

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

**November 10, 2009**

**7:00 PM**

**Mayor Guinta** called the meeting to order.

**Mayor Guinta** called for the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by Alderman M. Roy.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Absent: Alderman J. Roy

**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.

**Mayor Guinta** stated Mr. Williams was kind enough to donate these two paintings to the City of Manchester. I wanted to introduce him and offer him a few minutes to speak about his donation.

**Mr. Dennis Williams** stated thank you, Mayor Guinta. I have been painting for about 30 years. I am a native of Manchester. I grew up in the City. I attended West, Central and Bradley. I don't think there was another high school at the time that I could have attended. I graduated and went onto New Hampshire College. I got my degree there in 1962 and went into the technical field. At the age of 39, I started painting. I'm a self taught painter. I started dabbling with the work. As you can see, I have a couple pieces here that I painted of the City of Manchester. One is of the Ash Street School. This was painted from a black and white photograph from 1988. This is a painting of the Manchester Mills. It is a 24x36 on oil. It is a view of the City from Coolidge Heights. It was painted from a small black and white photograph. I have been painting for 30 years. These have been hanging in my family room for a long time. Since I am moving next year to the north country, I thought that I would take them and put them to good use. I'm donating these two paintings to the City of Manchester so that the people of the City can enjoy the views of the past. They indicate the industriousness of Manchester and the future. I played basketball and stick ball in the school yard here. I grew up on Bridge Street. I worked in that large mill building in the PTS Shoe Corporation to get myself through school in 1961. There is a little part of me in these two paintings. I want to present these to the City. I hope you can display them in a nice place and enjoy them with the people of the City.

**Mayor Guinta** stated thank you again for your generous donation. They are beautiful paintings and we will certainly make sure they are properly displayed and are properly taken care of.

**Mr. Glenn Ouellette**, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

I want to congratulate those who won. Those who didn't are still winners. We need to have more people interested in City Hall. I have a couple things tonight. I want to say that MCAM TV 23 did its best this summer. They closed down every other weekend under

the expectation that by October 1<sup>st</sup> we would get our payment so we could go back to operating every week. Here we are mid-November. The elections are over. I guess this too will be passed on to next year. Putting the cart in front of the horse doesn't work. This should have been negotiated with both MCTV and MCAM from the very beginning of last year's budget. The City is not abiding by its contract. It is not a good reputation that the City has when it breaks its own City contracts. It tries to renegotiate a contract when they have already made its decision. That is going backwards. The new downtown dump on the corner of Chestnut Street and Lake Avenue has brought to downtown new graffiti. I live across from the Verizon Arena and I haven't seen graffiti in that neighborhood for months. Again, there was an Ordinance in the City that once you built the Verizon, you cannot tear down a building within one square block of the Verizon and turn it into a parking lot or a dumping area. Three buildings, since the Verizon has been built, have been torn down. The first one on South Willow Street, when you made the Ordinance, made it clear that they needed to put concrete blocks around their lot so that it wouldn't be used for dumping or parking. The existing building has been torn down. You not only allowed 40 parking spaces, but you have allowed for dumping of abandoned vehicles, tractor trailers that are junk and brought crime to that area. It starts off with graffiti. When you break the window, that's what happens. The other lot is on the corner of Spruce and Willow Streets. There used to be a warehouse there made of brick and it was torn down two years ago. You have allowed trees and 31 parking spaces to be put there. We have a parking problem in the City that was started many years ago. In 2000, someone decided not to accept \$7.4 million from the DOT to build a park and ride for the City. It would have been 610 parking spaces. That's where it started. We had two parking garages that we sold in the last few years because they were too expensive to run and operate. We weren't making money, but once you sold it to the private sector they were repaired and made money. Now you are planning on taking the downtown from Granite Street to Queen City Avenue and from Bridge Street to Webster Street and turning it into the same downtown that we had between Bridge Street and Chestnut Street. You have already started taking the four lanes and bringing it down to two. The middle lane is useless.

Most cities that are expanding for the future expand their roads to help the traffic. In this City, we downsize our roads and create more traffic. Where is the future?

**Mr. Howard McCarthy**, 105 Randall Street, stated:

I haven't been here for a while. I have been very busy with my personal life and whatnot. Something disturbing happened to a friend of mine. He said to me, "Howard, you don't think these people really listen to you? They don't take you seriously, you know." I said that I was going to go to the next public participation night and find out myself. Am I wasting my time? Am I wasting your time? However, I wish I could speak like my good friend Glenn Ouellette. He is very knowledgeable. He knows his stuff, but I'm a little different because I do different things. Tonight, I would like to say a few words about our future mayor. I want to congratulate you on a wonderful victory. Maybe I should not say this, but I did not vote for you. That doesn't mean that I don't think you can do the job. I think you can and you will, but I also want to say that my good friend Mark Roy got the nod from me. I realize that Mark Roy was the underdog. In my lifetime, I have always favored and tried to give a break to the underdog. Don't dismiss Mark Roy. He has a lot going for him. I think he could also run this City. He knows his stuff too. You will be leaving this City and going higher, Your Honor, but that's the way things are. Also, I want to address my good friend Mr. Garrity. He has always tried to help me in my endeavors. I want you to all know that that man has more courage than a lot of people. For him to stand up for what he thought was right about Gold Street and taking the stand he did and having the opposition that he did, he did that because he wants to see Wal-Mart go in there. The taxes that will be coming to this City will be quite a bit. You can't please everybody. Abe Lincoln said that you can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time. I simply insert the word please. You can't please all the people all the time. It is not over. It is not the end of the world. You are going to make a comeback and you deserve it. These people don't know who you are. I do. I want to say that Ted Gatsas is the chosen one to lead this City. When it comes to that, I hope you always put people before buildings and things like that. It is people that

make a great city. When it comes to taxes, if people want all the amenities, you have to go up in the taxes. That's it. Naturally, you want to keep them in proportion and keep them low. That is always the ambition of everybody, but if they want everything, you have to come up with the taxes. I am here to say to you God speed. I want to show you something that brought me to this place tonight. On Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, a picture was in the Union Leader and it brought tears to my eyes. It shows your mother with her hand on your face assuring and loving you. You are so overcome, that your eyes are closed because you know this is coming from a very important person in your life. She is saying that she is proud of you and loves you. You are the one. That brought me back to my own life. When I was three years old, on a cold winter's night, I woke up everybody in the family. I had two sisters, two brothers, a mother and father. I could not breathe. My mother came in and grabbed me and took me to the kitchen where the black stove was giving us heat. I could not breathe, but she held and rocked me in the chair. I could not breathe. My father said that he thought I was going to die. Even then, I knew that dying was not a great thing. My mother put her hand to my face and she said that I was not going to die because she wouldn't let me. I relaxed and I breathed. That picture of you with your mother reminded me of that incident. I was so overtaken by that picture that I ordered one from the Union Leader. It hasn't arrived yet, but when it does I will give it to you. It is a gift from me to you. I would like to give you another one and have you sign it for me, if you will. I'm sorry I'm emotional, but I'm going through a lot of emotions and hard times with a wife who has been put in a nursing home. I have to get her out. By the way, each person here has a gift. It is a show that I did. It is my last show and I was satisfied with it. On that show, I wore this vest. It is my wife's. She was taken from me and I'm going to fight to get her back. I have to. On that show, I said that if anybody would like a vest I would give it to them. I have about a dozen. There is only one woman here. Under no circumstances are you required to take it, but if you would like it, I will give it to you. I want to thank you for allowing me this time. I'm sure I'll be back again. I'll probably be in combat with you, Your Honor. It could be my last time calling you Ted. Next time, you will have the name you deserve.

**Mr. Bill Dodd**, Ward 7, stated:

First of all, I would like to say thank you to Mr. Pinard for all the years of service that you gave the City. I haven't always agreed with your votes, but you have done an outstanding job. Alderman Shea, it is nice to see you coming back. This is for all the Aldermen who are going to be here next year and the Police Chief. It should take about two weeks for the Chief to sit down with some of his men and come up with a concerted effort as to how they are going to deal with the noise pollution in this City from motorcycles and loud cars. That should be part of a project, to come up with an answer. I don't know if it is the Highway Department or Parks Department that deals with obstructed views. I drive a school bus around the City. I filled out hazard reports for obstructed views with brush and trees. They get turned in and they go on the list with everybody else. I would think that a school bus driver asking to have some brush cut back so he can see to adequately pull out of an intersection would be a little higher on the totem poll than the rest of the list. Maybe the snow plowing can be a little better this year. Trying to get a school bus around downtown is tough. If you want to save money, if the supervisor of the Highway Department cannot take care of those two simple requests, then he's not doing his job and you can have a hourly guy do it. I read an article in the paper the other day that said they were going to give out a \$25 unit that is going to be downloaded with \$10 of prepaid parking for a total of \$35. Yesterday, we had 1000 people apply for that. That's \$3500. I would like to know if Alderman Shea knowingly voted for a \$3500 give away of my tax dollars. Probably, most of these are going to be gobbled up by people who do not live in the City. How many other Aldermen voted for this giveaway for parking? It is a good idea, but if somebody wants the convenience, they will pay the \$25 and you don't need to download anything into it. Maybe before this plan goes into effect, you should reconsider it. I used to be a cop and collect overtime. Last week on Bridge Street, there was a little section that was closed. Traffic was detoured around it. There was one house on Bridge Street where it was closed. In the middle, there was a cop directing traffic for eight hours. He was there when the line went in and there

the next day when the gas line went it. Somebody directing traffic on a closed street to through traffic doesn't make any sense. Southside Middle School is one of the schools I drive a bus into. There may be a couple things that you can discuss with the School Board members from middle and high schools in your wards. I listened to a meeting they had last week. I made a comment about three or four girls who get on my bus and show more cleavage than Mariah Carey does on the stage. They go to school. There are nine buses with 35-40 kids, plus the kids who walk. You probably have 100 girls walking around Southside. No wonder the boys can't learn anything. Once you get to high school it gets worse. Maybe you should get together with the School Board and come up with some type of appropriate dress code. The last thing on Southside goes to the Police Chief. When the buses come out of Southside, there are a couple of buses that have to make a right hand turn on George Street. There is a crosswalk there. It would be great if there was a sign from that crosswalk back to the driveway that says no parking or stopping. It is crazy in the morning and even worse in the afternoon. Maybe the Police Chief can look into having the sign put up there so it would be clear. Alderman Gatsas, congratulations.

*There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of **Alderman Osborne**, duly seconded by **Alderman Pinard**, it was voted that all comments would be taken under advisement and any written documentation would be received and filed.*

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

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk