

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

October 1, 2002

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

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

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas, Guinta (late), Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil,
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, and Forest

Absent: Alderman Sysyn

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.

Anne Zachos, 2093 Elm Street, Manchester stated:

I am really delighted to be able to be here and you will see in front of you a packet, which is a gift that we have brought you tonight, Art Builds Community. I am here representing Art Builds Community and I am joined by my friend Alice DeSouza in the front row who is the Co-Chair of Art Builds Community and next to her is Jessica Kinsey who is the Executive Director of Art Buildings Community. I think that this is really a thank you to you because early on in the work that we were doing in Manchester we came and asked you for some money and you gave us \$5,000, which was a huge boost to us. We were able to leverage that and were able to say that the City really believed in the work that we were doing. Many of you know us but there may be some people who do not know about Art Builds Community. It is a relatively young, grass roots organization funded by some Leila Wallace money four years ago. We did small grants for the first three years and then we were thinking about what we could do as a permanent gift to Manchester and we thought we could try to create a cultural plan for the City. It hadn't been done before and we thought it would be something

that was valuable. So that fourth year we spent a lot of time listening to the voices of Manchester. We talked to a lot of people and asked them what they would like to see this City become in the next five years. We researched and finally put together a cultural plan and presented it to the Mayor and Aldermanic Board in April 2001. Business liked it. The organizations liked it. The corporate people that we spoke with really liked it so we knew we were on to something. The idea was to let everyone know that arts and culture...of course it is good for the soul but it is also a wonderful economic driver for the City and that is what our message was. Tonight in that packet that you have in front of you there are some enclosures that are really nice to look at. Some of you have already seen the cultural plan because we gave it out at other times but it is not a bad idea to have an extra one. New in that packet is a bookmark that looks like this. It has our website on it. The website, if I do say so, is absolutely fantastic. The address is manchesterarts.org. It is a knockout. Once you go on you will have to spend some time because it is so much fun being there. Also in the packet is something called the Manchester Area Arts and Cultural Directory. There are so many things in there in terms of resources, whether it is a performing venue or a performing group. Museums, festivals, all kinds of things. The most beautiful thing to look at is this Manchester Area Cultural Guide. It has photographs of all the different institutions in Manchester for arts and culture, directions, a wonderful map in the middle that is very clear so you know where you are going and it is going to be...we printed 75,000 of them and they will be in 150 different places throughout the State so visitors as well as our own folks will be able to find all kinds of things. What I can't put into the packet is the change that has happened in Manchester. There has been a wonderful appreciation for what arts and culture can mean to a community. We have worked hard at it. You have all helped us. We are going to keep at this work. We are here for the long run and I am sure I will be back here at some other time asking you for all kinds of support but in the meantime a very large and heartfelt thank you.

Mayor Baines stated thank you very much and everyone involved in this wonderful project. The brochure is wonderful, just absolutely fantastic.

Mariatou Scott, 512 West River Road, Hooksett stated:

Good evening Mr. Mayor and members of the Board and the public. I am originally from Africa, Mali, which is in West Africa. I am here to speak on behalf of a non-profit organization called Prosperous Africa. What we do locally is recycle items such as televisions, trucks, or clothing or any other material we may need to recycle to improve recycling here locally and help Africans economically. Our mission is to really promote and to support and strengthen the growth of environmental, education and economical initiatives both nationally and internationally. Our goal internationally is to reduce the high incidence rate of communicable and preventable diseases in developing countries. We are starting in Mali, West Africa, which is our main focus right now. Our local focus here is to educate the public – schools, tenants and businesses, to increase recycling and the impact of recycling on the health of the community and the environment. I am here tonight on behalf of Prosperous

Africa to request a connection between the City of Manchester and the district of Bamako where our first pilot project is starting. I am leaving you tonight and I am looking forward to talk more about recycling and Prosperous Africa in the months to come. We have brochures to distribute. They are not really finished but they are in the process of being done pretty soon.

Mayor Baines asked if people wanted to contact you, how would they go about doing that.

Ms. Scott replied we do have the contact number on the brochure.

Mayor Baines responded but for people watching on television.

Ms. Scott stated the number to call is 268-0101. My email address is prosperousafrica@earthlink.net. I am looking forward to a good partnership and cooperation. Thank you very much.

Eric Sawyer, 40 Wilmot Street, Manchester stated:

Recent events in the City have generally shown that there is a great lack of clarity in the City's business practices and financial structure. A lot of other towns across New Hampshire are required to produce an annual report that shows all of the town's business practices and financial condition. Manchester used to publish such an annual report. I found some from the 1960's in my father's Yankee Treasure. I would encourage the City to return to the practice. Experience has shown that just the mere fact of collecting the data and reviewing it and publishing an annual report often reveals mistakes and oversights not previously discovered. An annual report would provide a single document with a sense of clarity of all of the business that the City conducts in its financial practices. After all, you are conducting the City's business. It is the people's business. The people have the right to know and you have an obligation to inform them. Thank you.

Billy Dodd, 181 Mammoth Road, Manchester stated:

I am sure some of you have heard my explanation and Mr. Webster's definition of a politician – a lying, scheming, conniving individual out for self or partisan gain. The second half of the talk will be on Frick and Frack and the consent agenda if we get to it. It has been awhile since I have been here. I have been tied up but the vote for the senior center, that takes the cake. The way that vote was contrived before it ever got to the table up here to vote on is beyond me. You had two other sites that were under consideration but you had to push that one through. The day after that vote in August, Frick said "it just happened" but the day after that he said "the Aldermen should have known the process of City government." Then Frack said "it just happened" also but he also saw a chance for a consensus and he put it together. This thing was contrived when the vote was first taken to bond the money to do the repair on Bridge Street. It is as simple as that. You guys that voted for that shortchanged the seniors of today and the seniors of tomorrow for what could

have been a real nice site. Alderman Shea I thank you for sitting on that side and voting the way you did. The consent agenda. When they put up the "Do Not Enter" sign on Norcross off of Mammoth Road there was one Alderman in here that was called that said he didn't even know about it but you guys had to vote to put it up. Now there are "No Parking" signs north of Kennard Road on Mammoth Road all the way up by the apartments where the bridge goes over I-93. It is funny that from Kennard Road all the way back to Bridge Street where there is no room to park a car there are no "No Parking" signs. Are you guys playing landlord for the apartment buildings up there because they have too many tenants by putting up "No Parking" signs where there are parking spaces that are lined out? I don't understand that. If your budget goes through, Mr. Baines, I hope the residents of Manchester will understand that on their vehicle registration they will no longer be paying \$5 to pave roads but they are going to be paying another \$5 to pave roads and possibly another \$5 to pay for the parking revenue shortfall. My question is why did we ever lose the money out of the general fund for paving roads? The \$5 surcharge on our vehicle registration was supposed to be to pave additional miles of roads within the City. I believe it was 12 miles some years ago. Now all of the sudden the only way we are going to get roads paved is if we pay for them and I believe, Mr. Baines, you are always saying it is the right and prudent thing to do about things you are advocating. Well I think the right and prudent thing to do on another matter is instead of taking \$500,000 out of the City funds to pay for renovations at Derryfield Park let the people who use it pay for it. That is the right and prudent thing to do.

Mayor Baines advised that there being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity, 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 Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk