



City of Manchester Archives
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Collection Summary

Repository: Manchester City Archives. Office of the City Clerk. City of Manchester, NH.

Creator: Board of Mayor and Aldermen. City of Manchester, NH.

Title: Ordinances of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen

Collection Number: 0100.004

Accession Number: 2007.24

Dates: 1846 – present

Volume: 10 bound volumes

Languages: Collection materials are in English.

Related Collections: Supporting Documents of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (0100.001); Resolutions of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (accession 2007.26); Orders and Resolutions of the Common Council and the BMA, 1846-1864 (accession 2007.23).

Access: Access to collection is open to the public. Please contact the archives for an appointment to view materials. Cite the collection number and volume when making an appointment.

Digital Note: Ordinances from 1901-1951, 1966-2014 are available digitally. Contact the archives for details on how to access digital items.

Conservation Notes: Not applicable.

Finding Aid Prepared by: Mike Intranuovo, 2015.

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Historical Note

According to the City of Manchester’s charter, the administration of the city’s fiscal affairs, municipal resources, and other affairs is vested in a principal officer called the mayor, and a board of directors to be called aldermen. Together, they are known as the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA), and have been active since on September 8, 1846, the first active day of the City Government.

The board acts as the policy making and legislative body for the city government. It may also delegate its powers to authorities, boards, commissions, departments, or officers. The board is required to meet at least monthly. In addition, meetings are often convened for Road Hearings, Public Hearings, and Special Meetings on specific topics. Organizational meetings often occur during the first week of a new year, after a mayoral/aldermanic election.

Collection Description

The Ordinances of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen are comprised of bound volumes of ordinances from 1846 to the present. Ordinances are laws passed by a municipal government, and those passed by the BMA apply only to the City of Manchester. From 1846 to 1915, the Common Council also approved of city ordinances; since 1916, the BMA has been the sole entity approving ordinances. These laws are enforced in addition to state and federal laws.

Ordinances passed by the BMA often deal with, but are not limited to, the following:

- Extending/contracting the boundaries of the city
- Levying taxes
- Making appropriations
- Directing the issuance of bonds
- Making investments
- Promising payment of money
- Providing for improvements
- Zoning/re-zoning
- Granting easements
- Regulating traffic
- Dedicating, naming, establishing, paving, widening, vacating, abandoning, changing, or accepting streets, highways, parks, playgrounds, bridges, etc.
- Setting boundaries of streets and alleys
- Accepting subdivision and plats

Inventory

Volume Title
Volume A: Ordinances, 1846-1879
Volume B: Ordinances, 1879-1906
Volume C: Ordinances, 1906-1951
Volume D: Ordinances, 1951-1966
Volume E: Ordinances, 1966-1974
Volume F: Ordinances, 1973-1980
Volume G: Ordinances, 1981-1994
Volume H: Ordinances, 1994-2001
Volume I: Ordinances, 2001-2006
Volume J: Ordinances, 2006-present