

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

**May 1, 2001**

**7:00 PM**

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance; this function being led by Alderman

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

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

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.

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

Tonight...I got fairly aggravated this morning when I was reading *The Union Leader* on page 1 and carried over to page 12 in regard to the Civic Center Committee, I guess that took place last night stating that the Aldermen approved, I think, a supplemental budget or a million or a million-and-a-half, but they only used \$605,000...what caught my eye, I don't mind paying as a taxpayer for over cost runs, but when I don't think, I as a taxpayer, have to pay to put heat in where workers are working. These companies bid on a job, I believe it's their responsibility and to me if the Aldermen approved something like this it is just plain grand theft. I know you read in the paper...if we lived in a little town it wouldn't happen and I don't think it should happen in Manchester. We put bids out for something and this is a responsibility that I feel as a taxpayer should be coming back to the citizens of Manchester. Whatever we spent on this heating situation to keep workers working I feel that the City should be billing these contractors or sub-contractor and the taxpayers getting that money back...this is just one of the things. Now, as far as the Senior Center goes, I know I spoke to my Alderman I believe either in February when I was up here briefly or maybe it was even last fall I gave my Alderman something to look into that I thought might be viable...to date, I don't think anything has been done by any

Alderman as far as the senior citizens and just feel badly that you try and bring things up and they're thrown in the back as usual. Another thing, I think I had a good discussion with you last fall...I brought you in some papers that the previous Board had approved with consultants...consolidation of the garages, inventory, motor pool and to date nothing has been done to try and alleviate the situation. You've got to start taking some action to protect the citizens of Manchester...try and cut costs. I know we have a lot of department heads and I'll just name two as far as I'm concerned who are, I think, political appointments and premadonnas in their own right...that's our City Solicitor's Office...they never do anything, we're always hiring lawyers and the other is our Finance Officer because being a Finance Officer maybe has to "yes" you people or not "yes" you people. But, I think if you should start the spin around for about seven years, maybe eight years already and it's about time he acts like a Finance Officer and try and correct a lot of these things to try and save money for the City instead of going out and spending money.

Richard Girard, 166 Moore Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

I know time is short and there are a lot of people waiting to speak here tonight, so I'll be brief. There are a couple of items I would like to address to the Board tonight. I see where the City is about to close a deal with Raytheon to build a new fire station and I would like to congratulate all the City officials and particularly the Board, particularly Alderman Pinard for their perseverance in this matter. I think it is long overdue, but the point of my bringing this up is I thought I also read in the newspaper article that the next step is to hire an architect to start doing design and planning for this site and it seems to me that the City probably already has plans to build fire stations...we just rebuilt the Webster Street Fire Station not too long ago and the Mammoth Road Fire Station not too long before that, it seems to me a foolish endeavor to go and hire an architect to design a fire station when we have two relatively recently built ones where we should have the plans on file. In fact, the one on Mammoth Road was built with the plans for the fire station that's down on Harvey Road. So, we might want to reconsider that expense. The second item that I am here to speak about tonight is an item on your agenda regarding the binding arbitration legislation that is in Concord, I believe it's HB469. I'm here to ask the Board that when it takes a vote to vote in opposition to that legislation. There are a couple of reasons and first I would like to note that this legislation only affects the State's 13 cities and the Town of Derry and Durham. To my knowledge the City of Concord, Dover, Portsmouth, Keene, Lebanon, Claremont, Franklin and Rochester...where the Mayor's of all of those cities have all come out in opposition to this legislation and I believe the Towns of Derry and Durham have done likewise. The reason why I would ask you to oppose this legislation...well, there are two and they are fairly simple. First of all, a binding arbitration situation creates an environment where the Board of Mayor and Aldermen loses its ability to negotiate contracts and to ratify them. If upon declaring impasse the arbitrator comes in which under this legislation it will come in, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen are stuck with whatever the arbitrator's decision is. So, those of

you that sit on this Board who are elected by the people and accountable to the people lose their voice in what is one of the most important functions this Board and that is to negotiate and ratify contracts. I think it would introduce an incentive for either the City or the unions to declare impasse and I don't think it is going to do anything to foster amicable relations because really there's no criteria for declaring impasse, it's just whenever anyone wants to and it's been my personal experience throughout City government history that fact-finding reports are rarely friendly to the City's side of the argument regardless of who the arbitrator has been. So, I think it would be a set up. The other reason why I ask for this bill to be opposed by this Board is because it pertains only to Police and Fire unions, not that I'm opposed to Police and Fire unions, but it creates a hierarchy in the City. We all agree that Police and Fire personnel are personnel that deserve as much support as we can give, but why treat them differently than our teachers or the Highway Department...every City employee in a union represents an employee that plays a vital role in our City and if we start playing favorites we are setting up the situation where you're going to create, I think hard feelings and resentment to which the only remedy could be giving everybody binding arbitration and then you would lose negotiation power with all of the City unions and being that it's a very large percentage of the budget, I think this would be a very bad thing for the City to do and with that I thank you for the time, Mr. Mayor and members of the Board.

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

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk