

A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 7:36 p.m. in the aldermanic chamber.

President Lori Wilshire presided; City Clerk Dan Healey recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Dan Healey; Alderwoman Shoshanna Kelly led in the Pledge to the Flag.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance.

The roll call was taken with 15 members of the Board of Aldermen present: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Klee, Alderman Moran, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Jette, Alderman Clemons, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Comeau, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Gouveia, Alderman Caron, Alderman Thibeault, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Wilshire.

Mayor James W. Donchess, Corporation Counsel Steve Bolton were also in attendance.

President Wilshire

Mayor, did you wish to address the Board this evening?

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

Yes, Madam President. A few things. First, I wanted to thank everyone who voted yesterday for doing so. Turnout was a little light but it started out slowly because of the, I think, because of the weather and the bad storm that we'd had over the evening into the early morning but still we had over 6,000 people. I know that we'll have more in November. But again, thank you to all who voted.

But while we're on the issue of the overnight weather, I wanted to thank our city employees, our Public Works, the Fire Department, Police Department, our Emergency Management, everyone who worked through the night of Monday night to Tuesday because of the incredible rain, incredibly heavy and the flooding that took place, roads closed, basements flooded. That was a tough night but they worked all night and were able to manage that problem in a way that no one was hurt or injured. So thank you all for doing that.

Madam President I wanted to mention on tonight's agenda R-23-152. This, assuming you pass this, will dedicate \$8 million of surplus to the tax rate. With this based upon the projection of our CFO and the Finance Department will result if you follow their recommendations will result in a tax rate increase of less than 2% which I believe is very favorable in the current environment of, you know, 4 or 4.5% inflation. So that would be less than the inflation rate or less than half of the inflation rate and you will receive more details on that in the weeks ahead. Obviously, there'll be explanation provided to the Budget Committee.

Madam President I want to mention the item R-23-151 which is the approval of the firefighter's contract. This is a four-year contract that delivers wage increases of a fair number to our brave firefighters. It also includes a unique feature which will help us attract firefighters we believe from outside the City, other departments and that's called a MERF. It's a way in which the firefighters or the City helps firefighters over a period of a career accumulate funds so that they can pay for post-retirement medical expenses which will, you know, make our department much more attractive than others that do not have this feature. I understand that we're really one of the first maybe the first or one of the first in New England and that was worked out thanks to the firefighters, Chief Buxton, Tim Cummings, everybody who is able to work on that set of negotiations. So I know you all support this and I would of course, advocate that you pass it this evening,

Madam President I wanted to mention on the agenda R-22-140 which is the acceptance of a \$3 million grant to upgrade, to improve really a new park in the library plaza area. There's an entire design for that. There are a few modifications being considered but this is a huge help and was enabled by our congressional delegation Annie Kuster, Senator Shaheen particularly worked hard on this so thank them.

Madam President I also wanted to mention that Main Street is being paved right now. It's begun if the rain lets up enough to allow them to pave it. We'll see but I believe it will be completed by the end of October. One thing that we believe is going to occur and it's something that Alderwoman Klee has worked very hard on and that is CSX. The new owner of the railroad tracks in the last couple of years has agreed to come in and finally fix the railroad crossing on Main Street. Now they say that they are going to provide a Cadillac level crossing. So this should occur - I think Alderwoman Klee has the dates but she can give them to you the 24th and 25th is a Sunday and Monday. It will require a complete closing of Main Street for a period of time but that will be an inconvenience but the long-term benefit to be derived for the tens of

thousands of people who have gone over that crossing bump, bump, bump, you know, year after year, decade after decade that should be corrected but we're keeping our fingers crossed.

And finally, I know Madam President you're going to have a presentation from the Police Department and Public Health regarding the co-responder program. This is a great program. A collaboration between our two departments which you'll hear the details but enables social workers or other professionals within Public Health to respond with the PD in appropriate circumstances to help take the temperature down on various encounters or when most appropriate as they determined so it'll be interesting to hear. This arose as a result of a discussion and collaboration that began at a crime watch meeting at Caribbean Breeze. I think Aldermen Lopez was there as well. The departments have been working together for a few months on this and I'm very optimistic that this program will ultimately help the citizens and the Police Department as well. Madam President that is all that I have.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR

President Wilshire

Thank you. Response to the remarks by the Mayor? Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I did want to speak to the CSX and it is the 24th and 25th. I'd like to thank Director Fauteux and Engineer Dan Hudson for arranging the time. They're going to try to do it that Sunday and Monday the 24th and 25th as you said of September yes with the hope that they could possibly just get it done on the 24th is to minimize the amount of the transportation, the busing, and all that that type of thing trying to minimize any kind of disruption. The schools having to go through. So if weather permits, they will try to just only have to close it fully on the 24th but we know what the weather has been like lately so it's a good chance it will be the 24th/25th. They do have to close the entire street because they're putting in full length railroad ties where now if you drive over it, you can see where they're kind of pieced together. That won't be the case. They refer to it as the "Cadillac". They're dating themselves because Cadillac ain't what it used to be. We're hoping that it's going to be as good as they say it is and it's been decades, decades.

I just want to say one more thing. I appreciate the Mayor giving me credit. I did a lot of whining to get people to the table but it's the Mayor and our city staff that really made this happen. They worked out the coordination of it and everything. I just did a lot of whining to our federal delegation so thank you.

Alderman Lopez

So regarding the paving, definitely not the best experience in the world for people downtown hearing all of the things backing up constantly and all that but they understand the need for the most part and are very grateful for it. The communication of how to get places has been a little bit challenging for some areas. So I've been working with local businesses trying to figure out like okay if you're being impacted by the Main Street, can we just create publicity for how to get around it. So I definitely encourage all of the businesses operating downtown to start considering over the next week or so whether they want to put on messaging like we have a parking lot behind our business instead of going on Main Street. Maybe that will help. The city has been very good in general about making sure that, for example, like Joanne's, Main Street Gyro. In the past, we've had difficulty with those parking lots right next to City Hall being used for things like Performing Arts so they've been making sure they're clear so people can use the backside. So I would just encourage the public if you're planning to use a Main Street business, just because there's paving and all that going on doesn't mean you can't get to it. It just means you have to look at the map and kind of figure out how to get to it and maybe use some of those lesser use side streets. The businesses on Main Street definitely appreciate it.

We also in an awkward timing thing, have had some shifting around of some of our public services. The Soup Kitchen is in the middle of redoing its floors, so some of the services are being taken on by the Day Cafe. There's a lot of collaboration, a lot of moving pieces and this just speaks to how well this has been coordinated because it's happening very quickly. You can see the paving is already like almost up to Pearl Street. And the fact that we're getting the railroad company to actually collaborate and coordinate with this is definitely a testament to leadership, and those conversations, and that communication is happening. So I just want to definitely give credit to that.

Then I also wanted to respond to the comments the Mayor made about community watch to the public. Community watches do make a difference. Definitely come and attend those because when we talk about things like we're struggling with issues that don't exactly fall within the police priority, not priority, but police role but they do also need to have the support of the community in order to address those. We can make positive results so we'll see more of that on the presentation. I'm not going to steal anybody's thunder but I just wanted to thank the Mayor for commenting on that, for

Caribbean Breeze for hosting that particular meeting and members of the public who've been supporting those community watch efforts. Thanks.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Seeing none.

RECOGNITION PERIOD

- Celebrating the 20th year of the Nashua Goes Back to School Program

President Wilshire

Mayor Donchess.

Mayor Donchess

All right, Madam President. So I know the City and the Board want to recognize Nashua Goes Back to School for 20 years of great service to our families that particularly need it. This year 1,500 families and that's typical were provided school supplies and the students got to meet their teachers and principals at each of the elementary, middle, and high schools. So we wanted to - and this is something that I know all of you have been asking for - we wanted to recognize those who have really been involved in this for these last 20 years. Of course, you all know this is Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja who was one of the founders, June Caron as well, and then we have the Katis family they could not make it but George and Mark Katis now Mark, both of them, have helped to fund this thing every year. Other funds are raised I think but they basically underwrite the whole thing. So we wanted to recognize everyone involved here for this great program.

So there is an official City Proclamation which reads:

"For 20 years, the community has rallied together to present Nashua Goes Back to School, an event geared towards getting our local students ready and excited for their upcoming new school year. With the help and donations of many Nashua organizations, this program has helped our City's children start the school year with enthusiasm and basic school supplies. Senior citizens, as part of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, volunteers from the Nashua Lions Club, and middle and high school students work together to pack the 1,500 bags provided by Southern New Hampshire Health.

And whereas the program grew out of a district effort in 2003 to address the dropout rate within the City of Nashua. A student feeling connected to an adult or involved in an organization or club is as important today for school success as it was then. The Nashua Goes Back to School Committee was initially supported by a collaboration between Mayor Bernie Streeter and the City of Nashua, Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Chris Hodgdon, and member George Katis, and the Nashua Telegraph. For these 20 years, the contributions of Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja cannot be overstated. First - and we have another one that reads June Caron cannot be overstated - First as a BOE member and then an ongoing supporter, School Superintendent Giuliano asked all school principals - and he was the Superintendent then - to attend and the participation of principals, guidance counselors, coaches and PTO members continues today.

And whereas now the committee is supported by a collaboration between the City of Nashua, United Way who's represented here tonight by Mike Apfelberg, and the Telegraph, the committee is comprised of volunteers and representatives from Nashua's Department of Health, our Public Library, Park Rec, the School District, and United Way. Even during COVID, the committee provided an opportunity for students and parents to greet their principals in a walk or drive through experience at three City locations. The committee continues to provide a festive opportunity for students and their parents to meet their principals and teachers. Representatives of more than 35 community programs attend and provide information about the programs they have available.

Now therefore I, Jim Donchess, Mayor of the City of Nashua and the Board of Aldermen do hereby recognize 20 years of the Nashua Goes Back to School Program in Nashua and thank everyone involved in continuing this worthwhile endeavor for students."

I don't know if Mary Ann or Alderwoman Caron have anything you'd like to add but if you would.

Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja

Well thank you first to Alderman Caron. My partner in crime even before she retired. Thank you and just thank you to the City. As you heard, this program has spanned across multiple years, and a number of Mayors, and a number of Aldermen sitting around this circle. It seemed appropriate, I walked in as we were talking about everything Park Rec does because they have been instrumental and especially during COVID to make this happen. So again, thank you to the Health Department, the Library, DPW, and the School Department as well as the Mayor's office to do my last-minute printing. Thank you so much.

Alderman Caron

Thank you. Well thank you very much and I have to say without Mary Ann's forethoughts and hard work on this, I don't think we would have lasted 20 years. One of the things I think that was very important for this to come together was to get the senior population to come out, and participate, and do the bags, and get their take on what they were doing for the community and the young people within the City. When you see all the people come to the event and smile and get to talk to these students that are picking up the bags that they spent a whole day packing, it's a wonderful thing to see and that's what you call a "great community" because you have young in all working together for the greater good of this community.

Thank you Mary Ann. I have enjoyed my 20 years even though most of it was after I retired but that's okay too. Thank you and thank you Mayor. I appreciate this. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you. That's math wise tens of thousands of backpacks. That's incredible so thank you all for what you do.

Okay. Tonight we are also going to hear from the Public Health Department on the Behavioral Health Pilot Program. So I'm going to recognize Bobbie Bagley.

PRESENTATION

- Behavioral Health Pilot Program

Bobbie Bagley, Public Health and Community Services Director

Good evening. Bobbie Bagley, Director for the City of Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services. I want to thank you for the opportunity this evening for us to do a presentation on the Nashua Police Department and the Division of Public Health and Community Services Behavioral Health Program. I am going to introduce the presenters for this evening which are Leah Elliot, our licensed clinical social worker, and Lisa Vasquez who is our Behavioral Health Strategist with our Nashua Police Department and they will be presenting the project or the program together this evening.

Lisa Vasquez, Behavioral Health Strategist

Thank you. I am Lisa Vasquez and this Leah Elliot. Captain Tom Bolton, Nashua Police; Lieutenant Chad McGregor and Sergeant Eric Gould.

So what we know is that increasingly there is a heavy burden on law enforcement agencies, in particularly officers when it comes to behavioral health calls that are being received at the police department. There's also limited choices sometimes for officers responding to community situations. So without access to appropriate alternative, officers are often left with poor choices. Things like leaving people in potential harmful situations, bringing them to the hospital, or arresting them. Police and Behavioral Health Collaborative Team would incorporate specially trained police officers and mental health workers to respond together to mental health calls.

According to the Nashua Police Department 2021 Annual Crime Report, the Nashua Police Department has improved the manner in which mental health related incidents are documented to facilitate accurate analysis of future years. Thank you for that and what we have seen not just in New Hampshire but across the country is that there's been a decrease in early intervention services due to funding for mental health system which leaves police departments to become the frontline for many citizens suffering from mental illness. The department continues to make educating first responders a priority and we see that in their goals. So goal number two of the police department is enhancing mental health literacy for everyone within the police department and goal number three is increasing and creating and implementing a resource guide for our

community. In 2021, they received over 250 mental health related calls.

Okay so when we compare 2020 to 2021, what we saw was a 65% increase in IEA and IEH paperwork requests and IEA means "involuntary emergency admissions", and IEH means "involuntary holds". We also in 2021 saw a 93.3% increase in protective custody calls due to alcohol and drug use, a 54% increase in protective custody due to mental health and suicidal ideation, and 166% increase in protective custody due to suicide attempt. So the increase in service calls from the police department for mental health related calls coupled with workforce capacity issues facing the mental health field creates the environment in which we exist today. This is the time to pilot this program so we can collaboratively answer these calls.

So what does this program look like? It looks like us responding together. So the proposed staff from the Division of Public Health and Community Services would include myself. I am a licensed Eligible Master's Level Clinician and Leah Elliot is a Licensed Social Worker. We would spend 20 hours each dedicated to the police department, a set schedule to cover those hours has been allocated, and the Nashua Police Department would dispatch us with officers to a call that is deemed appropriate.

So what's the benefit of having this pilot program? We can create training modules for the police department and work together to increase just education on mental health, signs, symptoms, ways to respond, and resources. We can continually assess how this program is going, do data collection, and have an annual report in a resource of guidance document for any future staff that is added.

So the next steps are launching this program which we've already been doing some ride-alongs with the police department to see what it would look like, what it would be like interacting with the police department, then we're gonna write policies and procedures to better understand what is our role, what is the police role, and outlined the roles and responsibilities of the police versus public health.

The third goal of the police department was to create a resource guide. It's already been developed by the Public Health Department. It is available in the City website under the Community Connections Resource Guide. You can access that at any time and it is regularly updated so that in case agencies stop providing services, start providing services, or change their phone number, or staff, we can keep up with that information.

So we continue to collect baseline data to identify what the key outcomes that we want to see. Some of the things that we want to see are decrease emergency department stays, decrease in repeat calls, less arrest, and more support for the police officers so that they don't feel unprepared to answer these mental health related calls.

And just following up, we want to continue case management, select such as repeat callers to follow up with them. So we don't want to just go out, see people, and not follow up with them. We want to be able to keep connected with them, make sure that they are able to connect to services so that we can also be a warm handoff to the behavioral health services that are available in our community.

Unidentified Police Officer

So where the need came in from the police, fire and what we've identified is there's a large number of our calls do have a mental health nexus and that can even though the 250 was represented from the actual capture data that of calls were specifically designated as mental health calls, the number is in fact far greater in oftentimes they can be calls such as neighbor disputes, loud noise complaints, any form of other erratic behavior. So again, the number of 250 is actually quite small compared to where the actual number falls. So where and how I've provided direction to the officers were our partners in Public Health can help us is pretty much everywhere. There's really no set parameters of where they can't be used because there's a other than, of course, violent situations or scenarios where they may be put in harm's way. Of course we will not allow that to happen. But short of that, it's a pretty blank slate to where we can use and deploy our partners. That's in the in the immediacy where we're going in responding and they can help in those circumstances.

Where I do see their greatest benefit, however, will be in follow-up services and this is an area where I believe that as a police department we are able to go in and see and triage a number of events. However, we as an agency in dealing with emergencies have to move on to the next event. There's a finite number of police officers handling a substantial amount of calls. To give an example of that is second shift which is the shift we're dealing with right now may average from anywhere from 130 to 150 calls to service and that's divided up amongst 12 to 15 patrol officers. That's handling a great number of call volume with a short amount of staff and that there's only so much you can do and so much attention you can give to each call before another emergency comes in. The follow-up piece to that so the next day and how we've identified this is going to work is as we go through and we audit the call log from the day prior which we do each shift. If there is a call in there where it's been identified that a person could benefit from services, Lisa or Leah will be able to get

those calls. They'll be able to see what information is in there that they may be able to connect with this person and then get that person connected to two services. The hope with that is we do run into similar individuals that we will work with day in and day out and hopefully over time if those individuals can eventually get connected with services, there becomes less strain on the system and the people are actually starting to be connected to the people that they need to help with. Again if they're connecting to and they're getting mental health treatment, if they're getting medical treatment, whatever the case may be, it then becomes less reliant upon the police department and people are actually finding the help that they need.

Moving on beyond that with the actual training that Lisa and Leah will be able to provide, again, there's always better ways to do things. They are subject matter experts and bringing that into the police department it will only increase our literacy in this field. I'm going to turn it over to Lieutenant McGregor for a few other remarks on this.

Lieutenant Chad McGregor

Of course. One of the things I would like to add to that we can kind of increase our efficiency here is kind of closing that loop here, right? So we have a police officer interfacing with an individual is experiencing a mental health crisis, are options become limited at that time and the best course of action is often not always an emergency room or taking enforcement action, right? We only have so much time in which we can get that person de-escalated and in a position where they're willing to talk. Like closing that reaction gap and having the clinicians embedded with us to deploy them in a more rapid fashion will in turn increase our efficacy in this area. Obviously with this program just starting out and in a pilot program, we'll see some significant benefits in that as well.

The mental health literacy component that the Nashua Police Department has pushed forward over the last couple of years has been a priority of this administration as well as a previous administration. One of the things I would like to highlight is we have a mental health first aid instructors within. I'm one of them. At the time I became a mental health first aid instructor, I was one of about ten active police officers in the country that was a mental health first aid instructor. So that's a very good feather in our cap here. We have about 100% of our officers trained in mental health first aid. We're just under about 100% and that reason is with the new people that we've been hiring. We've been continuing training in mental health first aid since 2019 which is something I'm very proud of.

Additionally, we have close to 40% of our officers trained in crisis intervention training which is put on through the State through a SAMSA Grant. We have close to 30 to 40% of our officers trained in that. The reason why I'm pushing out these numbers to you folks tonight because that is in line with some of the best practices that are endorsed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and that's something that we've been building towards for many years here.

I look at this clinician program as something that I saw down the road for us obtaining. The fact that we're at it at this point in time truly speaks to our leadership and the collaboration that we're able to get this program up and running. I think the future is bright in solving this problem and frankly we need it. When we factor in substance use disorder which is a recognized mental illness, our call volumes with a mental health nexus absolutely skyrockets. We need to meet these folks where they're at and to continue to provide them the services that they need. So that's what I had. (inaudible)

Leah Elliott, Licensed Clinical Social Worker

We are aware of some other police departments within the State that are doing this model and we have sought some interactions with them to seek some technical assistance. We met with a social worker in Dover, New Hampshire, who is in a similar role as well as down in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. So I really do see this being a model potentially that is incorporated into all police departments, hopefully within the country. So it's great to be able to have this pilot program in Nashua and be one of the first cities in the State that is doing this. I think that's why we really want to make sure we're doing this slowly so that we're doing it well and so that we can be a model for other cities in the State as well.

President Wilshire

Did you want to take questions?

Leah Elliott, Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Sure.

Alderman Moran

Thank you, Madam President. This is so wonderful. I'm sure you know I'm also an LCSW and I'm a clinician. I do not

apply my trade here in the chamber though but this is an amazing program that you guys are initiating and the fact to have two clinicians partnering with the police department. I, myself, specialize in treatment resistant and major depression and most used acronyms - major depression disorder, suicidality, and personality disorders. They're so intertwined in the calls, especially when we have the person with a personality disorder calling saying that they're going to harm themselves and they put the police in a position of are they gonna do it, are they not going to do it, and then you have clinicians that you can talk to, to actually determine if it's going to be a reality or not. Very complex stuff that I just mentioned but the fact that this program is existing is amazing. I, too, am a mental health first aid trainer and I'm CIT and CTI certified. I ran emergency services, psychiatric services here in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. So the fact that you guys are doing this program for the City is amazing and I bet everyone was hoping I wouldn't be here tonight.

A couple questions. Would you be able to initiate an IEA if you needed to in collaboration, or with the mental health center, or is there anyone that's a JP that would send someone for just protective custody? What's the - is the policy still being worked out?

Leah Elliott, Licensed Clinical Social Worker

I believe that the IEP work does have a spot for a clinician, however, there does need to be a medical professional that signs as part of that. So unfortunately, we would not be able to do like a direct admit say for example and there still also needs to be a medical component. So unfortunately, we could assist with paperwork like if there was a family that wanted to fill paperwork out on an individual, we would be able to assist that family of how the wording is and we could sign off as the clinician but there's more than one signature required on that paperwork.

Unidentified Police Officer

Can I add a follow up to that? Where I believe that another place that this is going to make us a lot more efficient is with Lisa and Leah being embedded with us, they're going to understand how the officers communicate and they're going to understand how the ultimate receiving facility needs to receive that information. I hate to say it but translate the scenario adequately to HIPAA parameters to go from that so I think that's another area where we're going to (inaudible).

President Wilshire

You had a follow up? I was afraid of that.

Alderman Moran

When you're doing the clinical case management after the fact, are you beyond the mental health center because we know, I know that they have a nine-month waitlist for outpatient. Of course ACT is different. If they qualify for the ACT team, they can get in right away but some of these folks may not qualify because they may not have Medicaid or they might have private insurance and it takes a while to get Medicaid to qualify for ACT. Various things that this guy knows more about than I do actually. But are you partnering with more than just one agency to connect them to resources after the fact because we know the major agencies so the mental health centers and the Harbor Care but are you working with other smaller nonprofits and organizations to make sure they have access to that minimum outpatient or psychiatric medication?

Leah Elliott, Licensed Clinical Social Worker

I know that there are some agencies that will do that and we can try to help within the parameters of the agencies that we have to work with. I think our hope is that we could potentially be a small bridge until the person could connect with that service. So again if we do know that someone that has a lot of interactions with the police and they do just need someone to maybe safely and for the same situation for us helps stabilize them until they can get into longer treatment, we could provide that. However, I don't feel like unfortunately with just the agencies in the way I know it they're all having workforce shortage. So some of the things that we're doing behind the scenes to try to assist with that is helping with supervision, helping to provide training so that people have information, making sure that Nashua is a trauma informed City. So it's really hard, I think. I don't think that we can necessarily work with anybody to have things move along faster but I think what we want to see is to be a very stable bridge until they get out there.

Lisa Vasquez, Behavioral Health Strategist

And it all depends on a person's insurance like you said and their availability for transportation and so many other factors that until we get to know the person we won't really know. So it really is a case-by-case basis. What, you know, counseling center treatment provider is acceptable to that person based on their insurance under symptoms and all of

that. So it's just, you know, so we'll do our best to connect people to the agency that is appropriate to them and we plan on providing like Leah said, a bridge until they can be able to receive those services.

Alderman Moran

One last question followed by a statement.

President Wilshire

Okay.

Alderman Moran

Would the City be pursuing credentialing you with insurance companies to recoup insurance remittance for services rendered?

Lisa Vasquez, Behavioral Health Strategist

So this is a great goal of mine. I would love to see Public Health be a Medicaid provider because I know how to do those things. I do work a little bit in a private practice but I can't work independently. So because I work for technically Public Health, I think Public Health is an entity. We'd need to become a Medicaid provider. So I know that's something weld like.

Leah Elliott, Licensed Clinical Social Worker

It's a process and we'll see how it goes and see what it takes to get there. It's not something that we can just say right now we are able to do or not do at this moment in time.

Alderman Moran

If you ever need technical assistance, here's the statement. I think you guys are gonna save a lot of lives. I think that's very important getting people who are experiencing suicidal ideation out of that mindset, or if they're struggling with drugs, and alcohol, and getting them away from police involvement so they're not treated in jail which jails are the major mental health treatment system in the entire country. Because these guys have no choice if someone becomes violent and to have clinicians involved really will help mitigate that, mitigate recidivism, and provide diversionary care to the costly emergency department. Overall, saving taxpayers lots of money. There's my politician statement.

President Wilshire

Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

So I just wanted to comment that I learned a lot about the Police Department's training in mental health first aid and crisis intervention at the Citizens Academy. They're doing another one September 26. So it's not as far away as you think it is. It's the week after next. Anybody who's interested maybe in the public in attending that or any of my fellow Aldermen, you're not gonna be doing like a bunch of obstacle courses, or push-ups, or whatever. You're just learning a lot about what the different services our police department does and is capable of doing and you're meeting the people who do it. That is invaluable knowledge for anybody who's a public representative or an elected official so that you can give accurate information to your constituents. So I highly encourage it. Just contact the police department and ask for Barbara Costa and she can get you signed up.

I also want to note that Barbara Costa is the pilot, to the pilot, to the pilot of this program because one of the things that's being touched on that I think is important to note is that there are different ideologies running different industries. There's different professional standards, and priorities, and capabilities that come out of it and being able to put public health and a clinical perspective into the same workspace as our law enforcement professionals in our police department is going to be an invaluable exchange of information on both sides. I think our police officers will have a better understanding of how to effectively direct people towards services that are more appropriate for their needs and I think we'll be able to intervene in health systems and health emergencies that we don't - we may not fully catch right now because the capability and the priorities are a little bit different. So I think those are very, very important that aspect of exchanging professional practices.

I was also interested in Miss Vasquez. I'm sorry I forgot your salutation but you'd mentioned that you were licensed eligible. Does that relate back to the recent changes from the Board of Mental Health opening it up so that Master's level candidates can have probationary licenses or can you speak to a little bit about that?

Lisa Vasquez, Behavioral Health Strategist

It means that I'm going for licensure. I have my Master's Degree already. I just need to have those supervised hours.

Alderman Lopez

I just wanted to touch on that a little bit because I know there's a major capacity issue with mental health providers right now. Greater Nashua doesn't have a winning list by like because they think it's fun. It's because they literally don't have the staff to move things faster than they can be moved and they don't have the capacity to meet people, you know, more than say you have 40 hours of work week. How many people can you really meet like maybe 30? So there's a shortage of mental health care professionals but there may be more people who are eligible for supporting these different programs now that there's been change at the State level allowing maybe unclogging some of the drains, I guess, when it comes to trying to get your licensure. I hope that that is something that will benefit this moving forward because I think it'll be a pilot program but the need speaks to itself in Nashua. We have a lot of mental health care facilities, and providers, and group homes. We have a lot of different nonprofit organizations focusing on individual needs but on the whole, we have a lot of people who are in need and we have a lot of people who want to help. We just need to be able to interface them all in the same setting and in a safe manner.

So I applaud the police department's leadership in this area and their willingness to take those steps because when they were first discussing this at community watch at Caribbean Breeze, what we were finding is that both sides already had a lot of experience and already done a lot of thought, you know, in terms of oh I used to do this in another department, or I think this is a great thing to pursue, or I think this is an objective that our department can work on. That kind of collaboration is what we need in Nashua. It makes more effective programs, it makes more efficiencies, and it makes sure our people, our residents, and our constituents are cared for in a more effective manner. So I want to congratulate both of you on that. If there's anything I can do as an Alderman to support this, feel free to reach out.

Leah Elliott, Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderman Kelly.

Alderman Kelly

Okay, thank you. I also am very excited to have this come forward in Nashua. I think it's an incredible program and takes a lot of foresight from everyone involved to really think about how we can meet the needs of our communities as they've been changing. So I'm really excited that you guys are doing this, that we'll be a pilot, and potentially an example for other communities.

I have a couple of questions and a statement. So question one is very pedantic I would say but I just - can you talk me through what it looks like. Do you go in the car with them? Do you like - what does it look like to have the co-responder team like on an anecdotal level?

Unidentified Police Officer

First of all good evening. I appreciate your time tonight. So right now it is in the infancy phase. It's in the beginning so we're still trying to work out the kinks to it. So basically right now when they show up, they have an office or there'll be a position somewhere in the department where if there's a need for a mental health call or someone who's out of control that we believe could be on something or is in a crisis, what we have been doing is a Supervisor would bring them out to the call or if depending where in the City it is, one of the sector cars would come pick them up. Usually like an FTO, a training officer, would bring them out so they can interact and get involved in the call. The number one thing from a patrol standpoint, obviously is everyone's safety from the family involved, to now the clinicians, and the officers. That is by far the number one thing so we would get control of the situation and then have their expertise come in. So that's how we're handling it now. I do think it will evolve. It'll progress but I can tell you that the department's very excited about this.

Alderwoman Kelly

Great, thank you. If I could follow up please?

President Wilshire

Yes.

Alderwoman Kelly

So my second piece is a little bit connected to that but also being a pilot like how are you going to evaluate and assess changes as you're growing from infancy and to really making this a program that's robust and working really well?

Unidentified Police Officer

I think it was mentioned in the slides but really going through the calls, evaluating how it was handled, how effective it was to have a clinician come out. I think statistically too looking at it were we able to help someone go to the hospital that maybe in the beginning didn't want to go to the hospital or if like let's be honest when a police officer goes, we get a lot of training. We're very thankful. We're very fortunate to have that but I think our training can only go so far as they're professionals. So I think evaluating every call like we go through the call log each day and see where it took us.

I think the other thing too which we haven't done yet, I think the follow up work. Are they able to reach out to the person afterwards, are they making connection, are they able to get them the resources, and then we can document that. I think that would be a true evaluation of it. Obviously, nothing's perfect but they'll be growing pains but we'll get through it.

Alderwoman Kelly

If I can, one more? Actually my last statement follow up was right along those lines is the idea of the follow-up, I think, is really important. It's like if you guys are the ER then you're the PCPs right who are doing that back-end work. The thing that I think we need to work on as a community is you said in your presentation that all those services has become harder and harder to get. So while we may have that opportunity to follow up with these people, who are we going to send them to? I think that's a piece that we're not all going to solve overnight but how do we make sure that we have those resources so that we have somewhere to refer them.

Lisa Vasquez, Behavioral Health Strategist

I think that's a complex problem that needs a longer-term solution.

Alderwoman Kelly

Yeah for sure. Thank you very much.

President Wilshire

Alderman Thibeault and then we're going to have to get back to our meeting.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam Chair.

President Wilshire

You're welcome.

Alderman Thibeault

So just one. So I want to thank CHO Bagley and Chief Rourke for doing this thing and all you guys for being part of this. I met with Chief Carignan two years ago probably almost exactly two years ago and he was talking about the mental health crisis and getting all the officers that kind of training. It's good that you guys are there. This is to me an extension of that. Is there a way that you know in a few months or however long it takes to kind of get an update on how the pilot's going and if it's working because I think it will work and I hope it's very successful? I think you guys are going in the right

direction. So I would love to see how it's progressing and also could get both presentations we've had tonight sent to us as well. That would be great. Thank you.

President Wilshire

I would like to thank you all. I know that this is great work you're doing and I'm not surprised a bit because we have a fabulous Police Department and a fabulous Public Health Department and it's no wonder you got together to do something really fantastic for the community. So thank you very much for coming in tonight and good luck with your program.

Leah Elliott, Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Thank you.

READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the minutes of the special and regular Board of Aldermen meetings of June 20, July 11, July 24, August 8, August 21, and August 28, 2023 be accepted, placed on file, and the readings suspended.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING ONLY PROCEDURAL ACTIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS

From: Mayor Jim Donchess
Re: Report on Surplus and Overlay FY2024

From: Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager
Re: Community Development Block Grant CARES Act Reallocation – HVAC Projects

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

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

Thank you Madam Chair, members of the Board. Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director. I wanted to take a few moments to address a piece of legislation on your agenda this evening R-23-155. This is relative to the acceptance of grant funds from the Invest New Hampshire Housing Program in the amount of \$450,000. This is intended to be directed through a memorandum of understanding if the grant funds are accepted directly to the 249 Main Street Housing Project. If you're not familiar with this development, it's under construction right now and it will create for 45 affordable housing units right in the downtown core of the City of Nashua. We're fortunate to have a development partner NeighborWorks Southern New Hampshire who has a tremendous track record of performance in the community and has a tremendous track record with the creation of affordable housing. They're undertaking this project currently.

This grant is very unique in that the monies are coming from the State of New Hampshire and are intended to be directed by the municipality to an affordable housing purpose as they see fit. The legislation before you this evening actually contemplates accepting those funds and directing them as a capital investment back to the project itself in the interest of preserving those (inaudible) affordability. The City was actually specifically eligible to request these funds because of the fact that these affordable housing units were being created in the City and I just want to be clear about that. We were only eligible to apply for this grant because NeighborWorks was undertaking the affordable housing project that it was and therefore, I believe that the purpose of putting those monies back into the project is more than appropriate.

But the specific reason that I'm speaking this evening is that I am before you requesting a first and second reading in front of the Board this evening. As Director Bagley who has just recently walked out of the room often requests, we have a very strict Governor and Council deadline that we need to meet and as is the case sometimes with this grant legislation, I'm hoping to meet that deadline in the coming week. Therefore, the request for first and second reading before you this evening.

I'd also mentioned that this project is familiar to the Board. You've actually contemplated HOME funds being directed to the project in the past. So this project has been discussed at the Human Affairs Committee precedent to this consideration this evening. While I apologize to Alderman Lopez that the Committee will hopefully not hear about the project again.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

I'm hopeful that he'll consider supporting the legislation before you this evening.

And just to be clear again, this legislation does two things: it accepts the funds and allows the Mayor to enter into a memorandum of understanding to direct the monies to the project itself which we hope will happen over the coming months. Again, I want to acknowledge that NeighborWorks Southern New Hampshire is represented this evening by Jennifer Vadney and we're happy to answer any questions that the Board, or Madam Chair, or the Mayor may have this evening but I'm hoping to seek your support and approval of this legislation before the Board this evening. Thank you very much.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Steve Buxton.

Steve Buxton, Fire Chief

Good evening. Steve Buxton, Chief Nashua Fire Rescue. Thank you for the opportunity to be here tonight and speak to our proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Nashua and IAFF Local 789 known to you as R-23-151.

Quick overview. There's a 10% COLA for all of our employees over the term of the four-year contract. There's many language updates that clean-up a lot of the language that has been put in throughout the years. We're very good at putting things in, updating contract. We're very bad at pulling things out that don't belong in there. So we update a lot of stuff that will make it a more efficient document for us to operate in.

There's four MOU's (Memorandums of Understanding) that have been incorporated into it. They cover military leave, administrative overtime, daylight savings time, and the promotional process. This contract will also establish a Health Trust Committee to review healthcare and potential savings for both the City and our members. The establishment of a medical expense reimbursement program for our members which will be an obvious benefit to them in retirement but it is also going to be a great tool for us in recruitment and retention of our employees. It's worth noting that this contract hasn't been signed yet and both myself and President Wholey have already received inquiries from people that are interested in coming to our organization due to this benefit.

There's the establishment of language for the Captain of EMS position within our organization and the establishment of an in-service training program which will allow us to remove member from service and send them to training on certain topics to prepare them for advancement within our organization. Currently, the fire service is what I referred to as "wide open". Organizations are offering sign on bonuses, relocation bonuses...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Steve Buxton, Fire Chief

...and they bring members into their organizations with seniority, rank, and increase pay. Recruitment now requires a more intense effort than ever before.

I'm proud to say that while we do recruit new firefighters, we do not engage in any of the tactics that I've mentioned above. Instead, we would like to focus on our members that are here now and create pathways for them to realize success and financial gain. This in turn will assist us in making our organization successful...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

30 seconds.

Steve Buxton, Fire Chief

...which results in better service for our community. Some of the items I've listed here tonight are the result of much collaboration in the efforts to come to terms on this contract. Tonight I ask for your support for R-23-151 and when it comes up if you have any questions or concerns, I'd be more than happy to speak to them for you. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING FINAL APPROVAL

From: Mayor Jim Donchess
Re: Tax Increment Financing Development Program – Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB)

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN GOUVEIA TO APPROVE DESIGN SERVICES AMENDMENT #2 FOR THE COTTON MILL TRANSFER BRIDGE ADA PROJECT WITH VANASSE HANGEN BRUSTLIN (VHB) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$34,871. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 183 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; FUND: 53107 ARCHITECT & ENGINEERING SERVICES/RIVERFRONT TIF FUND
MOTION CARRIED**

From: Mayor Jim Donchess
Re: Tax Increment Financing Development Program – Hoyle Tanner & Associates

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN TIMMONS TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER PHASE SERVICES FOR AN ADA COMPLIANT ACCESS TO THE NORTH END OF THE EXISTING TRUSS BRIDGE THAT SPANS THE NASHUA RIVER IN THE DOWNTOWN WITH HOYLE TANNER & ASSOCIATES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$253,991. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 183 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; FUND: 53107 ARCHITECT & ENGINEERING SERVICES/RIVERFRONT TIF FUND
MOTION CARRIED**

From: Mayor Jim Donchess
Re: Tax Increment Finance Development Program – E.D. Swett, Inc.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN MORAN TO APPROVE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES WITH E.D. SWETT, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,320,540. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 183 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; FUND: 53107 ARCHITECT & ENGINEERING SERVICES/RIVERFRONT TIF FUND \$1,020,540 AND 53107 ARCHITECT & ENGINEERING SERVICES/NHDOT-COTTON MILL BRIDGE \$300,000

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Lopez

Just to clarify because we've had a couple of these motions go through here. The public probably is aware there's a ramp on one side of the Cotton Mill Bridge. There isn't one on the other side. Originally, I think it was contemplated that people would go into Cotton Mill and then take a little mini elevator down and that has not worked out. So we are working on adding a ramp on the other side so that people who are in scooters, or ramps, or differently abled generally can get onto the bridge and then off on the other side instead of finding a little surprise over there.

Additionally, the funding here is specific to increases in tax revenue specific to that area that are paying for it. So it's not coming out of general funds or raising general taxes. The Mayor can correct that if I'm wrong.

President Wilshire

Any further discussion? Seeing none

MOTION CARRIED

PETITIONS - NONE

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

The following new and reappointments by the Mayor were read into the record:

Cultural Connections Committee

Bernadette Melton-Plante (re-appointment)
41 Parrish Hill Drive
Nashua, NH 03063

Term to Expire: April 30, 2025

Planning Board

Cameron Green (new appointment)
82A Amherst Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: May 31, 2024

Maggie Harper (re-appointment)
3 Taft Street
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire: March 31, 2026

Lawrence Hirsch (re-appointment)
12 Salmon Brook Drive
Nashua, NH 03062

Term to Expire: March 31, 2026

Zoning Board of Adjustment

A John (Jay) Minkarah (alternate to member)
13 Mount Pleasant Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: September 11, 2025

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the Appointments by the Mayor as read and referred them to the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee.

Without objection, President Wilshire suspended the rules to allow for the introduction of three new appointments to the Board of Building and Fire Codes Appeal.

Board of Building and Fire Codes Appeals

Scott Cote (new appointment)
39 Tenby Drive
Nashua, NH 03062

Term to Expire: October 13, 2026

Carl Dubois (new appointment)
31 Holbrook Drive
Nashua, NH 03062

Term to Expire: September 13, 2026

Jaron Slattery (new appointment)
17 Berkley Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: November 13, 2026

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the Appointments by the Mayor as read and referred them to the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Budget Review Committee 07/24/2023, 08/14/2023, 08/28/2023

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the reports of the July 24, August 14, and August 28, 2023 Budget Review Committee be accepted and placed on file.

Committee on Infrastructure 06/28/2023, 08/23/2023

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the reports of the June 28 and August 23, 2023 Committee on Infrastructure be accepted and placed on file.

Finance Committee 07/19/2023, 08/02/2023, 08/16/2023

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the reports of the July 19, August 2, and August 16, 2023 Finance Committee be accepted and placed on file.

Human Affairs Committee 07/17/2023, 08/21/2023

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the reports of the July 17 and August 21, 2023 Human Affairs Committee be accepted and placed on file.

Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee 07/03/2023, 09/05/2023

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the reports of the July 3, and September 5, 2023 Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee be accepted and placed on file.

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS

Ethics Review Committee

There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the new appointment of John Fisher, 21 Indiana Drive, Nashua, with a term to expire June 13, 2026 to the Ethics Review Committee.

Oath of Office will be administered at a later date.

Cultural Connections Committee

There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the new appointment of Lynne Boyer, 9 Northfield Road, Amherst, with a term to expire September 30, 2024, and re-appointment of Donna Marceau, 37 Pinewood Road, Hudson, with a term to expire February 28, 2026 to the Cultural Connections Committee.

President Wilshire

Are you any of those individuals here this evening? Come forward to take the oath of office any of you that I mentioned. Right over here by the attorney.

Oath of Office administered by Corporation Counsel to Lynne Boyer.

Oath of Office for Donna Marceau will be held at a later date.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the re-appointment of A. John (Jay) Minkarah, 13 Mount Pleasant Street, Nashua, with a term to expire September 11, 2026 to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Oath of Office will be administered at a later date.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-23-136

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF \$95,000 FROM DEPARTMENT 122 "INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY" TO DEPARTMENT 120 "TECHNOLOGY MAINTENANCE"

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SULLIVAN FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-136

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you very much. I think it was a week and a half ago. There are a few resolutions that you're going to see in your packet tonight moving money around. This is all for Fiscal Year '23 basically truing up the books if we will. This doesn't impact Fiscal Year 2024 which we approved back in June. So this simply is moving money from one department to the other where there was an overage in one department and then some of the expenses incurred from that same department. This is simply moving money out of the books at the end of the year. That's it.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Discussion? Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-23-136 declared duly adopted.

R-23-137

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF \$6,000 FROM DEPARTMENT 171 "COMMUNITY SERVICES" TO DEPARTMENT 173 "ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH"

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-137
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-23-137 declared duly adopted.

R-23-138

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF \$220,000 FROM DEPARTMENT 194 "CONTINGENCY", ACCOUNT 70100 "GENERAL CONTINGENCY" TO DEPARTMENT 198 "INTERFUND TRANSFERS", ACCOUNT 89725 "TRANSFER TO CITY RETIREMENT TRUST FUND"

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CARON FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-138
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-23-138 declared duly adopted.

R-23-139

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF UP TO \$200,000 FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-139
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-23-139 declared duly adopted.

R-23-140

- Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
- Alderman John Sullivan
- Alderman Patricia Klee
- Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
- Alderman Thomas Lopez
- Alderman Richard A. Dowd
- Alderman Tyler Gouveia
- Alderman June M. Caron
- Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
- Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
- Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$3,000,000 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE NASHUA LIBRARY PLAZA AREA

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-140 BY ROLL CALL PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 49

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

- Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Klee, Alderman Moran, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Jette, Alderman Clemons, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Comeau, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Gouveia, Alderman Caron, Alderman Thibeault, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Wilshire 15
- Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-23-140 declared duly adopted.

R-23-141

- Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
- Alderman John Sullivan
- Alderman Patricia Klee
- Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
- Alderman Thomas Lopez
- Alderman Richard A. Dowd
- Alderman Tyler Gouveia
- Alderman June M. Caron
- Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
- Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AMENDING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 RELATIVE TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ("CDBG")

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-141

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-23-141 declared duly adopted.

R-23-142

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

ESTABLISHING A CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING MAJOR REPAIRS, REPLACING FURNITURE, FIXTURES, AND EQUIPMENT, AND MAKING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE NASHUA CENTER FOR THE ARTS FACILITY

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-142ON THE QUESTIONAlderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I just wanted to clarify. I saw on social media a number of people that were quite confused by this thinking that we were taking taxpayer dollars and putting it into this fund when we just built this new building and so on and that we had to do all these repairs and that's not the case. This is kind of a reserve fund and the monies that will be put into this will be from a certain percentage - 10% of the Art Center's food and beverages, 10% of the gross sponsorship revenues, 50% of the impact brand merchandise revenues such as like branded mugs, T-shirts, and things like that, and the voluntary \$1 per ticket will be put into this. Each of those categories will be capped at \$25,000. So there's potentially \$100,000 per year going in there.

I think it was discussed at the meeting that this this was heard for the first time was that this is the initial go around with this contract and when we renegotiate, we're probably bringing things up higher but when you start something off, you have to kind of do things such as this. So that's what this capital reserve fund is nothing more than to take care of some things that could be happening in the future and we don't get a big bill and have no money in the bank to pay for it. So it will not come out of the taxpayer funds. It should come out of this as long as we've been planning properly. So thank you.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you. I echo everything that my colleague just said. This was I dug into the agreement a little bit. This is something that we had to do per the agreement. I'm glad that we acted on it. I think that the Performing Arts Center, brand new building downtown, centerpiece of the City this sets up an account that basically takes care of it. Obviously, there are no - I would hope there are no repairs that need to be done here and now since it just opened. But down the road as mileage gets on the building, so on so forth, we have money here. This is an interest-bearing account. So if you put money in it, it grows. So this is an opportunity. I think this is great because we always talk about it around the horseshoe as far as what we do with the buildings. We build them. We don't take care of them. This account does that.

Alderman Lopez

I just want to point out that we are learning something because we're doing this at the beginning of the Nashua Center for the Arts. Last year, we finally got around to making a fund receptacle for the Court Street Theater which is much older has also been the centerpiece for a lot of major events and major activities but needs to have some kind of organizing plan and strategic intention behind it to make sure that it can be self-sustaining and sustainable as an entity. I know Mayor Donchess is working with the stakeholders in that area and the different theater groups that work there to try to create that kind of a situation. I think it's important to remember that we still have the Court Street Theater in some of the shadow of the Nashua Center for the Arts which functions more as an economic anchor but Court Street Theater is our community theater. So I'm glad we're learning. I'm glad we're putting money aside in advance for the Nashua Center for the Arts and I think that learning that we're doing is also going to benefit our other arts programs.

Alderman Kelly

Thank you. I just want to echo some of the comments that were made in terms of this being a great opportunity for us to, you know, cut and paste as we move forward and put new buildings into the City. It came up a lot during budget that there have been, you know, buildings and things that we would love to maintain but because we are conservative with our budgeting we haven't done that. So starting off by putting together a fund from the beginning, it's just a really smart way of continuing to make sure that we take care of our City.

President Wilshire

Further discussion? Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-23-142 declared duly adopted.

R-23-143

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF A TAX DEEDED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 14 MEADOW LANE

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-143ON THE QUESTIONAlderman Comeau

Thank you. So there's gonna be five of these in a row that are basically the Committee on Infrastructure authorized the Tax Collecting Department to deed and sell these properties for non-payment of their taxes. So we went through a list of eligible properties. Ultimately, we ended up on these five that had a long, long history of unpaid taxes. Some upwards of hundreds of thousands of dollars. So the ability to sell these will give the City the opportunity to recoup some of that lost revenue for those unpaid taxes and get these properties off our books so that we're no longer the owner of record.

Alderman O'Brien

Yeah thank you Madam President. I'd like to echo just briefly what Alderman Comeau said. All these five places were passed unanimously by the Committee of Infrastructure. As Chairman of that Committee, this was one of the hardest things that I had to do. I think we all agreed that the City of Nashua is not in the business of taking property but when you have people for various different reasons, and some of them are personal that they find themselves in arrears, you got to have some teeth to the law. Basically, these properties have been on the dole or in arrears for approximately ten years. So it's high time that we come to a justice. This is for the betterment. It doesn't mean a solution to each of these properties can't be reached at any particular point in the negotiations but it's a start in the right direction. So thank you, Madam President.

President Wilshire

Further discussion? Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-23-143 declared duly adopted.

R-23-144

Endorsers

Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF A TAX DEEDED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 17 JACKSON STREET

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-144
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-23-144 declared duly adopted.

R-23-145

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF A TAX DEEDED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 19 NEW SEARLES ROAD

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN GOUVEIA FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-145ON THE QUESTIONAlderman Sullivan

Thank you, Madam President. This particular property is a hot button issue in Ward 9. I'm pleased to see that it's come to this point but as my colleague to my left had stated before, there's stories behind all these. As I assume this position, I understood the story a little bit more. It is something that needs to be updated. I'm glad we're moving forward but my heart goes out to the family. They went through some hardship here but I'm looking to the future where this property gets turned over and gets looking nice again and safe actually for the rest of the Ward. So thanks.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Further discussion? Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-23-145 declared duly adopted.

R-23-146

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF A TAX DEEDED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 115-117 WEST HOLLIS STREET

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-146
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-23-146 declared duly adopted.

R-23-147

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF A TAX DEEDED PROPERTY LOCATED AT L BRIDGE STREET

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-147
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-23-147 declared duly adopted.

R-23-148

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

**RELATIVE TO THE FY2023 TRANSFER OF \$150,000 FROM DEPARTMENT 132 "ASSESSING" TO
DEPARTMENT 198 "INTERFUND TRANSFERS"**

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SULLIVAN FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-148
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-23-148 declared duly adopted.

R-23-149

Endorsers: Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Tyler Gouveia

**AMENDING THE SCOPE OF THE PARK REHABILITATION EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND AND TRANSFERRING
FUNDS INTO THE PARK REHABILITATION EXPANDABLE TRUST FUND FROM THE EAST SIDE
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING
INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS TO THE SARGENT AVENUE PARK AREA**

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-149 BY ROLL CALL PURSUANT TO RSA 34:11

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Comeau

Thank you, Madam President. So there's two main portions to this piece of legislation. The first is that the Park Rehab Expendable Trust Fund when it was initially created was specifically named to rehabilitate the eleven parks within the City of Nashua. Most of those parks if not all of them have since been rehabilitated but because of the way this fund was set

up naming those eleven parks specifically, the money that was in this fund could only be used to fund those parks and wouldn't be able to be used for other parks within the City. Since those parks have since been rehabilitated, the Department of Public Works Parks, Recreation in discussions with them we decided that it would make more sense for the City if we open that up to use that fund for any parks that Park and Rec had jurisdiction over for the maintenance and care of. So the first part of this would be to eliminate that restriction of those eleven named parks and make this fund available for any park within the City.

The second part of the legislation is to fund the project on Sargent Ave. We found some money in the trust fund that hadn't been used since it was created. Since it was sitting there gaining interest, we decided to put it to good use. I talked with my colleagues from Ward 3 and Ward 7 and I'd like to thank Alderman Sullivan for finding the trust fund in his deep dive through the budget earlier in this year and pointed it out to me that the money was available. So we all got together talked about how best to accomplish this project the Parks and Rec wanted to do. Working with Alderman Caron because the money in the trust fund that we're gonna be using comes from her Ward and Alderman Klee because the park that we're gonna be fixing up is in Ward 3.

I wasn't able to attend the Budget Review Committee meeting where we talked about this but I did watch it afterwards and I wanted to thank Alderman Clemons. He said something that really stuck out to me. He said that this is how a government should work. The fact that four different Ward Aldermen from four different Wards - three political ideologies got together and found a way to get this project off the ground and get it to work is exactly the way we should be doing things here in Nashua. So I appreciate all the support from everybody that co-sponsored it and spoke on its behalf at the Budget Review Committee and I look forward to passage tonight.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Discussion on that Motion? Alderman Thibeault.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam President. You know I don't often give kudos like I should but I want to give special props to Alderman Sullivan. I know that we've talked a lot in the in the horseshoe about trust funds, and why do we have so many, and how can we can use the money for this one, and that one, and all this. Like yourself, I would not have supported adding this to the budget just to fund it without doing it without a creative way. So I just appreciate that you were able to go in there and find something that we could change and turn it into something where we can actually use that money towards this because that's what the trust fund should be, right? It should be there for us to use and when you have trust funds money in it and you can't use it, what good is that? So thank you for finding that and thank you for bringing that forward. It's something that I will absolutely support tonight and thank you for that.

President Wilshire

Further discussion? Alderman Jette.

Alderman Jette

Thank you, Madam President. Well I hate to throw cold water on this kumbaya moment here.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN JETTE TO AMEND STRIKING THE LAST PARAGRAPH WHICH TRANSFERS THE \$210,000 FROM THE EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND #7057 TO THE EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND #7058

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Jette

So I apologize for not having been at the meeting but I was on vacation and I hope you don't penalize me for that. I want to point out to my fellow Aldermen that the history of this \$750,000 which is in Expendable Trust Fund 7057, East Side Recreational Facilities. So this came about because that project off of Bridge Street was originally called "Renaissance". I think it's now called "Riverfront Landing" I think is the new name for it. So part of their plan was to build a recreational field for the use of that neighborhood which would include the residents, the children who lived at Riverfront Landing, and also at the time, there was a proposal for another apartment complex between Bridge Street and Temple Street. Then of course the proposed renovation of the Henry Hanger building. This is all before the asphalt plant was mentioned or discussed.

The developer of that Riverfront Landing had intended to acquire some additional property owned by someone else and was never able to close that deal. So he came to the Business and Industrial Finance Authority and said - I say he, they, it said that they were having trouble making the project work economically without that additional being able to build apartments or on that additional property. They asked the City would the City instead of their building this recreational facility would the City sell them that land which is the land off of Sanders Street, I think it is, for a million dollars and the City agreed to do that. The million dollars was supposed to be taken by the City to build some kind of recreational facility to replace the facility that the Riverfront was going to build. The Business Industrial Finance Authority wanted \$250,000 of that to financially support their endeavors to bring new business to the City and which some of us opposed but a compromise was reached where Business and Industrial Finance Authority got their \$250,000 and the \$750,000 was put into this trust fund for the specific purpose of building some type of recreational facility in that neighborhood. The resolution defined that neighborhood to south of the river, the Nashua River, east of Main Street, west of the Merrimack River, and north of Salmon Brook. So it was kind of a larger area than that particular neighborhood but there were some of us that were arguing that this should be reserved to provide recreational facilities for that neighborhood which doesn't have any. If the plans go according to plan if we continue to develop residential properties, you're going to have more and more people looking for places to recreate. So this \$750,000 was just not sitting there for the general taking.

I appreciate the efforts of Alderman Sullivan and Alderman Comeau to think what they thought was found money but that money has a specific purpose. How much is it gonna cost us to provide a recreational field, or facility, or something in that area and you're gonna take \$210,000 from that \$750,000. So now you're even farther away from the ability to provide that recreational facility that that we were trying to preserve.

So I'm not against expanding the park rehabilitation purview. I think it's a great idea. I agree with that. I'm not against improving the Sargent Avenue tennis courts but I am against using the money that we reserved for that particular neighborhood and using it for a completely different neighborhood. I know it's not my Ward and maybe some people think it's none of my business but I was an active participant in that discussion and I just couldn't help but say something about it. I would rather that we pass this to expand the purview of this Park Rehabilitation Expendable Trust Fund or find some other way of supplementing that fun in order to accomplish the purpose that Alderman Comeau was trying to remedy the situation at Sargent Avenue so that's why I'm making that motion.

Alderman Comeau

Thank you, Madam President. So I appreciate my colleague from Ward 5 attention to detail on this and I just wanted to mention that is something that we knew about where the trust fund came from the East Side Recreational Facilities Trust Fund. The fact is in talking with Department of Public Works and Parks and Rec, they did say we did know that's why that fund was created but there's no longer any plan to build that facility because the land that they were going to develop into that recreational facility is now more apartments. So there is no plan to build that park so the money is just going to sit there in perpetuity because there's no longer an active plan to use it for that purpose. So that's why we decided that in the spirit of what the fund was initially created for, it would make sense to use a portion of it to rehabilitate another park that the fact of the matter is just a couple of blocks outside of the border of the fund as it was created. It's just on the other side of Main Street so it wouldn't be eligible to be used unless we either change the definition of the East Side Fund or moved it into the Park Rehabilitation Fund. Even with doing this still leaves over a half a million dollars in the East Side Recreational Facilities Trust Fund. Should there be an opportunity in the future to do something with it, there's still a significant sum of money in that fund that we could use in the future and accomplish what we want to do at Sargent Ave. right now.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Madam President. With deep respect to Alderman Jette and I do appreciate his looking into this particular matter but I have to agree with Alderman Comeau. I am not going to support this because back into the original deal when we looked at this, I want you to remember Sanders Street when you mentioned Sanders Street what was on Sanders Street back when I was on the Fire Department that was John Mansfield. So when the sheets were manufactured and broken, they didn't really go a heck of a lot of places. Unfortunately, they're all around the City because it was cheap fill that was offered. When you deal with asbestos, the best thing that you do is to keep it encapsulated and then to put a playground or some form of athletic field on something that the kids are going to be kicking the dirt and stuff like that, I would have to guarantee there was significant, and when I mean significant amount of encapsulation, so that asbestos did not become airborne again and then could affect our children. But then came the idea for the apartment complex and they guaranteed us and it seemed like it was going to work out good and they did a lot of the encapsulation. So therefore, I cannot support this at this time. I appreciate Alderman Jette is well-intentioned. I understand the lateness of this because he's on vacation. I do enjoy my vacations too but like I say, there's a bigger picture with this particular property. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

So I was in the Infrastructure Committee meeting Chaired by my colleague that was being referenced and there was an issue of asbestos being located in the original riverfront location. They had decided to encapsulate it and had buildings onto where the original plan suggested there would be a soccer field. So removing that soccer field did not go over well with the soccer community particularly well and there was some community pushback for against that. We were assured that there would be a park, or a plan, or something for all the people that we're adding to that area because I think we do need to be very cautious of not only gentrification in terms of like let's move in and take over areas for inner city neighborhoods and denser neighborhoods but also let's take the resources out of it that they're supposed to get.

I don't know that I would agree with the accuracy of the assessment that Sargent Ave. is just on the other side of Main Street. It's also over at the river so I don't really see people in those particular neighborhoods going all the way up to the river, crossing it, and then going to Sargent Ave. The intention there was we're putting more families and neighbors into an area that doesn't have any kind of recreational facilities. They don't have the skate park. We moved that to the other side of the City and we are adding more and more buildings as were mentioned. So I do think we need to plan ahead and we sort of I least checked at least earlier this meeting we were planning ahead. I think between the BIDA taking money out and then this additionally, we're doing a disservice to the neighbors in that area that I'm a little bit conscious of because we are doing a lot of developments. We did go over this in the Infrastructure Committee meeting and this was the compromise after we discussed the encapsulation, and adding more population density, and all of that, and there were a couple of plans that were under like contemplate. One of them was like in the middle of a trafficked area where roads would go around it and they could create an acre or so something similar to what Park Social looks like and then there were some other areas.

I don't know that there are no current plans means there shouldn't be any plans. I think it's maybe that we just had other priorities up to this point. If we on the Board of Aldermen never make this a priority, then fine it's never gonna be one. A million dollars goes down to 750, goes down to 500, goes down to less, and those neighborhoods never get anything but I think we should be mindful of our responsibilities to the people that are living in those areas as we invite them in. This is something that should be taken seriously. So I will support both the original motion and the amendment but I want it to be clear that my position is not to take money out of neighborhoods even if they don't exist yet, even if they're still putting in more and more dense housing. I don't want to plan a neighborhood that doesn't have parks anywhere near it.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, Madam President. I will not be supporting the Motion to Amend. You know I said what I said at the Budget meeting and I meant it. I think the collaboration that was had between the four Aldermen and the Public Works Department or the Parks Department was the exact kind of thing that we should be doing more of in government. And more to the point tonight before this meeting, we had the Superintendent of Parks here discussing about essentially the fact that they are spread thin. If we added another park to their workload, they would have yet another burden to maintain and that's essentially what it would be.

I'm not saying at all that there shouldn't be a park over in that area or that we shouldn't be thinking about doing that but I think that we need to first look at the fact that we have as many parks as we have. We have as Aldermen Caron had pointed out, there's been the same 18 people there since she's been a Director of the Superintendent of Parks and that was how many years ago and we've grown since then. We've added parks since then. So, you know, I'm sensitive to the things that were discussed in the sense that you know yes I think that area deserves it. Yes this was put aside for that but I think we also need to look at our current needs. There is a definite need that's been identified in this legislation. We don't have the money to go out and take it or add it to the budget. We're trying to in this hyperinflation times, we're trying to help people by not overburdening them in their taxes. That's why the Mayor mentioned in his opening comments tonight about how trying to keep the tax rate down to you know 2%. So there's a lot of moving parts and there's a lot of things that we have to consider as Aldermen. The homework was done on this one and I'm going to support the original motion and not support the amendment.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. This is one of those I am a sponsor but I was one of the four that had discussed it. This is one of those rock and a hard place kind of deals. That area, in my opinion, is economically disadvantaged and it is difficult. To Alderman Lopez's comments, yes we took \$250,000 out now we want to take \$210,000. This would reduce it by almost half. Just the \$210,000 is a 28% reduction from the \$750,000 that's in there now. But to the points that Alderman Clemons made, yes a lot of work was put in through this. We do not want to overburden that but I think at the same time, we also need to look at we do need something over in that area. We should not ignore that area and I think that Alderman Lopez kind of brought that up. This was an area that was not my Ward until redistricting so part of that is

my Ward, and part of it is in Ward 7, and it's an area that does need some attention. So I want to support this as is but there are a lot of merits to striking the \$210,000 and trying to find it elsewhere with funds from somewhere else. So right now I'm gonna sit here and kind of think about how I want to handle this. Thank you.

Alderman Kelly

If I could ask question to the maker of the motion. I am taking everything in here but my question is you said that you would be leaving \$750,000 in there but it also says we're amending the scope. So is that \$750,000 still set aside or is it now open to every park to use?

President Wilshire

Do you have the answer to that Alderman Comeau?

Alderman Comeau

I do. I believe I do.

President Wilshire

Okay.

Alderman Comeau

So I think Alderman Jette's motion would be to amend the scope of the park rehabilitation fund but then to leave the money in the East Side Recreational Facility Fund. So the East Side Recreational Facility Fund would still have the \$750,000 but the Park Rehabilitation Fund will still have its scope amended so that it could be used for every part but it just wouldn't be funded.

Alderman Kelly

Okay. Thank you.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam President. I said I was gonna support this and I still you know what I said about Alderman Sullivan is still correct but, you know, Alderman Lopez and Alderman Jette made some great points. It does need to be something recreational in that in that area. So you know like Alderman Klee was trying to think about which way she's gonna go, I'm thinking that way too. I think I'm going to go the way of Alderman Lopez where I will support the original motion but I'm also going to support the amendment.

Alderman Comeau

Yes, thank you. Just one last thing I want to add and I apologize that I didn't mention this when I first made the motion but the reason we are doing this is because the facility at Sargent Ave. the lighting system is unsafe. So Parks and Rec has identified this as a critical repair that they needed to make so that's why we took the steps that we did to get the funding for it so that we could do this pretty much as soon as possible before there's some sort of critical failure there, or a pole comes down, or something like that that we don't want to see. So while I do agree with previous speakers that, you know, I'd like to see parks in all areas of the City. That area down by Riverfront is particularly underserved as far as parks go. I'd be more than happy to have that discussion but I'm looking at an immediate need right now and so I'd be more than happy to look at ways we could refund that fund in the future if there's money coming in that we can set aside to replenish that fund, I'm more than happy to have that conversation but I'm concerned with the immediate need of Sargent Ave. right now.

Alderman Lopez

To the maker of the motion. As a point of clarification, yeah that would have been good to know because I will stand on my principle but if something's gonna fall on the kids, then I have some concerns. But to that end is the amount that you're moving directly informed by a quote or an estimate for repairs or is that just a general this is how much it would likely cost? I think we probably could still pass the amendment. We could still pass the motion and we could revisit a transfer if there's a justification for and a quote.

Alderman Comeau

Yes, thank you. That's a great question. Parks and Rec did get a quote from the vendor and that \$210,000 is an actual bid to do the project.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. So now that I understand a little bit more, I think that I am going to support the motion for amending. I think that the piece of this that is hard for me is that we're going to be taking from an economically disadvantaged area that was promised a park and putting it into an emergency situation which we absolutely have to take care of but I just don't like saying these people who have continued to be put more and more people in their space that we're going to take the money that was supposed to be for your park. So I'm gonna support the motion.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you. I just want to speak to this. I can't support the Motion to Amend. I think that when we looked at this that we, you know, an understanding that there is no plan in place that priorities change as the City evolves. Without this coming up, there was no plan in place. The money is there. Would there have been a plan in place? I don't know. Chicken or the egg. We have a need that's right there in front of us right now to fix a park while we also heard that Parks and Rec was lacking staff. They're also lacking funds and here's an opportunity to carve out some of that money, put it to an immediate need that we will see immediately for an upgrade of our parks. So I'm not going to support the Motion to Amend and obviously support the Resolution as is. Thanks.

President Wilshire

You're welcome. Alderman Jette.

Alderman Jette

Thank you. So could I ask through you to Alderman Comeau the Park Rehabilitation Escrow Fund 7058. How much money is in there now?

Alderman Comeau

The last time I looked it was somewhere around like \$80,000 but they also use that funding for a lot of different things so it could have changed since the last time I looked.

Alderman Jette

And so the Resolution itself does not specify the Sargent Avenue situations. It's talking about transferring money...

Alderman Comeau

Yes it does.

Alderman Jette

....to the Park Rehabilitation Fund. Then I'm assuming a decision by someone else at some other point is going to use that money for where the Sargent Avenue. We're not voting tonight to do the Sargent Avenue project.

Alderman Comeau

If I may, Madam President? The Resolution specifically says for the purpose of making infrastructure repairs to the Sargent Ave. park area. That's in the Resolution. That's the specific purpose of the legislation is to fund that one project.

Alderman Jette

Oh it does. Okay so I missed that. I apologize.

Alderman Comeau

No problem.

Alderman Jette

I would like to point out that there are other sources of funds. I mean where the Mayor is going to be proposing use of escrows. So that there is the possibility that the Mayor and his financial team could come up with a source of this fund but to take this money from the East Side Recreational Facilities Fund, I just think this kind of betrays the commitment we made to that neighborhood and that's why. I'm not against your proposal. I'm not arguing against anything you want to do. I just don't want you to take it away from this fund. The fact that you know as Alderman Lopez said I think, the fact that there's no plan in place doesn't mean that they cannot - I mean these plans evolve very slowly. The Community Development Department is looking at that neighborhood. I mean we've got that whole transportation district that we're trying to rehabilitate and I just envision that somewhere in there we would be able to find, you know, some plot of land that we could be used for this purpose and then where are we going to have the money to buy it if it comes up. So that's why this money was reserved into this trust funds and that's why I'm against taking it out. Thank you.

President Wilshire

I'm going to recognize Attorney Bolton.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Yeah as I understand the motion, the motion was to delete some wording in the body of the Resolution so that it would not provide for the transfer and not provide for the rehabilitation or repairs at the Sargent Avenue facility. It was only to my understanding amending the body of the Resolution. The title is what ends up getting printed in the minutes, gets on the City's website, and memorialized when people are looking. If the title still refers to the transfer and still refers to Sargent Avenue, it's going to be confusing for someone in the future. So if the intention is to take out the transfer of funds and to take out the repairs to Sargent Avenue, I suggest the amendment be made not only to the body of the Resolution but also to the title.

Alderman Jette

Could I respond?

President Wilshire

Alderman Jette.

Alderman Jette

Thank you very much for pointing that out. As I quickly read this again hearing what you're saying, I think the reference to the purpose of making infrastructure repairs to the Sargent Avenue Park area is in the title only. It's not in the body of the Resolution. So contrary, I don't know if Alderman Comeau would agree with this but it seems like the body of the Resolution doesn't contain that language making infrastructure repairs to the Sargent Avenue Park area. It's only in the title and the title doesn't, as I understand the law, the title doesn't do anything except mislead people.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

My suggestion was to try and avoid the misleading nature.

Alderman Jette

So if I could amend my motion to clarify that.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN JETTE TO AMEND STRIKING THE LAST PARAGRAPH WHICH TRANSFERS THE \$210,000 FROM THE EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND #7057 TO THE EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND #7058 AND FURTHER AMEND BY STRIKING THE WORDS IN THE TITLE "AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS INTO THE PARK REHABILITATION EXPANDABLE TRUST FUND FROM THE EAST SIDE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS TO THE SARGENT AVENUE PARK AREA" BY ROLL CALL

Alderman Jette

Madam President through you to Attorney Bolton's would that would that clarify?

Attorney Bolton

I think that clarifies it, yes.

Alderman Comeau

Yes thank you, Madam President. I would suggest that we dispose of the Motion to Amend first but then if we do that and that motion were to fail and we're back to the original Resolution if it would make my colleague from Ward 5 feel better, I would be more than happy to amend add language to the body defining the scope. I guess I kind of trusted that Parks and Rec was going to spend the money on what we said we were going to spend it on and that the Legal Department wrote the legislation in the way that it was going to accomplish what we were trying to accomplish and I felt that we did. So I don't really feel that it's necessary but if we get to that point, I'm not opposed to that but that's a discussion we can have after we dispose of the Motion to Amend.

President Wilshire

Okay. Sorry I missed Alderman Gouveia so I'm going to call on him next.

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you, Madam President. I'll be quick here. I will not be supporting the motion currently. I feel the timing of the presentation we got in the Special Board of Aldermen meeting before this one. It was kind of telling when we're hearing about understaffing or hearing about how it's hard for them to maintain everything they have now. This fund's established to try to make even more work for them as Alderman Clemons said earlier.

At this time, I feel that we should be taking money from other areas that's already in house before we go to the taxpayers looking for more. This is a pretty simple piece of legislation in my mind. We're using it for relatively the same purpose as far as playgrounds, and the outdoors go, and recreation. This will help fix a need that Parks and Rec has without going through the budget process which I think a lot of us want to avoid of adding that into the budget process. I think this was a creative way of doing it and I plan on supporting it as originally written. Thank you.

Alderman Clemons

Yeah, I would just request a roll call on the amendment.

President Wilshire

Okay.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. Again, still not quite sure yet. I appreciate the discussion of that we could refund the account at a later date. The truth is that that may never happened because it'll be something that will be put aside and while I hate to put our fellow colleague on the hot seat, I am going to look to my colleague in Ward 7 as this was at one point her Ward but it will also affect her Ward probably even more than mine as the portion that I have taken over. Do you foresee anything in the near future? You have a Park Rec behind you, so.

Alderman Caron

Thank you. In listening to all the conversation and when we discussed taking this funding out, I wasn't that concerned. My concern was if we can take care of repairing something that we already have in existence, that's fine. I know I sat on the Committee. Director Cummings was there when we were talking about what we were going to do with the Hudson Bridge. One of the projects was making a playground or recreation area within that redesign of the street which the State changed. We don't have a lot of land within that area. I mean we have the Bridge Street playground which has been there a long time. Then you move up to Dr. Crisp with the fields and what have you but you don't have a lot of space that belongs to the City that you can really utilize for fields and what have you. So knowing that we have a lot of facilities, some of them aren't used like they used to be back 20 - 25 years ago because times have changed. So I think it's important that we have this \$700,000. If we can use part of it and we do know that we have a contract that we could get this done within that amount of money, that's fine and then look maybe next year look at what you want to do with the

other \$500,000. Do you want to put it back and hold it and see what comes through?

I don't think that you're doing a bad thing but it also gives you pause to think about the future. But that area, I'm concerned because with the asphalt plant wanting to go in there and the development that they wanted to put in that area at the old shoe shop, who's going to want to live there if there's an asphalt plant. So you have to take all of these things into consideration. If that money's been sitting there for a long time, you should now think about how you're going to spend that money in the right way, not foolishly, but in the right way. When I hear that there's problems with electrical poles, things like that, that should be a top priority for the City because you want to make sure that people who were using a facility are safe. So I have no problems with it but I don't think you should turn around and say okay we did this. Now we can use more money. You have to stop and then reevaluate but at this point, I don't see us putting any recreation facility within that area and that's unfortunate.

Alderman Klee

May I?

President Wilshire

Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you. I'm going to be quick here. Thank you Alderman Caron. That really did help me make my decision. I am not going to support the amendment and go as it was and ask Alderman Comeau to add the Sargent Ave. into that particular for the results so thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderman Clemons, did I get to you?

Alderman Clemons

Yes.

Alderwoman Kelly

I'm going to go the opposite of my colleague who just spoke and I'm digging my heels a little bit more here because I think I want the maker of motion and everybody who worked on this to understand that I think that the work that was done was great. However, this is about environmental justice. We have talked about putting an asphalt plant in that area. We're putting in more and more housing many of which is affordable and disadvantage. That fund has been sitting there without a park and that's on us. But to go and take that money and put it into a totally different area of the City that doesn't have that same makeup and doesn't have the same need for a park is a justice and equity issue. I'm getting passionate about it because I feel like it's really important that we think about that.

If we were going to propose taking money out of the Greeley Park and put it in this, we would be hearing from those people every single day from your Ward, lovely people, but we would be hearing from them and that's because they have the means and opportunity to come here and talk to us about that and tell us why it's frustrating for them. The people that live in this area don't have that same opportunity so this is about equity.

Alderman Dowd

Yeah I was gonna try and avoid commenting on this but as Chair of Budget, I think I need to step in and say that just because we're taking this money out to fix an immediate problem doesn't mean that we couldn't add the money back into that account later. We're gonna have to find the money to do the repairs at Sargent Avenue anyway. So if we don't do it now and take it from this account, we're going to have to find it someplace else. If we do, that money could go back into this account if the Boards want to do that. It may also take a year, or two, or three before we ever find a piece of property. So we have plenty of time to replenish this account. If we want to get the Sargent Avenue critical repair done now, this is the expedient way to do it. If we want to find the money that it would have taken to do the Sargent Ave. somewhere else, then we can put that into this account later after we get it fixed. It's not that complex. It's not like we're abandoning them. We don't have any place to put the park right now and it could take years. So we're going to have the money sitting there when we can get a critical repair done right now. Doesn't make sense so I'm not supporting the amendment.

Alderman Caron

Not to get into a fight but as Alderman Dowd said, we don't have a place to put this. We took out a skateboard park to accommodate for the development of that facility. There were young kids that were not happy about it but in the long run, they love where it is now because it's part of a whole complex. I can't say we're doing a disservice because I have lived in that area all my life. So if we don't have the space for it and it's going to take us a long time to try to figure it out, then if we have this money as Alderman Dowd said and we have a need we should be taking care of it now and then put a hold. Then say you can't spend any more of this money and if you can replace that money, that's fine but you've got to look at what you have now.

We talk about this all the time. We don't take care of our infrastructure that we have. We're always looking to build or add but if we don't take care of what we have, what is the point of adding to it. That would be my easiest explanation for it. I understand your passion. I know we had a hard time though at Greeley Park when we were trying to replace equipment there because people didn't want the new playground. They fought this tooth and nail. I've dealt with that for over 40 years. So you have to take the time to look at it and make the best decision at this point in time that will benefit everyone. When Alderman Comeau came to see me, I said yes let's do this. If we have it, let's do it. I can't change anyone's mind. You have to make up your mind based on what you feel and not how I feel about what's transpired. Thank you.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. I respect my colleague's passion but to say that the people in the neighborhood that is also Ward 3 but to say that they would fight tooth and nail to stop you from taking money from Greeley Park is a mischaracterization of the residents there. I do take umbrage on it.

But putting that aside, I do believe as was spoken, we don't have a place right now but we do have a need. I also mentioned that I don't truly believe that we would refund the account, I think it's a lost, it's a lost I would love to say that we're going to take escrow accounts and put it back in there, or we're going to do this, and so on but I know how things go. We'll find another need for it. So I do respect to your comments on that. I think you are spot on. I don't disagree with you but keeping that money in that account while we don't have any City property which means we have to go and buy city property, we have to acquire it and that's probably going to cost even more. I would assume at that point when we acquire it, then we will fund it and we will fund it appropriately.

I hate when we build housing and we don't do this. I have a constituent who has come to me and continues to say to me we need more parks. We need more parks and they're absolutely right but at the same time, Parks and Rec is saying we can't handle any more parks. We can't do this. I am blessed when you look at the park list I am blessed in Ward 3 to have a lot of parks. We have Atherton but we also have the Salem Street Tot Lot and we have the Shattuck Street Tot Lot which is in French Hill. Both of those are in the French Hill area. So it's not just Greeley Park is not all that Ward 3 has. Atherton is also in that area as well. We have parks within the more economically diverse area, etc., but that area does need a park. I will not disagree with that and now that I share a part of that property with Ward 7. I would love to find it but I think we would need to find land. I would hope that at that point when we're acquiring the land, we would also want to fund that. So maybe a pipe dream but I think we need to look at the immediate need so thank you Madam President.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN MORAN TO MOVE THE QUESTION
MOITION CARRIED**

MOTION BY ALDERMAN JETTE TO AMEND STRIKING THE LAST PARAGRAPH WHICH TRANSFERS THE \$210,000 FROM THE EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND #7057 TO THE EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND #7058 AND FURTHER AMEND BY STRIKING IN WORDS IN THE TITLE "AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS INTO THE PARK REHABILITATION EXPANDABLE TRUST FUND FROM THE EAST SIDE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS TO THE SARGENT AVENUE PARK AREA" BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Moran, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Jette, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Thibeault, Alderwoman Timmons 6

Nay: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Klee, Alderman Clemons,
Alderman Comeau, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Gouveia, Alderman Caron,
Alderman Wilshire 9

MOTION FAILED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO AMEND BY ADDING TO THE SECOND PARAGRAPH AT THE END OF THE LAST SENTENCE "FOR THE PURPOSES OF FUNDING INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS TO THE SARGENT AVENUE PARK AREA"

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Dowd

Question for Corporation Counsel. That doesn't need a roll call, right, that just needs a yes/no?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Correct.

Alderman Dowd

Thank you.

President Wilshire

Further discussion.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-149 AS AMENDED BY ROLL CALL PURSUANT TO RSA 34:11

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

- Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Klee, Alderman Moran,
Alderman Lopez, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Comeau, Alderman Dowd,
Alderman Gouveia, Alderman Caron, Alderman Thibeault, Alderman Wilshire 12
- Nay: Alderman Jette, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderwoman Timmons 3

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-23-149 declared duly adopted as amended.

R-23-150

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO PCS SITE AGREEMENT WITH SBA 2012 TC ASSETS, LLC FOR THE CELL TOWER SITE LOCATED AT 70 BRIDGE STREET

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-150

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-23-150 declared duly adopted.

R-23-151

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman John Sullivan

Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Derek Thibeault

APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MAYOR AND THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE AND LOCAL #789, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS FROM JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-151

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Dowd

Yes, this passed the Budget Committee unanimously. We had a great presentation from the Nashua Fire Rescue and Chief Buxton. It's a very reasonable contract for the City. It has a lot of positive things in it and I think that the members of the Nashua Fire Rescue that do such a great job protecting the City deserve our consideration in passing this contract.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Madam President. Due to what is transcribed in the City Charter with my son as a Lieutenant on Nashua Fire Rescue, I'm unable to do to vote on this particular contract. The downside with that level thing that's in the Charter if we were buying a pig in a poke, I couldn't speak on it but I happen to feel exactly the way Alderman Dowd does. This is a very good agreement. I compliment the Mayor, the Board of Fire Commissioners, the Fire Chief, and all those that worked on it, and as well as Local 789. It's definitely good for the citizens in Nashua. Thank you, Madam President.

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you, Madam President. After consulting with the Legal Department, I also have to abstain from my vote due to my employment with the Professional Firefighters of New Hampshire the State organization of Local 789. Thank you.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you Madam President. As Aldermen Dowd said, this passed unanimously in Budget and it was a pretty quick Budget meeting. I thought it apropos that we're passing this on the anniversary of 911, first responders, and everything that that they've done for us, and they are a true asset to the City.

A funny story. The other night, Monday night, I was reviewing the agenda and when it was raining outside and Northeastern Boulevard was underwater, fire trucks never go down my street. A fire truck went up and down my street about six times reminding me that this contract was coming up for review. So I thought it was funny that I said yes. I'm gonna obviously support it and, you know, they just wanted to remind me that it was on the agenda this week. So I just wanted to say I'm excited about it. I've spoken to a few firemen. They're excited about it and all the different features that are in it so great contract.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam President. Alderman Sullivan took the words right out of my mouth. It is apropos that it's the week of September 11. I would put our fire stations and fire department up against anyone. I think they do a great job. Love the contract and I'm excited as well. I think it's something that you know, we can move on after this. They sign the contract. We can start talking about infrastructure because that's what the fire right now needs. They need a new floor on Amherst Street. We need a new fire station in the west of the City so I'm hoping that we can start working on some of that stuff going forward and I'm wholeheartedly supporting this contract so thank you.

Alderman Lopez

Yeah, I just want to say unfortunately I live on the street with the fire department is constantly driving by but that just underscores the need for the staff and the quality of personnel that we have. So I think if the Chief is coming forward and saying people are already interested in our fire department because of the things we're doing, then he and the Mayor and

the people involved in this have found another innovative way to make sure our staffing levels are up, our services are performing at their highest level you know capable, and this sounds like it's really a well thought out proposal. We don't often see the union membership coming forward and saying this is a great idea. Don't mess with it so when they do, I listen.

Alderman Comeau

So you're Madam President. I'm also going to support this. I am a diagonal abutter of the Lake Street Fire Station so I think I hear the sirens almost as often as Alderman Lopez does. I just would like to ask I had requested that I be named as a sponsor and I don't see my name so if you could add that on, that'd be great but I will support this. Thank you.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, Madam President. Briefly you know again as everyone has said, this is a great contract. I look forward to supporting it and I'm always thankful to our firefighters in Nashua. They saved my friends property among I'm sure many others but that personal connection is important to me and I just want to thank them for everything that they do.

Alderman Moran

Thank you, Madam President. I just want to say of course I will wholeheartedly support this contract. It's a win/win for the City and the frontline firefighters. Our most trusted civil profession and I'm glad to see that they're getting what they need and support and I look forward to the infrastructure talks as well because they need great facilities to work out of on top of being great professionals.

President Wilshire

Okay. Anyone else?

I, too, think this is a great contract. I think it's innovative, and creative, and it's a win so thank you. Any further discussion? Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman O'Brien

Point of order Madam President. Do you need to record that both Aldermen Gouveia and myself did abstain.

President Wilshire

Yes we'll record it.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you.

Resolution R-23-151 declared duly adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-23-057

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

UPDATING THE ORDINANCE REGARDING THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-23-057ON THE QUESTIONAlderman Thibeault

Thank you. So this just basically changed the name of Performing Arts Center to the Nashua Center for the Arts which is what, you know, I guess I don't know if it was a contest or the person that gave the money to us wanted to name it that and also changes the meeting date of the Board of Trustees for Performing Arts Center. Pretty simple.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. To add to what Alderman Thibeault had mentioned was there was a \$1 million grant for the naming of the Nashua Center for the Arts. This is keeping with this. It changes all the references to the Performing Arts Center to the Nashua Center for the Arts. In the previous, we had stated that we had to have an annual meeting and then we put it was the first Monday in February. The truth of the matter is when we do have our meetings, we do it as the second Friday of the second month within the quarter. So this is just keeping with we don't have to create an extra meeting or change things from the way they are. It just makes it a little bit easier so the Board of Trustees is just looking to have this change so thank you.

President Wilshire

Further discussion. Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-23-057 declared duly adopted.

O-23-058

Endorsers: Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AUTHORIZING A STOP SIGN ON MARCH STREET AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH DUDLEY STREET

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CARON FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-23-058ON THE QUESTIONAlderman Moran

It was a great idea to put a stop sign on March Street. I know several people that live over there and I'm glad that Alderwoman Caron brought this forward because it'll be a great addition to that neighborhood.

President Wilshire

Further discussion? Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-23-058 declared duly adopted.

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS**R-23-152**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

Alderman Patricia Klee
 Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
 Alderman Thomas Lopez
 Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
 Alderman Alex Comeau
 Alderman Richard A. Dowd
 Alderman Tyler Gouveia
 Alderman June M. Caron
 Alderman Derek Thibeault
 Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

ESTABLISHING THE USE OF FUND BALANCE FOR TAX RATE

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

R-23-153

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
 Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
 Alderman John Sullivan
 Alderman Patricia Klee
 Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
 Alderman Thomas Lopez
 Alderman Alex Comeau
 Alderman Richard A. Dowd
 Alderman Tyler Gouveia
 Alderman June M. Caron
 Alderman Derek Thibeault
 Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
 Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF UP TO \$425,000 FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

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

R-23-154

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
 Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
 Alderman Patricia Klee
 Alderman Richard A. Dowd

RELATIVE TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$425,000 OF FY2023 ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE INTO DEPARTMENT 128 "RISK MANAGEMENT", ACCOUNT 89650 "TRANSFER TO PROPERTY AND CASUALTY SELF INSURANCE FUND"

Given its first reading; Assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE and SCHEDULED A SPECIAL BOARD OF ALDERMEN PUBLIC HEARING ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M., by President Wilshire

R-23-155

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
 Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
 Alderman John Sullivan
 Alderman Patricia Klee
 Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
 Alderman Thomas Lopez
 Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
 Alderman Alex Comeau
 Alderman Richard A. Dowd
 Alderman June M. Caron
 Alderman Derek Thibeault
 Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
 Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$450,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INVEST NH MUNICIPAL PER UNIT GRANT PROGRAM AND APPROVAL FOR THE CITY TO GRANT SAID FUNDS TO NEIGHBORWORKS OF SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE APARTMENTS AT 249 MAIN STREET

Given its first reading;

Without objection, President Wilshire suspended the rules to allow for a second reading of R-23-155.

R-23-155

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$450,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INVEST NH MUNICIPAL PER UNIT GRANT PROGRAM AND APPROVAL FOR THE CITY TO GRANT SAID FUNDS TO NEIGHBORWORKS OF SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE APARTMENTS AT 249 MAIN STREET

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN FOR FINAL PASSAGE OR R-23-155ON THE QUESTIONAlderman O'Brien

Okay. Madam President as you remember this is exactly what Director Sullivan brought to our attention during the public comment. So if you support it as I do, looking for your votes. Thank you, Madam President.

President Wilshire

Further discussion? Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

In the public comment that Director Sullivan made, he also acknowledged that as Chair of the Human Affairs Committee typically it's considered a nicety to let me know if there's going to be a second reading and he was concerned about whether I would support it. There is no need for concern because also as Alderman of Ward 4, I'm very familiar with NeighborWorks. The work that they've been doing in the community. We are looking forward to 240 Main Street and the increased availability of housing that NeighborWorks brings particularly to low income and differently abled people. It's very much needed and it's a very good location in need of rehabilitation.

So as Human Affairs Committee Chair and anyone on the Human Affairs Committee is aware, sometimes funding comes in really fast but this is money that comes in to do a project that is very, very important to the City that the taxpayers are not paying for. They're actually get their money back because they paid for it at the federal level and anything that the City of Nashua can do to get that money going back into the hands of organizations trying to do development to help our citizens is a good thing.

President Wilshire

Further discussion? Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED**R-23-156**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Thomas Lopez

Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

AMENDING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021-2025 TO AMEND ROUND 4 CDBG-CV FUNDING UNDER THE 2020 CARES ACT

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

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-23-059

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Derek Thibeault

AMENDING THE LAND USE CODE NOTICE PROVISIONS TABLE AND THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION REVIEW PROCEDURE

Given its first reading; Assigned to the PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE and PLANNING BOARD and SCHEDULE AN ALDERMANIC PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M., by President Wilshire

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurie Ortolano

Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. I noticed on August 8th that you folks approved the provision to change the bylaws for the 201 corporations to make them RSA 91-A compliant. I'm a little bit concerned that what you approved is not RSA 91-A complaint and that the posting of the minutes doesn't have to be done for two weeks. I really don't understand why that is because I've worked hard to try and make them compliant. When I read Attorney Bolton's statements that the whole reason this is being done is just because it's easy enough to do. We'll just take care of what she wants. I have to wonder why I had to file a lawsuit to do this because for ten months before filing the lawsuit, I was asking the city and the Board of Directors why the bylaws were wrong, why the 201 corps. weren't public, and no one would respond to me.

So you forced my hand to provide a lawsuit then the 201 corps. have to lawyer up. You're going to pay McLane Middleton a couple hundred grand to represent this and you gave me a win right off the back because they called right away and said hey we agree with you. They're wrong. So I'm really concerned with how Attorney Bolton portrayed this to the Board. It's easy to do. Why didn't you take care of it when it wouldn't cost the taxpayers a couple hundred grand? Of course the whole purpose of this was for me to get access to information that is from the inception of those companies. Attorney Bolton mentioned that that's not the deal. That's not the deal I had with McLane Middleton. I was unaware that he believes Attorney Bolton that this is all going to come after. So it really surprises me. I'm disappointed you approved those.

As you all know, I have filed a disciplinary complaint against Attorney Bolton with the Attorney Discipline office and it's now up before the disciplinary council. I am very proud of my work to get those complaints there – those two complaints – because citizens have such a difficult time moving them. Attorney Bolton seems to think...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Laurie Ortolano

...he's entitled to some form of confidentiality. I think he waived that when my treatment in this chamber was anything but protected of my rights. I heard Attorney Bolton call me out as somebody who doesn't tell the truth, a liar, somebody who omits information. I've been called out as a child predator. Somebody who does oppositional research. Ms. Klee is somebody who insights violence. I've heard it all. Ms. Kleiner coming in and saying I was a criminal. I've had my...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

30 seconds.

Laurie Ortolano

...reputation trampled on here and the last thing I'm going to afford Attorney Bolton is confidentiality on an attorney discipline complaint. That can result in a six-month license suspension. I think it should hit him hard. I think he's been a terrible municipal attorney for the city. The property casualty account has gone up from a half a million dollars when he started here to upwards of \$7 million and that's where we're tucking all of his...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Time.

Laurie Ortolano

...lawsuits because this guy likes a fight and he doesn't settle. Thank you.

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Alderwoman Timmons

Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to speak to comment from the last speaker. First of all, I think that particular speaker has caused our City not on lawyers millions of dollars. In fact, she cost us \$2 million in lawsuits. She's going to continue to cost the City and the taxpayers should know. We're paying this particular speaker millions of dollars and she keeps filing Right-to-Knows. She keeps coming in here every Board meeting speaking out of turn and she is the one that's costing us millions of dollars and the taxpayers should know this is costing us money and not Steve Bolton. I'm really appalled by what she said about him. If she wouldn't come here and make accusations, maybe that wouldn't happen. I don't regret saying what I'm saying because it's the truth. The truth is she cost us \$2 million and the taxpayers should know that's what she's doing.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam President. Yeah, I mean I'm gonna obviously support Alderwoman Timmons' comments. I think Attorney Bolton does a great job. He's been maligned and costing the City \$2 million to try to sue us is just crazy. I think its personal stuff more than it is City stuff.

The last thing I want to say is I just want to say thank you to everyone that reached out to me while I was having surgery. I will tell you, and some of you have had vertebrae surgery, is no joke. I thought I was gonna be back to work the next day. Yeah, no way. I think the mental aspect of it was worse than the physical aspect. Thank you for all the wishes and I got to thank my family because I'll tell you right now you go on a steroid, my mood swings were all over the place. You guys know how my mood is when I'm not on prednisone so it was quite the experience for my family. So my wife and daughter who to take care of me during that time, thank you very much and it's great to be back and performing the jobs that I need to do. So thank you.

Alderman Caron

Yes, thank you. First of all, thank you very much for all of you who came to the 20th Nashua Goes Back to School. It was a great day. We had over 1,500 people there. The Nashua Lions Club did over 60 eye exams and sent people to various eye doctors to have re-exams because they found some problems but everyone seemed to have had a good time. I appreciate Mayor that we got the Proclamation done because we forgot it on that day but it turned out to be a better day to do it here and thank you for that.

The other thing is tomorrow at the Nashua Senior Center at 5:00 we'll be celebrating their 45th anniversary. So we hope that most of you Aldermen if you're able to, to come down and participate. The Mayor will be there to do a Proclamation for them and we will also be receiving a Proclamation from the Governor this year. Yes I've seen that program start from day one on Main Street. So 45 years has gone by and we look forward to you coming and visiting the senior center tomorrow. Thank you.

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you, Madam President. Last weekend it was great to swing by the Multicultural Festival as well as the Farmer's Market. Thought they were both fantastic events. Stocked up on some vegetables as well so can't go wrong with that.

We have some busy stuff going on in Ward 1 coming up. We have Wheels and Wings next Saturday on the 23rd from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Nashua Airport. Fantastic event for anybody who hasn't gone. Love it every year and the following weekend is Apple Festival at Sullivan farms. So a lot going on. Thank you.

Alderman Dowd

Yes I just want to hear that I heard that the election went very well despite the weather and that the shift to Ward 5 voting at the high school went very well. Everybody seems to have liked it. Having the construction going on at Main Dunstable School for the next couple of years, the voting will be it at the high school for the foreseeable future. So I'm glad it all went well. I was out of town for the election. I did vote absentee before I left because my son-in-law's father passed away so I've been in New York for a few days.

Alderman Comeau

Yes, thank you. I'm only gonna talk for about 25 to 30 minutes. I also wanted to thank Alderwoman Timmons for the invitation to the Multicultural Festival. That was a great event. I actually didn't realize that the bottom floor of the library was so big and I got lost a couple of times. There was a lot of great information and a booth set up there was just a really good time so I wanted to thank her for the invitation.

I wanted to thank everybody tonight for the spirited parks discussion. I'm always up for good parks discussion. I just wanted to maybe put out there that, you know, a couple of times I heard we keep building these housings, you know, apartment buildings and bringing in more family and more population. Maybe it would behoove the City to look at a modified long term plan where instead of trying to cram as many units of housing in every piece of developable land that we have, when we're talking about those plans we talk about ways to put parks in as well so that we're not filling every development with highest and best use and most apartment units that we can and we talked about other ways to do that as well.

I also heard, you know, a couple of times we talked about if we use that money tonight, we can put it back later. Then, you know, there were comments that well that's never gonna get done. There's 15 of us here that can write legislation anytime we want to. So I mean I could come in tomorrow and write the legislation to put the money back into that fund. So there's not nothing stopping anybody from doing it. The fact is that money sat there for four years. We talked about well just because there isn't a plan now doesn't mean there can't be. But again, there's nothing stopping anybody from doing one so. I'm always up for a good parks discussion. If anybody wants to involve me on what we can do to increase recreational facilities in Ward 7, I'd be more than happy to help. I love parks and I want as many of them as we can get. Thank you.

Alderwoman Kelly

I'm going to keep it short but I think that we missed out on giving applause to Alderman Caron and the 20th anniversary of the work she's been doing. So I'd like to thank her.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, Madam President. I just want to respond to the remarks that were made from the public a few minutes ago. I've known Attorney Bolton for a very long time. He's a very honest gentleman. He's a straight shooter. The word "unethical" does not cross. So, you know, I think it's important that we support our City employees. I think it's important that we tell the truth more importantly. The truth is, is that we have a fine City Attorney.

Alderman Jette

Thank you. So I want to thank you for tolerating my last-minute discussion about the transferring the money from the escrow fund. I apologize for having been on vacation but I was happier being there. I'm not so sure I'm happy being back but here I am.

Yesterday I wanted to acknowledge the workers at the polls. I was one of them. I was a ballot inspector yesterday and I want to remind people that they work very hard. We spent a couple of hours setting up the night before and then Tuesday we arrived at 5:00 am and left at 9:00 pm so it was a long day. I wish more people that had come out.

Regarding the change of the pole location for Ward 5 to the Nashua High School South, it's a much larger facility so we were in the - there were two gyms there. I think there are two.

Alderman Moran

Three.

Alderman Jette

There are three. We were in one of them. It's much larger than the gym at Main Dunstable. So the election workers really liked it. The thought the facility was much better. The only complaint we had were people having trouble finding it. Describing the pole location is Nashua High School South doesn't really help people find where the pole location actually is because it's a large school. So hopefully in the future, the City Clerk will identify it as Nashua High School South gymnasium because that's a better a more accurate location. People had trouble when they drive in where do they go? We didn't have adequate signage to direct people to the place. There is signage to direct people to the gymnasium so it would be helpful to connect the two. I heard that you promised to rectify that as much as possible for November.

So speaking and I wanted to tell people that, you know, people who are interested in government want to get involved but just don't have the time or the inclination to run for public office, there are many positions available as Moderator, Selectmen. Moderator and Selectmen are elected but then there are Ballot Clerks. Every Ward has a bunch of Ballot Clerks that they're paid. Not much but they're paid. It's just a one-day commitment. So it's an opportunity to get involved in government. People who wonder about whether our elections are honest and on the up and up, this is a great opportunity for you to see it firsthand. Anybody who does will come out of there saying yeah our City Clerk runs a very tight ship as far as elections are concerned and we can all depend on the results.

So that brings me to the election, political signs. So I implore people who are running for office, you know, if you're running for public office, you ought to make the commitment to know what the laws are about political campaigns, and political signage, and obey those laws. Lead by example because if you get elected and you're in our position and you're making those laws, people have a right to expect you to abide by them. So don't put your signs on public property, don't put your signs on rights of way. You can put them on private property with the permission of the owner of the property, not on telephone poles, not on signs. So every year, we have this plethora of political signs on State property, and City property, and rights of way. If you do that, you do it at your own risk because Public Works will take the signs off the public property and the State will take the signs off of their property. They're expensive. So don't take the chance of losing your signs and please obey the law.

I just want to say I appreciate the Mayor acknowledging the generosity of the Katis family to the Back to School Program but I'm sure they would appreciate knowing that everyone can thank them by frequently their businesses - Ace Hardware and Nashua Wallpaper. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

So I want to first thank everybody who was involved in organizing Employment Connect at the library this past Tuesday. It was during Election Day so it was very busy day but the rain was also rough on our turnout as well. It was a very well supported event. I appreciate all the businesses downtown that collected their dress clothes and their interview clothes. I think all the people who got to use them did too. Soul Sisters donated food for the event to make sure everybody was well fed. We had a number of people with very, very transformative experiences that felt like they were finally able to present themselves the way they wanted to and seek the opportunities that they were looking for. I really have to give credit to the library for being such a solid support and being so helpful in organizing this. I know you're gonna be shocked, it was raining so I asked if it would be alright to leave the clothes that we collected, cleaned, and set up out for a little bit longer so that I could come up with a game plan for getting them over to a thrift shop without getting them all soaked. Not only was the library happy to do that but they're happy to have them there and they're giving them out. That's the kind of thing that just goes the extra mile for somebody who's having a really rough day to see that there's something a little extra that they can use that people care about them a little bit more. So I really applaud the library for being such a welcoming facility, and so well organized, and well run. Thanks to Jen McCormack the Director, Holly Klump, Pam Baker, and other staff who were so helpful.

They were also integral to what I think was one of the best Multicultural Festivals I've seen in the City. Connecting it with the Farmers Market was a great move. Bringing it back down to Ward 4, I think, was an even better move because I think a lot of multicultural communities are based here and the transportation and everything's walkable when we're not repaving the road. In general, it was a very, very well-run event and people were very happy to be there. It was great to see and I think it was very well organized.

September 23rd is the Saturday after next I believe is the Out of The Darkness Walk. It is recognizing people who experienced or been impacted by suicide. So I would encourage anybody who has been touched by that or is working to support that in the intervention of that in the community to consider signing up for the Out of The Darkness Walk.

I wanted to say with regards to public comment that we heard tonight, it's unfortunate that the public might feel that they're being maligned but I would also point out that the public can see the comments that are being made. There are a lot of very negative comments about others that are made as well. I don't like it when I hear negative comments or very, very aggressive comments towards City staff in public comment. I don't think that's what it's meant for. I think there is some legitimacy in saying okay well I want to make sure that if I'm being particularly mistreated or there's an unjust rule that there's awareness but I also think targeting public employees who are obligated to be here is unfair. I think when you make public comment, your comments speak for themselves and the public is absolutely able to see them in the context.

I think Attorney Bolton does a great job representing us. I don't know if I'm directly misquoting this or as I recall it having your job summarized Attorney Bolton as always ready for a fight and never willing to settle is not a bad characteristic in our City Attorney. I think if there are other areas that we can work on to prevent that fight, it just makes your job easier and you're probably trying just as hard as anyone else for that. So thank you for your service. Thank you to the other City Staff members in general.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

We settled more cases than we tried just in case you were interested.

Alderman Lopez

And then finally, I would want to just comment with regards to the park discussion that we definitely visited. I think that it was pointed out that we are all going to be here, and we're all Aldermen, and we could at any point put money in here. I think that was the point because most of us have been on the Board the past four years and agreed to that first slightly Faustian bargain and have now agreed to the second one. So we wouldn't have had the conversation if we had been putting money back in or if we had been pushing leadership and the study of that area.

Now we've had a pandemic and we've had a number of crises face the City so we really did do those neighborhoods a disservice by not necessarily trying to organize a feasibility study or the interest in developing a plan for that. We should do that. We have time now in the fall to at least do organizational planning. I'm planning on being here next year so I think anybody who is an Aldermen in the vicinity of that whether it's Ward 3, or whether it's the Ward that the park was focused on, or it's Ward 4 which is about two blocks away, it has plenty of families that would benefit from a recreational facility in that area. I think we need to do that and I think the At-Large Aldermen who represent the City need to consider the needs of the individual parks in the City as well as what I see as a recurring theme that the larger needs of the City override the individual local needs. We have local Aldermen and we do our best to represent our Wards but I also think that my fellow At-Large Alderman could be involved in these plantings. I think there's plenty of knowledge and plenty of know how available to address this issue. There is a park over by the senior center that maybe we could be pushing money towards. I think the Board of Public Works probably is another stakeholder. We should start having those conversations so that we don't have another conversation like this in two years. Thank you.

Alderman Moran

Thank you, Madam President. One - I would like to also echo my colleagues that were at the Multicultural Festival. It was amazing. I brought my kids. I saw many, many of you. I do admit that Alderman Comeau did disappear. I was trying to find him, and then I saw him, and then I didn't. So yes it is true. It is very large downstairs of the library. I found Alderman Sullivan but then you disappeared. It was a great event. My kids had fun. They always enjoy seeing Alderwoman Timmons, and Alderman Thibeault, and of course Alderman Lopez. It was a great time and of course the Farmers Market and the great food that was there.

I want to send kudos to the Ward 9 election workers. It was first time voting in Ward 9 the other day and I thought they did a great job. It was streamline. It was quick. We were in and out even though we changed our registration a couple weeks ago to our new address but we still haven't gotten the updated driver's license. They were still able to make sure we got our ability to vote. It was wonderful. I saw many, many great involved Ward 9 civic leaders, excluding present party because I know if I say this too much a certain Alderman might meet me in the parking lot later on, but I ran into former Alderwoman Gathright State Rep., and I also ran into current State Rep. the Honorable Marty Jack who's actually sitting here in the audience. Not many people know this but he served the Ward for almost 12 years now and almost as a State Representative. I believe he has a perfect voting record. He's never missed a vote up there. We had a great conversation at the polls. What a great Representative. Now I have three great State Reps to lean on not to say that

Ward 7 didn't have three great State Reps either. It was great to have more conversation with Marty. We won the Executive Committee at the County together but we really talked I think the most the other day at the polls.

Also, thank you to the first responders and DPW for the storms and the upcoming storms did a great job responding to all the needs of those in need. Let's see.

Oh yeah the Library workers contract. Yes Attorney Bolton is great. He is wonderful. He's a perfect, great attorney. I know you're negotiating the contract. I am fully in support of the workers down there. I know you'd have to express your best interest of the City but I just want to express my positive vibes towards the workers if that makes sense without any aldermanic interference.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

I'm fond of libraries.

Alderman Moran

Yes. So yes and I'm a little disappointed in my colleague from Ward 1. There are other great events happening in Ward 1. My company is having its grand opening - Wanderlust Therapeutic Services - next week on Tuesday. You've all been invited. We serve over 1,000 patients and many Ward 1 citizens as well. That is in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and its open technically to the public. You've gotta register at the Chamber of Commerce. Speaking of which also to all the great Nashua small businesses that won Best of the 603 including me. So I like to pat myself on the back every now and then.

But one last thing I just want to correct. I missed it. I guess we're getting sued again. I missed that part are we? Is that happening? I heard something coming in. Just to correct the record, that speaker was not called a child predator. There is a lawsuit that was dismissed twice by the Judge. Never happened. Not real. Completely dismissed. Twice. Just want to correct the facts of misinformation...

Alderwoman Timmons

She didn't mention that.

Alderman Moran

...and it is a public record. Feel free to go look it up. Not that I want to dwell on it longer but we just can't keep having misinformation coming, especially when a Judge ruled twice that it didn't happen. Thank you.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I want to send my condolences out to the family, friends, and employees of Regina Lange who is the owner of Snap It's Vintage. She passed away at the end of August and she will be missed. I've read a lot of - I only met her a few times going into Snap but she's very obviously loved by her employees. My heart goes out to her husband.

I want to thank my colleague from Ward 5. I appreciate you bringing that up about the fund and so on because it does give us more conversation so don't feel the need to apologize. It was good work and thank you for doing that. I don't want you to feel that just because we voted against it that it wasn't worth discussing. It was so thank you so much for doing that.

I also want to thank Attorney Bolton. Even recently as last week and this week, I have been driving him and the attorneys in his office crazy asking him ethical questions about when to recuse yourself, when not to recuse yourself, and it was a very difficult one because I always thought you only recuse yourself if there was a personal interest but there are some nuances to that. He and his staff have been very helpful to me. I find that they are extraordinarily helpful and he is the first person that I go to when I need advice and so on. I'm grateful that he's here for us. So thank you so much for all that you do

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

I am well compensated.

Alderman Klee

Well for those in the public, just know that our attorneys don't just fight lawsuit battles and they don't just write legislation for us. They do a lot more work for the City to keep us all safe so thank you.

To my colleague in Ward 8, we're starting to get a large group. My colleague in Ward 6 also had that I call it the "throat cutting event" and you're fully joining the club with us. I'm going to physical therapy because of my November and hopefully it'll help.

The Nashua Goes Back to School event it was extraordinarily. I didn't actually get to it. I got stuck in traffic. I tried going around every which way and realize that I wasn't going to take a parking space from someone just so that I could show and get to look at everything that was happening. I didn't have any children so I called my husband after 25 minutes of being in traffic and said I'm heading home.

To that end, I'm going to discuss the Pearson Ave. parking lot. A lot of people were towed from that as they were from the Multicultural event. Everything the towing and so on is legal and it needs to be known that it's legal. We as citizens have to take personal responsibility. The City has gone out and put a very large sign that said warning do not park there. Granted there was some confusion. I stood in the rain during the Multicultural event. I stopped over a dozen people from parking there. I can't do that all the time. I just happened to be there as multiple cars are being towed away. Sadly, they had children and they came and saw that their cars were missing, the children were crying, and so on. It's a shame. It was done legally. They were confused by our signage of warning. So we're going to make some change to fix that a little bit but for everybody that's listening, please it's the first parking lot after the City's metered parking. Do not park there and do not park beyond that point. You see the sign that says "warning", that's where you stop.

I want to go back and again thank CSX for coming to the table for the rail crossing. We're getting a lot more cooperation from them than we did from PanAm. I think that is important to note. The rail had been the ugly - I don't know whether you want to call it step child or whatever the step problem, yes, big problem - but I think CSX is trying to work with us. I appreciate everybody that worked on that.

To my colleague from a Ward 4 relative to the parks, perfectly said. Thank you for saying that. We do need to look towards doing those things.

To Director Sullivan, thank you for working on the Land Use Codes. I keep going to him and saying I want to change this and he keeps giving me the pause of we're working on it, we're working on it. I look forward to seeing all those changes and so on.

For the election yesterday, it was a low turnout and I think in some cases because people just thought it was a primary. They got very confused. I kept trying to explain to people it's more of like a runoff but the one thing I heard over and over again was I saw the sign out there that said vote here. A lot of people didn't know about it. I did send it in my newsletter and I tried to do this. So November 7th is the next one. It's the big one where most of us are running so please get out and vote. I always like people to vote the same way I do but I know that's not reality. So get out vote for the person you want. Don't just assume they're going to win because more likely they won't if you don't get out and vote.

I also want to say that on the 16th the Humane Society is having their Wags to Whiskers Event. You can go online and see about that.

I also want to say to the speaker who talked about lawsuits and so on. There is while Supreme Court made a decision and so on, the Attorney General's Office has come out against and is asking for a kind of rethinking of that decision because it could be harmful to municipalities in the future. I think the New Hampshire Municipal Association has come out to with some very, very pertinent - I don't want to say criticism - but concerns about that. I will stop there. Thank you.

Alderman Sullivan

Special thanks to not only Ward 9 and the poll workers but City Clerk Healey. Well done, well run. I admire an operation runs without a hitch so thank you.

I also want to thank Donna Graham for putting - I don't know if you organized it but you were there when we went on the BAE tour on Monday was that Monday? Yeah Monday. That was great. Learned a lot. BAE is an economic powerhouse in our City and was happy to see what they do inside the walls. So thank you.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Madam President. I, too, want to jump on Clerk Healey's bandwagon. I was at Ward 9 and from what I heard later on with at the other Wards, thank you to our unsung heroes that do come in pretty much volunteering their time, long days, and long hours where they should be commended. Please if anybody wants to get into that, we can definitely show you how because we need to help. It's part of being a civic duty.

The other thing I wanted to mention is just keep in mind, they say we're having a possibly hurricane but it'll probably be a tropical storm by the time they get up here. So once you're done with this meeting, please turn to the weather channel. But anyways the thing is make your preparations, do the right things, keep the kids indoors, let the professionals keep in mind, fire and police. They are first responders but also Public Works. They'll all be out and doing their thing so give them the space to be able to do it and please don't add to the burden. So just sitting back and being wise I think with all storms whether it be a blizzard or anything else. I can't wait till we get our first snowstorm of the year and watching somebody doing 360s down Main Street. Anyways, it's a rite of passage so thank you Madam President.

President Wilshire

I would like to say that I appreciate the work that you do Attorney Bolton. I think you do a good job for the City and thank you for that.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Thank you.

President Wilshire

Tuesday the 19th there is a special election in Ward 4 for State Representatives. So those in Ward 4, please go out and vote.

I'd also like to thank the people from BAE Systems: Tom Bishop, Monica Gilbert, and John Lee for offering a tour of their facilities. I thought it was a great time and appreciate them offering that to us.

Committee announcements:

Alderman Lopez

Human Affairs Committee is next week. We do have an agenda item plus we're also having a conversation on sober housing, how the City approaches it, and then from some of the programs that provide it as well. So if anybody's interested in that, it's pretty significant in terms of some of the troubles we're having with homelessness and unsheltered people.

President Wilshire

Any other community announcements?

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN THAT THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2023, MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE ADJOURNED

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Attest: Dan Healey, City Clerk



Police – Behavioral Health Collaborative Program

Leah Elliott, LCSW

Lisa Vasquez, MA

NPD

POLICE/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COLLABORATION TEAM



- Increasingly heavy burden on law enforcement agencies and, in particular officers.
- Limited choices for officers responding to community situations
- A Police-BH Collaboration Team would incorporate specially trained police officers and a mental health crisis worker(s) to respond together to address mental health calls.

WHY IMPLEMENT A CO-RESPONDER TEAM NOW?

- According to the Nashua Police Department 2021 Annual Crime Report,
 - The Nashua Police Department has improved the manner in which mental health related incidents are documented to facilitate accurate analysis in future years.
 - With a decrease in early intervention services and funding for the mental health system, police have become the frontline for many citizens suffering from mental illness.
 - The department continues to make educating first responders about mental health a priority.
- The Nashua Police department received more than 250 mental health related calls in 2021.

WHY IMPLEMENT A CO-RESPONDER TEAM NOW?

Compared to 2020 in 2021 we saw...

- 65% Increase in Involuntary Emergency Admissions (IEA)/Involuntary Emergency Hospitalization (IEH) paperwork requests
- 93.3% Protective Custody due to Alcohol or Drug Use
- 54% Protective Custody due to Mental Health and/or Suicidal Ideation
- 166% higher Protective Custody due to Suicide Attempt

WHAT DOES THIS PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?

Division of Public Health and Community Services

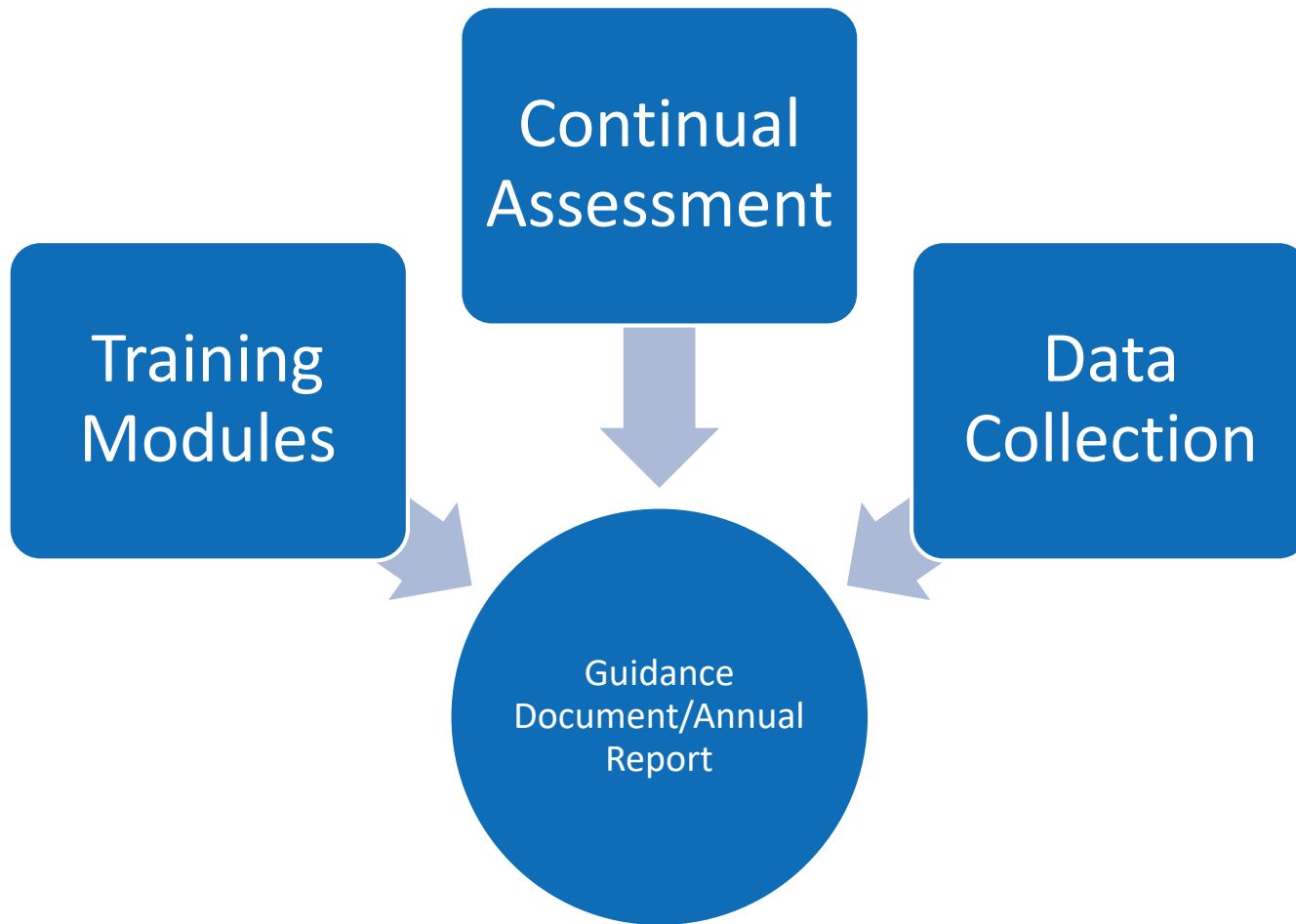
- The behavioral health team at the Division of Public Health and Community Services includes a Master Level Mental Health Clinician and a Licensed Social Worker which can provide these services between the hours of 1PM and 8PM three days a week and between the hours of 8 AM and 5PM two days a week.



Nashua Police Department



BENEFITS OF A PILOT PROGRAM



NEXT STEPS



NEXT STEPS

- The Police-BH Collaboration Team will work on an inventory of community services and needs (<https://nashuanh.gov/1538/Community-Connections-Resource-Guide>).
- Based on this inventory, establish under which situations or types of calls the Police-BH Collaboration team will be deployed, and determine what types of assessments, supports and services the team will provide.

NEXT STEPS



FOLLOW UP



Stay Connected!



www.NashuaNH.gov/DPHCS



BeyondInfluence



@NashuaPHealth



BeyondInfluence



Nashua Public Health



Questions?

Lisa Vasquez, MS

VasquezL@NashuaNH.gov

603-589-4538

THANK YOU



CITY OF NASHUA
**Division of Public Health
& Community Services**

18 MULBERRY STREET • NASHUA, NH • 03060

