

A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. via teleconference.

President Lori Wilshire presided; City Clerk Susan Lovering recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Susan Lovering; Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza led in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Wilshire

As President of the Board of Aldermen, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

To access Zoom, please refer to the agenda or the City's website for the meeting link.

To join by phone dial: 1-929-205-6099 - Meeting ID: 884 5446 1686 Passcode: 724002

The public may also view the meeting via Channel 16.

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, through public postings. Instructions have also been provided on the City of Nashua's website at www.nashuanh.gov and publicly noticed at City Hall and Nashua Public Library.

If anyone has a problem accessing the meeting via phone or Channel 16, please call 603-821-2049 and they will help you connect.

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting via the methods mentioned above, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.

The roll call was taken with 15 members of the Board of Aldermen present: Alderman Michael B. O'Brien, Sr., Alderman Patricia Klee, Alderwoman Shoshanna Kelly, Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Alderman June M. Caron, Alderman Benjamin Clemons, Alderman Thomas Lopez, Alderman David C. Tencza, Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu, Alderman Ernest Jette, Alderman Jan Schmidt, Alderman Brandon Michael Laws, Alderman Skip Cleaver (arrived after roll call), Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire.

Mayor James W. Donchess, Corporation Counsel Steve Bolton, were also in attendance.

ROLL CALL

Alderman O'Brien

I am present, I can hear the proceedings, and I am alone.

Alderman Klee

I am present, I can hear the proceedings, and I am alone in this room.

Alderwoman Kelly

I am here, I am alone and I can hear everyone.

Alderman Dowd

I am present, I can hear the proceedings and I am alone.

Alderman Caron

I am here, I can hear everything and I am alone.

Alderman Clemons

I am here, I am by myself and I can hear everyone.

Alderman Lopez

I am here, I am by myself and I can see the proceedings.

Alderman Tencza

I am present, I am by myself and I can hear everyone.

Alderwoman Lu

I am here alone and I can hear the proceedings.

Alderman Jette

I am here alone and I can hear the proceedings.

Alderman Schmidt

I am present, alone and can hear everyone.

Alderman Laws

I am here, I am alone and I can hear everyone.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

I am present, I can hear everyone and I am alone.

President Wilshire

I am here, I am alone and I can hear everyone.

Susan Lovering, City Clerk

You have 14 in attendance.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Also in attendance is Mayor Donchess and Corporation Counsel Steve Bolton. Does the Mayor wish to address the Board this evening?

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

Yes, thanks Madam President. Well it is good to see you all once again. First I wanted to mention the City's effort to eradicate the pandemic; numbers have gone down recently which is, of course, very good news. You might remember that 2 or 3 months ago we had almost 600 active and identified cases of COVID-19. As of yesterday, that number was 86, so it is down considerably. Of course, we know that we need to continue to be careful with wearing masks and social distancing, avoiding large gatherings, but people are beginning to get vaccinated. Our Public Health Department, which has been allocated some doses to reach the inner City and other populations, minority populations that are more difficult to get to, to engage with vaccinations. They have vaccinated over 1,100 people. And, of course, the State is running its site out of Nashua South vaccinating people every day. So that seems to be going pretty well.

We do have a grant for First Reading on the Agenda. That is a \$1.5 million dollar grant to assist the State with their vaccine efforts. The way that money needs to be used is it will pay for overtime for First Responders, Police Officers and Fire Fighters who will be at the vaccination sites in assisting the State in running those sites. When that occurs, the City will be reimbursed through this grant for the overtime required. So that is good and I am sure will help to keep the sites running well and reimburse the City for the overtime costs that we incur.

A couple of other items on the Agenda, Madam President, we, of course, have the outdoor dining extension for this year which will, once enacted by the Board, be implemented pursuant to the detailed plan that you see attached to the Resolution; that has been reviewed by the Committee. In addition, we have a proposal that we are making to rename the Broad Street Parkway, rename that Veteran's Drive, because as you have seen, I'm sure all of you, that over the past season we erected banners for about 30 veterans, families pay for these banners and then we put them up on the light poles and as you go down the parkway, you can see the photos, the likenesses of veterans of Nashua and other families. So that seemed to go very well and was a good way to honor many of our veterans. So we are proposing to rename the Broad Street Parkway, Veteran's Parkway.

Madam President, there is something regarding the BIDA the creation of an Expendable Trust Fund for the BIDA. There has been a lot of discussion about that over the last couple of days. The Resolution itself does not allocate any money at this point and that is not required to have a valid Expendable Trust Fund and that you will hear from the Legal Department. The issue of whether money should be allocated into it was discussed with the BIDA way pre-COVID, a couple of years ago because we anticipate, the money is not here yet, but that when the second phase of the Renaissance Development begins, when the closing occurs, the City will realize funds from the sale of the second parcel of land. That sale and development is required by the development agreement that was signed by the City 10 years ago or maybe even more. But when those funds arrive, some of it, the BIDA would like to use some of it to develop to try to bring about other economic development projects. That could be possible and it is something that we discussed with the BIDA as I said, maybe a couple of years ago, definitely pre-COVID. In terms of how much money might be allocated in that direction and how it would be used, that could be discussed in detail when an appropriation is actually proposed.

A couple of other items, Madam President, first I wanted to congratulate you; there was a really nice article on the Nashua Children's Home in the Union Leader. I thought, of course, they told just part of the story of all the good work that is done there and has been done for 100 years or more. And finally, I have some sad news to report which came via Alderman Lopez which is that the mother of Sandy Belknap, Catherine Belknap passed away I think yesterday, very recently. That is, of course, sad because Sandra and Catherine have had many people over

for their porch parties, introducing their neighbors to candidates and office holders. Sandra has also been very active in the City, Planning Board member, an advocate for the neighborhood. She keeps a beautiful, beautiful garden. But she is active in the Arts and just in many ways as contributed to Nashua so it is very sad that her mother Catherine passed away and I'd like to extend my condolences to Sandra and all the rest of the family.

That's all I have Madam President, unless there are questions.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR

Alderman Lopez

Yeah just two things. First, just an observation in talking to DPW about the upcoming changes it was a little confusing at first, but we have a Veteran's Drive next to the Nashua Guard and we want to change the Parkway to Veteran's Parkway so we have to change one of them to Veteran's Parkway and one from Veteran's Drive to something else, otherwise we end up with two streets with practically the same name which is confusing.

And then the second thing was a question to the Mayor, in that there is funding to reimburse for overtime, is there any chance that funding could be used towards pensions since pensions are calculated based on overtime and annual projections or is that just wishful thinking.

Mayor Donchess

Well we can check that out, certainly not any pensions beyond those hours expended. But we will check that out.

Alderman Lopez

OK thanks.

RECOGNITION PERIOD - None

READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the minutes of the regular Board of Aldermen meeting of February 23, 2021, and Special Board of Aldermen meetings of February 24, 2021 and March 1, 2021 be accepted, placed on file, and the readings suspended.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING ONLY PROCEDURAL ACTIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS

From: Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development
Re: Status Update on Performing Arts Center Project 02-24-21

From: Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development
Re: General Status Update on Mohawk Tannery

From: Daniel Donovan, Chief Operating Officer – Nashua School District
Re: One Time Budget Funds FY21

From: Matt Sullivan, Planning Department Manager, Capital Improvements Committee (CIC) Secretary
Re: FY2022 Capital Improvements Program

From: Matt Sullivan, Planning Department Manager
Re: Referral from the Board of Aldermen on proposed O-21-048, amending the Residential Districts Ordinance (190-17) with respect to residential driveways

From: Matt Sullivan, Planning Department Manager
Re: Referral from the Board of Aldermen on proposed O-21-049, amending the Conservation Subdivision Supplemental Use Regulations (190-40) (Conservation Commission recommendation)

From: Matt Sullivan, Planning Department Manager
Re: Referral from the Board of Aldermen on proposed O-21-049, amending the Conservation Subdivision Supplemental Use Regulations (190-40) (Planning Board recommendation)

From: Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager
Re: Communication Received from the Public

From: Lori Wilshire, President Board of Aldermen
Re: Calling a Special Meeting of the Board of Aldermen on March 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. for an Update on the Mohawk Tannery

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the communications and placed them on file.

From: Len Fournier, Superintendent Woodlawn/Pinewood Cemeteries
Re: Joint Convention with Woodlawn/Pinewood Cemeteries Board of Trustees

From: Linda Laflamme, Chairman Board of Library Trustees
Re: Joint Convention with Board of Library Trustees

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the communications, placed them on file, and scheduled Joint Conventions with the Woodlawn/Pinewood Cemeteries Board of Trustees and the Board of Library Trustees on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom teleconference meeting.

President Wilshire

Just for the record I just want to show that Alderman Cleaver joined us at 7:43.

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

President Wilshire

If there's anyone in the public could you raise your hand in the chat? Derek Anderson?

Derek Anderson Thank you Madam President. My name is Derek Anderson, I am the owner of Wingate's Pharmacy at 129 Main Street. I wanted to discuss this evening the proposed expanded dining. I think that was a good hit last year. The restaurants certainly needed our assistance, the downtown landscape I don't think could maintain its intrigue if we lost restaurants last year. I think we are still in a period, even with the decreasing numbers so rapidly, that they still need assistance in the interim. However I don't believe we should have the Ordinance stating that this would end in November. Most likely many of the restrictions will be lifted well before then and I believe that once those restrictions on inside dining capacity are lifted, that the barriers should be removed and all businesses would have equal access to their customers.

We have found it very difficult for our patrons to find parking and to get into our pharmacy. Most pharmacy patrons are in and out within 5 or 10 minutes at least at our store and they are less willing to try to drive around the side streets and to find garages or other suitable parking just so they could finally get back to the pharmacy and get in and out of it. I sent everyone a letter that was signed by 5 of us retailers on our particular block. That was Camaraderie, Cardin's Jeweler, Sue at Chuck's Barbershop and the Boost Mobile folks, along with myself and we all agreed that we are definitely supportive of the restaurants at this time but if you could please amend the end period from November to at which point the Governor lifts restrictions on indoor dining.

I think, in the future, we would love to be part of a scenario where we would have permanently expanded café or dining area on Main Street. I think people really liked having less travel lanes that it made it a quieter atmosphere, less traffic somewhat and that would be a great way to build out downtown Nashua with our new Performing Arts Studio. I think if we cut down the travel lanes, expanded the sidewalks, you would create very large areas for dining and you would still allow on-street parking access for the retailers. Thank you, Madam President.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Anyone else wishing to give public comment. I am not seeing anyone, we are going to move on.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING FINAL APPROVAL

From: Mayor Jim Donchess

Re: Multi-Year Contract Award – 3-Year Software Maintenance for Logic Monitor

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND APPROVE THE 3-YEAR RENEWAL REQUIRED FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF LOGICMONITOR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,860 ANNUALLY FOR 3 YEARS FOR A TOTAL OF \$14,580. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 122 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY; FUND: GENERAL FUND – SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE - PRIOR YEAR ENCUMBRANCE, BY ROLL CALL.

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	15
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Nay:	0
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MOTION CARRIED

PETITIONS - None

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS – None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Budget Review Committee..... 02/22/2021

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the February 22, 2021 Budget Review Committee is accepted and placed on file.

Committee on Infrastructure..... 02/24/2021

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the February 24, 2021 Committee on Infrastructure is accepted and placed on file.

Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee..... 03/01/2021

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the March 1, 2021 Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee is accepted and placed on file.

Finance Committee..... 03/03/2021

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the March 3, 2021 Finance Committee accepted and placed on file.

Planning and Economic Development Committee..... 03/04/2021

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the March 4, 2021 Planning and Economic Development Committee accepted and placed on file.

CONFIRMATION OF BOARD OF ALDERMEN'S APPOINTMENTS

Citizens Advisory Commission

There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the reappointment of Jennifer Bishop-Saucier, 359B Main Street, Nashua, to the Citizens Advisory Commission with a term to expire October 1, 2023.

Oath of Office to be administered at a later date.

Conservation Commission

There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the following appointments to the Conservation Commission: from alternate to member position - Carol Sarno, 15 Rocky Hill Road Nashua, and new appointed alternate - Jedidiah Crook, 52 King Street, Nashua, both with terms to expire December 31, 2023.

Oaths of Office administered by Corporation Counsel.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-21-115

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien, Sr.
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman Jan Schmidt

APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF SIDEBAR AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE NASHUA POLICE COMMISSION AND THE NASHUA POLICE PATROLMAN’S ASSOCIATION AND THE NASHUA POLICE COMMISSION AND THE NASHUA POLICE SUPERVISOR’S ASSOCIATION REGARDING MILITARY LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-21-115, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Dowd

I’d like to speak it.

President Wilshire

Alderman Dowd.

Alderman Dowd

Yes, this is a sidebar agreement with a contract to allow the handling of when a Police Officer gets called to serve in the military and it is very similar to one that is present in the contract for the Firemen.

President Wilshire

Any discussion for the motion for final passage? Seeing none, would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman O’Brien, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	15
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-21-115 declared duly adopted.

R-21-116

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Lori Wilshire

ESTABLISHING AN EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-21-116, BY ROLL CALLON THE QUESTIONAlderman Schmidt

And I'd like to speak the Resolution.

President Wilshire

Alderman Schmidt?

Alderman Schmidt

Thank you. The Mayor was talking earlier about when the Business Industrial Development Authority had first started this project. The Bridge Street Water Front Development Preferred Development Agreement for sale of land and private development was dated May 21, 2009. That's how long they have been working on building out this corner of Nashua. I just wanted to say that I have been working with them for a couple of terms and I know that now they've finished that project they are ready to get started on something new. So I hope everyone will join me in accepting this Resolution. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Anyone else; the motion is for final passage of Resolution 21-116. Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Thank you, Madam President. So we had a discussion about this at the Budget Review Committee Meeting and I reminded my fellow committee members that this project, this is called the Renaissance Apartments I think, I'm not sure exactly the name, but it is the area along Bridge Street between the river and the Amory Street, the area of Sanders Street area. And originally the developer anticipated being able to acquire some additional land owned by another land owner and that deal never came through. So the developer felt that in order to make this whole project viable for his purposes, they needed to be able to develop additional housing and be able to sell more, either sell or rent more units.

Originally there's a lot that used to be owned by John Mansville that is on the corner of Bridge and Sanders Streets. Originally the developer was going to develop that as a recreational lot or maybe a soccer field or something similar. And when he couldn't acquire the additional land that he anticipated, a proposal was made to acquire that land and the land across Sanders Street that was owned by the City to be able to build additional housing on those parcels and part of the agreement was the developer would pay the City \$775,000.00 in lieu of developing that athletic field. So when this was brought before us, you know this change

in the plan was brought before us, it was made clear I thought that the money, the \$775,000.00 would be used to either provide some additional recreational facilities in that area. There's a lot of development occurring and being planned in that area so there's a lot more units, a lot more people are going to be there. The need for recreation is going to continue.

So now this resolution which is primarily to establish an Expendable Trust Fund to provide funds to the Business & Industrial Development Authority for future development is fine but it has an additional paragraph saying, "It is the intention of this Board that after closing, \$250,000.00 from the sale of land on Bridge Street and Sanders Street will be appropriated into this Expendable Trust Fund via a Supplement Appropriation Resolution". Now during the Committee Hearing, I thought it was clear that the primary purpose is to establish this Expendable Trust Fund and it was stated that the ... designating the \$250,000.00 from the sale of this land was not binding. It was just to identify some source of funds, and the exact source of the funds and the exact amount would be subject to further Resolution.

I felt that the designated, you know, taking \$250,000.00 from the \$775,000.00 is contrary to what the intention was, that that money be used for recreational purposes. I happen to notice that the Capital Improvements Committee just came out with a report. One of their priorities in the A Listing is developing, expressing the need for additional soccer fields or at least time on soccer fields and they have designated a project at Mine Falls, the soccer fields at Mine Falls converting them from a natural surface to an artificial surface which would enable those fields to withstand much more intensive use and perhaps put up lights that would allow nighttime use. Coincidentally the price tag on that project is \$770,000.00. I have talked to the Mayor about this and he said that the \$770,000.00 is probably low; they probably need more money than that. But the \$775,000.00 from this sale of the Bridge Street / Sanders Street Lot would go a long way in paying for that project, which has been identified as a priority by the Capital Improvements Committee.

So during the Committee Hearing it was expressed by several people that this \$250,000.00 was just – fulfilled the requirement that in order to establish an Expendable Trust Fund, we had to identify the intended source of the funding. It is not binding, but we had to at least identify the possible source of it. Since that meeting, the Legal Department, and Attorney Bolton can confirm this, the Legal Department confirmed that, in fact, that is not necessary to establish this Expendable Trust Fund. We don't have to identify the possible source of the funding, how much the funding will be and where it will come from is subject to determination by future Resolution, ideally part of the Budget Process. So the Legal Department advised me that removing that second paragraph which identifies states the \$250,000.00 would come from the sale of this Bridge Street / Sanders Street Lot is not, in fact, necessary. We can establish the Expendable Trust Fund without endangering the \$775,000.00 which was intended for recreational purposes.

I would like to make a motion that second paragraph in the Resolution be struck so that the Resolution would not contain that second paragraph, it would just contain the authorization for the Expendable Trust Fund. Through you, Madam President, I'd like to ask Attorney Bolton whether or not what I said is true about it not being necessary to have that identified in this Resolution.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN JETTE TO STRIKE THE SECOND PARAGRAPH BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

President Wilshire

Attorney Bolton?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Yeah that's entirely accurate, there is no need for that second paragraph as far as legal requirements go. It can be left in or it can be taken out as the Board wishes.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Alderman Jette are you all set.

Alderman Jette

I am. So is it clear that I've made the motion to strike that second paragraph?

President Wilshire

Yes.

Alderman Jette

Yes.

President Wilshire

Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

Thank you. So I want to begin by saying I appreciate Alderman Jette bringing this up. It was a specific priority of the soccer community; they were looking forward to that original field space. And it is unfortunate that the Renaissance Downtown Program, you know, "downtown" being used loosely here as their project basically redefines where it Downtown extends to, has been scaled down over the years. They brought a lot of enthusiasm and a lot of interest from different members of the community, through their Visualize Nashua Programing and that has yielded a lot of really good development in the City that the original organization holding basically hearings, had nothing to do with it. Things like Positive Street Art, Nashua Area Kayak Exploration Destination, Row NH – those were all programs where people went to participate in the data gathering process that Renaissance Downtown was holding. Renaissance Downtown elicited all of this excitement about the opportunities that their project was going to have. There was a whole Riverfront Promenade being planned and shops all of this kind of stuff.

It was very, very – it engendered a lot of passion but I mean as we discussed in the Committee meeting last year, a lot of that is not happening. And where we were at last time was they were having trouble making the project viable because they didn't have enough square footage to squeeze all the buildings that they needed on there. And the concerns that were brought up at the Committee were that, well if you take away all the green space and just stack a bunch of buildings in there, you are creating another problem for the City where the City is going to need to come up something to do. There is, in that area, a park being planned as part of the rearranging and reorganizing of the City or of the streets to allow for the increased traffic flow. But that doesn't help the soccer community and soccer is one of those priorities that just keeps falling by the wayside for our City. We keep losing opportunities, we don't have any kind of indoor soccer field, we don't have a stadium or anything like that. It's the sport that is growing so that was a lot of what we talked about at the meeting and I appreciate Alderman Jette bringing it up.

I don't know exactly how well it will be received installing an artificial turf and lights in Mine Falls so I would love to have the Mine Falls Advisory Board's opinion on that before we get too focused on that. But I do think that the general idea of ensuring that money that comes out of the sacrifice of that property does go back into the populations that had to, you know, essentially see another amenity passed up, it is important. I think we do need to figure out more places to put soccer fields. I think we do need to ensure that with all the development we are doing and I appreciate the Mayor focusing so much on housing, making sure that we are also providing quality there. Because if kids are going to grow up in that area or adults are going to need to blow off steam, then we need to have healthy ways for them to do it. And if it is going to be considered part of Nashua's future downtown, it needs to look like a future downtown and not just tenement housing.

So I am glad to see, as Alderman Schmidt brought up, the project arching towards completion after its 11 year history. And I think Alderman Jette does bring up a great point in putting forward this amendment and I would like to explore further how we directly apply that in a way that is most responsible to taxpayers.

President Wilshire

Thank you, anyone else? On the motion to amend? Alderman O'Brien.

Alderman O'Brien

I do have – just on the question is this just taking questions on the amendment right now?

President Wilshire

No.

Alderman O'Brien

Ok, thank you, Madam President. I would just like to say that although I would like to go and support the soccer community which I do and I will support this. I was never, from the very beginning, very comfortable with soccer fields over a particular brown field. I know it's very limited but John Mansfield did manufacture asbestos, there is asbestos on-site, it is a brown field and I know in Ward 9 we do have some areas that are encapsulated, that it taken care of. We do have to maintain that so I am glad we are avoiding putting a field where children would use over a brown field.

But I would also want to do due diligence and say when we are looking at money such as this, everybody in the City all your Wards, Park & Recreation has taken care of your individual parks. There is one remaining at that is St. Andrew's Field in Ward 9. And I am sure I share the stage with my fellow compadre from Ward 9, Representative Harriott-Gathright that I do hope as we move on in the future, that we do not forget St. Andrew's Field, the one and the only remaining park that has not been rejuvenated. So thank you, Madam President.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

And I agree because when Nick left ...

(Interference / Overlapping Conversation)

President Wilshire

Alright one at a time, please.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Sorry.

President Wilshire

Alderman Clemons?

(Interference audio in the background)

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, Madam President. I have a couple of questions through you to Corporation Counsel if I might.

President Wilshire

Sure.

Alderman Clemons

My first question is does leaving – so on this question if we were to leave the paragraph that we are being asked to strike in through the Resolution, does that somehow tie that money up or does it somehow fund this account in any way.

Attorney Bolton

No. It is just a mere statement of what might happen in the future, what you intend to happen in the future at this moment in time. But that could change as the will of the Board changes. So it is completely non-binding.

Alderman Clemons

And so if I could follow up, so that means that we do not have to remove this paragraph, in other words, to ensure that the \$775,000.00 that is being discussed, that money is not in jeopardy in other words, whether or not we take this money out, or take this paragraph out or not.

Attorney Bolton

You can take it out, you can leave it in, as a practical matter it has not impact at all.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, it's a moot point. I appreciate it. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderman Gathright? No? OK. Alright anyone else?

Alderman Lu

Yes.

President Wilshire

Alderman Lu.

Alderman Lu

Thank you. Through you to Corporation Counsel, at the last meeting that this was discussed I wondered if there was something about opening an Expendable Trust Fund, I believe that is what this is and leaving it unfunded that is prohibited. If we establish this, is there a timeframe in which it must be funded in some way?

Attorney Bolton

No.

Alderwoman Lu

Alright. Ok that whole thing was irrelevant. So the only thing, thank you for that answer, my only feeling, you know, what Alderman Jette is saying makes sense to me. It doesn't seem, I don't know why we would leave something in there just so that we don't have to bother taking it out. I mean it should reflect our intentions. So if you want to leave it in there, if we do choose to leave it in there, then to anyone watching, it would send a message that is our intention. I think that whatever the Board's intention is should be reflected in our decision of whether or not to eliminate. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? So we have a motion to amend by striking the second paragraph from Resolution 21-116. Is there discussion on that? Seeing none, would the Clerk please call the roll on the amendment?

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Laws, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	12
Nay: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Cleaver	3

MOTION CARRIEDPresident Wilshire

The motion before us now, Alderman Schmidt?

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-21-116 AS AMENDED BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	15
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-21-116 declared duly adopted as amended.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-21-045

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Patricia Klee

AMENDING THE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION ORDINANCES AND INCREASING THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT FEES

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEAVER FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-21-045, BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	15
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-21-045 declared duly adopted.

O-21-046

Endorsers: Alderman Ernest Jette
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu

CHANGING THE STARTING TIME OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KELLY FOR INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT OF O-21-046, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

President Wilshire

Anyone?

Alderwoman Lu

I do have a question.

President Wilshire

Alderman Lu.

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. So whether we indefinitely postpone or we vote to nay, if the nay wins, or rather whether we take a vote and it loses and it does not pass, or if we move for an indefinite postponement and that passes, in either case the prohibition against bringing it up again is only for this session of our Board, is that correct?

President Wilshire

Yes.

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you.

Attorney Bolton

Well, no.

President Wilshire

Well no? OK.

Attorney Bolton

If a motion were made for passage and it failed, the Resolution would still be before the Board, it could be amended, it could be tabled, it could be referred to Committee or it could then be indefinitely postponed or rejected. If a motion to reject it were to pass, it would be rejected and then for the remainder of this term your rules say the same Resolution cannot be reintroduced. That is also true if the motion were to Indefinitely Postpone. If that were to pass your rules would prohibit the same Resolution from being reintroduced this term. Now what is the "same" is largely flexible and within the Board's control. So if it gets Indefinitely Postponed this evening and someone at some later time wants to change it to 7:02 as a starting time, presumably that could be introduced.

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you, I apologize, I know that this has been discussed and I didn't remember that fine detail. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you. The motion before us is for Indefinite Postponement, Further discussion on that motion? Seeing none would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	14
Nay: Alderman Clemons	1

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-21-046 declared indefinitely postponed.

O-21-047

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

TEMPORARILY CHANGING THE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS FUNDING PLAN

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-21-047, BY ROLL CALLON THE QUESTIONPresident Wilshire

The motion is for final passage. Discussion on that motion? Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Yes, thank you Madam President. I am a little uncomfortable with this and I'll explain why. We have been told many times by the Mayor that our Budget for this coming year is going to be very difficult. We are level-funding all of the Departments except schools are being allowed a very small increase. I am sure you all realize that we have approved employment contracts, union contracts that allow for employees to get raises, deservedly so. Some more than others. But those are in effect. So all of these Departments, all of our Departments are going to have to find ways, their payroll budgets are going up and so that means, so level-funding means they can't propose a budget increase more than what we allow them for last year for this current year. So they have to find ways in order to meet their obligations to satisfy the amount that they have to pay employees, they have to look at where they can cut in other places.

So it is a very, very difficult thing and we on the Budget Review Committee at first and then the Full Board, we are going to have to make some very tough decisions about how we are going to be able to come up with this Budget for next year. This proposal made by Alderman Clemons, I think has good intentions. Because the Downtown Improvements Committee is funded by a surplus of funds from revenue from the Parking Department. Last year because of COVID, fewer people coming downtown to park, also because of the barriers that we put up, there were fewer metered parking spaces to gather revenue. So the excess amount that funds the Downtown Improvement Committee, you know, we never got high enough to give them that surplus. So Alderman Clemons is concerned about the Downtown Improvement Committee having a source of funds to do the work that it does.

Now during the Committee meeting, the people from the Downtown Improvement Committee told us that they have, I think it was \$174,000.00 in the bank, in their budget that is available to them. As the Ordinance reads, I think it's clear that they can't spend money without the approval of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen, but they've got \$174,000.00 there. So it's not like they have nothing and because of COVID some of the programs that they normally sponsor didn't occur and so I know that Alderman Clemons wants to make sure that when the COVID crisis passes and the restrictions are lifted that the downtown will be able to get up and running as soon as possible and as well as possible. And I appreciate that.

But what we are doing, I think, and the more I thought about this, I realize at least in my opinion, what we are doing is we are dedicating \$100,000.00 from the Budget, this isn't coming from excess parking revenue, if we do have excess parking revenue it'll help us afford to pay this, but if we don't it is \$100,000.00 that we are going to have to find somewhere else in the Budget. As much as I support the Downtown Improvements Committee, you know, we've been spending a lot of money on downtown and I am thinking about all of the other things that are going to be competing for scarce resources for this coming Budget Year.

Personally I think that it would be better for us, as we go through the Budget Review Process, there are a lot of worthwhile projects; downtown is one of them. But there are a lot of others that are also competing with those limited funds. And as we look at the Budget, as we make decisions about what we are going to fund and what we are not going to fund, I think everybody ought to be competing on a level playing field and I don't think that we ought to be taking \$100,000.00 out of context and dedicating it to the Downtown Improvement Committee and then we have to cut something else, somewhere else.

I think all of these projects ought to be on a level playing field, they ought to compete fairly and if we decide, yes we need to spend \$100,000.00 on the Downtown Improvement Committee we can do that. But if we decide we can't afford it this year, we can decide not to do that. So I am in the uncomfortable position of saying that I think we are ahead of the game here. We are making a decision about allocating money from next year's Budget without considering all the other things that may need it. So for those reasons I am going to vote against this.

President Wilshire

OK, Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, Madam President. So I actually agree with what Alderman Jette was just saying, which is the reason why the Ordinance is written so that it doesn't take any money from this year's budget, it takes money from the 2022 budget of July that year. What this Ordinance does is it takes a calculated sum of \$100,000.00 in parking revenue and it puts that as an earmark towards the Budget in 2022, not the Budget that is coming up in this July. So the reason for that being, is that because the Downtown Improvement Committee does have a substantial sum in there, my hope is that we can get to do some of the festivals and things, especially within light of the fact that the vaccine roll out is going much faster than expected. The CDC is probably going to update guidelines to say that once most people are vaccinated we will be able to resume life as it was. At least that's the hope anyway; I hope we can get there.

So with that being said, there's some opportunities there hopefully this summer and certainly in the fall to do things like the Holiday Stroll and some other music festivals and things like that. The Downtown Improvement Committee has plenty of money in there to do those things right now. So we don't need to fund the Downtown Improvement Committee this year because they do have a substantial fund and they were able to save that money by not being able to do those things last year. So with that being said, the goal here is to ensure that we are putting out the barriers, at least I assume we are going to do that. That parking revenue is going to be reduced again this year so looking ahead into the future knowing that this parking revenue is going to be reduced, this is basically forecasting that out and making sure that the allocation will be there for the 2022 Budget.

And I did have a conversation with the Mayor about this and he did indicate his support for it as well as the cosponsors on the Legislation. I think it's a prudent move on our part to ensure that regardless of what happens this year, we will make sure that in the 2022 Budget there will be money for the Downtown Improvement Committee. And then going forward, as also part of this, is the parking study which has been mentioned before. Director Cummings is going to put into the parking study a plan to ensure that looking at the barriers and how a reduced lane Main Street, a two-way Main Street if you will, one in each direction might have on parking. So what that will do is enable us to look at do we need to adjust the parking revenue in 2022? And the way that we collect parking money, we can study the fact that is this the best way going forward, if we are going to continue to reduce the lanes on Main Street, maybe even make that a permanent thing someday, how are we going to recapture the money that the Downtown Improvement Committee gets traditionally?

So we will be able to study that between now and really 2023 and get a plan in place that will then produce, hopefully a new way of the Downtown Improvement Committee getting funding. So this is just the start of a new downtown and a new way to approach how we are going to fund this Committee. But essentially what it does is it just makes sure that the funding source is going to be there in July of 2022. So I am happy to take other questions. But I do hope that I can get the support of my colleagues. So thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

I have a question for Attorney Bolton if I can ask through the Chair?

President Wilshire

Sure.

Alderman Lopez

If we pass this and we think it's a good idea now and then things start to look not-so-good next year, say in February or January, can we un-pass it?

Attorney Bolton

You can introduce another Ordinance to change the numbers, delete the numbers, decrease/increase, develop a whole new formula. It remains within the Board's ability to adjust.

Alderman Lopez

Ok then I mean for my part as Alderman of Ward 4 and definitely a utilizer of the downtown services, I see what Alderman Clemons is trying to do. I appreciate what Alderman Jette is bringing up and I think it is important that we don't necessarily earmark special projects when we know we are going to have make some difficult decisions as Aldermen coming up. But this doesn't sound like that's doing it, it sounds like we are presenting faith in our downtown. We are giving them a little bit of courage, I guess, to be able to invest a little bit more readily and aggressively in the events and activities as it becomes safe for them to do so.

I think that's going to be very important for Nashua's morale. I think a lot of times people look at the downtown area as competing in need with other areas of the City, maybe. It is our storefront, it's where people see Nashua as the center of Nashua; that's what a downtown is. I would say, in practice, no not everybody downtown is living riches, we have some of the poorest census tracks in the country, adjacent to downtown. So there's definitely benefit in investing in that area for the people living in that area and for the businesses that basically telegraph to the rest of the region, whether it is good to business in Nashua or not. So I think I am going to support alderman Clemons' motion while expressing appreciation for Alderman Jette.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam Chairwoman. I am going to echo what Alderman Lopez said. I don't truly disagree with what Alderman Jette said but one of the things that we have been trying to do is bolster the downtown and we have been a lot of projects to it. I am a firm believer that our downtown is the heart of our City. It is not all of the City but it is the heart of the City.

So I do agree with Alderman Clemons putting it off to the 2022 and towards the end there in making sure we have this and knowing we can change it if we want to. I think it's a good idea to have this intent. The Downtown Improvement Committee has supported different types of ideas that have come up at the last moment when the City doesn't have to necessarily put money out for it. They have been there to support downtown; they don't just make it look pretty. They are there to help. And they have been so supportive to businesses, to everything else like that. I think we need to show our support and yes, whether we are going to pass this or not with the barriers, or whether we are going to do this as a future endeavor every year. It is something that we know is going to be hitting those parking meters. So I think we need to have some sort of alternative plan and if we don't need it at the last minute, so I too will be supporting this. And I have been supporting this Ordinance as a co-sponsor. I think it's a good idea and it is well planning for the future. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Madam President. I too, I appreciate the comments and well thought process of Alderman Jette, but I am also very proud to sponsor this bill with Alderman Clemons and, of course, I am definitely going to support it. I want to have the public remember exactly next Tuesday is when the Governor came out with his Proclamation that basically shut down the United States to some degree because of COVID. We took very radical measures, the thing is – look what we did as far as putting the barriers up and extenuating the outside dining to meet the safety needs, yet trying to do something to keep our businesses downtown vibrant. And it has worked. It has worked. I think every single Alderman should take their hand and stretch it out and pat themselves on the back. We did a very good job with that. We even beat Manchester, which sometimes can be difficult but anytime we can pull the wool over those guys, I like it, you know?

But the thing is it is the radical thinking or the out-of-the-box thinking that has been done by this Board and although I take into account Alderman Jette's, I am a proud sponsor. I hope everybody passes this because this is part of the piece of the puzzle to help us get through to 2022. 2020 I am writing off the books, 2021 let's get by this folks and let's march on a try to make the City better. Thank you, Madam President.

President Wilshire

You're welcome. Anyone else? Alderwoman Lu.

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you, Madam President. I think that Alderman Laws is the liaison with the Downtown Improvement Committee. I wonder if he or Alderman Clemons can tell us how much typically the Downtown Improvement Committee get into their coffer per year under ordinary circumstances.

President Wilshire

Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

I would say, I don't have the exact figure, but on average it is about \$100,000.00. In year's past, it has been as low as \$60,000.00; in other years it has been as high as \$140,000.00. It depends on how much traffic there is downtown and that kind of thing and how much revenue we are collecting, but I don't have an answer to that. Maybe Alderwoman does because her hand is up. But it is approximately \$100,000.00.

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. I have a follow up but if Alderwoman Kelly has an answer to that question, I don't know or I will just finish my follow.

Alderwoman Kelly

Finish your follow up; I don't have an answer. I have another question.

Alderwoman Lu

Ok. If we were an organization that was printing money like the Federal Government then I could understand us trying to be supportive in this time but all we are doing is adjusting to reduced revenues all around, and increased costs. It seems to me that the Downtown Improvement Committee has a good chunk of money there and rather than go ahead and say let's decide what's going to happen in 2022 now, I agree with Alderman Jette that I don't feel it is my place to be choosing the winners and the losers and these are taxpayers whose money this is and I don't think I can support this. Thank you.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. It's funny that Alderman Clemons thought I had the answer when I actually was going to ask another question, because I believe actually this Committee is the result of a Committee that Alderman Clemons put together a number of years ago. My question was actually, I have only been tangentially involved in sort of what happens with the Downtown Improvement Committee. I do appreciate all the people who are on that Committee and the work that they do in the downtown; I am a downtown business owner myself. But I was just interested if anyone, anyone on the Board has kind of a take list of some of the things that they have invested in over the years with this money?

President Wilshire

Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. Yeah I can let you know. So basically they have done all of the, they have funded all of the studies for the Performing Arts Center. They have done the pay and displays, we've done, I am trying to think what the Downtown Improvement Committee over the years, several festivals that have occurred, some of them on a recurring basis. They have put money towards the Holiday Stroll in years and I am trying to think, and I think they want to do the lights this year to see if we can reconfigure the lights on Main Street. So those are, you know, those are some of the things that get done. I know quite a bit of the money for the sidewalk improvements went from the Committee. So it has been things like that, between infrastructure projects and events that have been really the – what has the money been spent on over the years.

Alderwoman Kelly

If I could follow up, please?

President Wilshire

Alderwoman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

OK, thank you. And thank you for that Alderman Clemons I thought it would just be a good thing for everyone to hear what they've been up to. I think sometimes that gets fallen by the wayside. I am going to support this. Obviously I think that our downtown is really becoming quite a draw and I think our Performing Arts Center has started. If you go downtown, not everybody is downtown every day like I am but you are starting to see that and I think the work that we did last summer with the expanded dining really just started to make Nashua a place that people wanted to come and be outside. I am really excited about the Jersey Barriers. So I am grateful for everybody who is kind of working together to improve sort of everything that is happening in our downtown. So thanks for bringing this forward.

President Wilshire

Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you for allowing me to speak again. If I am not mistaken the Downtown Improvement Committee funds a little bit beyond the Main Street of downtown. I believe that they are also assisting in the Dog Park Feasibility Study that's off Mine Falls area right there. And that's to help the people who are living downtown as well as the City in general. Whether this goes through, I believe it will, I am alternate on the (inaudible); Alderman Lopez is the actual person on that. But it's a good project for the City so they think outside of directly on Main Street. And I think they do a lot of good for the City and I think we need to keep them in mind. I see that Alderman Lopez unmuted himself, so he probably wants to add.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

I felt like I should wait to be called on sorry. So I mean for me the biggest thing that the Downtown Improvement Committee does that makes an impact in terms of improvement is that they do Christmas Lights every year. And then they also do the storefront decoration for what would be empty, abandoned storefronts so that downtown has some continuity to it and some character. With respect to what Alderman O'Brien said earlier, I cannot pat myself on the back for how we've done, because I'd sprain my back.

But I do think that we should continue the trend of seeing how things are unfolding down the road and trying to be proactive and saying, ok look, we need to be adaptable to this and we need to recognize where there is opportunities and where there are threats. I think this is an opportunity because we do need to make sure that we are resolving the threat of COVID-19 and that Public Health is getting the support that it needs and even this upcoming St. Patrick's Day, this downtown parking and outdoor dining and everything – the reason we are redefining what downtown looks like in the first place is because there was a threat but there's also opportunity to see how we can make downtown more vibrant and more effective. And turning things like a Global Disaster into an opportunity for people to celebrate safely and enrich and enliven businesses I think is a great policy. I understand the concept of printing money and using taxpayer money wisely; I have some misgivings about how they do that at the Federal Level too. But you can't print money and be misusing tax money. Like either there is the money there to spend or there isn't. In this particular case this is making a plan, it is a plan that we can modify or change prior to our next Budget Season if we need to.

But it is making that plan and that commitment so that when downtown does start to move towards reopening and when people are going to be having to make some last minute investments in those events, because you are not going to have the normal planning timeframe for some of these events. We are very much going to want to be ready to go. This is a way of putting the resources that we have on the table for this year by

ensuring that we will continue to make it a priority next year. So I see nothing but strengths in all of this and I think if we don't move forward on this, we are going to regret the opportunities we are missing.

President Wilshire

Is there anyone else? Alderman Laws?

Alderman Laws

Thank you. I'll be very brief. I just also wanted to point out while I was the liaison to the Downtown Improvements Committee, they have that wonderful Wayfinding Package, the signage that we have downtown, and then all of the permanent up lighting that is on Main Street right now were big projects. And then the signage that goes on the light posts on the Broad Street Parkway and down Main Street. I just want to give them credit for that. Thank you very much.

President Wilshire

Thank you Alderman Laws. Anyone else? Seeing no one, would the Clerk please call the roll? The motion is for final passage of Ordinance 20-047.

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	13
Nay: Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette	2

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-21-047 declared duly adopted.

O-21-048, Amended

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Linda Harriot-Gathright

AMENDING THE RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS ORDINANCE WITH RESPECT TO RESIDENTIAL DRIVEWAYS

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TENCZA TO AMEND O-21-048 BY REPLACING IT WITH THE GOLDENROD COPY OF AMENDMENTS MADE AT THE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Tencza

Madam President, I am happy to explain the amendments that are being made.

President Wilshire

Please do.

Alderman Tencza

Thank you. Madam President, the overall purpose of this Ordinance is to basically clarify and consolidate some of the different provisions regarding driveways from various different parts of Land Use Code and the DPW Code that they use, which is what it does. In doing that, in putting this together, there was one paragraph #4 of the original ordinance which dealt with basically the ends of the driveways and how they were going to be measured. It appeared that there was some conflicting information between the different areas as to how that should be handled. So rather than try to explain it all in this Ordinance, Paragraph 4 has just been stricken and the rest of the provisions of the Ordinance have remained the same.

President Wilshire

Thank you, Alderman Tencza. Motion is to amend Resolution 21-048 by replacing it with the Golden Rod Copy of amendments made at the PEDC Committee by roll call. Any further discussion on that, the motion to amend.

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	15
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TENCZA FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-21-048 AS AMENDED, BY ROLL CALL**

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	15
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-21-048 declared duly adopted as amended.

O-21-049

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess

AMENDING THE CONSERVATION SUBDIVISIONS SUPPLEMENTAL USE REGULATIONS

Given its second reading:

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LAWS FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-21-049, BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	15
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-21-049 declared duly adopted.

O-21-050

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES AND ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN ON-STREET PARKING FOR USE BY RESTAURANTS FOR OUTDOOR DINING IN 2021

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-21-050, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

President Wilshire

Discussion on that motion? Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

So Mr. Anderson did bring up a good point and this is one that we had struggled with last year even. Wingate's being a pharmacy during the day that people are able to stop and pick up goods and that kind of thing does struggle because the parking barriers have been arranged in a way that was difficult. I know that Director Cummings did work on that last year to try to make it a little bit more palatable for them. We have asked him to evaluate that plan additionally through all of the Committee meetings we have discussed. I know some other businesses have approached me with concerns, such as WineNot, when they have to compete with the bank for two spaces. I mean it would be really nice if people going to Santander Bank would park in the giant parking lot that it has, but they choose to park in front of WineNot and then not go in. So it is a struggle for businesses downtown when they lose their convenience parking.

I do think there is some merit in looking at the time frame for implementation, because I think we were using the same model as last year where we were making sure that there was maximum exposure for outdoor dining so that there would be most the safety. But I mean the vaccinations, as long as people continue moving forward with them and taking them as much as possible, as long as we build our herd immunity. As long as people make responsible decisions with the upcoming holidays, we can keep our numbers low, we can keep our systems from being in danger of being overwhelmed. We can look at how we approach this throughout the summer, we do still have the ability to change those kind of dates within a reasonable amount of time based on the contract.

I just want to make sure that it is clear that those concerns are heard and we are not just throwing away the commercial businesses in favor of the restaurant ones. There's a lot of need in the area and we kind of have to figure out how that plan is going to work out.

President Wilshire

Thank you Alderman Lopez. Anyone else? Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam President and again I want to echo what Alderman Lopez just said. I think we do need to make sure that we are taking care of those businesses. I know I have spoken to parking and so on about, well can we put someone's name on a parking space and that is against the rules. You can't designate City Parking to any one particular household or person, you can't even put a permit up there and say this is for this parking only, not when it is City Parking. I would hope that what Alderman Lopez brought up for places such as WineNot, that the residents will just go around the corner for the bank and just park in that bank because the people from WineNot cannot park in that private parking lot; they are not supposed to do that. I hope that residents will be a little bit more considerate. I know they are probably not thinking when they are just running into the bank I think they are going in real quick and out and this is a nice convenient parking spot and they are going to take it.

But again, I also believe that Director Cummings will work as much as he possibly can to try to give them as much parking as possible. Maybe we just have to tweak it a little bit more but I still think that this is a worthwhile project and I will be voting for it.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Alderman Dowd?

Alderman Dowd

Yes, I talked to Director Cummings just a couple of hours ago, three hours ago now and he is going to be calling Wingate's tomorrow and setting up a meeting with those shop owners in the area and hopefully they will have a resolution that they can all agree with and I think we will be fine.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Thank you Madam President. I think everyone or most people think that what we did last summer was a great thing, it was very helpful to the restaurants. I know a lot of people, I think it was an added bonus in that it provided us with a real time experiment on could we narrow Main Street? Could we provide for more sidewalk dining areas? Could we slow the traffic down?

Could we live with the idea of Main Street being a destination as opposed to a thoroughfare where you are trying to get from one end of Main Street to the other as fast as possible. The people who use Main Street as a thoroughfare were very frustrated because it took a lot longer to get from end to the other, but I think in many ways that's a good thing.

So generally speaking, I think this is a good thing. But we have to be sensitive to the area, the merchants who are most affected by this. We are doing this for them and we ought to listen to them when they point out problems. And I haven't heard anyone say that we shouldn't do this at all, but I've heard a lot of people say that barriers should be in a different location than where they are, there ought to be some tweaking. The next Ordinance that we are going to be dealing with the 15 minute free parking. Mr. Anderson spoke about how that affects him; he pointed out that the restaurants really don't get going until later in the afternoon and the evening, whereas the Main Street Retail Establishments are there during the day. Their customers can't – parking has been eliminated in favor of the restaurants and the restaurants are pretty much only using them at night.

I think there is some tweaking that can be done. I attended a meeting a couple of weeks ago where downtown merchants were invited to express their opinion. A lot of people said to me that they didn't know this meeting was happening. I think we have all experienced the fact that getting the word out is a very difficult thing. We oftentimes, I think we fail in letting people know that we are about to do something and giving them ample opportunity to give us some feedback. But more particularly at that meeting and I know of not only Mr. Anderson but I know other people who have tried to talk to, well they have talked to Mr. Cummings about suggestions and he has said that he welcomes their input. But this project is being put into place and I am having difficulty understanding how we are going to be moving barriers around to improve situations. Once they are in place, are we going to be able to move them around?

During our Committee hearing, the Infrastructure Committee, I think we were all, I shouldn't say that, I certainly was under the impression that changes could be made by Director Cummings and the Mayor and the City Engineer and the Fire Department, the Police Department, you know, that they could make some adjustments and stuff. But when I look at the Ordinance, the Ordinance says that we are adopting the barriers and the parking restrictions and changing the handicap parking and stuff in accordance to the plan that is submitted with the Ordinance. And the plan is basically an aerial view of Main Street and showing where the barriers are going to put, where the parking is going to be. So this Ordinance adopts that plan. The Ordinance goes on to say that upon the recommendation of the Director of Public Works and the Parking Manager, the Mayor may approve additional road closures, elimination of on-street parking and creation of handicap spaces to accommodate outdoor dining locations.

I hate to do this to Corporation Counsel, but I don't know if you have time, I tried to alert you to this earlier today but I couldn't reach you. Is that, I don't know if you have time to look at really quickly, but does that ... some of us were under the impression that this thing could be tweaked as we go along; that it was a work in process. But I look at this language and I am seeing that the plan, those aerial views showing where the barriers are, that's the plan, that is going into effect and that the Mayor can with the recommendation of the Director of Public Works and the Parking Manager, he can provide for additional road closures and eliminate additional parking spaces. But does this allow the Mayor to change the barriers, change the location of the barriers, change the location of the parking areas? If this is unfair to you, just say so, but through you, Madam President, can I ask Corporation Counsel that question? Or do we need to give the Mayor some additional authority in this Ordinance to make those changes as we experience, as the summer goes on.

Attorney Bolton

I think the short answer is that would be preferable. So maybe if you added a clause that said, "Alternatively on the recommendation of those same officials, the Mayor may adjust the location of the barriers, 15 minute pick up parking spaces, and location of handicap parking as circumstances warrant".

Alderman Jette

Madam President, could I follow up?

President Wilshire

Yes, I am sorry I was on mute, sorry.

Alderman Jette

So if we amended this, if you have it in front of you, the paragraph that says, "be it further resolved that upon recommendation of the Director of Public Works and the Parking Manager, the Mayor may approve additional road closures ..." etc. If we struck "approve additional" those two words and replaced them with "adjust as necessary" so that it would read, "Upon the recommendation of the Director of Public Works and the Parking Manager the Mayor may adjust as necessary road closures, elimination of on-street parking and creation of handicap spaces to accommodate outdoor dining locations". Would that be an acceptable ...?

Attorney Bolton

Well I think you may want to talk about adjusting the location of the barriers themselves, adjusting the 15 minute parking spaces, adjusting the handicap parking spaces, you may have said some of that. I would leave out the words "as necessary". I think you might want to say "as circumstances appear advisable" or "as circumstances appear to warrant". I'd hate to be somewhere arguing about whether it was necessary or whether it was just a good idea.

Alderman Jette

OK, I accept your recommendation. So, Madam President, could I make a motion to adopt the amendment that Attorney Bolton is proposing or the wording that Attorney Bolton has proposed?

President Wilshire

Yes. So the wording would be "to adjust as circumstances warrant". Is that what you recommended Attorney Bolton?

Attorney Bolton

I would say the location of the barriers, handicap spaces and 15 minute free parking zones as circumstances appear to warrant.

President Wilshire

Alderman Jette.

Alderman Jette

Excuse me, Madam President. So Attorney Bolton, I would like to remind you that the next Ordinance talks about the 15 minute free parking.

Attorney Bolton

That isn't in this ... if you think it is more appropriate to deal with it there, that's certainly a valid way to go.

Alderman Jette

I just wanted to point out to that there is a separate Ordinance coming up the next one that talks about the 15 minute parking.

President Wilshire

So what's your pleasure Alderman Jette?

MOTION BY ALDERMAN JETTE TO AMEND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LANGUAGE SUGGESTED BY ATTORNEY BOLTON BY ROLL CALLON THE QUESTIONAlderman Jette

And I think as long that it is clear we are adopting this plan but it does give the Mayor, upon the recommendation of the Director of Public Works and the Parking Manager the ability to make adjustments.

President Wilshire

OK, you've heard the motion. Discussion? Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam President, I'm sorry I think Alderman Lopez was first, so please let him go first and I will come after.

President Wilshire

Actually Alderman O'Brien was first and then Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

Alderman Klee, if I go before you, you're just going to have to say, "I agree with him" so you should go first.

President Wilshire

Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Madam President. I know there was a little bit of a delay there, thank you. The thing is here as the Chairman of Infrastructure, let me kind of remind you of what is going on. Since we are discussing about the Jette Amendment to this, at the very least I would probably offer something else, the Mayor or his designee and if it's the Mayor and/or his designee then that would make Director Cummings, to which Director Cummings has been dealing with this all along. So I don't see the absolute necessity to get the Mayor in.

But I want to make the Alderman aware of there is a lot of concerns with this. Number one is whenever you put up barriers, you have got reinstitute or reteach the public to follow the proper traffic patterns. There is some barriers, as Alderman Jette and all of you may remember, that were kind of like bump outs, but they existed only to assist with the traffic pattern. But whenever you put barriers up on Main Street, we are not the City of Boston or the State of Massachusetts, we do not have like, I'm going to date myself to Southeast Expressway, but we do not have the HOV Barriers and these cannot be moved. As a matter of fact, I think in order to put

the barriers out, I don't even think we get that great of assistance, because we do not have the equipment in-house within the Board of Public Works, so we have to pay a contractor to do so. That was done last year, it was done in the installation and removal. And from what I understand from Director Cummings it will be done as they are installed for this year.

But that does not mean that certain issues that get brought up; historically the facts are one of the gentlemen that did bring the concerns up, he was allotted a 15 minute parking space. But when his concerns were noted, there was a pushback to one of the restaurants adjacent to his property and I think two spaces were granted. So this has been a very fluid type of thing in dealing with this. It comes down to, it basically gets we are going to have to make a decision on it. It may not be popular with some but is popular with the majority. I think all of you have heard very positive things about the support, particularly from our dining community, people that have enjoyed outdoor dining. And I didn't mention before with the COVID we are coming up to about basically one year of the restrictions. But let's look at Main Street. I don't see plywood shuttering up the windows. What we have done has worked. I haven't seen too many restaurants close, so it is good. I think Director Cummings in his capability of his appointment in his station is quite capable of dealing with the individual people down on Main Street and tweaking this type of thing. It is something very fluid so I would not be supporting the amendment as such because I think it is in capable hands with Director Cummings. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you Alderman O'Brien. Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

Sorry Alderman O'Brien, but I am comfortable supporting the amendment just because I think it has been fluid and adaptable in the past and so I don't see any harm in codifying it. I also think it is important to support all businesses and make sure that they don't feel like they are being subsumed under the more popular or more visible businesses. So Wingate's Pharmacy is very important there, a very historic business, they've been there for years. They have business needs and nobody knows their business needs as well as they do. So I think we need to support businesses in a way that allows them to come forward with these issues. But I also think that the Board of Aldermen is a pretty clumsy tool for that, pretty ponderous in terms of how quickly we can respond to some things. So it makes sense to me the way it was presented that, yes Director Cummings has the recommendation power but also DPW since they are probably going to be the ones who move it and they are probably going to be the one who have a whole bunch of construction coming up anyway. So I don't see that as particularly harmful. I would like to point out to Alderman Jette that in the previous meeting he was concerned with the absence of a map and this week he is concerned with the presence of a map. But thank you for being diligent.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam President. And I hate to disappoint you, Alderman Lopez, but while I do agree with what you said, that was not going to be my comment. My comment actually is for Alderman Jette, I think I understand what you are saying but could you specifically state again the paragraph and what the word changes are going to be, rather than just saying "what Attorney Bolton said", just so that we have it for both the audience as well as the members who are voting that we know exactly what it is we are voting for seeing as we don't have it in front of us.

Alderman Jette

Madam President?

President Wilshire

Alderman Jette.

Alderman Jette

I'd be happy to do that if I had that in front of me. But what I had proposed, Attorney Bolton made some very good suggestions so he is more able to repeat what it is that he said and I would defer to him.

President Wilshire

Attorney Bolton?

Attorney Bolton

I've said it four times four different ways so we could try for five I suppose. The upshot is there is already language there that talks about a recommendation of the Director of Public Works and the Parking Manager. The Mayor will have further authority to close other streets and so forth. And I think in order to meet Alderman Jette's issue in adding language saying "or upon such recommendation the Mayor can adjust locations of barriers, parking spaces and other installations as circumstances appear to warrant".

Alderman Klee

Madam President?

President Wilshire

Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

I am not a lawyer and I see nothing wrong with what was just said, but I guess I don't see what the difference is from what is already written to what we are suggesting. And, again, I don't disagree with it because I do agree that we need to not bring every little minute detail to the Board of Aldermen and I want to make sure. But I thought this already gave the approval of it. I am fine voting for it, but I just don't see the significant change of it. And, again, I am not a lawyer, so maybe I am just missing something.

Attorney Bolton

I guess if I am being asked, right now it allows for the Mayor to make additional closings of streets to accommodate outdoor dining. I think what we are talking about now is relocating certain features not necessarily to accommodate outdoor dining, but perhaps to accommodate convenient parking for other businesses.

Alderman Klee

May I ask a follow up?

President Wilshire

Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam President. So the way it reads now it says, "Approve additional road closures". Does that mean it would not allow them to make adjustments such as they did last year with the changes in front of Wingate or other ones? So as it reads now they would not be able to make those adjustments is that correct, without coming to the Board that is.

Attorney Bolton

Correct.

Alderman Klee

OK then I absolutely agree with what Alderman Jette is recommending. With this new adjustment, would that allow them to do additional road closures as well? No?

Attorney Bolton

Yes.

Alderman Klee

OK, thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderman Dowd?

Alderman Dowd

Yes, as far as the people that had concerns with the parking as I thought I mentioned earlier, that Director Cummings is meeting with them tomorrow to try to resolve things. But the other thing involved is when I was talking to Director Cummings is the traffic flow on Main Street as under the control of the DPW and Wayne Husband who is the City's Traffic Manager. The way the barriers are configured to flow the traffic is his call and not the Mayor or the Board of Aldermen's call at the current time anyway. So my concern is we are trying to get these out for March 15 and I'd like to ask Attorney Bolton, if we change anything to this Resolution does it have to go back to the DPW for approval and then back to the Board of Aldermen, because we will be playing with this for a month?

Attorney Bolton

No.

Alderman Dowd

So there is limitations as to what either the Mayor or Director Cummings can do without DPW blessing the traffic flow. So that's what they are going to try to work out tomorrow. I don't see a need to change the Ordinance right now because last year we were able to move things around and there was no big hell raising downtown and the barriers were moved and I think we can move selected barriers. I think we hire a company because we are dealing with such a large quantity of barriers. But, you know, I don't see the necessity to tweak this to try and get the resolution that probably is not going to be needed anyway.

President Wilshire

Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Well actually do see Alderwoman Kelly has had her hand up. I'd be happy to yield.

President Wilshire

OK. Alderman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. So I am going to support this. I think that the intent here is to allow for flexibility and I actually think last year we had to approve an amendment to allow Tim to make some changes as they came up, if I remember correctly. So I mean I think the intent here is that the downtown is a fabric of different types of businesses.

We are trying something for only the second summer and we want to make sure that there's some flexibility for Director Cummings or the Mayor to make adjustments much faster than bringing them to us every time a business has a request. So I think, you know, this is really in the spirit of allowing for some flexibility for something that is kind of new but also allowing for a more responsive time for our businesses instead of saying, 'Oh we have got to bring it back to the Board of Alderman'. It'll be a month before we can even move that barrier for you.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, yeah, I don't necessarily have any problem with the language change. I just wish that it had come sooner because it is frustrating when you are wordsmithing you should have the words that you want to put in there. I think what our City Attorney has proposed, I think is good. It just kind of codifies what we were doing last year anyway. So I'll support it but I think, again, I think it comes back to that conversation about doing your homework.

President Wilshire

Anyone else, Alderman Jette did you have your hand up?

Alderman Jette

I did. I just wanted to point out to Alderman Dowd that when you talk about Director Cummings meeting with people tomorrow to make adjustments, when I re-read the Ordinance, I, like you, thought that you could make adjustments or adjustments could be made. But when I read it, I thought I saw that the Ordinance wouldn't allow that it would only allow the Mayor to provide for additional road closures, etc. not make adjustments in the current plan as shown by those aerial photos.

I thought that might be a problem and evidently Attorney Bolton agrees with me. So if we are correct, then this meeting that Director Cummings is having tomorrow will not allow him to make adjustments; he is going to have to install the barriers exactly as they are shown in the plan. But if we adopt this amendment, it does provide us with the flexibility that I think we anticipated and we are expecting

President Wilshire

Anyone else on the amendment? Seeing none, you've heard the amendment. Would the Clerk call the roll on the amendment, please?

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

Yea: Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	13
Nay: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Cleaver	2

MOTION CARRIEDPresident Wilshire

That motion carries. Now we are looking at a motion for final passage as amended. Discussion on that motion? Would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	15
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-21-050 declared duly adopted as amended.

O-21-051

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO TEMPORARY 15-MINUTE PARKING IN 2021

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN JETTE FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-21-051, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTIONAlderman Jette

And I'd like to be heard on it.

President Wilshire

Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

So this goes along with the previous Ordinance and it provides for 15 minute free parking. As it reads now, 15 minute free parking from noon to 9:00 p.m. daily. So as a result of people talking to me since our Infrastructure Committee meetings, it was pointed out to me that there are areas where parking is, because of the barriers, the parking is pretty much eliminated except for these 15 minutes areas that are shown, again on the aerial view that I talked about before. So, it was brought out that some of these areas block off parking from our retail establishments during a time when the restaurants are really not using the outdoor dining area, the outdoor seating area that they use at night. And by limiting to just the time periods that are put into this Ordinance, it kind of makes it fairly rigid and I think it would be a good idea to again allow for adjustments. So I would like to make a motion to amend the Ordinance. So where it says, "be it further resolved that upon recommendation of the parking manager, the Mayor may approve additional parking spaces as 15 minute parking from noon to 9:00 p.m. daily as necessary". I would like to move to amend that to read, "That the Mayor may adjust the location and timeframe of the 15 minute free parking".

And the purpose of this would be to allow the Mayor and it says the Mayor so I am not trying to eliminate Director Cummings, but the Parking Manager works with and for Director Cummings, so we are not really eliminating him from this formula. This would allow the Parking Manager and the Mayor to adjust these parking areas and time limits as deemed appropriate.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN JETTE TO AMEND O-21-051 TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE TO READ "THAT THE MAYOR MAY ADJUST THE LOCATION AND TIMEFRAME OF THE 15 MINUTE FREE PARKING" BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTIONPresident Wilshire

So the motion is to amend. Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Madam President. Through you, if I can ask Alderman Jette, from what my understanding is, again, we are paying an independent contractor to put down these barriers, as you Alderman Jette may know, they are made out of concrete, they are quite heavy, designed to be impacted by a vehicle and protect our residents who are enjoying the outdoor dining. So basically once they have become fixated, they are there. So by this particular Ordinance, are you implying that they are movable now and if they are movable since the City does not own equipment to move it, and we are paying an independent contractor, can you explain where the funding is going to come from to do this that would adjust this according to your amendment, please?

Alderman Jette

Thank you Alderman O'Brien for the question. Nothing in this Ordinance is going to make the barriers any less heavy or any less immovable than they are, they are what they are. Whether or not they can be moved or not, whether we have equipment that could move them, I don't know, probably not.

But this would allow the Mayor and the Parking Manager, for example, instead of the time being noon to 9:00 p.m. the Parking Manager and the Mayor could change the time from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. or change it from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. depending on what kind of plan they come up with to try to accommodate the retail establishments. I am told by the retail establishments that they are there every day and they see, for example, the area in front of Wingate's, the barrier currently extends from the corner of Factory Street and so it covers that hair salon that is on the corner and then there's San Francisco Kitchen so it allows dining for San Francisco Kitchen but it also covers Wingate's, Cardin's, and then extends beyond the Nashua Garden.

So you have got from Factory Street all the way past Nashua Garden to around a walkway there, I believe, which is covered by a barrier. There is some area there which allows for short-time parking for take out possibilities. But during the day like these retail establishments open up around 8:00 or 8:30 in the morning and they are trying to do business all day long. The restaurants really don't, San Francisco Kitchen and I think Nashua Garden does have a lunchtime business. But there's a lot of time there where they are not, those outdoor dining areas are not being used and there's not any take out being done. So perhaps the time limits, perhaps allowing for example the 15 minute parking to extend from 8:30 in the morning which would allow people to scoot in there, park for free, go into the drug store, get their prescription and leave. That's a possibility. All I am trying to do, Alderman O'Brien, is give our professionals, the Parking Manager, Director Cummings and the Mayor the opportunity to make adjustments that are warranted. If we adopt the Ordinance as is, it is set in stone or in granite or in concrete until November 15.

I think Attorney Bolton has told us that these tweaks that we thought that Director Cummings could implement, the Ordinance doesn't really allow him to do that. But the amended Ordinance would.

Alderman O'Brien

Follow up?

President Wilshire

Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you. Through the Chair to Alderman Jette if I may, Madam President,

President Wilshire

Yes.

Alderman O'Brien

Last year I think there was, the previous one that we just discussed, the Ordinance we discussed, that you said wasn't flexible, but last year was extremely flexible. Wingate's only had one 15 minute type of situation and it was increased and actually took space away from another business, the Nashua Garden, OK. So that proves that there was flexibility. But the thing is, again, what I don't understand, once these barriers go down, I don't want to give the public the impression that they can come up and say, "Oh this isn't working out for me" like I say, the City doesn't own the equipment.

I am not going to go out and buy a \$500,000.00 excavator, they probably go for about that, I don't know what an excavator goes for. But like I say, I do know that we are going to be paying an independent contractor to move these things. So I don't know how much flexibility once they go down, and like I say, Wingate's was at the, as you remember, at the Infrastructure meetings and I am glad to see that the negotiations are still going on as brought up by Alderman Dowd to discuss these things. The barriers aren't there yet so there seems to be some time with this.

So I don't understand where the flexibility of – you know – once it is determined what the parking spaces, once the barriers go down, that's about it. I think Mr. Cummings can tweak it but there isn't any really major work that could be done because of the problems with the barriers. We do not have the equipment to move them.

Alderman Jette

May I, Madam Chair?

President Wilshire

Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

So this Ordinance just talks about the parking, the timing of the parking pretty much. Whether or not the barriers could be moved, you raise a valid point, probably not. But the timing of the parking, you know, how long people can park, what time it goes into effect, what time it ends, those things can be changed without moving anything. Your comment about last year things being done, I don't know how that was done. I think I and more importantly Attorney Bolton is telling us that flexibility is not there. And he recommends that we make a slight amendment to provide for that flexibility. You know whether or not, how things were changed during the summer, I don't know whether that was done legally or not, I don't know. I am just looking at it now and right now it doesn't appear that that flexibility would be there. I think that's why Attorney Bolton is recommending that it be amended to provide that flexibility which I think is what we want.

President Wilshire

Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

So in reference to the last Ordinance that we passed which is the one which allows DPW and Parking to advise the Mayor on moving those barriers around, it was indicated and it was the case last year, that DPW can move one or two around or adjust them as needed. They do that all the time when they are trying to do construction. They are going to have to do it when it comes to the construction happening at Alec's. They just can't move a couple of hundred of them. So that is what the contractors are doing. If they are not able to do that, then that's why I was voting in favor of having DPW having a say. Like the Mayor is not going to tell her to do something that is impossible and they will bring up the concerns on their behalf, that's their job they know what they are doing. So I think Ordinance and this amendment is really just about the parking and if we did the other one it doesn't really make sense to hamstring it now. I think we should let the Parking Department advise on whether it is a good idea or not and then let the Mayor make the decision. The entire purpose is to pull ourselves out of micromanaging this and we are kind of trying to do all of that right now.

President Wilshire

Alderwoman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you, if I could ask a question through you to Corporation Counsel?

President Wilshire

Yes.

Alderwoman Kelly

So Attorney Bolton, the way I am understanding this and I want to make sure I understand it completely is that these Ordinances are tied to that map. So if we sign it in as, then they have to put them exactly as that map is drawn. Is that the case?

Attorney Bolton

Yes.

Alderwoman Kelly

And so the follow on thought there is that that we are just allowing and I think the intent here right is that we are not to be going up every weekend and moving these barriers. But if Director Cummings is meeting with people this next week and wants to make some adjustments, we are giving him that flexibility?

Attorney Bolton

Well that's what you did on the prior Ordinance that you already made an amendment to and passed. I believe what Alderman Jette is attempting to do here is allow the Mayor to adjust the time period. So instead of noon to 9:00 perhaps for certain locations it would make more sense to have it 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. or 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; 7:00 p.m., you know, whatever an appropriate number is depending on the location. And I think that's the essential upshot of the amendment you are now considering.

Alderwoman Kelly

So we are actually not talking about moving barriers here, it is just the potential move of those times and just giving additional flexibility because we already passed that amendment.

Attorney Bolton

I have got to say I don't see the Mayor taking this as authority to go out and buy a \$500,000.00 piece of equipment to move a barrier. I don't think you ought to worry about that at all.

Alderwoman Kelly

And to that point I think that was the intent of both of these is that I trust Director Cummings, the Mayor, all the people who are going to be installing these to make some forethought and discussions and we are not going to be going out and moving these every weekend. If there's a larger problem maybe they can put them together and do them as one big thing if something needs to be moved. But it already sounds like they are having these conversations earlier than last year to make sure that they can try to accommodate as many people downtown. So thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderwoman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. Alderwoman Kelly sort of cleared it up for us. But it is my understanding that this is just about giving flexibility to the timeframe when we enforce or have a limit to how long you can park. So for instance, in the early spring we may say, or whatever, we may say that you can park more than 15 minutes up until 3:00 in the afternoon.

They may, based on some of the comments that I have heard from a few of the store owners downtown, they do feel that the restaurants aren't open until later in the day and yet they can't have people park in front of their store for 45 minutes while they shop. So it's only about the timeframe of the enforcement of 15 minute parking, it's not anything other than that. So I just wanted to make that point. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Anyone else? The motion is to amend, giving the Mayor the authority to adjust timeframes, that's the gist of it. Is there any other discussion on the amendment? Seeing none, would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	13
Nay: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd	2

MOTION CARRIED

President Wilshire

Thank you. That motion carries. The motion before us now is for final passage as amended. Is there discussion on that motion? Seeing none, would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	15
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-21-051 declared duly adopted as amended.

O-21-052

Endorsers: Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

AUTHORIZING A STOP SIGN ON COVEY ROAD AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH RIDGE ROAD

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN HARRIOTT-GATHRIGHT FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-21-052, BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	15
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-21-052 declared duly adopted.

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-21-120

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF \$755,000 FROM DEPARTMENT 194 "CONTINGENCY", ACCOUNT 70112 "CONTINGENCY FOR EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES" TO VARIOUS SCHOOL DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS

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

R-21-121

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

CHANGING THE NAME OF VETERANS DRIVE TO ARMORY DRIVE, AND CHANGING THE NAME OF THE BROAD STREET PARKWAY TO VETERANS PARKWAY

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

R-21-122

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman Patricia Klee
Aldermwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF UP TO \$1,500,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION AID

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

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-21-054

Endorser: Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

NO PARKING ON CONCORD STREET FROM MOUNT PLEASANT STREET NORTH FOR A DISTANCE OF 50 FEET

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

O-21-055

Endorser: Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

AUTHORIZING STOP SIGNS ON THE CONNECTOR AT ITS INTERSECTIONS WITH CONCORD AND MANCHESTER STREETS

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

O-21-056

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Patricia Klee

AMENDMENTS TO THE ORDINANCES RELATIVE TO STREET NAME CHANGES OF VETERANS DRIVE AND THE BROAD STREET PARKWAY

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

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTPresident Wilshire

Now is the period for public comment. I will open it up, I will remind people that are speaking that you should give your name and address for the record and you have a maximum of 3 minutes. So who is up first? Ms. Ortolano?

Laurie Ortolano Hi, yes, 41 Berkeley Street. I wanted to just share a couple of thoughts with the Board, comments. I don't understand why the City did not make any effort to have a mechanism for the public to have their abatement applications stamped this year. I understand the Assessing Office was under renovations and closed. But no one anticipated that it would be closed for 95% of the time. All other cities seemed to have a mechanism available for the public to get assistance and get those applications stamped, and we did not. And that ultimately resulted in my arrest. I just recently got the Police Reports on that arrest. And I wrote a letter to the Board several weeks ago and told you I felt Attorney Leonard should be fired. I am on the phone tonight to tell you how strongly I feel that she should be fired because this was taken way out of line. When you go out publicly and you go to the press and you challenge someone's mental capabilities and you use language like "unstable" and "erratic", you really cross a line. And when you equate somebody to a DC rioter which I don't think I was anything like that. I watched the video yesterday of me going into City Hall and I looked as nonchalant and casual as you could come.

I certainly didn't go there to go to Legal, I wanted to get my application stamped in the Assessing Office, not the office but the temporary office moved into Ms. Kleiner's office. But that just wasn't possible. I didn't need an appointment, I had gone in twice without an appointment; no issue. And it was just totally taken out of line. The berating Jessie Neumann described to the Police 11 days later that my actions in there was that I berated the people. The phone call by Mindy Lloyd to the Police is anything but a hostile scene. And to have Jessie Neumann and Cecilia Leonard describe the situation and their concerns as if it was a DC rioting situation. And then to listen to Mindy Lloyd on the phone with them there and the dispatcher saying, "are you concerned, is she threatening", "no", "do you want to stay on the phone until the Police get there?", "No, I'll hang up". And she just hangs up. It just doesn't match. It just doesn't match. And the bullies and the threatening and the erratic and the unstable people are right in that Legal office. When the Mayor has to call business leaders to apologize for the conduct of Attorney Bolton because he's so out of control on the phone screaming, that it requires the Mayor to make an apology, maybe he's the unstable one. Maybe we can talk about that in court.

President Wilshire

Ok you need to wrap up Ms. Ortolano, please.

Ms. Ortolano I will.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Ms. Ortolano And I am going to play a tape of Celia Leonard's conduct; that's going to go out on the Internet. And we can evaluate that and decide whether she is stable too, I think what the City did was horrendous, just horrendous and I don't think it needed to go to that level.

President Wilshire

OK your time is up Ms. Ortolano. Thank you. Anyone else from the public that wishes to give comment. Name and address for the record please?

Marian Knight 29 Harris Street in Nashua. Thank you. I am the person that emailed you proposing that you establish an end date to your mask emergency order. I don't want to get lost in a general mask discussion so I am going to focus on the nature of the emergency and because I am not talented at speaking I have written down my main points, so I'll be quick.

First is my personal opinion that an order passed due to an emergency should always have an end date, otherwise it may never be reviewed and have the possibility to be rescinded. I have been told in the past by politicians that unless it is required, that generally they don't want to act on anything that they are not forced to, so here we go. I am asking for an end date so that you would be required to review the mask mandate. That's my goal, it is important to those of us who disagree with the Ordinance, feel unheard and disrespected and often forgotten. I reviewed the minutes of the May 21, 2020 meeting. At that time you were looking for available ICU beds and a vaccine and I point out that those goals have been achieved and we have treatments for Coronavirus so I am curious about the Board, what is the continued emergency that, you know, what are the goals that we need to achieve in order to consider an end date that haven't already been achieved.

If you need science, I would encourage you to read the Great Barrington Declaration signed by more than 60,000 medical professions worldwide including medical doctors and epidemiologists from Harvard, Yale and Stanford. Now we understand the virus better, we have treatments, we have vaccines, we know its target group is senior citizens like myself and/or people with pre-existing conditions. I am not saying it is not a tragedy that 79 people have died but I am asking if you would consider adding an end date to the mandate, it could be your future date chosen by you. And I just want you to continue to review the situation and make sure there is still an emergency and an end date would achieve that goal. Thank you for listening to me.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Anyone else from the public that wishes to give public comment? I am not seeing anyone? OK. Remarks by Members of the Board?

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam President, I just had a couple of quick things to say. One is I would like to extend my condolences to the Belknap family. I agree with everything that was said. She was an incredible woman and I have gotten to know Sandy a little bit over the past couple of years. I did not know her mother, but I know they are an incredible family. And I love to hear the stories of the gardens and Whiskey the cat that comes to visit and so on. So I am very sorry to hear for the family.

The other thing is I just want to make an announcement that Ward 3 and 7 will be having a parking study, the second meeting this Thursday I believe. I should double check that, yes – at 6:00 p.m. This information is on the parking web page. And it is going to be in conjunction with Wards 3 and 7 and it is the second meeting. I think they are going to be doing three wards again. So I hope that those from Ward 3 will be in attendance. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Alderman Dowd?

Alderman Dowd

Yes, just a couple quick things. One well I haven't seen them myself but I am told by Dan Hudson, the City Engineer, that on Charlotte Avenue the speed indicators have been mounted, the solar ones and hopefully they will be controlling the speed. As soon as the spring is a little bit warmer we will be paving Charlotte Avenue, one of the first streets so that will be good. Relative to the comment on masks, from my personal opinion, until we get a recommendation from our Board of Health, the mask mandate stays.

When the Board of Health and the doctors on the Board of Health tell us that masks are no longer required, then we can do something with the Ordinance. And the second thing, I just want to give my complete support for our Legal Department and all of our attorneys, I think they do a phenomenal job and I think they are a very strong asset to the City. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, Madam President. Yeah I wanted to express my condolences as well to Sandy Belknap. Catherine Belknap was a – although I didn't know her very well – she knew me because my grandmother lived down the street on Huey Street and when I was just a baby, I guess she would take care of me sometimes or visit with my grandmother and stuff. Our families were close back in the '80s and the '90s. So it was a little before the time I could remember but obviously through the years, through my – they were always very supportive of me in my political career and in other things. It is sad to hear that and I just want to send my sincerest condolences to the family.

I also wanted to just take a moment as well to wish everybody a happy and safe St. Patrick's Day, make sure if you are going out that you stay socially distant, that you wear your mask when you are entering and exiting a building and basically when you are not sitting at a table. If you think something is unsafe if you go to a place and you feel that they are not following the social distancing rules or things like that, you should report that. Because we want to make sure that people come down to Nashua but we want to make sure that they do it responsibly and we have a safe holiday. So while I would encourage people to obviously go out and enjoy the holiday, do it safely please. And if you see that there's an establishment or a place that is not following the rules, don't be afraid to be the one to contact the City because we will get down there and enforce it. So thank you very much.

President Wilshire

You're welcome. Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

Yeah I want to express my condolences to Sandy. I know I have already spoken to her about her mother but also to everyone who knew her in her neighborhood, everyone who worked the polls with her. She was dedicated, she was always there. Those hours at the polls are long and she was always patient. She is just such a steady presence. I don't know that she or Sandy necessarily, I think they are humble, and I don't know that they know how many lives they have touched, but they are very well appreciated in the community and they are very well respected. I know that she'd be very proud of how Sandy is involved in the community as well. Particularly coming up, is an issue very near and dear to their hearts, Mohawk Tannery Presentation on March 15th, somebody, Madam President, scheduled that on my birthday.

President Wilshire

Lucky you.

Alderman Lopez

I'll be at the presentation. So I just wanted to remind everybody that that's coming up, that's a major development for that area and the neighbors are very concerned. It is another huge opportunity to clean up an area that's been neglected and to really do something with that community. So I am looking forward to it.

I think Alderman Clemons covered most of what I would want to say for recommending caution; maybe just the Irish Blessing – May the wind be always at your back and maybe the mask on your face because it's blowing your vapors towards somebody. With regards to the masking ordinance, I have already asked the Board of Health to develop conditions for it so that it isn't entirely open-ended. But also so that it is a medically informed policy and not a political exercise. So being able to identify specific factors and time frames and come up with a phased approach I think is important. I had already suggested that some of the business owners that were particularly passionate about the curfew issue engage the Board of Health so that they could present the business owner's side of things and get that kind of guidance.

I know that the City has been working very closely with trying to make sure that masking ordinances are observed, general public health ordinances are being observed. And to that end, I have been bringing a lot of donated reusable masks to different restaurants because some of them don't fit people, particularly people with beards, don't fit them particularly well. And if you are restaurant workers and you are given like one mask 5 months ago, even if you are washing it every night, it's probably getting worn out. So I want to thank all of the volunteers who continue to quietly manufacture these things in their own time, particularly Pagma and her volunteers, the group that Latha organized. And I wanted to also wanted to remind business owners that the United Way is sitting on a giant stockpile of masks, you can get 50 or so if you want to make sure you have plenty for any people who might be coming to St. Patrick's Day standing in line or might forget their own, to be able to hand it out to them rather than have to ask them to go back to their car or whatever and find a mask. So there are solutions for all of these things and there is support available.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Alderwoman Kelly?

Alderman Kelly

Thank you. I too wanted to express my condolences to Sandy Belknap. Her and her mother are just stand up citizens and always have been sort of at the crux of so many things that go on in this community. I know that many of us have attended a constitution party in her garden and they are just such wonderful people who welcome you into their homes and really supported the things that we do on a local level here. So thinking of them for sure and very grateful for every opportunity I had to spend with both of them.

I also just wanted to talk about downtown, I know that I sometimes talk about it ad nauseum but it was a 40 or 50 degree day today and it was just really beautiful to be in our downtown seeing people getting ready for next week. We have a new ice cream shop, we took a walk on the Riverwalk. So I just wanted to commend everybody who has gotten us this far, I think we've come a long way even in the last 4 years and I am really looking forward to what happens next in our downtown.

President Wilshire

Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Madam President. I would like to say just basically to the caller to remind her that yeah we have the Board of Health but we are also under the guidelines of the Governor's Emergency Orders with a lot of this and that particular caller may take interest in the following bills; House Bill 275, 414, 433 and 417. I think they are all going to get morphed into 417 which is basically nuts and bolts but it will be limited the Governor's Authority on Emergency Orders. So she may want to pay attention to that.

Also, I would like to let Alderman Lopez know that I feel his pain for a meeting on his birthday of March 15th. I don't know how scheduled Finance meeting on March 17th but I too feel your pain, OK? Which is perfect Segway for me to get into, I would like to wish all my Irish compadres there a Happy St. Patrick's Day particularly to all the veterans, the recruits and the rookies and those that just want to celebrate that one day. But do keep in mind, we

have the pandemic so please be careful. Follow the guidelines that are out there and it's a great day to be Irish, it's a great day to be an American. So enjoy it properly, please be careful. If you need an Uber or something like that much more better and enjoy the corn beef and cabbage which I would like to dispel the rumor, it is not really Irish it just happened to be cheapest piece of meat the Irish could afford back then. You go to Ireland they'll look at you like you have 8 heads if you ask for corn beef. I think now they would give it to you but it is more American-Irish than anything else. To my Irish friends, Happy St. Patrick's Day.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Alderman Harriott-Gathright?

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

I just want to say thank you to our lawyers and that staff, I think they are wonderful. I kind of taken offense sometimes when people throw stabs at them because I know that they work very hard for the City. I also want to mention and agree with my colleague O'Brien in terms of people that are worried about when the mask ordinance and things of that nature will end in New Hampshire, but I really do depend on our Health Department as well as our Governor. But he is the one that has the State issues going on. And there are a lot of Bills there to retract his statements otherwise to make it appear as though he doesn't have the power to do anything in this State. So I am going to just say that people need to pay attention to that because after the insurgence in DC, I feel as though sometimes that there's a group rising here in NH for the same type of situation. So I just want to say that we really need to keep our ears open and our eyes clear so that we can see what is truly happening in New Hampshire. Because sometimes I feel as though people are really missing the real factors in New Hampshire.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Anyone else? Second bite at the apple Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien

Yes I just received a text just for the general information. Unfortunately Alderman Lu's lap top battery has died so she won't be on the next vote, but just to explain her absence. And Madam President, are you looking for a motion?

President Wilshire

In a minute I will be.

Alderman O'Brien

OK then I'll give you that minute, thank you Madam President.

President Wilshire

Thank you. I don't see anyone else that was looking to speak so I just wanted to throw in a few words here. I know Cathy Belknap; I've known Sandy Belknap for well over 25 years I believe. They are great people, really the salt of the earth, would do anything for anyone, worked hard at the polls, worked hard at everything, had the most beautiful garden I think I've seen in the City, just a fantasy land of flowers and beauty. It is really amazing, really stunning. But Cathy was a very hard worker, she enjoyed working at the polls, being out with people, very, very nice person and she will be truly missed. The other thing I wanted to chime in on too is our legal office and the quality and the great staff we have up there. So to you Attorney Bolton and your staff, thank you.

Committee announcements: - None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN THAT THE MARCH 9, 2021, MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE ADJOURNED, BY ROLL CALL

A viva voce roll call was taken to adjourn the Board of Aldermen meeting which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd,
Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Tencza,
Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws,
Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire 14

Nay: Alderman Lopez 1

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Attest: Susan K. Lovering, City Clerk