to loan us money, at that time Mr. Clougherty and Mr. Ashooh knew full well about the \$300,000 in bonuses but you people didn't find out about it until

five months later. At the very least, this Board should be asking for Mr. Clougherty's job and the special award that Mr. Ashooh got back. They knew about this \$300,000 in bonuses that you people just found out about. Mr. Gatsas, I like to see you in the paper being the eagle eye. You caught the \$25,000. Mr. MacKenzie should at least get his hand slapped for that one, trying to sneak in the \$25,000. McLaughlin School. You guys can do something about that right now. There was a mistake made the first time when they built it. They didn't build it big enough and now they want to add on to it, but they don't want to add on to it big enough. The first year that thing is going to bring in the eighth grade they are going to eat up, according to the School Board, 195 slots out of the 300 slots that they are going to add in there. You people should be building that school for an addition of at least 500 kids. There is going to be some talk about the core of the building won't handle that. Logistics is all it is in running people through the cafeteria, the library, the gym and what have you. Don't underbuild it at 300. Build it bigger. The power plant. If we cannot run a civic center, we don't need to be in the power generation business. Let somebody else come in and buy that thing and worry about the repairs. Stay away from it. The Police Station. Money has been allocated for that. The only thing that station has over there is overcrowding. Give us another station. A substation to relieve the overcrowding and that will make Manchester a safer place. Another building. Mr. Mayor, several months ago I charged you with the responsibility of doing something about receiving more money for special education. I haven't seen anything in the paper. Now I challenge the whole Board here. You guys start screaming for more special ed money and get it into the schools. If it requires not voting for Congressmen and Senators, that is the only thing those people understand and maybe that is the only thing you people understand. So, Alderman At-Large and whoever is going to be the next Mayor, my vote is the only one that counts and unless you guys get hoarse in the throat from screaming for special ed money, my vote won't be coming your way. I think we need to do something about that. The City is really losing out and if you start a grass roots thing here and sign the School Board onto it and then start signing other School Boards and Selectmen and the people who run other cities in the State and start the ball rolling across the country to tell those guys don't spend money overseas but start spending it right here where we need it. Special education is killing us. We need the money.

Mary Fecteau, 579 Clay Street, Manchester, NH stated:

This is also about the buses. They took away the Valley/Taylor bus, which was a wonderful route that covered all of the stores, and they made a special route from downtown. We have to go downtown to be able to get to the mall and all of those stores now. The route that I have now I can't get back to my house. I have to go downtown to get back or walk five streets from Valley Street. Now I am an older person and there are

a lot of people old like I am. Also, when you are downtown you cannot catch a bus on Elm Street at the park because you don't know which bus is going where. They don't change the route. Only at the park. Then I called the MTA about that and she said you can get the bus near the bank or City Hall and get a transfer. They don't realize how hard it is to get up and down those stairs on the bus when you are an older person, especially if you have bad legs. Those buses have high steps. Now they should do it the way it used to be. They should change the route on the way back into the City and wherever you were you could get the bus unless you just want to stay away from City Hall and the stores downtown. It is a long walk down to the park. Maybe the ones who made the routes aren't that old. You have to be old to know how it is.

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

Alderman Pinard stated I would like to thank all of the employees from the MTA for coming here tonight. Alderman Pariseau, will these people who come to your meeting on 7/26 be allowed to express their views so that your Committee can make a judgment.

Alderman Pariseau replied it is anticipated that it would be a public session.

Alderman Thibault stated as long as I have been an Aldermen, which is roughly 13 years right now, I have never had as many calls as I have on this. I really believe that we must look at the changes that were made and how it affects the ridership. It is not bad for a person like me or some of us on this Board who don't ride the buses but as the lady who just spoke a few minutes ago said, when they have to walk three, four or five blocks to get to a bus it really is a problem for them. I would like to have that Committee really look at this carefully because I believe it affects an awful lot of people. In my ward alone I know that I have had at least 10 or 12 calls pertaining to people that have to walk six or seven blocks to get to a bus stop.

Mayor Baines stated I think all of us agree that there have been enough issues surfaced here to warrant looking at it very closely and some remediation is in order.

Alderman Shea stated I think that the people who are here tonight would really like to see some improvement in their work schedule and in their ability to cooperate or get along with management and I think that they are frustrated because this process goes back two years. They met at the School Department. There was a meeting there. There was a second meeting. We have had Maureen McCarthy involved and I think that at the

meeting, and I am sure it will be held on 7/26, they want something substantive to be done. In other words, they have been waiting long enough and they are here. They are not here because they are not looking for help. They are here because they need help and desperately and I think that the Board should take that into consideration.

Alderman Gatsas stated certainly I understand that we don't have control over MTA, but when we give them funding of 30%, a lot of those people out there are taxpayers who are funding this money and I think a message needs to be sent that they need to sit down and understand what the taxpayers of this City want because 30% of their funding is coming from the taxpayers. I don't think it is fair and certainly they haven't been very accommodating for anybody's thoughts or reasons of why they have done something. Maybe the message has to be sent that their funding does come from the City. Even though they are on the Federal level and we can't control them, something has to be done.

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

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk