

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

February 18, 2003

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

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

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

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.

John Wood, Chairman of Friends of the Valley Cemetery, Manchester NH stated:

I am here to address the LCHIP situation. As you are well aware, the LCHIP on their latest round of grants last Friday granted the Valley Cemetery \$200,000 for restoration of that site. This is a great organization. They certainly do a lot for the State. Last week Mayor Baines came and spoke to the For Manchester group down at the Millyard Museum and brought up the fact that the City of Manchester in the future with the situation with the budgets is going to need more and more outside help to accomplish the things the City has as goals.

Obviously the Valley Cemetery needs a lot of work and it is unreasonable to believe that the City of Manchester will be in a financial position to put money into the Valley Cemetery that is needed. Our study indicated that it will cost \$5 million just to do the initial restoration of the cemetery. With this \$200,000 we will start by doing the gate on Auburn Street and also doing some of the fence along Auburn Street which is in very bad repair. It is going to fall down if it isn't repaired soon. We definitely want to go out and do a capital campaign and it is important that we get endorsements from people like LCHIP. We have applied to the Federal government for grants also. This brings our group to a situation where people will

see that the project is going to get underway and every grant that we get will leverage other money from other sources. People like the Hunt Foundation that we submitted a grant to last week and to other foundations like the Bean Foundation that we will be continuing to put requests for grants out to. It is very important that we get all of these people to give attention to what we are doing at the Valley Cemetery and certainly LCHIP...it was written up in the *Boston Globe* and in the *Manchester Union Leader* and definitely there will be a lot more said about it in the future. Thank you.

Jane Beaulieu, 609 South Main Street, Manchester stated:

I am here to ask you all to sign this Resolution to support LCHIP. Although the Bass Island Project was not funded this round, there were many other projects that were funded over the past four rounds. Manchester has received \$651,000 over the past few years, which is 10% of the LCHIP funds. If you are wondering why Manchester hasn't received enough LCHIP money, it really has. I believe the Bass Island Project, which is the project that I applied for LCHIP money is one of the only projects that has not been funded. I am not really quite sure...well actually I do know why it was not funded. This project includes three and a half acres of land that is at the mouth of the Piscataquog river and it is listed at \$1 million and for \$1 million LCHIP funds were able to purchase several acres up in the north country. Since the legislature overwhelmingly approved LCHIP three years ago, the program has proven among the most efficient in State government. To date, LCHIP has helped protect 188,000 acres and rehabilitated 35 historic structures in 59 communities. I have spent a lot of hours on land protection projects and historic preservation. Will you please assist me in my efforts? All you need to do is sign the Resolution. That would assist not only myself but other people who really want to improve our community. Thank you.

Joe Levasseur, 866 Elm Street, Manchester stated:

Mayor Bob Baines is a Democrat and a former President of the Principal's Union, State Democratic Party Chairwoman Kathy Sullivan is the sister of MCTV's Director, Grace Sullivan and the School Board has 12 or 14 seats that are in Democratic hands. Together, this group of Democrats have worked to force the public access station formerly on Channel 16 to Channel 96 – a station that for all intents and purposes does not exist. Lou D'Allesandro just tried to sponsor a bill that would have stifled free speech. His own Democratic colleagues publicly stated that D'Allesandro's bill was unconstitutional. The Democratic party has become a party of hypocrites. A party that believes in the First Amendment only when it suits their own needs. When Bob Baines was running for Mayor, he used Channel 16 to point out the differences between himself and his Republican opponent but now that Bob Baines is the Mayor, he hides the voices of Manchester's residents and public access producers on a channel that nobody can get. It is too bad that I have to rant and rave on Channel 96 in order to get the attention of the political leaders in this State. I can only imagine how the editorial writers of the *Union Leader* and *Hippo Press* would feel if their editorials were published in the automotive section of their newspapers. I am a lightning rod for MCTV and I am a lightning rod for those that are too worried to

step forward because of the fear of retribution and retaliation. It was you, Bob Baines, who put together a blue ribbon committee to settle the MCTV issues. That highly regarded commission recommended separating MCTV from the School Board's control but because Bob Baines cannot handle the criticism and the heat that goes along with being Mayor, Bob Baines chose to disregard the commission's findings and allowed Grace Sullivan, Kathy Sullivan's sister, to hide our voices over on Channel 96 – Siberia. Bob Baines, free us from the chains of censorship. Remember it was you who said Bob Baines would take the heat for his 8% tax increase. Now prove it and put us back on Channel 16 where we belong. I would like to see a Charter amendment that says that public access will be the lowest channel of all of the channels so if it was going to be Channel 26, 27 and 28, MCTV public access should be the first one. It is your job and you should do it.

Maureen Molly Lee Sherman, 444 Chestnut Street, Manchester stated:

I need the sidewalks cleared and Mayor Baines and the Welfare Commissioner to not have raises. Thank you.

Don Welch, 811 Dix Street, Manchester stated:

I haven't quite come out totally against this baseball project but I am leaning towards that and that is probably where I am going. I am more concerned tonight, even though this is not my bailiwick, what you are about to vote on tonight. When I was a State Legislator I worked extensively on the Lake Tarlatan bill. There is a provision within the state statute that is called the Shoreline Protection Act. It is a very comprehensive piece of legislation and it is an act that is out there to protect the State of New Hampshire basically. Tonight you people are going to be voting to ask for an exemption from the State of New Hampshire, Department of Environmental Services to exempt this provision of the law. I would suggest to all of you before you make any vote that you consider this. Even though you asked for the exemption, whatever vote you take after that that is going to cost the taxpayers in this City money may be nullified by the DES. I say that with a lot of experience in what happens when you start tinkering with shorelines on ponds, rivers, lakes and in this case the river. The exemption, the act itself, what you are doing tonight somebody told me was unconstitutional. I am not quite sure about that. I think the municipalities do have a right to ask for the exemption. Whether they get it or not is another story. This may cost hundreds of thousands of dollars or millions of dollars of reengineering by way of not being granted this exemption. I talked to somebody from the Conservation Commission tonight. They weren't even aware this was coming before you. They are very concerned with this. It is not my bailiwick like I said but I wish all of you would take a breather here and find out exactly what you are doing when you are asking for this exemption.

Gail Nessell Colglazier, 129 Amherst Street, Manchester stated:

I am Director of the Manchester Historic Association. I was here two weeks ago to speak in support of LCHIP and I am back to do the same thing tonight. A couple of things have changed since the meeting two weeks ago. First of all, as you heard three new projects

totaling approximately \$500,000 have received funding here in Manchester in the last round of LCHIP. As Jane said, a total of \$651,250 has come to the City through the program and because it is a matching grant program it leverages other dollars and a total of \$2,763,590 additional dollars will come into these projects in the City because of the LCHIP Program. In addition, as you may have heard the Governor has recommended funding for the LCHIP Program - \$4 million a year in the next year and the year after that. A group of organizations is hoping to get additional funding through the Legislature's discretionary fund so more projects in Manchester will certainly be eligible if organizations or City departments chose to apply and I certainly would encourage this group to support the program.

Elizabeth LaRocca, 110 Northbrook Drive, Manchester stated:

I am a 22 year resident of the City and I am also happy to say that I am an alternate on the Heritage Commission. Thank you for voting me in. I am also a Trustee of the Manchester Historic Association. I am here tonight to respectfully urge that you pass a Resolution supporting LCHIP. The concern regarding sprawl and development is a statewide issue and it will remain one as long as Massachusetts remains a high cost of living and as long as NH continues to have its statewide charm or its lovely charm. City officials have demonstrated their leadership, great leadership I might add, time and time again about how you value open space and how you value preservation. You have demonstrated that through the beautiful restoration of this building, through Hackett Hill, through the Stark Street renovation, through the Bond Building, the Dunlap Building. Over and over again you have shown your leadership and as the largest city in the State of New Hampshire it is very important for Manchester to weigh in. People are going to be looking for you. The other communities are going to be looking for you and waiting for you so I urge you to please weigh in and realize that New Hampshire is a very small state and we are all in it together. Thank you very much for your time.

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

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

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk