

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

October 21, 2008

7:00 PM

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

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

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

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

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

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. He 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.

Adair Turcotte, 28 Gay Street, stated:

About 18 months ago I came before this Board to voice my concerns. To date, they remain the same. The concern is recycling and its effect on the Brown Avenue traffic and the neighborhood. I wish to thank some of the Board members for their continued efforts in regards to the waste management relocation. In particular, Alderman Garrity and my State Senator and Alderman, Betsi DeVries. I realize that the 300 Gay Street location is almost a done deal at this date but I believe that contractual conditions have not yet been finalized. Hence, I offer two reasons for your consideration and inclusion. Everyone knows the traffic morning and evening is almost a parking lot on Brown Avenue. With the addition of...and I quote as one of the Board members said, 'it's only 89 trucks', to the already brown river of UPS trucks leaving Gay Street to Raymond trying to get onto Brown Avenue, it is mind boggling. Eighty-nine trucks. If you are ever in this area at 7:30 AM and have the opportunity please plan on at least 20 minutes of waiting; stress levels and exhaust fumes not withstanding. In addition, our Neighborhood Watch Group, with the marvelous assistance and caring of Alderman DeVries and Officer Mark have been instrumental in reducing the illegal truck traffic taking place on South Gay Street to Brown Avenue. These trucks do this to avoid the traffic traps. Some still do it. It seems that the \$300 fine isn't quite as discouraging as we thought. I hope that Corcoran Waste Management doesn't feel that way. It would be awful to again experience truck traffic by my bedroom window in the morning and evening. In addition, the one way traffic on Westin is still being violated. One Way/Do Not Enter signs are being ignored. Just this weekend five ATV's were waiting to cross Brown Avenue as I was turning left to go onto Westin. Nice head-on collision. My car is bigger than theirs but there are more of them. My other concern...and I will skip over most of the other traffic stuff but my concern is vermin are attracted by garbage and recycling as much as we...I recycle a great deal and have been for 40 years but it is dirty. It attracts vermin. How are the children going to react when

they play at the Junior Deb Park if they have furry critters running the bases with them? How are the people who go to the food services and lodgings going to react? I know that I don't want it in my neighborhood. Seriously, please consider some of this. Prevention of vermin should be included in the contract. Please clean up our neighborhood. Our neighborhood group has worked very hard to try to keep it clean. Please help us. Thank you.

Nancy Ouellet, 22 Winthrop Street, stated:

I have the same concerns as Adair Turcotte. I was here also 18 months ago and our cries were unheard. I want to say a very special thank you to Betsi DeVries for standing behind my neighborhood. We now have a Neighborhood Watch with the help of Betsi in getting it off on the right foot. We have an awful lot of traffic over there. Eighty-nine trucks is going to make it even worse. My main concern is I would like to know who is responsible when you make up the contract. Is the City or the owner of the recycling plant that is going to be responsible for the vermin that we may attract in our neighborhood? Who is going to clean that up? Are we going to get a pied piper? Is somebody going to be responsible for that? The people that live in that neighborhood, we have pretty much taken the responsibility into our own hands and got in touch with different agencies to help us out but I want it to be made perfectly clear just what the responsibilities are and who has to pay the piper. Thank you very much.

Lisa Frisselle, 322 Huse Road, stated:

I made copies of my statement in case I have a hard time getting through the whole thing. I am a Manchester native and a 1981 graduate of Central High School. I received my Bachelor's Degree from NH College and I am a cost accountant at a manufacturing plant in Manchester near the airport. I have owned a home for the past 20 years in Ward 8. I love Manchester. Manchester has always been my home. I have come here tonight to express my gratitude to the

eight Aldermen who have made the courageous decision not to put the tax cap question on the November 2008 ballot. Voters need to be informed of the consequences of implementing a tax cap before the tax cap question is put on the ballot. These Aldermen put their City first. Politically they could have taken the easy road and voted yes to putting the tax cap question on the ballot. I would like to say the biggest thank you to Mike Lopez, Dan O'Neil, George Smith, Mr. Shea (when someone is your principal you always call them mister), Russ Ouellette, Mark Roy, Jim Roy and my Alderman, Betsi DeVries. The future of our City is their priority. Last week, two Union Leader stories highlighted safety concerns in Manchester. One was titled "Tense Hours in Manchester" about the stand-off on Lowell Street. The other article was titled "Emergency Department See More Worries." With situations like these, the Manchester School budget will always be the last priority. Our children, who don't have a vote in our political process, need courageous City leaders to make their future a priority. I believe that the tax cap will make it impossible to properly fund the Manchester public schools.

Questions that need to be answered before the 2009 election are how will the tax cap improve the quality of life in Manchester and will the tax cap have an impact on the improvement of the education standing of Manchester public schools? I am sure there is no simple answer but voters need to understand the impact that the tax cap will have on the livability factor of the City of Manchester. I attended the school budget hearing at Memorial High School in 2006. My daughter was finishing third grade at St. Anthony's School but I still wanted to show my support for public education in Manchester. I heard Kelleigh Domaingue describe the horrendous physical conditions of Memorial High School during her high school years. Widespread neglect plagued Manchester's public high schools during the 90's. I felt her pride when she described how conditions at Memorial improved. She said she wanted to stay in Manchester and raise a family here. She was saying things that I felt and I was really proud of her for speaking up. Kelleigh, please keep your principles as you are now in a position to make Manchester a better

place. Mayor Guinta, I would like to remind you of a promise that you made during your campaign for Mayor in 2005. You made a pledge to improve Manchester's education standing. You said our schools are overcrowded, our textbooks are outdated, our schools are lined by portable classrooms and for the second year in a row schools have been red flagged. In your last paragraph you said you would keep your word on these promises. Three years later we are in worse shape than ever and all of our schools are marked in need of improvement. I still haven't read any progress reports for your administration concerning improvements to Manchester's education. The residents of Manchester should be so thankful to have these eight Aldermen working for them. President Bush did not surround himself with a staff that would question his judgment and look at the mess that our country is in. Fortunately, Manchester's residents elected these eight Aldermen who have decided that the potential impact of the tax cap must be explained to voters. I understand that the implementation year of the tax cap if passed would be the 2011 budget year and the vote will occur in 2009. This delayed vote could never interfere with the implementation of the tax cap. I would like to especially thank my Alderman, Betsi DeVries, for her leadership and integrity in dealing with these tough issues. She places the future of Manchester before politics.

Jean-Marc Rheume, 65 Pine Island Road, stated:

I am speaking about the recycling plant on Gay Street. Thank you to Betsi DeVries for letting me know there was a meeting tonight. I didn't even know about it. I don't really like the idea of having a recycling center there. I think that is going to bring a lot of pests around and lots of garbage floating in the air. As soon as the new exit is done all of those trucks will be coming from Nashua to the new exit going north on Brown Avenue and obviously like tonight the traffic was all backed up to the Chinese restaurant. Those trucks will be using the residential area for a shortcut going to the recycling center. If they don't take that shortcut

they will take Tessier Street and there is a softball park there and all of those kids will be crossing the street and there will be a danger to the pedestrians there. Hopefully you will have some good plans to solve those issues on Brown Avenue. Those issues have been there since the Airport was built. That is all I have to say.

Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

It is obvious in this City that we create a lot of ordinances but somehow they are not being enforced. A lot of you say when I talk about two Manchesters that it doesn't exist. Most of you, and I mean most of you except for the new members who came in, were here when you guys wrote an ordinance and passed it unanimously that people shall not tear down their buildings around the Verizon Arena to put up a parking lot. You said you would enforce that. You don't allow one person to do it but you allow another business to do it. That is two Manchesters. We just had a new parking lot built on Lake Avenue, right across the street, forty new parking spaces where last year a building stood. If you are going to write ordinances, you need to abide by those laws for every citizen of this City, not just one or ten. Everyone has to be treated alike. City Clerk. Carol needs to step down. I think it is important that she be given her due date in court. After all, this is supposed to be America and you are innocent until found guilty. Mayor, did you do the right thing by not hiring a Clerk staff person after the Board of Aldermen voted yes and asked you to please do so? No you did not. You left Ms. Johnson to her own devices to do what she had to do for the protection of the department. Without meeting the City's needs, the City Clerk's office...where was the Mayor's leadership then? Where were you when the City found there was \$22,800 missing? Mayor, you did not show leadership then either. In fact, you shipped the personnel out of your hands and into the hands of the Planning Department. Who has led the City in notifying us, the people, of the other \$6,000 plus missing just last month in the dog and cat account? None of you because there is now a silence that has been created for over a month without any answers

for the public. Now some of you tonight want to discuss having the City Clerk, Carol Johnson, resign. Let's not go so fast. My last argument is this, we argued about \$90 and you have already spent about \$28,000 for your investigation and the pay out that it cost you. Tonight you are going to be dealing with a nearly \$3 million account, the Wall Street Towers, and make a quick fix deal and suspend the nearly \$14 million. Wow! You make a lot of fuss about \$90 but you don't make much fuss about \$14 million. Ladies and gentlemen of this Board you were elected to represent the people and manage the finances of the City, not to give the City away to big corporations so when it comes time for elections you receive donations from these out-of-state people. Thank you.

Jonathan Melle, 30 Hanover Street #209, stated:

Two Saturdays ago I accompanied Calum McNeil, who is in the bowtie at the back of the room. We went around and talked to the people about Saturday parking. When we talked...and we have done this on two Saturdays so far, nobody agreed with it. I talked to people and the response was that they didn't know and they thought it was a bad thing. There wasn't one businessperson or person who parked their car who thought it was good. Everybody was eager to take our flyers that asked to call Peter Sullivan, the downtown Ward 3 Alderman and the former downtown Alderman, now Mayor Guinta. I had a videocamera on the second Saturday I did it and there was a parking woman who was giving out warning tickets. Because I actually talked to the people, nobody got fined any money and it was just a warning, which I thought was good because it just began this month. As I videotaped her, to my dismay in front of my eyes she was pulling off the flyers asking the people who parked their car to call the Mayor and the downtown Alderman. I feel that this City doesn't respect free speech, and I feel that my work as a citizen activist and Calum's free speech were totally violated by the City of Manchester. Brandy Stanley and the parking people need to be told that we have a right to protest. Now regarding the City Clerk, which is a separate

issue, I believe Carol Johnson...I don't know her personally but from what I have heard this is a persecution by Mayor Frank Guinta. Mayor you shouldn't persecute people. It is just wrong. There is something called justice for all. I am facing seven false charges by this very City government right now for something I didn't do. I was illegally used force upon by a local police officer and I am in this terrible situation. There is just such poor leadership in this City. Everybody is a hero and everybody has to look good and if that means doing someone wrong or beating up an unarmed citizen...I am a disabled Veteran. I receive a check because I saved innocent lives on behalf of our country. I have the regards of our sitting President who ordered me a hearing and what do I get in return? I get beat up by a police officer and seven false charges and I am being persecuted. I don't like saying this but from the bottom of my heart this woman deserves justice and not persecution and I hope today that we have 12 Aldermen...some are lawyers like Peter Sullivan and Kelleigh Murphy and I hope that the due process and Bill of Rights and Constitution will still stand for something in this City. If not for me who is a disabled Veteran who protected innocent lives and at the regard of our sitting President, then for the other innocent people in this City. I stand by anyone and everyone's right to their day in court and due process and stop the persecution and let's get some new leadership in City Hall. Thank you.

Calum McNeil, stated:

Jonathan Melle said it pretty good. The last few Saturdays we have been out trying to hand these little leaflets out to people. The department head actually told Kristy, the parking lady, to take these off of the cars, stating that there is an ordinance and this was illegal on some level. I checked with the City Clerk's office and it is a total lie. My free speech was violated by this. I hate to talk about how much money it cost me to print these up. It is not about money. It is a simple principle issue. I hate to talk about the fact that I had to hire a lawyer and pay for a half hour of services to get in touch with them and threaten to file an injunction

against them for taking down my piece of free speech. How simple is this to fix? I don't understand. I asked the last time and they still took them down this time. Anyway, I would like to just talk about the parking real quick. It is a huge meeting ahead of you guys and I am sure you have a lot of bigger issues than the parking on Saturdays. You need to realize that there is no city north of Boston that has Saturday parking. In fact, we are the only city that charges for parking after 5 PM. Something we need to recognize is that we are competitive. If I am going to start a D'Angelos restaurant in downtown Nashua or downtown Concord or in Manchester I would look at the parking and how that factors in and what my foot traffic is. Manchester doesn't stack up compared to the other two cities in our state. It is just an interesting fact that two and a half years ago the Parking Department had three employees. Now there are 22 parking employees who go around the City giving people tickets. There is a reason why the Union Leader has branded Brandy Stanley as the Parking czar. It is a serious joke in our City about her. I am sorry about that. I really like Brandy and she is a nice person but I can't support her policies. They are just not right. The numbers that were given to you about parking on Saturday on Elm Street are not right. I have done my own survey three times now and I can't make 95% occupancy happen. I just can't make it happen. I only have to count seven open spaces and 115 spaces and every time I count seven spaces and I still have more to walk. They are just not right. I would accept a public apology from the Parking Department for taking away my right to talk to the citizens and petition the government to change that. I would accept that. I am going to pay out of my pocket for the lawyer and it is annoying to me that I have to go through that. The problem with the tax cap is it is not within the one year time that it is supposed to be presented. I didn't put my name on the petition because I knew about the out-of-town money. I do support the right to petition our government and we need to make sure that this...this should go on one year from the time it was petitioned to our government. Four years from now...and mark my words, the same eight people who tried stopping this

within a year's time are going to be the same people who are going to try to do that to you again. We need to really represent our vote and vote for Ted Gatsas and Doug Kruse and really represent that we want change to happen.

Howard McCarthy, 105 Randall Street, stated:

This seat feels pretty good. I went to the doctor today and he said you are in pretty good shape for the shape you are in. I said what does that mean, and he said well you have high blood pressure, you have a prostate as big as your head and you had the angioplasty. Outside of that you are in pretty good shape for the shape you are in. I said okay. He said get yourself a stool softener. Let me tell you that this chair is fine. The pillow is wonderful. I like it. I have four or five things to say. I met an Alderman at City Hall the other day and I talked about this three minute thing and he said you have to get right at it. Some people dance around things and I am that type of individual. By the way, how is your little common sense doing? Is it coming along pretty good? Are you really working at it? You know I have a TV show. I am on Channel 23 at 6:30 PM on Friday nights. Why don't you give me a look? I don't know who is looking at it but I tell about 100 people a day, so we will see what happens. Now listen, my name is Howard. Howard is my name. You don't know me and that's a shame. What I am about is very plain. Common sense is my game. I hope it is yours too. You know my middle name is Stephen. Honest to God this morning I was in bed and just about to get up and I was thinking HSM, those are my initials. Howard Stephen McCarthy and I said wow that could be Howard Saves Manchester. Who knows? I have a lot of ideas on how to do that. Now today I gave this request to Matt Normand. It is about changing ways that things are done here in the beginning. I don't want to take away your thunder, Your Honor, and I will talk more about it on my TV show and Matt Normand will present my request to you. How am I doing? Is my time up? I was going to bring my egg timer but I forgot it. The Carol Johnson affair. She does deserve her day in court. Thirty-two years of devoted work for this City is

something to look at. I will tell you one thing: Be careful, because do you think that Dave Nixon, if she is exonerated, is going to let you people get away with that? Anyway, thank you and I will see you later.

Mayor Guinta called for a recess to allow the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to meet.

Mayor Guinta called the meeting back to order.

Stephane Miller, 490 Hanover Street, stated:

That is a hard act to follow but Mayor Guinta and esteemed members of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council and for allowing me to speak tonight. I am a sophomore at Manchester Central High School and a long time member of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council. As a Council we would like to invite each and every one of you as well as any interested parties in the City of Manchester and in our community to two of our 2008 youth run debates. The first is going to be our Congressional Debate. It takes place tomorrow night at 7 PM at Manchester Memorial High School in the auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 PM and anybody who is interested is invited. This is a very special debate because this is the first time that youth are running a debate for a national office and we would be very glad and appreciate your attendance at this historic event. Our second debate is going to be held on the 27th, which is next Monday at 6 PM with doors open at 5:30 PM. It is going to be at the NH Institute of Politics between members of the Executive Council. We would like to invite anybody in the City and all of you. We will be saving seats for all of our friends on the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and one for you, Mr. Mayor.

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

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Pinard**, duly seconded by **Alderman J. Roy** it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.



City Clerk