

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

**January 15, 2008**

**7:00 PM**

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by Alderman Gatsas.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Gatsas, Sullivan, J. Roy, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez,  
Shea, DeVries, Smith, Ouellette, Domaingue  
(Alderman M. Roy arrived late.)

Absent: Alderman Smith

**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** 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.

**Glenn R. J. Ouellette**, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

Congratulations to all you new elected officials on the Board. I want to start off by saying that no matter how much we complain sometimes, we don't do it just for the fact of complaining. The Highway Department is doing a great job, they really are. I think it's time for us to provide them with some equipment. For examples, when they use the snow blower to take the snow off the sidewalk, it works. Do it one time, it's done. When they use the plow, that's two coming back. So, it's common sense. That V-plow doesn't work, especially when you have a lot of snow. You've got to come back. It amazes me, and this happens to every Ward. I've seen it in Ward 1, I've seen it in 3, I've seen it in 5, I've seen it in 7, and I've seen it in 12. I've seen it all over the City. For some strange reason, when the snow plow has cleared the sidewalks, there might be a street that goes all the way down for several blocks, but for some reason they make a detour at an intersection, skip a block, and then take it back. For example, on Green Street in Ward 3, there's one block that they did that to, and on that block, on that side of the street, there are two people that live in wheelchairs, and one that's on crutches. How are they supposed to get out of their houses? I don't know what happened but it happens to a lot of Wards. Find out why they do that. Is it because of construction? In this case in Ward 5 it was not construction. Construction was done. They need to be more considerate to the people who need to come out of their homes and also for a fire truck or a police car or an ambulance to get into their homes if they need to. The major thing that I want to talk about tonight...there are several issues but I'm going to pick one, and that's going to be elections. Fourteen years ago the Democratic and Republic parties in Concord made a deal with themselves. They wrote up this bill that said that for people to

work at the polls, you had to either be a Democrat or a Republican. You could not be an Independent. You had to belong to one of the parties to make things fair. But then they turned around and they said they agreed with the state that for that to happen, the parties would have to provide the workers to the city and town clerks. Well ladies and gentlemen, they're not doing it. The parties are not providing the workers needed for the towns and cities in the state, and Manchester is one of those. For the last 30 years, the stipend for those who work there has not gone up. They spend 16, sometimes 21, hours there. It comes to about \$3 an hour. How many of you would work for \$3 an hour? I understand that it's pretty much a volunteer thing, but if you look at it, and you talk to your city and town clerks throughout New Hampshire, they will tell you they're having a harder time today than they did yesterday because people are quitting. It's a lot of work. If you're going to have elections, you're going to have to have people working the polls. So consider giving them a raise. You give a raise to everybody else. Thank you.

**Representative Tony Simon**, 700 Hall Street, stated:

Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm here this evening to encourage you to support my efforts to honor a great Manchester native. I hope you have all received copies of the paperwork that I provided to the Clerk. Knowing their efficiency, I sort of suspect you have. I filed a bill today in the Manchester District Courthouse with respect to the late Armand Capistran. I do so for two reasons, primarily. Firstly, Armand Capistran was a great judge. And I've tried to outline that in my letter which is actually a copy of my testimony to the House Public Works Committee last Thursday. And for the reasons outlined in that letter, he became a legend in Manchester, and not just among the members of the Bar, but in the community at large, because he was learned, he was very astute, he listened, he was humble. And above all, he was fair. When you went before him, whatever your position in a case, he listened to you and he made a judgement on that case based on the law, nothing else. As I said, he was a Manchester native. Some of you may be familiar

with him in that regard, and I won't list his pedigree because I'm trying very hard to stay within my three minutes. Somebody today, though, reminded me that among...before he got to his legal career, he apparently was quite an awesome linesman for the Cathedral football team when he was at St. Joseph. Beyond his greatness, I'm seeking to have the building named after him because I believe it is inspirational and aspirational in the sense that I believe as a lawyer we constantly need to focus on the judiciary. And while I feel we have a good judiciary, even a great judiciary, judges like Armand Capistran are a rare breed. And my hope would be that upon the passage of this bill that the Manchester community will get together to raise the money to put his name on the bill and to provide some of his background so that future lawyers, future judges, even litigates, can go into that building and get an education on who Armand Capistran was, why we consider him such a great judge, and why we all who have positions in the court should seek to emulate him. I will stop right there. I believe something will be coming in under New Business this evening. That's sort of important because the Public Works Committee up in Concord is supposed to be 'execing' the bill on Thursday. So if this Board could act favorably tonight in support of my request, I think we do credit to a great man, a great court, and Manchester has one more symbol that it can point to with pride about the great people and institutions that we produce. I thank you very much. I know it's public comment. I'll be available in the room until after the regular meeting starts, so if anybody has any questions, I can try to answer them.

**Bill Dodd**, Ward 7, stated:

Congratulations to all the new faces that are here. Alderman Gatsas, I heard you did not get reappointed on the Finance Committee. You were probably too good. That's why you're getting replaced. Keep your eye out. Something might be coming down the pike. Something in the little paper here in the City. First in the Nation Primary brought money and fun into Manchester. And then there's a little

add-on: Queen City on the map. Nice little article until you get to the snow banks. You've heard a little bit about that already. Brought the wife downtown last Tuesday. Wanted to do a little shopping and see all the craziness going on. The only thing sticking out of the snow bank on West Market was the top of the parking meter, where I had to climb the bank to feed it. Okay? You bring people into the City and you've got all the side streets off of Elm Street totally a disgrace. That's the best foot you put forward to people coming in from all over the country? Have to do better guys. All your major roads coming into the City...I've preached this one for a number of years. Valley Street, Bridge Street, South Willow, Kelley...Those are your major arteries in and out of the City. Tractor-trailer traffic. Emergency vehicles coming in. And they are clogged right down. Bridge Street going out...cars are parked half way out in the road. Same way everywhere else. And Elm Street, you kind of seem to forget, from the Civic Center out to Queen City Avenue...same thing. Snow banks. Parking half way out in the street. Conant Street. I run a school bus all over the City every day. A ton of school buses go up Conant Street to get to Parkside and to West High. You would think that would be a top priority street to make it passable for at least two vehicles at once. Snow removal from the City schools: Parks & Recreation takes care of it I understand. They're doing a terrible job. I mean terrible. Some places you can't get into. Some places you slide. MTA calls and calls. If Parks & Recreation can't do it, farm it out. When you pay somebody to do it, they'll get it done. Last week we had a raccoon, a rather sick raccoon at the MTA parking lot. The Manchester P D was notified in two different ways: a phone call and by an officer at the site. And then he left a civilian in charge. Your Honor, once a P D is informed of something like that, the City owns that raccoon. That officer never should have left there until the Animal Control guy showed up. He was responsible for that raccoon and any damage it would have caused. Totally unacceptable. Now I understand that there's some grant money coming down in the next couple of weeks or so. The PD's are going to be out going around to the

different schools and getting the parents that park in every place they shouldn't park and block school buses. Why do we have to have a grant to enforce City ordinances that are already on the books every day? Over at Memorial, trying to get a school bus into there in the afternoon is nuts. We have signs up saying, No Parking This Side of Street. Is it going to take a kid to get whacked at one of these schools before you really pay attention? And the very last thing, Pine Street. You want to enlarge the Chestnut Street PD. They don't even have room to park cruisers over there. They park out on the street. Employees park up on the snow banks. The best thing you can do is put a bona fide substation on the West Side that has flat parking, that has a duty sergeant. Let the PD decide what offices they want to transfer over there – juvenile, detectives, or whatever. But enlarging what you've got now and trying to crowd more into it doesn't make sense to me. You need something on the West Side. Thank you.

*There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of **Alderman Pinard**, duly seconded by **Alderman Sullivan**, 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 Shea**, duly seconded by **Alderman Smith**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk