

A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Wednesday, November 9, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

President Brian S. McCarthy presided; City Clerk Patricia Piecuch recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Patricia Piecuch; Alderman Tom Lopez led in the Pledge to the Flag.

The roll call was taken with 14 members of the Board of Aldermen present; Alderman Clemons was recorded absent.

Mayor James W. Donchess and Corporation Counsel Steven A. Bolton were also present.

President McCarthy

Last week Nashua lost a couple of good friends of this Board; former Alderman Britton and a long-time state representative, Angie Kopka, and I would ask that we observe a moment of silence in memory of them.

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Donchess

As we all know we had our election yesterday and many people came to the polls and I wanted to especially commend City Clerk Piecuch and her entire staff for working very long and very hard towards a very successful result. The city registered several thousand people before the election using the extended hours that the City Clerk's office set up and then registered over 5,000 people yesterday at the polls for a total of almost 10,000 people. The City Clerk's staff worked through the entire weekend. There were some glitches that could have resulted in problems; the Secretary of State didn't give us enough ballots and some of them might have been smudged but Ms. Piecuch worked through all of those problems with her staff and all of the people who worked in the polls. We had the regular poll workers, the moderators and others but also special people who were registering new voters all day long at all of the polling places. Everyone did a great job and the results were reported quickly and efficiently with no problems and in a big election like this that is not an easy job. Two of our own members here were up for re-election yesterday. I would like to congratulate Alderman O'Brien and Alderman LeBrun on their re-elections to the House. In the coming term we as a city want to work carefully with our legislative delegation and members elsewhere to advance Nashua's interests and the interests of municipalities across the state. I will be holding a meeting for the new members of the legislature in the coming weeks, probably in December and the Board of Aldermen would be very welcome to attend. We will let you know when we schedule that.

Tomorrow night is the budget meeting where we are going to discuss some of the unique challenges that we face in next weeks' budget. It will be upstairs in the City Hall Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. and I hope as many of you as possible can make it. We've invited all of the other Boards that participate in the city budgeting process as well. We want to begin the discussion now on the issues that we will be looking at and begin to get the community input both from the people who are direct participants but also voters and other citizens and community members.

On Friday, as I am sure you know, we have the Veteran's Day Parade which will kick-off in the morning at Holman Stadium. We expect a good crowd and I think the weather is supposed to be pretty good so I hope as many of you as possible can join us. There is also a lunch afterwards at the Elm Street Middle School Cafeteria for those who are interested.

Finally, I would like to join President McCarthy in expressing sorrow for the deaths of the two leading citizens that passed away over the last couple of weeks. Angie Kopka who was 100 years old and who has been a very prominent citizen in Nashua for a long time and also Fred Britton who I knew when I was in city government before and I think some of you served with him on the Board of Aldermen. They will both be missed.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR

Alderman Lopez

I wanted to echo the Mayor's comments regarding the City Clerk and the amazing job they all did as well as the people working at the polls. I would like to add special thanks for the effort to provide free bus transportation using the Nashua City Bus. That was very well received from people in my Ward.

Alderman O'Brien

The Moderator in Ward 9, Don Dillaby, he may be retiring and he will be sorely missed, he did his job well.

Alderman Siegel

I would like to echo the sentiments of my colleague, Alderman O'Brien, Don is amazing. He is super professional and although he has said it's his last election on several occasion but if it is his last election then he went out as a star. I would also like to echo the praise for our Clerk, Tricia Piecuch, who I had the privilege of spending a little time talking to about the procedures that are involved and if people knew exactly how complicated some of this stuff is and the logistics, it's mind altering and it's very interesting – great job!

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

I would also like to express congratulation to Tricia. I had several people from Wards other than my own and all of them commented on how efficiently the lines moved in the morning. All of your efforts were appreciated. I also want to congratulate the re-elected members of our Board who will be going up to Concord again.

Alderman Caron

I would also like to echo the nice job that the City Clerk did and also for the Ward workers because it is a thankless job. In Ward 7 we had a lot of new people there and they worked very hard and I did get a lot of comments about the new pop-up voting booths, people really liked them. Good job!

Alderman Dowd

I was there for most of the day at Ward 2 and I was amazed at how long the lines were at some point and how quickly they processed them through to vote. We had a lot of people come that were handicapped and the Moderator allowed them to go to the head of the line.

RECOGNITION PERIOD – None

READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE THAT THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING OF OCTOBER 25, 2016, BE ACCEPTED, PLACED ON FILE, AND THE READING SUSPENDED
MOTION CARRIED**

COMMUNICATIONS

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SIEGEL THAT ALL COMMUNICATIONS BE READ BY TITLE ONLY
MOTION CARRIED**

From: Mayor Jim Donchess
Re: Notification of Entry into Contract with a 3rd Party Supplier for Electricity Supply

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SIEGEL TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE MULTI-YEAR CONTRACT TO CONSTELLATION NewENERGY, INC.
MOTION CARRIED**

PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT RELATIVE TO ITEMS EXPECTED TO BE ACTED
UPON THIS EVENING

Mr. Fred Teeboom, 24 Cheyenne Drive

Ordinance O-16-11 Reduced Taxation for Charter Schools has lingered “on the table” for about 6 months.

Let us examine the facts.

Two charter schools are located in Nashua: the Academy for Science and Design (ASD) and the MicroSociety Academy.

- ASD (grades 6-12) has 525 students, of whom 263 reside in Nashua.
- MicroSociety (grades K-8) has 151 students, of whom 96 reside in Nashua.

A total of 464 students resident within Nashua attend charter schools in the region, within and outside Nashua. This data is tabulated on the Nashua Board of Education website, under “budgets.”

The students who reside within Nashua and attend the two charter schools located in Nashua must be provided with bus transportation provided by the Nashua School District, by state law

Now let us examine the cost savings.

The tuition cost to taxpayers for a student K-12 in the Nashua School District is \$13,000 per year. The cost for a student attending a charter school is \$5,600 a year. Thus the savings in tuition cost per student who attend a Charter School is \$7,400 per student. This totals to a savings of \$3.4 million for the 464 Nashua students who attend charter schools, offloaded from the Nashua School District

The cost to transport students resident in Nashua to the two Charter Schools in Nashua is about \$160,000 according to the Nashua School District business office.

Thus the cost savings to the Nashua taxpayers is \$3.2 million, for students attending charter schools who otherwise would be attending the Nashua School District

The loss of tax revenues under O-16-11 is \$80,000 for ASD and \$65,000 for the MicroSociety, for a combined loss of \$145,000. This figure, missing from the financial analysis section of this ordinance, was provided by alderman Dowd.

Thus the net cost savings is over \$3 million.

What do we get for these savings?

According to the comprehensive School Digger rankings (www.schooldigger.com) the Academy for Science and Design is consistently the top performing high school in New Hampshire. Furthermore, it is ranked among the top 50 high schools in the entire United States. Consider that the ASD must accept, by law, special education students with an IEP.

By contrast, Nashua High School North is ranked #62 out of 82 high schools in the state for the 2015-2016 school, and Nashua High School South is ranked #59. Thus, the two high schools in the Nashua School District are ranked with the bottom 25% of the high schools in New Hampshire.

Why would anyone vote against Ordinance O-16-11

The Nashua Teachers Union with its \$89,000 loaded average cost per teacher per year would be much against this. Same as the teachers unions who advertised against Question #2 in Massachusetts to lift the cap on the number of charter schools permitted in this state.

So we need to examine, which aldermen received contributions from the Nashua Teachers Union (NTU) for such contributions come with strings attached.

From the contributions reported for the 2015 Municipal election on reported the Nashua City Clerk's website:

President McCarthy

Mr. Teeboom, I am going to stop you. If you want to address the merits of the bill, that's fine. If you want to read from the records about who accepted money from the Teacher's Union, that's fine. I know that had nothing to do with my decision and I suspect that many of my colleagues around the horseshoe feel the same way so please do not attribute motives to why members of this Board vote the way they do.

Mr. Teeboom

I am saying that the Teacher's Union contributes and they don't contribute because they expect nothing in return.

Alderman Dowd and Alderman Caron never filed a report and I am going to find out tomorrow why.

There were seven Aldermen who voted yes and none of them accepted union contributions. You can accept any motive you wish, I'm only laying this out as facts on the table.

NO--Voting to reject

NTU Contribution

1. McCarthy	\$500
2. O'Brien	\$500
3. Wilshire	\$500
4. Clemons	\$250
5. Melizzi-Golja	\$250
6. Lopez	0
7. Dowd	not posted (not filed?)
8. Caron	not posted (not filed?)

YES --Voting to pass

NTU Contribution

1. Deane	0
2. Cookson	0
3. Moriarty	0
4. McGuinness	0
5. Schoneman	0
6. LeBrun	0
7. Siegel	0

These teachers' union contributions to the no voters speak volumes.

Alderman LeBrun, sponsor of this ordinance, please move to take O-16-11 off the table with a roll call vote, and let's find out who is in the pockets of the teachers union and against the welfare of our kids.

Thank you.

Mr. Robert Sullivan, 12 Stoney Brook Road

I also want to talk about O-16-011. Alderman LeBrun, thank you for bringing this to the forefront. First when I heard that the majority of the Board of Aldermen declined to pass this I thought boy, what a mean spirited group because this legislation proves, I believe, the quality of education delivered to the students in certain schools but then I went and read the minutes of the meeting and I found that many individuals had concerns that were raised during the discussion period. Some of them thought, for instance, that the landlord would get the money instead of the school in question. There was even talk that this year we can't afford to take whatever monies were being reduced as revenues because we are even talking about eliminating feeding children with the lunch program. One individual indicated that if parents want to send their children to the charter school then they can pay for it. I think there is some confusion pertaining to this piece of legislation. I don't know if you are going to take it off the table this evening. I'm not going to repeat what Mr. Teeboom brought up because I thought some of the facts were pretty accurate in which he highlighted. Maybe what you could do is take it off the table and push it back to the committee and discuss it again and take a look at the issues that were raised and try to clarify the issues. I think that this is an important piece of legislation. I believe that the public school system is needed and I don't think this piece of legislation is going to affect the public school system at all.

PETITIONS

Petitions for Street Acceptance for Annabelle Court, A portion of Cherrywood Drive. Moonstone Court and Tamora Court

- Committee on Infrastructure Recommends: Approving Street Acceptances

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COOKSON TO GRANT THE PETITIONS FOR STREET ACCEPTANCE FOR ANNABELLE COURT, A PORTION OF CHERRYWOOD DRIVE, MOONSTONE COURT AND TAMORA COURT
MOTION CARRIED

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Appointments by the Mayor

The following Appointments by the Mayor were read into the record:

Downtown Improvement Committee

James Tobin (New Appointment)
36 Dogwood Drive
Nashua, NH 03062

Term to Expire: November 2, 2019

Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee

Bruce Lund (New Appointment)
2 Clocktower Place, #227
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire: November 1, 2019

Planning Board

Gerry Repucci (New Appointment)
17 Badger Street, #1
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire: March 31, 2017

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DEANE TO ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR AS READ AND REFER THEM TO THE PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MOTION CARRIED**

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Budget Review Committee10/24/16

There being no objection, President McCarthy declared the report of the October 24, 2016, Budget Review Committee accepted and placed on file.

Finance Committee11/02/16

There being no objection, President McCarthy declared the report of the November 2, 2016, Finance Committee accepted and placed on file.

Committee on Infrastructure11/03/16

There being no objection, President McCarthy declared the report of the November 3, 2016, Committee on Infrastructure accepted and placed on file.

Planning & Economic Development Committee.....11/01/16

There being no objection, President McCarthy declared the report of the November 1, 2016, Planning & Economic Development Committee accepted and placed on file.

WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS – None

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-16-071

- Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
- Alderman Ben Clemons
- Alderman Richard A. Dowd
- Alderman June M. Caron
- Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
- Alderman-at-Large Brian S. McCarthy

AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NASHUA TO EXTEND THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE NASHUA DOG OWNERS GROUP, INC. FOR THE DOG PARK AT YUDICKY FARM

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-16-071
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-16-071 declared duly adopted.

R-16-074

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderswoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF \$25,000 FROM DEPARTMENT #179 "LIBRARY," ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION 51 "SALARIES AND WAGES" AND ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION 52 "FRINGE BENEFITS" INTO DEPARTMENT #183 "ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT"

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-16-074
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-16-074 declared duly adopted.

R-16-075

Endorser: Alderman Richard A. Dowd

AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF A CERTAIN ACCESS EASEMENT OVER 482 AMHERST STREET

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-16-075
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-16-075 declared duly adopted.

R-16-076

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Ken Siegel
Alderswoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Brian S. McCarthy

AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NASHUA TO EXTEND AND AMEND THE LEASE FOR THE HERITAGE RAIL TRAIL COMMUNITY GARDEN

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-16-076
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-16-076 declared duly adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LEBRUN TO TAKE O-16-011 FROM THE TABLE BY ROLL CALL

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Wilshire, Alderman Deane, Alderman Cookson, 14
Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Siegel,
Alderman Schoneman, Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja, Alderman McGuinness,
Alderman LeBrun, Alderman Moriarty, Alderman O'Brien,
Alderman Lopez, Alderman McCarthy

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

O-16-011

Endorsers: Alderman Don LeBrun
Alderman Ken Siegel
Alderman David Schoneman
Alderman Tom Lopez

ADOPTING PROVISIONS FOR REDUCED TAXATION FOR CERTAIN CHARTERED PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

- Tabled at Full Board Level – 5/10/16
Given its third reading:

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD TO RE-REFER TO THE PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Siegel

I understand that is the mechanical way of doing it but is there anything to be gained by referring it back to committee? I guess the reason I ask is that we are having a budget summit tomorrow and I believe that would probably be germane. I withdraw my statement; we are not going to debate it here.

Alderman Schoneman

Inasmuch as this affects the budget and finances would this be appropriate for the Budget Review Committee as well?

President McCarthy

If you want to refer it to both of them you can do that or if it is the will of the Board we can send it just to the Budget Review Committee.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD TO REFER IT THE BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE AS WELL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Siegel

Can we change the motion so it goes to just the Budget Review Committee?

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD TO REFER O-16-011 TO THE BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE
MOTION CARRIED**

O-16-018

Endorser: Alderman June M. Caron

**ESTABLISHING TWO FIFTEEN MINUTE PARKING TIME LIMIT ZONES ON PORTIONS OF
ARLINGTON STREET AND GILLIS STREET**

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CARON FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-16-018

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Caron

These parking spaces are to take place in front of the corner store that is on Arlington Street. What's happening is that some of the neighbors are parking their vehicles on Arlington Street all day and the customers don't have anywhere to park. They used to have a couple of spots for 10 or 15 minutes and for some reason they went away so they have asked to get at least two spots in front of their store.

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-16-018 declared duly adopted.

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-16-077

Endorser: Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
NASHUA BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE NASHUA TEACHERS' UNION, LOCAL 1044, AFT,
AFL-CIO FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2017 AND RELATED TRANSFERS**

Given its first reading; assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE by President McCarthy

R-16-078

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien
Alderman Ken Siegel

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$87,573 FROM THE STATE OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY "STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT
PROGRAM" INTO FIRE GRANT ACTIVITY "2016 HAZMAT WIDE AREA MONITORING"**

Given its first reading; assigned to the HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE by President McCarthy

R-16-079

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman Ken Siegel
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien
Alderman Tom Lopez

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$61,900 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY "STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM" INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY "2016 TACTICAL AND HAZMAT ROBOT"

Given its first reading; assigned to the HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE by President McCarthy

R-16-080

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien
Alderman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$49,364.76 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY "STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM" INTO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRANT ACTIVITY "2016 INFLATABLE SHELTER"

Given its first reading; assigned to the HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE by President McCarthy

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-16-021

Endorser: Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Ken Siegel
Alderman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman Tom Lopez

CHANGING THE NAME OF THE REVIEW AND COMMENT COMMISSION TO THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY GRANTS

Given its first reading; assigned to the PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE by President McCarthy

O-16-022

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Don LeBrun
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien
Alderman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large Brian S. McCarthy

ESTABLISHING AN ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

Given its first reading; assigned to the PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE by President McCarthy

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COOKSON THAT THE RULES BE SO FAR SUSPENDED AS TO ALLOW FOR THE FIRST READING OF O-16-023

MOTION CARRIED

O-16-023

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Mark S. Cookson
Alderman David Schoneman
Alderman Don LeBrun
Alderman Ken Siegel
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Brian S. McCarthy
Alderman June M. Caron

AUTHORIZING FREE HOLIDAY PARKING AT METERS IN ZONE III WHICH INCLUDES THE ELM STREET AND HIGH STREET PARKING GARAGES FROM DECEMBER 11, 2016, THROUGH JANUARY 2, 2017

Given its first reading; assigned to the COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE by President McCarthy

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Robert Sullivan, 12 Stony Brook Road

I'd like to talk about two issues this evening. One is about the water coming into our home and the other is about the water leaving our home, specifically Pennichuck Water Works and wastewater. Recently we have been receiving a couple of sticker price shocks in *the Telegraph*. Pennichuck announced a 19.5% rate increase and I believe I also read that wastewater bills are being proposed to be increased by 15%. If this isn't correct I don't mind you correcting me. Let's talk about the water leaving our homes first. I understand there is going to be a public meeting, I believe it's November 21st and I was going to request of Alderman Clemons to maybe consider a public hearing so that citizens can come in and ask questions about why it's being proposed to increase our wastewater bills by 15% because frankly, I don't follow these proceedings like I used to but this is news to myself and many of the people that live in my community. It seems that a 15% increase is rather steep. I believe it went through the Board of Public Works. When you all of a sudden propose a 15% increase in water rates over the previous year, is oversight being performed pertaining to these issues? Maybe this will be on the record and I will send Alderman Clemons an e-mail but I would like to make sure that citizens, when they come into these public meetings, especially these sticker price shock announcements, are allowed to ask questions of management of the system. I'm a little concerned that a public hearing wasn't called.

President McCarthy

Mr. Sullivan, I am certain that will actually be allowed at the public comment period during the meeting.

Mr. Sullivan

I just want to make sure that during that public comment period that the citizens are allowed to ask questions and receive answers.

President McCarthy

They can ask questions. Whether they will get complete answers or not is...I think the questions that will be asked will be very similar to the ones that members of this Board will ask.

Mr. Sullivan

Also the presentation prior to the question and answer session so that we can understand in layman's terms. Now let's talk about the water coming into our homes. Several months ago in *the Telegraph* it was

announced that the Pennichuck system is requesting a 19.5% increase. Before I proceed I want to thank Alderman Moriarty for setting up a public meeting and also setting it up so that citizens are allowed to ask questions directly of Pennichuck management. I want to alert the rate payers of the Pennichuck Water system that on December 1st there will be a public meeting where you can come in and register your feelings and concerns associated with this 19.5% increase proposal. I think it's a little bit much. I have some concerns on the oversight of this entity. One of the things is the stewardship of the system. Pennichuck announced a volunteer water ban for outdoor watering. That was the extent of the stewardship of the system in one of the worst drought seasons that this region has experienced in a long time. The request from Pennichuck was made at the end of the watering season. What does that say about the stewardship of our system during one of the worst drought periods that we have experienced in a long time? It doesn't too much good, does it? I looked at the minutes of the Pennichuck Board of Directors' meetings and I went back, and by the way there are so many groups of minutes of meetings with Pennichuck so I did a Control/Find and I could not find one mention of water rate increases. I checked six weeks ago and there was not one mention of a water rate increase being discussed. I know that this is the sole shareholder and there are meetings that you folks have but they are sort of infrequent. There is not one mention of water rate increases from the Pennichuck management to the sole shareholder different organization meetings, not one that I could find and if I am wrong tell me. What does that say? Then all of a sudden in the Telegraph we find out that Pennichuck wants to increase the water rates by 19.5% and that's unacceptable and not right. Now we also find out, I found this out through the grapevine that the expansion of the present customer base is going to take place in other communities because of contaminated wells with PFOA contamination. There is no information or discussion pertaining to the present systems capability and capacity to actually expand into other areas, especially considering that we could be in a prolonged drought period. How will that expansion affect the water quality of the present customers and what will it cost? Is that why we are getting the 19.5% increase? I think it is.

President McCarthy

That one is not. If there were a rate increase associated with that it would have to be after that work is done because of the way the regulation works. Pennichuck can only ask for rate increases to pay back construction that has already been completed.

Mr. Sullivan

Well, regardless, what about the capacity of this present system? Is it expandable?

President McCarthy

There is a substantial amount of debt that the corporation was carrying when it was a private corporation which was basically in the form of interest only loans with balloon payments. Typically what they do is to replace some of that debt with additional equity by increasing the amount of stock that they have outstanding every few years and then do a rate case to true everything up and then move on with whatever debt they have. Under the current municipal ownership they can't do that so the balloon debt has to be converted into standard debt that will be paid back both principal and interest and a lot of that, which is improvements to the system that have been made in the wastewater treatment plant, etc., which we are now paying for is the basic reason for the 19%. Pennichuck filed at least two different rate cases with the PUC, one with the current ownership model and one with if they had continued as a publicly traded corporation what the rate case would have looked like and it was more substantial than the one that they are applying for.

Mr. Sullivan

Yeah, I don't know if I buy that stuff. If we didn't sell the company this is what the increase would be because who is to say that the previous owners would have built a new building for millions of dollars. Who is to say that the previous owners would be enacting and implementing expenses similar to these people, we don't know.

President McCarthy

All of those were built as a direct result of the Clean Water Act. I suggest we move that discussion to when the meeting is held.

Mr. Sullivan

My concern too is the lack of information available to the rate payers of this system pertaining to what is going on. I know that different groups; I think there is the Pennichuck Water Special Committee, there is a Merrimack Committee and I don't think Alderman McCarthy has met with that committee for about 2 ½ years.

President McCarthy

I am not a member of that committee.

Mr. Sullivan

Well, whoever is, there are no minutes and the Pennichuck Water Special Committee, I think they try to do a good job but I am not too sure that people know what the role of that group is because there is no information in there. I'm not criticizing people in here. I'm saying that perhaps it's time to take a look at how this whole thing is organized, the whole company, the Board of Director's from Pennichuck, the sole shareholder and take a look at how we can make this a little bit more transparent to the rate payers to the system because there is a big lack of transparency going on right now.

I'll try to make this short because maybe at that meeting we can ask those questions at the meeting.

Alderman Siegel

That's a good idea it should be discussed in that committee.

Mr. Sullivan

Let's address problems and not try to get out of here quickly. It's more important to do the citizens work than trying to get home.

Pertaining to the by-laws of this organization the selection of the Board of Directors seems to be a self-contained nomination process. In fact, I thought that the sole shareholder role was to approve the Board of Directors but in the by-laws it indicates that the sole shareholder approves the Board of Directors that were nominated, they shall elect the director's as put forth to the sole shareholder and I don't think that is appropriate. I have the final amended by-laws of Pennichuck Corporation, March 23, 2013. I personally feel that the Board of Directors should be elected. I don't believe that we should have a self-contained group of people that select people that are not elected. I don't see any communication between the Board of Directors that much and the important matters going on with Pennichuck with the sole shareholder. The sole shareholder does very little and that's not what we, the people approximately 12 years ago put together. We wanted a system that was accountable to the rate payers and I don't believe that is occurring today and I am hoping to ask questions on that at that December 2st meeting and those of you who are watching this meeting tonight don't forget to come on down on December 1st to the Pennichuck Water Special Committee and ask your questions.

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Alderman Lopez

With respect to the Mine Falls Advisory Board, I attended their meeting and I wanted to extend my appreciation to them as volunteers. They work very hard behind the scenes and organize the clean-up days as well as the dog poop bag deployment. That's dedication. I was very impressed by the people that I met.

Alderman LeBrun

I want to commend the City Clerk on a job well done at the polls yesterday. I think in Ward 5 it ran like a fine Swiss watch.

Alderman Siegel

Just to address to Mr. Sullivan's comments with regard to my motivation about suggesting that this go to committee, it had nothing to do with leaving here early, that was an assumption on his part. It was for the expediency and efficiency of accomplishing a task which is to get better information and provide interactive participation which this forum does not allow.

Alderman Dowd

My thoughts are with the families of Angie Kopka and Fred Britton. Angie has been around for a long time in many capacities and I served with Fred Britton on the Airport Authority and it was a very pleasant experience working with him on the Airport Authority and the Board of Aldermen and he will be missed.

The other thing is that there was a lot of concern of the poll workers on Charlotte Avenue because of the sight lines with the crosswalks and I was standing there trying to help people cross the street I noticed that there were some number of cars that were speeding through there and some had big signs in the back of them. Is there any way that we can enforce the 20 MPH speed limit that they have when school is in session during polling?

Alderman Cookson

City Clerk Piecuch, you did a fantastic job yesterday. Please express that to your co-workers and employees. Also, thank you to the voters that came out. I believe the final count was somewhere in the neighborhood of 72% of all registered voters participated in yesterday's election. Now we know that they are there and I am looking forward to future elections and seeing that same participation.

Alderman Wilshire

I would also like to commend the City Clerk and all of the poll workers for a great job yesterday. I had a really good experience given how many people there were voting.

Also I would like to send my condolences to the family of Fred Britton and Angie Kopka. Fred was a terrific member of this Board and I enjoyed serving with him and I had known Angie for many years, they will both be missed.

Congratulations as well to two members of this Board who were re-elected, Representative LeBrun and Representative O'Brien.

Happy Veteran's Day! I will not be able to make the parade but I thank all of the Veteran's for their service.

President McCarthy

I would also like to echo the sentiments in thanking the City Clerk's office. Our election's always run like a "finely tuned Switch watch" rather than a typical American election.

I would express my condolences to the families of Fred Britton and Angie Kopka.

Lastly I wanted to talk about some changes in the Aldermanic office. If you recall some time ago we met with the delegation and in had some discussions on this Board there was a request that we figure out a way to be

more involved with what legislation there is that will affect us and how can we try to influence that. As a result, I had some conversations with the Mayor and we went out and looked at what it would cost to hire a firm to do some of that work for us and the number, just to keep track of the bills and inform us of which ones we might be interested in, without any lobbying efforts would have been \$25,000 per year which we didn't think the budget would support. I went back and looked at some things. We have Derek Danielson in the finance office who is working on tracking bills in general and looking at what effects the city and what I have done in our office is asked Trish, who has done a tremendous job for us to expand her hours to about 34 hours per week to take on a lot more of the responsibilities of transcription and some of the day-to-day work of the Board which will allow Sue some time to work with Derek in terms of looking at legislation that this Board will be particularly interested in. I know from looking at what comes out on an average term there are a lot of things that will effect Tricia Piecuch's operation but are not of tremendous policy interest to the Board of Aldermen so we will be looking for things that effect land/use or municipal financing or tax policy or the retirement system that will be of interest to this Board and I've asked Sue to take on when we look at those and when there is a policy position from this Board that we would like to express we will send Sue up to read some statements or talk at hearings of the committees and we will ask her to keep in touch with the delegation and I think we will be setting up more opportunities for the Board to talk to the delegation about what is going on at the state level.

Committee announcements:

Alderman Wilshire

Human Affairs Committee will meet Monday, November 14th at 7:00 p.m. here in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

Planning and Economic Development Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 15th and we will have a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on O-16-020, Clarifying and Updating the Elderly Housing Supplemental Use Regulation. At the last Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting a request was made for Attorney Bolton to attend that meeting and he will be in attendance. The regular meeting will follow the public hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE THAT THE NOVEMBER 9, 2016, MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE ADJOURNED
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Attest: Patricia Piecuch, City Clerk

Fred S. Teeboom
24 Cheyenne Drive, Nashua NH 03063
Public Comments to Nashua Board of Aldermen
9 November 2016

Ordinance O-16-11 Reduced Taxation for Charter Schools has lingered “on the table” for about 6 months.

Let us examine the facts.

Two charter schools are located in Nashua: the Academy for Science and Design (ASD) and the MicroSociety Academy.

- ASD (grades 6-12) has 525 students, of whom 263 reside in Nashua.
- MicroSociety (grades K-8) has 151 students, of whom 96 reside in Nashua.

A total of 464 students resident within Nashua attend charter schools in the region, within and outside Nashua. This data is tabulated on the Nashua Board of Education website, under “budgets.”

The students who reside within Nashua and attend the two charter schools located in Nashua must be provided with bus transportation provided by the Nashua School District, by state law

Now let us examine the cost savings.

The tuition cost to taxpayers for a student K-12 in the Nashua School District is \$13,000 per year. The cost for a student attending a charter school is \$5,600 a year. Thus the savings in tuition cost per student who attend a Charter School is \$7,400 per student. **This totals to a savings of \$3.4 million** for the 464 Nashua students who attend charter schools, offloaded from the Nashua School District

The cost to transport students resident in Nashua to the two Charter Schools in Nashua is about \$160,000 according to the Nashua School District business office.

Thus the **cost savings to the Nashua taxpayers is \$3.2 million**, for students attending charter schools who otherwise would be attending the Nashua School District

The loss of tax revenues under O-16-11 is \$80,000 for ASD and \$65,000 for the MicroSociety, **for a combined loss of \$145,000**. This figure, missing from the financial analysis section of this ordinance, was provided by alderman Dowd.

Thus the net cost savings is over \$3 million.

What do we get for these savings?

According to the comprehensive School Digger rankings (www.schooldigger.com) the Academy for Science and Design is consistently the **top performing high school in New Hampshire**. Furthermore, it is ranked among the top 50 high schools in the entire United States. Consider that the ASD must accept, by law, special education students with an IEP.

By contrast, Nashua High School North is ranked #62 out of 82 high schools in the state for the 2015-2016 school, and Nashua High School South is ranked #59. Thus, the two high schools in the Nashua School District are ranked with the bottom 25% of the high schools in New Hampshire.

Why would anyone vote against Ordinance O-16-11

The Nashua Teachers Union with its \$89,000 loaded average cost per teacher per year would be much against this. Same as the teachers unions who advertised against Question #2 in Massachusetts to lift the cap on the number of charter schools permitted in this state.

So we need to examine, which aldermen received contributions from the Nashua Teachers Union (NTU), for such contributions come with strings attached.

From the contributions reported for the 2015 Municipal election on reported the Nashua City Clerk's website:

NO--Voting to reject

	<u>NTU Contribution</u>
1. McCarthy	\$500
2. O'Brien	\$500
3. Wilshire	\$500
4. Clemons	\$250
5. Melissa-Golja	\$250
6. Lopez	0
7. Dowd	not posted (not filed?)
8. Caron	not posted (not filed?)

YES -Voting to pass

	<u>NTU Contribution</u>
1. Deane	0
2. Cookson	0
3. Moriarty	0
4. McGuinness	0
5. Schoneman	0
6. LeBrun	0
7. Siegel	0

These teachers' union contributions to the **NO** voters speak volumes.

Alderman LeBrun, sponsor of this ordinance, please move to take O-16-11 off the table **with a roll call vote**, and let's find out who is in the pockets of the teachers union and against the welfare of our kids.

Thank you