

A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, April 13, 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 Brandon Michael Laws 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: 874 8255 1110 Passcode: 999999*

*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](http://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 14 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 Linda Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire.

Alderman Skip cleaver was recorded absent.

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 here, I can hear the proceedings, I am alone in this room at the moment.

Alderwoman Kelly

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

Alderman Dowd

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

Alderman Caron

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

Alderman Clemons

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

Alderman Lopez

Present, I am by myself, I can hear and see everyone.

Alderman Tencza

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

Alderwoman Lu

I am present, I am here with a couple of family members and I can hear everyone.

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 am in this room alone and I can hear everyone.

President Wilshire

I am here, I am alone and I can hear everyone. Alderman Cleaver did let us know that he was unable to join us this evening.

Susan Lovering, City Clerk

You have 14 in attendance.

President Wilshire

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

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

Yes, thank you Madam President. First I wanted to say how sorry I am about the passing, the death of one our young students in an automobile accident recently. I know that his family is grieving, and of course, no one who has not gone through that really can, I'm sure, imagine what it is like for a parent. But as a Mayor of the City and I know all of the Board of Aldermen, I mean I extend the community's deepest condolences. It is just a very, very tragic loss when a young person like this passes away. So I am very sorry about that.

Another issue, Madam President, the COVID-19 situation remains similar to where it has been the last few weeks. The number of cases is up from a month ago but now a few less cases than last week. Right now we have about 235 active cases; a week ago that was over 300. But we saw 198 new cases arise last week, that was up 10 from the week before. The positivity rate in Nashua remains at 8.5% which is much higher than we'd like. So we still need to be careful about the pandemic, it is still dangerous. I was just talking with someone tonight whose 20 some year old son has gotten COVID and is really sick from it. So this idea that young people can't contract a positive or a serious case, a serious positive case of COVID-19 is not really true. Yes, many people do OK with the disease but others do not. So this is still a dangerous situation and people should continue to exercise caution with the mask, social distancing and all the cautionary measures.

I wanted to mention that City Hall you will get a report, I think Madam President, after I am through from Ms. Kleiner and Ms. Deshaies regarding the improvements to the automobile registration area. Those are about complete. I think you'll see a significant transformation making the area much more COVID pandemic resistant, resistant to the next pandemic and also a real upgrade in terms of just the look of the whole place. We expect that the automobile registration will be able to move downstairs from the third floor next Monday. We will continue to operate by appointments, that seems to be going very well. But people will be going to the first floor to register their cars. And, of course, City Clerk Sue Lovering and her staff will move up to the third floor and then the renovations of the City Clerk's area will begin. The renovations to the Assessing are about complete and those should be open soon as well.

Madam President, I wanted to mention one of the issues on the Agenda tonight which is the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, that is R-21-118. This is the creation of a Trust Fund to hold Affordable Housing Contributions. This is just the beginning. We know that affordable housing is a serious, significant problem for us here in Nashua, a vacancy rate of less than 1%. Of course houses have also gone up significantly in value. So we need to begin to do everything we can and we will be proposing other steps as well but the initial contribution into this Trust Fund is \$30,000.00 which is the last 3 years of \$10,000.00 a year contributions that we receive from Clock Tower as part of the HUD HODAG Grant that was given to the City, earned by the City, won by the City back in the late 80's when I was Mayor before that established Clock Tower at that time. I am sure you all have indicated your support for that and I know you understand the seriousness of this issue but I wanted to mention it because I think it is an important step forward.

I wanted to report to the Board of Aldermen, Madam President, regarding a fraud issue that has occurred with respect to one of the contracts that the City is a party to. It involves the contract for the moving of the Health Department from their building on Mulberry Street over to Main Street at the Odd Fellow's Building. It appears, and we are still investigating so we will give you more information later, but what it appears is what happened is that someone hacked into the vendor, the vendor is from Massachusetts, computer hacking into their system. It appears that this is what happened at least so far and determined as a result of that hacking that there was a contract, determined the name of the person at the vendor that was dealing with the City and determined her email address, then altered the email address by one character, adding an "S" to the email address and began approaching Accounts Payable payment and changing the bank to which they were seeking to have a so-called ACH transfer.

Eventually Accounts Payable made that transfer to the fraudulent vendor and the amount is \$41,000.00 approximately. Now the City is not out the money at this point because, again, we are still investigating. The Legal Department, of course, is involved and there is some case law suggesting that if the first cause is the hacking of a party because of insufficient security that they may be the one that suffers the loss. But this is not a final determination or a final report. But I just wanted to let you know, I called you Madam President, the day after I learned about this and that was a week or 10 days ago but I wanted to tell the Board of Aldermen as well. Again, we will update and give you more complete information when we get it.

Another item, Madam President, the City's equalization ratio is out, 83% is the City's Equalization Ratio given by the State DRA. This means that on average, the average property in Nashua is assessed at 83% of Fair Market Value. This is, of course, as a result of the appreciation that has occurred in real estate values over the last several years. And as you know, we are in the middle of a revaluation. Our plan here is to – all houses have been viewed, all properties have been viewed from the exterior only because of COVID.

But now that people are beginning to get vaccinated, now that we have masks, we think it is important to offer people the opportunity, if they wish, no one has to do it, offer people the opportunity of an interior inspection. So that should be beginning next month. Now it will circulate in the same way that the exterior visits did, first with Ward 1 working through the Wards from the north end to the south end. Again, if anybody does not feel comfortable for any reason, COVID-19 or anything else, they certainly don't have to agree to a visit. But if they do feel comfortable and think it'll help in terms of their assessment, that opportunity will be available. We think, given that we haven't done a Full Measure & List since 1991 that we really don't want to do this or finish this revaluation without those in-person visits.

Finally the barriers as you see have been painted by our artists, by Positive Street Art and Beyond Walls. They did a great job I think and now the expanded outdoor dining is being put in place and that should be a great season. I know that we were down there last weekend and there was a 2 ½ hour wait at one of the restaurants for the outdoor seating. So I think that will go well this season and I want to thank the artists for their efforts. Unless there are questions, Madam President, that concludes my remarks.

President Wilshire

At this point, I think I will call on Director Kleiner to give her update on the building renovations.

Kim Kleiner, Director of Administrative Services

Good Evening and thank you Madam President, Members of the Board. So tonight I am joined by Jennifer Deshaies, the Risk Manager. Ms. Deshaies and I have worked on this on this project with a team of individuals since last June. It has certainly had its share of complex challenges; everything from structural changes when you are dealing with a building of this age to material challenges due to COVID-19. But in June, the building was assessed by the Emergency Operation Center and we realized that in order to comply with CDC Social Distancing Protocols, significant building modifications were required in Motor Vehicle, Tax, Assessing and the City Clerk's Office.

Dennis Myers was hired as the architect, designed the big set drawings and the specifications for the modifications. Following an RFP process the Finance Committee did approve a contract with DL King & Associates back on September 16<sup>th</sup>. So as this point, we'd like Ms. Deshaies to take you through a little bit of a short virtual tour of the area.

Jennifer Deshaies, Risk Management

The first area we are going to take a tour of is the Assessing Department. What you are looking at is the Assessing Kiosk. The Kiosk consists of 3 transaction windows. One of the windows is ADA accessible and also serves for transferring bulk information back and forth from employee to citizen. We are now moving into the Conference Room which has direct access from the hallway to allow staff to meet with residents. This is the staff area of the Department and you are currently viewing the staff side of the kiosks. The new area allows for a better layout of work stations, as well as a better, overall use of this space.

This next area that we are going to visit is the motor vehicle department. This is the citizen's side where we have 8 transaction windows with one of them being ADA accessible. Each transaction area is separated by glass and meets social distancing and security protocols. The employee side includes individual work stations separated by glass and again meeting social distancing and security protocols. The layout provides not only a secure area but a better use of the available space.

Director Kleiner

So as part of this project, you've had a number of modifications. We have widened the Rotunda Door leading to the Motor Vehicle area. We have new sprinkler systems within the Motor Vehicle area. They have new work stations within the Motor Vehicle area to provide our staff with a much more productive work space. Presently, DL King, our contractors, are in the Tax Area which we expect to be finished by the end of the month. As the Mayor noted, we will be moving the Motor Vehicle Staff from the City Hall Auditorium starting this Friday and we expect them to open Monday morning in their new space. At that time, we will be working with the City Clerk and her staff to relocate them to the City Hall Auditorium and we will begin the final phase of the construction. Despite the talent of our videographers, I have to say a video can't do the area justice. I have to thank Dennis Myers our architects, the area is not only secure, providing social distancing but it is really breathtaking when you take a look at it and we hope that it will serve our residents well.

President Wilshire

So that concludes your update? Thank you so much. Thank you Jen appreciate your effort on this too. Did anyone have any questions for the Mayor or any response to the Remarks of the Mayor? Seeing none, Recognition Period.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR - None

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 meetings of March 23, 2021 and April 8, 2021 accepted, placed on file, and the readings suspended.**

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING ONLY PROCEDURAL ACTIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS  
FROM LIAISONS

From: Kimberly Kleiner, Administrative Services Director  
Re: Board of Aldermen Meeting – March 23, 2021

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

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

From: Larry D. Goodhue, Chief Executive Officer of Pennichuck Corporation  
Re: Pennichuck Corporation Quarterly Report to the Sole Shareholder for the Quarter Ended September 30, 2020

From: Larry D. Goodhue, Chief Executive Officer of Pennichuck Corporation  
Re: Annual Meeting of Sole Shareholder

**There being no objection, President Wilshire assigned to the communications to the PENNICHUCK SPECIAL WATER COMMITTEE, by President Wilshire**

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

President Wilshire

If anyone wishes to speak, you have a three minute limit and please try to not repeat what someone else has said. Who do we have? Mr. Keating?

Bob Keating Yes, Bob Keating from 5 Colburn Woods and a member of Granite State Organizing Project. I want to speak on two items. The first is I spoke at the Special Meeting of the Aldermen last week. I was very appreciative of this important step forward as the Mayor has said about the Housing Trust. I appreciate the sponsorship of Alderwoman Kelly and 14 Alderpersons that have endorsed it. I think in the metaphor for this season, I think it is an important seeding and that I look forward to working with other groups to help nurture this along for every new house that we bring on board for people of low to moderate income I think it is a benefit. So, again, I appreciate what has happened with this and I look forward to the future.

The second item is that I'd like to speak in support of the Resolution in regards to the support of the non-partisan fair re-districting. I appreciate Alderman Schmidt for bringing this forward. Again the endorsements of many of the Alderpersons, I think that this Resolution which has been endorsed I believe by 40+ now communities within the State will provide a more fair, open and transparent way rather than being swayed by re-districting depending upon what the wins of the Statehouse might be a particular moment in time. And I think it's a good step toward democracy so I ask your consideration for that. So thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Anyone else wishing to give public comment?

Laurie Ortolano My hand is up.

President Wilshire

I'm sorry I didn't see you, go ahead Ms. Ortolano.

Ms. Ortolano Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. Just commenting on the Communications for the Assessing Office update. I am a proponent of allowing people access to the office with appointments the same day if information is available. It was a walk-in office and I think that's pretty helpful and I am also supportive of appointments longer than 15 minutes if that time is available and these slots aren't booked, there is openings for people to have more than 15 minutes. I am disappointed in the Customer Service area because you took away all the counterspace for people to come in there to set up their notebooks or do some research. If they collected some property record files and they wanted to go through them there's so much less counterspace than there was in the old office that it is pretty disappointing that that's been eliminated. Other Assessing Offices I have been in maintain a lot of counterspace for people to be able to spread out a little bit and do some research. So I wish we hadn't lost all that space. I am not certain where we are supposed to go if we did get a manual or files to look at, you know? What are we supposed to do? Can you not go in and do that anymore. Do you have to be booked into a conference room? It just seems really unfortunate that that was the layout and I really had no idea that was the way it was going to work. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else wishing to give Public Comment? Seeing none – Communications requiring final approval.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING FINAL APPROVAL

From: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Re: Multi-Year Contract Award – Backup Internet Line

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LAWS TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR BACKUP INTERNET LINE TO CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. (CCI) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,635.64. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 120 TELECOM; FUND: 55109 TELECOMMUNICATIONS TELEPHONE: VOICE, 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,  
Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire 14

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

PETITIONS - None

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

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

Cultural Connections Committee

Margaret Loret (reappointment)  
4 Cimmarron Drive  
Nashua, NH 03062

Term to Expire: February 1, 2024

Paul Shea (new appointment)  
102 Tolles Street  
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: April 1, 2024

Nashua Arts Commission

Lindsay Rinaldi (reappointment)  
705 Belmont Street  
Belmont, MA 02478

Term to Expire: April 1, 2024

***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

Budget Review Committee..... 03/22/2021

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

Committee on Infrastructure..... 03/24/2021

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

Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee..... 04/05/2021

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the April 5, 2021 Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee accepted and placed on file.

Finance Committee..... 04/07/2021

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the April 7, 2021 Finance Committee accepted and placed on file.

Budget Review Committee..... 04/08/2021

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the April 8, 2021 Budget Review Committee accepted and placed on file.

**There being no objection, President Wilshire suspended the rules to allow for the oral report of the Human Affairs Committee meeting held Monday, April 12, 2021, regarding proposed Resolution R-21-122.**

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you President Wilshire. Yes, so our Committee met last night, I can't believe that was last night. And we had Assistant Chief Buxton come and speak to this Legislation. We unanimously passed it, but it is \$1.5 million to help the Firefighters continue to ramp up in our vaccinations for COVID-19. And so obviously everyone here can understand the urgency of that and we appreciate them pitching in as we get through the end of this pandemic.

President Wilshire

Thank you Alderwoman Kelly.

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS

Cable Television Advisory Board

***There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the new appointment of Cole Morgan, 20 Lock Street, Nashua, to the Cable Television Advisory Board with a term to expire March 31, 2024.***

Oath of Office administered by Corporation Counsel.

Citizens Advisory Commission

***There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the reappointment of Lisa Tourangeau, 11 Berkeley Street, Nashua, to the Citizens Advisory Commission with a term to expire October 1, 2023.***

Oath of Office to be administered by Corporation Counsel at a later date.

Energy and Environment Committee

***There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the new appointments of Taylor Barry, 33 Wellman Avenue, Nashua, and Dante Castellano, 4 Bicentennial Drive, Nashua, to the Energy and Environment Committee with terms to expire April 30, 2022.***

Oath of Office administered by Corporation Counsel.

Historic District Commission

***There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the following reappointments to the Historic District Commission: William Slivinski, 46 Berkeley Street, Nashua, with a term to expire June 30, 2022; Mariellen Mackay, 9 Webster Street, Nashua, and Robert Vorbach, 58 Manchester Street, Nashua, both with terms to expire December 31, 2023; and Christopher Barrett, 44 Abbott Street, Nashua, with a term to expire January 31, 2024.***

Oath of Office to be administered by Corporation Counsel at a later date.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

***There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the reappointment of Nicholas Kanakis, 159 Main Street, Nashua, to the Zoning Board of Adjustment with a term to expire September 11, 2023.***

Oath of Office to be administered by Corporation Counsel at a later date.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS**R-21-118**

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

**ESTABLISHING A HOUSING EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND FUNDED BY APPROPRIATIONS AND  
MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$30,000 INTO THE EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND**

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-21-118, BY ROLL CALL**ON THE QUESTION

Alderswoman Kelly

And I'd like to speak to it please.

President Wilshire

Alderswoman Kelly.

Alderswoman Kelly

Thank you. I know the Mayor mentioned this piece of Legislation. We had a good conversation around it at Committee. I have been very passionate about this and as everyone spoke about it at the Committee level, this is Step 1, just to get it open and have the conversations and then continue to build affordable housing. As we saw with the Housing Report that we got earlier this year, this is a critical need for Nashua. I am thankful for everyone's support on this and looking forward to continuing the good work here.

President Wilshire

The Motion before us is for final passage. Is there discussion on that motion? Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I want to add my voice to how excited I am about this. Myself, Alderman Schmidt and Alderman Cleaver had met with a community group and they were very interested in this type of Trust Fund and so on to kind of get us started. We keep talking about this as the "baby" this is the seedling that we are starting this Trust Fund from. The group that we met with, I think they want more and I think we will get there, but we are going to have to take baby steps.

So I am extremely excited that we are getting this started. And everyone that had anything to do with it from Director Marchant's office etc., this is really, really exciting and I am glad that we've got it started. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

Yeah I just wanted to say that I am also very excited about this. I am appreciative of Alderman Kelly and the attention that she was able to bring to this. Housing is a huge problem in our City, it is an urgent problem, we need to do a lot. This is a good start, we have a lot more work to do and baby steps are good but we really, really need to meet the need as it presents today.

There are people tonight who will be unsheltered, who will be homeless. A lot of that tracks back to the housing quality and the access to, you know, what kind of places they can stay. So there's a lot of work for us to do here and I think we should get started. Thanks.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Seeing none, the motion is for final passage of Resolution 21-118. 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, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	14
Nay:	0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-21-118 declared duly adopted.

**R-21-120**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
 Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
 Alderman Thomas 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 Shoshana 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 second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-21-120, 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, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	14
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Nay:	0
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

Resolution R-21-120 declared duly adopted.

**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  
 Alderwoman-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 second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CARON FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-21-122, 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, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	14
Nay:	0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-21-122 declared duly adopted.

**R-21-125**

Endorsers: 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 Thomas Lopez  
 Alderman June M. Caron  
 Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**SUPPORTING NONPARTISAN FAIR REDISTRICTING**

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-21-125, BY ROLL CALL**

ON THE QUESTIONAlderman Schmidt

And I'd like to speak to it please.

President Wilshire

Alderman Schmidt?

Alderman Schmidt

Thank you. Every 10 years after our Census, the State is required to reapportion the Districts. In the past, it has been partisan at times. And to avoid that, we simply ask that this be – we are supporting non-partisan and fair re-districting as a City. And I wanted to thank Mr. Keating for coming and making a point of this. It is very important. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Alright. The Motion is for final passage of Resolution 21-125 by Roll Call. Further discussion on that motion, Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam President. When Alderman Schmidt had brought this up and spoke to myself and the other Alder Reps, I was very on-board with it. Ten years ago when they were doing the re-districting, one of the things that had happened was Ward 3 was they tried to pull us across the river into another town. That is just not acceptable. Nashua should remain in Nashua and that's the way it should be. We should be represented by Nashua and I'm sure the Ward 3 Citizens would not have wanted to be represented by someone from across the river. It is just not the way it belongs. So I do appreciate that we are doing this and we need to make it a point that Nashua will just stay within Nashua. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Motion is for final passage of Resolution 21-125. Seeing no one, 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,  
Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws,  
Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire 14

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-21-125 declared duly adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

**O-21-053**

Endorsers: Alderman Ernest A. Jette  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman Patricia Klee

**AUTHORIZING A STOP SIGN ON SHAWNEE DRIVE AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH CONANT ROAD**

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN JETTE FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-21-053, BY ROLL CALL**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Jette

And I would like to speak to it.

President Wilshire

Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

So one of our residents had a near miss at the intersection of Conant Road and Shawnee Drive and was surprised when he went back and looked at it, there was no stop sign on Shawnee Drive. He complained to the Public Works Department and Traffic Department and went out and took a look and agreed that a stop sign should be there on Shawnee Drive. So the Public Works Department contacted me and asked me to sponsor this Ordinance. The Infrastructure Committee unanimously recommended final passage. And I hope that my fellow Aldermen will vote for this as well. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you Alderman Jette. Discussion on Ordinance 21-053? Seeing none, the Motion is for Final Passage. 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, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	14
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Nay:	0
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**MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance O-21-053 declared duly adopted.

**O-21-054**

Endorsers: 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 second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-21-054, BY ROLL CALL**

ON THE QUESTION

And I would like to briefly speak to my motion please?

