

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

**April 1, 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 which was led by Alderman Domaingue.

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

**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.

**Mark Warden**, 138 Campbell Street, stated:

Most of you are used to people coming before the Board, hat in hand, asking for something. They ask for money; they ask for special treatment by the City; they ask for protection from competitors; organizations and trade groups come asking for pay raises and better benefits and beautification projects, new buildings and equipment. Of course they don't offer improved service levels or better performance or more accountability. So I want to offer a different perspective, one that may be quite popular among the City's residents. I'm not here to ask for anything other than to be left alone. I simply want more freedom for the citizens of Manchester. We don't want more government. We don't all want more police on the street handing out traffic tickets and parking tickets. We don't all want more welfare projects or more food for the homeless. I don't need somebody else to pay for my health care. We don't need big, shiny, new schools. We just want better education. We don't need more services. We want more liberty. Please remember the little guy who pays the bill for all these fancy projects and programs and agencies and bureaucracies that the Board often supports. We taxpayers pay the bills, and we're fed up. The property tax bill on my home is nearly \$5,000 a year. Most of that goes to the schools. Well I don't have any children, so I'm getting a little tired of paying the way for people I don't even know in this little socialistic scheme, especially when the school district can't even meet minimum national standards. What sense does that make to reward bad performance with more money? So I applaud the Mayor's budget that was rolled out last night. It's a start. There's no question that belt-tightening measures are absolutely necessary. There are always areas in City departments to streamline and make more efficient. I would like to see expenditures cut even further than his recommendations, particularly in this unstable economic environment, but this is a start. Please do the right thing and make more responsible cuts in City spending. There are

certainly some unnecessary programs and services that are better left to charitable organizations or to the people themselves to administer.

**Barbara Corman**, The Way Home, Inc., stated:

I am director of development at The Way Home, which is an agency in Manchester, and I have come here actually representing The Way Home, and Mary Sliney, who is the executive director, asked me to speak tonight, so I'm pleased to do so. I want to address a concern that we could have regarding the consolidation plan. We're not for or against it at all. We just want to bring to the table one other concern regarding it. If you don't mind I'll just read a couple of paragraphs from a letter that we put together. If you do have questions after, I might not be able to answer them, but I can certainly get more information for you. Mayor, I want to say thank you, first of all, for your support of our application to the EPA that we made just yesterday. We put in a first round grant application for \$250,000 to the EPA for funding a collaborative effort with a number of different agencies in the City for outreach in education as part of the struggle to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in the City and beyond. If we are considered for this grant, the EPA has made it clear that one of their primary goals would be to help localities create or enforce ordinances that require lead poisoning reduction in properties. We would need to be able to demonstrate to the EPA, if we are under consideration, that the Mayor and the City do indeed support the ordinances that exist and allow adequate funding for that. So, my only request is that that be considered as you move forward with your consolidation plan, and not allow the enforcement that needs to happen to be underfunded or forgotten about. Beyond that we just applaud your efforts for streamlining City government, and thank you very much for your support and your efforts.

**Moe Lamy**, 96 Elgin Avenue, submitted the following letter:

Dear Board of Mayor and Aldermen,

I hope that your consideration of combining departments will not place further burdens on the inspection of tenement buildings. At the present time, these buildings are not getting the attention that is needed for clean and safe apartment buildings. Presently some of the apartment buildings are inspected every three years. And if the tenant is unavailable at the time of the inspection, the inspection is vacated and is put on the next year's agenda. Many of the landlords never see their buildings or the tenants. Rent is sent to an office out of state or to an agency that its sole job is collecting rents. Because of these absentee landlord situations, many buildings are unsafe and unhealthy. Many buildings are infested with cockroaches and bed bugs. Common areas are left unlit and have obstructions that might hinder someone from leaving the premises in an emergency. Many buildings don't have smoke and fire detectors. Those that do have them don't work in some instances. Lighting of common areas is left up to the tenant due to the type of wiring that was installed by the landlord. Doors leading to the outside are difficult to close, causing the doors to be left open all winter long,

**Thomas Depuy**, 1445 Bodwell Road, stated:

I just want to talk to you about an incident that happened to me about a month or six weeks ago regarding the Manchester Police Department. There were several police officers, I assumed dressed in black from head to toe, helmets, weapons, no police cruisers anywhere, nothing to indicate that they were Manchester Police Department. I pulled my car over to ask what was going on. They mainly were just standing around. It looked like a drill for marshal law, so that's why I asked what it was. In Toledo, Ohio, there was just a drill for marshal law and the mayor stopped it because it would be frightening to the citizens. Marshal law drills are happening with greater frequency around the country. For pulling over and asking

them what was happening and who they were, if they were Manchester Police Department, which I received an answer for neither, I was not told to leave; I was threatened with arrest for interfering with a government investigation. I was ticketed for improper parking, which I don't believe I did. I was harassed, provoked. I was pushed. I told the officer not to touch me. He then pressed my chest in to prove to me that he was a tough guy. I don't know what the point of that was. I was mocked, belittled. The officer then, unbelievably this officer in a non-police related matter came to my job the following day to speak with my manager to try to get me fired from my job, using terms to define me such as retarded. He reiterated that I did not deserve a driver's license or to have a car or car registration. I've been slandered by this police department; I was called by a friend that spoke with a dispatcher that works at the Police Department. She asked me if I had been fired. I said no. Apparently now it's being spoken at the Police Department that I was fired from my job. It appears to me that the Police Department is behaving like a middle school locker room. And now the BMA wants to throw more money at the Police Department. I ask that if you do that, it is to follow their mission statement which is on their website, behaving in a manner of professionalism, integrity, and fairness in dealing with the people of Manchester. I think most police officers are very good people but this incident really infuriated me, and I would hope that the other police officers in the Manchester Police Department should be even angrier than I am to hear of how a resident and taxpayer was treated, and I hope nobody else in Manchester is treated like that.

**Billy Dodd**, Ward 7, stated:

I'll just kind of run down through these. I saw a thing in the paper about you're going to release Cochrane from his contract on Dunbarton Road. You're lucky you haven't gotten sued by the guy yet because you've thrown every roadblock in front of him to go up there. Now he wants to go down on Brown Avenue, which

is the preferred site for him, even though a couple of people don't like it. Next thing, Highway Department: If you look at some of these pictures. Some of those pictures were like that for two and three months. The Highway Department guys did a great job in plowing the roads during the snowstorm, but after the fact, where were the supervisors from the Highway Department? Record snowfall is no excuse when you can't get to a parking spot. Sidewalks that were left unplowed for two or three months. South Willow and Second Street out to the Bedford line. Some of those pictures are marked Chalifour Flowers parking, Bakersville School, Valley Street, Market, Stark. Amherst is not in there, but state troopers were parked at an angle up on snow banks, just like down at Chalifour Flowers in one of the pictures. Totally uncalled for. The other thing: I was on this last year. Hopefully you guys have had enough time to do some homework and get something going. RSA on noise. RSA 259:66, in part muffler, effective at reducing noise. RSA 266:59, to prevent excessive or unusual noise. And RSA 266.59 again (a) no person shall operate a motorcycle with a noise level higher than 106 decibels or they won't be inspected with a decibel letter higher than that. Hopefully Manchester PD can get with somebody to get their decibel meters certified, get with highway patrol and crack down on this for the entire summer and fall, not just one or two good days, but do something constructive on it. Enlarging the Manchester PD on Chestnut Street? Insane. It's overcrowded. There's not parking. Your best thing to do is put a precinct on the West side and then let the chief...I think the next chief might be sitting in the room now...let him decide what division he's going to move to the West Side. Go from there. School budget: another insane item. Here's an annual report from 1877. This one is mine, but maybe you ought to go up to the New Hampshire room at the library over here and go through some of those things. William Buck was the superintendent back then. His budget was \$50,000. You might want to go through here and read some of these things. I remember when Superintendent Tanguay's salary was about \$85,000 and the budget was around \$100 million.

Now your new superintendent, \$155,000 and the budget is \$153 million. And a condition of his employment is that you have to fill the assistant superintendent of secondary education. The audacity. He's telling you, for me to come down here you've got to do this first. The last thing concerns you, Your Honor. You called for a certain State Representative to resign for a vote that he made on a particular bill up in Concord. At this point, I call for you to resign, sir. You've advocated spending taxpayer money in the City here to put up billboards so that the graffiti painters can practice their art. Next thing you know you're going to stretch it a little bit further and you're going to want to build a replica Mom & Pop grocery store so the robbers can practice their chosen profession. So I think proposing to spend taxpayer money, I think you ought to do the same thing that you want the Representative to do. Insane.

**Debbie Soucy**, 1767 Brown Avenue, stated:

I just had a few questions about the recycling center that you might decide to let go down to Brown Avenue. As a resident of Brown Avenue, we take our life into our own hands every day trying to get into our driveways with the commercial traffic. We have commercial traffic coming through at unbelievable speeds all hours of the night. We have tractor trailers, we have propane tanks, we have the cement trucks through the residential area. With the lights at the highway, we have them trying to fight to get through the light and they're doing 50 to 60 miles an hour. And I'm talking about the traffic trailers. I'm not talking about just the residential cars. I put my blinker on at the driveway prior to my house, and I nearly get pushed into the telephone pole in the front of my house just trying to get into my driveway. They've already had to fix the sewer in front of our house. They've had to come back twice now to re-patch it because the trucks pounding on it have been sinking it in and it's making another sink hole. And we're going through this every single day. The trucks going by are knocking glasses out of the cupboard because they're going by so fast. And to have this many more trucks

that might be coming down Brown Avenue, if this proposal goes through, are they going to make them just go onto the highway and stay out of the residential area or all these trucks going to be coming straight down Brown Avenue that we have now? Is all of this being taken into consideration? We have R&L tractor trailers coming at 2:00 in the morning with their jack brakes constantly. And they're not doing 30 miles per hour, and I know the Police Department can't sit there constantly trying to enforce speed limits, but it's dangerous down there. We have neighbors that can't even get into their driveways because the traffic gets so backed up there. So I was just wondering if that was being taken into consideration before you add that much more traffic coming onto Brown Avenue.

**Robert Tarr**, 318 Spruce Street #3, stated:

Tonight my talk is about the budget. Your Honor, you did propose a pretty good, tight budget. I think a little too tight. I think that on the School Board side, yes, we do need to make some major cuts. Some recommendations that I'm going to make tonight, maybe you can take these into consideration. Reduction of the bus service: I understand that. I know we had to cut back. Maybe there is a way the Aldermen here and you, Your Honor, can work on helping with advertising on the buses so we can bring up some of their revenues. An assistant superintendent: I was appalled the other night when I went to the School Board and they want to hire an assistant superintendent for \$150,000, and yet the superintendent is getting the same amount. It just doesn't add up for me. Again, they wanted to hire a central business teacher for Central High. What about the teachers at West? Why can't we transfer one of them instead of hiring a new one at \$40,000.

Beautification of the City: \$75,000 for arches over the City. Yes, they look great, but right now, for the taxpayers, we need to cut back on some of our beautification until we have better revenues coming in. For the Welfare Department: They do it in Somersworth. They've done it for years. If somebody wants welfare service, they do community service. They do so many hours per week, per month, to

receive welfare services. I think this would help out with the City and cut some costs. Insurance: We pay a lot out for insurance for benefits for the employees of the City. For anyone making over \$75,000 for the City as a City employee or a new hire, I think we want to offer higher premiums for them, and have them pay a little more than what they do now. I think it would save the City a lot more money. The feasibility study for the Police Department to see if we should expand it: I think we should hold that off for at least one budget cycle and that would save also the City some money. And last but not least, the merger of M-CAM and MCTV: If we all remember back in history, they divided because they wanted to provide different services for people of the City, and they couldn't agree on just one thing that would work out for both of them in one building. So a merger of those two I think is not going to happen. I think we need to look for more ways of advertising and getting the word out so that they can produce their own revenues and keep their shortfalls from happening.

**Keith Hirschmann**, 296 Dunbarton Road, stated:

I'm just here briefly tonight to endorse a release for the corporate environmental company from stipulations that they have to locate on Dunbarton Road. Last fall we all realized that the community and the infrastructure and everything to do with that area was a problem. So I'm just asking that the release of the language for using west Manchester as a site for Cochrane. Please give them their release. I made a phone call at about 5:30 tonight and I talked to Jim McCloud who owns the building on Gay Street. Jim McCloud hasn't heard from Cochrane Environmental since last September, so any rhetoric about Gay Street or Brown Avenue, unless there's a purchase and sale in some other name, it's not with Jim McCloud on Gay Street. I would ask for that release, just for the hundreds of people that signed the petition.

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

The BBC and education...if she has anything to say you can contact her. That's what I want to see out of your Aldermen. I don't see enough Aldermen getting up and talking to their constituents about the problems that they have. They used to do that in the olden days when we used to have mayors that a letter was sent to everybody who spoke or a phone call was made, at least to make an initial contact. What is going on and what can we do to help you? We don't see that happening anymore. We need to connect more with the public and not just to hear them. Otherwise than that, we're just hearing rhetoric, and it doesn't work. That's not communication. The BBC...you know, you're cutting in the wrong places. Consolidation is very important. I've been advertising consolidation in this City since 2001. Thank you, Your Honor, for coming on board, and I hope some other Aldermen will do the same thing. We are at a time now with the economic changing to do that and save money. Let's not hide the fact. We're not going to be laying off people. But, as some of you have considered, we will...if we don't have to fill a position, we do attrition. And that's how we're going to save money. We have too many assistants in our departments. And I agree with Mr. Tarr. How dare department heads say, hire me but if you hire me, you have to hire an assistant under me that makes almost as much money as I do. If that person cannot do his or her job, they shouldn't be hired. These are not good times. It's true that New Hampshire is not feeling the recession as bad as other states, but this is still our City. We need to be responsible to the taxpayers. The City taxpayers are paying it this way: 55 percent of your taxes are being paid for by residential taxpayers, and 45% are the commercial and industrial taxpayers. That is not a fair tax. We need a flat tax in this City for property taxes, and everybody pays their fair share. Your Honor, as much as I am in favor of consolidation, I'm not in favor of your cutting the bus transportation. Your cuts have come from two departments of people who can least help themselves. Do you know that 80% of

your funding for the MTA for the Stepsaver...Stepsaver, for people out there who don't know, are for people who need to call for help, either a wheelchair or another way of transportation to get to doctors. You have to call in advance, and they pay...I think it's three dollars one way or double way, to get to a hospital or a doctor or wherever else they need to go in an emergency. Eighty percent of that is funded by the federal government, so for every dollar that you cut in that budget, you've lost another eighty cents. Bus maintenance: Do you know that 80% of your bus maintenance is being paid for by the federal government. Again, for every dollar you cut in that part of your budget for the bus department, you've lost that money. So please be careful what you're cutting. Your revenue: You talk about revenue not coming in? Well, if you keep cutting the departments, the revenue is going to come in even less, because you're cutting your own use. Everything else is fifty/fifty. That's still a lot of money. That means for every fifty cents you spend, you get another fifty cents. Now what is that that Manchester can't afford that Nashua can? Their bus transportation operates six days a week till 8 PM. What's going on here? Something's wrong with that system. There has to be a way. I'll tell you what the way is. You have too many assistants. You need to cut from the top. And I don't mean firing. I'm talking about attrition. You have a great opportunity here, and that's why I think that consolidation is great. You've lost eight department heads by the end of this month in a little less than six months. It's time to gather yourselves and consider these consolidations to save the taxpayers money. A \$95,000 salary is a lot of money. That pays for two employees. The last thing I want to say is education. Although I'm in favor of a budget cut, I would go with the same money as last year. You know, we can cut all you want, but being drastic about it is not going to help us. We have a school that can't even meet the state and national standards, and we want to cut them down to a point that it's unreasonable? If we're going to control our own schools in the local sector and not be taken under the wings of the state, we'd better work hard, and one of the reasons that we have that problem is

that, again, too many assistants and not enough teachers or teacher aides. So you're cutting in the wrong departments. So let's put our facts together and let's look toward the people. Don't cut where people can't talk to you because they don't have the means. Cut in the right places. Thank you.

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

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk.