A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, June 9, 2020, 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 Linda Harriott-Gathright 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:

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

   We are utilizing WebEx through the City’s IT Department for this electronic meeting. All members of the Board of Aldermen have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen in to this meeting through dialing the following number 1-978-990-5298 and using the password 273974. The Public may also view this meeting on Comcast Channel 16.

b) **Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:**

   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 at the Public Health Department.

c) **Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:**

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

d) **Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting:**

   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.

Mayor James W. Donchess, Corporation Counsel Steven A. Bolton, were also in attendance via teleconference.

Alderman O’Brien

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

Alderman Klee

I am present, I can hear you, I am alone and I am here per the stay-at-home orders.

Alderwoman Kelly

I am here, I am alone, I can hear everyone and I am participating remotely due to the Governor’s orders.

Alderman Dowd

Yes, I am here alone, I can hear everyone and I am practicing social distancing in accordance with the Governor's directive.

Alderman Caron

Yes, I am here, I can hear everyone and I am home alone per the Governor’s orders.

Alderman Clemons

Yes, I am here, I can hear everyone and I am at home alone and participating at home because of the Governor’s orders.

Alderman Lopez

I am here, I can hear you guys, I am alone and I am social distancing.

Alderman Tencza

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

Alderwoman Lu

I am here, I can hear you I am alone and I am participating remotely pursuant to the Governor’s orders.

Alderman Jette

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

Alderman Schmidt

Present, I can hear everyone and I am alone as well.
Alderman Laws

I am here, I am alone and I can hear you all.

Alderman Cleaver

I am here, I am alone and I am practicing social distancing. I can hear everybody just fine.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

I am present, I am alone and I can hear you and I am practicing social distancing.

President Wilshire

I am here, I am alone, and I am practicing social distancing.

Susan Lovering, City Clerk

You have 15 in attendance.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Is the Mayor with us this evening, Mayor?

Mayor Donchess

Yes, I am Madam President.

President Wilshire

Do you wish to address the Board?

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Donchess

Yes, thank you. I wanted to give you first a quick COVID-19 update. As you know, Public Health and others in the City have been working very hard to contain the virus. There’s quite a bit of good news. Certainly, it is still with us and there’s always the risk of a reemergence. We do not know how this is going to go in the future. But from the testing we are doing, the testing that is being done here in Nashua and State-wide has a very favorable trend. Right now, as of yesterday, there were 539 COVID-19 cases in Nashua. But the percentage of people that are being tested, who show positive, who come up with a positive test, has been declining now for about 40 days from above 10% to below 5% in some cases. So that is a very important and very favorable trend. Unfortunately 18 people in Nashua have died; one is I think well-known to many of us, Kevin Slattery, a very generous, kind member of the community who got COVID-19 and was in the hospital for a couple of months and ultimately passed away. So that is a very sad loss. But that is the reason we are undertaking the steps that we all find difficult. It is frustrating and difficult to have to meet like this remotely, to not go out, to have to wear the masks. But in the end, we are doing something very important together and although Kevin passed away, we are trying to save other people like Kevin and we are being successful in doing so.

We need to continue and I am determined to continue to consider safety and use the scientific evidence we have, and, of course, people want that. I think they, of course, need us to exercise and undertake the steps that will help keep everybody, our families, our friends, safe.
So we can talk more about COVID-19 but we've gone over that, we have discussed everything the Health Department and everybody is doing in the past. So as much as I admire the efforts of everyone, I won't repeat that for you again. Of course, we are looking to the light at the end of the tunnel. We are taking many steps together to energize and re-establish our small business community especially. You approved the COVID-19 Relief Fund, a Fund of about $1.1. We have had 55 loan and grant applications, more than can be provided in full but the loan committee is considering each application and has awarded some of the loans and a few grants averaging about $25,000.00. And over the course of the next few weeks, we will be completely dealing with all of the applications, so I want to thank them as well.

Also, as you see downtown, the steps that we have taken to enable the outdoor dining in the expanded areas of the travel lanes, one lane north and south as well as many of the parking space, they have really energized the downtown business community and have been a big shot in the arm. The atmosphere downtown, I think, has been incredibly positive. The traffic and I go down there quite often, there’s a little congestion but nothing terrible and certainly the worst predictions in terms of traffic congestion have not at all been realized and the positive energy that has erupted downtown as a result of the more pedestrian friendly design. Even though it is using Jersey Barriers and the like, what we have arrived at has really changed and I think improved the character of downtown. So at least so far, we have to consider that a major success. Many people are enjoying it; I see restaurants that have many people and hopefully tables 8 feet apart, but many restaurants and businesses are doing very well with that and of course, we are all very glad to see that.

I wanted to mention one thing briefly, Madam President, regarding the proposed Fire Contract. There was some stuff on the internet, Facebook, over the weekend which could have implied that the City never offered anything. I just want you to know that we tried to be fair. In 2019 the City offered the same amount, the same wage increases that you approved for the Police Sergeants, that was back in 2019 before negotiations or the Fire Commission took over, that was the City’s negotiating team. The same raises that were offered to the Police Sergeants and of course that has remained on the table ever since.

Finally, Madam Chair, I would like to congratulate Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Gloria Timmins, Jordan Thompson and others who put together the vigil, the protest over the weekend, sponsored by Black Lives Matter Nashua, the NAACP, the OBU which we have known for a long time. The protest/vigil included many, many people but was very peaceful throughout. The Police Department, of course, did a good job but in the end, there was really no conduct that they had to be particularly concerned about. The speakers were very good, especially the young speakers, the young people who came on in the second half of the program. They were, I thought, incredible and overall I hope that it raises the spirits of many people in our community so that they, the members of our African-American Community and others understand that we are behind them and see that they have been affected and are in pain as a result of the events out in Minneapolis and elsewhere. So I just want people to know that there is solidarity and that march/rally/vigil helped to demonstrate that. So thank you to them and to everyone who was involved in organizing what, in the end, was a very, very uplifting, and positive event.

And that’s all I have, Madam President.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR

Alderman Lopez

I just wanted to comment on Alderman Kelly’s speech, I found it extremely inspirational. She was one of the speakers and I know she has been involved in helping organize as well. I was particularly moved by the admonishment I guess that we were reminded that we were guests at the event and this was really to mourn an experience that was shared by the black community. And I was happy to be a guest at that, and I was happy to be invited to participate and share in that grief with them. And I am committed to doing whatever I can to reach out to that community. So to that community I would just say that I am here, tell me what you need and let’s see what we can do.
Alderwoman Lu

Thank you, Madam President. I have a question through to Mayor Donchess.

President Wilshire

We can’t hear you very well Alderman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Really? I have a question for Mayor Donchess, and it is - did you, I think our COVID Relief Fund started at $1.5 million is that what you said?

Mayor Donchess

No it’s $1.1, it is in the range of $1,100,000.00 to $1,200,000.00.

Alderwoman Lu

I see, OK. Ok, because I just did the math and it seems that close to all 55 – so we are short, I multiplied $25,000.00 times 55 applicants. So that is a little more than what we have. When will we see the funds or is it on-going?

Mayor Donchess

Well it’s on-going. Some of the grants, well the loans and a few grants have already been awarded and I believe the borrowers and grantees have been notified, but not all of the money has been yet disbursed. There is a Loan Committee that consists of some City people, but some bankers and others who customarily are involved with lending money. They are reviewing the applications and so it is an on-going process but it should be completed soon.

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you.

Alderwoman Kelly

I just wanted to also comment on the event on Saturday, I think the organizers who have been doing great work in the City put together a really meaningful and powerful vigil. This isn’t easy stuff to work through so I was honored to speak but also to just see our community come together. And the Police Department did an incredible job of keeping everybody safe and making sure logistically it really ran smoothly so I thank them and I thank everyone for taking it in and being peaceful and finding ways to keep the conversation going. So thank you.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I too want to say that it was an incredible evening Saturday night at the vigil and you could just feel the love and the harmony. And the conversation was important, it was extremely important. I know it made me walkway very thoughtful of what I had heard and what I had experienced.

I also want to comment on the outdoor dining downtown. I can tell you that I have eaten out downtown a few times since it has been opened and I just hear incredible chatter and happiness down there. And I think it makes our downtown look incredible to see all these people out there and I have been getting a lot of calls of people saying thank you.
So all the hard work that went into that, I want to thank Director Cummings and all the people, you know, our Public Works people, Director Fauteux and all of those who had so much to do with that. Thank you.

**Alderman Gathright**

I actually want to echo the Mayor and I want to say, thank you Mayor for being a part of it and to Alderwoman Kelly, thank you for being a part as well. It really was important. I am going to say as long I have been in Nashua and I’ve been to a lot of big events, but I must honestly say that that’s the first even that I’ve ever been a part of, that I truly felt that people were there because they cared. They truly were concerned with what was going on, not just outside of Nashua but inside of Nashua as well and other cities in the State. So I am looking forward to a lot of people who have volunteered and come forward who want to work with Nashua Community Conversation on Race Injustice that myself and Chief Carignan chair. So I just see a lot of good things happening, because we work well together and I am sure that is going to continue. There are some things that we have already spoken about in the Committee and we do plan on having a Town Hall very soon. But it will be open to the City. So we just have to continue getting this Zoom together that we can put people in different rooms to speak and talk with one another. So thank you.

**RECOGNITION PERIOD - None**

**READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the minutes of the Special Board of Aldermen meetings of May 21, and May 27, 2020, and regular Board of Aldermen meeting of May 26, 2020 accepted, placed on file, and the reading suspended.

**COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING ONLY PROCEDURAL ACTIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS**

**From: Len Fournier, Superintendent Woodlawn/Pinewood Cemeteries**
**Re: Requesting Joint Convention Meeting with the Woodlawn/Pinewood Cemetery Trustees**

**From: Linda McGhee, Deputy Planning Manager**
**Re: Referral from the Board of Aldermen on proposed O-20-014, allowing the temporary adjustment of site plans by the Community Development Director or Designee to allow for greater outdoor seating at restaurants**

**From: John L. Griffin, Chief Financial Officer/Comptroller**
**Re: Fire Union IAFF Local #789 Collective Bargaining Agreement**

**From: Dorothy Clarke, Esquire**
**Re: R-20-043 “Authorizing Pennichuck Corporation and Pennichuck East Utility, Inc. to enter into a term loan and renew a fixed asset line of credit with CoBank, ACB” – letter from Pennichuck without confidential financial documents**

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

*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

Keeping in mind the health and safety of our residents and employees, we are requesting that if you wish to speak on agenda items, you submit your comments to include your name and address via e-mail by 5 PM on the Wednesday prior to a Board meeting which will be accepted and placed on file with the minutes of the meeting. Please e-mail your comments to: BOA@nashuanh.gov

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING FINAL APPROVAL

From: Justin Kates, Director of Emergency Management
Re: Approving the 2019-2020 Memorandum of Understanding between Goodwill Industries of Northern New England’s Goodwill VISTA Partnership and the City of Nashua

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO ACCEPT THE ALLOCATED FUNDS AND APPROVE THE 2019-2020 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND’S GOODWILL VISTA PARTNERSHIP AND THE CITY OF NASHUA, BY ROLL CALL

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


Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

PETITIONS - None

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Joint Convention with Trustees of Woodlawn/Pinewood Cemeteries

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

Trustee Jensen nominated Mark Coulombe and Todd Whitney for five-year terms to expire March 31, 2025.

There being no objection, President Wilshire closed the nominations.

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


Nay: 0
MOTION CARRIED

President Wilshire declared Mark Coulombe and Todd Whitney duly appointed to the Woodlawn/Pinewood Cemeteries for terms to expire March 31, 2025.

Oath of Office administered by Corporation Counsel.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Finance Committee……………………………………………………………………………………………..05/21/2020

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the May 21, 2020 Finance Committee accepted and placed on file.

Joint Meeting – Committee on Infrastructure and Planning and Economic Development Committee…………………………………………………………………………05/27/2020

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the May 27, 2020 joint meeting of Committee on Infrastructure and Planning and Economic Development Committee accepted and placed on file.

Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee……………………………………... ............ 06/01/2020

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the June 1, 2020 Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee accepted and placed on file.

Budget Review Committee………………………………………………………………….. 06/02/2020

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the June 2, 2020 Budget Review Committee accepted and placed on file.

Finance Committee…………………………………………………………………………… 06/03/2020

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the June 3, 2020 Finance Committee accepted and placed on file.

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS

Electric Aggregation Committee

There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the following to the Electric Aggregation Committee: appointment of new members: Robert Blaisdell, 24 Railroad Square, Nashua, and Lawrence Lutton, 47 Concord Street, Nashua, both with terms to expire May 31, 2023

President Wilshire

Mr. Blaisdell will not be attending and both gentlemen will be sworn in at a later date.

Oath of Office to be administered at a later date.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-20-033
Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
            Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien
            Alderman Patricia Klee
            Alderman Richard A. Dowd
            Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
            Alderman Skip Cleaver
            Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONFIRMATORY DEED TO PENNICHUCK WATER WORKS

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-20-03, BY ROLL CALL

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


Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-20-033 declared duly adopted.

R-20-039
Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
            Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien, Sr.
            Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
            Alderman Richard A. Dowd

AUTHORIZING PENNICHUCK CORPORATION AND PENNICHUCK WATER WORKS, INC. TO ISSUE TAXABLE BONDS OF UP TO $75,000,000

• Budget Review Committee Recommends: Re-assigning to Pennichuck Special Water Committee

Without objection, President Wilshire re-assigned R-20-039 to the Pennichuck Special Water Committee to be held on Monday, June 15, 2020, at 7:00 pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-20-014, Amended
Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
            Alderman-at-Large Benjamin Clemons
            Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
            Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
            Alderman Jan Schmidt
            Alderman Patricia Klee
            Alderman Thomas Lopez
            Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien, Sr.
            Alderman Richard A. Dowd

RELATIVE TO TEMPORARY ADJUSTMENT TO SITE PLANS
Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO AMEND O-20-014 BY REPLACING IT WITH THE GOLDEN ROD AMENDMENT MADE AT THE JOINT MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, BY ROLL CALL**

**ON THE QUESTION**

**Alderman Clemons**

It's a minor but major, it basically says that there will be no fees processed for these changes.

**President Wilshire**

Thank you, further discussion on the motion to amend? Would the Clerk please call the roll?

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


Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-20-014 AS AMENDED, BY ROLL CALL**

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


Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution O-20-014 declared duly adopted as amended.

**O-20-017**

**Endorsers:** Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly

**AUTHORIZING FREE PARKING AT METERS AND PAY STATION SPACES THROUGH NOVEMBER 15, 2020**

(tabled at May 21, 2020 BOA mtg)
NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-20-042

Endorser: Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza

APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A SIDEBAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NASHUA BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS AND THE NASHUA FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION I.A.F.F. LOCAL 789 REGARDING VACATION ACCRUAL

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TENCZA TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR A SECOND READING BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderwoman Kelly

If you could just speak to why there is a need to suspend this and do it right now versus sending it to the Committee that would be great?

President Wilshire

We got an e-mail from Alderman Tencza this afternoon, that I believe there’s an expiration of that those days go away. Alderman Tencza?

Alderman Tencza

Madam President, if we could, I believe that Assistant Chief Walker is in the meeting as well to speak to this. There is some urgency with this Resolution, it’s actually not the fiscal year that it is dependent upon it’s actually the anniversary dates of each employee so those come up at various times. If we don’t pass this, it could affect when people would be able to roll over this vacation time, which they haven’t taken due to the recent budget and staffing issues due to the COVID-19. So Chief Walker, if he’d like to speak more to that, he would have more details, if, Madam President, you would allow him to.

President Wilshire

I would, Deputy Walker?

Deputy Fire Chief Walker

Good evening, this is Chief Walker from Fire & Rescue. So the reason behind this was that during the initial stages of the epidemic, we had some people who were out due to some exposures. We needed our people to show up, we needed our people to come to work. The way our vacation accrual works is that on their anniversary, if they have more than they are allowed accrued, they would lose it. Some of those anniversaries happened in April and May and some are going to happen in June. So we are just waiting so that they can start to use those accumulated hours. It is a small pool, there’s only 10 people that it involves, the numbers are as low as 10 hours and the highest is 126. Some of those hours, they have already started to use.

In the agreement there is a 6-month window that they can use it but we would like them to use some of it at least within this fiscal year and we have only three weeks left. So that’s the urgency that there is no real impact financially, it is just they are carrying the hours over instead of losing them. And we just want them to have the ability to use it at this point. So if you have any other questions, I’ll be happy to answer them.
Alderman Tencza

Madam President, I'll just point out too that this is something that we have done for employees of the Police Department. I think there was a consensus in that; I can't imagine – we certainly could go through the – we may have to go through the normal process here but it doesn't seem like that's necessary since we have already had a debate on this issue. So it makes sense for efficiency purposes in order to suspend the rules and go forward with this proposal tonight.

Alderman Dowd

Yes, first I'd like to be listed as a co-sponsor and second, I fully support this action. It gives the Fire Department a little more time for planning purposes and it is very similar to what we did for the Police Department. I think it's only fair that we do this for the Fire Department as well.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I want to echo the words of those who have spoken before me. We have done it in the past and considering what this pandemic has done to everybody’s schedule and so on, I think it’s something that we should consider and I too would like to be a sponsor of that too. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? The Motion is to suspend to allow for a second reading.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

I would also like to be an endorser for this and I fully support it.

Alderman Clemons

Yes, Madam President if you can add me as a co-sponsor, I’d appreciate that.

Alderman Lopez

I mean I am just going to vote for it, so you don’t have to add me as a co-sponsor.

Alderman Caron

I think this is a great idea and I see we have another Ordinance to help Public Health Community because of those vacation days that they are not taking because of this virus. But I am a little concerned, have we looked at the other employees who are unaffiliated who are not able to take their time as well and they are going to lose that time at the end of the year if they don’t take it. I think it is something that we should be looking at for all of those employees who have more vacation and they are going to lose it. And I don’t mind being a sponsor. But I think it is important that we look at the City as a whole. And I think it’s great that we are going to recognize the Fire Department and this Ordinance O-20 for Public Health. Thank you.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I again I feel like I’m doing a ‘me too’, but I want to each what Alderman Caron had said. We really should be, especially considering that we’ve been in such odd schedules over the past few months. Those who have been working full time haven’t been able to take leave and I think we should be giving consideration to extending theirs. But I do have a quick question, I know it is kind of off to the side and maybe for a future conversation, do theirs also end at their anniversary or is there an end of the year type of thing for the other non-affiliated employees?
Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Can we move the question on this one? I'm sorry, I realized I was still on – I'm going to mute.

Alderman Lopez

Can I sponsor the moving of the question?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

I might be able to help Madam President with the question. The unaffiliated employees earn a certain number of personal days each year, 5 I believe and those have to be taken during the fiscal year and if they are not taken, they expire as of July 1st. People and it depends how long they have been employed, earn various amounts of vacation days each year. One is allowed to accumulate double the amount that is earned each year. So a fairly recent employee would earn 12 days a year, could accrue up to 24 days on their anniversary date of employment, the lose any excess days or hours over that double the yearly amount.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Anyone further? The Motion is to suspend to allow for a second reading? 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 Cleaver, 
     Alderman Laws, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire 15

Nay: 

MOTION CARRIED

R-20-042

Endorser: Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza 
       Alderman Richard A. Dowd 
       Alderman Patricia Klee 
       Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright 
       Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons 
       Alderman June M. Caron

APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A SIDEBAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NASHUA BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS AND THE NASHUA FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION I.A.F.F. LOCAL 789 REGARDING VACATION ACCRUAL

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TENCZA FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-20-042 BY ROLL CALL
ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Kelly

Yes thank you. I just wanted to thank everyone for their responses, I was asking my question about the motion to suspend just to make sure that everybody understood why we were doing that and I intend to support this.

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


Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-20-042 declared duly adopted

R-20-043
Endorser: Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws

AUTHORIZING PENNICHUCK CORPORATION AND PENNICHUCK EAST UTILITY, INC. TO ENTER INTO A TERM LOAN AND RENEW A FIXED ASSET LINE OF CREDIT WITH COBANK, ACB

Given its first reading; assigned to the PENNICHUCK SPECIAL WATER COMMITTEE by President Wilshire

R-20-044
Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderwoman-at-Lage Shoshanna Kelly

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF AN ADDITIONAL $377,873.50 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-20-045

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF $190,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CARES ACT FUNDING INTO PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT ACTIVITY “FY2020 PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE”

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

R-20-046

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

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF $159,460 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT CARES ACT FUNDING 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

President Wilshire

Alderwoman Lu, do you have a question?

Alderwoman Lu

Yes, a quick question, thank you. If everyone endorsed it would we actually have to send it to Committee?

President Wilshire

You are cutting out Alderman Lu.

Alderwoman Lu

If we all endorsed it, would we need to send it to Committee?
President Wilshire

Yes.

Alderman Lu

Alright, thank you.

R-20-047

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Tom Lopez

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF $162,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTO PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT ACTIVITIES “FY21 AND FY22 HIV PREVENTION GRANT”

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

R-20-048

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman June M. Caron

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF $99,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTO PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT ACTIVITIES “FY21 AND FY22 STD PREVENTION GRANT”

Given its first reading; assigned to the HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE by President Wilshire
R-20-049
Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF $97,500 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTO PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT ACTIVITIES “FY21 AND FY22 IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM OF GREATER NASHUA”

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

R-20-050
Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF $52,500 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTO PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT ACTIVITIES “FY21 AND FY22 TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAM OF GREATER NASHUA”

Given its first reading; assigned to the HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE by President Wilshire
R-20-051
Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF $45,000 FROM THE STATE OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTO PUBLIC
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT ACTIVITIES “FY21 AND FY22 HEALTHY
HOMES AND LEAD POISONING CASE MANAGEMENT”

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

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-20-020
Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO PERSONAL DAYS FOR UNAFFILIATED EMPLOYEES IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

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

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O’BRIEN TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ALLOW FOR A SECOND
READING OF O-20-020 BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman O’Brien

This seems to follow pretty much along for what we have done with the Police and just briefly this evening
with the Fire. These are unaffiliated employees and I think the Corporation Counsel did give a good
explanation of the unaffiliated that go by the calendar year up until July so there seems to be some
timeliness to this as well too, from what I am led to believe. So by expediting this I think shows fairness
across the board. We took care of some other groups; these are employees with the Public Health and
Community Services Division. They all equally have done a fine job. They missed their vacation time due
to the COVID so I think they are deserving of this. Thank you.
Alderman Lopez

Yeah, I just want to express my support for this, I wasn’t sure which is why I didn’t endorse it. I know we’ve had sort of a shaky history with the unaffiliated employees. So I was going to look at it first before committing but thank you to Alderman O’Brien for explaining.

President Wilshire

The motion is to suspend the rules. Further discussion on that motion? Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Before we do this, I guess my question would be on why and I know Corporation Counsel tried to explain this and I understand the mechanism anyway, but why we aren’t doing this for all unaffiliated employees and why just the Public Health Department?

President Wilshire

Attorney Bolton do you know why, do you have any insight for us?

Attorney Bolton

Yes, maybe.

Mayor Donchess

I can possibly answer that, Madam President. We should look at the other unaffiliated employees. Now it depends on the employee’s responsibility. Some people are still working remotely but able to take vacation, because they have a normal amount of demands as opposed to the Public Health where the demands have been 7 days a week. Certainly, there are others who may be in the same position. So I would be glad to check that out and make a recommendation to you. Maybe it should be all unaffiliated employees. But we can come back with that; but this was just because the Public Health people have been working 7 days a week, working with the COVID-19 positive patients as well as all the contract tracing that we’ve discussed before. So that was the reason for Public Health but I’d be glad to look at the other employees and come back to you.

President Wilshire

Thank you, Mayor.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, Mayor, I appreciate that. And I don’t want to diminish what the Health Department has done, certainly they have done a fantastic job in working day in and day out. But there is some other fairness issues around it, in particular the fact that in the last 3 or 4 months there’s been nowhere to go to take your vacation so you are at home anyway.

Mayor Donchess

Yes and another group that has worked very hard and so I am glad that you’ve raised this and have been working feverishly especially over the last few weeks are the automobile registration people because of the difficulties of remote registration. So there’s another group that has put in extra efforts and may not have been able to take vacation. So again, I’d be glad to look into the whole situation.
Alderman Clemons

Thank you.

President Wilshire

The motion before us is to suspend the rules to allow for a second reading. Any further discussion on the motion to suspend? Alderman Caron?

Alderman Caron

Yes thank you. First of all, thank you Mayor for agreeing to check out the other unaffiliated because of the problems we are having with the virus. I know that City Clerk and Tax Collectors, they are working Saturdays and Sundays. And as Alderman Clemons said, even if you are on vacation, you can't go anywhere. So whatever you can do, I think would make these employees feel just as important as everybody else. And I know how hard Public Health Workers are doing, so I appreciate you taking the time to check that and bring it back to the Full Board. Thank you.

President Wilshire

OK the motion before us is to suspend the rules to allow for a second reading of Ordinance 20-020. Seeing no further discussion would the Clerk please call the roll?

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


Nay:                    0

MOTION CARRIED

O-20-020

Endorser:    Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO PERSONAL DAYS FOR UNAFFILIATED EMPLOYEES IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O’BRIEN FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-20-020 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,
       Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws,
       Alderman Cleaver, Alderman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire

Nay:                    0

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-20-020 declared duly adopted.

O-20-021
Endorser:    Alderman Richard A. Dowd
            Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien
            Alderman Tom Lopez

AUTHORIZING A STOP SIGN ON LEE STREET AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH FOREST STREET
Given its first reading; assigned to the COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE by President Wilshire

O-20-023
Endorser:    Alderman Ben Clemons
            Alderman Patricia Klee
            Alderman Michael B. O’Brien, Sr.
            Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
            Alderman Richard A. Dowd
            Alderman Tom Lopez
            Alderman Jan Schmidt
            Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
            Alderman Skip Cleaver
            Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
            Alderman Patricia Klee
            Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

RELATIVE TO ADVERTISING SIGNAGE ON UMBRELLAS, AWNINGS, AND CANOPIES IN
CONNECTION WITH OUTDOOR DINING
Given its first reading; assigned to the PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE and Planning Board by President Wilshire

President Wilshire

Alderman Gathright?

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Alright, so are you just talking about like on the top of the umbrella where you might have the name of the business? So do the businesses want to do that or the City is going to do that?

President Wilshire

No the businesses are. Right now we have an Ordinance that says they can’t have liquor advertising over 4 inches or something to that effect. We want to allow them to have it.
Alderman Harriott-Gathright

OK. I'd like to be a sponsor as well.

President Wilshire

Ok, very good. Thank you.

Alderman Clemons

Madam President, I did have a question for Corporation Counsel? Thank you, my question is this has to go before the Planning Board and have a Public Hearing and the way that it is written it is temporary. It is going to go until the middle of November. And so my question is, if this is successful and the Board decides that it is something that we want to extend, does it have to go through the Public Hearing process again in order for the Board to extend it later on?

Attorney Bolton

Yes.

Alderman Clemons

So is it possible to amend this right now before it goes to those Public Hearings to remove that sunset?

Attorney Bolton

It's possible.

Alderman Clemons

So Madam President, I would make a motion to remove the sunset clause on this so that it just becomes a policy of the City.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO AMEND O-20-023 BY REMOVING THE SUNSET CLAUSE BY ROLL CALL**

**ON THE QUESTION**

Alderwoman Kelly

Just a point of order, I am wondering if that would be a motion that would make sense to make when it goes to Committee versus here?

President Wilshire

According to the attorney, he can do it here or he can do it at Committee?

Alderman Clemons

Can I speak to that? So it's a couple things. So one to answer Alderwoman Kelly's question, if we do it here, once you assign the Public Hearing and all of that it already will have been amended so the people can come and talk to it as it is amended without having to go through two Public Hearing processes and delay it because we amended it. And I would assume that it would be a substantial change since one has an end date and one doesn't.
And the second reason that I am proposing this amendment is because from what I understand from the restaurants and businesses is that they would like to be able to have, they get these umbrellas for free essentially from various liquor distributors and different things. So it is a financial burden for them to go out and buy these umbrellas. So the idea is that if they get one or they get a couple of them and they put them up, they can use them for a couple of seasons. If we put a sunset clause on this, it defeats the purpose of them going out and getting them. It’s something we should do and I think we should just do it as opposed to doing a trial period. Thank you.

Alderman Laws

I’m all set, thank you.

Alderman Dowd

I have had a couple discussions with Director Marchant on this and I know there was some concern, but these umbrellas, if you get a good umbrella, they are very expensive, up to $400.00 apiece. And some of the establishments downtown have already gone out and bought their own, but many haven’t. I’ve also had a lot of people talk to me, which kind of surprised me, but want to know if we can do this every summer, because they like it. The public likes it. And it may not be exactly the same scale, but I am in accordance with Alderman Clemons on this and take the sunset clause out. If it becomes a burden later on, we can always change it again, but right now, I think we need to give as much leeway to our restaurants and businesses as we can to make them whole.

Alderman Laws

I was mistaken. The reason I didn’t say anything is because I was going to wait for this to go to Committee and then talk about it there. Corporation Counsel is there any way that we could do a second reading because this is something, it was brought to my attention by business owners. Not only is it important to them because of the reasons the other Aldermen just mentioned, but now the distributors on the other side of the coin have gone out and spent a ton of money on new umbrellas that they can give to the business owners in Nashua. They are just going to be sitting on this inventory until we get this passed. Therein lies the rub, you know. So if there’s any way we can get this expedited, I would be fully in support of that. Thank you.

President Wilshire

We can’t have a second reading because we still need to have a Public Hearing.

Attorney Bolton

And you need a recommendation from the Planning Board. If the Planning Board recommends against it, it will take ten votes. If the Planning Board recommends in favor, a simple majority.

Alderman Laws

Thank you for clarifying.

Alderman Lopez

Yeah, I am hugely in support of this. I think the umbrellas are important both from an amenity’s perspective. Last Saturday after the Black Lives Matter, I tried to go to Peddlers and got completely rained on. So it’s interesting having banners and masks in like a typhoon. So it’s definitely going to affect the customer experience, but it is also getting into the hot season, like there’s going to be a lot of sun out.
So I think it’s a really good idea for us to start thinking about those things too in making sure that people are being shaded as much as possible. So I’m in favor of both Alderman Clemons’ amendment to remove the sunset period and then expediting this as much as possible.

President Wilshire

Thank you, Alderman Lopez. Alderwoman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

I don’t need to speak anymore, thank you.

Alderman Tencza

Thank you, Madam President. So I’m very much in favor of making this amendment for this year. I do worry that if we make the amendment to make this a permanent Resolution or Ordinance for the City that there will be more opposition to it going forward. I think we will have plenty of time between November and April where there are very few people on Main Street who are sitting under umbrellas, to come back and to make a permanent change if this is a good move for the City. So I think we should move forward with the Ordinance as drafted and then we will have plenty of time over the winter in order to re-address it, hold Public Hearings and make good policy for next year.

Alderwoman Lu

I agree with Alderman Tencza. I think that a temporary solution to the financial difficulties it is great having but I would not want it to be permanent. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you, is there any further discussion on the motion to amend? Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Could I, through you, ask Corporation Counsel if this Ordinance is not amended tonight, can the Committee or can the Full Board, the next time the Full Board gets it, amend it then without having a repeat of the Public Hearing or does this amendment have to be made tonight in order for it to go through the Public Hearing and proceed?

Attorney Bolton

I would say it is significant enough that if the Public Hearing proceeds on the basis that this is a temporary measure, and then it is amended to make it permanent, I believe a Public Hearing on that basis, on the new proposal would be in order.

Alderman Jette

OK thank you.

Alderman Dowd

If we amend it now and it goes forward, we can always get it back. If the Planning Board doesn’t like the fact that it is not just temporary, they can come back with a recommendation that we make it temporary. And we can change it at the Committee Meeting after the Public Hearing if there’s not a lot of opposition to it, we can just leave it as is. If it comes back to the Planning Board with them saying, “hey it is fine, just keep it”.
But again, they can come back with a recommendation to not make it permanent just do it for this year and readdress it later. So if we do it now, it is a saving step as far as time is concerned and the season is moving really quickly. In New England we don’t have long summers.

The other thing is having been in Europe a lot in the summer, I can tell you every City, every town, all the restaurants are outside and they have huge umbrellas because that’s their business. They don’t have a lot of inside seating; they do most of their business in the summer under those umbrellas. And quite frankly I think it adds to the character of those towns in Europe. So I don’t see it as a detriment.

President Wilshire

The motion before us is to remove the sunset clause. Alderman O’Brien.

Alderman O’Brien

Madam President, thank you. Just to my fellow colleagues, I did a lot of legwork on this. And it seems that when this came out, a lot of misinformation – I had heard that it had to do with the State Liquor Commission, that is untrue. I did some research, looked at Manchester and other communities, from what I can see, we are the only municipality in the State that has this type of restriction, in looking at it. And then I did a lot of talking with the principals, people who own restaurants and stuff like that downtown. I also talked to their distributors who would provide a cover, well the principals with those umbrellas. And like it was brought up, people who own a restaurant or something have taken a hit financially. And as what Alderman Dowd has said the cost of some of the umbrellas, some of these distributors are willing to pay – good quality umbrellas. They are good and the reason they are good quality is because they have a logo on it and that particular distributor does not want that umbrella flying down Main Street or something happening to it. So I feel comfortable, to me this is a very short summer and as somebody else has brought up and I wouldn’t mind a second reading. But I am going to support the Clemons’ amendment to this to try to get it through in its entirety because unfortunately it is something that should have never entered into our community to begin with. We could have been as typical as any other town in New Hampshire and not even be debating this particular issue. So I am going to support the Clemons’ amendment. Thank you.

Alderman Jette

I have two things, number one – again to Corporation Counsel is what Alderman Dowd true that if we remove the sunset provision and it goes to the Planning Board and the Planning Board wants the sunset back that we could amend it then without a public hearing, number one? Could you answer that please?

Attorney Bolton

I don’t know that that’s what Alderman Dowd said but if he said that I would disagree. I think if you change it from temporary to permanently not prohibited or in the opposite direction, they are two different things and you have to have a public hearing on the Ordinance that you pass.

Alderman Jette

So as I read this Ordinance, it says that the Ordinance currently shall not be interpreted as to prohibit any umbrella, awning or canopy displaying advertising signage in connection with outdoor dining as long as vehicular or pedestrian traffic is not obstructed thereby. This does not contain any limitation on the size of the advertising, doesn’t contain any limitation on the product that might be advertised. So you could have, I don’t know if there’s something else that would prohibit tobacco companies from advertising on these umbrellas or vaping companies, you know, that type of thing. These are all things that would be vetted and talked about in Committee. But if the Committee decides to add a further restriction to the advertising, whether it be size or the products or whatever, would that require additional public hearing, if I could ask Corporation Counsel that question.
Attorney Bolton

I would say very likely, it’s hard to speculate without knowing the exact change, but anything very substantive I think would require another Public Hearing.

Alderman Jette

OK, thank you.

Alderman Clemons

I just want to state again for the record that the purpose of pulling the sunset clause is so that businesses can have the expectation that they can use these umbrellas when it gets nice again in April and May or maybe even on those one off days that we get in March when it is nice outside. So that’s the idea here and that was the way actually I had thought this Legislation was going to be drafted. So hopefully we can move on and vote on this amendment.

Alderman Laws

I’m not sure if this is accurate, but just reading the words here, relative to the advertising signage on umbrellas, awnings and canopies in connection with outdoor dining, I would think that would exclude tobacco and vape shops, because they are not selling food. I may be right, I may be wrong, Corporation Counsel?

Attorney Bolton

I think the Ordinance as I’ve written it does not restrict what products, what kind of advertising or anything else and frankly that was intentional. I think if you get picking and choosing on content, you run into First Amendment issues that will complicate this to a large extent.

President Wilshire

All set, Alderman Laws?  Alderman Cleaver.

Alderman Cleaver

I agree with Alderman Clemons, I think we need to move on. I think duplicate the public hearing and make it permanent again would waste time. I think we need to take the uncertainty away from the businesses so they can plan forward with the certainty of next spring as well and ongoing. So I am ok with the amendment.

President Wilshire

Any further discussion on the motion to remove the sunset clause?  Alderwoman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you, yes. My understanding is the way it is written it is a COVID-19 somewhat temporary (audio cuts out).

President Wilshire

Alderman Lu, you are muted.
Alderwoman Lu

Can you hear me better now?

President Wilshire

Yes.

Alderwoman Lu

I went to a different part of my house. It seems to me though there isn’t an end date on that Ordinance, am I wrong on that? OH ok, my mistake. Well it is not being codified, correct. So why don’t we just take the end date out and when COVID-19 emergency measures get removed then we will have to reconsider if necessary.

Alderman Clemons

Madam President, that’s what we are doing, would be my answer to Alderwoman Lu. That’s what this motion accomplishes.

Alderwoman Lu

Oh, thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else to remove the sunset clause? Would the Clerk please call the roll?

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


Nay: Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Tencza, Alderman Jette, Alderman Harriott-Gathright 5

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TENCZA TO ACCEPT THE FIRST READING AS AMENDED OF O-20-023 BY ROLL CALL, ASSIGN IT TO THE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND THE PLANNING BOARD AND THAT A PUBLIC HEARING BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN TO BE SCHEDULE AT A LATER DATE VIA WEBEX MEETING

ON THE QUESTION

Alderwoman Lu

I have a question if you are going to ask questions.

President Wilshire

Alderman Lu.
Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. Through you to Corporation Counsel, is that correct, that this is not going to be a new, codified Ordinance but rather a – (audio cuts out) understood what these, what the phrasing at the bottom of these COVID-19 Ordinances does. So if you could just clarify that for me?

Attorney Bolton

Ok, the Ordinances that were passed prior to this one, that were particularly intended to only be temporary, we have added this instruction to the City Clerk, that it should not go into the big black book of Ordinances and basically bear the expense of putting them in and then getting them back out again when they expire. We have said we are going to have a separate listing of these, when they expire, they will be gone and we won’t have to put them in the book, take them out of the book, etc. This one, when it was drafted to be a temporary measure, the same instruction to the Clerk were put in. Given the motion that was made to amend, and that amendment passed, we will delete this instruction to the Clerk and we will delete the November 15th language so that this will look like any other Ordinance that you pass this is going to have semi-permanent effect.

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you, so I guess rather than relying on Alderman Clemons I should have checked with you before I voted?

Alderman Clemons

Excuse me, President Wilshire.

Attorney Bolton.

It certainly is never inappropriate to rely on your fellow Board Members but I am happy to respond to questions when they come to me.

Alderman Clemons

President Wilshire?

President Wilshire

Alderman Clemons.

Alderman Clemons

So the question that was asked was, why don’t we just make this so that it doesn’t expire in November but when the COVID-19 is over we can discuss this again to see if we want to move forward with it, through Corporation Counsel, does the way it is written now achieve that end goal?

Attorney Bolton

You can always propose other Ordinances to repeal an Ordinance that you have passed or to make subsequent changes, providing that those are within your authority. But I think you will be in a situation where it will have an open-ended, semi-permanent and it will be in that way until you vote to do something different.
Alderman Clemons

Right so if I could continue. So in other words, if an Alderman wanted to get rid of this in the future, they could bring forward legislation to get rid of it?

Attorney Bolton

Yes. That is true of everything you do.

Alderman Clemons

Exactly, so I answered the question correctly. Thank you.

Alderman Cleaver

Thank you, Madam President. I just wanted to apologize to Alderman Clemons. I in no way meant to offend you. I was just expressing that my question had been meant to get some information that perhaps I misunderstood. So hopefully you don’t feel offended. Thank you.

President Wilshire

The motion before us is to accept the first reading as amended by roll call, assign it to the Planning & Economic Development Committee and the Planning Board and that a Public Hearing be scheduled by the Board of Alderman via Webex Meeting. Further discussion on that. Seeing none, would the Clerk please call the roll?

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


Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman Kelly

Yes before we go into Remarks By Aldermen, I was wondering if I could bring up a general discussion?

President Wilshire

Sure.

Alderman Kelly

Thank you. So I wanted to bring to the Board that I think that when COVID hit there was a lot of decisions that we made for safety purposes, etc. We have gotten a number of e-mails around public comment and I would like to see us do something in response to that. I think that we originally didn’t want people gathering in large groups that come to Public Comment, that made a lot of sense in the moment. But we also saw through the Public Hearing that there is an electronic way to allow people to bring forward their public comment. And I think it’s very different to accept someone’s communication and put in on file than to allow them to actually make a comment during the meeting.
President Wilshire

Ok we will discuss that with IT and see how we can make something like that happen.

Alderwoman Kelly

I would really appreciate that.

President Wilshire

You’re welcome. Alderwoman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you, Madam President. I was also going to ask to bring that thought up. Thank you, Alderwoman Kelly, for doing that. I wanted to just speak to the public health situation, it required that we adapt a lot to the ways of a meeting. And the IT Department did a great job with facilitating remove participation by the City Staff and also the elected officials. I feel we haven’t done as well for the City residents who are interested in speaking contemporaneously, their opinions and concerns. At times we have had meetings with 30 or more people. So I know it’s possible. I understand that there’s a concern that we may receive more interested people than we can handle on the bandwidth. But if this were to happen perhaps after speaking people could leave and then someone else could call in.

But I also want everyone to consider whether a person that wants to give public comment needs to know that on the Wednesday before the Agenda even goes out, because before they even see the Agenda, they are being asked to provide public comment on – the Agenda comes out on Friday, correct? We are asking them to provide public comment by the Wednesday before.

President Wilshire

We take Public Comment on things that we are acting upon. So that Public Comment wouldn’t come out until after that Agenda comes out. If we refer it to Committee, we are not taking action on it during its first reading, typically. We did that tonight a little bit but we don’t normally do that.

Alderwoman Lu

I thought that public comment was allowed on both new items and items being acted upon?

President Wilshire

Typically on our Agenda, yes. You can’t ask someone to comment on something that hasn’t come out yet. I’m not sure ….

Alderwoman Lu

That’s what I am saying. If they were at the meeting. To ask them to know what they want to speak on before the Agenda comes out, I think is too soon. We can certainly include items that were submitted on the day of the Agenda, Public Comment. I think we should give some thought as to how late somebody can submit their public comment for a meeting on Tuesday.

President Wilshire

We will take a look at it.
Alderwoman Lu

Ok and to that idea I would like to offer to, there are letters that were not included in the public comment. And I wonder if I could have 5 minutes to read one of them?

President Wilshire

That’s up to the Board? I mean if we start reading one, do we read all 50? Do we read 5, do we read 6, I mean where do we cut the line?

Alderwoman Lu

Well I think it’s a serious consideration that we should give to allowing the residents to speak contemporaneously, it doesn’t seem outside of the realm of possibilities. But thank you.

Alderman Dowd

Yes, this is something that we probably shouldn’t try to decide tonight. This should go to a Committee; somebody should bring it up and it should come up at Committee and then come back to the Full Board. The other thing is when we are doing Public Hearings, we are limited, because we have no idea when we are on-line like that how many people are out there. In order to get the meeting concluded at a reasonable hour, we only allow 5 minutes. And to me, if somebody has a comment on something we are talking about, 5 minutes is more than enough time to address their opinion. We have some people that want to speak for an extended period of time. I would not be in favor or allowing that nor reading long letters into the Agenda.

The other thing is that if we allow one letter to be read, it is not fair to anybody else that submitted a letter to not read theirs. So we will be starting something that we would have an issue with. So I think that this needs to go to a Committee. Somebody has to bring it up and talk about it at the Committee level, not at the Full Board level right now.

Alderman Laws

I would have used different words probably but I was going to say exactly what Alderman Dowd said. So I don’t need to speak. Thank you.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you and I appreciate everyone’s comments on this, I am taking this up, I would say that I find it a little frustrating that in order to revoke the right to speak, we didn’t send it to Committee, but in order to put it back in, we’d like to send it to Committee and draw it out. So I would like to see us, your original response was, Let’s talk to IT and see what we can do. I don’t know why we need to complicate this. People should be able to have a say in what we are doing and COVID is no longer an excuse to keep that from happening.

Alderman Lopez

I would just suggest as Alderman Dowd said, I can see the concern, I have letters that I would like to read too and I know that if we read one letter than we are going to get a lot of e-mails about why didn’t you read this e-mail and why didn’t you read this letter? One of the reasons that we enacted this system in the first place is so that the letters could be presented in their formal and official and exacting way. And also in a reasonably expedient manner. That being said, I think each Alderman has a comment period where they can make a brief public comment.
I know mine kind of pushed the envelope of brief but if it is important for Alderman Lu to identify someone’s opinion and what it was, I feel like she could probably just summarize in maybe 30 seconds or so instead of 5 minutes and just as a reference that she personally chooses to make. I agree with what Alderman Dowd is saying, that we should have a Committee Meeting about this and I also appreciate Alderman Kelly’s idea of having more of an open format integrated into our next meeting. So I would ask that the President see if that could be a discussion that is brought up at an upcoming Committee Meeting.

President Wilshire

Thank you, Alderman Lopez. Anyone else?

Alderman O’Brien

I just wanted to say that I wouldn’t feel comfortable paraphrasing someone else. I suggested reading it only because it didn’t get included in the minutes for one reason or another. And I just want to say about the 5 minutes, I think part of the issue is that in the past we haven’t stuck very carefully to a time limit. It just takes discipline and if that’s what makes this doable then that is what we should try to do, is to stick to that limit whether we like what we are hearing or we don’t like what we are hearing. Thank you.

Alderman O’Brien

Thank you, Madam President. We are on Remarks by Members of the Board of Aldermen? Correct?

President Wilshire

Apparently, we are. Alderman Kelly asked for discussion.

Alderman O’Brien

I would just like at this particular time, to offer my condolences to the family (audio cuts out).

President Wilshire

Alderman O’Brien, could we finish this conversation before we get into those remarks, I’m sorry.

Alderman O’Brien

Oh I thought we were in “Remarks” that’s why I asked.

President Wilshire

Alderman O’Brien had asked for a discussion on this and we were going to wrap that up before we ask for that.

Alderman O’Brien

OK.

President Wilshire

Sorry. OK Alderwoman Kelly, did you have something else to add?
Alderman Caron

President Wilshire? Yes, thank you. Personnel has an Ordinance or Resolution concerning Public Comment and that was tabled because Alderman Dowd was doing some more checking. So if Alderman Dowd has what he needs, we can certainly bring it up at the next Personnel Meeting which is the 1st Monday in July.

President Wilshire

Thank you, Alderman Caron. Alderman Dowd?

Alderman Dowd

Yes, I was waiting to get the final language on the revised Ordinance that we discussed way back in Personnel from Attorney Leonard. I haven’t gotten that back yet; we haven’t pushed it because we sort of changed the rules in meeting in Webex. But that can certainly be brought back up at that meeting and we can talk about it more. And by the way, the 5 minutes has worked very well. I have a stopwatch that I use for all the Public Hearings, including the City Budget and we haven’t had a problem yet.

President Wilshire

OK. What I will do is I will look into this further, how we can manage it, how we can get it done, what we need to do to get it done and I will get a communication out to each of you by the end of the week. If that helps?

Alderman Kelly

Yes President Wilshire, I would appreciate that, thank you.

President Wilshire

You’re welcome. OK Remarks by Members of the Board of Aldermen. Alderman O’Brien?

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Alderman O’Brien

Thank you, Madam President. I would just like to take this opportunity to offer the condolences to the family of Leo Coutermash who passed away this week at the age of 90. I can’t say that I really knew the gentleman but I think some of the longer-term members of the Board, possibly may have known him. But he was a Ward 4 Clerk, Ward 4 Alderman and also served as Alderman-at-Large and also was Chairman of the City Democratic Committee. So I guess in his 90 years he did do a lot of good things for the City and I just, again, wanted to express my condolences to the family on his passing. Thank you.

Alderman Kelly

Thank you, something a little bit lighter here, it is getting to be spring. If people were taking advantage of the backyard chicken Ordinance like myself, I’ve got four chickens, they are fabulous. We are getting to the age where you might know whether they are roosters or not. So there is a guide that was put together by Community Development to talk about what to do with those roosters.
Because if they go to the Humane Society, they have to do a blood test and they end up having to stay there for a number of weeks. So if you have chickens and you find a rooster, feel free to reach out to me, I can send it to you directly but it is on the Community Development Web Site and it has a list of various sanctuaries that you can bring your rooster to. Thank you.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I would like to send my condolences to the Slattery Family of their recent loss. I know that it has been going on quite awhile with him being ill and so on but it’s – whether expected or not it is never easy and especially during this kind of a pandemic. I know it was very difficult for the family to go through something such as that. And I want to send out my condolences.

I also want to comment about the vigil that was had. One of the things that I noticed as I looked around that there wasn’t a person without a mask on. As crowded as it was, there were people that were maintaining social distancing and it was just quite amazing. And I just want to say one other thing. I recently did a food drive at the Hannaford’s off of Exit 6. We started at where the entrance was and I was lining up the filled baskets of food and I said I wanted to get to the other entrance so the whole width of – we made it about two thirds of the way. We had 21 carts of food and there were people that were driving up filling up an entire cart with food that they had bought at Hannaford’s, Costco, there’s other grocery stores. Nashua’s generosity is extraordinary and I am so proud to be a resident, not just an elected official but as a resident here in Nashua. And I just want to thank everybody that turned out that day. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

First, I just want to I think it bears repeating that anybody who owns a chicken and takes care of a chicken is technically a chicken tender. And then secondly, I wanted to encourage the public to participate in the ASAP, Asymptomatic Spread Assessment Program that Governor Sununu and the State is promoting. I called him on Sunday because I worked Emergency Room discharges, I worked with the homeless, so I am probably patient zero and I don’t want to be. So I took the opportunity to try to apply on-line for the test and I immediately got a call back like within just a couple of hours. And I don’t have transportation to some of the testing sites that were identified and I know that some of the residents likely don’t have transportation either. They will work with you. They will send a Visiting Nurse if you need it. So you can get tested and they can help you with transportation which I think is a really thoughtful and important thing.

One of the missing pieces of data in order to establish exactly what COVID-19 is doing in our community is more broad scale testing. So this is not only a way for you to know how to manage your interactions with your own family and social groups, but it is also a way to contribute to more safely reopening, better tracking of spread and that kind of stuff. And the Web Site for that is NH.GOV/COVID19 – for once they made an easy website. And that’s it.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Condolences to Melvin Rowlett which is some of you I believe you know Sharon Rowlett that worked at the Diversity Office at Rivier for many, many years, her father passed with the COVID here. And also to (inaudible) she lost her first cousin to the disease as well. So just keep those families in prayer. And I want to thank the Police Department, the DPW, the Parks Department. It was really just for minute planning, that was just a combination of the City coming together to make sure there was a successful vigil. So I appreciate, not just the people who attended and Congresswoman Annie Kuster attended and was well received as well. So just for the City coming together for a moment of clarity and a moment of support and in solidarity. Thank you.
Alderman Clemons

Thank you, President Wilshire. I just wanted to briefly state that and put in my condolences to the Slattery Family. It is a terrible loss and it is just made worse that it was with the COVID-19. So again, my sincere condolences. And the other thing I just wanted to mention that it is nice to see my colleague Alderman Laws back, I look forward to working with you and let’s have a great and happy summer moving forward. Thank you.

Alderman Dowd

Yes, I didn’t go to the event on Saturday because of crowds and the fact that we are in a pandemic. But I did have someone that was there taking pictures and sending information back to me. And I believe that he had talked to Alderman Gathright and Gloria Timmins on my behalf in saying that it was an outstanding event. It brought pride and gratitude and all the people who put it together and were part of it. It said a lot for everybody that attended. And I think the message was very strong, very on point and very well taken. So I want to applaud them for that.

Also I would like to thank Shoshanna Kelly for pointing out that there are places to send roosters other than the Ward 2 shelter because we had issues before and it's a $50.00 a day fine for them if they take a rooster in. We need to change the Legislation to make sure they don’t go there. There are places that have been identified by Community Development outside of Nashua that are ready, willing, and able to take roosters. And I think that’s what Alderman Kelly was referring to and I appreciate that.

Alderman Laws

Well I just wanted to take the opportunity to apologize to all of you for not being here for a little bit and thank you for your patience and kindness. I am happy to be back, I missed you all and let’s do this. Thank you.

Alderman Tencza

Thank you, Madam President. I am a little slow on the draw here but I just wanted to echo the Mayor’s comments and other people’s comments as it relates to two women in particular for the event on Saturday and that is Gloria Timmins and Alderman Harriott-Gathright. I think what is most impressive to me is that their grandchildren were such a large part of the event on Saturday, such an impressive part of putting it all together. They truly are an example to all of us as to how we should be talking to our children and making sure that it is not just us who are leading the charge but as we get older for the younger generation that is coming along as well in being leaders on these important issues.

And then also to echo Alderman Lopez’s comments earlier about Alderwoman Kelly and the great work she has been doing on this issue, sharing her personal experiences which are never easy to do. But they are taking those courageous stands and making sure that we are all better educated as a community. So thank you to everyone involved.

Alderman Klee

Thank Madam President for letting me have a second bite at this apple. I just wanted to comment on the chicken ordinance. I brought to the attention of a few people; we do have an issue with the ordinance we do need to consider making a change to it. As it stands now our ACO the contract with the Humane Society, they must bring any of the animals and this includes chickens to the Humane Society. The Humane Society cannot move them for 7 days, they have to do a blood test before they can send them anywhere. And as a result, they are there for 7 days and as Alderman Dowd said they could be fined $50.00 a day for this and yet they can’t move them. We have to consider a different way, perhaps we have to change the contract. I am not sure how we are going to do this. But we have to look forward to that because it is a problem.
As part of the animal, they call it the ADPAC and now I’m blanking on the Committee’s name but as an alternate to that committee and him going to the meetings, it is an issue between the Humane Society and our ACO, Animal Control Officer. So we do need to look into it and we do need to – and that’s why I brought it to the attention of Alderwoman Kelly and so on. We have to take care of that issue. So thank you.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you for making an exception for me too. So I have spoken to Director Marchant about this. They don’t have a way of knowing exactly how many chicken coops are out there, because if it’s under 200 square feet you don’t have to get a permit. They’ve issued six permits for over 200 and they have had five complaints and three have been taken care of. So I want to make sure, I think there are adjustments we can make, I am totally open to new adjustments, but I want to make sure we are not over indexing on a few complaints when ultimately it has been fairly successful from Director Marchant’s perspective.

Alderman Schmidt

Thank you, Madam President. I wanted to add my voice to welcome back Alderman Laws. He has been so missed. Thank you for coming back to us. I too enjoyed the Saturday event, I was absolutely thrilled because it was incredibly smoothly run, everything worked right from DPW moving the trucks in, to the Police coming when they heard a noise, everything was perfect. And the one thing I learned, is that we need to listen. We need to stop talking, we need to listen and I think that'll make the biggest difference in everything we do. That’s all I needed to say, thank you very much.

President Wilshire

You’re welcome. Anyone else? I would just like to add my condolences to the family of Kevin Slattery. Kevin was a very generous businessman here in Nashua. He did a lot of volunteering for the United Way. He will be definitely missed. The vigil on Saturday was really terrific. I’d like to thank Alderman Gathright, Alderman Kelly and everyone involved in that vigil. It was very moving and very well planned, went very smoothly. So thank you all for that.

Committee announcements:

Alderman Tencza

Thank you, Madam President. PEDC will be meeting on June 16th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss various things we have going on.

Alderman Dowd

Yes tomorrow evening we have a Public Hearing on two pieces of Legislation. One has to do with the Fireman’s Contract and I believe the other one is having to do with authorizing the Mayor and City Treasurer to borrow $2.5 million. So there are two Public Hearings and right after that we will be having the Budget Meeting and voting on the two items that we had the Public Hearing on. We have 30 days from today to take action on the Fireman’s Contract. So it will be coming up on the 23rd along with the City Budget. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O’BRIEN THAT THE JUNE 9, 2020, 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:


Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Attest: Susan K. Lovering, City Clerk