President Wilshire

Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you so much. This was brought to me by a constituent who lives on Mt. Pleasant. Mt. Pleasant is a one-way in that area so the only way of exiting that street is to go out to Concord Street. Trying to take a left can be very difficult at best, but makes it even worse when we can't see the traffic coming because of the cars that were parked there. Sadly, sometimes they parked a little too close to the intersection when they shouldn't and even trying to put up a sign that would say not to do this still created an issue. Recently with the new I guess owners I would say of the old Red Cross Building, there's been more traffic, more cars parked there, and so on. It became quite dangerous. There were a number of near misses. I worked with Public Works who came out and looked at it and agreed. The Street Department agreed that this was hazardous. This did go through Infrastructure and was also recommended for approval. So I thank you for your time.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Anyone else? The Motion is for final passage of Ordinance 21-054. Seeing no one, 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, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	14
Nay:	0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance O-21-054 declared duly adopted

**O-21-055**

Endorsers: Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

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

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-21-055, BY ROLL CALL**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Klee

This one was brought to me much like what Alderman Jette had mentioned; it was brought to me by Public Works. They had had a number of complaints that there were issues coming through that intersection. There was no stop sign. As you were coming from that little crossroad there by the Firemen’s Memorial onto Manchester Street, there is a stop sign going in the opposite direction to get on to Concord Street but not towards Manchester Street.

It is very difficult when you are driving up from the downtown area and it can be kind of a blind spot. So without a stop sign there could be some real, severe issues. I can tell you first-hand that I have experienced some very close calls. So the Street Department and so on looked at it and decided that we do need a stop sign there. And where Mt. Pleasant School is right there, there is a crosswalk within feet of this, I think it is very important that we do have that stop sign there. There could be some severe injuries, so again, I would appreciate a positive on this. Thank you.

President Wilshire

The motion before us is for final passage of O-21-055. Is there any other discussion on that motion? No one else? OK the motion is for final passage of O-21-055. 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,  
Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws,  
Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire 14

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance O-21-055 declared duly adopted

**O-21-057, AMENDED**

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 Thomas 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****MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO AMEND O-21-057 BY REPLACING IT WITH THE GOLDENROD COPY OF AMENDMENTS MADE AT THE PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, BY ROLL CALL**ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Lopez

And I'd like to speak it.

President Wilshire

Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

So the amendments that we made, the initial Ordinance was enabling the addition of two representatives of the LGBTQ+ Community for representation on the Cultural Connections Committee. The amendment allows for two additional representatives to represent Deaf Culture. So a few years ago, I was actually Chairing the Cultural Connections Committee at the time, we were having conversations about what our role was, what our relevance was and how we could better engage the community and make minority populations in the City more able to access City Government. We had chosen to change the name from Ethnic Awareness Committee to Cultural Connections Committee to better reflect the intent of the Committee. It wasn't just to raise awareness it was actually to connect members of cultures together.

We had thought that in a City where you could have French Canadians who are a numerical minority but a cultural majority. Greek populations, populations of people from India, Rohingya, Irish, many other different cultural backgrounds on a level, you would have a more diverse opportunity for people to enjoy the merits of those different cultures and the strengths that they offered. And we had been aware that there is definitely a culture relative to the LGBTQ+ Community because for a long time they were stigmatized and isolated culturally from others so that they developed their own internal cultures in a lot of ways, which we have found to be enriching in our own Pride Festival and other examples. And likewise, we had also talked about the Deaf Community where they have a language, they have ideas, they see things specific to people who view the world without hearing as a primary sense and we wanted to make sure that they had inclusion in the Cultural Connections Committee and in Government as well.

So when this Ordinance moved forward, it seemed like the ideal time to kind of present both of those as opportunities for the Cultural Connections Committee to enable more people to feel like they have a seat at the table and they can have representation in City affairs.

President Wilshire

The motion is to amend. Further discussion on that motion? Alderwoman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

I have two hands up for effect. I just wanted to thank Alderman Lopez for bringing up the additional representation from the Deaf Community. And I would say to anyone here, if they have additional communities that they think should be on this Committee, please bring them forward. Because the more representation we have the better we can serve our constituency. So I am excited for both this and the LGBTQ members.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Seeing none, the motion is to amend. 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, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	14
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Nay:	0
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**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-21-057 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, Alderman Wilshire	13
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Nay:	0
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**MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance O-21-057 declared duly adopted as amended.

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

**R-21-126**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR AND EXPEND THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (“CDBG”) AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022**

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

**R-21-127**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF FIVE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,408,000) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 CITY'S SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM**

Given its first reading; assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE, BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS and SCHEDULE A SPECIAL BOARD OF ALDERMEN PUBLIC HEARING on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 7:00 PM, by President Wilshire

**R-21-128**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,550,000) TO PAY ADDITIONAL COSTS OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM, WINDOW IMPROVEMENTS AND LOCKER AREA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Given its first reading; assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE, BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS and SCHEDULE A SPECIAL BOARD OF ALDERMEN PUBLIC HEARING on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 7:00 PM, by President Wilshire

**R-21-129**

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman Jan Schmidt  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman Tom Lopez  
Alderman June M. Caron  
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly  
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$1,439,929 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT INTO PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT ACTIVITY "HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS ("HOPWA")"**

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

**R-21-130**

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

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF UP TO \$220,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTO TRANSIT GRANT ACTIVITY "FEDERAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY ("FTA") OPERATING GRANT"**

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

**R-21-131**

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman Tom Lopez  
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly  
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NASHUA TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH NASHUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, RIVIER UNIVERSITY, TOWN OF HUDSON, THE PLUS COMPANY AND THE SOUHEGAN VALLEY TRANSPORTATION COLLABORATIVE FOR TRANSIT SERVICES**

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

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

**O-21-058**

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

**AMENDING THE FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT LAND USE ORDINANCES**

Given its first reading; assigned to the PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, NASHUA PLANNING BOARD, CONSERVATION COMMISSION and SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 7:00 PM, by President Wilshire

**O-21-059**

Endorser: Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman Jan Schmidt  
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright  
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons

**AUTHORIZING A RIGHT TURN ONLY LANE ON AMHERST STREET TO COTTON ROAD CONNECTOR**

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

Alderman Kelly

I just wanted to inquire why O-21-058 wasn't also going to the Conservation Commission.

President Wilshire

It can go to the Conversation Commission. We can send it there.

Alderman Kelly

We talk about Flood Plains all the time.

President Wilshire

Yeah we can send it there.

Alderman Kelly

Ok thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

**O-21-060**

Endorser: Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**NO PARKING AT CERTAIN TIMES AND NO ON-STREET STUDENT DROP OFF OR PICK UP ON SECTIONS OF CLEVELAND STREET**

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

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

President Wilshire

Again, I will ask anyone from the public if they would like to speak. Give your name and address for the record and you have a 3 minute window. Anyone? Laurie Ortolano?

Laurie Ortolano Yeah, Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. A couple of things quickly. A little while ago I talked to this Board and I think the Finance Committee about getting an update from Vision on the Commercial / Residential property assessment rate that we are potentially looking at for 2022 and the vacancy rate for these commercial properties, mostly to understand if there is going to be a burden shift from commercial properties onto residential. And I think there's been some recovery here but Vision has collected one year of commercial sales data and would have some vacancy information. And I would like to have them talk to us and give us some input because I've received a number of calls from seniors who have asked me to ask this board to consider and take a look at the elderly tax exemption. You did this in 2018 and you ended up having to phase it in when there was an increase in the assessments because of the market. There was a pretty big outcry from seniors to get more assistance and I suspect in 2022 you are going to see the same thing. And I am not weighing in one way or another about what the right thing to do is here. But it would be good now to look at what other communities have done with these increases in the real estate market and how they are addressing their exemptions. We have a generous exemption but I think seniors have a good point who are saying, "address it now" so that we don't get stuck in this phase in plan that happened in 2022 and be a little proactive. But let's understand where we are going with this situation with the new update.

I also would like and I think wrote a letter to the Board I can't recall if I did. I would really like to encourage the Mayor to set up a class with Vision to do a little camera review with us. It was something that was supposed to be done with KRT and it was cancelled, but some workshop where the public could learn more about modeling, how it is done, what data they use off your property record card and allows them questions or put out a video before the update is done.

The last thing is I am not a proponent of maintaining that Right To Know position that was recently hired in the budget. I don't feel it has done what it should do to meet the needs of the public. I understand there is no legal obligation to be civil or polite or work with the public. But I do think that municipal government has an obligation to try to do that and I think that hasn't happened. I was very leery of having that position be part of the Legal Office because it intertwines with other legal issues and that's exactly what happened. And I don't think that that position should be maintained. I think it is really has been very poorly handled and I am really disappointed with it. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else wishing to give Public Comment? Alicia Houston? Name and address for the record please?

Alicia Houston Alicia Houston, 139 Westwood Drive. I had some questions or actually comments on the current standing. As many of you know, with regards to the education community and how that is impacting the local economic levels. My understanding is that Mayor Donchess is aware of the 860 students that we were missing as of October. I think that my comment is specific to really creating and understanding, perhaps for the Aldermen and Alderwomen who may not be aware that were three and soon to be four different levels of CARES Act Funding, that was sent specifically to the Districts under SR1, SR2, the American Relief Program and then SR3 should be rolling out soon as well.

So I think that as a community because we've seen what the closures of schools look like in an effort to be more proactive, I think that it would be extremely beneficial for us to look at what, you know, what is the City Budget and how do we incorporate some of the educational pieces to support the education system because such a large portion of our taxes really go towards the education system. I know that there have been a lot of parents and residents and taxpayers within the Nashua Community who have voiced concerns about having another tax increase as a result of, you know, this horrific pandemic and no one could have expected it. However, our schools remained vacant for over a year essentially. So I think that, given the community's standpoint, that is one of the big concerns that I would definitely encourage any Aldermen or Alderwomen to communicate directly with the Board of Education and with the Mayor and really create a cohesive approach so that we can be more proactive going forward. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Anyone else wishing to make comments? Seeing no one, Remarks by Members of the Board?  
Alderman Schmidt?

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMENAlderman Schmidt

Thank you, I never get called on first. I am so grateful that Director Kleiner brought us that video and gave us the information about what is happening at City Hall. I have had questions from people who are wondering when things are going to be done, what is happening, who is doing it. And this is just perfect. Motor Vehicles Department is going to be opening next Monday. City Clerk is going up and Assessing is almost complete. And it's beautiful, it is clean, it is safe. I am just so pleased. And I just can't thank you enough. I have had one more question. I had a question about when the Health Department is going to phase out the mask requirement on their part? And I know that this is information that we certainly can't make any decision on this, we don't have enough information right now. But I'd like them to know that people are requesting it and it is a very stressful issue for a lot of people. That's all I needed to say. Thank you very much.

President Wilshire

I have next Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam President. I would like to echo Alderman Schmidt's comments about the renovations at City Hall. I really appreciated getting the walk through I guess you would call it. It is very impressive looking, very professional looking and I love the upgrade to it. I'd also want to send out my condolences to the family of the Nashua student who lost his life recently. And I want to praise the City of Nashua. On Saturday I had a clean-up of Lock Street and some of the surrounding streets and there were ten volunteers that showed up. Two of them came from Ward 1, one of them came from Ward 4 and the rest were from Ward 3, French Hill and so on.

It is exciting. I mean I always figure that my Ward will be right there to help clean up and so on but to have someone come in from Ward 1 and Ward 4 was just quite impressive. It speaks volumes for our City.

Public Works was incredible. They donated the blue bags for us to pick things up with and some very nice work gloves as well. Director Fauteux stepped up, Park & Rec were right there. They were picking up the blue bags as we were filling them, they came at the end of the day to Foster Square and got the bags. We filled over 30 bags, mostly just Lock Street, a little bit of Lowell, a little bit of Canal and so on. We are going to do this again. I am hoping for October 25<sup>th</sup> and I will put out information. I've gotten a lot of positive feedback from the residents. They were really happy to see us out there and doing this. I was proud to do it and we had a beautiful day on Saturday. So I suggest others who want to do this, just get a group together and start picking up trash. One person said that I thought was quite funny, she was singing Butts & Poo I think was the song that she was singing because that's what she kept picking up. But then she did tell me there were more butts on the ground than there were poo. So I'm not sure that's necessarily a good thing but we were picking up cigarette butts too. It's a lot of back work picking up cigarette butts, but we were successful. Thank you so much.

President Wilshire

Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you Madam President. I have a few things to make some comments on. First I would like to thank everyone for passing the Affordable Housing Fund. We are looking forward to the continued work on that. As a Downtown business owner, I have had the pleasure of watching Downtown come alive with our barriers; they look fantastic. I know that was request from the community last year and so it really looks great. Positive Street Art and Beyond Borders I believe, I have met both of them and they've done a great job. And the only other piece that I had was I wanted to thank everyone who was in attendance this evening and gave public comment. I thought we did a great job of being civil and having just some straight forward conversation whether we agree or not. I know that hasn't always been happening on other City meetings and I would like to implore everyone to come and share their ideas. That makes us stronger but let's do it civilly. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

So in reference to Alderman Schmidt's comments, I did announce at our last Aldermen Meeting, I had asked the Board of Health to start reviewing the masking Ordinance so they could figure out exactly how it would be appropriate to take it down. In light of today's announcement in New Hampshire that the Johnson & Johnson Vaccination is being suspended, there are a lot of complications when it comes to when we are ready to safely remove the mask. As most people have probably begun reading, I have a number of constituents and associates who have actually managed to catch COVID after being inoculated. It is not 100% protection. The more exposure you have, the more likely you are to challenge your immune response and contract it. What the vaccine does do is it allows you to have a lighter and less intensive COVID infection. It can prevent hospitalization in most cases but you can still definitely transport it. So these are things we need to be cautious of, they are basically what explains the surge.

It is also worth reminding to people that we don't have any vaccinations for children at all. The testing has to be completed for them before we are sure that it is safe to do it. And there's a whole ICG index now on COVID-related conditions. I know that's not what people want to hear; but COVID doesn't necessarily go away without leaving scarring and marks. There is increasing awareness in the Public Health Field of neurological issues including more acute emotional experiences, you can develop mood disorders that you might not have been susceptible to before and brain fog and cognitive issues. So this is still a very new illness.

It has only been around for about a year and a half so we need to be cautious and I think our Board of Health needs the support of the Aldermen in making sure that when we talk about masking ordinances, we are talking about a decision that is safe, not necessarily popular for the City of Nashua.

We were on the front lines when this was blowing up in Boston and Massachusetts. We have managed to maintain a very safe and effective response to it. We have managed to protect our businesses to the extent that some of the efforts that we have made to allow them to survive COVID have turned out to be wildly successful such as the Downtown outside dining. So we need to be able to give them the ability to be healthcare practitioners and make recommendations that are informed. I have asked them to identify specific criteria that could be used such as exposure rate, number of people vaccinated and those kind of things. So that discussion will be 12:30 tomorrow. It is on the City's Webpage and I think we've all gotten emails about it.

Additionally, with regards to the barriers, I am sorry to Alderman Klee for not helping her with her clean-up, I was actually in the middle of volunteering/segwaying in circles around Positive Street Art while they were painting. And they are doing an outstanding job and I think it looks really, really good. I have heard from some businesses that they would have liked to have some direct input on the designs that were going right in front of their business and because of the backsides of the barriers haven't been painted, the idea was we could do those future years. They would have preferred a decoration. So I talked to the Mayor, I talked to Director Cummings, they are both supportive of the idea of those restaurants reaching out to Positive Street Art and contracting the artists directly to do a more customized look on the inside. That is up to the restaurants, if they want to pay for that, that's fine. I think the City has been more than supportive in what it has already contributed to and I think the barriers really need to get up. The best thing you can for a business right now as the weather starts to get warm is to get people sitting in your seats and using your services in a safe way.

So that's very encouraging. People have given me a lot of positive feedback about that. Not exactly as positive of feedback as the bulldozer that is parked in the former Alec's Shoe Store site. I think people imagined that we were going to drape a giant blanket over that and then pull it back and there would suddenly be a Performing Arts Center. And it was a little heart breaking for people who have family history or memories attached to Millers to watch the front loader scraping away at the Alec's Shoe Store sign. So yeah I mean it is demolition, it is change, it is frustrating. But the promise that we have ahead of us and the project that is moving forward is very exciting as are other projects that are happening downtown. There's a lot of development that's happening from local businesses. We have the Soup Kitchen's project, we have additional housing projects coming on line. So there's a lot of really good and interesting things happening downtown.

So I guess to conclude, I would remind people to be careful in driving downtown. It is not the Daniel Webster Highway. We don't want to have more car accidents and people injured. So just be mindful of pedestrians. If you are looking for a more rapid and direct route to get over the bridge, consider the Broad Street Parkway. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderman Harriott-Gathright.

Alderman Harriot-Gathright

Thank you Madam President. I too want to echo the sentiments of our Mayor to the family of the 17 year old which I am sure is very difficult for them. But just to let them know that we, as a City, really are standing with them. And secondly, I didn't speak to the \$1.5 million that's going to the Fire Department. But I did sit in on that meeting, I was in on the meeting when Deputy Chief spoke to that and it was kind of weird how we couldn't actually just pay them directly we have to go through the Health Department in order to pay the firemen that work in giving out the vaccinations and directing traffic and all the many things that they do for the City. So I just want to acknowledge that they do a lot and I've been in the lines for vaccination at one point and really got a really good look at some of the things that they do there. So I just want them to know and for the community to know the work that they do beyond their regular firemen's work, let's put it that way. So kudos to them.

And thirdly, my question is probably to Corporate Counsel because I listened to comments about the Board of Education and I think for me, I just need clarity on something. For me, I thought the Board of Education is the Board of Education and we are the Board of Aldermen. And I know we kind of oversee the City. Do we oversee the Board of Education because I do know that the Board of Education has a counsel as well? So I don't want to get us into the thing of the Board of Education expands coming into the Board of Aldermen. So with that said, that's my question to Corporate Counsel. Where does that stand? Because that can become very ugly like the Board of Education.

President Wilshire

Attorney Bolton?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Well let me correct one thing. Just like all City Departments, my office represents the School Department and the Board of Education as well. So yes, for some matters they have engaged outside counsel on occasion but we do represent them and it does take a considerable amount of our time and effort. There are issues for which this Board, the Board of Aldermen has to defer to the decision making of the Board of Education; School Curriculum, School Policies, the School Calendar, the hiring of a Superintendent, the approving the Superintendent's choices for other administrative and teaching positions. While members of the Board of Aldermen can weigh in on those decisions, just like any other of our citizens, this Board cannot overrule decisions of the Board of Education in those areas.

But you do set the budget. And it is possible to exert influence in that manner. So that's the situation in nutshell, very briefly. There are nuances and if a specific question were to arise on a specific issue, we could look into that specifically and provide an answer as circumstances arise.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Thank you, you have answered my question because that was the other thing. Could we override? I know about the budget but on whatever decisions the Board of Education makes, we as the Board of Aldermen cannot override that. Did I understand that correctly?

Attorney Bolton

That's generally true on school-related matters.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

School-related matters, thank you. OK.

President Wilshire

Are you all set Alderman Gathright?

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Yes, thank you so much.

President Wilshire

You're welcome. Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you Madam President. I just wanted to reiterate something that I said in the past and that is that I admire all of our City employees. And in particular, our City Attorney's Office, I think you do a wonderful job and I think folks who unfortunately have the other opinion or a different opinion might have one because of some biases. But I certainly think that you serve our citizens well, you serve us well and keep up the good work. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Alderman Dowd.

Alderman Dowd

Just a couple of quick things, one additional note I'd make relative to the School Department is we have bottom line budget authority but once we give them the money from the budget, they have autonomy on how to spend it. So we always reiterate that during the budget season. The other things is last week the Mayor had a special event outside City Hall recognizing all the work that the Public Health Department has done to support the City, especially during the pandemic. It was very nice recognition for all of those workers who were there. Also we have now received the AOT Permit that is Alteration of Terrain Permit from the State of New Hampshire. So Pennichuck Middle School construction will be moving out very smartly, probably tomorrow or Thursday. While we were waiting for the AOT the contractor had to leave to do some other job and they will be back.

Also on O-21-060 on Cleveland Street, those signs and requirements have been approved by the Department of Public Works but it needed the Legislation to put the signs up in the right of way and those are all for safety, safety of the students. So we will be addressing those in Infrastructure. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Anyone else? Seeing none, Committee Announcements?

Committee announcements:Alderwoman Kelly

I never get to do it because it is always like three week's out. So it's like OH, the Human Affairs Committee will have a second meeting for the month on this upcoming Monday at 7:00 p.m. There will be a Public Hearing as well.

President Wilshire

Ok anyone else, Committee Announcements? Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien

Just to remind everybody, tomorrow night is the Pennichuck Special Water Commission Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Anyone else? OK, seeing none, Alderman O'Brien?

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN THAT THE APRIL 13, 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,  
Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws,  
Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire 14

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Attest: Susan K. Lovering, City Clerk