

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

October 2, 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 Hirschmann.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Absent: Alderman Clancy

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.

Eric Sawyer, 40 Wilmot Street, Manchester stated:

At the last meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen I passed out a presentation and spoke about extending a tax exemption for the disabled. In that presentation I made a mistake in my arithmetic and because I always expect people who work with me when they make a mistake to come forward and acknowledge it and move forward, I expect the same from myself so I stand here to tell you that I made a mistake in the arithmetic. It is, indeed, going to be more than I expected but I believe that rather than confuse the issue, Steve Tellier has worked with me very diligently and I believe he will come forward later this evening and give you the more exact numbers. I apologize sincerely to all of you for my mistakes and I hope that you accept my apology and that we can move forward on this issue.

Billy Dodd, 181 Mammoth Road, Manchester stated:

Tonight I am going to entitle things "Call Them Like You See Them, Florida Ballots in Manchester and Silver Lining." The first one is call them like you see them. Gerry mandering. You have heard me talk about it before. The redistricting was done for political favoritism. Ward lines were drawn and redrawn to keep elected officials where they are now. That is political favoritism. I want to thank Alderman Levasseur for being the one Alderman that voted against redistricting because it is not right and it is not fair. The one Alderman that I expected to vote against it, didn't for the ward that is being affected the most. With that in mind, I would like to urge all residents of Manchester to vote no on the redistricting question and make them go back and do it right and not show political favoritism. Florida ballots in Manchester. I think you heard about the fiasco in Ward 6 with the State Representative election where ballots were not available for about 15 minutes to approximately 3 dozen people at 6 AM. I call upon this Board and the City Clerk to request that a new election be held. The difference is substantial and those ballots could make a big difference. The last one is silver lining. Court House Square LLC. Don't let that turn into another Chase Block LLC. I don't think a lot of residents in Manchester know that the Chase Block is going to be sold in 15 years. The contract is already signed for \$100,000. Absolutely ridiculous. If you are going to get \$500,000 from the Court House Square LLC from what was in the paper for the parcels that they are going to get, surely the Chase Block should have been worth \$3 million to \$4 million in 15 years, not \$100,000. I can't foresee the Federal government at this time letting anything be built next to the Federal building. The other thing that was brought up to me while I was out in Ward 6 is a lot of people up there would like to see some type of a teen center in the east end of town. Two people brought up the location of Candia Road and Hanover Street. There used to be a daycare center there. That is vacant now and for rent. Whatever appropriate committee here ought to look at renting that piece of property with maybe the provisions of picking it up for an east side teen center for younger teens, age 13, 14 or 15 to go and get some tutoring and computer skills and photography lessons and maybe even tutoring for their homework in high school. Some people brought that up so I just wanted to mention that to you.

Larry Gammel, 177 Stark Way, Manchester stated:

I am employed by the Manchester Transit Authority and I am the Chairman of a fairly newfound committee organized down there called the Positive Approach Committee. I just wanted to come here tonight and give you an update on how we are progressing with this committee and how this committee was established. The General Manager, Mr. Don Clay, established this committee and he picked different people from different departments and I was one of those people that he picked from the part-time school bus department. He asked us to sit on a committee to formulate a recognition and award program, including employee of the month of which we have done all of the above in the past few months. We worked hard at trying to establish a more positive environment. We wanted to recognize everyone for their achievements and outstanding efforts and good attitude and so forth. We just recognized our second "Employee of the Month" for September. We did that presentation today. We take one full-

time person and one part-time person and we recognize them and they have different benefits and so forth throughout the month. We are working very hard at creating a positive environment down there and trying to get the direction swayed into a new direction of where the future is at instead of where are problems are at. I try to work very hard at that. I have been employed there for about three years. During my employment I have seen a lot of things go on there and I have a lot of background in positive environments and things like that and I have tried to apply that to the MTA in trying to change the overall atmosphere. I know there have been a lot of things addressed here at different meetings and so forth. I can only say that there are some of us who are trying to create solutions to what is going on there and to others there are no solutions other than one and that is to fire the current people who run the MTA. I disagree with that solution. I am not for that solution. I am for changing and working on refocusing ourselves for the future.

Ray Giroux, 60 Harding Street, Manchester stated:

I want to thank the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen for giving me the opportunity to speak. I am here because Alderman Gatsas was gathering some information about something that is being talked about here on changing the tax ramifications for a person with a disability who lives in Manchester and owns his own home. He was wondering since he knows that I am a person with a disability in Manchester and that I own my home what my opinion was about the exemption that is being talked about. I am in favor of it obviously. It can be very difficult, not just in Manchester but in any town for somebody with a disability to find accessible housing. Quite often you are going directly from Section 8 housing to building your own house, which can be quite daunting. It is a difficult first step and not too many people can make that. I was just here to speak a little bit about that. I am in favor of it and it is a very difficult thing to do.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked can I make a point of clarification that might be required at this time. Regarding the comments from one of the speakers, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen do not have the power to order a new election. The race he is talking about in Ward 6 will be heard a week from this Friday by the State Ballot Law Commission at 1 PM. They would be empowered to either rule the election valid or to order a new election.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, 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 special meeting, on motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk