



Members of the Committee absent: Alderman Patricia Klee

Also in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Fire Chief Brian Rhodes  
Assistant Fire Chief Steve Buxton

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ROLL CALL

Chairwoman Kelly

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

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

I am present, I am in the room alone, I can hear everyone.

Alderman Caron

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

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Klee let us know that she was having internet issues and would not be able to come on tonight.

Alderman Wilshire

OK. And Alderman Wilshire is here, I can hear everyone and I am alone. That's four members present.

Chairwoman Kelly

I also see Alderman O'Brien and Fire Chief Rhodes.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

PRESENTATION - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

**R-21-122**

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

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE BY ROLL CALL**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairwoman Kelly

Alright. The Motion is for final passage. Who is here to speak on it from the Firefighters? Or does anyone from the Committee have questions? Oh there you go.

Steve Buxton, Assistant Fire Chief

Good evening. This is Assistant Chief Steve Buxton. Can you hear me?

Chairwoman Kelly

I sure can. Did you want to give us a quick overview of what this is?

Assistant Fire Chief Buxton

Yes so basically this is just the agreement between the City of Nashua and the State of New Hampshire for us to be able to staff the vaccination clinics at the State. From the Federal Level, the State of New Hampshire is actually charged with running those sites, so we can't bill FEMA directly. So we have to go through the State and then the State will bill FEMA and this is just the Memorandum of Understanding I guess is the way I understand it that sets up the mechanism for us to be able to collect those funds.

As many of you know, since they stood up that vaccination clinic both NFR and NPD have had many members working the site and obviously we don't have room for that in our Budget but we are working to be able to help them sustain the vaccination effort in our community. They are upwards of putting, I think last week there were around 1,900 shots in arms every day. Today was their first day down at Sears at the Pheasant Lane Mall and they are hopeful that within a week they will be upwards of 2,000 to 3,000 shots per day that they will be administering.

So there is still a lot of heavy lifting to be doing but this Legislation just basically establishes a means for the City to get the money that they are spending back.

Chairwoman Kelly

Great, thank you very much. Anyone from the Committee have questions or comments? Alderman Wilshire?

Alderman Wilshire

Through you Madam Chair to Deputy Chief Buxton, is this overtime or is this just, how are these funds being spent by the City? I know you are there and you are manning things, but can you give us a little info on that please?

Chairwoman Kelly

Go ahead.

Assistant Fire Chief Buxton

Yeah. So as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement and FLSA Laws, basically any time one of our members is working beyond their normally scheduled hours it is at their overtime rate. So we have everything from the 2-year employee to the 15-year member that is working down there. It is quite a heavy lift; there is mandatory list and it rotates through the schedule as far as that goes. The rates of pay, while there's a little bit of a difference there, it is all overtime pay basically.

Alderman Wilshire

OK just thought I'd ask that question and thank you for all being there and doing your part, appreciate it.

Assistant Fire Chief Buxton

Well thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Anyone else? Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you Madam Chair. I would just like to say that although not being a member of this Committee I do support this and I will support it when it comes before the Full Board. And I think Assistant Chief Buxton would agree, these firefighters did have the very important position, once the shots were administered, to make sure nobody had any type of reaction. And from what I understand fortunately it wasn't major, but not to say that there wasn't some people that did not have reactions to it and it was good to have the professionals there and the Fire Department able to mitigate those particular circumstances.

I do know that they even stepped beyond the call of duty and did the work of directing the public and keeping so many shots in arms to keep that number. The reason it is such a positive is because of their influence and I would like to be on record to thank them. I know this is a little bit above and beyond the call of just dragging a hose, but it is another example Chief that you can relay back to your Chief and to the members at large, that as a City we greatly appreciate the extra work that the firefighters have done. And like I say, I will support this to make sure there are no holes in your budget; to make sure everybody is compensated that participated. But, again, thank you so much for stepping to the plate during this pandemic and doing so much. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Are you all set, Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you. Yes, Madam Chair.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Gathright. You're on mute; Linda, you are on mute.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Sorry. I had the same sentiment so that's what I get and I just want to say thank you as well. I always say we have the best here in Nashua. So you can relay that back to the Chief as well that I truly appreciate our Fire Department. I wish they were still doing the one, you know, helping people with drugs, I really wish that was still in place. I thought that was one of the better, not better programs, but as a program that had worked very well for people that were still out there and trying to get help for their habits. But I understand we have to move on sometimes.

Chairwoman Kelly

All set, Alderman?

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Yes.

Assistant Fire Chief Buxton

Madam Chair, could I.

Chairwoman Kelly

Of course, yeah, you want to respond?

Assistant Fire Chief Buxton

Yeah so I just wanted to thank everybody for their support. I do believe that the City of Nashua invests very well in public safety across the board and as I say to some of my people when we visit off the island and we get to see the examples set in other communities, we do very well here and we take care of our community very well. If you were to visit the site, you would see firefighters doing all sorts of different tasks. To Alderman O'Brien's point, sometimes it looks like they are directing traffic or checking people in, but truly we are hired there as medical observers so us just by default wandering around the crowd, is kind of when we were at Nashua High, when somebody would beep their horn stating they were in distress, it was just the closest person to that vehicle who would get there and triage things and start the process. So I am sure a similar type set up will be taking place down at Sears. So while we are taking on other duties at these clinics, the main purpose of us being there is as medical observers. But thank you very much for all of your wonderful support for public safety in the City is greatly appreciated.

Chairwoman Kelly

All set? Alderman Wilshire?

Alderman Wilshire

Just one more thing.

Chairwoman Kelly

Yeah that's fine.

Alderman Wilshire

You know, firefighters, you guys stepped up for Safe Stations, stepped for the pandemic, you are reliable, you are dependable, you are awesome. So you can pass that along too. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Of course. I was actually going to chime in with something similar. I think everyone has said it, but I think it has been a year. I know that everyone has had an additional work load and especially the firefighters in our community have been continuing to step up. So seeing them help in the effort to hopefully get back to normal, obviously we appreciate all that you do and are excited for somewhat back to normal for everyone. So thanks for doing your part.

Assistant Fire Chief Buxton

Thank you very much.

Chairwoman Kelly

Anything else from the Committee. I think we can call the roll. OH, Alderman Caron, sure.

Alderman Caron

Well I don't want to be left out.

Chairwoman Kelly

Go for it June.

Alderman Caron

I was not at the high school when I got my shot, but I heard nothing but positive comments from everyone that had gone there Chief and I think it is a credit to you and everyone who works at the Fire Department to step up and help out. Unfortunately, it has been a long year, almost a year and a half and we are moving along and I think kudos goes to all of you. I concur with everything everyone else has said. So thank you.

Assistant Fire Chief Buxton

Thank you very much for that. We are excited to hopefully get back to some level of normal here in the near future. We appreciate the opportunity to help our community.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alright, is everybody all set? OK. Alderman Wilshire.

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

Yea: Alderman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Caron,  
Alderman Wilshire, Alderwoman Kelly 4

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you for being here. I know that we are going to give an oral report tomorrow so that we can have this taken care of tomorrow evening. So we will do that and it will be on the Agenda tomorrow evening.

Assistant Fire Chief Buxton

Great, thank you very much.

Chairwoman Kelly

Yeah, of course.

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE - None

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Chairwoman Kelly

I will just re-announce, I know that we are still meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> as well for the CDBG allocations because that also has a timeline. So we will meet again next week. Thank you for being able to show up twice, I appreciate it.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN - None

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE TO ADJOURN BY ROLL CALL**

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

Yea: Alderman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Caron,  
Alderman Wilshire, Alderwoman Kelly 4

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 715 p.m.

Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire  
Committee Clerk