

## BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

May 18, 2010

7:30 PM

Mayor Gatsas called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Craig, Ludwig, Long, Roy, Osborne, Corriveau, O'Neil,  
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Shaw, Greazzo, Ouellette, and Arnold

**Mayor Gatsas** stated before we get into a presentation on the HSA Administration, there are a couple of employees that we have in the audience that I would like to recognize. One is Deputy Chief Nick Campasano of the Manchester Fire Department who completed a Master of Arts Degree in Security Studies at the Naval Post Graduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security on March 26, 2010, in Monterey, CA. I think he thought he was going to escape, but I was just waiting for him. Congratulations.

**Mayor Gatsas** called Kevin Sheppard forward. I have a Resolution here for National Public Works Week.

WHEREAS public works services provided in the City of Manchester are an integral part of our citizens' everyday lives, AND

WHEREAS the support of an outstanding and informed citizenry is vital to the efficient operation of public works systems and programs such as water, sewer, streets and highway, parks, public buildings and solid waste collection, AND

WHEREAS the health, safety and comfort of the citizens of the City of Manchester greatly depend on these facilities and services, AND

WHEREAS the quality and effectiveness of these facilities, as well as their planning, design and construction is vitally dependent upon the efforts and skills of Public Works Department employees, AND

WHEREAS the efficiency of the qualified and dedicated personnel who staff the Manchester Public Works Department is materially influenced by the peoples' attitude and understanding of the importance of the work they perform,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Theodore Gatsas, Mayor, and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Manchester, do hereby proclaim the week of May 16-21 of 2010 National Public Works Week in the City of Manchester and we call upon all of the citizens and civic organizations to acquaint themselves with the issues involved in providing our public works, to recognize the contributions that public works employees make every day to our health, safety, comfort and quality of life.

This Resolution is duly signed by the Mayor of Manchester, Theodore Gatsas.

**Mr. Kevin Sheppard**, Public Works Director, stated I just want to thank the Board for this. I had requested this from the Mayor. This is National Public Works Week. There is actually a Public Works luncheon that I am going to tomorrow. This is really for the employees of the Highway Department. I think they deserve a lot of credit. I think they are going to be thrilled when they see this throughout our four divisions. Thank you very much.

Presentation by Workplace Benefits Solutions and the City's Finance Officer regarding selection of a financial institution for HSA Administration.

**Mr. William Sanders**, Finance Officer, stated we handed out a letter this evening that you should have at your seat. In connection with the implementation of the health savings account health plan option for FY2011, which is effective on

July 1, 2010, we have completed a request for proposals to recommend a financial institution to function as the financial administrator for these employee accounts. Participants on the committee were myself, Karen DeFrancis from the School District because we are doing this jointly with the School District, Jane Gile from Human Resources, Sharon Wickens from Finance and Tom DeLacey of Workplace Benefit Solutions, the healthcare consultant for the City. We received seven responses to the RFP and selected four financial institutions to come in for interviews. The summary attached to your letter is a summary of the responses we received from the four finalists so to speak. It is the unanimous recommendation of the committee that the HSA Financial Administrator contract be awarded to Citizen's Bank. Under this arrangement, there will be no cost to the City for this administration. There will be no set-up fees or monthly administrator fees for the employees either. The accounts are self-insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation up to \$250,000,000 so the accounts are safe with Citizens Bank. I should also point out that if the Board were to approve this this evening it will require the approval of the Board of School Committee at their next regularly scheduled meeting on May 24, 2010. As you can see on the attached schedule, all of the banks that were finalists essentially waived all recurring fees. There are still some fees that would be applicable if employees lost their cards or requested an extra card of something like that but Citizen's Bank will provide two cards to each employee with no fees attached and they do have the capability to accept contributions directly from employees in addition to the deposits that the City will be making on their behalf. The accounts will be interest bearing based on the balances that are in the accounts. It starts at about 1% for under \$500 and ramps up a little bit up to a few thousand dollars, which won't be the City's situation for a year or two. One of the points that was in favor of Citizen's Bank for the committee was actually the very last point on the attachment about cash assets using the ATM card. Those employees who participate in the HSA will get a debit card so to speak that they can give to their doctors or use to pay health costs. One

of the things that was important to us was that that card not be able to be utilized at a regular ATM machine on a Saturday morning or Saturday night or whatever. There are tax implications to using this money for anything other than health insurance and the other three finalists still had platforms that permitted employees to use the cards and have the ability to access cash for their personal needs and we wanted to preclude that. So we are unanimous in our recommendation to select Citizen's Bank. If you have any questions, Jane Gile and myself are available to answer them.

***Alderman Lopez** moved to approve the recommendation. **Alderman Osborne** duly seconded the motion.*

**Alderman DeVries** stated thank you for your presentation and the prime consideration that you said was Item 23. I can certainly understand why that would have been an important consideration for you on the committee but did you go back after receiving three yeses and only one no and ask the other members if they understood that this was vitally important to you...the other three banks?

**Mr. Sanders** replied yes. We discussed the issue with each of the banks that we brought in and the platforms that currently existed at the other three banks did not permit them to disable that particular function in their card, probably because the platform is hooked directly into their checking account management and they work the same. It is something that I am sure in coming years will become more standard as HSA's become more prevalent in New England and elsewhere and if and when we take this out in two or three years time I would assume that issue would no longer be a differentiating factor between the banks, but right now Citizen's is the only one that offered it.

**Alderman DeVries** responded thank you because certainly some of the other items didn't seem to be as favorable to the employees – the cost of replacement cards and that sort of stuff. I can certainly understand the importance of that one issue.

**Alderman O'Neil** asked has City staff sat down with any of the unions at all as they were directed?

**Mr. Sanders** answered yes. There have been a series of meetings with employees and unions that Tom DeLacey and Jane Gile participated in. If Citizen's Bank is approved tonight, they are available to begin meeting with those employees who have selected the HSA to assist them in setting up their accounts.

*Mayor Gatsas called for a vote on the motion to approve Citizen's Bank as the financial institution for administration of the HSA. The motion carried with Alderman Greazzo being duly recorded in opposition.*

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Mayor Gatsas** advised if you desire to remove any of the following items from the Consent Agenda, please so indicate. If none of the items are to be removed, one motion only will be taken at the conclusion of the presentation.

### **Accept BMA Minutes**

- A. Minutes of meetings held on October 6, 2009 (two meetings), October 20, 2009 (two meetings), November 10, 2009 (two meetings), November 24, 2009 (two meetings), December 1, 2009 (two meetings), and December 15, 2009 (three meetings).

**Approve under supervision of the Department of Highways, subject to funding availability**

**B. Sidewalk Petitions:**

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 412 Holly Avenue     | 166 Myrtle Street  |
| 433 North Bay Street | 260 Tufts Street   |
| 589 Spruce Street    | 823 Goffstown Road |
| 185 Westwood Drive   | 25 Lamonte Street  |
| 76 Brae Burn Drive   |                    |

**Information to be Received and Filed**

- C. Approved minutes from the MTA Commission meeting held March 23, 2010, March 2010 Financial Report, and March 2010 Ridership Report submitted by Michael Whitten, Executive Director MTA.

**REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**D. Resolutions:**

“Amending the FY2010 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Ninety Six Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Six Dollars (\$96,826) for the FY2010 CIP project #412910 VAWA.”

“Amending the FY2010 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, transferring and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Hundred Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty-Six Dollars (\$513,456) for the FY2010 CIP project #412010 SCBA Replacement Project.”

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to Make Certain Budgetary Closings for the Fiscal Year 2010.”

## **COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

- E.** Proposed agreement between the Gold Star Mothers Memorial Association and the City regarding the Gold Star Mothers memorial statue to be placed in Stanton Plaza.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT**

- F.** Recommending that an Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance of funds totaling \$96,826 from the NH Department of Justice related to domestic violence programming for CIP #412910 VAWA be approved.  
*(Unanimous vote)*
  
- G.** Recommending that an Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and transference of funds in the amount of \$513,456 in Federal grant and local match related to the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and associated mask retrofit for CIP #412010 SCBA Replacement be approved.  
*(Unanimous vote)*
  
- H.** Recommending that an amended Budget Authorization to receive additional grant funds totaling \$2,250 from the NH Department of Safety related to sobriety checkpoints for CIP #410910 - NH DWI Patrol Program be approved.  
*(Unanimous vote)*
  
- I.** Advising that a communication from NH Health and Human Services related to the Office of Youth Services grant proposal to provide substance abuse prevention services has been received and filed.  
*(Unanimous vote)*
  
- J.** Recommending that a request from the Highway Department to accept \$3,000 from Saint Mary's Bank to cover the cost of installing 143 linear feet of granite curb on Mammoth Road along the frontage of a subdivided lot be approved.  
*(Unanimous vote)*

- K.** Recommending that a request from the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division to accept funds in the amount of \$5,000 from the Ann De Nicola Trust and \$9,600 from the Friends of Stark Park for the restoration of the General John Stark Equestrian Statue be approved.

The Committee notes that it has directed the City Solicitor to draft an ordinance related to this restoration project and recommends suspending the rules of the procurement code to allow for use of a specialized contractor.

*(Unanimous vote)*

- L.** Recommending that a request from the Planning and Community Development Department for an infusion of \$150,000 of Affordable Housing Trust Funds into the 2010 Housing Initiatives Program for CIP #610410 – Housing Initiatives be approved.

*(Unanimous vote)*

- M.** Advising that the discussion relative to CIP bond projects has been received and filed.

*(Unanimous vote)*

## **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC**

- N.** Recommending that the following regulations governing standing, stopping, parking and operation of vehicles, be adopted pursuant to Chapter 70 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester and put into effect when duly advertised and the districts affected thereby duly posted as required by the provisions of that Chapter and Chapter 335 of the Sessions Laws of 1951.

|                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Section 70.36 Stopping, Standing, or Parking Prohibited</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|

**RESCIND 10 MINUTE PARKING – NO TRUCK DELIVERIES:**

On Cypress Street, north side, from a point 25 feet west of Cypress Street to a point 50 feet west (Ord. 9885)

Alderman Osborne

**10 MINUTE PARKING – NO TRUCK DELIVERIES:**

On Massabesic Street, north side, from a point 25 feet west of  
Cypress Street to a point 50 feet west  
Alderman Osborne

**NO PARKING ANYTIME:**

On Elm Street, east side, from Hayward Street to a point 285 feet  
south

Alderman Long

On Merrow Street, east side, from a point 70 feet south of Irwin  
Drive to a point 40 feet south

Alderman Craig

**NO PARKING ANYTIME – EMERGENCY ORDINANCE:**

On Priscilla Circle, west side, from a point 215 feet north of  
Hazelton Court to a point 55 feet north

Alderman DeVries

On Douglas Street, north side, from Putnam Street to a point 400  
feet west

Alderman Ouellette

**PERMIT PARKING ONLY:**

Commercial Street, east side, from a point 26 feet north of Stark  
Street to a point 330 feet north of Spring Street

Alderman Long

**RESCIND PERMIT PARKING:**

Commercial Street, east side, from a point 50 feet north of Stark  
Street to a point 330 feet north of Spring Street

Alderman Long

ORD 9349

**RESCIND 15 Minute Parking:**

Commercial Street, east side, from a point 26 feet north of Stark  
Street to a point 46 feet northerly

Alderman Long

ORD 9387

*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Ouellette who was absent)*

- O.** Recommending that a communication from the Parking Division regarding Ordinance Section 70.54 providing clarification of parking districts 26 and 27 has been approved.  
*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Ouellette who was absent)*
- P.** Recommending that a request from the Parking Division for permission to stripe ordinance parking areas on the south side of Harrison Street between Elm and Chestnut Streets be approved.  
*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Ouellette who was absent)*
- Q.** Recommending that a request from the Parking Division to allow free parking on Lowell Street for seven staff members of St. Joseph's Cathedral, effective April 23, 2010 through the end of October be approved.  
*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Ouellette who was absent)*
- R.** Advising that a communication from Alderman Greazzo regarding high noise levels caused by modified exhaust of vehicles has been received and filed.  
*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Ouellette who was absent)*
- S.** Recommending that revisions to 70.06 and 70.36 for Overtime Parking submitted by the Parking Manager be approved.  
*(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Ouellette who was absent)*

*HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF ALDERMAN DEVRIES, DULY SECONDED BY ALDERMAN O'NEIL, IT WAS VOTED THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED.*

#### **COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE**

- T.** Recommending that Ordinance amendment:

“Amending Section 33.081 (F) (Sick Leave) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

ought to pass and be referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review.

*(Unanimous vote)*

***Alderman Shea** moved to refer this item back to the Committee on Human Resources/Insurance. **Alderman Ouellette** duly seconded the motion.*

**Alderman Ouellette** stated I am a little disappointed about this because the reason we have to send it back to Committee was really brought to our attention after the vote was taken. It is this Alderman's feeling, Your Honor, that City staff did not give a clear picture as to the entire nature of the issue. I am disappointed in City staff and the presentation. It was not really made clear that there was a grievance that is still outstanding on this issue. Hopefully in the future we will get to hear all of the information in terms of important issues going forward, especially when they involve bargaining units and bargaining agreements. Thank you.

***Mayor Gatsas** called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

5. Resignation letter from James Gallagher as a member of the Revolving Loan Fund.

*On motion of **Alderman Lopez**, duly seconded by **Alderman Shea**, it was voted to accept the resignation with regret.*

6. Resignation letter from Donna Daneke as a member of the Heritage Commission.

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Roy**, it was voted to accept the resignation with regret.*

7. Resignation letter from Derek Dufresne as a member of the Heritage Commission.

*On motion of Alderman Greazzo, duly seconded by Alderman Ouellette, it was voted to accept the resignation with regret.*

8. Nomination(s) to be presented by Mayor Gatsas

No nominations were presented.

**Alderman Corriveau** asked the letter of resignation from Ms. Daneke, did the record indicate that that was a resignation from the Heritage Commission or from the Millyard Design Review Committee?

**Mayor Gatsas** answered the Heritage Committee.

**Alderman Corriveau** stated I don't believe the letter of resignation is from the Heritage Commission.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated we will correct it for the record that it is a resignation from the Millyard Design Review Committee.

**Alderman Arnold** stated it does state here that she is a Heritage Commission designee.

**Mayor Gatsas** responded I think there was a mix-up. We will accept her resignation from the Millyard Review Committee.

9. Confirmation(s) to be presented by Mayor Gatsas.

**Airport Authority**

Daniel O'Shaughnessy as a labor representative, term to expire  
March 1, 2012

**Central Business Service District Board**

Tom Puskarich as a member, term to expire May 1, 2013  
Michael Farrington as a member, term to expire May 1, 2012

**Conduct Board**

Daniel A. Yianakopolos as a member (Aldermanic appointment), term to  
expire October 1, 2011

**Manchester Development Corporation**

Newton Kershaw III as a member, term to expire March 11, 2012

**Planning Board**

Bryan Bernier as an alternate member, term to expire May 1, 2013

**Revolving Loan Fund**

Elliott Barry as a members, term to expire June 1, 2011

*On motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to confirm the nominations as presented.*

10. FY 2010 Budget Forecast to be submitted by William Sanders, Finance Officer, if available.

**Mr. Sanders** stated you had my letter handed out to you this evening on the latest department head projections for the FY10 budget. We actually are reporting an increase in our projected surplus for this fiscal year. Our surplus projection now stands at \$2,749,500. It is comprised of a relatively small revenue shortfall of about \$61,000 and an expenditure surplus of \$2,811,000. The expenditure surplus is attributable to the continuing operating surpluses at the department levels. We are now reporting a department operating surplus of \$1,592,000. We also have considerably less debt service than we originally projected because we deferred going to the debt markets until late May, early June. We expect now to save about \$1,350,000 from our 2010 debt service. As we mentioned last month, there was a Homeland Security Grant that we received of \$464,000, which enabled us to not

spend money that we had in the CIP Cash budget for this year. The improvements that we have realized to date are offset by continued negative adjustments in the health insurance area. Right now we are projecting that we will need approximately \$850,000 of surplus to pay for health insurance and we also have shortfalls in worker's compensation and general liability insurance of about \$200,000. As you can see on the attachment, overall with only one exception all departments in the City are either at breakeven or positive and we are projecting a surplus of \$2.7 million for the full year.

**Mayor Gatsas** asked Mr. Sanders can you just explain a little bit more about the health insurance? Last year when we started we had about \$1.3 million in the medical reserve account.

**Mr. Sanders** answered right. We started off with a budget of approximately \$11 million. We had \$1.2 million in our health insurance reserve account. Right now our expectation would be that we will be approximately \$2 million short overall in the general fund. We will need the \$1.2 million that we have in the reserve account, plus we will need about \$800,000 from the general fund to balance the books.

**Mayor Gatsas** asked so if somebody were to look at our budget process, last year we had about \$11 million and we spent \$2 million so the actual cost in that line item was \$13 million?

**Mr. Sanders** responded that is correct. That was our current projection is.

**Mayor Gatsas** asked so right now, if I remember, we are looking at about \$11.4 or \$11.5 million in the current budget?

**Mr. Sanders** replied that is approximately correct.

**Mayor Gatsas** asked and we have put aside in the medical reserve account what?

**Mr. Sanders** answered we have about another \$2.3 or \$2.4 million that we are going to put in the medical reserve account to bring us up to about \$14.5 million.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated I think it is important...I know that the HSA's and some of the things that we have been attempting to do with the health insurance are things we are doing to try to stabilize costs but I can tell you that the utilization that we have in the City is incredible. We were talking about it again just this week to compare it to what other companies our size do and what other communities and our utilization is about 30% to 35%, which is extremely high. I don't know how we reduce that because right now I think the School District is at 22% utilization roughly.

**Mr. Sanders** answered yes. Less than we are for sure.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated so I am looking and saying we have to do something to try and control this because if we keep going I don't know how we are going to get there next year. We will be looking at \$15 million in medical costs.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated I don't want to beat this because I spoke to Mr. Sanders earlier this evening but we need to know what makes that up. There have to be factors. What makes up this utilization of 30%? Can I just run through the numbers again? I think Mr. Sanders said the projected actual for health insurance this year will be about \$13,200.

**Mr. Sanders** responded that is correct.

**Alderman O'Neil** asked and we have how much in the reserve? \$1.2 million?

**Mr. Sanders** answered yes.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated that will still leave us...

**Mayor Gatsas** interjected about \$800,000.

**Alderman O'Neil** asked so Bill, when we close the books on June 30<sup>th</sup> it will be \$0 in the reserve account?

**Mr. Sanders** answered that is correct and then we have plans under the budget that was approved by the Aldermen to transfer \$1.2 million of the surplus we are generating this year into our health insurance reserve account. We will also be transferring the signing fee that we received from SMG into that account and there are two or three other transfers that we will be making.

**Alderman O'Neil** asked how much was the signing fee?

**Mr. Sanders** responded \$400,000. We will be transferring a total of about \$2.3 million or \$2.4 million into that account on July 1, 2010.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated the first thing I looked at, Alderman O'Neil, is I thought maybe there were two or three catastrophic illnesses that might have driven this but we are only exposed for the first \$200,000 and then somebody is reinsuring us. So it is not like there were ten open heart surgeries that went up to the \$200,000 and continue to grow. It is an incredible use of the emergency room for things you think that most people would go to their primary care physician to take care of.

**Alderman O'Neil** asked why is that only happening to us? You mentioned that the School District's utilization rate is about 22%. They are a larger group of employees. I was talking to Mike Whitten last week from the Transit Authority and at one point we had authorized them to come over and they are not coming over because it is cheaper to stay with the Local Government Center. We are not doing something right on our side when the School District is performing a little better and the Transit Authority is with the Local Government Center. Something is not happening correctly on our side.

**Mayor Gatsas** responded the only thing I can tell you is remember that we are paying all claims.

**Alderman O'Neil** replied understood.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated if you take a look...and they have those claims listed...

**Alderman O'Neil** interjected I have been asking for that information for two plus months now.

**Mayor Gatsas** responded they don't have every claim listed individually but they show you where the utilization is.

**Alderman O'Neil** replied that is the report that I have been waiting for for two months. I am still waiting.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated I have one in my office that I would be more than glad to give to you.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated something just doesn't feel right about what we are doing. I know the numbers are the numbers but why are others not tracking as bad as we are?

**Mayor Gatsas** responded I can tell you that the only way we get that answer is directly talking to the employees and getting an answer from them. They are the ones who are using the benefits.

**Alderman O'Neil** replied you mentioned the emergency room. What are some of the other factors?

**Mayor Gatsas** stated there was orthopedics – a lot of knees and stuff like that. I am not sure if that is just the trend of the times but I can tell you that there was a huge blip in January that really went up and now it kind of settled down but we were probably at 45% utilization in January/February of this past year.

**Alderman O'Neil** asked why wouldn't we have bumped the actual budget number up more? We only bumped it up \$75,000.

**Mayor Gatsas** answered that is a good question because that bump up affects the tax rate. We are paying the bill because we have the money but it is not affecting the tax rate.

**Alderman Long** stated with respect to other municipalities or businesses the size of Manchester, what is a good number or an average number that we are looking for?

**Mayor Gatsas** responded they tell you somewhere between 22% and 25%.

**Alderman Long** asked is age relevant?

**Mayor Gatsas** answered no because I believe Alderman O'Neil asked that question. We got an age run and I think our age went up in a three year span from like 32 to 33 to 34. So it is not like we have an age group of 45 or 50 that are using it. I think you will see that some of the biggest utilization is from the under 65 retiree group. That is what is driving some of this.

**Alderman Long** asked did I hear we had a stop/loss of \$200,000?

**Mayor Gatsas** answered yes.

**Alderman Long** asked have we utilized that a lot in the past?

**Mayor Gatsas** answered I think there have been maybe four or five claims that have jumped over that.

**Alderman Long** asked how much is the premium for the stop/loss?

**Mayor Gatsas** answered I don't know. It is over \$100,000 I think.

**Ms. Jane Gile**, Human Resources Director, replied I don't have that with me but I can get you that information.

**Alderman Long** stated I would definitely be interested in the report Alderman O'Neil has been looking for also.

**Mayor Gatsas** responded we will get it to everybody.

**Alderman O'Neil** asked did I hear correctly that there were only four or five employees who went over the stop/loss of \$200,000?

**Mayor Gatsas** answered yes.

**Alderman O'Neil** asked do we know what those were for?

**Ms. Gile** replied we don't like to identify those kinds of things.

**Alderman O'Neil** responded we talked about those kinds of things here for years. If we have had two open heart surgeries, we say there were two open heart surgeries. We are not talking about an individual.

**Ms. Gile** replied it depends on if you are going to identify a particular procedure that is done. It might only be pertinent to one person in the organization and that would identify that person and we do have HIPA regulations.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated the HIPA law has been in effect for awhile. We have talked about major procedures or injuries here before.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated there is one procedure, Alderman, that looks like it could be as a stand out to one person.

**Alderman O'Neil** replied it is almost like we don't want to share the information. I am bothered by that.

**Alderman Shaw** stated I was wondering if in the last ten years there has been a cycle where it goes a couple of years and then it spikes and a couple of more years

and then it spikes or is this just the first time that it has actually spiked in recent years?

**Mayor Gatsas** responded I wouldn't say it is the first year. I think we have seen a gradual increase in utilization. Last year we were around 26% or 27%.

**Mr. Sanders** stated there have been periods over the last five years where the City has had surpluses in health insurance and has been able to build up the health insurance reserve. That can make it difficult to compare with other cities or even the School District. If you think back on the School District just a few years ago, they had a health insurance expendable trust that probably had \$3 million in it and today it has about \$5,000 in it. This year they are doing well and I commend them for that but some of it is and I don't want to say luck but you know what I mean. It is random how it occurs and people get sick for different reasons. The City has had about two consecutive years of difficult health insurance experience. I just want to go back to what the Mayor said. Most of our adverse experience happened in the first six months of the year really. If you have been following the report that we issue to the Committee on Accounts, it has kind of stabilized but it was such a large growth in the first six months that we have been unable to recover from it but it has settled down. Hopefully that will continue into 2011 and maybe we will find that we will be okay.

**Alderman Shaw** stated the reason I asked is I was wondering if this is something that has happened before and it is just a fluke or is it a trend? Is it evident that it is a trend or just an unusual situation?

**Mr. Sanders** responded I think the trend is that healthcare costs are going to continue to increase. That is the reality of the situation. I think that healthcare inflation is always going up. I think this utilization question and how sick or

injured or whatever adds on to the inflation so even if you only have inflation of 10% if you have a lot of visits to emergency rooms or long stays in hospitals or other things, that only exacerbates the 10% in inflation and makes it a 15% or 18% increase.

**Alderman Shaw** replied that is like when you tell you mother you are sick and she says. How sick are you?’

**Alderman Craig** stated we have done a great job educating the employees on the HSA program and has the City considered educating employees about this issue? We have talked about it here but have we talked to employees about the impact of what they are doing and when they are going to see doctors?

**Ms. Gile** responded this past year we have done a lot of work with the COMPASS program and in those meetings we have talked about the high cost of healthcare and how we as consumers play an important piece in what the cost of our health insurance plan is and how we need to protect our health insurance plan because of the costs going up. I think for many of the employees who participated in those sessions, it was an eye opener. We did begin the dialogue through the COMPASS program.

**Alderman DeVries** stated I think there are a couple of things that come to mind and certainly the COMPASS program was just mentioned. We had the discussion here and I want to say it could have been Alderman O'Neil's concerns that we may not have the right trigger point, if you would, for that benefit to go back to the employee to truly entice him into the program. I am hoping, Your Honor, that that is something that you are monitoring closely with staff to see if we need to work with that program to get better utilization. The other piece that would appear to me is worthwhile is auditing as best we can. I don't know how you audit it, but it

would seem to be worthwhile. Are we getting the right compliance with preventative procedures? Are the employees on the City side engaged with their primary care physician in having the kind of routine maintenance done that would prevent larger issues? That seems to be part of the conversation that everyone goes through for fundamentals to reduce the cost of healthcare where we can engage with our employees. I don't know if it is HR or yourself, your Honor, who may want to talk about whether there is a need for programs with prevention.

**Mayor Gatsas** responded I think that certainly Anthem has been working on prevention programs but certainly we haven't seen significant results.

**Alderman DeVries** replied we are not seeing their tracking of how they are doing.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated the important thing is you have to remember that we have had so many employees leave the point of service plan to go to the HMO because the service is the exact same thing as it was with POS. You can go to any doctor or hospital and when you take a look at a 6.5% contribution, at some point there is not a trigger mechanism that says to somebody, 'No, I am not going to go to the emergency room because I am paying X or I am not going here because it is Y'. If the contribution was higher, I think you would see the utilization go down but when somebody is looking at \$25/week for a family plan for a contribution, that is incredibly low no matter where you look. Then we say it is \$5 for a doctor's visit. I think that is what drives it. If you can go to the doctor and the doctor's visits I think was another thing that was driving things right through the roof so when you are going to see the doctor and it is only \$5, you just keep going because now it is...if you are buying a gallon of milk it costs \$5 today. So those are things that somehow we have to sit down at the table and figure out what we can do to get people to understand where the costs are going.

**Alderman DeVries** responded I appreciate your thoughts but I don't know that we really hit on the piece of prevention that I really wanted to target. It appears to me that the City doesn't do a great job...we are doing a better job of enticing people to use less costly healthcare and giving them incentives to use less costly procedures for reimbursement directly to an employee but we don't use incentives for good health to the extent that maybe we could. In the same way that we looked at the COMPASS program as a way to maybe steer better utilization, is there something we are missing to steer our employees into better health habits? An incentive for that? I know it is horrible to think you have to do that but if it benefits our taxpayers we should be looking at it. It is not something I need to hear here tonight unless Jane you are burning to engage me but...

**Mayor Gatsas** interjected that is a great question but I think what we have done with the HSA and we put that program in place it says now all preventative we will pay at 100%. So if there is an incentive, there is the incentive that we are driving somebody to the HSA to say we are going to pay 100% of that now.

**Alderman DeVries** replied I think I am thinking more like health club memberships and those kind of lifestyle changes. This is a conversation that we have to continue to have.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated and we have a few months that we can do it in because in six months we will be starting to talk about the budget again.

**Alderman Shea** stated I think that what we have discussed is that it is a multi-faceted problem. The point that I would like to try to get a handle on is are the hospitals raising rates that were not the same in 2009 as they are in 2010 and is this one of the problems? In other words, when one goes into a hospital room today are people being charged more now than they were six months ago or a year

ago and that might be part of the problem? The other of course is I guess everyone hit upon something and I think more people will but I think that is one of the considerations that has to go into this cost factor.

**Mayor Gatsas** responded I think there is no question that when you start talking about it there is an 8% to 10% increase in costs but the costs are there as a standard. The utilization is a whole different factor in this, which means that people are just using doctors and hospitals more than what we have seen in the past.

**Alderman Shea** replied I think, too, that hospitals themselves are wanting to make a profit so they may be raising the cost of certain items that people either don't have to utilize but are given to them or else the type of room that they are given or what have you. I think that it is too difficult to go into all of that but it is I am sure part of the process of all of this. In other words, being a multi-faceted problem you are going to have ten different elements connected to the cost of how much health insurance we do pay.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated in some ways I don't know that we created this but the shift when four or five years ago I forget the percentages that were on the POS versus the HMO but we made some changes that all new employees coming in had to be on the HMO for the first year and many stayed if we look at the trend over the last four or five years. That was prior to the Anthem deal with the HMO. We thought we were doing the right thing there and it has come back to bite us a little bit. I think you mentioned something, Your Honor, that is probably the biggest concern out there and that is the impact on our pre-65 employees and they are the ones getting hit the hardest on this. I haven't received a phone call from a current active employee but I have received phone calls from retirees. They are getting whacked on this. I think we need to figure out if there is anything we can do to

help them out because they are certainly going to pay higher costs. I think because of that we are going to see a trend where employees are not going to retire. I am aware of at least one police officer who was thinking of retiring and doesn't have a position lined up to work with benefits but was kind of at the 25 to 28 year mark but he can't afford to retire because of health insurance. I am aware of two firefighters who have thought about it but cannot afford to retire. We are going to end up and you mentioned and I think you are correct that the average age of an employee went from 33 to 34 and we are going to see that number grow significantly and we are going to end up with an older workforce with more health issues and more workers' compensation issues. From a business standpoint this is something we really have to work on. I have not used this yet, but I was given a link to a website and this comes from the COMPASS program but there is actually a website that exists where you can price your prescriptions and I am not talking about mail order, just locally. You can put the prescription in and put a zip code in and it will tell you which pharmacy has the cheapest cost for that particular prescription. For many of us, we have multiple pharmacies within a very short distance that we can look at. That may be something that we want to encourage as well. I do think the COMPASS program has already proven its success and we just have to continue to expand it. I think they are expanding the services on it this year.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated they are going from ten to 33 different procedures.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated we should just encourage our employees and our retirees to use it. This is an issue that we almost need to talk about every month and I think it needs to be done before the full Board. It is not necessarily a committee issue.

**Alderman Lopez** stated I agree with Mr. Sanders that the last couple of years have been bad but there have been years when he was the Finance Officer on the school side where they were bad and we were good. It goes back and forth like a ping pong sometimes. The other thing I would request is that the HR Committee look at the PR that we are doing to make sure we are doing enough with the employees. I can think of something simple and I haven't seen a poster in any department yet referring to anything other than what we have talked about. Now maybe there is something but I haven't seen it, like a poster on the award of \$100 or something like that or pick and choose. That is something you should talk about. The real question I had for Mr. Sanders is the \$1.5 million going into the healthcare reserve account from the net surplus. Is that a conservative \$2.7 million at this stage for surplus or do you anticipate it to go a little higher? The other part of my question would be if that is the case then \$700,000 would go into the rainy day fund and \$700,000 would go to the tax rate?

**Mr. Sanders** answered I think myself and the department heads...the surpluses we show I think I would characterize as numbers that we are highly confident that we are going to meet, which I guess is another way to say that they might be a little conservative and that this number may improve between now and June 30. Hopefully all of the surprises and uncertainty is behind us and the next six weeks should be a relatively straightforward six weeks. Right now the \$1.5 million was going into the health insurance reserve account so that would leave about \$1.3 million or \$1.2 million in this current situation that would be available to be split between the rainy day fund and the tax rate. That is correct.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated I think we will all be presently surprised when the county completes their budget because I know there are a few state representatives on this Board to make sure that we cut costs as much there as we did here because they have about a \$14 million surplus or \$12 million surplus in the county. I know that

they have been working on their budget recently and it is probably another six weeks before they finalize it but I am hearing that there might be about a \$1 million cut in that number. That is a significant number to us. If the county rate goes down, we could see a tax rate that is less than zero. So I will look to you folks to help us from the .39% to get to a minus number because I think you can do it. I know you can do it.

**Alderman Roy** stated I just wanted to point out the comment made about the cost to the employee may be too low...I don't think we can make a correlation on that because the School District has essentially the same plan as we do.

**Mayor Gatsas** responded their co-pays are higher.

**Alderman Roy** replied not significantly higher but their utilization is acceptable. I am just saying we need to be cautious about making a correlation on that.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated co-pays on our side are 6.5% for an HMO and they are 13% on the School side. They are almost double what we are.

**Alderman Roy** replied again, I just don't think we can make a correlation with that because that isn't that prohibitive.

**Alderman Osborne** asked is there anyway I can talk to Jane Gile and ask her a question? Jane, dollar wise is there a way you can give me a breakdown on dollars for hospital stays, emergency room and also doctor's visits? Do you have such a breakdown of what the cost is for those three categories?

**Ms. Gile** answered we can probably get you an aggregate of that if you would like. I don't have that with me tonight.

**Alderman Osborne** responded I understand that but if you could get it to me I would appreciate it.

**Ms. Gile** replied I think we can probably pull that information up for you for the past year or so.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated I have a clarification and a question for Bill. Is the HMO 5%...you mentioned 6.5%?

**Mayor Gatsas** answered I am sorry it is 5%.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated it is 5.5% and 12.5% for the POS correct?

**Mayor Gatsas** answered yes.

**Alderman O'Neil** asked Bill, not for tonight but at some point will your staff be able to go through the sheet that you handed out this evening? I am going to guess looking at Highway with a \$600,000 projected surplus that it is almost exclusively related to snow, so that is an easy one. It is a guess but it is probably a pretty good one.

**Mr. Sanders** answered it is a pretty good one. It is mostly winter. There is also the Corcoran contract in there.

**Alderman O'Neil** asked but my point is will we be able to look at some of the shortfalls in revenues or the savings in the expenditures. I know that many of the departments have worked to kind of reinvent themselves and have reorganized a little bit, but you have created these monsters here with these fact-based decisions

that you have been drilling many of us on for years so we can say that the successes are because, say for the Fire Department, they have reorganized a little bit, having the same number of people on fewer fire trucks and I know they would like to continue doing more of that. Can we base any of the savings on those decisions that the departments have made internally?

**Mayor Gatsas** replied what I am going to have Mr. Sanders provide for all of us probably the third week in July is what was spent at the end of FY10 in June and what was budgeted in the budget that we are in so that we can look to see the correlation for every line item in the budgets. So when Highway comes in and says this is what we actually spent on salt last year because they have given up their \$400,000 that they may have in surplus, this is what we budgeted for salt so we can go through each line item and see where they are today and where they were when they spent it because that is going to give us a focus on how we get our budgets built. I think the departments now are very well-trained to understand that if you have it you don't have to spend it because we are going to budget for you if you don't spend it. Before the habit was to spend the money to show that they had reached the number that they were allocated so that they don't get cut in the next budget, but I think they have been working very hard to say there is no reason to spend it because they are going to budget fairly and provide those funds for us. I think that will be a much different pattern than what we have had in the past.

**Alderman O'Neil** responded I agree with that. I am going to guess that things like passing the bond for fleet we are going to see savings in mechanical maintenance and maybe in fuel with more efficient vehicles but there are some items that you are not going to be able to necessarily put a number on regarding some of these reorganizations that they have done and we want to encourage them to continue to look at things like that that are going to save money but still deliver the level of services. Those are the kinds of things I am looking for.

**Mayor Gatsas** replied we should see those long before January, before we start the next budget process so that we know what they look like the very first day or the first month when we have completed the year and what we actually allocated in those line items. Do we have a motion?

**City Clerk Matt Normand** answered no we don't.

*On motion of **Alderman Shea**, duly seconded by **Alderman Roy**, it was voted to accept the FY2010 budget forecast submitted by the Finance Officer.*

11. Communication from Jay Minkarah, Economic Development Director, requesting the Finance Officer be authorized to set up a separate fund to accept future contributions towards the Chili Cook-off and expend the funds associated with the event.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated I would like to amend that. I think there is another fund we need to set up because people are looking to send their checks in and that is for City Year. I would ask this Board if we could amend this motion to set up two funds – one for the Chili Cook-off and one for City Year.

***Alderman Osborne** moved to authorize the Finance Officer to set up two separate funds to accept future contributions – one for the Chili Cook-off and one for City Year. **Alderman Craig** duly seconded the motion. **Mayor Gatsas** called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

**Mayor Gatsas** stated let me just tell you a couple of things. The City Year announcement happened in California today. Just so that everybody knows, Dr. Brennan was out there with Ellie Murphy, the principal from Beech Street School to tell everybody that we as a community are going to make sure that we take care

of education in the five schools that need it the most. We have been meeting with people on the City Year side and we are looking for office space for them. We have talked to MTA and they have provided us with some free passes so that the City Year people will be able to travel. I have just about completed raising the funds that we needed on our side to complete this great task. Over the weekend on Saturday there was a group that came in to talk to the School Board about violence in schools and how they have incorporated some programs in Milwaukee where they also have City Year and they actually get mentors from the community and place them in these schools and kids respond to these mentors because they know them from the neighborhood and they will tell them things that they would not tell a teacher or an SRO, which curbs the knives, guns, and fights in these communities. Some of the statistics we heard in Milwaukee were absolutely incredible. So if we can find some other funding outside of taxpayer dollars to see if we can put this in place because they tell me they can reduce the discipline problem in schools by 25% in 90 days...

**Alderman O'Neil** interjected what is the name of that program? I know you mentioned it to me when we spoke the other day.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated that is a great question. There is a brochure in my office and I will get you that information.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated I thought you said to me that they target kids older than where the City Year kids are going to be. Is it high school?

**Mayor Gatsas** responded yes they do. They have a City Year program right now in Milwaukee. They have a K-8 system in Milwaukee and they have it in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades in those schools. So that is where we are with those two and certainly we will be rolling something out in the very near future with City Year to

make sure that we get everybody to participate and be part of it. I think this is not only a School Board issue but something that we should all be proud of and step up because I can tell you there are going to be opportunities that will be given to children in this City that we will never be able to duplicate. I am certainly proud of the effort that we have been putting forward both as an Aldermanic Board and as a School Board.

**12. Report(s) of the Committee on Joint School Buildings**

There were no reports.

**13. Report of the Committee on Lands and Buildings.**

A report of the Committee on Lands and Buildings was presented respectfully recommending, after due and careful consideration, that a proposal from the Danais Realty Group to enter into a purchase and sale agreement with the City of Manchester for the acquisition and development of the Northwest Business Park at Hackett Hill be accepted subject to the review and approval of the City Solicitor.

The Committee further notes that the proposal requires the rezoning of certain parcels contained within the development and recommends that the City Clerk be directed to hold a public hearing on the Zoning Ordinance amendments at the earliest possible time once all the appropriate documents have been received by the Planning Director and forwarded to the City Clerk.

*Alderman Arnold moved to refer this report back to the Committee on Lands and Buildings. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion.*

**Alderman Arnold** stated I want to thank the Lands and Buildings Committee for the work they did in vetting this proposal yesterday at the Committee meeting. It has come to the attention of a number of individuals that there are still a couple of details left to be hammered out and that is why I am asking that it be sent back to the Lands and Buildings Committee before this Board take it up. I will say that

next week there is going to be a meeting of City staff and I will be there as the representative of this Board and it is my expectation and sincere hope that all concerns and issues that anyone has about this proposal will be explained and brought up at that time so that the Lands and Buildings Committee will have all of the information they need when they take their next vote on it and this Board will have all of the information it needs when we do it.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated I might say this a little more strongly than Alderman Arnold but I understand there is some frustration with not everyone putting their issues on the table prior to the Lands and Buildings Committee meeting last night and to be honest it is unacceptable. We have an opportunity to finally move forward on that project and not everything was put on the table by City staff. To me that is unacceptable, plain and simple. I think Alderman Arnold, with the class that he always speaks with, said that he expects everything will be laid out next week and as far as I am concerned it had better be laid out next week. It is unfair to your office, to Alderman Arnold and to the others who worked on it for some people to come in at the last minute and say well we haven't had a chance to review or we have concerns. As far as I am concerned that is unacceptable in City government.

**Mayor Gatsas** responded I don't disagree with you Alderman.

**Alderman Arnold** stated for the public's information if anyone is watching this on TV, I have scheduled a public forum in Ward 12 to discuss this issue. I announced this yesterday. It is going to be on Thursday, May 27 at Northwest Elementary School and will take place at 7 PM. The proposed developer, Mr. Danais, and his group will be there to answer questions and possibly address any concerns. There will also be representatives of City government there as well. I

will be there. Despite my request that this go back to Lands and Buildings, that public forum will be taking place as scheduled.

**Alderman Shea** asked the meeting that is going to be taking place on May 27, will that meeting be in conjunction with what is going to be taking place that is going to be handled by City officials between now and then or will that be handled after May 27?

**Alderman Arnold** answered the forum that I referred to at Northwest Elementary will be the opportunity for...well at least one opportunity for the residents of Ward 12 and area stakeholders to weigh in on the issue. That forum will not be affected by the work session that City staff is going to conduct.

**Alderman Shea** asked when is the work session?

**Alderman Arnold** answered I think there are a couple of dates floating around but it will be next week. It will be before the public forum.

**Alderman Shea** responded that is what I was wondering and then after the public forum it will come back in June or July to Lands and Buildings?

**Alderman Arnold** replied correct.

**Alderman DeVries** stated not knowing a lot of what was discussed earlier or having been part of it or having had the opportunity to watch a replay of last night's meeting, I did catch that there were a few issues and had some conversation with evening with Mr. Danais. I certainly hope that some of these suggestions might become part of the discussion as this goes back to the Committee. One of the initiatives that I always enjoy seeing when we use, and

maybe this is a little serpentine but this is still taxpayer dollars that are going into the building of the fire station and it is always nice, especially in the worst of economic times, to have a local hiring initiative and offer employment to our local Manchester residents. I know that this is something that Mr. Danais certainly agrees with and will try to work in. I am not suggesting the how or the percentage. I am just putting it out there for discussion. We also talked about utilizing our in house Clerk of the Works at the Highway Department. Those who have been on the Board for awhile remember that we hired that individual over at Highway maybe five years ago during our design-build and it is the right person to act, in my opinion, as a check to the construction manager that Mr. Danais will have assisting him and to be sure that there is some ability to reimburse some of the dollars and have them be billable hours and that seemed to be something that was agreeable as well. I hope that these conversations can continue because I think there are many initiatives that benefit our local economy as well. We also talked about maybe making sure that there was compliance with insurance – workman’s compensation and that kind of stuff, and that all seemed to be agreeable and acceptable. Hopefully those conversations will continue.

*Mayor Gatsas called for a vote on the motion to refer the item back to the Committee on Lands and Buildings. There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

**14. Report(s) of the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment and Revenue Administration**

There were no reports.

**15. Report(s) of the Special Committee on Energy Contracts and Related Activities**

There were no reports.

**16. Report(s) of the Committee on Administration/Information Systems**

There were no reports.

*On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne, it was voted to recess the meeting to allow the Committee on Finance to meet.*

**Mayor Gatsas** called the meeting back to order.

**19. Report of the Committee on Finance**

The Committee on Finance respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2010 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Ninety Six Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Six Dollars (\$96,826) for the FY2010 CIP #412910 VAWA.”

“Amending the FY2010 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, transferring and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Hundred Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty-Six Dollars (\$513,456) for the FY2010 CIP #412010 EPA SCBA Replacement Project.”

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to Make Certain Budgetary Closings for the Fiscal Year 2010.”

ought to pass and be Enrolled.

*On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Lopez, it was voted to accept the report and adopt its recommendations.*

**20. Ordinance:**

“Amending Section 33.024 & 33.026 (Fire Training Instructor) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

*Having had its final reading by title only, on motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Corriveau**, it was voted to Ordain this Ordinance.*

**21. Resolutions:**

“Amending the FY2010 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Ninety Six Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Six Dollars (\$96,826) for the FY2010 CIP project #412910 VAWA.”

“Amending the FY2010 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, transferring and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Hundred Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty-Six Dollars (\$513,456) for the FY2010 CIP project #412010 SCBA Replacement Project.”

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to Make Certain Budgetary Closings for the Fiscal Year 2010.”

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Roy**, it was voted to waive reading of the Resolution.*

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Osborne**, it was voted that the Resolutions ought to pass and be Enrolled.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Mayor Gatsas** stated I think you have a packet that we have distributed, a legislative update on YDC. There is an official statement attached regarding the solar project. There is still a piece of legislation that is before the Senate.

**Alderman DeVries** asked are you talking about the legislative update?

**Mayor Gatsas** answered yes. Is there another piece of legislation that was passed that allows us another bite of the apple for the solar panels?

**Alderman DeVries** replied yes and no. It is a Plan B contingency. As you know, the original proposal went down in flames in the House with a very strong vote. It was something like 300 in opposition and 45 in favor and I think that was pretty much the Manchester delegation. That was an incredibly hard vote to overcome because it was a roll call vote in the Senate convincing individuals that putting the exact same proposal back on another piece of legislation was survivable. So it did not happen with the exact same proposal but there was an effort to work with an RFP proposal that could be a Plan B for us and, Your Honor, I think you have been a little bit engaged with that. Hopefully in a different format we could still see the solar panel at the landfill.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated the second thing on the list is the Chili Cook-off. You will see that we are producing RFP's for non-profits so that they can participate with us and bring volunteers in to possibly sell tickets and participate on some of the sales on the tickets that they can have in their non-profit.

**Alderman O'Neil** asked do you expect...and I did see the e-mail from Sam but I have to be honest that I didn't open the attachments but do you expect that you will be selecting more than one or is the intent only one?

**Mayor Gatsas** answered the intent is more than one.

**Alderman O'Neil** asked a couple?

**Mayor Gatsas** stated one for each day.

**Alderman DeVries** stated this happens to be on the same weekend as Fire Prevention. It seems to lend itself to obvious opportunities to meld the two...not meld because that is what a good firehouse chili would do but meld the two opportunities...

**Mayor Gatsas** interjected that is a good suggestion and I would hope that we can convince the firemen to...and I don't know if they have set a date yet for the parade but rather than have it on that Sunday, the 3<sup>rd</sup>, if they could have it on the Sunday before that would be a great help because we are closing down that street. We voted to close Elm Street for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are closing off Elm Street from Merrimack to Central. If you want them to go up Manchester Street they could do that but I would ask them to take a look at that and maybe work with us.

**Alderman Roy** stated at the meeting the other day Chief Burkush was here and he said the exact same thing: that he was going to work with staff and divert the parade to a different route. I believe they are talking about having a cook-off between firefighters and police as well.

**Mayor Gatsas** replied I heard the same thing but the Police Chief says that he thinks Chief Burkush has a big advantage.

**Alderman Greazzo** asked why couldn't the firefighter's parade be the kick-off for the Chili event?

**Mayor Gatsas** answered I don't have a problem with that happening but they normally don't do it during the week. How about we let the Chief worry about the parade?

**Alderman DeVries** asked have we already overcome...isn't that also a weekend that is popular for leaf peepers?

**Mayor Gatsas** answered it is a great weekend for them to come up and eat chili.

**Alderman DeVries** responded I understand but I am sure that somebody is on top of the hotel room situation.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated the circus is in town also. We have a lot of great things happening.

**Alderman DeVries** stated it is going to be a great weekend.

**Mayor Gatsas** responded yes and they tell me the weather is going to be incredible. I have already put in my dibs for what I want. We talked about the proclamation for the City employees at the Highway Department. Again, they do a great job. Again we are setting something up for 4 PM for Tom King's wake. We will be meeting at 4 PM I believe. We will send it out to everybody so we can meet and all go in as a group. That is Thursday but you will get an e-mail to let

you know exactly where we are going to meet and what we will do. The Senior Luncheon, save the date, will be June 18. Normally there has never been a huge showing of Aldermen. This year, I expect that we can all afford the \$5 lunch. I hope that we will all be there because it is a great time and there are 500 or 600 seniors that go and have a wonderful time. I really suggest that we all make it there and dance when we can dance. The lunch is great and we will have a lot of fun and we have a lot of prizes to give away. Certainly it will be a great time and I am still looking in my budget to see if there is money to pay for this year's senior luncheon but I am sure we will overcome that somehow. The City graduation schedule is also included in the packet. I think that for people who want to participate and come by, it is going to be a great time again. Memorial Day activities – Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup> the Veteran's Council parade starts off at 2 PM and there is a ceremony at Veteran's Park at 3 PM and the fireworks...the cancellation of the fireworks and I don't know if you have all seen it in the paper but WGIR is not putting on the fireworks this year. They couldn't get the sponsors to participate. There are community discussion forums that are happening so we are giving you everything that we are doing and certainly it is about the K-8 system. One is at Webster on May 27<sup>th</sup>, another is Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at McDonough and another is Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at Green Acres and the fourth one is Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at Parker Varney. So anybody that would like to come is more than welcome and we will have a seat for you and a name tag.

**Alderman Lopez** stated I have a couple of things. We have a meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup>. I believe we need another meeting in June and we might need two meetings but right now I am suggesting that June 22<sup>nd</sup> be a Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting and instead of July 6<sup>th</sup>, we go to July 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Mayor Gatsas** asked is everybody okay with that?

**Alderman O'Neil** stated I think that messes me up a little bit in July. I need to check but I think I am going to be away. I planned on the first meeting being July 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Mayor Gatsas** responded well let's schedule the first one in June and you can take a look at your calendar and when we come back in we can schedule that one. I talked to Alderman Lopez about it and it splits up...rather than having it July 6 and then not going again for another four weeks it allows us...I know we are only down to once a month but I don't want us in here until midnight because there is a thick agenda. I just want to break it up a little bit.

**Alderman O'Neil** replied I think I am away, away.

**Mayor Gatsas** responded well if it is another week that we have to go later I don't have a problem with that.

**Alderman Lopez** stated we can work it out.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated I might have the School Board that week. We could go Thursday. It doesn't necessarily have to be on a Tuesday. It could be on a Thursday.

**Alderman Lopez** stated let's right now plan the first one for June 22<sup>nd</sup> and there might be another special meeting but we don't know that yet.

***Alderman Ouellette** moved to suspend the rules to allow new business. **Alderman Lopez** duly seconded the motion.*

**Alderman Shaw** stated point of order. So you are talking about June 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>?

**Mayor Gatsas** answered no June 15<sup>th</sup> has been moved to June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Alderman Lopez** stated it doesn't mean that we won't have another meeting in June after the 22<sup>nd</sup> if we need it.

*Mayor Gatsas called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

*Alderman Roy moved to change the date of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting from June 15<sup>th</sup> to June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Alderman Long duly seconded the motion. Mayor Gatsas called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

**Alderman Lopez** stated I don't know why we suspended the rules but if I can get the camera focused on this photograph here or this poster that is going up around the City, it is to honor those who served. The Big Parade, one of the best war films ever will be playing Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 PM in honor of Memorial Day. It is a classic feature film. Admission is donations. As most people know, the World War II monument was damaged and admission is by donation and all proceeds will benefit the World War II monument, which is in repair right now. The panel has been taken down and other names are going to go up and the branches of service and other things.

**Mayor Gatsas** asked has anybody put out a reward?

**Alderman Lopez** answered no.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated certainly I would ask this Board...that is something that you put a lot of time into and I take very seriously because my dad's name is on that memorial. I think that this Board should take a very tough position that we want to see somebody prosecuted and if it means putting up a reward to find that person, then certainly it is something that we should consider as a Board. I have no problem accepting that motion. It has to be something that we take very seriously. I know that there are veterans who sit on this Board and I want to make sure that we protect that monument so that there is no idea that people can keep going down there because this is the second time that something has happened to it.

**Alderman Lopez** responded I have been in contact with the Chief of Police and he feels the same way as you and I and others. I know that he is very concerned and that he is working on it. If you feel or the Board feels there should be some type of reward...

**Alderman O'Neil** interjected is the Crimeline taking this up or is this not appropriate for the Crimeline?

**Mr. David Mara**, Chief of Police, responded I think it is appropriate.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated the Crimeline could put up the reward. It is probably appropriate.

**Mayor Gatsas** responded I don't have a problem with that, Alderman, but as with anything else, if you increase that reward you may find other people talking. So I don't have a problem if we catch somebody and make sure that we prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law. What is the Crimeline reward? Is it \$2,500? I

certainly don't have a problem accepting a motion from this Board that whatever the Crimeline does we would at least match that.

*On motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to match the Crimeline reward for information regarding the vandalism of the World War II Memorial.*

**Alderman DeVries** asked where would that money come from?

**Mayor Gatsas** answered we will take it out of contingency.

**Alderman Shea** stated as Dean of the Board it gives me the greatest of pleasure to say that May 21<sup>st</sup> is really a wonderful day because on May 21<sup>st</sup> our Mayor will have a birthday...

**Mayor Gatsas** interjected no May 22<sup>nd</sup> unless my mother has been lying to me for 60 years.

**Alderman Shea** stated on May 22<sup>nd</sup> you will have a birthday and I would like the members of the Board to appreciate the work that the Mayor has done for us by giving him a very great round of applause. I don't know if anyone wants to sing Happy Birthday but anyway Happy Birthday Mayor.

**Mayor Gatsas** responded thank you very much. Certainly it has been an honor and a pleasure. When I took my oath of office I knew that it was going to be a tough job but I think you folks have made it a lot easier as we have worked together on everything that we have done. I don't think anybody has stood on their own on anything. I think we have all participated. We have taken some tough votes but we have all come together and I certainly applaud every one of

you for that and I thank you for that and I look forward to making sure we have a nice summer and get a lot of things accomplished. There are some exciting things that will be rolled out in the next couple of weeks. It looks like we have Hackett Hill moving in the right direction and that has been hanging on for ten years and I think we may be pleasantly pleased to hear of some other things that may be happening in the next few days.

**Alderman Corriveau** stated I would like to take this opportunity to inform the public, particularly those living in Ward 6, of a public meeting Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the Weston school. This public meeting is on the Cohas Brook sewer project. It is a project involving four phases approximately 800 homes mainly in Ward 6 primarily around Lake Shore, Cohas, Bodwell and Wellington Road. There are four phases of construction that will be ongoing beginning this summer and continuing on through 2016. Again, that is Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at Weston.

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

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk