

A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

President Lori Wilshire presided; City Clerk Patricia D. Piecuch recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Patricia D. Piecuch; Alderman June M. Caron led in the Pledge to the Flag.

The roll call was taken with 14 members of the Board of Aldermen present.

Corporation Counsel Steven A. Bolton was also in attendance.

President Wilshire

The Mayor is not able to join us this evening.

RECOGNITION PERIOD - None

READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the minutes of the Board of Aldermen meetings of January 8, 2019, January 17, 2019, and the public hearing conducted by the Planning and Economic Development Committee of January 15, 2019, accepted, placed on file, and the readings suspended.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING ONLY PROCEDURAL ACTIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS – None

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

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING FINAL APPROVAL

From: Mayor Jim Donchess

Re: Contract for Architectural Manager Services for 201 Main Street – Performing Arts Center (PAC)

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO ICON ARCHITECTURE, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$1,350,000
MOTION CARRIED**

PETITIONS - None

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

The following Appointments by the President of the Board of Aldermen were read into the record:

Hunt Legacy Trustees

Mary Greene (Reappointment)
38 Concord Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: December 31, 2020

Arthur Olsson (Reappointment)
169 Coburn Woods
Nashua, NH 03063

Term to Expire: December 31, 2019

Ira F. Harris Lecture Trustees

Jane Hanle-Olsson (Reappointment)
169 Coburn Woods
Nashua, NH 03063

Term to Expire: December 31, 2020

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the Appointments by the President of the Board of Aldermen as read and referred them to the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Budget Review Committee..... 01/17/2019

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the January 17, 2019, Budget Review Committee accepted and placed on file.

Finance Committee..... 01/16/2019

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the January 16, 2019, Finance Committee accepted and placed on file.

Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee..... 01/07/2019

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the January 7, 2019, Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee accepted and placed on file.

Planning & Economic Development Committee..... 01/15/2019

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the January 15, 2019, Planning and Economic Development Committee accepted and placed on file.

Substandard Living Conditions Special Committee..... 01/10/2019

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the January 10, 2019, Substandard Living Conditions Special Committee accepted and placed on file.

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-18-073, Amended

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Brian S. McCarthy
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER RELATIVE TO FILLING VACANCIES ON ELECTED BOARDS BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THAT BOARD

- Amended and Tabled pending Public Hrg scheduled for 3/12/2019 at 7 PM in the Chambers

R-18-100

Endorsers: Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly

CHANGING THE PURPOSE OF UP TO FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000) OF UNEXPENDED BOND PROCEEDS FROM THE LED STREET LIGHTING PROJECT TO THE DISTRICT-WIDE MIDDLE SCHOOLS RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECT FOR FUNDING ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-18-100 BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Dowd

The first phase of the middle school project was going to be very close to the \$250 that had already been authorized so we added another \$50,000.00 to it; if there is anything left that will go to the next phase of the project. This had a public hearing and the budget was approved for final passage and I would ask for consideration of this so the project can proceed.

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

Yea: Ald. O'Brien, Ald. Gidge, Ald. Harriott-Gathright
Ald. Dowd, Ald. Klee, Ald. Laws
Ald. Lopez, Ald. Caron, Ald. Kelly
Ald. Jette, Ald. Melizzi-Golja, Ald. Tencza
Ald. Schmidt, Ald. Wilshire 14

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-18-100 declared duly adopted.

R-18-101

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

AMENDING THE FY2019 HUD ANNUAL ACTION PLAN BY REPROGRAMMING EXISTING FUNDS TO "E FOR ALL"

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CARON FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-18-101

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-18-101 declared duly adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES**O-18-031**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

**INCREASING THE PURCHASING THRESHOLD FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVAL
FROM \$10,000 TO \$25,000**

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-18-031ON THE QUESTIONAlderman O'Brien

Just briefly, bullet points – this was brought to us by Division Directors and it will help the efficiency of everything in this Government and I thank everybody for supporting it. Thank you.

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-18-031 declared duly adopted

O-18-033

Endorsers: Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Tom Lopez

**AMENDING THE LAND USE CODE USE MATRIX REGARDING SELF-STORAGE FACILITIES
AND SANITARY LANDFILLS**

- Also assigned to Planning Board; Favorable Recommendation w/ Proposed Amendments - 1/10/2019

Given it second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD TO AMEND O-18-033 IN ITS ENTIRETY BY REPLACING IT WITH THE
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**ON THE QUESTIONAlderman Dowd

The goldenrod copy was on your desk and also explain that the changes in paragraph D5 which was the wording that was recommended by the Planning Department and approved by the Planning Board.

MOTION CARRIED**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-18-033 AS AMENDED
MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance O-18-033 declared duly adopted as amended.

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS**R-19-103**

Endorser: Alderman Ernest Jette

AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF DISCONTINUED PORTIONS OF CONANT ROAD

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

R-19-104Endorser: Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
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, UNIT D, FOOD SERVICE WORKERS FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2018 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2021**

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

R-19-105Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Ken Gidge
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$25,000 FROM JSI RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE INTO PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT ACTIVITY "FY19 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TRACKING"**

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

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES**O-19-035**Endorser: Alderman June M. Caron
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly**RESCINDING THE RIGHT TURN ON RED PROHIBITION FROM THE COSTCO EXIT ONTO DANIEL WEBSTER HIGHWAY**

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

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurie Ortolano 41 Berkeley Street. Happy New Year and thank you to the person who is doing the right on red at Costco. I'll feel good when that is in place.

I wanted to share a couple thoughts with you on what is going on in the Assessing Office. I have continued to do some work looking at property cards and sales data. I attended in December a Board of Assessor's meeting where Kim Kleiner and John Griffin came in and presented to the Board their approach to what was

going to happen with this audit and review of the Assessing Office. I am concerned about an internal review. I don't feel that it was the best way to go with the problems that are going on in there. If you are really going to look at what is happening in the Assessing Office it is not just limited to that office; there is a chain of command. It goes to the CFO, I think there has been a big breakdown in communication between whatever connection the Assessing Office has to the next level. I think there was a pretty non-existent amount of communication and that is part of the problem.

I think that the problem goes up to the Mayor's Office in that when the public has a concern and you don't know where to go and you call them; they don't respond. That is what happened to me last year – in 2017 when my tax bill was super high and I still consider it super high and I was paying \$18,000.00 and I am still trying to resolve that. I was calling the Mayor's office saying – I've had a blowout fight with your Assessor, they are not handling permits and sales data correctly, there is something wrong in that office and my assessment is out of control and I need to speak to somebody. And I get no response and I call a second time, a week later, and I get no response and it is just a dead end.

This year, the KRT data comes out, that opens up a lot of avenues to understand what is going on. I call back to the Mayor's Office and I said – Look, I called twice last year and I'm calling again to say there is a definite problem in that office. Something is not right down there; no response. When I went in and met with Kim Kleiner, her comment to me was – I'm so sorry we never got your calls. You know, it just wasn't credible to me; that's just not credible that nobody received my calls. And, in fact, all of City Hall is just so non-responsive I feel to issues involving the Assessing Office. You have to work with the chief, he's not there much, his attendance just isn't there much. There really is no oversight going on in the office so that's a problem for people. If the Mayor is saying – Oh you know the chief is so reliable and well-trained and great, go talk to him; that's not how it works down there. He's not a people person and he's not happy to come out of his office and speak with anyone. That was certainly the case for me.

When I started calling the State, the first call I made to the State, I have to tell you, I was very cynical about calling the State. I called up there and I thought – I can't even get to anyone in City Hall, what is the State going to do for me, they are even bigger, nobody in City Hall can answer, I'm going to call up there and just be left hanging. I called, I ferreted around on who I had to talk to, it was Steve Hamilton, he called me back in a day. I've had 7 or 8 calls up there, I've never had anyone leave me hanging for more than 24 hours. Before Christmas I called the Commissioner Lindsey Stepp who heads the DRA to talk to her about what I could do. Actually to find out what I can do down here, I'm stuck, I don't have any avenue for communication within the City. She took my information, she ran it through her counsel group and her Deputy and she called me back and said – give me 2 days. She called me back in 15 hours – give me 2 days, I will call you back, I will get a response, we will have a conversation. She called me back promptly; had a full conversation with her, probably 20 minutes on the phone. She gave me so much information it was a lot and when the conversation ended she said – would you like me to type this up as an e-mail for you so you have something in writing. I said – Yeah that would be super. I got everything laid out, bullet by bullet, on how I could proceed with a PA75 formal complaint to the BLTA for a Hearing; everything else that I could fall in line with to try and deal with the problem.

The reason that I ended up with the Commissioner is because it was going to be Board of Assessor's Meeting and meeting with them which was a couple months into this process that the Chair said to me – we don't handle issues with the Chief Assessor, that's handled by the Commissioner at the DRA. He works for her; I didn't know that, nobody down here told me that or passed me off or said – get up to the State, you're going to have to take this at a higher level. So I feel that there is a whole communication here that goes right to the Mayor's Office and Kim Kleiner explained when she talked to the Board of Assessors about this process they are going through. They are applying Lien 6 Sigma Study to the Assessing Office which is a TQM process used by a lot of industries. That whole TQM process, Lien 6 Sigma people, they are people who have black belts in that. They are trained for 30 years to do that; I really wonder how deep our training is to do a Lien 6 Sigma process here in City Hall. But she made it clear when she spoke to the Board of Assessors that we are looking at this with clear eyes, we are not going to consider any public concerns or questions raised after the

assessment was finished. We are not addressing any of that. We are going to go through the process and if some of those things fall out, well great then they fall out; but if they don't, they don't.

Well that begs the question, what does somebody do when they have a question? Okay, you are off doing your thing for 3 months, whatever it takes; what do you do when somebody has a question? It's great that you are not going to consider the public questions because you don't to be bothered with those, you don't want to be jaded. But what do you do when you have one? Nobody seems to have an answer to that. I really feel that you got the fox guarding the hen house here and that is not a really open audit the way it needs to be done. So I am kind of disappointed that that's the way it fell out, but that's the way it fell out so there we go.

Regarding abating, you know, I've been looking a lot at the abating process because we have go through it and I didn't really know anything about filing an abatement or what it's like. Because the City has been pretty deeply rooted against us, we were never really able to have a conversation with anyone in Assessing about what happened to our assessment. So we have no agreement that there was a problem and so for my husband and I, we felt that we were up against a wall and it is going to be one huge fight. So that is ultimately why we went and talked to a lawyer. Because we never had the luxury of sitting with anyone in Assessing and having anyone go – yeah this out of whack, abate it. I'm down in the Assessing Office a good bit and I hear people come in and they show stuff to the assessors and they go – Oh take this abating form and go abate it. We never had that.

As a matter of fact, after one person left, I ran over to the assessor, one that I hadn't dealt with to try to pick his brain to get a little information on what I needed to do because I really wasn't certain what we were doing when we started off; because no one ever talked to us about that. That was just not going to be covered by them. So when you feel like it is them against you and you are battling something that they do not want to accept, you start dotting you I's and crossing your T's. One of the things I was going to do is start really looking in detail at these abating files. I want to see how they are done, I want to see how these assessors are appraising, I want to see how fair they are being, I want to see what they write up. Because what are they going to come after me with?

One of the things that I discovered that I found really disturbing, every year the equalization ratio comes out by the State; it is a ratio that is supposed to take your municipality to 100%, equalize your municipality. When the median and the ratio letter comes down from the State, it is signed by a lady named Linda Kennedy and she writes that this ratio is to be applied and should be applied to all abatements for the purpose of equalizing within your municipality. What I discovered looking at some of these files is that the Assessor or Assessors, they have a form spread sheet where they negotiate with anyone who comes in; their opinion, the property owner's opinion, the agreed upon opinion and it is a spread sheet. Everything is negotiated on market value, sale price, because that is how it is done, sales is the hard data so you have got to go with sales. So they do that.

But when they go to apply the equalization ratio they are only apply it, the ones that I've looked at right now, it has been commercial level and it is only because that was the vast majority of them, there weren't many. They are giving the equalization ratio to people who have a tax lawyer or are represented by a tax management company. They have representation, so they multiply through by the ratio and they do it all the way it is supposed to be done. But if you are a "Joe Schmo" that has a little shop that is a house and you run a one-man business and you are doing it yourself like a resident is, they delete that line off the spread sheet and they don't apply the ratio. So what is being put in the data base is the sale price data and not an assessment level data. I really struggle with that because I feel it is deceptive. I mean it is willfully negligent to take a factor that is supposed to really go to everyone and delete it. And when I see the only cases I found are the people who don't have representation; they don't get the factor.

So like last year it was 20% less, so if you were abating a house and you came to an agreement that it was a \$400,000.00 property, the assessment should have been put into the system as \$320,000.00 and your abatement should be based on the difference between what you paid in \$320 but they are not doing that.

They are calculating the return check for people at a much higher level and they are not returning the money that they should get back, in my opinion. And it concerns me for residents, because as a resident I did not understand the equalization ratio and the form that you produce as a City which is similar to the State's but you do your own form here. And I believe your form has to have all the information that the State form has, it doesn't have a line for the equalization ratio. It just has the market value line so it has a resident working on the sales level which is fine. We are depending on the expertise and the professionalism of the office to apply the ratio. To not do it, the 4 I looked at, people were short-changed \$1,500.00, \$1,800.00, \$1,600.00. Well you know what? If you could have gotten \$1,600.00 more back you would have liked it, I'm sure; anyone would have.

I feel that there should be a directive here given by the City, I am going to talk to the Board of Assessors about it, put down on the Assessing Office to say – the ratio will be applied to everybody; not just those with lawyers or tax management companies. Everyone gets the ratio because it is what keeps the data balanced. I called the State on that, I talked to Tom Hughes up there and I said – Am I thinking about this wrong, am I too Pollyanna, what's the deal? And his pitch was – no, the ratio is supposed to be applied for everyone abated, you don't pick and choose who gets the ratio. And yes, it is about equalizing the data base.

When I went to John Duhamel with my concern, his pitch to me was – I'm here to save the City money and this is the way it's done all over the State. I was aghast. I said – that is so unethical and you are not here to save the City money, your mission is completely different. He turned around and walked away. I said that to the State; the first thing the guy said to me is – his job is to equalize the data base, his job is to create fair and equal assessments, number one priority, fair and equal assessments. The saving people money by ripping off little individuals, you know when they don't realize it is not fair. And I am really concerned for residents because if I wasn't deep into this like I am, I would never know. I would have no idea, I didn't understand that ratio the first person who told me about it was Steve and I remember when he said something to me on the phone I had no idea what he was talking about. I had no clue.

So either take your form and put the equalization ratio below the market value price that is on that form so people know that it is going to be multiplied by a value. It is either like this year going to come in at 1, hopefully or a little bit lower, we don't have it yet, it comes out in February. Right now the abatements they are doing, a lot of them that I noticed are property card changes, there are small things – people go in and – oh I don't have that bathroom, that's not a closed porch. They are little changes that are being tweaked that are very easy for them to do that aren't sales data driven stuff. But you are about to get deep into the sales data driven stuff and ratios should be applied. I contacted the four property owners that didn't get the ratio to find out did they know. One of them said when I talked on the phone the guy told me – I got the ratio. I showed him the form, I said – you didn't. Another guy said – Wow I didn't get the ratio? I said – no. He knew about it and his property was dropped last June; he was concerned because he had deferred maintenance, there was a City-wide revaluation. The assessor told him – don't worry this information is going to be passed to KRT and your assessment is going to stay fixed as it is based on the deferred maintenance. Never got passed – guess what? He went up like \$150,000.00 he's got to abate again, this year because the abatement information never got put into the file.

So it just deeply concerns me that I see these things and there is nobody to have a discussion with about it to say – you know – let's try to fix this stuff and make it work. And I want to address one other thing, the Mayor has brought it up a good bit about the inaccuracies in my information that I gave out at the beginning when I came to you that the spreadsheet had errors. He was right about that; but obviously there were more correct things or things going on that opened up the need to do an audit and deal with stuff than there were probably errors. But a lot of those errors came from the fact that I had nobody to talk to; I've never had a meeting with anyone in assessing, somebody who is making the decisions. For that matter anyone through City Hall that has said to me – let's sit down, let me show you how this data is put together, let me show you how these cards are marked. Let me show you, ok if you are upset and you are going to do a little review, here's the stuff you are going to look at. It has been running high the whole time. I go the permit department and I ask for help on how to read the permit files and gentleman comes out, shows me how the papers are all put together, shows me how the codes can be tracked, gives me a little primer, go at it. No problem. You think

anyone does that in Assessing? The women in the front are phenomenal but I am talking the people that are making the real decisions on these numbers and how stuff is put together and how it recorded. Do you think they are coming out to show you anything? Nothing.

And I really resent that Kim Kleiner had my data and there were problems with it and she didn't even reach out to say to me – you have a mistake in these 3 areas and I want to tell you why. This is why I don't trust her to do a review. Because somebody, perhaps the Mayor said – don't talk to that lady. You know? We'll just leave her alone and she'll go away because she's a little bit nutty and she's wrong. It didn't work. So nobody gave the time of day to try and fix the problems, that wasn't so good.

The other issue that I talked to the State about a lot is sales chasing. I think you have a real significant sales chasing issue going on in here and it is not legal. I have been able to grab more data because I joined a real estate web site that allows you to print sales data from 1880 to current. So I was able to pull really relevant sales data over the last 5 years and I really wanted to focus on older properties that sold because I wanted to see what they were doing with the EYBs how they are changing Effective Year Build. I came to you in September and I said – Stop using MLS data to adjust property cards, you are not doing it right, don't do it. And I am coming back to you now and saying – Stop doing it. I explained to Tom Hughes at the State what was happening he said to me – they adjust the cards off the pictures but I said – they adjust the other factors really hard and they are changing these assessments dramatically. Well that is okay as long as they are changing every other property in that category, tell me they are doing all the other properties in that category; I said – no, they are only doing one. Then he made me repeat it again – Tell me again what they are doing and his response to me was – that is sales chasing. When they are hitting those factors, you've got to be careful.

When our property EYB was changed in 1994 effective year build, I hadn't looked at this until just 2 weeks ago, that changed our assessment \$160,000.00. The permitted work changed it \$40. So when you mess around with that factor, you are adding huge valuation to property based on pictures you are seeing. The problem is you are not doing it to other older homes. What I have found is a group of older homes are being attacked, another group of older homes that are equally renovated are not being touched and then they are not even falling in line with the permitted work because the permits in general they are not applying the EYB factor, they forget to use it. And they just address the permit and then all of these permitted works – kitchens, baths and renovations stay at 1969 level. When you go down Berkeley Street and take a ride down there, 55 homes, I'm going to tell you 45 are 1969 or lower by build. You drive down that street and they don't look like 1969 houses, they really don't. You are way out of whack and then you sting specific properties with 1995. And then we are stuck in a neighborhood where we don't even fit. And there is nobody to have a discussion in this entire City about these issues. I am just so disappointed that we can't do better and we haven't done better. Thank you.

Stephen Scaer Good evening Aldermen and thank you for the opportunity you've given me to discuss a published report about a recent municipal meeting.

President Wilshire

We need your name and address for the record, please?

Stephen Scaer 111 East Hobart Street, Nashua.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Mr. Scaer After reading Alderman Kelly's account of the January 8th Library Trustees Meeting and her letter to telegraph group wanted to spread hatred, I thought we must've been at two different meetings. And in fact I

realized we had. Although Alderman Kelly describes the meeting as one of the most unfortunate experiences of my time in Nashua, she wasn't there. She was at the Board of Aldermen meeting which was held at the same time and adjourned at 7:46. The Library Trustees Meeting ended 7 minutes later. Alderman Kelly claims that the public were disrespectful and unyielding in their protest. Trust me, I was there, no.

At the start of the meeting some members of the public pleaded to be allowed to speak the Board deliberated briefly and declined. The most heated part of the meeting came when Secretary David Pinsonnault grew angry when members of the public politely asserted their right to film a public meeting in a public place after he told them they could not because it would be disruptive. The Board then carried through with its agenda, while the 20 members of the public waited to speak with them at the end. Just before the meeting adjourned, a citizen again asked for a chance to speak and was denied. Alderman Kelly's claim that the citizens used ill-researched and downright incorrect arguments to vilify the LGBT Community is ironic since the public didn't have an opportunity to present any arguments. It is also ironic that she wrote that civil discourse must be rooted in fact even while reporting about a meeting she didn't attend.

The final irony is the assertion that this group was there to spread hatred. What better way is there to spread hatred than to publish fabricated, derogatory stories about your constituents? If the Alderman is sincere about making Nashua a place of tolerance and love, she knows where to begin. Thank you.

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Alderman Dowd

I would just like to send my condolences to the Stellos family. Jimmy Stellos passed away and he was a great contributor the City of Nashua for decades and never was seeking accolades for his work, most of it behind the scenes. He was a huge supporter of high school athletics and donated a significant amount of money to build Stellos Stadium which is named after him and fittingly it is. He will be sorely missed, he is another one of the icons in the City who has been well-respected and well-appreciated and my respect and condolences go out to the Stellos family.

Alderman Lopez

So yesterday we celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day and we recognized his commitment to addressing issues of bigotry and we committed ourselves to continuing his legacy and making our country as fair a place for others as we could. We know we have a lot of distance to go with that and we know we have a lot of work to do but as leaders we all have a responsibility to continue his legacy. Today also unfortunately the Supreme Court ruled to uphold restrictions on transgender individuals serving our country in the military. So while one of those is a national issue and one is a state it does bear relevance because two weeks ago we had a volunteer agree to come and share their story at the library of being a drag queen. There was considerable public pushback about that. I know that other members of the Board of Aldermen did receive e-mails to that effect. I do know that the meeting, the Hunt Board of Trustees was taking place somewhat overlapping with our own Board of Aldermen Meeting, but that the event itself was pretty well publicized in the paper and the newspaper and there is an opportunity to express support for our library staff to show leadership on that issue and I'm not sure that all of us stepped up.

I want to commend Alderman Kelly for stepping up as much as she was able to. I would like to share my observations of what happened on the night Mr. Scaer was referring to. I believe that Alderman Kelly's article in the paper referred to the experience that she had that night. I do not believe that she explicitly stated anywhere that she attended the meeting herself; but she did come with me back to the meeting after this one and spoke both to the Scaers, Beth and her husband as well as several other people. I believe that experience is what she was referring to. I think that was clear in the article but I noticed that a lot of people who were commenting told a different story in the comments of that. They did provide video footage that was taken at the beginning at the meeting; it started after the meeting was called to order – at least the part that was shared freely within the context of that. Because when the Board of Trustees first convened and began to meet, they asked our Library Director to tell her story of what was going on and why she was having the

event and it was at that point that she was interrupted, questions were being asked and unfortunately the format of the meeting and the location was not appropriate for the back and forth that ensued. That is a matter of the video record that was taken by the members of the public. There was some debate over whether the meeting should be reviewed but I think a lot of the objection was mostly because people started recording before asking any permission to; they just put their phones up pretty high and they were basically surrounding the Board of Trustees. So the Board of Trustees was somewhat unnerved in my observation. I stepped forward and suggested that they come to this meeting and I welcome them to make public comment because not only is this a more appropriate format where they can speak at length and with appropriate audio and be heard and on the record. But also the full record is kept in the public view and nobody needs to go to anybody's Facebook page to review it. So I think that a better appropriate forum for that would have been for the Board of Aldermen, but I also don't think that was necessarily made clear to people who were trying to raise an objection. I think they went to a meeting that was meant just to approve checks and review financial matters and they had an objection about how the Board or how the Library was proceeding and that probably should have come either to us or to the Mayor's Office.

So I think to honor Dr. Martin Luther King's Legacy, we all have a responsibility to be leaders and we need to hear our constituents. If they are e-mailing us or asking us to present at things we should be doing so. If our City Staff are in the crosshairs of disagreeing citizens, we should be supportive of them in any way that we can. I think that it is very unfortunate that this is continuing because I am aware that the volunteer who spoke at the Drag Queen event is continuing to be bullied, harassed and threatened on-line because of her beliefs and her world view. I think likewise certain members of the community feel like their world view is threatened because they don't have a voice, they are not able to access the Library themselves to share their story.

So I think there is a need for leadership here, I think we all have a responsibility to do our part to facilitate it and I think we need to consider that in the context of our roles as Aldermen in the wake and legacy that Dr. Martin Luther King left us.

Alderman Caron

Yes thank you, I too would like to send my condolences to the Stellos family. They live in Ward 7 and when we were working on the project for the football/lacrosse field, the committee spoke to Mr. Stellos and being the type of person that he was and didn't need the accolades, he made a point to tell the group that he would speak to his family and get their blessing before he would do that. And him and John Motta worked together so that we have this beautiful facility that we have had now for 15 years. And of course Jimmy was also a longtime member of the Nashua Lion's Club and we will miss him this year at the Green Auction because he used to raise the prices between him and Dr. Moheban and we made a lot of money. So God Bless him. Thank you.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. I would like to start by responding to the public comments. I appreciate the right to raise your own voice and to have that heard, I actually encouraged as well the people who were against the event in question to come and speak here, because it is a more accurate forum for that. That is what democracy is about. But I have to continue to say that there is a difference between voicing an opinion and bullying another person. And I will not apologize for standing for tolerance, inclusiveness and kindness. As a City Official I think that is our duty to lead in a way that aligns with shared consciousness. And I think we are a great City, we have a lot of diversity and thought and religion and culture; but we are not a City of bullies. And I have spoken directly to the Drag Queen who ran this, she actually almost cancelled it because of the way she was being bullied on-line and she has reached out to me since then to say that she is continuing to experience that kind of bullying.

So I will continue to call them out. I will absolutely continue to call them out. Just the day after Martin Luther King, I know Tom Lopez brought it up, but I was feeling the same way. We just spent an entire day talking about and remembering someone who was such a passionate advocate for inclusiveness and the quote that comes to mind is – In the end we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

I too would like to give my condolences to the Stellos family. As others have said around the horseshoe, he did many things for the City, some big, some small, many people didn't know about and he will certainly be missed in the City by many.

I think probably the passing of Reverend Arthur Hilson in Portsmouth went somewhat unnoticed in this part of the State but I would just like to acknowledge his efforts in the State. He was very active in supporting the observance of Martin Luther King Day and working towards making that a Holiday here in the State. So condolences to his family and his community and thank you for all of his work.

The final thing is some of you may have heard the New Hampshire Theater Alliance Awards were presented this past weekend. Peacock Players as well as actors/singers were finalists for many of those awards. So congratulations to them and also congratulations to actor/singers for taking home some awards. So our local theater is alive and well and recognized. Thank you.

Alderman Tencza

I just wanted to congratulate Alderman Harriott-Gathright and her family and the whole Southern New Hampshire outreach for Black Unity for another successful Martin Luther King Jr. Day Breakfast. It is an event I have enjoyed going to for the past several years; it is an event that always is inspiring. One of the things that is always brought up at the event I think is that people from Manchester like to say that they've had a breakfast or an event going on for another couple of years but Nashua is one of the first cities in the State, when the State didn't recognize Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a Holiday, Nashua was one of the first cities. And so that is part of our history, a great event, if you haven't been to one, please look out for it next year on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

I'd also like to extend my condolences to the Stellos family. Reading about Mr. Stellos today that he started his electric company out of his mother's garage, it is truly remarkable. It is also a lesson for young people who are living and working in our community that a lot of hard work, getting to know people, being connected in the community, you can do a lot of great things in Nashua.

President Wilshire

I too would like to send my condolences to Sandy Stellos and the rest of the family, he was a great guy. I mean I would run into them at the breakfast place a couple times a week and just a really good guy, a good person and he did a lot for the community. I think he left a good legacy here in Nashua and I appreciate that.

Alderman Klee

I'd like to send my congratulations to the first kid governor here in New Hampshire, a young lady from Sunset High School, Lola Giannelli. We are very proud of her and many of us were there at her inauguration and it was quite moving. She is an amazing speaker.

Committee announcements:

Alderman O'Brien

Tomorrow night 7:00 Aldermanic Chamber, Infrastructure, all are welcomed.

Alderman Dowd

Yes Thursday night Joint Special School Building Committee at the Nashua High North Board Room.

Alderman Caron

Yes Personnel will be meeting Monday, February 4th at 7:00.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

Yes I'm sorry I wasn't here earlier and Director Cummings may have said it, but for people who may not have been watching, the PAC meeting that was on the calendar for tomorrow night is not happening, that was an error, so the next PAC meeting will be the 30th.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN THAT THE JANUARY 22, 2019, MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE ADJOURNED
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Attest: Patricia D. Piecuch City Clerk