

A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, May 11, 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 Jan Schmidt led in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Wilshire

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

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

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

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

To join by phone dial: 1-929-205-6099 - Meeting ID: 858 2721 9596 Passcode: 357332

The public may also view the meeting via Channel 16.

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

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

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

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

The roll call was taken with 13 members of the Board of Aldermen present: Alderman Michael B. O'Brien, Sr., Alderwoman Shoshanna Kelly, Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Alderman June M. Caron, Alderman Thomas Lopez, Alderman David C. Tencza, Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu, Alderman Ernest Jette, Alderman Jan Schmidt, Alderman Brandon Michael Laws, Alderman Skip Cleaver, Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright, and Alderman Wilshire.

Alderman Benjamin Clemons and Alderman Patricia Klee were 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.

Susan Lovering, City Clerk

Alderman Klee?

President Wilshire

She won't be joining us this evening.

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 Lopez

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

Alderman Tencza

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

Alderwoman Lu

I am here alone and I can hear you.

Alderman Jette

I am here alone and I can hear the proceedings.

Alderman Schmidt

I am present, alone and can hear everyone.

Alderman Laws

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

President Wilshire

You're on mute, Skip.

Alderman Cleaver

I am here and I am joined by my daughter, sorry about that. I can hear the proceedings.

President Wilshire

Nice to see you.

Alderman Cleaver

Thank you.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

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

President Wilshire

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

City Clerk Lovering

You have 13 in attendance.

President Wilshire

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

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Donchess

Yes, thank you Madam President. On your desk tonight, you see the Fiscal '22 Budget, Fiscal Year '22 Budget that I am proposing. It is a \$290 million dollar General Fund Budget. Now Madam President, I would like to stress something at the beginning which is if it were not for the actions that the State of New Hampshire has taken, which I will mention in a minute, if it were not for what the State has done, the City tax rate, based on this budget, would be flat or actually decline this coming fall. However, as we have discussed the State is slamming Nashua with \$11.8 million dollars of increased costs and lower State aid. This translates to a 5 ½% tax increase imposed by the State of New Hampshire. So I have been working hard with Departments to try to make up for the State's approach of using the cities and towns of New Hampshire as their cash register.

Although I am proposing that we offset these State actions by cutting many City Department budgets below the level of the current year, the total City Budget I am proposing as a result of what the State has been doing, could result in a tax increase of between 3% and 4%. Again, if the State were to neutralize its actions, the tax rate would be flat or go down. Now as part of the Budget, I am assuming that \$4.4 million dollars of the funds that the City will receive from the Federal Government as part of the American Rescue Plan, can be applied to offset some of the reduced school aid. Now the guidelines for the American Rescue Plan funds just came out yesterday, so everyone across the country is studying those very carefully. But it appears that our estimate that we would be able to use these funds to replace some of the lost revenue is accurate and therefore that will help us a little bit in offsetting what the State has been doing.

Now we are still facing a number of major financial challenges. Of course the pandemic, COVID-19 and again the State's decision to increase the City's pension costs by \$4.4 million dollars to a total of \$29 million. The State's decision to reduce school aid by \$7.4 million and, of course, the rising healthcare costs for city employees not on the City's new HMO plan. In order to offset the State's tax increase caused by these actions as much as possible, I asked City Hall and the City Departments to send me budgets that were level funded from the current year, level funded. I want to thank the Departments that worked hard to help our City taxpayers, our hard working taxpayers. So the City Hall Budget is down, City Hall Budget as a whole is down 2.7% from the current year. Public Works is

down about 1.8% from the current year. The Nashua Public Library has a budget which is down 1.9% from the current year. Now that took a lot of discipline on behalf of our Departments and in part it is due to the fact that for those employees the new HMO Plan is in effect and health care costs declined for those groups of employees. So I want to thank those employees for agreeing to work with us and helping us to control costs with that HMO Plan that I believe benefits everyone because their weekly contributions go down as well.

Now some of the Departments, well at the beginning, because of these financial challenges, I asked most Departments to try to live with a zero per cent increase. Some of our independent departments have felt they couldn't do this. The Fire Department's proposed budget is up 4% and the Police about 2.6%. I have been talking for some years about building unsustainable budgets for these independent departments and I think we might be at that point. Certainly I appreciate all of the work that our firefighters and police officers have done for the City but as Mayor, it is my job to also consider the taxpayers of Nashua. Now if the budget requests are approved as proposed, the budget will be up considerably over the last 6 years. And the numbers for that are in the Budget Book on page 10. So I have proposed in the Budget that I have submitted to you, Madam President, compromises with those two departments. Instead of the 0 per cent I asked for, instead of their request, I propose a cost of living increase for both departments at 1.7%. So this is my effort to compromise and try to reach a reasonable Budget and also a minimum, the lowest tax increase we can deliver.

In developing my Budget guidelines, I treated the School Department separately because of the learning loss which resulted for a number of children, as a result of months of on-line learning. I want to make sure that we do everything we can to keep all children, all of Nashua's children reading and computing at grade level. So at the beginning, I asked the School Department to submit a Budget including an increase of no more than 1 ½%; other Departments as I said I suggested zero excluding the cost of pensions and health care. Now the School Department Budget that they submitted is up 1.7% when those two items are excluded. If the cost of health care for school employees is included the Budget is up 2.6%. The issue of whether the new healthcare plan for the School Department will be included, of course, is outstanding because there are ongoing negotiations. With the School Department I split the difference between my guidance and their proposed budget and I reduced their request by \$119,000.00.

At the same time that we are trying to hold these budgets in line, trying to offset everything that the State has done, we are still making a number of improvements for our residents including the continuation of our paving plan of action, the implementation of the Nashua River Master Plan which will enhance the beauty of our river, Downtown Performing Arts Center which will build a stronger downtown economy, our Middle School Improvement plan that will result in three schools which are state of the art and all solar power. One new thing that I have proposed in the Capital Improvement section of the Budget, Madam President, is the purchase of body cameras for the Police Department, an improvement that was requested by the Police Department several months ago, we didn't have the money then but I think we can fund it in the Budget now.

Well this has not been an easy year, we know there are better days ahead and these ongoing projects signal a strong and vibrant future for Nashua. Now also on the Agenda, Madam President, is Resolution 21-143 which would place on the ballot the question which would give to the voters, if approved by the Board of Aldermen, would allow the people to decide whether they want our local government to make appointments to the Nashua Police Commission or whether they want to continue having the State make those appointments. I am joined by a number of members of the Board of Aldermen and I am sure, Madam President, you will refer this to a Committee and we can discuss that in detail in the months ahead or the weeks ahead.

The American Rescue Plan, I just wanted to mention that, again the guidelines are out. The US Conference of Mayors is holding various meetings, we have talked about it with some of the other cities. Our CFO is examining the interim regulations as what have been issued, so we will be reporting to you, Madam President, the Board of Aldermen, regarding what we think can be done with those funds, making recommendations and, of course, those funds could not be used or allocated without a vote of the Board of Aldermen.

Finally Madam President, I wanted to mention or discuss what I usually discuss at the beginning but I postponed to the end because of all of these Budget issues that we have or the introduction of the City Budget which is COVID-19. We continue to see progress with respect to the number of cases that we have. The number of active cases is

now slightly over 100. A few weeks ago it was almost 250. In the late fall and in January that number went up into the 600's. So we are doing better but there's been a bit of a plateau over the last couple of weeks. Right now, the Nashua population, 27% as of May 3rd, so these numbers are a week old and therefore the numbers are probably a little higher, but 27% of the Nashua population is fully vaccinated. Our Health Department is continuing to work hard to reach the vulnerable populations; people less likely to get vaccinated without the outreach by the Health Department. Also, of course, the State is continuing to offer clinics. Right now, the City Health Department has administered about 15,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

So, Madam President, we need to continue to exercise caution and urge all of our residents to get vaccinated. It is a safe vaccine, a lot better than getting COVID-19. I and I know many of the members of the Board have gotten vaccinated and here we are certainly the better for it. Also we need to continue to exercise caution until we get our vaccination rates up a little higher with wearing masks indoors and also with social distancing. So we are optimistic that as more and more people get vaccinated, the extent of the spread of the COVID-19 virus will decline further but again, we need to continue to exercise vigilance. Madam President, that is all I have. I look forward to working with you and the Board of Aldermen in terms of trying to come up with a Budget that works for both our citizens in terms of quality of service and our taxpayers in the sense of the most reasonable tax rate we can arrive at. And, again, I return to the beginning that the State of New Hampshire is not doing us any favors in terms of hitting us with all these extra financial stresses right in the middle of a pandemic. Thank you, Madam President.

President Wilshire

Thank you Mayor. Any responses to the remarks of the Mayor? Alderman Lopez?

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR

Alderman Lopez

I have a quick question about the renovations to City Hall. I am not even actually certain when the Governor's Order expires that we use at the beginning of the meeting to clarify why we are meeting remotely. But if it hasn't expired yet, it is on its way. But the Aldermanic Chamber isn't really ready for public use either. The last time I went in there, there was a pretty impressive pile of chairs and furniture and stuff, so I am guessing it has been pulled into the whole renovation scheme. Do we have a timeline on number 1) when those renovations are going to be done and number 2) any guidance from Public Health over when and how we should manage meetings publicly?

President Wilshire

I do have a meeting scheduled next week to meet with the Mayor and a few of City staff to talk about reopening City Hall, but nothing definite. And all the stuff that was in the Aldermanic Chamber was there temporarily but it is all gone now.

Alderman Lopez

OH OK, I haven't been there this week.

Mayor Donchess

I can supplement that a little bit. So as you might have seen, I'm sure you have, the Motor Vehicle area has been fully renovated and is now being used down on the first floor, still be appointment. The Tax Area has been completed and substantial work has been done at the City Clerk's area making it sort of a similar set up as you see for the Motor Vehicles. Now we think that the work will be done by the end of June so I think our tentative plan is to open City Hall corresponding when the work is done which means somewhere between middle and late June. That is the most definite information we have.

President Wilshire

Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

I just feel like it is worth pointing out to the public that I am sitting in front of a virtual background; see it is not real. So this is not what the actual Aldermanic Chamber looks like. And that's what we were talking about. I just realized that bringing the topic up while doing this is probably confusing.

President Wilshire

All set Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

Yes, thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderman Dowd?

Alderman Dowd

Yes, now that we have the Budget in hand, Donna and I have been working diligently with the Mayor's Office and the Department Heads to formulate a Budget Review Schedule. All the members, everyone got a copy of the schedule this evening, just before this meeting and I'd like you to review it. I have to give priority to the members of the Budget Committee but I would like to have a final input no later than Friday since the first Budget Review Meeting is the 20th, Thursday, May 20th at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom and it is General Government, Emergency Preparedness and Administrative Services. So if there is anybody on the Budget Committee that has conflicts, please let me know. If we have a significant number of conflicts that would probably prompt a change in the meeting but it was very difficult since we are starting the Budget process later than we normally do and the entire Budget has to be fully passed by the end of June and we are already well into May. So the dates are tight and the major departments have a night of their own and I am sure there will be a lot of discussion so thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Response to the remarks of the Mayor? Alderwoman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you Madam President. Mr. Mayor you brought up R-21-143 and I just wanted to ask the proposal that the Police Commission be appointed other than it is now. Did that come out of the Master Planning process?

Mayor Donchess

Well certainly people have been thinking about this for a long time but the Master Plan is a land use document. So what the Master Plan does is look at various areas of the City to determine how the City should try to guide development basically in the future. So this isn't a subject of discussion, you know, the way the Police Commission is appointed is not a subject of discussion as part of Master Plan but instead that has to do with the future growth of the community.

Alderwoman Lu

I see. Because I know that a poll was done, so the City did a poll on this question?

Mayor Donchess

No. I sent out a survey to see what people thought regarding a couple of these questions related to the Police Commission.

Alderwoman Lu

OH I see. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? OK not seeing anyone.

RECOGNITION PERIOD - None

READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the minutes of the special and regular Board of Aldermen meetings of April 26 and 27, 2021 accepted, placed on file, and the reading suspended.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING ONLY PROCEDURAL ACTIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS

From: Matt Sullivan, Planning Department Manager

Re: Referral from the Board of Aldermen on O-21-058 to Nashua Planning Board, amending the Floodplain Management Land Use Ordinance

From: Matt Sullivan Planning Manager

Sherry Dutzy, Chair, Nashua Conservation Commission

Re: Referral from the Board of Aldermen to Conservation Commission on O-21-058, amending the Floodplain Management Land Use Ordinance

From: Deb Chisholm, Waterways Manager

Re: Proposed modification to Land Use Code 190 Article VII Floodplain Management

From: Diane Thibodeau, Executive Assistant, Division of Public Works

Re: Board of Aldermen Referral – R-21-127 bond

From: Julie Chizmas, Transportation and Long-Range Planner

Re: Partnership with Bird Rides, Inc.

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

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

President Wilshire

Ms. Colhoun, name and address and you have three minutes?

Laura Colquhoun My name is Laura Colquhoun, I live at 30 Greenwood Drive. I am speaking out tonight against the amendment change to the City Charter relative to the matter of appointments to the Nashua Board

of Police Commissioners. This amendment has been on the books since September 1913 and has worked well for the City of Nashua. There's an old saying that says, "If it is not broken, don't fix it". Currently there are no politics within the selection. However, if the City of Nashua puts this amendment in the hands of the Mayor and the President of the Board of Aldermen it will be a disaster. The Mayor has already shown that he is only hiring likeminded people from his inner circle to boards and committees. This is apparent on the Public Works Board where there are two people who are trying to do things for the benefit of the residents. However, the male voting block seems to override the Board members that are actually representing the residents.

Another example is there has been an open spot on the Board of Assessors for over 2 years. While residents have requested to take this spot to represent the Nashua residents, the Mayor is not willing to give this spot out to anybody but from somebody from his inner circle. So the spot stays open and there's nobody on the Board of Assessors that actually represents the residents. We currently have one Alderman trying to change the number of Board Members on the School Board. She is working with Attorney Bolton on the backdoor charter change. Where is their transparency? Why the sneaky change? The problem here is that that Nashua residents want people to go on the Board of Education that actually are concerned about our children not the politics, political views.

The Police Commissioners should never be picked because the Mayor likes them or are friends with the Mayor. They should not be selected because of their party affiliation or their likeminded viewpoints. It needs to be a qualified person, female or male, with no personal ties to the Mayor or the President of the Board of Aldermen. I am leery at the selection method for the Police Commission. I live in the City of Nashua, not the kingdom of the mayor. Another thing I would like to bring up the fact that the Mayor has already wasted \$44,383.00 in taxpayer funds to get a study on a dog park in downtown Nashua.

President Wilshire

I don't think we are taking that up this evening Ms. Colquhoun.

Ms. Colquhoun (speaking over President Wilshire) for a dog park. What is the Mayor thinking, if the Mayor has extra money lying around, apply it to the ever increasing tax rate that the residents will be paying. The Mayor should realize that the City of Nashua just gave back \$3,320,000.00 in property tax

President Wilshire

Ms. Colquhoun your time is up.

Ms. Colquhoun (speaking over President Wilshire) commercial properties. The Mayor also realizes...

President Wilshire

Amber Logue?

Amber Logue Thank you. Amber Logue resident of 20 Locke Street. I am here to speak in favor of R-21-144 authorizing the purchase of property located at L Pine Street, Map 77, Lot 5. This parcel of land is considered by many residents as a part of Mine Falls Park. On a beautiful day, you can find residents playing there with their kids or their dogs. I have seen yoga classes here, I've seen picnics. This is the gateway to Mine Falls from downtown.

A few years ago, I was surprised to learn that the Millyard Association actually owns this land and it is not, in fact, a part of Mine Falls at all. So it is considered to be unusable land. The option before us is to either watch it be paved over and become just another parking lot or use this land for what is already naturally used for which is a public park. It would not only preserve this land for future generations but also meet the commitment of wetland protection that the City aims to have. I encourage the Board of Aldermen to approve the passage of R-21-144 and ensure that those gateway to Mine Falls Park is secure for our residents. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Anyone else?

Alderman Caron

Madam President?

President Wilshire

Alderman Caron.

Alderman Caron

Yes, can we remind people that this portion of public comment is for those items that the Board is going to vote on, not on things that are being assigned to Committee later in the meeting?

President Wilshire

Yes, Ma'am. Thank you.

Alderman Caron

Thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else that wishes to give public comment on anything that is expected to be acted upon this evening.

Laurie Ortolano Laurie Ortolano.

President Wilshire

OK.

Ms. Ortolano Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. I was going to comment on the 144 and 143 but I will do that at the end of the meeting. But I would like to say with regard to the Mayor's comment that the study he did or the survey he took or the poll regarding the Police Department it would be nice if that was made public so we just know what the outcome of that is.

President Wilshire

But we are not taking action on that this evening.

Ms. Ortolano Well I know, but he brought it up, that's all.

President Wilshire

OK. Is there anyone else that would like to give public comment on items we are acting upon this evening? Seeing none, Communications Requiring Final Approval.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING FINAL APPROVAL

From: Susan K. Lovering, City Clerk

Re: Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success (ORIS) Request to Waive Vendor's License Fees

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the communication and referred it to the Budget Review Committee.

PETITIONS

Street Re-Numbering Petition – 5 Berkshire Street, Sheet 61B/Lot 30 and Sheet 61B/Lot 29

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO GRANT THE PETITION FOR STREET RE-NUMBERING – 5 BERKSHIRE STREET, SHEET 61B/LOT 30 AND SHEET 61B/LOT 29 AND TO RENAME SAID PROPERTY TO 5 AND 9 BERKSHIRE STREET, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman O'Brien

And, Madam President, may I speak to my motion?

President Wilshire

Alderman O'Brien.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you Madam President. At the last Infrastructure Meeting we did get a chance to meet with the Knapp family who live at a current address of #7 Berkshire and they have been there for over 40 years. Yet the gentleman that owns #7 it's a double size lot, it does meet the requirements and can be subdivided. Although in a perfect world we would like to have all of our numbers in sequential. But in my communication with the Committee that we have in the City to correspond mostly for emergency response of 911 and direct conversations with the Fire Chief Rhodes, it was agreed and was sponsored by the Infrastructure Committee to go with this numbering of leaving #7 as is and to rename the property 5 and 9 Berkshire Street. So I hope you can support this motion.

President Wilshire

The motion is for final passage. Is there discussion on that motion? Seeing none, would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	13
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Nay:	0
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MOTION CARRIED

Petition for Street Re-Numbering – Berkshire Street declared duly adopted.

Petition for Street Layout – 44 Buckmeadow Road

The following Petition for Street Layout – 44 Buckmeadow Road was read into the record: Petition for Street Layout – 44 Buckmeadow Road.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD TO ACCEPT THE PETITION FOR STREET LAYOUT – 44 BUCKMEADOW ROAD AS READ, REFER IT TO THE NASHUA CITY PLANNING BOARD AND THAT A PUBLIC HEARING BE SCHEDULED 30 DAYS AFTER THE REQUIRED NOTICES ARE SENT TO THE PARTIES, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

And I'd like to speak to it.

President Wilshire

Alderman Dowd.

Alderman Dowd

This is part of the Middle School Development Program and it is particularly the new Middle School where we are constructing the road to access the new Middle School and this is referred to cross some T's and dotting the I's. This road has been laid out by Hayner Swanson Harriman and the City Engineer so everyone that needed to get an input into how the road should be laid has done that. And I ask you to support this, by roll call.

President Wilshire

Any discussion on that motion? Would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	13
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Nay:	0
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MOTION CARRIED

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS - None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Budget Review Committee..... 04/26/2021

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the April 26, 2021 Budget Review Committee accepted and placed on file.

Committee on Infrastructure..... 04/28/2021

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the April 28, 2021 Committee on Infrastructure accepted and placed on file.

Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee..... 05/03/2021

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the May 3, 2021 Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee accepted and placed on file.

Planning and Economic Development Committee..... 05/04/2021

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

Finance Committee..... 05/05/2021

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the May 5, 2021 Finance 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, May 10, 2021, regarding proposed Resolution R-21-129.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. Human Affairs Committee met last night and we discussed this piece of business. It is a grant that we get from the Federal Government every year for HOPWA which is Housing Opportunities Persons with Aids and it passed unanimously in the Committee last night.

President Wilshire

Thank you. It is time sensitive according to, was it Bob Mack that spoke on it.

Alderwoman Kelly

Yes Bob Mack and Director Bagley both were just letting us know that it is time sensitive to get these funds moving.

President Wilshire

Thank you, Alderman Kelly. OK.

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS

Cable Television Advisory Board

There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the new appointment of Justin Chapman, 55 McKean Street, Nashua, to the Cable Television Advisory Board with a term to expire March 31, 2024.

Oath of Office administered by Corporation Counsel.

Cultural Connections Committee

There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the following to the Cultural Connections Committee: re-appointment of Margaret Loret, 4 Cimmarron Drive, Nashua, with a term to expire February 1, 2024; and new appointment Paul Shea, 102 Tolles Street, Nashua, with a term to expire April 1, 2024.

Oath of Office administered by Corporation Counsel to Mr. Shea. Oath of Office will be administered to Ms. Loret at a future date.

Nashua Arts Commission

There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the following to the Nashua Arts Commission: re-appointment of Lindsay Rinaldi, 705 Belmont Street, Boston, Massachusetts, with a term to expire April 1, 2024.

Oath of Office to be administered at a later date.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS**R-21-121, Amended**

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

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

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO AMEND R-21-124 BY REPLACING IT WITH THE GOLDENROD COPY OF AMENDMENTS MADE AT THE COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE, BY ROLL CALLON THE QUESTIONAlderman Lopez

Just gratitude. This is a great idea, it was a little bit problematic just because there was already a Veterans Way and a Veterans Bridge and we wanted to make sure that we weren't honoring veterans in a way that could put their lives in danger if there was a 911 situation. So the City Departments really stepped up and made sure that they covered all the angles, they figured out any other streets that might have similar sounding names and that's what the amendment is about is just making sure we handle this thoroughly and in one shot.

President Wilshire

Thank you Alderman Lopez. Any further discussion on the motion to amend? Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

I just wondered if Alderman Lopez could explain to us what the details of the amendment, how it got amended at the Committee?

Alderman Lopez

Yeah I thought you were in the Committee. Alderman Jette I apologize I can't pull up a map here. But the Broad Street Parkway goes from Pine Street to Broad Street and the original motion was to rename that to be Veterans Parkway. One of the amendments was to change it to Veterans Memorial Parkway so that it is not

confused with the bridge. There's a bridge that connects Nashua to Hudson and that has a similar name as well. And then initially the Legislation before us had changed the road along the National Guard Armory to Armory Street which is virtually identical to Amory Street when you say it so they had changed that as well and so that, I believe, is Independence Way now or Drive. So that's the summary in a nutshell.

Alderman Jette

Thank you. Thank you very much.

President Wilshire

The motion is to amend. Further discussion on the amendment?

Alderman Jette

Seeing none, would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	13
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-21-121 AS AMENDED, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Lopez

So I think this is important to do particularly now because last year we didn't have the same kind of celebration or recognition for veterans that we have done in the past. And this year, the organizers weren't comfortable at the time we need to begin organizing doing that as well. I know that the parkway has a program already in place by DPW where families can submit the names of their loved one and images to honor them. I think that's a great program because it lets people throughout the year consider the contributions and sacrifices that our veterans have made. And I think in a lot of ways is superior to a parade. I know the public likes to come out and celebrate and show that visible sign of support and I think we need to get back to that when it is safe to do so. But I also think throughout the year veterans are still struggling with issues like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder with overly convoluted expectations of how they can access the basic healthcare that they were promised on discharge.

There's a lot of areas that we don't quite meet the bar when it comes to treating our veterans as best we can. And I don't think any of that is going to change unless we do something to constantly remind ourselves that they are a priority, they are something that we are proud of here in Nashua and that they are people that we want to welcome into our community. So I think this is a good step. I think we can have ongoing discussions about things that we do well like our City approaching functional zero with veterans' homelessness, ensuring that any homeless veteran has a pathway to shelter within 24 hours if not faster of experiencing homelessness. There are a lot of things that we do really well here but there's always going to be more that we can do for people who basically committed to give everything for us to do business every day and live in the community that we enjoy. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Is there discussion on the motion for final passage, as amended? Seeing none, would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	13
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-21-121 declared duly adopted as amended.

R-21-127

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Thomas 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 second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-21-127, BY ROLL CALLON THE QUESTIONAlderman Schmidt

And I'd like to speak to that motion.

President Wilshire

Alderman Schmidt?

Alderman Schmidt

Thank you. We have learned that in Nashua what we need to do is maintain infrastructure. We have seen that with our roads once we got back on track, it's made quite a difference here. The same things goes for this Resolution, maintaining will cost a lot less in the long run and I am so glad this is being brought forward. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Anyone else? Discussion? Seeing no one, would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

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

13

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-21-127 declared duly adopted.

R-21-129

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderwoman 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 second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-21-129, BY ROLL CALL

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

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

13

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-21-129 declared duly adopted.

R-21-131

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderwoman-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 second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN JETTE FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-21-131, BY ROLL CALLON THE QUESTIONAlderman Jette

And I'd like to speak to it.

President Wilshire

Alderman Jette.

Alderman Jette

So this is a regular contract that the Nashua Transit enters into with Nashua Community College, Rivier University, the Town of Hudson, the PLUS Company and Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative, whereby we provide transit services and they pay us money which provides revenue to operate the Nashua Transit System and it also enables Nashua Transit to be eligible for Federal Funding because we are a Regional Transit Service. So this was approved by the Budget Review Committee and I ask my fellow Aldermen to support it.

President Wilshire

Thank you Alderman Jette. Discussion? Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

Just to add on to what Alderman Jette has brought up. Basically this offsets the expense of having public transportation for taxpayers in Nashua by including a wider pool. It also uses the opportunity to engage people who may not be as familiar with our bus system to incentivize using it. So students at Rivier for example, who may not necessarily live in Nashua but be from other communities and be living on campus or that type of stuff. This is their connection to Nashua. This is how they get to know Nashua, this is how they decide if they are going to live here, it's also how they spend money down here. So there's a lot of value in this particular program.

And then as Alderman Jette pointed out it also qualifies us for Federal money which is always a good return on investment because in New Hampshire we pay out more than we get back from the Federal Government.

President Wilshire

Further discussion? Seeing none, the motion is for final passage of Resolution 21-131 by roll call. Would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	13
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-21-131 declared duly adopted.

R-21-133

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

AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NASHUA TO ENTER INTO A JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT OF COMMUNITY POWER COALITION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-21-133, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

President Wilshire

The motion is for final passage. Is there discussion on that motion? I think this is a great opportunity for the City. The Mayor brought it to us several months back and I am really looking forward to how we can roll this program out to our citizens. The motion before us is for final passage. Any further discussion on that motion. Seeing none, would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	13
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-21-133 declared duly adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-21-056, Amended

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

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

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CARON TO AMEND O-21-056 BY REPLACING IT WITH THE GOLDENROD COPY OF AMENDMENTS MADE AT THE COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE, BY ROLL CALL

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

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

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CARON FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-21-056 AS AMENDED, BY ROLL CALL

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

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

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-21-056 declared duly adopted as amended.

O-21-058

Endorsers: 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 second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TENCZA FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-21-058, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

President Wilshire

Discussion on that motion? Alderman Jette.

Alderman Jette

I just think it is important for the public to know that this change in the ordinance has to do with flood insurance and the Flood Insurance Program recommended that we make these changes. This will enable us to maintain a rating better than most communities which also enables people to get a break on, if they need flood insurance, by adopting these changes we are complying with the policies and procedures of the National Flood Insurance Program which enables our citizens who do need flood insurance to get a lower rate on that flood insurance. So this is a great benefit to those people who need flood insurance and it also enables us to make sure that buildings that are built, new buildings or improvements to buildings that they comply with the flood insurance requirements so that damage by flood is lessened.

President Wilshire

Thank you Alderman Jette. Motion is for final passage. Further discussion? Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

Yeah I just wanted to add that I had asked whether or not this would, by moving the flood plains would it change any of the expectations or requirements for development in that area to manage any kind of remediation or environmental hazards, specifically concerned about the Mohawk Tannery or the expansion of the Riverfront Landing properties. And the answer I was given was nope, because it's still going to flood so they need to build it so that it would survive the flood.

President Wilshire

Ok. Anyone else? Seeing none, would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	13
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-21-058 declared duly adopted.

O-21-059

Endorsers: 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 second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-21-059, BY ROLL CALLON THE QUESTIONAlderman Dowd

And I'd like to speak to it.

President Wilshire

Alderman Dowd.

Alderman Dowd

Yes, anybody that is familiar with this corner which is near the Pressed Sandwich Shop. There are three lanes and the righthand lane which is meant for turning on to Cotton, people get in that lane and then try to merge

and there's no lane on the other side of the intersection and it has been very hazardous including trailer trucks I've seen try to do that and merge. And then the three lanes of cars get squished into two. I am surprised there haven't been more accidents there. But I have the concurrence of the City Engineer for these changes and I ask that we pass it tonight.

President Wilshire

Any further discussion on Ordinance 21-059? Seeing none the motion is for final passage of Ordinance 21-059 by roll call. Would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	13
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-21-059 declared duly adopted.

O-21-060

Endorsers: 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 second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-21-060, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Dowd

And I'd like to speak to it.

President Wilshire

Alderman Dowd?

Alderman Dowd

So this is the Fairgrounds Middle School, it is part of the project we have developed a holding lane for the new parents drop off. We don't want any parking in there during the school hours because that would make the holding lane useless. Cleveland Street is extremely busy and it is going to be paved very shortly for final paving and we don't want students dropped off in zones that would make it dangerous for them getting into the school. So we are going to put signs for no drop offs of students in these areas. And this has been approved by the City Engineer, Dan Hudson.

President Wilshire

The motion is for final passage by roll call. Any discussion? Alderman O'Brien.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you. And I agree totally with my fellow Alderman, Alderman Dowd. But one other Alderman who is not here this evening, Alderman Clemons, did have a concern because Fairgrounds Junior High is a voting place and that was discussed at the Infrastructure Meeting and allowances will be made on that. And to the friends of our community who do have handicapped children, if you remember, there is a handicap playground there and this will not affect their fun to be able to access that facility. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderman Dowd?

Alderman Dowd

Yeah I just want to follow up along with that. We did put several new handicap spots in the new parents parking area that are adjacent to the handicap playground so that it is much easier access for them to get to that playground from that higher level.

President Wilshire

Any further discussion? The motion is for final passage of Ordinance 21-060 by roll call. Would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	13
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-21-060 declared duly adopted.

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-21-137

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
 Alderman Jan Schmidt
 Alderman Richard A. Dowd
 Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
 Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
 Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
 Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu
 Alderman Tom Lopez
 Alderman June M. Caron
 Alderman Skip Cleaver
 Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$352,078 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTO PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT ACTIVITY "FY2022 REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORK SERVICES"

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

R-21-138

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

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$25,563.84 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY "STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM" INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY "2020 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM"

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

R-21-139

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

AUTHORIZING THE BUS PULL OFF AND SHELTER EASEMENT ON BRIDGE STREET AND TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AND USE EASEMENT AGREEMENT ON SANDERS STREET

Given its first reading; assigned to the COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE and NASHUA CITY PLANNING BOARD, by President Wilshire

R-21-140

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu

AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NASHUA TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE TOWN OF MERRIMACK FOR TRANSIT SERVICES

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

R-21-141

Endorser: Alderman Ernest A. Jette
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$24,500 FROM THE CONSERVATION FUND FOR WORK ON THE SALMON BROOK TRAIL

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

R-21-142

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NASHUA GENERAL, ENTERPRISE, AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Given its first reading; assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE *and schedule a SPECIAL BOARD OF ALDERMEN PUBLIC HEARING for Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. to be held AT NASHUA HIGH SCHOOL NORTH IN THE AUDITORIUM*, by President Wilshire

R-21-143

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Jan Schmidt

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER RELATIVE TO THE MANNER OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE NASHUA BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Given its first reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LAWS THAT RESOLUTION R-21-143 IS NECESSARY AND IS ASSIGNED TO THE PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND A SPECIAL BOARD OF ALDERMEN PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, JUNE 7TH, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. BY ROLL CALL.

ON THE QUESTION

President Wilshire

Is there discussion on that?

Alderman Jette

I have, I guess this would be a parliamentary inquiry to Attorney Bolton if I may.

President Wilshire

You sure can.

Alderman Jette

So this motion is to - is that this Resolution is necessary. So I am wondering is that just a procedural matter? A question of whether it is necessary or not, isn't that something that we are going to determine after the public hearing and the Personnel & Administrative Affairs has a chance to weigh in on it and make a recommendation and then we vote on it finally. That's my first question. And secondly, this Resolution is not to change anything about how the Police Commission is selected, it is to place before the voters the question whether or not the voters would like a change to occur. So I think if Attorney Bolton could clarify that for us, I appreciate it. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Attorney Bolton.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Yes, Alderman Jette, you are correct that the declaration of “necessary” is just because of the way the State Statute on how municipalities amend a charter is written. So the relevant provision is RSA 49B:5 which begins the municipal officers, which in our case in Nashua is the Board of Aldermen. So the municipal officers may determine that one or more amendment to the Municipal Charter are necessary and shall by order provide for notice of a public hearing thereon. And the statute goes on to go through all of the other necessary steps. The last step is a vote by the voters. Preliminary to that working backwards is the determination by the Board of Aldermen to place the question on the ballot and submit it to the voters. But before you ever get to that, you have to have a public hearing, you have to determine whether or not you want to modify the proposed amendment. If after the public hearing, you are satisfied with the wording, you make that known. If you are unsatisfied with the wording and you make modifications to the proposed amendment, a further public hearing must be held.

Once the wording is finalized by the Board, the proposed amendment is submitted to three State Officers; the New Hampshire Attorney General, Secretary of State and Commissioner of the Department of Revenue Administration for their determination as to whether the proposed amendment conflicts with any general laws of the State of New Hampshire; that is the statute for the New Hampshire Constitution. Following basically the green light from those three State Officials, assuming we get to that stage, then the Board could vote at that point as to whether or not to place it on the ballot and submit it to the voters. You never get to any of those steps unless there's a preliminary finding that it is necessary. So it is necessary in the sense that if you are even going to consider it further, you have to make the determination that it is necessary at least to study the situation.

Alderman Jette

Thank you.

President Wilshire

You're all set Alderman Jette.

Alderman Jette

Yes, I appreciate the clarification from Attorney Bolton. So as I understand it, our voting in favor of this tonight, all that means is that we are allowing it to proceed for all of those further steps that have been explained by Attorney Bolton. This is just the beginning, it just allows us to even consider whether or not a Charter change is warranted or not. By voting in favor of this, we are not voting to change anything; at least not at this point. If I understood him correctly.

President Wilshire

I think you did.

Alderman Jette

Thank you.

President Wilshire

That's what I understood too. Thank you. Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

Just for my part, I am voting in favor of the public having a chance to weigh in on this due to public hearing and

then again if it proceeds to the referendum I think this is an issue that needs to have citywide accurate polling in the form of voting.

President Wilshire

Alderman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you Madam President. I have been following the Agenda along and I didn't think we were voting on this tonight.

President Wilshire

We are voting on sending it forward to the Personnel Administrative Affairs Committee and for them to schedule a public hearing.

Alderwoman Lu

OK just if you could help me. This is kind of unusual right, for a new business to actually be voted upon to send it to Committee?

President Wilshire

It is a Charter Change so I believe we have to have a public hearing and in order to do that we have to pass this along.

Alderwoman Lu

Ok so we don't just send it to a Committee, we have to vote to send it to the Committee.

President Wilshire

Because it is a Charter Change, yes.

Alderwoman Lu

OK.

President Wilshire

Anyone else?

Alderwoman Kelly

Alderwoman Kelly.

President Wilshire

Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

I also just wanted some clarification. This would be if it were to go through all those steps Attorney Bolton, through Madam President, this would be binding ballot question, correct?

Attorney Bolton

Yes, the voter's decision is determinative. It is binding, it is yes or no by the voters.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderwoman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. Since we are going to vote today, I do have a question. Could one of the endorsers or the person who brought this motion forward explain why there might be a need because if that's what we are voting on whether there's a need....

President Wilshire

Well we vote on that only after the public hearing. I mean we are voting to send this to the Committee and for them to hold a public hearing. We are not voting and saying "yes we agree with this process with the Charter Change".

Alderwoman Lu

So I apologize. I think this is the first time a Charter Change has come before me and it didn't look any different on the Agenda so I wasn't aware that ... OK so we are going to vote whether we want to even pay attention to this, correct?

President Wilshire

Yes.

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you.

President Wilshire

You're welcome. Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

I mean I think the Legislation is here so personally I am voting in favor of having the public comment in order to, if we need to have it go before the referendum and I would like to go on record as voting in favor of following the law in order to change the Police Commissioners if we choose to do that since this is all due to State's Statutes governing this process.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Alderman Lu.

Alderwoman Lu

Well it sounds like quite a protracted process. And I wonder since there has been some type of a polling done,

could we know how the polling turned out. I understand it seems to be a poll sent out to perhaps Mayor Donchess' email list but that would help me if I knew. Apparently Mayor Donchess thought it was a good idea to get that information. Could we have the results of the poll from your chosen list?

President Wilshire

Mayor, did you wish to speak on that?

Mayor Donchess

In thinking about this and talking with some of the Aldermen who contacted me about it, I thought it be worth sounding out the people I am in contact with at least regarding what they thought. So about 1,900 and some people got the email and opened it. About 600 people voted, the two questions, now we are in a history where there had been 130 years of the Nashua Police Commission and there's only been one woman appointed in 130 years. So I asked the question, should there be a mandatory number of women on the Commission. And that sort of tracked the current requirement that there has to be a party balance; you can't have more than two members of the same party on the Commission now according to the Charter. And that came out fairly close, it was in favor of mandatory female members but it was 51/49 or so.

The other question was asked, well who should make the appointment, should it continue to be the Governor and a Council up in Concord or should it be local appointments, the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen. Now that came out quite decidedly in favor of local appointments; more than 2 to 1. And I think the exact numbers were at about 600 people voted so it was like 410 to 194 of the people who decided to express an opinion.

President Wilshire

Are you all set Alderman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Yes, but actually a follow up. Have there been a lot of females that have been overlooked, presented as a candidate and overlooked?

Mayor Donchess

Well I don't know, this is a very political and secretive process. So what happens is there's something that goes on between the councilor and the governor, usually as I've heard it over the decades, often it is a friend of the governor's councilor who gets, not in every case, it depends on the relationship between the governor's councilor and the governor. But somehow, I've never heard of an application process or any kind of vetting process or anything like that. And someone proposes a member and then the council votes on it. So I don't know if women have been considered. I don't know who has been considered, I don't know who has applied, I have no idea of who has expressed an interest.

But I do know that there are many qualified women in Nashua who could be appointed and serve very competently on the Nashua Police Commission. But because there seemed to be a divided opinion on that, this does not mandate women. It just says that – it expands the number of appointments from 3 to 5 and says that the membership should reflect the citizenship of the community. And it says that merit, qualifications and a history of community service should be considered. I think that using that procedure we could arrive at a group of appointees that would serve the community and the Police Department very well.

I would point out that there used to be many other cities, a number of other cities, Manchester, Laconia, Berlin and other cities who had the governor appoint the Police Commissioners. All but Nashua have abandoned that process. Portsmouth was the last one about 20, 25 years ago opted for a local procedure as have all the other cities. So of the 200 and some communities in New Hampshire, we are the only one where – whoever supervises the Police Department is not selected locally.

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else.

Alderwoman Kelly

Alderwoman Kelly.

President Wilshire

Alderwoman Kelly and then Alderman Harriott-Gathright.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. I'll keep my remarks to the issue at hand which is whether we should take this up. And I think that the conversation from the Mayor, the study that he put out, we won't call it a study; brief survey. And the idea that a woman had never been appointed but also nobody of color that I am aware of has ever been appointed I think is enough to merit at least a conversation on this. As the Mayor just pointed out, the new wording talks about having it be reflective of our community. And one of the things I talk about all of the time about our current Board of Aldermen is how proud I am on how we are a really good swath of our City; people of color, people who are under the age of 40; we are almost exactly half men and women. And so I think that kind of representation allows for different experiences and ideas to come forward. So at the very least I think we need to consider this and move forward.

President Wilshire

Alderman Harriott-Gathright.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Thank you Madam President. First of all I am going to say ditto to my colleagues that spoke. But through you to Mr. Mayor, did the survey only go out to women?

Mayor Donchess

No, no it went to everybody. But it asked the question, should there be a minimum number of women on the....

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Right, I understood that. That's what I thought but I understood my colleague to say that the survey that you sent out to women friends. I didn't think it was appropriate.

Mayor Donchess

No, no both genders, people of all political parties.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

OK I just thought I would ask. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you, I may have been misheard. I think I said a curated list. But no, I didn't mean to say that it was females only.

President Wilshire

Anyone else, before we vote on that this necessary and we will schedule a public hearing for Monday, June 7th, at 7:00 p.m. Any further discussion on that. Seeing none, would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea:	Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Caron, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright	10
Nay:	Alderman Dowd, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Wilshire	3

MOTION CARRIED

President Wilshire

Alderman Caron?

Alderman Caron

Madam President, yes, I would ask that R-21-123 also be sent to the Police Commissioners please.

President Wilshire

I don't know. Can you weigh in on that Attorney Bolton?

Attorney Bolton

It's up to the Board, there's nothing legal or illegal about doing it or not doing it.

President Wilshire

I am not inclined to do so. I think it's self-serving if we send this to the Commissioners. Alderman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

I was going to ask what you meant by that. I see, OK.

President Wilshire

Alderman Caron, I am not inclined to do so unless the Board feels otherwise.

Alderman Caron

I just feel they should have a chance to look it over.

President Wilshire

They will have a chance to weigh in; I am sure they will be following this very closely.

Alderman Caron

OK that's fine. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderman Dowd.

Alderman Dowd

I am sure they will weigh in; there's no doubt about in my mind. However, if we want a formal response from them we would have to refer it to them, but that's up to you. The other thing I might point out is that the current Board of Commissioners were all appointed by Maggie Hassan, reappointed by the current Governor.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

What does that have to do with it?

Alderman Dowd

Well I mean if there was an issue with somebody being appointed. I will say I believe there should be a woman on there. I also think that it's probably not a problem expanding it to five. But as I'll discuss when we send it to Committee I don't believe it should be under local control because there's a lot of reasons which I am sure we will hear in the Committee.

President Wilshire

Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

As I under the Legislation it is basically just to open the discussion and to have public comment and the ultimate act, if all things move in that direction, is to have a referendum. So I am never oppose to let the voters have a chance to vote on things, and I think more than the Police Commission, more than the Aldermen, they are probably the ones who should be weighing in on this. I don't think it would be a bad idea for any modifications or recommendations that they suggest or that the Alderman, in reviewing what is going to be on the referendum, be considered as well. So there's a lot of room for discussion here.

President Wilshire

Anyone else. OK would the Clerk please call the roll?

City Clerk Lovering

That motion passed 10 to 3.

President Wilshire

Oh I'm sorry, you're right.

City Clerk Lovering

The first reading, if I may of Resolution R-21-144.

R-21-144

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

AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT "L" PINE STREET (MAP 77, LOT 5)

Given its first reading; assigned to the PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE and NASHUA CITY PLANNING BOARD, by President Wilshire

R-21-145

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

AUTHORIZING THE INTERFUND TRANSFER OF \$325,000 FROM THE BROAD STREET PARKWAY CAPITAL PROJECT ACTIVITY TO THE NASHUA MILLYARD DOG PARK CAPITAL PROJECT ACTIVITY FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT "L" PINE STREET (MAP 77, LOT 5)

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

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-21-062

- Endorser: Alderman June M. Caron
- Alderman Richard A. Dowd
- Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

ESTABLISHING A HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACE IN FRONT OF 3 CROWN STREET

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

O-21-063

- Endorser: Alderman Jan Schmidt

ESTABLISHING A NO PARKING ZONE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF NEWTON DRIVE

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

Alderman Schmidt

Madam President, if I may, did we actually vote on 21-143?

City Clerk Lovering

You voted 10 in favor and 3 against.

Alderman Schmidt

Thanks very much.

City Clerk Lovering

You're welcome.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurie Ortolano Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. Quickly going through, I am not in favor of the dog park. I just think the money spent right now is not the thing to do. The Mayor spoke briefly about the secretive process of how these Commissioners are selected. I think we have our own secretive process going on down here where we have a Charter Change being proposed for the School, make-up of the elected members moving it toward a 15 member board with at-large seats. I really don't think that works and my idea of a transparent and open government. I know it doesn't violate an open meeting because it was handled by an Alderman making the change for the School Board, but I don't like that process at all.

Your amendment for this Police thing is very confusing. Attorney Bolton wrote it up that the Board of Aldermen must hold an initial vote to determine if the amendment is necessary. And then it says, if it is determined necessary the Board of Aldermen must order a notice be given for the public hearing. Well we started off this discussion with the Chairwoman saying that June 17, 2021 would be the hearing at Nashua North. It is as if you already determined it was necessary. And I am not certain if this vote tonight is why you determined it was necessary, but I found it totally lacking in understanding why you are doing this, why it came about and why need it. And I don't know when it goes to Committee, I can't tell if the Committee Meeting, Personnel Affairs is going to happen before the hearing or after the hearing and will it come back from Committee to the Board such that the Board will discuss it? I don't like the idea of a public hearing without being able to hear why you think it is necessary across the board. And if Alderman Lu hadn't opened the discussion up the way she had, by asking about the survey, I don't think there would have been any discussion at all.

I think for something so significant there should be a lot more talk going on and a lot more solid reasoning behind why we think this will improve our Police Force. One other thing, your IT Office I think is in disarray. You've got some big problems in there with Cyber Security, there's hacking going on of emails; emails are lost, appointments are lost, citizens are being arrested when they go to City Hall for not having an appointment that they might in fact have because your email server is being hacked. You had on the table to establish an IT Study Committee; it has been tabled in Committee for months and months. You really should pull that Resolution 20-021 off the table, figure out what you need to do and get somebody in there highly qualified to deal with your IT issues. Serious problem and you've got a serious lack of clerical staffing in your Legal Office to provide assistance to those four attorneys and deal with Right-to-Knows. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else wishing to give public comment? OK seeing no one, Remarks by Members of the Board of Aldermen. No one?

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Alderman Lopez

Nope, you're not getting off that easy, I was just unmuting.

President Wilshire

Alright Tom, Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

So I just wanted to announce that we are moving forward with the Tree Streets Block Party on June 27th. It is going to feature a futsal tournament. The kids that are participating are going to be wearing masks. The public and the people who want to watch are also encouraged to do so. The event will encourage mask wearing although there isn't a City Ordinance requiring it. And we are hoping to kind of bring together a lot of different people to address other types of healthcare needs in addition to the pandemic which has largely dominated our focus this past year. Other issues like adverse childhood experiences, food security, we have a lot of issues in Nashua that we need to address, we need to make sure people are getting fed, families are finding shelter, children are growing up with access to the supports that they need.

A lot of that is communication and that's a lot of the ways that blocks communicate is through things like this. So we are working very closely with the Public Health Department to make sure that this is a safe and helpful event for everybody. We already have sponsors, Neighbor works and Southern NH Medical Center. So looking good so far, if anything happens citywide prior to that which looks like it may be a risk then we will postpone it if not pull the plug. But marks your calendars. We are hoping for the best. I think at the beginning I said June 27th, I was a little too excited, I meant June 26th.

And then additionally we are working on revising the murals in French Park in keeping with their heritage. The older murals that we did degraded so we are working with the Richelieu Club. We have identified a number of prominent Franco-Nashuans I guess you could call them that have contributed to Nashua's history. And we are hoping that we will have that project done in the park for dedication on June 25th. So everybody is welcome to follow along with that and if you're interested, participate.

Finally, I know a lot of the Board of Aldermen are concerned, confused as to what we are doing with the masking ordinance. I have brought it up at every single public health meeting and I have encouraged the need to start considering the issue, to evaluate what we can do, look at best practices elsewhere but start figuring out whether we want this thing just to expire, whether it needs to transition, whether we need to leave a backdoor in case some variant shows its head and we don't have to start all over again from scratch. So the Board of Health did vote to have a special meeting. I haven't been told when that meeting will be yet, but I think all Aldermen could probably coordinate with Director Bagley to make sure they are in the loop on that if they are interested so that we can start addressing that issue. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Alderman Schmidt.

Alderman Schmidt

Thank you Madam President. I would like to welcome back Alderman Cleaver. You were very much missed, it is good to see you hear. Yes I am hearing a lot of questions about the mask ordinance and we are doing so much better; we are doing remarkably better. And as far as Massachusetts that was a real issue for us, on the border, they had absolutely no deaths today which is remarkable. It looks like we are moving forward because of vaccinations. And one more thing, there's a lot of things that I really enjoy about being an Alderman but one that really makes me smile every single time is when someone steps up to volunteer on a Committee. It is just the best feeling in the world. Thank you everybody who does that, it is just tremendous. Thank you, Madam President.

President Wilshire

Thank you, Alderman Schmidt. Anyone else? Alderwoman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. I also want to welcome back Alderman Cleaver, it is good to see your face. I wanted to share, a couple of weeks ago, actually it was Arbor Day. Dante I believe his last name is Castellano, he's a student in town and he organized a tree planting which I helped him with; I planted five trees. He gathered volunteers to plant over 100 trees for just residents who bought the trees from him so we are replenishing the tree stock in Nashua and I thought that was a really great public service that he did.

I also wanted to mention that, I think at the last meeting, or maybe two meetings before, I expressed concern about – concern and I've asked for information on how high levels of our overtime is going to affect our future retirement costs in the City. I did speak with the Mayor personally but I haven't heard back from you. I think that you had indicated that you needed to look into it. I wonder if we have any information on that now. Because I continue to be, you know, I'd like for it to be looked at and at least responded to. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Mayor, did you want to respond to that?

Mayor Donchess

We are talking mostly about the Departments that have a lot of overtime, those being Fire and Police. The answer is that when people work overtime, even on the pandemic, even when they receive ... that they do in those situations it contributes. So the answer is yes it does impact pensions but that's just part of the need for the overtime.

Alderwoman Lu

When I first brought this up my point, Mayor Donchess, was that it seems to be that some of these tasks we don't need highly skilled fire fighters to be doing that. And so wouldn't that be a way that we could protect or less in the future cost of the retirement expenses?

Mayor Donchess

Well it might affect it slightly but I am not sure that it is easy to find a group of competent people to supervise some of these clinics. Most of this overtime occurs at both the testing clinics where people are tested for COVID-19 and more recently the vaccination clinics. You know, when you go to the clinic you know there needs to be people who direct where a lot of people coming in at the same time need to do and where they should wait. Could other people do it? I suppose so but I think people with some level of training and knowledge and experience, it would need to be someone like that. And I am just not sure we have an alternate group of people that would really serve the same function.

President Wilshire

You're all set Alderman Lu? Anyone else? Alderman Dowd.

Alderman Dowd

I was expecting OB to jump in but the firemen that were at the vaccination centers, first of all, all of their overtime including the pension costs were covered by Federal dollars. And also, the firemen are all EMT trained so they are out in the parking lot and if somebody has an issue within the first 15 minutes that they make them stay after their shot, they can immediately handle that and a nurse or a doctor to come. So they are not just directing traffic, they are there for a reason.

The other thing is a member of the public called me a liar for saying the Police overtime was covered by Federal dollars. There are four major categories of Police overtime that were covered by Federal dollars

including overtime pension costs and that did not come out of the City and there's data available for that. Some of it is from grants. So I think that the overtime costs that we are talking about via the pandemic is not a hit on the City per se as far as the Budget is concerned. So just all I wanted to say.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you. I wasn't going to say much. I can appreciate Alderman Lu's concern but like Alderman Dowd said, in my 35 year career on the Fire Department, today's requirement to be a firefighter is a minimum you have to be an EMT. Some are even paramedics which basically is advanced medical and everything. But whether they are sitting there doing it, directing traffic or just breathing, I think some people lost sight of why they are there. And because a certain drug which is the vaccine is being administered to the person. Some people who may not know, can have an allergic reaction. Now out of the major forms of shock, one of the ones that is very dangerous is anaphylactic shock. Basically what ends up, and now I am reverting back to my EMT days, but basically your airway constricts is one of the symptoms and you cannot breathe and that is why the firefighters are there.

Fortunately it is a rare event, but it does happen. And when you have nurses that are going out because of the thousands of people that they inoculated, giving the shots in the arms, the firefighters were there mostly just to make sure if anybody was feeling ill or showing signs of shock. So fortunately it wasn't anything major that I am aware of but that question can be referred to the Fire Chief. But their job was highly skilled. After sitting there and taking medical courses for 35 years, it is a very complete skill set. People rely on it. I have had people wrap their human bodies around trees and I think they were very appreciative of my skill set in trying to extricate them from vehicles. And so the firefighters I think they did a great job there in assisting the public, and again, it was predominantly a cautionary measure. So I was glad that they were there. And like Alderman Dowd says, it was covered with the Federal dollars that was granted with the inoculations so there wasn't too much of a municipal impact. And those that followed within the Finance and the Budget Committee saw that because we did a vote to approve that and the money went back to the Fire Department if you remember that was I think Assistant Chief Buxton came to that very same meeting speaking to have that money compensated. That was the reason that he gave. So again that's the reasoning. So thank you, Madam President.

President Wilshire

You're welcome. Alderman Lopez and then Alderwoman Lu.

Alderman Lopez

Yeah I just wanted to add that the firefighters are kind of, you don't want them to have to prove their worth because that means there is a fire. Equally you don't want them to have to respond to an emergency and look busy, but they are the ones who are likely to transport somebody in need of healthcare or experiencing a medical emergency to the hospital and it is only prudent that we have them on hand. So I appreciate their presence and I think we do have a lot of Fiscal Priorities to be looking at coming up and I mean some of that may be a tough decision but I would much rather look at trying to cut how often we are watering the plants or how often we are buffing eagle than how often we have firefighters available to respond to an emergency. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderwoman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. I just wanted to clarify or point out that any time you manage a pension system, you really don't know if you are level funding it. So the Federal Government is paying what they typically put forward per hour of work toward their pension, I understand that. But there's always a large risk that the management of those

funds is not going to yield the cash flow that they are going to need in their retirement. And I just think it is a big risk; it is a risk that we have to take on with our public servants, but in this case we don't have to take this risk on. I know we need a single emergency you know emergency worker at a site, but I just think this is a lot of risk to take on to have this much overtime that we don't really bargain for originally, we don't budget for. We don't know whether we are going to be able to grow these pensions. If pensions were that easy, then we wouldn't have a pension problem right now. And that is the biggest problem affecting our tax rate that there is, is the pension problem.

And it just seems to be obvious that we've got a huge roomful of people who are trained to address emergencies. I mean they are giving shots, but we have doctors there, anyways, I wanted to make it clear that just because you are paying a certain point into the pension, it doesn't mean that there's no risk to it. You've put, this is going to grow to exactly what you need. That's all. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Seeing none, Committee Announcements.

Committee announcements:

Alderman Dowd

Yes, the first Budget Review Committee for the FY '22 Budget is going to be next Thursday, May 20th at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. We will be covering General Government, Emergency Preparedness and Administrative Services. I would like all the members of the Budget Committee to let me know if there are any conflicts with this schedule so that I can see if we have any problem nights; I hope we don't. But let me know one way or the other if there are any issues with any particular nights so that we can make sure that we have a quorum. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Any other Committee announcements? No? Seeing none, Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Madam President. I am just contemplating Aldermen now there goes a lot of evenings with the Budget Committee. But looking forward to it. Madam President, I would like to be recognized for a motion.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN THAT THE MAY 11, 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, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	12
Nay: Alderman Lopez	1

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Attest: Susan K. Lovering, City Clerk