

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

**February 17, 2009**

**7:00 PM**

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

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

A moment of silence 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, 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.

**Ginger Ferrer**, 521 Pine St. stated:

Before I make my remarks I would like to read something spoken and written by Abraham Lincoln: "Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well wisher in his or her posterity, swear by the blood of the revolution, never to violate in the least particular the laws of the country and never to tolerate violations by others." And I added, "Can we the people not protest these inhumane and illegal misdeeds by those who hold positions of trust and responsibility in our city, state, and federal governments? It is not personal; it is our right to protest and seek remedy as a free people." There is a book out called *Brush with Death*. It speaks to the social history of lead poisoning that goes back at least 283 years on American soil, and I do not understand how somebody who owns multiple properties in this city has gotten away with the continuous code violations of lead paint, roach infestations, and many other code violations. And as to the Alderman who questioned my validity as an American citizen, my family has been American since 1898 and they've served in all of the wars of this country. So, if you have any questions about my right as an American, address it to me, and I'll be happy to prove to you that I was born on American soil. Thank you very much.

**Glenn Ouellette**, 112 Auburn St. stated:

Good evening. Politicians today just don't get it. Postage stamps are going to go up two cents in May. They are considering...it hasn't happened yet, but they are considering either Tuesday or Saturday where mail may not be delivered. But the Postmaster General today got a six-figure bonus. This isn't just in our federal government, it's in our state and local government. When I hear an alderman say "Is it really, really worth it to take the Planning Board and the Building Department and make it all into one combined, consolidated department? After all, we can save between \$132,000 and \$140,000." To that Alderman, I say, it's not your money. The attitude has to change. Why, why are we blaming everything on the unions? It's not that they don't have anything to be blamed for, but there is

enough blame to go around. Seems to me that we give more percentages of increase to our administrators in this city than anybody else. And when you hire a new administrator, immediately you take the pay grade and you jump it from a 19 to a 26. Another thing that disturbs me is that we do not pay our female employees in this city the same fair rate that we pay our male employees. That needs to halt in 2009. You just gave an increase to the new department head of the Planning and Building Department and you're going to be giving him almost \$3,000, while the second in command is barely going to get \$500. Her job will have just as many responsibilities as his, if not more. This practice needs to stop. The budget, you know, taking \$10,000 out of the Veteran's Park, it's a nice thing to say you can do that, but you know, last year the fence was rotting, this year it will rot some more. If you wait a couple more years, you'll be spending \$100,000 to replace that iron fence. So be careful. We can cut, because there is plenty of waste in our local government, but be careful where you cut. This city is too well know for taking funds from repairs and putting it somewhere else and when it comes to repair, it costs the taxpayers much more money. Thank you.

**Howard McCarthy**, 705 Randall St. stated:

Good evening. How are you? I'm in pretty good shape tonight. At least I feel great. I want to thank Alderman DeVries, is that correct, that she held the door open as I came in this evening and I thought that was very nice. And she said, are you going to have a few words with us tonight? And I say, well I'd like to, but of course it's not of any importance, the same old thing. Anyway, I thought I'd be number one tonight, but I'm not, to appear here, because I want to go home and watch some real television. And do you people here actually think anybody else here is watching us right now? You know, once in a while I take a verbal survey: Hey listen, do you watch Chanel 22, to watch the Aldermen and the Mayor, you know, lead this city? Are you kidding me? I said, for crying out loud what do you watching? I'm watching Wheel of Fortune or this or that, so I said, how are you

going to find out what is going on in this city? Now listen, I have a television show myself and listen, I have to blow my own horn because no one else is going to do it for me. So, I have a television show and I'm going to tell you it's on Friday night at 6:30 on a real channel, MCAM, Manchester Community Access Media. And what do I do on there? Well, I talk a little bit about myself and, by the way, I turned 81 and wouldn't mind turning 82, if you know what I mean. And I talk about myself. I talk a little bit about the politics and of course, what I talk about is mainly things that I disagree with. When I first started this business of coming here and doing what I do here, I had visions of grandeur and I certainly found out in a hurry with my little request of going on the street and asking for a little electricity. This place exploded. Liability, this and that. They come up with everything and I've had everybody that knows what it's all about say, what's the problem, Howard? And I say, I don't know. Anyway, so here I am. So what am I here for tonight? For 30 seconds, thank you, Your Honor, and I'm not wearing my hearing-aid tonight so I don't mind if you gavel me. Just give me maybe another 30 seconds on this. You know, I'm naïve enough and gullible enough to think that myself or one person can change things. For instance, a couple weeks ago there was a story in the paper about the people who plow the streets for the snow plowing. And they gave up overtime for straight-time and that was a story in the paper and how they saved the city \$2,000 or \$3,000 and I said to myself, well, if they contributed, so will I, so I came to City Hall Monday, I believe it was, and I made a donation of \$50 because if they can do something, so can I. And then I said to myself, people want to work for this city. There are lots of \$100,000 jobs. Well for crying out loud, why can't someone else follow me and give up a little bit? Okay, so I'm sure my time is up again, but the real reason I'm here is I would like to know you people, you Aldermen. I want to know how you become an alderman. Do you go to school? For what? I'm sure that you're all honorable people. You start out that way. You have thoughts of grandeur; you're going to do this and you're going to do that. Sooner or later, you become a politician. That is

bad. Anyway, I want to set up a meeting with all of you at one time, give me 15 or 20 minutes. Let me know who you are. I'm going to tell you something: I am the real thing. That's right, the real thing. See this here? I make these. I've given out 4,000 of those things. I'm going to make another 1,000 or 2,000 pretty soon and give them out freely. I'm not blowing my own horn to tell you I'm the most patriotic person going. I am a veteran of World War II. Yes, I'm half a donkey you might say. We have to watch the decorum here, you know what I mean? So, the thing is, I'm a veteran of WWII, but I never fought a battle, but I just went in at that time that they made me a veteran, so I'm going to try to call all of you and try to make an appointment. I want to talk with you to find out who you are. I know who I am. Thank you, Your Honor.

*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.*

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

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk