

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

December 21, 2010

7:00 PM

Mayor Gatsas called the meeting to order.

Mayor Gatsas called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alderman Ludwig stated I'm pleased and honored to introduce Ward 2 resident and outstanding first grade student from McDonough Elementary School, Kara Aldridge.

Alderman Roy stated I'm honored to introduce Ward 4 resident, third grader from McDonough Elementary School, Gabrielle Miranda.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

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; that any comments must be directed to the Chair; and that

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

Mr. Howard McCarthy, 52 Valentine Drive, stated:

First of all, I understand that Beth Hall is here, who writes a column for the Union Leader and I just want to remind her that the biggest story in this city is not about the Municipal Complex, nor is it about snow storms, but about people and the Senior Luncheon that was cancelled. First of all, I would like to address what happened a couple of weeks ago. You probably don't know this, but I have a hearing problem. It is too bad I didn't inform you ahead of time. I never heard a word when Matt Normand approached me. I never heard your comments either until I saw myself on television. I can honestly tell you that it was not pleasant to see it the way it came out. It was never my intention to abuse the minutes.

Sometimes, desperate measures must be taken for desperate results. I disagree with you people and what you have done for this Senior Luncheon. The reason for that is that people should always come before buildings or anything else. I have a 94 year old sister. She says I'm crazy. She says that you can never fight City Hall. Maybe she is right, but so be it. I'll be here for a while. This is the last time that I'll address you this year because Florida is calling. The only apology I have is to the woman...because I was informed that I was unfair. I wonder who is actually unfair. Three minutes is definitely not enough time for someone to get a message across. Someday maybe things will change. Also, the luncheon, I think I am being successful. It is going to be at Belmont Hall, Thursday at noon. I have about 40 people attending. We are going to have some fun and yes, I'm going to sing. Regardless of what I say, I seriously know that you people try to do the right thing, but when you don't then I have to oppose you, each and every one of you. I don't know what else to say, but I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and bring attention to Beth Hall so maybe she will consider writing about the Senior Luncheon.

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

7. Presentation by the Joint Sustainability Committee of the Committee's goals, mission, and accomplishments.

Mr. David Preece, Executive Director of the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, stated with me is Bob Duval and we are here to talk about the accomplishments of the Joint Sustainability Committee. The Committee has been in operation for the last 18 months. It was formed in July of 2009. It is comprised of members of both the City of Manchester and the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. Our mission is to make Manchester an environmentally sustainable city. We are hoping to do this by focusing on waste reduction, energy efficiency, alternative and renewable energy, land use and transit planning, green jobs, educational campaigns, better laws, regulations and other activities. Together we can form a greater City with multiple benefits. This includes saving energy and money and reducing the environmental impacts and improving the economic vitality and quality of life. We are hoping to do this by partnering with schools, businesses, individuals, developers and organizations within the City of Manchester to take action in promoting sustainable practices and policies. We have broken down our mission into several goals: public education and outreach, waste reduction, energy management, energy efficiency, alternative and renewable energy, land use and transportation, water quality and conservation, habitat restoration and green jobs. In the area of public education and outreach, in the last 18 months we have sponsored a couple of very successful forums. One of them was a sustainable grants forum on June 16, 2010, at the Manchester Community College. Over 100 people and businesses were there in attendance. In the area of

waste reduction, we initiated a City Hall recycling program that has been very successful. We have also, with the help of the Department of Highway, implemented a downtown single stream recycling program, which has saved the City as of yet about \$8,000 and there will be greater cost savings as the program is implemented. In the area of energy management, energy efficiency, and alternative and renewable energy, the City and the School District are expected to fund energy retrofitting projects of their buildings and facilities with over \$3 million worth of grants, special bonds and utility rebates. With these retrofits, we are hoping to have a 15% reduction in energy costs, which will be approximately \$450,000 annually that you will have. In the area of land use and transportation, the Planning & Community Development Department is taking initiatives to update their subdivision and site plan regulations so that they are encouraging more sustainable development. In the area of Zoning Ordinances they are being reviewed for ways to address and to find alternative energy measures. In the area of water conservation and quality, there are two key projects that are currently underway. The two Cohas Brook sewer projects will bring sewer treatment service to over 400 citizens of Manchester and will help to protect the water quality and watershed of Lake Massabesic. In the area of green jobs, we sponsored a green jobs summit on June 4th. Senator Shaheen was the keynote speaker. Over 100 people were in attendance. This gives you a capsule of what has happened in the very brief time that this Joint Sustainable Committee has been together. We are expecting larger and more accomplishments as the Committee meets. We want to thank the Mayor's Office for their support and especially Alderman Joyce Craig for her participation on the Committee, along with all the City staff that has participated and made this a success.

Mr. Bob Duval, Joint Sustainability Committee, stated it was a little over a year ago that we came before this Board and said that government and business working together can improve the level of service, save money and improve the

environment all at the same time by putting our heads together and working together. I think David has already shown that we have done that. The savings that have been returned to the City are large, hundreds of thousands of dollars. We see this as just the beginning. We have seen that we can save some money working together, the City of Manchester and business. I think the next step is to show that we can foster and encourage sustainable development that will provide more prosperity, more economic vitality without putting any strain on the City's infrastructure. We look forward to having your support as we come forward over time and bring forward these proposals. I hope we can count on it.

Alderman Craig stated Bob, you said it very well. In a short period of time we have shown remarkable results and I think that going forward, with the Committee that is put in place and the dedication of City employees and local businesses, we have a great opportunity to save money and do the right thing from an environmental perspective and I look forward to that as well.

Alderman DeVries asked I guess I would ask, in reference to the \$3 million in grants, have we already applied for this?

Mr. Preece replied we have already received the grants.

Alderman DeVries asked the source of the funding?

Mr. Preece replied I believe there was some RF funding that the City got for the energy retrofitting. That was a large source of the money.

Alderman DeVries asked are we continuing to look at any of the REGI Grants to see if there is any additional assistance?

Mr. Preece replied yes, we are. In fact, our contingency is going to go up there to talk with representatives from the PUC about how we can be more successful in our application with REGI.

Mayor Gatsas stated the REGI Grants that just came forward, there were selections. We had a state wide proposal. We were not chosen. It included retrofitting in a number of downtown buildings. It went to another party that is in the Millyard and we are working very closely with them to see if we can't participate. That grant was somewhere in the vicinity of \$4 million. Again, for some reason, the PUC doesn't like the City of Manchester to get REGI funds because this is the second big project that we have been refused.

Alderman DeVries stated I'm familiar with the first one, Your Honor.

Mayor Gatsas stated we are going to go back and see if we can get some more and continue the fight.

Alderman DeVries stated I was just going to follow up on that. Should we be sending some sort of letter from the Board that would maybe go both to the PUC as well as our delegation?

Mayor Gatsas replied I don't have a problem, but I went up to two of the Governor and Council meetings and addressed my concerns because I think these projects should be no different than public transportation projects that once they are on a list, if they take the first four and you happen to be the fifth one, you should be the first one on the next list. It shouldn't be going in all over again and reapplying and seeing if another three projects come out before you. I agree with you. We can send that to the delegation, but I don't think it is a delegation decision. It is the PUC that makes the decisions.

Alderman DeVries stated I include the delegation so they are well aware that we would like to partake in some of the REGI grants because I know there are several pieces of legislation possibly doing away with the REGI grants and it would be nice if they would be aware of what we hope to plan on. Maybe they can put some additional pressure on the PUC as well. As a matter of fact, aren't they looking to possibly take that authority away from PUC and give it to Executive Council?

Mayor Gatsas replied that was a discussion that I had at one of the council meetings and I thought that that is where selecting the projects should be and not at an agency within the State.

Alderman DeVries asked would you entertain a motion at this time that myself and Alderman Craig could work with both Bob and David to compose a letter and bring it back to the full Board?

Mayor Gatsas replied I don't have a problem with that.

Alderman DeVries stated that would be to the delegation, the Executive Council and the PUC and hopefully we will have that by January.

Mayor Gatsas stated let's do some proclamations at this time. For those of you who may not know, this is the gentleman who was at the Currier and took the video of the incident that was across the street, reported it to the Police and certainly someone was apprehended. I thank you for your efforts and I have a resolution here.

The City of Manchester, a Resolution:

Be it known that the Office of the Mayor extends its gratitude to Nick Laliberte in recognition of a prompt response on the December 7th robbery in front of Saint Hedwig's Church in reporting the act of suspicious activities and recording a video that led the Police to make an arrest; and

Be it further known that the Office of the Mayor extends its best wishes for continued success.

Duly signed by the Mayor of Manchester, Theodore L. Gatsas

Mr. Nick Laliberte stated thank you very much. I just want to say that I grew up in this city, in the neighborhood where this all happened, so I'm just glad I can do my part.

Mayor Gatsas asked will Ken Madden, Michael Craig and Daniel D'Periello come up? Tell me, is there a difference between joggers and runners? You identify yourselves as runners? I was told you were joggers. I want to thank you for your efforts because certainly, again, chasing someone down the street because you saw an activity that looked like it wasn't the right activity got us to arrest somebody very quickly. Again, it is about people taking a situation and caring about their community. You could have continued your jog or run and not taken part, but I thank you for what you did so we have resolutions and something else for you.

The City of Manchester, a Resolution:

Be it known that the Office of the Mayor extends its gratitude to Daniel D'Periello, Michael Craig and Ken Madden in recognition of a courageous act on Sunday, December 12, 2010, chasing a suspect involved in a robbery on Hanover Street and taking down the license plate number of the get away car which led to an arrest; and

Be it further known that the Office of the Mayor extends its best wishes for continued success.

Duly signed by the Mayor of Manchester, Theodore L. Gatsas

Mayor Gatsas stated certainly another person who decided that seeing somebody doing something wrong...is Chief Mara here? I know he likes to go to the fourth grade classes and asks who wants to be a firefighter and who wants to be a policeman, but I guess you can be a firefighter and a policeman at the same time. I want to thank the Captain for doing what he did because he went beyond the call, followed someone, got a plate and it resulted in an arrest. This evening we have three people who were out there paying attention and certainly in today's day where there are an awful lot of things happening, I want to thank them. Certainly, you didn't have to do it, but you did it and I thank you for it.

The City of Manchester, a Resolution:

Be it known that the Office of the Mayor extends its gratitude to Richard McGahey in recognition of a courageous act on Thursday, December 2, 2010, following four suspected burglars through Hooksett and Manchester, helping the Police take down a license plate number of the get away car which led to several arrests.

Be it further known that the Office of the Mayor extends its best wishes for continued success.

Duly signed by the Mayor of Manchester, Theodore L. Gatsas

Mr. Richard McGahey, Fire Captain, stated thank you very much. I would just like to say that I'm glad I had my truck and not my running shoes on that day.

Mayor Gatsas stated we have two firefighters, who didn't get anyone's plate or chase someone down. Actually, they did chase someone down because I'm sure that you are all aware of what has been happening over the past few weeks about what we have been paying for claims for a bone marrow registry and it has nothing to do with the process. I think the process is something that we should all try to participate in if we can, but not at \$4,000. I got a call from their superior and he said we're looking to reduce healthcare costs and there were two employees who reported to me today that they were out doing a swab on a bone marrow registry and they got charged \$4,000. That was a piece of legislation that I voted for in 2006 and we were told during the testimony that it was between \$30 and \$75. I asked how it got to \$4,000. Needless to say, I started making some phone calls and the charges went out at \$4,000 and we were billed on our insurance at \$700. I don't think this discussion has ended because I think it is important that we understand that with healthcare costs, these are some of the drivers. This was driving healthcare costs to out of sight numbers. It is not because people are going and doing the swabs. You will find that people are getting swabbed at \$100 and there are some places that do the swabbing for nothing. As a matter of fact, the gentleman who came in and convinced me about the legislation was hoping to come to City Hall after the first of the year and swab employees for nothing so they can go onto a registry. That is something that I believe should be happening. I'll be asking employees and the Board to participate because all it is a simple swab. If you are a match, you get to participate. To have people stand at kiosks in malls in doctor's white jackets to get people to come forward to get a swab and when you ask them the question of what is the cost and they say it is minimal and doesn't cost you anything, the insurance company pays for it. When you are told that and you think you are doing it for the right reasons because you can save someone's life you come forward. I applaud you, gentlemen, for coming forward with these \$4,000 bills

because that is not something that is just happening in the City of Manchester. It is happening across all of New England. I'm not sure that it isn't happening all across the country. With the two of you who stepped up we started the ball rolling and we are going to make sure that we save some money for the City of Manchester. I want to thank you gentlemen for leading the charge because if it wasn't for the two of you coming forward, we would have never known about it and it would have just continued. I also want to thank Chief Burkush and District Chief Michaels who called me and made it sound like a challenge. Mayor, we are talking about healthcare costs and this is what I heard and when I called him back two days later, he understood that we weren't going to be easy on this. Again, I want to thank you.

The City of Manchester, a Resolution:

Be it known that the Office of the Mayor extends its gratitude to Firefighter Thomas Defina in recognition of diligence helping the City of Manchester control the cost of healthcare.

Be it further known that the Office of the Mayor extends its best wishes for continued success.

Duly signed by the Mayor of Manchester, Theodore L. Gatsas

The City of Manchester, a Resolution:

Be it known that the Office of the Mayor extends its gratitude to Captain Joseph Butts in recognition of diligence helping the City of Manchester control the cost of healthcare.

Be it further known that the Office of the Mayor extends its best wishes for continued success.

Duly signed by the Mayor of Manchester, Theodore L. Gatsas

Mr. James Burkush, Fire Chief, stated it just shows the caring and diligence and the quality of people that we have working with us. They make me proud every day in this and other events.

Mayor Gatsas stated Chris Stawasz is here from Rockingham Ambulance Service and I thought it would be appropriate because we, as a City, are changing to another carrier, that Rockingham be brought in and recognized for the service they have given to the City. It has been a dedicated and first class service for the City of Manchester. I certainly want to thank them for that.

The City of Manchester, a Resolution:

Be it known that the Office of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen extend their gratitude to Rockingham Ambulance in recognition of first class and dedicated service to the City of Manchester.

Be it further known that the Office of the Mayor extends its best wishes for continued success.

Duly signed by the Mayor of Manchester, Theodore L. Gatsas

Mr. Chris Stawasz, Rockingham Ambulance Executive Director, stated I would just like to say thank you. It has been my pleasure to have led the service for the last 17 years. We have a lot of good memories and hopefully many more.

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

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk