

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

April 15, 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 Thibault.

A moment of silent prayer is observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

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.

Billy Dodd, 181 Mammoth Road, stated I wish the new Police Chief well in his new position. I think he'll do a good job, but if this board is going to follow suit with the rest of the City and the school board you're going to have to bump his salary considerably. The salary range is somewhere around \$76,000 to \$109,000, the current police chief is making around \$93,000, if you follow suit with the school board you're going to have to bump the current salary by a \$10,000 or \$15,000. If not, you're going to be telling him he's not as important as the school superintendent. The school budget. You sure can tell it's an election year. Some people want to give the school department almost every nickel they ask for but last year was a completely different story. I wonder why. Election year. School additions to the high schools. This tuition agreement for the last year and a half has been a nightmare. Nobody knows what, what number is where, or anything. This board and the school board should have been joined at the hip when you were going through negotiations. You've wasted a year and a half. Now you're going to be asked to vote on something and new numbers are just going to be coming in as to who is paying what percentages. It's not the way you should be doing business. The ballpark, it might be a good idea, but I have to

question and you guys should question also why Mr. Sanborn makes a statement that if we don't a ballpark the whole project is going to die. We can't put condos and hotels and what not down there without a ballpark? I question that. But don't give up any environmental easements that has been granted along that river. They don't need to cut down any trees or anything. There's an interesting article in the paper yesterday about the power plant and how much money they are going to be paying in taxes for only operation 30 to 60 days. I called the reporter and asked him if these numbers were good and he said were. If we're going to get \$500,000 for one power plant to run 30 to 60 days, I'd question where all the questions are coming from.

Joe Raycraft, 196 Bridge Street, stated thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this evening on the renovations to Gill Stadium and the possible addition of a baseball team here in Manchester. I consider this as a stepping stone. I think Manchester's taken steps above other cities in the state to improve the facilities that we want our student athletes to be able to achieve and to be able to promote this city a little bit better by inviting people to come in and offer the opportunity to do that. We've had Gill Stadium for a number of years and I was fortunate because when I was playing this was the one thing everybody wanted to do was to come to Gill Stadium. I don't know if that's true now with the conditions that it's in right now. You've talked to the athletic coordinators of all the schools, we've talked to the kids at all the schools, and the athletes and they're all really excited about the opportunity to have improvements there and be able to play and have something that's really theirs. The other part of it is Central High School, which basically is the home of Gill Stadium in the fall, they would be allowed to get off from their practice field at Beech Street School and use the facility at Gill Stadium once it is completed. Again, the athletes, the students, the coaches, the administrators, and the teams are thrilled with the opportunity to have this advancement there. The people who are coming in have offered us many possibilities; are there going to be some concerns, yes there are but those are only minor. We have already started to adjust our schedules if this is a reality.

David Fitzgibbons, 77 Wellington Hill Road, stated I would like to bring up the baseball stadium development project. That the City plans to float a 20-year bond for \$27.5 million. I'm concerned in all probability the baseball team will leave the City before the 20-year bond is retired leaving the City taxpayers liable. The majority of minor league teams do not embed themselves to a city for more than ten years, which is a far shortfall in the life of the bond. What safety net does the City have? I also have a concern about the financial liability of the \$100 million plus development project. What if this development doesn't meet revenue expectations, or worse yet fails? Again, what safety net does the City have? This board should vote to have this project put on a referendum so that the people can decide. If we had a referendum on the civic center we should also have one for this project. The other point I wanted to make was the \$110 million school fix. Since the town of Bedford has voted not to send their children, approximately 800 students, to the Manchester school system, it seems like common sense that the project should scaled down to meet the lower

student population. I strongly urge the board to take this proposal off the table for further discussion.

George Sylvester, 1520 Belmont Street, stated my point is needs not wants. Does Manchester need a baseball stadium and a golf course club house? The Mayor and the Aldermen don't seem to get it. As we look around America today we see a country at war, unemployment skyrocketing, companies downsizing, companies going out of business, stock market going down, people losing billions in their savings and retirement plans, gasoline and oil prices going out of sight, people having to sell their homes, people concerned about making sure that have a roof over their head and food on the table, retail businesses saying that business is way off, and Manchester specifically we hear that children having to take tests in school wearing coats and gloves. We have trailers almost at every school. In Manchester you can't drive down a street that isn't full of potholes, hills and valleys. Economic housing is at a premium. Constant complaints about parking and snow removal. The tax rate has been climbing. Eight percent last year right after reevaluation and due for another increase in taxes this coming year. And what are the Mayor and Aldermen concerned is spending taxpayers dollars for a baseball stadium, executive house and a new clubhouse. I most recently left a message with Alderman Wihby, Ward I about baseball referendum. He responded with numbers make good sense, good deal for the City. I asked then why isn't that good enough to put up for a voters referendum? I asked Mayor and Aldermen would you put your money into this project. It's easy to put taxpayers dollars in, however, the best referendum is to see what the taxpayers feel. Most recently developers said that if it goes to referendum it will not pass and I ask if it is good for the City, why won't it pass? Why is everyone afraid of a referendum trying to push this through? Questions I think all of you people should have answers for: how many minor league teams are there, how many in a city the size of Manchester, how many teams are struggling financially, how many are not, why did New Haven want to sell this team, what is the average time a minor league team stays in one city, how long is the season, how many home games, what other activities compete with minor league baseball, what is the average attendance in a city the size of Manchester. I say to you, let the people decide. Put it up for a referendum.

Bob Shaw, 172 Arah Street, stated Mayor I want to congratulate you on your choice for police chief. I wish the procedure though would follow the City charter, Section 3.03. I understand that you'll be bringing the nomination tonight before the Aldermen and that you might ask to have the rules suspended and I want to be sure that the Aldermen are aware that when people retire from the City of Manchester they take a tremendous amount of vacation time and sick leave time and we already have three deputy chiefs at that department so it could be well run from that perspective. I think if you followed 3.03 you'd find out that you're not supposed to even vote on it tonight, that you didn't follow the procedure set forth by the Aldermen and that you definitely didn't follow probably within 33.028, the City ordinance as it regards to vacancies. Again, you're the first Mayor that I know of that's ever

had the opportunity to appoint a police chief and I hope that the Aldermen will though take into account the City taxpayers pocketbooks, find out when you have this tremendous opportunity that you face, which is says incidentally in the charter that this is an opportunity to look at the whole thing. The whole picture. That you just won't be spending more money than we need to pay.

Gail Barry, 51 West Elmwood Avenue, stated that I am Chairman of Manchester Concerned Taxpayers. The Manchester taxpayers are not against baseball. They'd love to have baseball but we don't think the taxpayers should have to foot the bill. May I remind the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of RSA 49C:24; borrowing for a term exceeding one year shall be authorized by the elected body only after duly advertised public hearing. We have not had a public hearing. Also, we have had referendums before. The civic center, CMC, and the charter. Please give us a chance. Give us a referendum on the stadium.

Robin Comstock, President and CEO of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, stated I am here this evening that the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce is supportive of the riverfront development project. As exciting as the prospect that Manchester will soon have its own double A baseball team make no mistake, the riverfront development project is no game. It is in fact, one of the most comprehensive economic development initiatives since ground was broken for the Manchester airport. It's true that this massive project revolves around American's fondest sports tradition and even the most sophisticated are now caught humming the melody "Take me out to the ball game." But all of the excitement of daydreams about warm weather days of our own ballpark. Please understand that this project is the essence of economic development at its very best. The project is, in fact, about much more than baseball. It's about jobs; it's about income, destination travel, and expanding economic base while shifting a community's culture. This stadium project is about adding a year round reason to be in Manchester and the surrounding area, with an emphasis on a poignant gap in users of the community in spring and summer. Rather than viewing everything, what we may want to do in the spring and summer is only an hour away from Manchester, but with the ballpark riverfront development project Manchester will have just what we want to do drawing everyone from an hour away for us. The economic development project may be focused on a game but it's about the development of a 26-acres riverfront parcel of land that is sorely in need of improvement. Manchester is well positioned for this project. Baseball in the states largest city and finance capital will certainly prove to the catalyst of massive and extremely exciting and important economic development revitalization plan for our city and region.

Ray Pinard, 65 Kidder Street, Chairman of Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, stated the Chamber is supportive of the bonding for the school renovation and addition project and I'd like to site some of these reasons. First is economic development. Our schools are in serious need of repair and additional space. Improved and up to date school facilities will foster a sense of community and pride and increase investments in the city by the private sector. A competitive school system that meets the current and future needs of

students in regional commerce serves as a key selling point of our City over regional locations. Not only will improved and modern schools attract new business to Manchester but it will encourage families to reside in Manchester. Second, education is a major component of the Chamber's strategic plan. Additionally, the Chamber maintains that a regional high school format is best for greater Manchester because it encourages the diversity in our schools and allows Manchester to serve as an educational hub for our region. Third, project affordability. With bond rates at an all time low we are in a unique position to provide favorable financing for this project and to move forward. The City Finance Department has determined that as results of the upcoming retirement of other schools bonds the entire proposed school package can be financed without increasing the tax rate in Manchester. In summary, the Chamber sees only positive results from this project and we strongly encourage full support of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Skip Ashooh, Ward 3, stated I am here not only as a resident but as Chairman of the Manchester Development Corporation. In the minutes package if you haven't received it you will be receiving our meeting on Friday morning past. Motions put before my board and they asked to come and simply express our concerns and our hope to support this board and its work, especially when it comes to economic development. As you're aware over the last 10 to 12 years, the City has made great strides in building momentum and economic development, and finally starting to bear the fruits of attracting major development in the City and not just on South Willow Street but in our downtown. This momentum I think is one of our most valuable commodities and I think we're here to stress and what my board would like to communicate, anything that you can do to move these economic development projects along in a timely fashion to maintain that momentum so that we keep our stride, would be something my board would like to see happen and we would be more than willing to help you in any in communicating that momentum to the rest of the population. We have a number of questions that will come up on projects on this size all the time and when these questions come up as they will we know that you'll deal with them. If we can be of resource to you in getting answers to you for that, don't be afraid to call on us.

Rick Fradette, Ward One, stated I am here this evening with butterflies even though I do speak fairly often in an adversarial context. I'm a lifelong resident of Manchester and I'm proud of the City. I'd like to address two issues. One is the question of the need for a referendum. I would strongly support this Board of Mayor and Aldermen in its decision to go forward with the existing riverfront project without the need for a referendum. We vote you folks, in we trust you and we watch you on TV believe it or not, and I think it should be a resounding endorsement of the job that you've been doing to say go forward. This is too important an issue for grandstanding at this point in time, so take the courage that you all have and go forward on that project. With respect to the school as a second issue, I have not spoken with respect to the school. I have three children, two are out of Central High School and the third is a junior there now. I can't speak highly enough about the faculty at that institution. They are superb and they've been performing in extremely adverse conditions.

I'm proud of you folks and the school board. You are on the same page and for once in 15 years or so and I think that is great. We should capitalize on that and go forward. I would endorse the school budget and also the building of the project. From one resident of Ward I you're doing a great job, keep it up. In the long run the good guys prevail and you guys are the good guys.

Dianne Beaton, 8 Chauncy Avenue, stated thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak about the stadium proposal. I am a lifelong resident of Manchester and have seen many changes through the decades, but best of all has been the civic center. The previous leadership gave the voters of Manchester the opportunity to voice their opinion on whether or not they would want the venue. It would be prudent for this leadership to give the same voters the same opportunity with a non-binding referendum on the baseball stadium complex. If it is truly as great a concept as it is, it will pass.

Michael LaClaire, 1743 Brown Avenue, stated I am the PTA President of Highland Goffs Falls. When it comes to baseball being a coach at Manchester south, you won't get too much of an argument with me over baseball, but not at the expense of the taxpayers and the kids. I hope that when I get old and feeble and I have oatmeal running down my chin, that we have educated children who will be paying their taxes and will be able to do the things that I have not been able to do in as many of their parents. We have an opportunity to fix the schools. We all know that the schools have been in disrepair for many, many a year and I don't agree with everything about the design/build but it's about time we did something and I just want to express that I hope you guys will vote for it.

Jay Taylor, 17 Morningside Drive, Hooksett, stated I am a member of the Manchester Development Corporation board. First of all I'd like to tell you that tonight I'm violating a promise that I made to myself three months ago that I would never sit in this seat again, but here I am. I'm here to express my support for the riverfront development project and to give you several reasons why that is the case. You all know my history and background so I won't go into that, but basically I think I've said for sometime the only way we're going to increase the tax base in Manchester is to begin the redevelopment process and in my view this project, even though some of the land is vacant, it is in fact a redevelopment project. Secondly, in my opinion substantial development projects, private development projects are not going to take place in the City of Manchester or anywhere else for that matter without the City being a partner by participating directly in the project. In this particular instance that private/public partnership is alive and well in this project. Other private investors who will look to investing in Manchester are watching this project to see how it goes and to some extent I think the City's process is on trial and it's very important to send the proper message to others who may follow. To wrap up I think the failure to take a timely action on this project may very well have a negative impact on the City's ability to attract additional private investment going forward and as I said before, I think the City's credibility in

development may be at stake here. I urge you a timely action on the support and I thank you for your attention.

Peter Duffy, 246 Lincoln Street, stated I want to compliment the City governing body for what it's done in the last 10 or 15 years. The way you've revitalized the downtown today is nothing short of a miracle. There is a very positive spirit moving forward. You've invested well in the City's future. The best investment you could make hereon would be investing in our schools. Please fund the school renovations. This city for years had a cycle of neglect. That cycle has been broken. There's a war going on right now. One of our founding fathers once said our ability of our country to fight wars in the future will be based upon how we treat the veterans today. The ability of this City and our country to move forward 30 years from now, an education will reflect how we treat our students today. Give them something to be proud about. Fix those schools.

Patrick Smith, 583 Bridge Street, stated you heard earlier from Mr. Raycraft who represented Manchester Memorial, Central and West. I'm the athletic director of Trinity High School and the Dean of Students at Trinity. I would just like to echo Mr. Raycraft's comments that our student athletes, coaches, and administration are very excited about the possible renovation of Gill Stadium. We think this is a first class city, with first class student athletes and we could use a first class facility like the renovations at Gill Stadium that go long with the baseball park for our youngsters for years to come.

William Dugan, 111 Wheelock Street, stated following hours of testimony, debate, discussion regarding the build/design project, there's probably little I can say in two minutes that would sway any votes on this board. However, I do want to weigh in on the issue urging this board to vote in favor of the project and move forward for the good of Manchester. I'd also like to urge this board to pass the Mayor's proposed school district budget of \$127.1 million. I don't think it's enough, but the alternative is unthinkable. Last year in my annual pilgrimage here I asked the question regarding quality education. Last year Mr. Mayor had discussed the difference between some of the programs that were absent in our schools, I think he was addressing a question by Alderman Guinta. About a month ago Alderman Shea asked the finance Chair of the school committee why Manchester can educate its students for approximately \$1,000 less per student. Essentially the same question that was asked last year. And again the answer was same. We don't offer the same programs. So I'm wondering when we will offer such things as foreign language programs in the middle schools and other programs that are needed in our schools. Again, a rhetorical question but I'd like you to answer it.

Jeff Kassel, 22 Appleton Street, stated I was at the last Aldermanic meeting making a complaint very similar to the one I'm going to make tonight. Within the last week there was an editorial in the Union Leader entitled "A Referendum This Spring Let Voters Speak on the Baseball Plan and Charter". I'd like to echo the sentiment of that article and repeat one

of the sentences. Levasseur is absolutely right that residents deserve a chance to vote on this huge project that would reshape downtown and substantially alter the character of the City. I think the people should have the say in how their money is spent. Not only that, I think the people should have a say in a referendum in how their money is spent with respect to expansion and renovations of schools. Bedford had a say. They declined to be part of the program here in Manchester. I don't think we can do any less for the taxpayers of this city that are footing the bills. You've got a lot of people speaking tonight but I think there should be a robust debate. These are staggering numbers. I'm told tonight that it's going to be \$117 million and with interest it's going to be close to \$200 million. That's close to a quarter of a billion dollars and that's a staggering amount of money for a city this size. During the last four years we've had huge projects proposed and some of them bonded and I think we better start being very, very careful about the people's money.

John Lowe, 375 Cedar Street, stated I want to talk a little bit about baseball. I'm a fan of baseball but I'm also a resident of this City. I believe we need to be able to vote, the people in this City, if we want it or not. It's not up to 12, 13 people; it should be up to over 100,000 people that we have here. On the school issue or Bedford, well it's too bad it's more money that we're all going to have to pay for. I see why and in some ways I'm not going to say. I've read things, I've heard things, I've talked to people. Another issue...we can't bring people into this city with the streets the way they are. There's trash all over the place. I don't believe that the Director of the Department of Public Works is enforcing his employees, the temporary ones, who make from what I was told \$10 an hour. I believe they're the ones throwing the trash all over the place and not properly picking it up right. That's a big issue for trying to bring people into the Verizon Center. They have to walk, if they drive through they get lost. We don't need them getting lost in areas that are covered with trash. Everything's blowing all over the place. To wrap that up, I think that both yourself Mr. Mayor and the Board of Aldermen as your terms come to end and bring in new people, new faces, I think you guys have a lot of work to do to wrap up you guys terms.

Mike Bodruk, 328 Aaron Drive, stated there are two issues I want to touch on tonight. One of them is the stadium and the other one is the schools. As far as the stadium goes I'm going to just read a letter that I had written to the Union Leader, it was a letter to the editor and I think that pretty much sums up what my feeling are about that. To the Editors: Can anyone explain to me in terms that make sense, why the taxpayers of Manchester have to pay upwards of \$40 million for a baseball stadium and will only have a three year lease agreement from the team that it's being built for. In everyone's excitement and jubilation over baseball coming to this city, are our elected officials hanging us out to dry. This deal stinks. I think Bob Baines has watched "Field of Dreams" one too many times. I can picture it now. The Mayor waking up in a cold sweat with a voice from beyond saying if you build it they will come. In his zeal to exercise the voices in his head, he built it and bankrupts the city just as the character in the movie did to his farm. Why is the Mayor and the developer so afraid in letting it put to a ballot question? Why are some of the same players that wanted

the civic center on a ballot willing to let this slide without public opinion being weighed? There is a problem here and we are having this thing rammed down our throats. Don't let them do it to us. By the way, one of the reasons we couldn't build a senior center down there is because of the potential for a nightmare relating to hazardous waste cleaned up around the area. Are we to believe that this has been resolved or will we wind up paying for the clean up too if the stadium is built?

Joe Levasseur, 866 Elm Street, stated I just want to say isn't it great just because somebody mentioned the word referendum we had a huge turnout here at City Hall, and for anyone to say that it's grandstanding I think it's absolutely hilarious that the same people who now want the civic center, who wanted the civic center, worked so hard for it, are now trying to let the Aldermen decide whether this should not go to referendum. The best thing about the civic center and the reason why the Aldermen felt secure in voting for it was because the citizens of this City were allowed to vote for it. I think that they should be allowed to vote for it again. And the other thing you have to remember, if you don't vote for it tonight, you're actually going to put the developers in a worse position, because the people in this City are going to put a petition together. The petition is going to be signed by the 7,000 votes necessary and it will be put on the November ballot one way or the other. Whether you delay that or not it's up to you tonight, but I hope that you will... As an alderman I was very glad that the citizens were allowed to weigh in on that, so when I made my vote, over the long haul I'll feel comfortable that I supported a project that the citizens of this City supported. The other issue, Bedford's gone. Enrollments are down by your own admission Mr. Mayor. The enrollments are down in the elementary schools. School vouchers are coming. Charter schools coming, yet we're rushing on with a \$175 million worth of debt to put on additions and renovations. This is a rush to judgement. I know this is a political thing for the Mayor because after three and half years all he has on his record is an over priced senior center in a really bad location. That's all he has to show for three and a half years so he's trying to rush through baseball, he's trying to rush through this school renovation plan. We haven't heard one person come in here and say their against baseball and you haven't heard one person say they're against renovations, you've heard everybody say we'd like to see baseball come, we just hope that the people of this city are allowed to vote on it. We want to see renovations; we just don't want to see massive amounts of spending all at one time. For all of you people out there who are watching this TV show, please feel free to call me at home 626-0881 if you want to sign a petition to put the referendum to ballot to make sure that you are in support of a over \$30 million baseball stadium.

Will Infantine, 89 Windward Lane, stated I think it was about 31 years ago this summer my father took me to a baseball game at Gill Stadium. I was eight years old, so that tells you I'm almost 40 and back then if you wanted to go to a rock concert you had to go to JFK Stadium and the river ran orange at times. That doesn't happen anymore. We have a beautiful waterfront and we have a beautiful stadium and I believe that's because of people who work hard and because of the people here in the City, businesses and homeowners who pay their

taxes. Those people who pay their taxes on time, the leaders that have lead this City have created a good bond rating and that's why developers want to come into this city and do things. I believe you have to be consistent. You folks have to make a lot of decisions some good, some bad, some the lesser of all evils, but in doing so I believe what people want is consistency. When I came in front of you a couple of months ago jokingly asking for \$100 back on my property taxes because my street wasn't plowed and my trash wasn't picked up, I was joking, but that was important. The people of the City want their trash picked up every week. They want their streets plowed. Well I believe that you folks again this whole theme of consistency. When you make these decisions, please be consistent with all of your decisions. If you're going to have a referendum for the CMC situation, if you're going to have a referendum for an arena, which I support whole-heartedly, I have season tickets to the Monarchs; I take my children to the events. My wife and I went and saw Yanni last week. They are fantastic events. I would to take my two daughters to a baseball game. I hope they will enjoy it as much as I did. I do believe when you make your votes, when you have to be consistent here what the voters expect you to do that you will bring this vote to a referendum and let the people make a decision. Thank you very much and please be consistent.

Kathy Staub, 374 Laurel Street, stated I'm here to speak about the design/build proposal. Every year all of us are frustrated as we spend more and more money on our schools and we never see any improvement. All of us have said that there must be a way to use those resources more effectively and that is what the design/build proposal does. It's like a mortgage, you take out a loan and you buy a house and you get to enjoy living in your home during the 20 or 30 years that it takes to pay back the loan. With design/build we pay no more than our current debt service each year and we get school buildings that we don't have to be ashamed. All we want are decent schools. We are not asking you to build country clubs for our kids. I think if we were this would be easier. Look at me, I am just an ordinary parent. I'm not a developer that stands to make a lot of money on this deal and I don't have any political aspirations, I'm just a mom. I used to be an ordinary mild mannered PTA lady, I used to run bake sales and I bought lots of refrigerator magnets, and I don't remember if it was the second time or maybe the third time, but the leaky roof at McDonough School got bumped off the CIP schedule for something more important. But then I realized I could never bake enough cookies or sell enough t-shirts to do what needed to be done in those schools, and that's when I became an activist, but it doesn't change who I am. I am still just a parent. And the reality is that there are a lot more people just like me, and when you look at how political change happens it doesn't happen from the people at the ends of the spectrum, it happens in the middle. I want you to know that whenever I tell parents that there's a possibility their Alderman may not vote for this, it's inconceivable for them that you could vote for every other cockamamie scheme that comes down the pike but you can't vote for this. The people in Manchester now want leadership not obstructionism. In the end I hope you'll do the right thing and vote yes for schools.

Rona Zlokower, 161 North Adams Street, stated I've been before you many times before, but this time it's very different. There is a vision, a detailed plan, a funding plan, a timetable, and an implementation team ready to bring our schools up to safety codes, the legal occupancy requirement, to allow teachers and students adequate classroom space and gymnasiums, auditoriums, cafeterias, bathrooms and libraries. It is all at a minimal cost to Manchester taxpayers. It is all waiting for your support. Aldermen Shea and Gatsas I am confident that our very competent school officials have a handle on present and future elementary school capacities and the use of portable classrooms. Alderman Wihby you have seemed somewhat skeptical in spite of the fact that major renovations and additions will support and improve the schools in Ward I. I hope all of your questions and concerns have been answered. Baseball and hockey teams can entertain us, as will other performers at the Verizon center, but really the future of the City, it's economic health, it's cultural health, its health all over, will really come from an excellent school system. Parents and all those concerned with education in the city are watching you. This is the hour for your leadership.

Keith Hirschmann, 296 Dunbarton Road, stated as a child I walked across the Granite Street bridge to go see baseball at Gill Stadium, the Manchester Yankees, and I actually had enough money to buy a program and root for guys like Freddie Winston and had a good time. So baseball has a root in Manchester. There's room for it. Unfortunately the actions that I see when I flick on channel 22 I'm worried if we're going to have enough discretionary income to go to these ball games because I watched the propaganda ministers talking about us actually paying to throw away our trash in the future and I think that you're going to make a move and if we can't afford to take the taxpayers trash anymore, how do you have the audacity to bring that proposal forward with all these other things...I can't fathom that. The people in Manchester deserve to have their trash picked up as part of their tax bill. In the past four years 2001 we've suffered a tax increase, 2002 we've suffered a tax increase, 2003 we've suffered a tax increase, 2004 there is a proposed tax increase and that tax increase is not even going to pick up our trash. The one pleasure I had as being an alderman was I always supported public safety. I always thought of myself as a public safety first alderman. And now I see a budget come forward where you're leaving a glorious fire station that we built, you're going to leave that vacant. You don't even put fire fighters in the budget. What is going on down here? No trash pick, no fire fighters in a firehouse, but you have the audacity to float all these other ideas. Please work on the taxpayer's behalf. I don't want to go to baseball, but I really wouldn't be able to afford to do it if I had to throw my trash out and put little stickers on bags or pay dollars for putting my trash out. I got a flyer in the mail. The water bills are going to go up because they're going build a new water facility up on the Hooksett line. That means the EPD bills...so the water bills are going to go up as well and that means the EPD bills are going to go up. It's going to be very expensive to live in Manchester over the next few years unless you have courage. Unless you Aldermen all get together as a body and decide we're not going to charge the taxpayers to throw away their trash, we're going to hold the line on taxes, we're going to fund fire fighters to be in our

fire stations, we're going to get serious and roll up our sleeves and get things done. Maybe could afford to go to baseball if you did those things.

Molly Lee Sherman, 444 Chestnut Street, stated I don't want to see the park developed because we can't afford it, we're still paying office civic arena. We need trash pick up. Mayor Robert Baines doesn't need a raise. Board of Mayor and Aldermen should not get the audit department. Police should have more and schools should get money.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on a motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, 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 a motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Copy. Attest.

City Clerk