

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

March 3, 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 Pinard.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. Thirteen Aldermen were present.

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

Absent: Alderman Garrity

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 our community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that all 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.

Ryan Curran, 221 West Shore Avenue stated:

Good evening. I came to you about a year ago complaining about the lack of illumination on the American flag at the Derryfield Country Club. I'm here now not to complain about it but to congratulate you and thank you for your quick and immediate response to it. The flag was taken down for about a month, but when it was put back up onto the top of the flagpole, there were two beautiful new lighting replacements directed directly upon it. And I just wanted to thank each and every one of you for the quick and immediate action to show the proper respect that our flag deserves. Thank you.

Howard McCarthy, 105 Randall Street stated:

The reason I did that is because I got it from a good source that I could stand and as long as I didn't utter a word my time wouldn't start. So now, start your clock. Anyway, last week or a couple of weeks ago there I kind of blew my stack but I feel as though a lot of times that I come here it's just futile. I'm beginning to think that I should just call it a day. The point is that there are a lot of things I don't understand, and I was watching the proceedings the other night, Your Honor, and I guess the Chief of Police was here. It had something to do with this contingency thing about \$25,000. I tried to follow it and I don't know. I still feel a little stupid here. I don't quite understand it. I thought he wanted \$25,000, but I guess one way or the other he could get that \$25,000. He'd put it some other place or something like that. So what upset me was, in a sense, back to the people that did the snow plowing, they gave up some overtime pay for straight time and of course loud mouth Howard says that if they can do it, I can do it. So down I go and I give \$50. Now I don't know if that was something I did that is just stupid because how do I know that somebody wouldn't take that \$50 and go out and have a two martini lunch. But that's up to you people. But the thing is, what I really am talking about is possibly people donating money, for what? To save 200 jobs.

I keep reading in the paper about stuff going on, possibly 200 people to lose their job. And I have talked to a number of people who wouldn't believe that some of those of people said, 'I'll donate'. So maybe something can come out of this thing. Now I gave you a copy of my show of last week and I do say that on the show I do some singing, and I thought Dean Martin and Kate Smith sounded pretty good. So I just joined in with them. So anyway, it's the same old thing really. I just want to see if something as simple as other people donating...and another thing I said is if people make \$100,000 a year why can't they give up something? After all, remember, this economy is tough and this stimulus package, as far as I'm concerned, won't do a darn thing unless you start buying American. So they're going to give you some money and you're going to go out and spend it. What are you going to buy a Honda, a Toyota? Buy a Ford. Buy a Chevy. Buy something American. I'm kind of hot on that. Did you say 30 seconds?

Acting City Clerk Matthew Normand replied I said three minutes.

Mr. McCarthy stated I'll never get together with you, Matt. Anyway, you see where I'm coming from. I spoke to somebody of importance here and they said they would be the first to donate. Imagine that? So don't overlook something simple that is possible for people that are making good money here. And that thing that you brought up that I said about this retirement thing, you've got to realize that you work for the city 20 years and you're a fireman, I don't know if it works for everybody, but you work 20 years and then you retire and you get a pension. You come back and work for the city again. You work another 20 years, and you get another pension. That's double dipping. Can this city afford to be giving all those pensions out? I worked all my life and I only get one pension, one pension from Eastern Airlines. I did work 32 years there, but I get one pension. Thank God that my pension is vested. The government or anybody

or any company can't touch it. It's there for me until I kick the bucket. I don't know. Now obviously, I didn't come here prepared. This is all extemporaneous. Is that 30 seconds?

Acting City Clerk Normand replied that's five and one half minutes, sir.

Mr. McCarthy stated but you know something, I hate to say this but I have to. You people get called a lot of names. Believe me. You won't believe this, but I actually defended you people. I said to this person, 'What do you think of the Mayor and the Aldermen?' He replied, 'They're a bunch of loons'. I said, 'Wait a minute. A loon is a duck.' He said, 'Yeah, but when they make a chirping noise or something it comes out to be a laugh/cry.' I said, 'Wait a minute. Have you ever seen an Alderman laugh? I've seen them smirk or a little smile. Have you ever had a belly laugh?' See what I mean? One other thing, Mr. Mayor, I have asked for electricity and a lot of people misinterpreted that whole thing when I go on the street. I will probably get a battery because that alternator that is putting out the juice for that cart is spewing out carbon dioxide. You know all this rhetoric about going green and everything, and here's a chance for not to do that. So, I will probably get a battery or something. They say they are out there and I'll do something like that. But I never said that I wanted free electricity. I deserve to pay my own bill that the house has which is more than adequate. I'm down in front of the Radisson and there is a power post there that was taken down by a snow plow. Now I noticed that there's a new one there. And this one has a key. Who has the key? If there is an emergency, who has that key to get into that thing? And I always like the philosophy of philosophers. And the one I really like the best comes from Confucius: "Man who loses key get no new key." See you later.

Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street stated:

Good evening. Back in September and October of last year, when you were dealing with the new parking regulations, you were hoping to collect \$665,000 the first year, but it was going to cost you \$695,000. So you were \$30,000 short. Well, as we all know you are now over \$600,000 short. And people are parking in the inner city neighborhoods instead of paying a dollar an hour to park. Now, I suspect this week you started your furlough that you suggested, Your Honor, because the meter maids didn't work this weekend. Everybody got free parking, even though there were events going on all weekend at the Verizon. So, it goes to prove again that it is still known that in this city that we don't enforce our own rules. A city that doesn't enforce its own ordinances is a city that allows people to come into our city and commit all the crimes they want. That's hardly a rule on the third shift. What I want to say is that you can't correct any wrongs if you don't make any new changes. If all you do is throw money at a problem and nothing else, yes, eight years later, since 2001, the same problems have come back to haunt us, and now they are just going to cost us more. So be careful when you patch a problem, when you realize that actually fixing it long term will cost you a lot less money. Thank you.

Billy Dodd, Ward 7, stated:

Good evening. I haven't been here for a couple months so I've either got earned time or extra time tonight, one way or the other. I'll try to go through this as quick as I can. Carol Johnson, haven't heard about her for a while...upcoming court date...did she exhibit some poor judgment? Yeah. Was it criminal? I don't think so. Some talk in the paper said nobody knew the applicant's past. Do you think the Hooksett floor has a lock on gossip? I don't think so. So you've advertised for a new City Clerk, and here's a prime time for you to save some money, or is it if you don't advertise high enough, you won't get qualified people? You could lower that salary and get qualified people. About the parking plan, you've heard

about that one. I believe the Parking Department is an Enterprise department. In my reasoning, it's designed to make money. But quoting the parking manager, Brandy Stanley, the article that was in the paper, she maintained that the point of the rule change was never to bring in more revenue. The goal was to free up spaces on a downtown strip, making it easier for shoppers and other visitors to find a parking spot. It never was meant to raise more revenue. But in her parking plan, her budget, she told you she was going to make something like an addition \$450,000. It sounds to me like she was going to intentionally make more revenue. Then you've got the unpaid parking fines, and you've got a contract for over \$100,000 with a company to collect 30% to 40%, which I believe, if I remember in the paper, that's going to be somewhere around half a million dollars. It seems like you're paying a lot of money for a small return. I was just talking to a gentleman in the back, and being an ex-police officer, you can hire me for one day a week, and I'll honk and get you a lot more than 40 % for a lot less money. It seems like you're spending a lot there. Snow removal is a big one. This time last year I gave the Highway Department director a half a dozen pictures or so. You saw them Your Honor. Guess what? Right now, all you'd have to do is change the date on each one of those pictures; it's the same thing. Nothing's changed. Is he getting overpaid maybe? Regarding the downtown business district, I believe they pay something like 75 to 80 cents on a dollar per thousand more by being in that downtown business district for trash and snow removal. You think they've gotten their money's worth of snow removal this year? I don't think so. Take a ride up in there to some of the side streets, some of your key thoroughfares: Kelley Street, Bridge Street, Valley Street, Maple Street, South Willow and Second Street. It's the same thing as last year. Try to find a sidewalk for a couple months. Impossible. And here's the big one. Lake Avenue at Hanover Street, the entrance to the shopping plaza. One lane, for three months. It's not even clear yet, okay? How many Aldermen, cars, fire trucks, and let's not forget the different Highway Department supervisors have ridden past there, and it has stayed that

way for three months. I drive a school bus around the city, all over the place, okay? Your schools need to be cleaned up a lot more. At Southside they just got around to removing the snow bank on the opposite side of the street so kids could get out because about three weeks ago, some kid went to get out on the driver's side, and the door got bent right around. Today, the first day back to school, there is a nice big snow bank on the street side, the school side of the street that the kids have to climb over. Somebody's got to be on top of things. If it's not you guys, it's got to be your department directors of different things out there, and if they can't do the job, maybe it's time to move them along. But somebody's been out riding around for three months, and a lot of the city is the same way it was last year. Nothing's changed. Thank you.

Mayor Guinta stated prior to adjourning the meeting, I would like, without objection from the Board, to make a presentation for a Mayor's Commendation to Mr. McCarthy, if he could please come forward. I think most people here know who Mr. McCarthy is. As many of you know, Mr. McCarthy gave a \$50 donation to the City to assist with our snow plowing efforts, and in addition to that, Mr. McCarthy is an avid fan, I think, of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. We want to at least extend some gratitude to you, not only for your interest in the City, but your reverence for coming here and spending time with us. So, just so you know that we are listening to you and responding to you, I wanted to give you this Commendation, and it reads, "To Howard McCarthy, for making a donation to the City of Manchester towards snow removal. With your visits to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen meetings, your show on MCAM, and now with this donation, you've shown that you care deeply about the future of our City and that civic engagement is a top priority of yours. I salute you for your selfless actions and hope others take your lead." So thank you, congratulations, and we appreciate you being here.

Alderman Gatsas stated Your Honor, that doesn't give him another three minutes.

Howard McCarthy stated well listen, I really feel great, I mean, this has never happened in my whole life, and could you believe it, I'm at the loss for words. But anyway, I really do like Manchester. I come from Peabody, Massachusetts, and I've been up here in Manchester...In the 1970's I went to Londonderry, and now I'm in Manchester and I've been here since the 1980's. So I really dived into this political thing and I'm not a politician, but I know that a lot of good things are happening here in this City and I see some things I just don't understand or I'd like to have explained. That's all I'm about. And I know all you people are honorable people. You start off great, and then I don't know, something happened that's hard for me to understand. So I'll just tell you that Howard Howard is my name. You don't know me, and that's a shame. What I'm about is very plain; common sense is my game. Thank you.

Alderman Pinard asked Your Honor, can I say something about Mr. McCarthy? At the first observance of the 911 at Massabesic Lake, Mr. McCarthy came for the ceremony, and if you notice, on his chest, he's got the red, white, and blue. He made a little speech, and he passed that ribbon to everybody that was there at the Lake. He is a true American; he just stated, buy American goods. You're a great citizen of the United States, Mr. McCarthy. Thank you, Your Honor.

On motion of Alderman Murphy, 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 Murphy**, duly seconded by **Alderman Smith**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk