

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

January 2, 2007

7:00 PM

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll. There were thirteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long, Duval, Osborne, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest.

Absent: Alderman Pinard

Mayor Guinta 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 three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Guinta requests that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Glenn R J Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Lawlessness in our alleys) stated:

Happy New Years. Hope you had great holidays. And again I want to thank you. Only after it took them two months to finally clean the drain on the corner of Lowell and Pine Street. The residents thank you. They don't have to worry about their basements getting wet anymore. It did take the City many hours to pump that trash out of that drain. It shouldn't take three months to stop that kind of quality of life in this City. The pettiness that goes on in this City needs to stop. And until it stops, you won't stop crime. Monday morning between the hours of one and three am, I was awakened from my bedroom with loud echoes of noise. I went to my bathroom, opened my window a crack and filmed for two hours two gangs setting off fireworks. They weren't using firecrackers. They were using illegal fireworks that are illegal in the state of New Hampshire. I went outside an hour later and talked to both gangs, without my camera. I wasn't going to do that. I asked them what they were doing. They were playing a game: Who could be the loudest and who could have the biggest flash? At one and three am in the morning is not the time for such things to be occurring in our City. Our alleyways are very important to this City because people park their cars there. That's how they get into their driveways within the inner city. It's a shame

what's going on in this City. I love this City. It's a good City. It's a great City. But we have a lot of growing pains, and sometimes I wonder if you guys are really dealing with it the right way. It shouldn't take months and months and months and months to solve petty things. You ask the public to complain when things happen. We complain. I was just told by an Alderman tonight, You're back. Why didn't you tell us sooner? I warned you guys for three months last year about one problem. You finally took care of it. It shouldn't take two months. It's coming to a point now that people don't even call anymore because they know they don't get a response. That's not what you want. You can't have cooperation if that's the way it works. I remember once upon a time when the Board here, or the Mayor, when we came to this seven o'clock meeting, everybody that spoke was responded to the next day, either by a phone call or in the next few days by a letter saying what could be done about the situation. That doesn't happen anymore. I know you're all busy, but you can't solve problems by not making people aware of what's going on. The number one crime in this City is not on second shift. It's the third shift. Your third shift. You'd think it would be the first shift, but it's not. That means you need to have a police force on the third shift as powerful as the day shift. And as long as you allow petty crimes to go on at night, within our streets and our alleys, these gangs and hoodlums will not stop, because they have the upper hand. In the last two years you've lost many police dogs. Why haven't we planned on replacing them sooner than we already have? We are finally coming upon having a new ten-year plan in this City. It's long overdue. When you don't have a plan you could get a lot of waste. I'm still wondering, and I'm hoping that I will get an answer from someone soon, what happened to that quarter of a million dollar ice skating rink that used to be on Elm Street? The mechanical part of it is no longer there. I know that the rink itself was stored in a warehouse. My question to you is, is it still being stored in a warehouse and if so what's it doing there? It doesn't matter if most of those funds came from the federal government. We needed it, and that's why we applied for them. So why is it being stored in a warehouse? Thank you.

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

Mayor Guinta stated just before we adjourn we have two quick presentations that I would like to make while we have the time. The first, Officer Ryan and Deputy Lussier, please come forward. We've been talking a lot about public safety and crime and the canine situation in the City. I thought it was important for us to recognize and acknowledge Officer Ryan for something that he has done, as many of you may know. But I think it deserves an additional distinction and recognition. Are you still working the third shift?

Officer Ryan stated first shift.

Mayor Guinta stated but at the time you were working the third shift. At the time Officer Ryan was working the third shift, he would then drive down to Boston three days a week for about nine weeks to train his canine to be a drug dog. He did it on his own time, didn't ask the City for any money. He did it because he cares about the City, because he cares about the Department. When I had heard about that a few weeks ago, I thought it did deserve additional distinction and honor because it's the kind of distinction I think we ought to recognize and acknowledge and we hope to see more of it in the City. I want to appreciate and acknowledge what you've done, and I'm going to, in that spirit, provide you with the second Good Neighbor Award that I'm going to present this year. To Officer Joe Ryan for exemplifying true neighborliness among his community, making the City of Manchester a better place to live by his actions. And I urge all citizens of the City to applaud Officer Ryan for his generosity and goodwill. And then we do have one other, if Tom and Bob could come forward, along with the Commissioners, we have Senator D'Allesandro, Representative Craig, Commissioner Cruess, Commissioner Beaton and Commissioner Cornell. If you could all please come forward. The New England Waterworks Association dignified our Waterworks operation with a wonderful distinction as being one of the utilities of the year. It's based on a number of different criteria, among them how it's administered. I think over the years we've seen this Board and this Administration serve the City very, very well and I wanted to honor and recognize each one of you, and thank you for that by presenting you with a Certificate of Commendation that reads, Presented this evening before the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to the Manchester Water Commission and to the Administration of the Manchester Waterworks in recognition of that department's recent recognition as utility of the year by the New England Waterworks Association. So Tom, I congratulate you very much and I congratulate the Board members as well.

Tom Bowen stated thank you, Mayor. This is a very important award for the Manchester Waterworks because it's an award that is based upon recognition by our peers. The New England Waterworks Association is an organization of water utilities and professionals in the waterworks industry, and to have them recognize the department, the administration and our employees, it really means very much to us. I'd personally like to thank two groups this evening. I'd like to thank the Commissioners, the present Commissioners as well as the past Commissioners. I've been a director at the Waterworks for fourteen years, and I can honestly say that we've had the most caring group of Commissioners, people that are really interested in the long term benefit of our customers, and they have really done everything they could on behalf of our customers. Not only asking the hard questions of staff and making us jump through some hoops, but making tough decisions, decisions that affect our customers by any number of things. But primarily looking at the long term improvements to the system, and they've done a great job. The second group are our employees and they are equally as important to this award. They really are a very dedicated bunch of individuals, from our entry level people right on up to our professional staff. They deserve a lot of credit for this award. Thank you very much.

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

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk