A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, June 25, 2019, at 7:38 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

President Lori Wilshire presided; City Clerk Patricia D. Piecuch recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Patricia D. Piecuch; Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien, Sr. led in the Pledge to the Flag.

The roll call was taken with 13 members of the Board of Aldermen present; Alderman Gidge and Alderman Clemons were recorded absent.

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

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

Over the last six weeks or so we held 9 Town Style Ward Meetings in each of the Wards. I want to thank all of the Aldermen that attended. I think every Ward Alderman attended at least their own Ward Meeting. President Wilshire and Vice President O’Brien attended many of them; Alderman Dowd attended many of them. I think we all learned a lot from the meetings. Different concerns were to some degree expressed in different Wards, so I think we heard some neighborhood specific comments. But I’d say across the board, the most frequent comments related to paving. People are noticing that we are paving a lot of roads, speeding on various streets, both arterial streets and neighborhood smaller streets, conditions of sidewalks. That is definitely an issue to people in many different places. We know what while we are putting a lot of money into paving streets, sidewalks are still in many cases not in very good shape; so maybe we want to think about that looking into the future. People raised the necessity or the desirability of having more athletic fields, rectangular athletic fields for the thousands of kids that we have who play soccer or lacrosse. Certainly we’ve been working on that and probably need to focus on that some more. Issues regarding the recycling and the cost of the recycling came up certainly more than once.

At many of these meetings we did a presentation of the paving, usually Lauren Byers, but also some members of the Engineering Department were there and talked through the details of how streets are evaluated and the difference between reclamation and simply resurfacing and some of the technical issues and that generated a lot of questions. We made presentations at many of the meetings regarding the River Front Master Plan and I think there was a lot of interest on that by people who are really looking to see us highlight the River that is expressed in the Master Plan that we adopted a couple years ago. The feedback on that was very positive.

We also talked about, in many of the meetings, about the potential Elm Street Middle School and other Middle Schools across-the-board upgrade. Alderman Dowd was there at many of these meetings and addressed that at some length. Again people are interested in that, how we might do it and the considerations that will go into either upgrading or improving Elm Street along with the other Middle Schools or replacing Elm Street. So those were the issues that seemed to get discussed the most in all of the meetings. It provided a lot of food for thought and I believe that all the Ward Aldermen and the people who attended will agree with that. It helps to give us a perspective on what people are thinking about.

Looking forward, Madam President, we have the Pride Parade on the 29th which is Saturday. Last year was a very successful event. All indications from the Planning Committee are that this year will be significantly bigger than last year. The route will go from Elm Street Middle School, up Main, to Park Street and into the Library where the booths and all the performances and everything else will take place in the parking lot by the Library. So I would encourage anybody who wants to march to do so; it was a really fun event last year. I think it highlighted the community in a very positive light.

Finally Madam President we have the 4th of July Fireworks coming up on the 4th which is a week from Thursday. We have invited you all as well as the delegation, a bunch of other City Officials, our State Delegation and some of the Department Heads to the City Box. If you want to come, if you are available, that would be great if you can make it. I know some of you have affirmatively responded.
We will have some refreshments, things to eat. Alcohol will be on each individual but alcohol is available at the stadium. It has always been a great performance, the Fire Works display, in prior year and I am sure that will be the case again so if anybody would like to come either let us know or just show up, whatever you prefer. And that is all I have Madam President.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR

Alderman O’Brien

I would like to thank the Mayor, going to some of these Town Hall Meetings that he has hosted. The person that was there was Lauren Byers and I think she is a total asset to the City. It is very difficult right now with a lot of paving. A lot of people don’t know the specifics of the engineering and she put it right down to earth and was right there with her answers and we are very fortunate to have her. So thank you to the Mayor for mentioning her.

President Wilshire

I agree Alderman O’Brien, I agree with that.

Alderman Dowd

I too just wanted to say that the meetings went very well and especially Ward 2, I thought that went very, very well. As he said I was giving an overview of the Middle Schools, I think I’ve done it enough times now where I can recite it in my sleep. I am putting together a little write-up that I can send to people and if they want to know a little bit more about the Middle School they can send me an e-mail at my City address DowdR@NashuaNH.Gov and I’ll send it to them.

Alderwoman Kelly

Two things, I just wanted to thank the Mayor. I know that in the past we haven’t reported these so I am really looking forward to digging in and seeing things that were missed by me because I was here and not necessarily able to attend Town Hall. I am sure everyone else on the Board appreciates that so we can keep up-to-date and keep the City running. And then second I just wanted to say thank you for mentioning the Pride Parade, it has been a labor of love. We are really excited to have our community come together again and we’ve had such incredible support. So I really look forward to seeing everybody on Saturday as well.

Alderman Jette

Last night we had the Ward 5 Town Hall Meeting and afterwards, you know how you think about these things after the meeting? I was thinking about how, as a new Alderman, being in this job for it’s my second year now I have learned an awful lot. The City is very complicated, it is a very large corporation, there are a lot of parts to it. There is a lot to learn; I’m sure you all agree with me on that. But something that I thought about after last night was that I have learned that the City is largely a complaint driven organization. Last night one of the things that came out in the Ward 5 thing was that people who live near the landfill, this paving program that we have been going through, we have been milling Broad Street. That stuff that they chew up, they put in dump trucks, these big 18-wheel dump trucks. And where do they go? They come to the landfill. And this operation because of the problems of doing this during the day and causing a traffic problem, they do it night and these poor people who live around the landfill have been putting up with this noise during the middle of the night. And they have been largely suffering in silence. Some of them have complained to me and I convey their complaints to the Mayor and the Board of Public Works. The Board of Public Works was able to make a medication on how they are doing this which has reduced the amount of noise that these people are experiencing. I thought it’s too bad that they suffer in silence without complaining to a large degree.
So I encourage people out there who experience something that they don’t think is right to let the City know, especially the Department of Public Works has a DPWRequest@NASHUANH.GOV and I have used it myself many times. They are very responsive. You talked about Lauren Byers, Public Relations Director for the Board of Public Works. She is very good at listening to people’s problems, finding out who can do something about it and making sure that the right person, the right department finds out about it so if the problem can be solved, they really want to try and solve it. And I think that’s true of all of our City Departments; they really want to do a good job. But if they don’t know there is a problem there’s nothing they can do. Complaining to your family or to your neighbors or to the Civic Sounding Board doesn’t accomplish anything or as much as getting the complaint to the City or to your Alderman so that we can try to do something about it. So I encourage people to let us know if you see a problem and I think the City will do its best to solve it. Thank you.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

Yes I just would like to thank all of the other members of City Government who attended. I know that Ward 8 Meeting and I saw them at one of the other meetings I attended. After the meeting I received several positive comments regarding the plan for Library Plaza. People looked at it on-line and were very happy to see what is being proposed. So I wanted to share those with you. Thank you.

RECOGNITION PERIOD – None

READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARING

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the minutes of the Board of Aldermen meetings of June 11, 2019, and June 17, 2019, accepted, placed on file, and the readings suspended.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING ONLY PROCEDURAL ACTIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS – None

PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT RELATIVE TO ITEMS EXPECTED TO BE ACTED UPON THIS EVENING - None

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING FINAL APPROVAL

From: Mayor Jim Donchess
Re: Contract Award for Appraisal for Listed Utilities for Tax Years 2019-2024

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O’BRIEN TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO GEORGE E. SANSOUCY, PE, LLC, FOR A YEARLY AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED $39,000
MOTION CARRIED

PETITIONS

Address Change Petition - Sheet 67, Lot 47 – 7 Amherst Street, Nashua

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO GRANT THE ADDRESS CHANGE PETITION FOR 7 AMHERST STREET
MOTION CARRIED
Address Change Petition - Sheet 87, Lot 18 – 13 Second Street, Nashua

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O’BRIEN TO DENY THE ADDRESS CHANGE PETITION FOR 13 SECOND STREET

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman O’Brien

May I speak briefly to the Motion? Our Committee heard this and the difference between, so that the people at home know, 7 Amherst Street the way that the property was laid out, it is more conducive to having an Abbott Street address. And it was approved by the Fire, Police, E-911 and everybody jumped on that. The difference is we did have a little bit of a problem with 13 Second Street.

There are apartments in the rear of the building so therefore it would be tough for emergency responders to identify which apartment it was to break it down to North Groton and to a Second Street address. It did not have the recommendation of Police Fire and E-911. So I just want to clarify that difference. Thank you.

MOTION CARRIED

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS – None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Finance Committee……………………………………………………………………………… 06/19/2019

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the June 19, 2019, Finance Committee accepted and placed on file.

Human Affairs Committee……………………………………………………………………. 06/10/2019

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the June 10, 2019, Human Affairs Committee accepted and placed on file.

Committee on Infrastructure …………………………………………..06/17/2019

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the June 17, 2019, Committee on Infrastructure accepted and placed on file.

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS – None
UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-19-143
Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien, Sr.

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF $868,207.46 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM FUNDS) INTO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT ACTIVITY “SIDEWALK UPGRADES & BICYCLE LANES”

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-19-143
MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-19-143 declared duly adopted.

R-19-146
Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien, Sr.
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja

AUTHORIZING THE GRANTING OF EASEMENTS TO PENNICHUCK WATER WORKS, INC. FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, UTILIZATION AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER LINES

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-19-146

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Dowd

I’d like to talk to it briefly. These are some water lines that need to go in so Pennichuck can take the tank that is at Kessler Farm off-line when they build a new tank. And they need these lines to connect so the people will have water.

President Wilshire

Water is important.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-19-146 declared duly adopted.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-19-151
Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien, Sr.
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Patricia Klee

RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF $72,870 FROM DEPARTMENT #128 “RISK MANAGEMENT”, ACCOUNT #89650 “TRANSFER TO PROPERTY & CASUALTY SELF INSURANCE FUND” INTO VARIOUS ACCOUNTS IN DEPARTMENT #106 “ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES”
Given its first reading; assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE by President Wilshire

R-19-152
Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien, Sr.
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF $110,000 OF UNANTICIPATED REVENUE FROM DEPARTMENT #170 “HYDROELECTRIC OPERATIONS”, ACCOUNT #44900 “HYDROELECTRIC POWER GENERATION” INTO DEPARTMENT #170 “HYDROELECTRIC OPERATIONS”, ACCOUNT #54290 “DAM OPERATING & MAINTENANCE SERVICES”
Given its first reading; assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE by President Wilshire
R-19-153
Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien, Sr.
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF $200,000 OF UNANTICIPATED REVENUE FROM DEPARTMENT #170 “HYDROELECTRIC OPERATIONS”, ACCOUNT #44900
“HYDROELECTRIC POWER GENERATION” INTO FUND #7064 “HYDROPOWER RESERVE FUND”
Given its first reading; assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE by President Wilshire

R-19-154
Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien, Sr.
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

ESTABLISHING AN EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR PARKING RELATED EXPENDITURES
Given its first reading; assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE by President Wilshire

R-19-155
Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien, Sr.
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman Jan Schmidt

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF $717,156 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTO PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT ACTIVITY “FY2020 AND FY2021 REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORK SERVICES”
Given its first reading; assigned to the HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE by President Wilshire
R-19-156

Endorsers: Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien, Sr.
Alderman Linda Harriot-Gathright
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman Jan Schmidt

RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF UP TO $140,925 FROM FUND #7073 “SCHOOL CAPITAL RESERVE FUND” INTO SCHOOL GRANT ACTIVITY “SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT FUNDS”

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

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-19-048

Endorsers: Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Linda Harriot-Gathright
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja

AUTHORIZING A STOP SIGN ON COTTON ROAD AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH THE COTTON ROAD CONNECTOR

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

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Alderman Schmidt

Thank you Madam President. Our Town Hall in Ward 1 was really spectacular, the people who showed up, of course, always great to talk with folks. But last year we had someone complain about the circle in front of the high school. Because of that complaint, just a one sentence, “it’s a mess” Mr. Mayor made sure that it was taken care of. I advise anybody who hasn’t gone up there; go take a look. While you are there, ride on a very comfortable new road in construction. And not only that help us celebrate the fact that we are getting sidewalks on Broad Street. That is something we have been waiting for for a long time. Thank you.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

Yes first of all condolences to the family, friends and fellow veterans of those who died over the weekend in the accident in Randolph.

And then just a comment, I’m glad to hear Attorney Bolton and the Mayor will be discussing how we as a City respond to the scooters. I would not want us to legislate whether they are motor vehicles or not, I think it is just what does this State say?

Attorney Bolton

It turns out that they are not vehicles.
Alderman Lopez

So first I would just like to say thank you to everybody who attended and participated in the Tree Street Block Party. I would like to give an extra thank you to everybody who helped organize it. That’s a lot of volunteer hours, a lot of work that generally goes unsung; so I want to thank everybody, Baha Family, Paul Janampa and Jen McCormick because every week they were meeting with me trying to figure out where the porta potties were coming from; what the signs were going to look like, where we were going to put stuff. All of the inglorious tasks of what turned out to be a really great event. So I just wanted to thank them for that as well.

I also wanted to express condolences to the families and friends of the individuals killed in the motorcycle crash on Friday. And I also wanted to announce because I don’t believe there’s a Board of Aldermen meeting before July 4th, that on July 4th, at 1:00 P.M. I know that some Veterans don’t like to attend fireworks because they can make a connection with unpleasant memories to say the least. So for several years now we’ve been running a Fourth of July For Veteran’s Event at Riverside Barbeque. This is due to a lot of donations by the owner of Riverside Barbeque himself, Dave Manganello. He will be donating a complimentary lunch basket to every Veteran who attends. Hunter, a local favorite band, will be playing at 1:00. So everyone is welcome to that on the 4th of July at Riverside Barbeque. I just want to thank Dave for his annual willingness to just help make Veterans feel a little more welcome on the 4th of July.

Alderman Klee

I just want to reiterate what Alderman Lopez said and I am glad that event is put on because there are lots of Veterans who have PTSD and fireworks just will set them off. And I know we all like to celebrate them but sometimes we forget that those bombs bursting in air brings them back to where they have been. So I appreciate the events and things like that, that you are doing for them and helping. Thank you.

Alderman Dowd

Again I would just like to give a shut out to Lauren Byers who explained at all these meetings why it takes so long to do these streets; none the least of which is fighting the weather. But because of the efficiency of the way you use the equipment and the different steps that it has to go through to be most cost effective for the City, it’s not like doing a driveway, it’s much more complex. Hopefully within the next few days they’ll enjoy all of the nice paved streets as every morning we wake up, we have a new one. I know that the people last winter complained about the pot holes and now they complain about doing the streets because they are all dug up. In the next couple weeks, you’ll have smooth sailing.

Alderman O’Brien

Thank you, I have something of a personal nature and ask your indulgence to bear with me. But right about now I think 36 years ago I was heck of a party in Waterown Hibernian Hall celebrating my Wedding Reception. I’d like to say Happy Anniversary to my wife Diane, 36 years. It has been a lot of fun. I know my job was stretching hose, hers was stretching the budget, particularly at that time on a Fireman’s salary, I think she had the hardest stretch. She brought up my 3 children great, you know, they all got their degrees and quite well. And I’ll tell you the whole thing, it’s been a lot of fun. So I’d like to thank her and wish her a Happy Anniversary and particularly thank you for letting me do this particular job and being here on our Anniversary. So honey, I’ll be home soon.
Alderman Gathright

I just want to say also that Ward 9 was really great and was very interesting. I just received the e-mail list of those that attended, so I am going to reach out to the folks that were there that night and see if we can start something going in Ward 9. And Ms. Byres did an excellent job, she really did. I have to say kudos to her as well. She actually brought in that piece about the other utility companies and how you try to manage that with what we need to do as a City. So it was good.

President Wilshire

I took would like to thank Lauren Byers, I think she is one of the best things we’ve done as far as the Department Public Works, having a Communication person, someone that reaches out to the public. She knows her stuff. She brought her pack to these Town Hall meetings, people loved it. She was really very good.

I would also like to say that the Tree Street Block Party was very well put together, thank you Alderman Lopez, good turn out, I enjoyed it. And thank you to the Mayor for the Town Hall Meetings. I learn a lot there. As you all know, I don’t speak a lot but I listen a lot. So I do appreciate the opportunity to go to the Town Halls and I thank the Mayor for doing that. I learned a lot.

Committee announcements:

Alderman Caron

Thank you. It looks like Personnel will be meeting Monday July 1st at 7:00. We do have a nomination that’s coming before the Board so we want to get that in since we only have one meeting in July.

Alderman Dowd

The very busy Budget Committee will meet July 2nd. There are a couple of items on the agenda that need to be, get back to the Board and passed very quickly. So I hope that everybody can attend.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O’BRIEN THAT THE JUNE 25, 2019, MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE ADJOURNED

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Attest: Patricia D. Piecuch, City Clerk