

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

**February 19, 2008**

**7:00 PM  
Aldermanic Chambers  
City Hall (3rd Floor)**

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman M. Roy.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen M. Roy, Gatsas, Sullivan, J. Roy, Osborne, Pinard,  
O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Ouellette, Domaingue

4. **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.
  
5. **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.

**Howard McCarthy** stated: This is about my third appearance here, and I can honestly tell you that I actually have not made any inroads with anybody here. I guess it's because I haven't said anything worthwhile. So let me see what I can do tonight. What I'm here about is that I haven't been dealt fairly. I've been denied twice for my request for power on the street. I need to power my cart where I sell ice cream. The negatives that I have had, I believe I can overcome with some positives. And I like to sing the song years ago of 'latch on positive and negate the negative.' The negatives, as I understand it, something about liability. No problem there. I think every vendor has to have insurance of a half a million dollars or so. That's no problem. I can go along with that. And the other one, it seems to be that if I am allowed power, everybody should be allowed to go into the power boxes that are on the streets. Personally, I don't see that, because where I'm going...and this is a given. I will go on the street one way or the other, even if I have to run a generator. But I don't want to do that. I want to use the power that's on the street because it's there. I don't want to explain the whole thing tonight because three minutes is not very much, and I've already taken up about a minute and a half. I feel that I have been harmed. I feel as if I have not been able to tell my story. How is it possible for you people who have got a hold of what I am about and deny me when you haven't heard me speak my defense? If I did something wrong and I went to jail, before I went to jail I'd have somebody to represent me. I believe I'd like to represent myself and tell you all about myself. So what I want here, Your Honor, is to go before some board here and be able to tell my story. Back in the 1700's we went to war with England because there was taxation without representation. I have not been represented properly here, and I'd like you personally to help me get set up with some board here to be able to speak in my defense. So if you can do that for me, and give me a chance to speak. I have not been able to speak. Thanks a lot.

**Jack Kenny**, 325 Amherst Street, stated: I'm here first of all to speak about what I see as a problem with the sidewalks. I've walked around this city quite a bit. I'd like to think it is a pedestrian friendly city. And I understand that during a snowstorm and the immediate aftermath, the Highway people have to concentrate on the roads. But the sidewalks, I think, are neglected, and particularly the ones that go across the bridges. And I mean especially the Bridge Street bridge, the Notre Dame bridge and the Granite Street bridge. If you're a pedestrian, you're forced to walk out in the road, and that causes cars to swerve and they get nervous. It's not a good situation. Secondly, I'd like to say something about the parking meters. Some years ago many of you were not on the Board at the time, but because of the Verizon and the added activity downtown, the decision was made to double the fines for being parked in front of an expired parking meter. It went from five dollars to ten dollars. As a motorist of limited means, I can tell you that annoys me, but more importantly, you should think about...I don't know if you did think about...those of you who were here, but you should think about what that does to out-of-state visitors who come here. Maybe they don't know that this City alone is one of the municipalities in New Hampshire that requires you to pay the meter after five o'clock or six o'clock. They have a nice meal here; they have a nice time; they come out of the restaurant feeling good and then they discover the dinner cost them ten dollars more than they thought it did. Also, I see no reason why you have to pay meters at eight o'clock in the morning. I don't think parking downtown is a problem at eight o'clock in the morning. I think this is another example of the Board's greed and avarice. You try to milk a situation, get as many nickels, dimes, and quarters out of us as you can. It's not the kind of thing that is likely to be brought to your attention by the very important people across the street at the greater Bedford Chamber of Commerce, so I bring it to your attention now. Also, belated congratulations to Your Honor and those of you who won election or re-election last November. For one of you who may be contemplating a run for higher office, just a word of caution: State Senator Joe

Kennedy never doubled parking fines in Manchester and he didn't endorse Rudy Guliani for mayor, and he has a fine Irish name, even if he does spell it wrong.  
Thank you very much.

**Glenn R. J. Ouellette**, 112 Auburn Street, stated: A lesson in democracy. Listen up. I get along with every one of you, no matter if you were on the School Board or the Aldermen, and I welcome the new Aldermen on this Board. That's democracy. People vote and things change. But when the City of Manchester invites the public to go to a public meeting, specifically the parking summit, and asks for citizens' opinions and questions, as well as the businesses, you don't have an Alderman stand up in the middle of someone giving an opinion...and it was not a criticism; it was a good opinion. There were business people that agreed with me...and stand up and state, 'Film the program and show it on the air, and I'll see you Tuesday night at 7:30.' Excuse me. Aldermen are elected by the people to represent...if you're a Ward person then you represent your Ward. If you're an Alderman-At-Large, you represent everybody. It doesn't matter if you're Independent, Republic or Democrat. Remember that. I have lived in this City for 21 years. Seventeen of those years have been in Ward 3. My concerns about Ward 3 are just as valid if not more so than someone who lives in Ward 12. And to tell a citizen to really stand pretty...and I'm not an employee of the City. That's not how you treat people. You ask for help. You may not agree with our opinions, and I respect that. But at least hear us out. Thank you.

**Billy Dodd**, Ward 7, stated: The first thing I want to talk about really doesn't concern the City that much, but it does as far as property taxes go. For you guys that happen to sit up in the State House in Concord, the piece that was an editorial yesterday about the cigar tax...okay? I don't smoke, but I think there is a 60 percent on the wholesale prices at cigar shops. The state is looking for more money, and I think it's absolutely ludicrous. Try putting a dollar tax on each

bottle of liquor out of the liquor stores and you'll really hear some screaming then. Or raise your meals and room tax and you'll really hear some screaming then. But, the cigar tax is not a good idea. The other thing, you've heard a little bit about the snowplowing and what have you. Elm Street, Civic Center, Queen City Avenue...try to find a sidewalk. Try to find a place to park down by the Gas Company and all the way out to Bakersville School. There's guys parking up on snow banks. Upper Valley Street, Second Street. Try to find a sidewalk on Second Street from Queen City Avenue out to the Bedford line. South Willow Street is the same way. Bridge Street, Kelley Street. There seem to be a lot of supervisors from the Highway Department that aren't out riding around. And if you want to see one tonight, just ride down by the gas plant and look at the big snow pile right there by Theo's, where you can't get through, and the sidewalk plow has never tried. That same way all over the City. So you need to talk to businesses about plowing. The other thing is, I cut this out of the paper yesterday and I just did a little work on it. Put work back in its proper place. And I just put homework. Homework needs to be back around the kitchen table. How much money are we going to throw at the school system? The thing in the paper today about the PASS program. It sounds good and I applaud the kids in there that are going to graduate, but it seems like they have pretty much the same drop out rate as regular high school, and Mr. Schubert and Mr. Rist who run that program, quoting them, the program works because the kids have to apply to get in. They know it's their last chance in high school. The rules are strict and they're enforced. The key to this program is commitment, and a lot of these kids have not been asked to show commitment. The rule according to Schubert is that kids have to show up on time every day and do their work. Gee, that sounds an awful lot like basic rules in high school. All they have to do is confirm. Self-esteem is the big thing, in my opinion, of kids doing well in school. But, you know, when you see high school kids, girls running around in pajama pants and half-naked. I can understand why some kids aren't doing good in school. You need to enforce some

kind of dress code. It's absolutely ridiculous. The school over in the JFK parking lot. Imagine what kind of school you could have built over at Jac Pac land! We have a lot of land over there. But you've given away a lot of stuff. You had a building up on Hackett Hill, the old Merrimack Valley College building, that you could have used to take some pressure off of Northwest. You had the Chandler School that you could have used to take some pressure off of McDonough. You got rid of them. And now you're down to, we don't have any land. You know, the guy that came up here with the egg timer. Creative thinking. Try to apply that. And the last thing I would ask you guys, each and every one of you guys, and ladies, is go talk to your School Board counterpart. The vote that was taken a couple of weeks ago to settle a matter on some legal bills, and from the article that was in the paper, I think a half a dozen or so had no idea what they were voting on, didn't have any information when they voted. And those are the people that we've got running the School Department? Go have a little heart-to-heart talk with them and ask them to at least find out some information. And Your Honor, I'm surprised that you even accepted that vote and didn't veto it or something to have these people brought up to speed before they even voted on it. I ask each and every one of you to go to the School Board members. Get involved with them and be involved with them all the way through. Don't act like two separate boards. Work together. Thank you.

**Mayor Guinta** asked Alderman Shea and Mr. Lionel LeBlanc to come forward. He acknowledged Mr. LeBlanc for his contribution to our community and to veterans who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Mr. LeBlanc has been sending, items of need and thousands of dollars to people who are protecting us abroad. In acknowledgement and recognition, the Mayor read a key and presented it to Mr. LeBlanc.

In appreciation for a lifetime of support to America's veterans and active military personnel, Lionel, a Manchester resident who served in World War II and spent 30 years in the Air Force, has donated incredible amounts of time, money and supplies to our brave soldiers, as well as untold tributes in honor of those who protect us. It is with great pride that I call Lionel LeBlanc a patriot and a friend. Thank you very much for your service, and thank you for your over \$10,000 worth of donations to our men and women across the seas.

**Mr. Lionel LeBlanc** thanked the Mayor for the recognition, and he thanked Chairman Lopez for letting him know about the fund drive that he became involved with. He expressed his gratitude at being able to be present when a memorial was erected to honor a group of brave soldiers who fought for us in Iraq.

*On motion of **Alderman Pinard**, duly seconded by **Alderman DeVries**, 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 Lopez**, duly seconded by **Alderman Domaingue** it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk