

A special meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Monday, March 28, 2022, at 7:01 p.m. in the aldermanic chamber as well as via Zoom teleconference.

President Lori Wilshire presided; City Clerk Susan Lovering recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Susan Lovering; Alderman John Cathey led in the Pledge to the Flag.

To join by Zoom – please refer to the agenda or the website for the meeting link and telephone number.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please indicate if participating via Zoom state why you are not meeting in person and whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.

City Clerk Lovering called the roll and asked them to state the reason he or she could not attend, confirmed that they could hear the proceedings, and stated who was present with him or her.

The roll call was taken with 9 members of the Board of Aldermen in attendance and 1 participating via Zoom: Alderman Sullivan (via Zoom), Alderman Klee, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Jette, Alderman Comeau, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Gouveia, Alderman Cathey, Alderman Thibeault, Alderman Wilshire.

Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Moran, Alderman Clemons, Alderwoman Kelly, and Alderwoman Timmons were recorded absent.

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

President Wilshire to turn the meeting over to Chairman of Budget Review Committee Richard A. Dowd.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **R-22-013**

#### **AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED SIX MILLION TWO HUNDRED EIGHT THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$6,208,325) FOR THE CITY'S SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM AND SEWER STRUCTURES**

#### **Chairman Dowd**

Yes, today we have a Public Hearing on R-22-013 Authorizing the Mayor and the City Treasurer to Issue Bonds not to Exceed \$6,208,325 for the City's Sewer Infrastructure Program and Sewer Structures. Is there anyone here from DPW? I see Mr. Hudson.

#### **Dan Hudson, City Engineer**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is the funding for the annual Sewer Program. This covers all of our pipe reconstruction work so that they can actually dig up and replace a sewer pipe, or make a repair, or fix a structure, as well as the CCTV and pipe lining work that we do. I believe everybody is familiar, but just for information again, we look at about 80,000 lineal feet each year of our sewer pipe. We clean it. We inspect it with close circuit television and if necessary due to condition, we line those pipes. We are in the process of looking at the worse pipes in the city are basically the oldest pipes and pipes that are of a certain material that we more frequently see issues with - like unreinforced concrete. I noted previously that that work is important to do because first of all we're looking at in pipes and cleaning pipes that may not have been looked at in 100 years. So it's important to look at those.

And secondly, anytime we can line a pipe and catch it before it becomes an urgent issue due to a collapse, its significant cost savings. It costs about 20 times as much to dig up and replace a pipe as it does to do a lining. A lining basically builds a pipe within a pipe. So this contract funds all those things. Last year we contracted with SUR West. They did a bunch of pipe replacement and Green Mountain Pipeline Services who is doing the CCTV and lining work as well with Hayner Swanson a local company to provide some engineering support for those efforts. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Dowd

Do any of the Alderman have questions for Mr. Hudson on this legislation? Seeing one, I'll open it up to the public hearing.

TESTIMONY IN FAVORLaurie Ortolano

Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. So I have a couple of questions and I might have missed this because I was trying to get my computer uploaded here. What areas of the city does this cover? I know that they are going to repave our street. I believe they were doing site work to repave it and do gas lines, but I believe there is a fair number of sewer pipe problems over there as well. Is it being looked at in the North End neighborhoods? And how are we addressing that, I'm just curious?

Chairman Dowd

Mr. Hudson?

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

So yes the funding covers all areas of the City, but we are focusing our inspection efforts on the oldest parts of the City. The sewer system was built out over time in the downtown to the outskirts. So the downtown has most of the older pipes. As I said, there are pipes that are like unreinforced concrete pipes that are problematic in the past, so we'll look at those. Right now we are looking at pipes typically older than the 1940's. As we progress the system, we'll start looking at newer and newer pipes until we get to pipes that meet current standards and are in good condition.

We do this work hand-in-hand with the paving program. So whenever we are going to pave a street, we reach out to all the utility companies - gas, water to screen the streets but we do the same thing internally. We video the pipes on that street if there are pipes as noted in that condition that is potentially something that would be concerned about. Certainly if there is any sewer issues, please forward those to the DPW. If there any sewer issues that anyone is aware of, let us know and we'll take those very seriously.

Laurie Ortolano

Okay could I just follow on it for a quick second? So yes I will send an e-mail over to DPW because if they're going to pave the street and gas company came around and knocked on all the doors and said they were going to do the gas pipes and then repave. It's a neighborhood where the piping would be around 160 years old from the 1870's homes up to 1900-1925. There's definitely some interesting smells when you walk your dog through the neighborhood. So I think there is some need, but it ought to be looked at. I just don't want them to pave the road and then find out there were piping problems. That's all. It just came to mind when I saw this but I'm in favor of it and obviously we've got a lot of work to do and you guys are doing good work. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

I'm sure DPW and the rest of the City would not want the streets dug up after we paved it. Any other testimony in favor?

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION - None

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR - None

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION - None

Alderman Cathey

I apologize. I did just have one question if I may for Mr. Hudson. Mr. Hudson are you aware if any new pavement would have to be ripped up and if so would that be covered by either the bonds or the paving program budget?

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

Thank you. So clearly we want to avoid situations like that where we pave the street and then there is a sewer issue and that requires digging up the street. When we have that issue, we follow the same moratorium restoration requirements as anyone else would. We do everything we can to prevent that, but sometimes that does happen. In that case, then that's just what we would do, we would make the repair and/or line the rest of the pipe and then do the pavement restoration. So we do our best to avoid it, but it is inevitable sometimes. Those things happen.

Chairman Dowd

All set? Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you. Mr. Hudson I'm not recalling that particular street that the speaker spoke about is on the City's paving list. It is part of the gas company doing it and if they pave it will they be paving the entire road or will they just be doing sections that they are digging up?

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

They would just be doing their trenches, but I believe they are doing that work in preparation for future pavement. It may not be this year. It may be next year or it may be late this year if we have an opportunity to add some roads. Yes when the utilities do their work, they do their work independently ahead of us but try to meet our timelines and then we come in and pave after. So I assume they're just doing their own trench restoration.

Alderman Klee

Just a quick follow up. Adding on to Alderman Cathey's comments. If the City in doing their studies and so on had decided that area, and that I do believe that areas does need to at least be looked at. It wasn't that long ago that some work was done in through that area and I think it actually created more issues than anything else. The City would put off any paving they were doing until that work was completed, correct?

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

Yes, that's correct. I mean we go through the screening process and we have plenty of streets that need paving so we prefer not to do a street that gas, or water work, or sewer work is needed on. We would want to pave that after. So yes, we do defer paving on streets for utility work regularly.

Alderman Klee

Thank you.

Alderman Comeau

Yes, thank you Mr. Chair. Mr. Hudson you mentioned that some of this work is going to be centered around downtown. Is Main Street one of the roads that you're looking at?

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

Thank you. Yes we are doing a deep dive on Main Street. Of course Main Street has some of the oldest stuff. We have brick sewers which luckily have fared fairly well over the years. They did a good job building those and those have held up. So surprisingly some of those old brick sewers haven't been as problematic as some of the pipes, but yes we've been working with the utility companies. You've seen a lot of gas work on Main Street. That's all in anticipation of future paving. Water work as well and we're doing a thorough investigation right now on all the drainage and sewer pipes on Main Street.

Chairman Dowd

All set?

Alderman Comeau

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any others? Alderman Thibeault?

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Hudson just to follow up on Alderman Comeau's question. So if you're looking at Main Street is that projected work? Could that be done this summer? You've talked about - and I don't want to open this question up because the town loves me right now but barrier wise would this work contradict any barrier discussion? Do you know what I'm saying?

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

I know what you're saying. We're not planning to pave Main Street this year, but the utility work is underway. The extended dining didn't occur on March 15 so we've gained the benefit of a little additional time that they had been working during the winter trying to wrap up gas main work before dining opens. So they're getting close on that. But yes, we are cognizant of the extended outdoor dining potential plans for that and are working our schedules around it.

Alderman Thibeault

Great, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Everyone all set?

Chairman Dowd closed the public hearing on Resolution R-22-013 at 7:15 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS**R-22-022**

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire  
Alderman Richard Dowd  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman Derek Thibeault  
Alderman Patricia Klee

**APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NASHUA BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE NASHUA TEACHERS' UNION, LOCAL 1044, AFT, AFL-CIO FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2025 AND AUTHORIZING A RELATED TRANSFER AND SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION**

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

Chairman Dowd

My name should have been on there as a sponsor as well. Is there anyone else who wish to sponsor? Alderman Lopez, Alderman Klee and Alderman Thibeault. Okay, so let's refer to budget.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE THAT THE MARCH 28, 2022, SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE ADJOURNED BY ROLL CALL**

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

Yea: Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Klee, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Jette,  
Alderman Comeau, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Gouveia, Alderman Cathey,  
Alderman Thibeault, Alderman Wilshire

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Nay:

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**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Attest: Susan Lovering, City Clerk