

A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 7:48 p.m. via teleconference.

President Lori Wilshire presided; City Clerk Susan Lovering recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Susan Lovering; Alderman Jan Schmidt 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: 898 8851 4603 Passcode: 347707

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, 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'm 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

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

Alderman Clemons

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

Alderman Lopez

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

Aldermen Tencza

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

Alderwoman Lu

I am here alone and I can hear you.

Alderman Jette

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

Alderman Schmidt

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

Alderman Laws

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

Alderman Cleaver

Present and alone and I can hear the proceedings.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

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

President Wilshire

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

Susan Lovering, City Clerk

You have 15 in attendance.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Also joining us this evening is Mayor Donchess and Corporation Counsel Steve Bolton. Mayor did you wish to address the Board this evening?

REMARKS BY THE MAYORMayor Donchess

Yes, Madam President, thank you very much. First I wanted to extend my condolences and the City's condolences to the communities of Atlanta that surround Atlanta and Boulder, Colorado for the tragic events that have occurred over the last week or so. Both of those communities have suffered mass shootings and I know we all hope that they can come together and heal as quickly as possible, although certainly a big burden that will be. But we wish them, of course, our best.

Madam President, I wanted to update you briefly on the pandemic and the City's efforts to eradicate it. Public Health, as always, is working very, very hard. They are administering vaccines now in addition to doing weekly testing. We are working with the State, under their supervision, but the Public Health through various clinics has administered over 4,000 doses of vaccines. As you know, we are running a clinic down in the Tree Streets at St. Aloysius once a week. That will eventually transfer to the Temple over on Raymond Street. But last Friday, Public Health, and many volunteers as well, I mean it's a big effort, administered 590 does over there. So they are reaching the communities of color, under privileged people who are more vulnerable to the virus and less able to get to a normal vaccination site. So that is a great effort.

But the number of cases, Madam President, it is up, something that is a little bit troubling. A couple of weeks ago when we met there were 80 some active cases in Nashua; now it is 160 and those are identified cases, diagnosed cases. The positivity rate has also jumped up a bit from about 3% to about 5%. Now these numbers are still significantly below what we had in December and January but I think they suggest that we need to continue to be cautious with all of the precautions we are taking; the wearing of masks, the social distancing, and avoiding large gatherings. So we need to continue to be cautious.

I wanted to mention, Madam President, that the Mayors of the City met again today. One thing that has come from the pandemic is we have begun to meet remotely which makes these meetings much easier and they happen much more often with a lot less traveling. All of the Mayors in the City were actually there today, 13 from Manchester to Berlin to Nashua to the Seacoast. All are very concerned about this downshifting, I mean people in Concord are suggesting, some of them, not anyone here, but suggesting that this isn't happening or it is somebody's imagination or something. That is definitely not accurate. All communities are concerned both about the loss of the education funds that we are all seeing and the increase in the pension cost coming at exactly the wrong time.

As we have discussed before, Nashua is getting a hit of \$11.8 million dollars from the State of New Hampshire. That's over a 5% tax increase for the hardworking taxpayers of Nashua. Our Delegation is working hard to try to make up and gain some additional revenue, appropriate some additional revenue to offset some of this but they've got tough sledding. So I congratulate them on their efforts and just hope for their success.

One thing on the Agenda, Madam President, that you will be voting on tonight are the two contracts for the Paving Plan of Action that we have all supported over the last few years. One is for the residential streets, that will result in the paving of 15 ½ miles of streets. The other contract is for arterial streets, those are bid separately. Arterial streets are the larger collector streets. That will pave 7 ½ miles of those larger streets. This is on top of about 100 miles of streets that we have paved over the last few years. So, I think Madam President, we have made a very big impact in terms of improving the infrastructure of the City.

Finally I wanted to mention a couple of things we haven't discussed before. One is the American Rescue Plan which was passed by Congress in recent days. This will ultimately bring \$16.8 million dollars, is the scheduled amount, to the City of Nashua coming over the course of two years, this year and next. We need to look carefully at how this money can be spent. The law is vague, the details will be spelled out in the Treasury Regulations that are issued, hopefully, soon. We don't know when. They will spell out the details. But the law specifically says that the money cannot be spent for tax relief and it says they can't be used for pensions. The law suggests that the money could be used to offset revenue losses and a very limited number of capital uses; water, sewer or broadband projects. So we will be watching for those regulations whenever they come out. We are talking to the other cities about how they are intending to use the money and we will, of course, come back to you with the news as to the regulations as soon as that comes out so we can try to decide how to best use the money.

Finally, Madam President, another thing that we haven't really touched on before is that Brady Sullivan has been the owner of the former Indian Head Bank Building at 146 Main Street for quite some time now. And the building has been for sale but has not sold. So they have made the decision, based upon their submissions to the Planning Department, to rehab that building for 17 apartments. They have submitted plans, it looks like the project is – we don't know until construction actually starts – but it seems very promising that that will begin and will result in, as I said, 17 units of Main Street, Downtown Housing. That will cause a building that has been, a very iconic building, one that is a symbol of Nashua really, that will cause it to be reoccupied and reused. So we are very much looking forward to that project and we are optimistic that it will go ahead in the near future.

Unless there are questions, that's all I have, Madam President.

President Wilshire

Thank you Mayor.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR

Alderman Dowd

Yes, Mayor, just a question, when the \$16 million comes down, especially the first part of it, does that go through the State? And if it does, do we anticipate a delay in the transfer like a lot of the Federal Funds from the State to the City. And is there any chance the State can put additional limitations on how the money can be spent?

Mayor Donchess

No. Fortunately as your question implies, fortunately it does not run through the State it comes directly to the City. So we will certainly be and will need to comply with the restrictions that the money comes with, comply with the regulations that are issued by Treasury. But beyond that, we won't have to satisfy anybody at the State level regarding how we decide to use the money.

Alderman Dowd

Excellent.

President Wilshire

Anyone else, response to the remarks of the Mayor? Alderwoman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you, Madam Chairman. Mr. Mayor, could you give us an update on something that I have seen on several social network sites regarding an additional arrest at City Hall?

Mayor Donchess

I think you will have to talk to the Police Department about that. I was not directly involved and I did not witness any of the events.

Alderwoman Lu

You want me to call the Police Department?

Mayor Donchess

I think they have the most accurate information about it, yes.

Alderwoman Lu

OK, thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else, response to the remarks of the Mayor? Seeing none, Recognition Period?

RECOGNITION PERIOD - None

READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the minutes of the Board of Aldermen regular and special meeting of March 9, 2021 and March 15, 2021 accepted, placed on file, and the readings suspended.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING ONLY PROCEDURAL ACTIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS

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

From: President Lori Wilshire, Board of Aldermen
Re: Calling a Special Board of Aldermen meeting on April 6, 2021 relative to a public hearing on R-21-118

****Date for Public Hearing has changed from April 6 to Thursday, April 8, at 7:00 p.m. ****

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

PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT RELATIVE TO ITEMS EXPECTED TO BE ACTED UPON THIS EVENING
- None

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING FINAL APPROVAL

From: Mayor Jim Donchess
Re: Multi-Year Contract Award – Concession Rights for Stellos Stadium

MOTION BY ALDERMAN HARRIOTT GATHRIGHT TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND AWARD THE CONTRACT WITH MARK DUDLEY D/B/A DUDLEY’S CONCESSIONS FOR A TWO-YEAR AGREEMENT FOR CONCESSIONS AT STELLOS STADIUM FOR EIGHT (8) PERCENT OF EACH MONTH’S GROSS REVENUE, 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 Lopez, Alderman Tencza,
Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws,
Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire 15

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

From: Mayor Jim Donchess
Re: Contract in Excess of \$1 Million Award – 2021 Paving Program: Residential Roadways

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND AWARD THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE 2021 PAVING PROGRAM – RESIDENTIAL ROADWAYS TO SUNSHINE PAVING CORPORATION OF HUDSON, NH, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,585,195. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 160 ADMIN/ENGINEERING; FUND: BOND; ACTIVITY: PAVING; DEPARTMENT 161 STREETS; FUND: TRUST; ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION: 81 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS; DEPARTMENT 169 WASTEWATER; FUND: BOND; ACTIVITY: SEWER REHAB, 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 Lopez, Alderman Tencza,
Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws,
Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire 15

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

From: Mayor Jim Donchess

Re: Contract in Excess of \$1 Million Award – 2021 Paving Program: Arterial & Collector Roadways

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LAWS TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND AWARD THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE 2021 PAVING PROGRAM – ARTERIAL AND COLLECTOR ROADWAYS TO SUNSHINE PAVING CORPORATION OF HUDSON, NH, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,191,007.50. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 160 ADMIN/ENGINEERING; FUND: BOND; ACTIVITY: PAVING; DEPARTMENT 161 STREETS; FUND: TRUST; ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION: 81 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS; DEPARTMENT 169 WASTEWATER; FUND: BOND; ACTIVITY: SEWER REHAB, BY ROLL CALL.

ON THE QUESTION

President Wilshire

You've heard the motion; discussion on that motion? Alderwoman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. Alderman Laws, this is for 7 miles is that right, the \$4 million?

Alderman Laws

I can't honestly answer that question because I don't remember the specifics. We went over this, I believe in PEDC last week.

Alderwoman Lu

I wasn't there. That's OK.

Alderman Laws

I apologize. Is there anybody else?

Mayor Donchess

I can answer that if you wish.

President Wilshire

Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Donchess

The arterial streets it is 7 ½ miles. The previous contract for the neighborhood streets is 15.

Alderwoman Lu

Alright.

Mayor Donchess

So a total each was 15 ½ and 7 ½ for a total of 23.

President Wilshire

Any further discussion? Seeing none, would the Clerk please call the roll?

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 Lopez, Alderman Tencza,
Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws,
Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire 14

Nay: Alderwoman Lu 1

MOTION CARRIEDPETITIONS

Petition for Street Renumbering – Sheet 61B/Lot 30 (approval pending) and Sheet 61B/Lot 29 (proposed 2-lot subdivision) 5 Berkshire Street

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the Petition as read, referred it to the Committee on Infrastructure and scheduled a Special Board of Aldermen public hearing for Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom teleconference meeting.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONSJoint Convention with Woodlawn/Pinewood Cemeteries Board of Trustees

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared that the Board of Aldermen meet in joint convention with the Woodlawn/Pinewood Cemeteries Board of Trustees for the purpose of electing two trustees and called for nominations.

Trustee nominated Barbara Whitmore and Patricia Bedinger for terms to expire March 31, 2026

There being no objection, President Wilshire closed the nominations.

A viva voce roll call was taken on the appointment of Barbara Whitmore and Patricia Bedinger 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, Trustee Buslovich, Trustee Jensen, Trustee Whitmore 19
Mayor Donchess

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

President Wilshire declared Barbara Whitmore and Patricia Bedinger duly appointed to the Woodlawn/Pinewood Cemeteries Board of Trustees for terms to expire March 31, 2026.

Oath of Office administered by Corporation Counsel to Barbara Whitmore. Oath of Office will be administered to Patricia Bedinger at a later date.

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared that the Joint Convention now arise.

Joint Convention with Board of Library Trustees

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared that the Board of Aldermen meet in joint convention with the Board of Library Trustees for the purpose of electing a trustee and called for nominations.

Linda LaFlamme, Chairman of the Board of Library Trustees

Linda LaFlamme, I am Chairman of the Board and last year at this time, we were all in person and Dave Pinsonneault, our illustrious secretary nominated me for a new term. So I am returning the favor and nominating David Pinsonneault for another term of 7 years on the Library Board of Trustees and that term will end in 2028.

Trustee / Chairman of the Board Linda LaFlamme nominated David Pinsonneault for a term to expire March 31, 2028

There being no objection, President Wilshire closed the nominations.

A viva voce roll call was taken on the appointment of David Pinsonneault 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, Trustee Bergeron, Trustee Espitia, Trustee Kane, Trustee Laflamme, Trustee Pinsonneault, Mayor Donchess	21
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

President Wilshire declared David Pinsonneault duly appointed to the Board of Library Trustees for a term to expire March 31, 2028.

Oath of Office administered by Corporation Counsel.

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared that the Joint Convention now arise.

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

Cable Television Advisory Board

Justin Chapman (new appointment) 55 McKean Street Nashua, NH 03060	Term to Expire: March 31, 2024
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Cole Morgan (new appointment) 20 Lock Street Nashua, NH 03064	Term to Expire: March 31, 2024
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Citizens Advisory Commission

Lisa Tourangeau (reappointment)	Term to Expire: October 1, 2023
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Energy and Environment Committee

Taylor Barry (new appointment)
33 Wellman Avenue
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: April 30, 2022

Dante Castellano (new appointment)
4 Bicentennial Drive
Nashua, NH 03062

Term to Expire: April 30, 2022

Historic District Commission

Christopher Barrett (reappointment)
44 Abbott Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: January 31, 2024

Mariellen Mackay (reappointment)
9 Webster Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: December 31, 2023

William Slivinski (reappointment)
46 Berkeley Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: June 30, 2022

Robert Vorbach (reappointment)
58 Manchester Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: December 31, 2023

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Nicholas Kanakis (reappointment)
159 Main Street
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire: September 11, 2023

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Human Affairs Committee..... 03/08/2021

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the March 8, 2021 Human Affairs Committee accepted and placed on file.

Planning and Economic Development Committee..... 03/16/2021

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the March 16, 2021 Planning and Economic Development Committee accepted and placed on file.

Finance Committee..... 03/17/2021

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the March 17, 2021 Finance Committee accepted and placed on file.

CONFIRMATION OF BOARD OF ALDERMEN'S APPOINTMENTS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-21-119

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

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$29,777 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, EXOTIC SPECIES PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF MATCHING FUNDS

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-21-119, 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 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-21-119 declared duly adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS**R-21-123**

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

RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF \$25,000 FROM DEPARTMENT 194 "CONTINGENCY", ACCOUNT 70100 "GENERAL CONTINGENCY" TO DEPARTMENT 109 "CIVIC & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES", ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION 56 "OUTSIDE AGENCIES" FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDING TO THE NASHUA ASSOCIATION FOR THE ELDERLY

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

R-21-124

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Patricia Klee

APPROVING A FIFTH AMENDMENT TO PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT OF CITY LAND AT 21 PINE STREET (MAP 77, LOT 17) AND LAND OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY AT 3 PINE STREET EXTENSION (MAP 77, LOT 2A)

Given its first reading; assigned to the PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, NASHUA PLANNING BOARD, MINE FALLS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, by President Wilshire

R-21-125

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

SUPPORTING NONPARTISAN FAIR REDISTRICTING

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

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES**O-21-057**

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

PROVIDING FOR REPRESENTATION OF THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY ON THE CULTURAL CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE

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

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurie Ortolano Yes, Laurie Ortolano.

President Wilshire

OK, you have 3 minutes, name and address please for the record.

Ms. Ortolano Sure, Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. I wanted to follow up and find out if the Purchase & Sales was signed or if we have closed on the property of Burke Street and that's gone and taken care of at this point. And I was wondering if the Aldermen, I can't recall if you have control of the building projects for DPW or DPW maintains control. But the quote on that project when we bonded it back in 2019 is almost 2 years old. And there's been a lot of changes in construction costs. And I am wondering if the Board, both your Board and DPW have made any movement to go back and re-cost that job because I am not certain it is going to be a \$10 million job anymore. And if we have to cut it by a couple million dollars or we have to add to it, I think it is worth a review in looking at what you are actually buying for the money.

Also, I raised an issue back a while ago, maybe at a Budget Committee Meeting about having an update on the impact and the shift in the tax rate that potentially could be caused by this pandemic and a shift of assessment values with residential versus commercial properties. And I know there's a fair number of commercial abatements this year, some big numbers and you would expect that. But I was wondering if there is any attempt to have Vision come in and talk to you, give us an idea of what they are seeing for vacancy rates and what that shift is going to be. I did an abatement for somebody up in Concord and helped them out and they had a condo that was worth \$260. The tax bill in 2019 was \$7500 and in 2020 it was \$10.4 and their gross rate in their condos was like 14%, their houses were like 8 and commercial was down 2. I was stunned by the shift in the tax bill up in Concord. I am just curious if we are going to be faced with the same thing.

And also, I was wondering if you could give us a rundown on the opening of City Hall. What is delaying that? Is it COVID? Is it construction? What is your estimated time frame to get Building Safety and the Clerk's Office open? Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Anyone else wishing to give public comment? No one? OK.

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMENAlderman Klee

Thank you again, Madam President. I would like to take the opportunity to thank many of my community members in Ward 3. This Saturday they got together and amazingly went and cleaned up the Shattuck Street Tot Lot and the Salem Street Community Gardens. We did about 5 to 6 bags of trash and dog poo in the Shattuck Street Tot Lot and 25 plus bags of leaves. And yes, normally Park & Rec would be doing that but the community there just didn't want to wait. I think that we probably jumped about a week of what would have happened. The reason why we rushed to do it is there were two children on that Thursday who fell in poo and that was the final straw. I have talked about this over and over again; people should not be bringing their dogs in. We did an Ordinance to say that dogs do not belong in the Shattuck Street Tot Lot and they still do.

The group of people that got together spent about 4 hours cleaning up that park. It was filled with children that day and the next day. But that night, someone decided they were going to give us a "what for" and hung a bag of dog poo from the equipment and tore up the sign that the community put up saying that this was cleaned by this. I know it's just 1, 2, 3 people but it just broke my heart that somebody would do something like that; to me that is vandalism. And as a result of us doing this, we have another project that we are going to do on April 10th, at 10:30 we are going to meet at Foster Square. So I would love to see a lot of volunteers and we are going walk up and down Lock Street and we are going to pick up trash and we are going to clean. And even if you can't pick up the trash, you can still do something like drive around and give bags and water to those that are doing that. We want to make French Hill to be the best it possibly can be so we are going to go one street at a time. When we finish with that we are going to hit Whitney and then we are going to hit any of the other streets that we possibly can.

And I have one more thing I would like to talk about. With the recent dismantling of the Kessler Farm Water Tower, it has kind of stirred up some water issues. And it has brought brown water. As we were joking the other day, it seems like Ward 3 is downhill from everybody. As a result we have a lot of brownish/reddish water and it is manganese. And it has been happening now since January. Normally, I just tell everybody, "Run your water, call Pennichuck". Personally, I wasn't calling Pennichuck. Well I called Pennichuck yesterday because my tub was filled with water, my toilet was filled with water and everything out of my sink was filled with this brown / reddish water. They didn't know who I was, but they responded immediately. They came, they flushed out the hydrants, and now my water is crystal clear. So I am asking anybody in the City, if you have these issues, give Pennichuck the benefit of the doubt. Call them, they will be responsive and they will take care of your issues. And it beats getting on social media and saying Nashua water is horrible and it is terrible, because right now my water is crystal clear and it is going really well. So we have to help them out by letting them know we are having these issues. Thank you, Madam President.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

First, for those who are half of downtown which has been asking me, the outdoor dining, I talked to Director Cummings, he said it was due to be put out the 26th, there was a little bit of a delay and that there's work being done on it by artists. So it hasn't disappeared, we still plan on doing it, it just is coming a little bit slower than planned.

Additionally, I wanted to comment on the Legislation that was proposed this evening regarding the Cultural Connections Committee. Prior to being an Alderman, I was the Chair of the Cultural Connections Committee and oversaw the changing of its name from Ethnic Awareness to a name that we thought better fit what its role was and what its goals were. So I am very pleased to see proposal for representation on behalf of the LGBTQ Community. It is long overdue, it was what we intended when we were looking at what the Committee's purpose was and how cultures interact. I think it'll do a lot for the Nashua Community. Although I will also just add that the deaf culture might find its way in there, so just throwing that in your direction, Mayor. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Alderman Dowd?

Alderman Dowd

Yes, just in keeping with the Pennichuck flow, yes by the way the tank is empty and is being disassembled up here at Kessler Farm as we speak. There's no water coming out of the tank although the piping a year ago that they connected back to the tank over at the Pennichuck property is now servicing this entire area. I have no idea what caused the brown water in Ward 3 but it is downhill from Ward 2.

The other thing is that we have had numerous phone calls to the Police Department, to the School Department to lots of other several Aldermen. The tree cutting over by the Pennichuck Middle School is not on school property, that is the solar farm being built by the Pennichuck on Pennichuck land and they have completely tree cut because they are putting in solar panels. So there will be a lot of work in there; we have not started the work on the Pennichuck Middle School yet, that will begin any day now. But we will not be doing that level of tree cutting.

President Wilshire

OK, anyone else? Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, Madam President. I just wanted to say that although I worked from 8 to almost 12 hours on St. Patrick's Day, I had the unfortunate pleasure of doing that, I was able to go out a little bit with my wife. We got a dinner and a drink at the Flight Center. I wanted to just report from what we saw, it was very well organized, it was probably the tamest St. Patrick's Day I've seen in Nashua. People were definitely following the rules. And I actually ran into one of the Health Department folks and no fines that day. So we do it right here in Nashua. We've been doing it right all along, our restaurants are safe, they are a good place to go and gather. And I can't wait for the barriers to come out as what Alderman Lopez was saying. I think they are going to come out, they are going to be great, they are going to be decorated this year, some of them. And as we can all tell, we are ready for spring and it was beautiful today, I had shorts on, I took a walk. I am ready for summer. Anyway, thank you all and have a good evening.

President Wilshire

Anyone else?

Alderwoman Lu

Yes, Madam Chairman?

President Wilshire

Yes, Alderman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. What I would like to just comment on is I have spoken with City Hall in the recent months and I have been told that City Hall is opened for appointments only. I have asked about – my concern is that most many businesses and schools, etc. are open with masks, etc. But I was comforted that everything is open by appointment. And I am sorry that there have been arrests but I need to, I had a need at City Hall and I contacted them and I was told that a property file is not typically available during COVID times. And it is troubling. I was told that when – eventually I was told that there's a general policy at City Hall not to set up same day appointments. And I don't understand why that would be a policy, because City Hall is there you know, if they have a process for allowing appointments, why would appointments not be available same day?

I understand if they are full but it just, you know, I think, I would really appreciate it if we could start to pay some attention to this matter, let's just say. I am beginning to wonder when I ask my Mayor about an arrest and he suggests I talk to the Police. Could we, as a Board, perhaps find a way that we can answer questions, not just listen to someone's concerns but part of my problem is that I have spoken with several people in town whose representatives don't respond to them. And I know that they can vote for someone new next time. But that's an issue. I mean if you are not getting your representative to answer your calls or to be willing to engage with you, then there's got to be a better way. Thank you.

President Wilshire

You're welcome. Anyone else? Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I was remiss when I spoke, and I talked that the neighborhood had come out to help. We were also joined by Alderman Lopez who joined us that day. So he crossed over the border and came to help us pick up poo and I truly appreciate it and thank you very much, Alderman Lopez.

President Wilshire

Did you want to add something to that Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

Well first of all, that yes we did perfect the chocolate shovel project in Ward 4. But second, with regards to some of the comments that were previously said, I personally try to answer every question raised of me whether or not I agree with the person's motives or not. So I am unaware of any conversations or any requests that I have not answered. But with regards to the questions that are being addressed to the Board, some of them are really basic. When you are talking about Police Intervention, the Police are the ones who have the Police Reports, not the Mayor who wasn't there. So as an Alderman, I don't think that's my responsibility to try to answer that question; that is what the Police for, that's what the Board of Police Commissioners oversee, not us. We do Legislation, we do budgets.

President Wilshire

Anyone else?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Madam President, may I say something?

President Wilshire

Attorney Bolton?

Attorney Bolton

I am a Department Head in this City and I just heard someone say there was a general policy in City Hall not to make same day appointments. I don't know about other Departments. That is not my policy. We are very busy, sometimes we can't fit people in. But if someone calls and the opportunity is there to meet with them later in the day, I make myself available. So when someone says that generally speaking, no one can get an appointment on the same day anywhere in City Hall, I don't think that person knows what they are talking about. And the fact is, I just don't think it is good policy for this Board to denigrate all the hard working people that work in City Hall without going around and really finding out what is going on. And no one has asked me any questions about this, no one. So there are people that I am reluctant to schedule appointments for; people who commit crimes, people who are uncivil, people who are disrespectful to the building itself, banging on doors, trying to break locks and get behind locked doors. People who jerk doors out of the hands of people who are trying to tell them they must schedule appointments. Yeah there are some difficulties occasionally with some people. But there are hundreds of people that work in that building. Most of them have worked right on through this pandemic. I would feel much better if members of this Board would appreciate those people who work for this City every day, doing the very best they can, at some risk to themselves to try to provide for this City.

The fact is, over the last year, there were more motor vehicle transactions done than during the same time period the year before. I believe the same is true in the City Clerk's Department. We had more people register to vote than in any previous year. So this suggestion that City Hall is closed and no one is doing any work, is just untrue. And it is really disheartening to all of these employees to hear members of this Board denigrate the hard work that they do. I am sorry for being so blunt about it, but that's just the truth. Thank you.

President Wilshire

You're welcome. I would like to

Alderwoman Lu

Madam Chairman, I have a follow-up please?

President Wilshire

Alderwoman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. I do have my facts straight. I haven't denigrated anyone.

President Wilshire

You have.

Alderwoman Lu

Would you like to explain what you are telling me Ms. Chairman? I have denigrated someone?

President Wilshire

Yes. The hardworking employees of this City. Every chance you get, you denigrate the workers in this City and it is uncalled for Alderman Lu, uncalled for, it is unprofessional and I won't tolerate on this Board any longer.

Alderwoman Lu

Alright, if I could just follow-up.

President Wilshire

You sure can.

Alderwoman Lu

This afternoon, my husband and I tried to get a look at our property file. My husband was told by a young lady at City Hall that we try not to make same day appointments. That is what I said, I think. And I am not denigrating anyone, I am telling you something I heard. I am telling you something that as a customer, I was told. Now if anyone wants to apologize to me, I would appreciate it. Ms. Klee, I am sorry why would not apologize to me? This is not something that I am making up. I am – OK. This is why this isn't working. Thank you.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. I also wanted to respond as well and I do want to say that for the record I appreciate all the employees who work in City Hall. And your job has been much harder the last year with COVID-19 and everything. I appreciate you coming into work every day and doing the things that you do despite the fact that you don't have the ability to do the way that you normally were used to. Change is hard and certainly there are certain people as well that make things even harder. And for the record, I just want to say as well, that for myself, when any serious person in this City contacts me, I always get back to them.

President Wilshire

Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam President for letting me have a third bite at this apple. I am sorry but I found the comments reprehensible and I too like I believe all the Board members here, maybe with a few exceptions, truly feel that our city employees have gone above and beyond. With COVID they've done everything that they possibly can. City Hall, we are spending thousands of dollars to make each area to be COVID safe so that we can open fully. They have moved from one place to another to another and I don't say that young woman did not say that, if she did, then she was misstating something, because I am sure that if there's an opening they are given an appointment. And the comment about as Alderman Clemons brought out about Aldermen not responding, that I was finding denigrating to the fellow Board members. I think we all respond. Maybe we don't respond within an hour or maybe even with 24 hours but we respond. I know I spend hours and hours speaking to my constituents, not just listening, answering questions, doing the work that needs to get done way above what is probably expected of me. I mean even my comments about the dog poo and the brown water, I put myself out there and I know so many other Aldermen and Alderwomen do the same thing. And yes, I am very upset with it. And if anybody deserves an apology I think it's us. So thank you very much.

President Wilshire

Can I say my comments now? Thank you. I was at a Police Commission meeting last night where a young officer named Ryan Fitzpatrick was provided an award by the Police Department for a case. I think it was a local case and they were able to get the guy's phone and they traced this child abuse back to the Dominican where somebody actually went and got an arrest in the Dominican for this 17 year old that was providing child sexual images of a 9 year old.

So this case was like, I mean even a senior Police Officer Detective might not in their career have gotten a case like this and solved it. And he was truly deserving of the award he got last night and I just want to let the public know that. We have a great Police Department out there and they are doing good things in our City and they are catching the bad guys. So thank you for that.

Committee announcements:

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Madam President. Tomorrow night, Wednesday, 3/24 the Committee of Infrastructure will meet at 7:00 p.m. no appointment necessary. Come one and come all. One topic, if you need just that one more piece of enticement to be there, it will be the Broad Street Parkway and it seems to be a concern. So please come and listen to it, your input would probably be helpful. Thank you.

Alderman Dowd

Yes Thursday night, the Joint Special School Building Committee is meeting. We will be addressing the work orders for the second most majority of work so we can get started on that project. As I said, the project is going very well. Fairgrounds is ahead of schedule and under budget at the moment and it will be completed in the summer only because there are areas that we won't be able to touch with students in the school. At the Joint Special Meeting, we will be presenting pictures of the interior of the school. The outside of the school, by the way, the plastic will be coming down any day now. You will see the new façade, if you will, in the front of the school. And by the opening of the school next year, it will be pretty much a whole new school. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Other Committee announcements? Seeing none, Alderman O'Brien.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN THAT THE MARCH 23, 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 Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	14
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Attest: Susan K. Lovering, City Clerk