

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

September 7, 2010

7:00 PM

Mayor Gatsas called the meeting to order.

Mayor Gatsas called for the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Ryzek Chretien and Abigail Radwanski of Webster Elementary School.

A moment of silence was observed. Mayor Gatsas asked everyone to keep Mr. Henry Bourgeois, former Highway Commissioner, in their prayers and also the Zakas family on the passing of their beloved sister Victoria.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Messrs: D. Anagnost, R. Thibealt

Mayor Gatsas 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. Any

resident wishing to speak should come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Matt Rosenberg, 197 Cedar Street, stated:

I am a little frustrated. The reason that I am here is that a week ago today, the Building Department put signs up on the building right next door to mine, 189-193 Cedar Street, saying that the building was uninhabitable and that it was unlawful for anybody to be in the building unless they were doing repairs and that those repairs had to be permanent. I was pretty excited when I saw those signs. For a number of years I had seen nothing but drug activity, puppy mills and underground auto shops going on in that building, so I was pretty excited for some peace and quiet finally. My enthusiasm was short lived when I discovered that the residents of the building have no intention of leaving and that no authoritative department in Manchester really has an intention of encouraging them to go. They are still there. They are still yelling and screaming at each other late at night. They are still throwing their empty beer cans from their balcony into a big pile in their yard for the whole alley to see. As near as I can figure, their water has been turned off, causing them to do their business in the small alleyway between their building and mine. I am sure you can understand that this is a particular frustration to me. I contacted Dave Albin at the Building Department, who gave me two pieces of information: the residents have been told to leave and the Police Department had been given a list of uninhabitable buildings in Manchester and this building was on the list. I then contacted Kevin Kincaid of the Neighborhood Enhancement Team, who said anytime I see anybody going into that building to call the police. I did call the police. I was connected with Officer Fuller of the Community Policing Department, who said this is not a police issue, that these people are not trespassing. They are not breaking the law. When I called Dave Albin again, he said this is absolutely a police issue and nobody else's. This is not the first time that I have gotten different information from two different governing

bodies of the City of Manchester. I know that various departments including Health, Building and various other departments have had dealings with this building and the lack of communication between the departments, from what I have seen, is pretty staggering. Honestly, I don't think it is safe. I wish somebody would do something about it and I am frustrated.

Mayor Gatsas asked can you please repeat the address again?

Mr. Rosenberg replied the address is 189-193 Cedar Street. If you want you can come to my house for a cup of coffee.

Thomas DePuy, 1445 Bodwell Road, stated:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I want to discuss the noise created by motorcycles in Manchester. It is really an incessant issue of noise pollution that is throughout the city. One Sunday this summer I spent about three hours at Livingston Park with my son and the entire time was spent listening to motorcycle noise. If you go to Lake Massabesic the entire time you are going to listen to motorcycle noise. It is a quality of life issue. It is very important. It is not just a minor nuisance. I have talked to many people over the course of the summer. Every person I spoke to has said they are sick and tired of this motorcycle noise. It is really an issue of respect. These people don't seem to respect other people's personal space and ability to enjoy some peace and quiet. We spend all this money in Manchester on parks, trails and beaches but what good are they if when you go there you can't get a moment's peace and quiet, some relaxation or some reflection. The whole time you have to spend listening to these very loud motorcycles. If I recorded the motorcycle noise and walked down Elm Street and played it on a radio at the same level of noise that these motorcycles produce, I would probably be arrested for disturbing the peace or maybe disorderly conduct. If you do it on two wheels on a motorcycle, it is perfectly legal. If my car were

this loud, I would be ticketed in a day in Manchester and for good reason. It is annoying and it is a big reducer of quality of life. We all have to deal with it in Manchester. I think if, particularly on a Saturday or Sunday, any one of you goes out to a park in Manchester and pays attention to the amount of noise from these motorcycles, you will realize it is a big problem. Mayor, I see you downtown often around lunchtime, talking to people, shaking hands and I am asking you to ask the people of Manchester, is this an issue that concerns you? Are you bothered by this noise? That goes for the Aldermen as well and anyone listening or maybe watching on channel 23. Call your Alderman. Call the Mayor if this concerns you or if this bothers you. Let them know about it. Their numbers are in the phonebook. I think they would like to hear about it and hear what you think, if this is an issue that concerns you.

Howard McCarthy, 52 Valentine Drive, stated:

Welcome to my world. In the paper on Sunday, I am sure you read it, it said big change coming to Mayor's Senior Luncheon. Well, I don't want to see any changes. I don't want to see any changes, Your Honor, because these senior citizens and people deserve their due. They earn it. I am going to read this because I don't want to leave too much out. As far as I am concerned, the two senior luncheons should remain in tact; one, in the good old summertime and the other at Christmastime when everybody has great Christmas spirit. Once in the spring just won't do it. You know, it is not on people's part a sin or a crime to get old. The sin is on young people who don't give them their due. They ask for so little, if only to be wanted and loved. A simple thing, that they gave all their life to their family and friends. Even now, they still give. For those who can, they volunteer their time right in this City Hall, Your Honor. They give people information and they even go to hospitals and they comfort people. They ask for no money, only to be allowed to feel useful. That is altruism at its best.

I know they are grateful for what the City has done for them in the past, giving them a chance to be with old friends and having some fun. Do you know what fun is, Your Honor? You can't live without it. In these stages of their lives, they don't see gifts. They don't want gifts. They don't want any. They have had it. They have gone through that. They don't want gifts. They only want recognition and remembrance, to be with the people they know best. There must be ways to curtail the loss of money that has been happening over the last couple of years on these occasions. New and fresh ideas should come in for the people who run this whole thing. I myself and possibly all the people who wish to donate a dollar or two could make up the difference if that is the way to go. If the price of the meals goes up for a little chicken, a dead chicken and a potato, well if it goes up to \$5.00 than that's what it has to be. Let it go. Some people can't afford it. I personally, Your Honor, will pay the \$2.00 difference for anybody who says they don't have \$5.00. Can I afford it? No. Will I do it? Yes, if that is what it comes to. I always liked the words of Oscar Hammerstein, when he said, "A bell is not a bell, until you ring it. A song is not a song, until you sing it. Love is not for just a day. Love is made to give away." Thank you.

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

Mayor Gatsas stated Joseph St. Pierre is a young man, who if you have driven by the Valley Street Cemetery over the last few weeks you would have noticed that there was a sign that somebody has been erecting the fallen monuments. I know that Alderman Long was in there last weekend helping Joe straighten up some monuments and I stopped by this past weekend and saw the great work that he did. I can tell you that we should all be honored that we have a young gentleman like this who lives in the great city of Manchester. Without anybody asking him and

certainly he is earning his Eagle Scout, he has gone through the entire Valley Street Cemetery and lifted stones, put them back in their upright position, glued the ones that needed to be glued. As most people recognize, when you have one young man doing some work then you always find other people that want to come in and participate and volunteer. I know that Alderman Long, as I said, was there last weekend helping him out. When I pulled up the other day, he had a crew of probably eight or nine, moving stones, shoveling gravel for walkways. They repainted one of the monuments that was in there. I can tell you that he has done an exceptional job. He is looking forward to coming back next year and continuing to do this. He is earning his Eagle Scout but I think certainly he has earned our honor and our dedication for the work that he has done. The least we can do is give him a resolution for the work that he has done. I can tell you that I was thrilled to see the work. He was going to take me through the whole cemetery which looked like it might have taken a couple hours but I told him he had about 15 minutes and he showed me the most important parts of the cemetery that he worked on. I can tell you that his two parents were there helping him out and I don't know if I have seen two parents any more proud of their son than I saw that day on the work that they were doing, until I told them he is going to come to City Hall to receive a resolution. I think that put a bigger smile on their faces. The gentleman that runs that scout troop and the people who have been working on the cemetery and have been in there are also here to acknowledge the work that Joe has done. Let me read this to you, Joseph, and if you would like to say a few words, I know you are a pretty talkative guy, I will give you that opportunity.

The City of Manchester, Resolution: Be it known that the Office of the Mayor extends its gratitude to Joseph St. Pierre, in recognition of your hard work on the Eagle project raising the fallen headstones and repairing cemetery headstones at Valley Street Cemetery, and be it further known that the Office of the Mayor extends its best wishes for continued success

and that this Resolution duly be signed by the Mayor of Manchester,
Theodore Gatsas.

Mr. Joseph St. Pierre, Eagle Scout, stated thank you, Mayor Gatsas and thank you all for your fine appreciation. I worked, but the volunteers also worked. The people who helped me - Mr. Searles, Mrs. Pat Vanamburg, Ms. Aaron - all contributed to the project and they all worked hard. Without them I never could have gotten this project started. That is not to mention the work of my parents, my fellow scouts and all the people who just came and donated a few hours of their time every weekend to upright the stones. I guess that is what is beautiful about this city is that there is always someone to help. We talk a lot about the problems in our city and I do recognize that there are some because no city is perfect but it is always nice to find that there is always generosity wherever you look no matter how bad things might get. I want to extend my appreciation to all of those people. Second of all, I would like to leave on a final request. My work is still unfinished. I could be down there lifting stones in the cemetery for two years and there would still be stones coming down, toppled, vandalized or just because of the vast amount of stones that need to be lifted. There are still over 1,000 stones that remain to be lifted, so I would like to leave with a parting thought: don't leave my work unfinished. Don't leave, all the people who were working down there, their work unfinished. Don't leave Mr. Searles' work unfinished. He has been working down there for five years. You have got a great cemetery down there and you have got the makings of a nice park. I could definitely see that being a nice community center and definitely a good place for people down in that part of Manchester to work, so don't leave it unfinished. Thank you for your time.

Mayor Gatsas stated we have two other young ladies who I understand deserve some recognition for their hard work. One received a silver medal and one received a gold medal at the Judo National Olympic Championships. If you would come forward I would like to present Resolutions to you both.

The City of Manchester, Resolution: Be it known that the Office of the Mayor extends its congratulations to Gabrielle Proxa in recognition of receiving a silver medal at the US Judo National Olympic Championship and be it further known that the Office of the Mayor extends its best wishes for continued success.

Mayor Gatsas stated you folks participate and practice your judo at the PAL Center. I can tell you that I was there this afternoon and it is certainly great recognition that you folks come out of that center and work so hard every single day to win these gold medals and silver medals. Congratulations to both of you.

The City of Manchester, Resolution: Be it known that the Office of the Mayor extends its congratulations to Crystal Proxa in recognition of receiving a gold medal and for first place in the US Judo National Olympic Championship and be it further known that the Office of the Mayor extends its best wishes for continued success. Congratulations.

Alderman O'Neil stated Your Honor, we should recognized Officer Richard Ell, who runs the Police Athletic League.

Mayor Gatsas stated I was there this afternoon when he was in full regalia making sure those boxers were working hard and he was getting a workout himself. I certainly appreciate all the work that you are doing down there for the kids that come in and participate every day. There were probably 20 of them in there today who participate in boxing. It is certainly a great thing.

7. Presentation by Mayor Gatsas of the Economic Impact Report for River's Edge Development.

Mayor Gatsas stated let's start the presentation on the impact of River's Edge. I think you have all been given a report that we are about to at least have the opportunity to ask questions, take a look at the numbers and see that this is not just a one time effect that we are having in the city. It is a long term effect that we should all be very proud of. I think that as we hear about this report you are going to see that some of the extended benefits are probably things that we never even imagined. That is based on phase one and I think that when phase two and phase three are completed we will come back and talk about additional impacts that those projects have had in this great city. With that, let me let the developer, Dick Anagnost, start the presentation.

Mr. Dick Anagnost, Anagnost Companies, stated thank you, Your Honor. Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for having us tonight. As I promised early on in this project, we would periodically update you as to its progress. I declared at one point that we would try and figure out our measurable results throughout the project and the impact it would have in the present and future of the City of Manchester. I am pleased in these tough economic times to bring you a bunch of good news this evening. We are going to talk about the great thing that the City of Manchester and the Elliot Hospital have created to mitigate the effects of the economic downturn. I had the opportunity last night to listen to the President's message at a Labor Day function in Milwaukee. One of the things that he said that is pretty poignant is that eight million Americans lost their jobs in this recession. Another thing he said was that American cannot have a strong growing economy without a strong growing middle class and the chance for everyone, no

matter how humble their beginnings, to join that middle class. A middle class built on the idea that if you work hard and live up to your responsibilities you can get ahead and enjoy some basic guarantees in life. A good job that pays a good wage, health care that will be there when you are sick, a secure retirement even if you are not rich, an education that will give your kids a better life than we had. These are sample ideas, the American ideas and these are the principles and ideas on which this project was constructed. This tonight is about what it has done for the state, what it is has done for the City. Above all it is about jobs, the number of jobs that have been created and what those jobs have meant for the people in the City of Manchester and the State of New Hampshire. I will come back to you on the job portion of it but without further ado, the gentleman to my right is Russ Thibeault from Applied Economic Research. Russ is our economist. He was hired to create the economic part of our impact study. You will be pleased to know that Russ is a born, bred, good, west side Manchester boy.

Mr. Russ Thibeault, Applied Economic Research, stated I did grow up in Manchester. I attended St. Patrick's Elementary School and Bishop Bradley High School and it seems that I have outlived them both. I then went on to study economics on a national level. I have worked in about 35 different states. I think my firm has more economic impact experience in New Hampshire than any other single firm. This is a major project with major consequence and I have been delighted to have the opportunity to measure its impact, estimate its impact on the City of Manchester in terms of employment, sales and income. I am glad to share the report with you.

*The time being 7:30 P.M., on motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Craig**, it was voted to adjourn the Special Meeting and continue the presentation of River's Edge at the regular meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.*

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk