

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

July 20, 2004

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 Roy, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Porter, O'Neil,
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, 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.

Robin Comstock, President, Manchester Chamber of Commerce, 889 Elm Street, stated we're here tonight to what you know that in partnership with the City the Chamber unveiled "wi-fi" service this week. "Wi-Fi" is wireless Internet service that makes use of the Internet possible from anywhere. Our program is an endeavor of the Chamber's Technology Committee made possible by Signal Technologies. Most exciting is that we have been able to provide Aldermanic chambers, right here in these very chambers, "wi-fi" service too. In fact Alderman Mark Roy tested it when we had our unveiling ceremony. And now you too can work from your laptop right here on Elm Street. We believe, and hope you agree, that promoting the fact that "wi-fi" and available and accessible in our City positions Manchester as a competitive City with sophisticated infrastructure and technology. Typically "wi-fi" and similar technology systems are only available in cities much, much larger than Manchester. we hope that ultimately this service will strengthen our shared economic development vision and work as we continue our combined effort to position Manchester as a strong competitor in business recruitment and business sustainment. We greatly appreciate the Mayor and the City Hall support through his entire endeavor and we believe this project is a great testimony of the fruit that our collaborative efforts can produce.

Chris Williams, Manchester Chamber of Commerce, stated unfortunately we weren't able to get this on the overhead projector because I believe you have a different presentation that's already kind of wired up for that. For the sake of Manchester Community Television though, I believe they are focusing in on the screen right now and I will just talk you guys through very briefly with what you can do with this. But if you'll notice this laptop has no wires attached to it, no electrical cords, no internet cable as well and you can bring your own laptop in if you have one. I doubt the City probably provides them for you, maybe you might want to talk about that at some other budget hearing, but until then you do need to bring in your own laptops. All you have to do is simply log in to the Internet once you've turned your computer on and it's going to automatically take you to a portal page. It will automatically kick you there right away, there's nothing you need to do, no address you need to type in or anything like that and it will immediately kick you there. Once you do so, all you have to do is put in your own user name and password, which you will create once you go to this page for the very first time. I've already created my own account so I will simply log in my own user name and my own password and that will automatically kick me in here and you'll notice that a log on screen appears by itself and then a little box will show you how much time you have left for that day. You have one hour of free time each day, after that you can pay \$4.00 for an hour or I believe it's \$10.00 for a whole day and then \$24.00 for a whole month of service, which would be unlimited at that time. So up until you get your own account though and if you want to buy time that's up to you, but in the meantime you'll be able to have 60 minutes of free time each day and we do believe this is a great service for each of the Aldermen to be able to take advantage of it at your committee hearings and at the Aldermanic board meetings as well and we hope that you will take advantage of it. It's a great service, Alderman Roy showed us the benefits of that at our press conference this past Monday and as I've shown you here, it's incredibly easy to do, anyone can do it, all you have to have is the laptop with a little "wi-fi" card, which you can buy at Best Buy or Circuit City for about \$25.00 to \$40.00 depending on the quality of the card that you want. We hope you'll take advantage of it and look forward to working with you on another project.

Mayor Baines stated thank you and we commend the Chamber and everyone involved in that initiative. We appreciate it very, very much. I just want to take a minute to acknowledge a real distinguished public servant in the City. John Walsh has served as a Alderman for four years and served the State level elective office, a real distinguished public servant, John Walsh, welcome back to City Hall this evening.

Tom Schwieger, 45 St. Andrews Drive, Bedford, stated it is my pleasure to be here this evening representing Hands Across the Merrimack, the volunteer effort to help restore the railroad bridge that we think could be a very vital part of the riverfront development. I want to commend Robin and the Chamber. I think when I came to the Chamber we didn't have computers yet. I know you've heard a great deal in the past particularly from Helen Closson

who is here tonight about this effort to build this pedestrian and bicycle pathway across the river. One thing I'd like to mention if you haven't, most of us we drive I293 so often we almost forget that this rusted out bridge is over our heads and it really has the potential for becoming a beautiful park for the front door of this wonderful community. In addition to providing a linkage between the two sides of the river, it will connect the biking and hiking path that goes from Exeter to New Boston that will have a great impact, as I said already, on the riverfront development and we think it's a wonderful, wonderful project. Architecturally and engineering wise some of the things will remind some of us of the old Notre Dame bridge and the basic designs we have now as far as a small archway that you'll particularly see from I293. We are looking forward and hoping for some positive action from the Board of Mayor and Aldermen tonight for some of the funding. There still is a part that needs to be raised in the neighborhood of \$600,000. We are pledged to raise that amount, which will include maybe a little extra to provide an endowment for maintenance and upgrading as time goes on. We have had a professional feasibility study done as far as our capability as an organization to raise these funds. We are very pleased with how it came back to us. We are very, very competent and at this time we're in negotiations with an outstanding fund raiser from New Hampshire who will assist us in that process which will begin in a few months. That's where we are to date. This is a citizen grassroots effort and we're looking forward to some continued City report from all of you which we've received in the past and to successfully raising this money so that in the 2005 calendar year we can see construction start and completion shortly after that.

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

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk