

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

June 5, 2000

Upon Recess of BMA

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll. There were fourteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas, Levasseur, Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, Vaillancourt, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, Hirschmann

Messrs.: Charles LeVeille, Kevin Clougherty, Barbara Vigneault, Mark Hobson, Solicitor Clark

Mayor Baines addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Communication from Aldermen Lopez and O'Neil advising that the American Legion Convention Committee is requesting a civic contribution of approximately \$1,500.

Alderman Lopez stated Alderman O'Neil and myself have been asked to come before the Board and ask for a donation and I think the City Clerk is passing out the information from Charles LeVeille who is the Chairman of the Convention Corporation and I'd like to have him speak to it because he's the Chairman, he asked us to do this and we kindly did it for him and I think he can explain his request.

Mr. LeVeille stated I appreciate the opportunity to address the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. I heard earlier tonight remarks made about bringing conventions into the greater Manchester community. The American Legion formed a corporation from a letter that we submitted to you of the three American Legion Posts in the City -- Henry J. Sweeney Post, William H. Jutras Post and Manchester Post 79. The American Legion's Annual Department Convention has grown to such proportions that outside towns, remote towns like Gorham or Concord even do not have the facilities that either Manchester or Nashua offered. Consequently, there was a vote taken three year's ago for a community to bid that would be able to bid as a host post or corporation for a period of three years which simply means that the end result of this thing is that we formed the Manchester Convention Corporation, we bid, we won the bid, we have the American Legion Department

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Convention here for the next three years. The primary facility is the Center of New Hampshire, the Ramada Inn, the Swiss Chalet, and the EconoLodge. We

reserve rooms for 400 in the City which brings in a hundred thousand dollars. In addition to that we calculate the expenses of the delegates that attend which are made up of the American Legion, the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary to be in excess of a hundred thousand dollars for that 4-day period. What we are doing as far as the Manchester Convention Corporation is we're primarily a pilot organization for this thing for the three years. Depending on our success is going to depend on whether this continues down the road. Having been a Past Department Commander and having been on the Convention Corporation for the Department of New Hampshire for better than 10 years, I can tell you that there is only two communities that are capable of housing and running this convention; that is the City of Manchester and the City of Nashua. There are no other facilities in the entire state to be able to accommodate this convention, therefore, it was the reason that we bid on it hoping to bring to our community this convention. Going into our first year there are expenses that we incur primarily according to my letter I indicate the cost of a parade and using the City facilities that are necessary for us to run the convention. Looking at all of our expenses we thought that it would be appropriate to ask the City to assist us in our first year and we came up with that number as I recall, I don't know where the \$1,500 came in, but my letter indicated \$2,000; that was just to give you general information. I really came here this evening to be prepared to answer any questions relevant to the convention itself.

Alderman O'Neil moved that \$2,000 be donated from Civic Contributions to the American Legion Convention Corporation. Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Pariseau noted the request was for \$1,500 on the agenda.

Mayor Baines stated the request was for \$2,000.

Alderman Shea asked how much do we have in Civic Contributions, Kevin.

Mr. Clougherty replied \$13,991.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated maybe I'm new and I don't understand, why are we giving \$2,000...don't we provide Police protection and all these other kinds of things, why are we giving these people a donation, I just don't understand. Is that what government is...providing donations for conventions.

Mayor Baines replied we do have a budget line item of Civic Contributions and the Board has donated money in the past to others and that's why you vote either yes or no.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I guess you know how I'll be voting.

Alderman Shea stated you're going to be bringing in hundreds of thousands of dollars into the City.

Mr. LeVeille stated as a matter of fact, the guarantees to the hotels alone, signed contracts are a hundred thousand dollars.

Alderman Shea stated well, anyone for the Rooms & Meals Tax should be in favor of that.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Vaillancourt duly recorded in opposition.

Mr. LeVeille stated, your Honor and Board of Mayor and Aldermen, on behalf of the American Legion and the Manchester Convention Corporation, I want to thank you very much for your support and I assure you that we will work very diligently at providing a good convention and bring revenues into the City for you, thank you.

Mayor Baines stated I look forward to addressing the convention too, good luck with it and if we can help in any way, please let us know.

Mayor Baines addressed item 4 of the agenda:

4. Communication from the Elderly Services Director requesting \$12,437.37 be transferred from Contingency to the department salary code to cover a temporary full-time position which had been approved earlier this calendar year to fill the vacancy.

Alderman Levasseur moved to approve the request from the Elderly Services Director. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Pariseau stated can I ask the Elderly Services Director what balance she has that makes us this \$12,437.37 or are we paying for the whole thing out of Contingency.

Ms. Vigneault replied to explain...the twelve thousand dollars was to cover the temporary position that was a full-time position which was agreed upon in November of last year that we were able to fill this position because we have a Specialist position which was out due to an illness and the funds were supposed to

come from HR funds, but I understand that they are no longer using these funds, so I was asked to go to Contingency for the money. So, therefore, that is why I am asking for the funds from Contingency.

Alderman Pariseau stated, Barbara, if you had a person out on sick leave wouldn't you still have the funds in the Salary line item to cover that part-timer.

Ms. Vigneault replied yes, but it was a part-timer, this request was for a full-timer so the part-time position is funded, but the other part-time the other four hours is not funded because it's a temporary full-time.

Alderman Wihby asked how in November did you get a new position if it wasn't in the budget in June.

Ms. Vigneault replied maybe Mark could better answer your question on that.

Mr. Hobson replied it was not a permanent or regular addition it was moving a temporary position from a certain amount of hours per week to an additional amount of hours per week on a temporary basis. We had someone in Barbara's department with a terminal illness and then Barbara was out for a great deal of time with her own surgery. It was approved by the former administration.

Alderman Wihby stated the Mayor.

Mr. Hobson replied yes, Sir.

Alderman Wihby stated so the Mayor can approve a full-time position over the Board's wishes in the budget.

Mr. Hobson replied to my knowledge the Mayor can approve a temporary position.

Alderman Wihby asked how does the Mayor approve a temporary position to full-time if the money is not in the budget.

Mr. Hobson replied the former Mayor approved that position going from "X" amount of hours per week to 40, I believe, on a temporary basis.

Solicitor Clark replied I'm not aware of the particulars, I really don't have any wisdom to offer. I'm not sure where the Mayor gets the approval authority to grant positions, but apparently it was done.

Alderman Cashin stated the question before us...it's been done and it's got to be paid for and it certainly isn't Barbara's fault.

Alderman Pariseau asked does she have any other money.

Alderman Cashin replied no. If she did she wouldn't be here.

Alderman Hirschmann asked is the temporary position concluded, Barbara.

Ms. Vigneault replied no. We're going back to the part-time complement.

Alderman Shea asked do we have enough money in Contingency.

Mr. Clougherty replied about \$85,000.

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

Mayor Baines addressed item 5 of the agenda:

5. Resolution:

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to Make Certain Budgetary Closings for the Year 2000."

Alderman Hirschmann stated, your Honor, before this goes by while we were having our Finance discussions and when we authorized the Finance Officer to do this, chips have to fall where they have to fall. These closings...we're not authorizing anyone to move any money around, right.

Mr. Clougherty replied, right, Alderman. All that comes back to the Board for your approval.

Mayor Baines stated we do have some questions about that process, we've reviewed them, and we need some clarification from the City Finance Officer in terms of the way that's done and we're going to be following up with him on that, but certainly Alderman Hirschmann's comments and we don't have any reason to believe that that's happened, but we want to make sure it's a good process and I'm not quite sure why we have to do this, but we'll go forward.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Clancy, it was voted that the Resolution be read by title only, and it was so done.

Alderman Wihby moved that the Resolution ought to pass and be Enrolled. Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mayor Baines addressed item 6 of the agenda:

6. Report of the Committee on Community Improvement relative to the Central Business Service District, if available.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated I did not prepare a report of the Committee, however, I can advise the Board of the Committee's actions this evening with regards to the CBSD.

Mayor Baines stated please do so.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated the CIP Committee did take up the Central Business Service District issues and in essence has taken two actions: one, was to recommend basically that the \$230,000 that has been appropriated thus far through Resolution go forward and be appropriated, however, they have also at the same time advised the Planning Director that they're expecting to put together reports within a sixty (60) days period and they may, at some point, restrict the amount of funds that are going to be expended by restricting the District further. There is also a Resolution on the table in Finance Committee currently that deals with the locations of the District and the CIP Committee based on its action would suggest that that remain tabled at this time.

Mayor Baines stated there is no action necessary here and we're asking that the next one remain tabled.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied the next item would remain tabled, yes.

TABLED ITEM

7. Resolution:

"Continuation of the Central Business Service District."

This item remained on the table.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee