

A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. in the aldermanic chamber.

President Lori Wilshire presided; City Clerk Dan Healey recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Dan Healey; Alderman June M. Caron led in the Pledge to the Flag.

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

The roll call was taken with 14 members of the Board of Aldermen present: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Moran, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Jette, Alderman Clemons, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Comeau, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Gouveia, Alderman June M. Caron, Alderman Thibeault, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Wilshire.

Alderman Klee was recorded absent.

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. Thank you. Well I had a few things I wanted to discuss with you. The first is Resolution R-22-062 having to do with the tax rate. This Resolution proposes that \$4 million of the fund balance be dedicated to reduce the tax rate. This is an important step for the taxpayers of Nashua. We discussed this with the Budget Committee last night and they unanimously endorsed this Resolution but we also discussed a number of other issues pertaining to the City's finances, particularly the importance of the total fund balance and growing the fund balance every year. The importance of that with respect to the City's AAA bond rating from both Fitch and Standard & Poor's. This is a rare distinction as CFO Griffin describes it and it does effect the rate of interest that the City pays on any debt that we incur.

And just to illustrate the kind of effect that interest really has, if for example, and we've been borrowing at very low, very preferred rates. If for example on the school project which we are embarking on, the interest rate on that debt went up 1%. That would be more than a million dollars a year in interest increase as a result of the 1% additional interest rate and that would go on for 20 years. So the ability to borrow money at preferred lower rates is very important in terms of the overall budgeting of the City. I'm sure you'll get to that in the agenda.

Another item I wanted to mention Madam President is the fact that Administrative Services Director Kim Kleiner has given her resignation. I informed you of that by email. She will be undertaking very soon another professional opportunity. I think she leaves with mixed feelings but in terms of her advancement of her career in government, this is an important step. Of course I and many of you have worked closely with Miss Kleiner during the course of 6 1/2 years or so of city service especially as Administrative Services Director. In that position, and I will miss her and I think some of you will as well, in that position she accomplished many things, many important things for the citizen taxpayers of Nashua. The first thing that comes to my mind is that she helped and lead the initiative to reform the City's HMO plan to help reduce City cost. This then was implemented and agreed to for 10 employee unions, 10 employee groups and it is resulting right now in a savings of \$3.9 million per year. That will, of course, continue into the future but \$3.9 million per year is a lot of money. She helped conduct Nashua's first dependent verification audit. This determines whether people who are actually on the insurance plan are eligible. That resulted in \$462,000 in savings. Many other things but I will mention she did a lot in the assessing area - upgraded the KAMA System, implemented the Docuware Software, and of course on another front oversaw all of the City Hall improvements, the COVID related improvements paid for by federal dollars which were made throughout the building in order to make us more COVID and other pandemic resistance. So there are many other things I could talk about but I think we will be missing Miss Kleiner. I have asked Tim Cummings, the Economic Development Director, to take her position on an interim basis and I intend to appoint him as a permanent nominee. A nominee for a permanent position there and I expect that I will have that nomination to you at the next meeting.

I also wanted to mention another employee who has done an incredible job in helping save the cities money and that is Doria Brown, Energy Manager. We have embarked on I think very smart management of our energy purchases and supply. Doria Brown was able to negotiate a contract that enables the City to purchase electricity for many of our accounts at 5.9 cents per kilowatt. This goes on until the end of 2024. Now we could get a complete analysis because it's complicated because the City has many different accounts and different meters for various buildings and sometimes more than one meter in a single building. In the wastewater treatment plant alone, the difference between the 5.9 centers

and now Eversource's .22 cents a kilowatt represents a savings of over \$1 million per year. In the Library, the difference between the 5.9 - and these are all part of this contract. Not every City meter is on this one contract. At the Library, the 5.9 cents a kilowatt saves about \$150,000 a year. For our street lights, the savings which is on the 5.9 cents contract about \$1 million a year, for the DPW about \$200,000 a year, and there are other accounts that are on that same rate. It would take some work but we could look through every account and figure out the savings but just those four alone we're talking about \$2.4 million a year as a result of Miss Brown's work. So I want to thank her and remind you that you have many City employees that are working very hard to doing a very good job to try to help the citizens, the residents, the taxpayers of Nashua.

I did want to mention two items that are in the escrows that we discussed kind of an overview of those and we will have a public hearing on that on October 6th. These have to do with community security. First of all, the Police Department believes that they need two more police officers and Chief Rourke and I have discussed that at various times. Because of the strong arguments that he's made, and the safety that's paramount, and the fact that they have such a good record to begin with, I have put in the escrows two police officers to begin as soon as they can hire them. I'm sure we'll be here, the Chief will be here to discuss that at the time of the escrow public hearing.

Another community security issue that needs to be addressed, I believe, is the fact that we did not budget an Emergency Management Director in the hopes of saving \$100,000. We have kind of an assistant position that we upgraded a little bit but Chief Buxton who is here I see in the audience from the Fire Department, as well as Chief Rourke from the Police Department, and Public Health & Community Services Director Bobbie Bagley have made the argument that look you know times being what they are and we see what's happened around the country, we really need and we have public events, we really need an Emergency Management Director. So we have rewritten the upgraded or updated the job description. Justin Kates formerly Emergency Manager and Director has helped with that. That job is being posted but there is money for that in the escrows as well. So those we can discuss in more detail at the time of the public hearing.

Finally, I would like to mention that Harbor Care had their 17th Veterans Stand Down the other day - last week to honor the cities and the community Veterans. I want to thank them for the great job that they did. You may be aware that with Harbor Care/Harbor Homes leading the effort and at the time Governor Hassan was very involved, Nashua was certified by the V.A. as Functional Zero for Veteran's Homelessness and that has been renewed every year. That means any Veteran whose homeless who comes to the City and seeks a place to stay does get one. So I want to congratulate Harbor Homes on that effort and everything that they're doing for our Veterans. I think that's all I have Madam President.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR

Alderwoman Timmons

Thank you Madam President. It's sad to hear that Kim Kleiner is leaving us. She was not only instrumental in the things the Mayor just said but she's also was instrumental in a lot of other things like the opening of the Arlington Street Community Center, as well as NCCRJ. It's Nashua Community Conversation, Race and Justice. My Brother's Keeper, she was a community leader, she helped with getting food for the City, clothing for the City, she was a hard worker. Sometimes I just shake my head about all the things that she actually did for this City and for our community. So not only did she work for the City, she worked in the City and that's a lot to say about Kim Kleiner. I'm really sad to see her go. I tried to talk her out of it but it didn't work because we would never get another Kim Kleiner. It's going to be hard to step in her shoes but she was just fantastic. That's what I have to say about her.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you Madam President. I also want to echo Alderwoman Timmons words and the Mayor's word. I think Director Kleiner sometimes gets a raw deal around here but I think she does a tremendous job with the City. One of the other things she did, she got us off the paper list for insurance and started to get all that done electronically which is also some form of savings. She's done a ton of work and it hasn't been easy over the last couple of years to do that. COVID hit and it is going to be tough to see her go. I think Director Cummings is a great candidate for that role and I think if he gets appointed he'll do an excellent job. So thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? No one else. Okay.

RECOGNITION PERIOD - None

READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the minutes of the special Board of Aldermen meeting of June 21, 2022 be accepted, placed on file, and the reading suspended.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING ONLY PROCEDURAL ACTIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS - None
PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT RELATIVE TO ITEMS EXPECTED TO BE ACTED UPON THIS EVENING

Matthew Gouthro

Good evening. Matthew Gouthro, 104 Fawn Lane. On the docket tonight, you're asked to bond \$2 million for school safety improvements. Over the past few months, I've all around the City advocating for safer schools but instead of clear, transparent programs and plans for improvement, the taxpayers are asked for a big blank check for \$2 million for school safety improvements. All of this comes as the endorser of this Resolution responded to my request for additional School Resource Officers just a few months ago in this very Chamber with we have the safest schools in New Hampshire. That sounds a lot like political rust so I ask you which is it? Are we safe? Is there a plan? Can we provide a clear explanation to the stakeholders here in Nashua the need to bond \$2 million for this project?

Switching gears, I would just like to put in support for I think the item here is R-22-064 the purchase of a new Arrow XT Pumper Truck for the Fire Department. I had an opportunity recently to sit down with Chief Buxton. I want to thank Alderman Sullivan for your help in coordinating that meeting and I want to let you know that we are this close to becoming a Class One Fire organization here in Nashua. An ISO Class One Rating is a true rarity - a fraction of the top 1% of all Fire Departments nationwide. Now it's about, it's not just about the sticker we put on the truck. This designation also contributes to the reduction in commercial and residential property insurance rates. I know Tim Cummings has asked you over the year to spend millions of dollars in the name of economic development but I ask you...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Matthew Gouthro

...what is a better mechanism for attracting new businesses and retaining existing businesses here in Nashua then having some of the lowest commercial property insurance rates in the State?

In conclusion, there are many factors not just equipment that play a role in this designation and I ask you not only to approve this Resolution but I encourage each and every one of you to work together with Chief Buxton so that we can achieve this prestigious designation as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

30 seconds.

Matthew Gouthro

We already have a Nationally Accredited Nashua Police Department here in our great City and we have to have the opportunity to make Nashua Fire Rescue the only ISO Class One Rated Fire Department in the State of NH. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Laurie Ortolano

Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. I want to address R-22-062 Establishing the Fund Balance for Reducing the Tax Rate. I went to the Budget meeting last night and had a chance to hear about this. I would hope that this receives full support from the Board. It will help lower the tax rate about .29 cents and I want to talk to you about how high our tax rate is and how important it is to take this reduction and consider trying to do more this year as you build your budget and you look at your spending. Our tax rate is a good bit higher than I thought it would be. Our homes went up about 40% maybe a little bit higher on average. Our tax rate is coming down about 20 - 21% so we're asking many property owners, residential property owners to pick up the tab with property tax increases. It's going to be pretty significant. I looked last night and the average ranch in 2018 was \$265,000 when KRT came through and at this rate currently \$23.22 that's about

a \$6,100 tax bill. If you look at the average ranch now, that same ranch is \$380,000 and you multiple it by a tax rate of \$18.30, the Mayor thought it would fall between \$18.30 and \$18.50, you're at about \$7,000. You're going up \$850-\$900. That's a lot of money on a 900 square foot ranch and I can tell you I look at my neighborhood where they had to address the depreciation issue in the older neighborhoods that wasn't quite right and there are some small homes going up almost \$2,000. There's a street with 8 houses on it that's all over the map. So we're going to see a lot of hardship. I think this .29 cents is far too little. I think that you're going to be addressing a new business, a whole lot of bonding...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Laurie Ortolano

...for \$32 or \$34 million and I think this Board ought to think long and hard about how much money you're going to continue to spend on this City.

I'd like to address Alderman O'Brien because I know you've done a lot of work up at the State with the pension fund but I think you're not doing enough work down here to vote no on things because you can't change what's up there at the State with 500 people and you can't count on it. So I think your fiscal conservative is missing down here in Nashua. Thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING FINAL APPROVAL

From: Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director
Re: Communication – Approval & Place on File a Contract for Professional Services related to the Nashua Downtown Riverfront Implementation Project for VHB, Inc.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE THE FINAL DESIGN PHASE OF THE RIVERFRONT PROJECT WITH VHB, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$445,400.00. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH THE TIF ACCOUNT CREATED TO IMPLEMENT THE DOWNTOWN RIVERFRONT PROJECT
MOTION CARRIED**

PETITIONS - None

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

The following new appointments were read into the record:

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Joshua Nehiley (new alternate appointment)
10 Roderick Circle
Nashua, NH 03062

Term to Expire: October 1, 2025

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Human Affairs Committee..... 09/19/2022

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the September 19, 2022 Human Affairs Committee be accepted and placed on file.

There being no objection, President Wilshire suspended the rules to allow for the oral report of the Budget Review Committee meeting held last night regarding proposed Resolution R-22-062.

Alderman Dowd

Yes since I wasn't able to Chair the meeting last night due to an illness, I had asked Alderman O'Brien if he would give the oral report and I will take care of the motion later.

Alderman O'Brien

Very good. Thank you Alderman Dowd. Last night we did hear the Resolution R-22-062. There was discussion on it but I think the majority vote with no nays came out in support of contributing the \$4 million back into the tax roll. It is something. Somebody could probably say its minuscule, or pennies or whatever but it is something that is going to come back to the taxpayers. It's practical. It's what we need to do so therefore received a very good reply. So the recommendation of the Budget Committee is for final passage on this Board. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you Alderman O'Brien.

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS - NoneUNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS**R-22-059**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

AMENDING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 RELATIVE TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ("CDBG")

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-22-059
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-22-059 declared duly adopted.

R-22-061

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

APPROVING A PROPOSED CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE AGREEMENT RENEWAL BETWEEN THE CITY OF NASHUA AND COMCAST

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-22-061ON THE QUESTIONAlderman Thibeault

Thank you Madam President. I support this and I'm going to vote for it but I did have a constituent that reached out to me today and wanted to know why we don't think of Comcast as a monopoly and why no one else ever tries to put a bid for them. Again, it's not a question that anybody can answer but I definitely wanted to put it out there because she was pretty upset and she thinks that we as Aldermen and Alderwomen don't really care about changing the contract. I wanted to at least put that out there. I mean it does seem like it's a monopoly but I guess if no other company bids on it, I guess we have nothing to put against each other I guess. I just wanted to throw it out there. Like I said, no one is here to answer that I'm assuming.

President Wilshire

Alderman Thibeault the problem is that Comcast owns all the infrastructure so for someone else to come in and bid on a contract like that, they would have to provide all the infrastructure and that's a big, big cost. That's why Comcast keeps

getting the contract. Motion before us is for final passage. Further discussion? Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-22-061 declared duly adopted.

R-22-062

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 Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

ESTABLISHING THE USE OF FUND BALANCE FOR TAX RATE

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-22-062

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Dowd

Yes, we try to do this every year use part of the unexpended balance to pay down the tax rate. I don't know if came up last night but we do have to be careful how much we apply towards that because if we have an issue the following year on revenues, it would exacerbate the tax rate more than we wanted to. So \$4 million is a good amount. I talked to John Griffin about this and this seems to be the optimum that we can put towards this so I recommend final passage.

Alderman Lopez

I just want to comment that bringing the tax rate down particularly the recent revaluation is important because the recent revaluation was observed by several Aldermen on this Board that there is a risk of doing it when it was mandated essentially by the State or forced upon us because there were so many open and undeveloped commercial properties that it looked like it was going to tilt the burden of taxes more on the private individual than on the commercial industries. That's unfortunate and we do have to address that but I do think we also need to take into account the full landscape of our economy in the future rather than a laser focus on achieving a goal. I can't say that was the City's priority in any particular area but I do know that some private individuals were very focused on just the one thing they wanted to accomplish and it resulted in a lot of unintended consequences. So I'm glad that we we're at least able to do this much. I think the situation is unfortunate in general.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. I just want to reiterate from the discussion last night. I know the Mayor brought this up but part of this is picking a delicate balance in how much we pay down to also make sure we keep our AAA bond rating which does help us to borrow at a more favorable rate. So it really is important. I know it's going to be a tough year for everybody but we have to strike that balance to continue getting the AAA bond rating.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you, Madam President. I'm going to support this. I voted for it. I endorsed it. I think that moving \$4 million is good. File this under I wish I knew then what I know now as far as the timing. I did a little digging into it and looking at what more we could add to follow the law of the Resolution. We essentially - the math that I did, we could possibly move another \$3.6 million into it to keep it at about the 10%. Speaking to Alderman Dowd, that was something we didn't discuss last night. I wish I, again, knew then what I know now. I would have advocated for it. I think the short term pay off to the Nashua taxpayer is something we know now and I would absolutely move to do that at the sacrifice of perhaps losing a AAA bond rating for how much interest rates go up. We weren't really sure. We talked about it a little last night. We couldn't arrive at a figure. Knowing that we could help the Nashua taxpayer now by moving additional dollars in, for sure but I'll endorse this tonight. I think it's a move in the right direction but I think next year when we look at it, I'm

definitely going to advocate for more.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you Madam President. I mean I wouldn't be for losing the AAA bond rating but when we talk about things that we could do to decrease the tax rate, is this our only valve? Is it only just taking money from this account and moving and that's it? There's no other things that we can do in the City to try to drive that tax rate down. You know I mean listening to Alderman Sullivan saying we have a little over \$3 million more that we could put in there is interesting except I don't want to lose the bond rating. I will support this. I just wish there's more that we could do because \$4 million is not going to be enough. I thought we were going to have more to use towards driving that tax rate down.

Alderman Lopez

I feel the need to observe that Alderman O'Brien's efforts in Concord do help with the tax rate because if our City budget isn't as big because costs aren't being passed down to Nashua, then we wouldn't have as much to drive down. So there are lot of things we can do and there are a lot of things that we do do. For people to look at only one solution and claim that that's progress seems like it's misleading to the public who really deserve to know all of the things that could be done.

Alderman Dowd

Just want to go on the record, I've been 11 years on the Board. Every year we've said can we add more money to bring down the tax rate? Everybody would like to do that but there are severe issues if we spend too much to spend down the tax rate, especially in this vein so this is an optimum out.

Alderwoman Kelly

I just wanted to point out that we've also done a lot and I was going to mention when we talked about Kim Kleiner but she worked really hard on getting our health insurance costs down over the last year. We've seen a lot of that come to so we're all doing our part to bring it down wherever we can.

President Wilshire

Motion before us if for final passage. Further discussion?

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-22-062 declared duly adopted.

Alderman O'Brien

Madam President, point of order. Where this is with the tax rate, would this have been better with a roll call vote to make sure we had the ten members?

President Wilshire

It didn't require it.

Alderman O'Brien

I may be incorrect but I just want to make sure while we're here Madam President.

President Wilshire

Thank you. It doesn't require it.

Alderman O'Brien

Very good. Thank you.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS**R-22-064**

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
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

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$867,367) TO PURCHASE A 2023 PIERCE ARROW XT PUMPER TRUCK WITH ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT

Given its first reading; Assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE, BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS, and SCHEDULE A SPECIAL BOARD OF ALDERMEN PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:00 PM ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022, by President Wilshire

R-22-065

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED SEVEN MILLION FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$7,050,000) FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT AT THE SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT FOUR HILLS LANDFILL

Given its first reading; Assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE, BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, and SCHEDULE A SPECIAL BOARD OF ALDERMEN PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:00 PM ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022, by President Wilshire

R-22-066

Endorsers: Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED SIXTEEN MILLION DOLLARS (\$16,000,000) FOR BUILDING RENOVATIONS AT THE BIRCH HILL AND MAIN DUNSTABLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Given its first reading; Assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE, BOARD OF EDUCATION, and SCHEDULE A SPECIAL BOARD OF ALDERMEN PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:00 PM ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022, by President Wilshire

R-22-067

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

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

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED SIX MILLION THREE HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$6,394,575) FOR THE CITY'S SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM AND SEWER STRUCTURES

Given its first reading; Assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE, BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, and SCHEDULE A SPECIAL BOARD OF ALDERMEN PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:00 PM ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022, by President Wilshire

R-22-068

Endorsers: Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED TWO MILLION DOLLARS (\$2,000,000) FOR SCHOOL BUILDING SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Given its first reading; Assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE, BOARD OF EDUCATION, and SCHEDULE A SPECIAL BOARD OF ALDERMEN PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:00 PM ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022, by President Wilshire

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-22-026

Endorsers: Alderman Ernest A. Jette
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

AUTHORIZING STOP SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTION OF BLUEBERRY LANE AND OLD COACH ROAD

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

O-22-027

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

UPDATING THE ORDINANCES REGARDING TAXICAB LICENSING

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

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Matthew Gouthro

Good evening. Matthew Gouthro, 104 Fawn Lane. Tonight you voted on first reading for more bonding for two elementary schools which admittedly is necessary bringing them up to code and the City is lucky to have in conjunction the federal ESR funds to mitigate the HVAC costs because these projects have been continuously been bumped into a long-term deferred maintenance for years.

With that said, I'd like to draw you attention to a pattern in Nashua with planning and spending habits with our school buildings. We make a plan for a building or a property, the Resolution's endorser Alderman Dowd and the Planning Board pressure the JSSBC and the Board of Aldermen to make a rush decision without public input that says that if we're going to save us money. Then a few months later, the costs have escalated and the original estimate of the budget is scrapped. Some recent examples of this are the cost renovations like Franklin Street Preschool building. It is costing much more than the previous estimate and this building is still not in use for the 2022 school year. Another is \$9 million and bonding beyond the original Resolution for the budget of \$81 million to the new middle school build.

It's time to take a deeper look at the planning process for new builds and renovations. This process doesn't take into account general maintenance of the spaces that we already have and the general needs of the students in support and curriculum materials. With the rise of taxes and escalating costs and construction materials, we need to find better ways to approach these projects and move away from the old establishment politicians making deals.

Another topic entirely. It's nice that we have in Nashua to address our public health concerns like flu shots but as a parent here in Nashua, I'm appalled to learn that a 7 year old student at Birch Hill Elementary was vaccinated for influenza without parent consent last week. Since you control the purse strings of the Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services, I demand an investigation be made into this incident from the top down. Who holds the liability here? What would have happened if this child had an adverse reaction? Who's responsible for an error that cannot be undone? Therefore, I would like to respectfully request before you bang the gavel to end tonight's...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

30 seconds.

Matthew Gouthro

...meeting that you recommend that the independent investigation and audit of the Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services. We need to clearly determine that no minors receive medical treatment without parental consent here in Nashua and assurances can be made that the safety measures that should have been followed are going to be followed moving forward. Thank you.

Karen Bill

First of all, I'd like to ask you Donna if it would be okay if you didn't interrupt with the reminders. I don't need the reminder. I have my own device here with my minutes on here and it kind of takes away from people listening I feel. So Karen Bill, 95 Parnell Place, Nashua, NH.

August 18, 1920 - I know most of you weren't around but the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote. Okay. Imagine that if every time I went to vote this year I was met at the door demanding proof that women had the right to vote. Such archaic behavior would not be tolerated and probably holding back laughing because of the level of stupidity and disregard of the law. This would be in 2022. Here's another one that should make your blood boil. June 2, 1784 - amended in 1976 the people of New Hampshire, Article 8 of our Constitution reinforcing the existence of a right of access to public meetings and records by adding the government therefore be open, accessible, accountable, and responsive. On September 15th, I sent an email to Director Kleiner asking for the Nashua Property Cards to be put back online. They were always there and for some reason recently they've been taken away. So now if you want a property card, you have to come to City Hall and pay for it - .75 cents. So if I want to do an abatement and have some comps, I have to come to City Hall, stand in line, pay .75 cents per card that's not my own, use staff time, kind of ridiculous. The response I got back none. No response.

Earlier this year, she accused a member of the public of impersonating a City Hall employee. After a police investigation, it was found without merit. Character assassination without any consequences.

Today I called to ask a question from City Hall. Imagine my surprise when a person answered the phone on a first ring, was pleasant, answered my question politely, and we even shared a laugh. This is the example that all should follow as employees of City Hall. Bravo to Donna Graham for being a model of positivity and open communication in government. I've had positive interaction with John Griffin providing information about the true cost of barriers. Hey that would have been a tax savings right there along with the PAC being double budget. Thank God because every single email I sent to Director Cummings was ignored until I wrote one that said, "Pursuant to the Right-to-Know law", and then I got five words of an answer back. Its common place but I'd had my fill of people vilifying members of this community that come here, comment, send emails, and request information including myself. After the last fiasco at the Board of Aldermen meeting when Alderman Klee was comparing someone in this room to an insurgent with an army of people who want to overthrow Nashua, crazy. I'm a law abiding citizen. I pay my taxes on time. I think it's time that the employees and officials...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

...elected here step up and have to also obey those same laws. Thank you very much.

Laurie Ortolano

Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. Alderman Lopez you made some comment tonight about this unfortunate reevaluation that we had to do that had unintended consequences. I don't know what you were referring to because it was rather coded but I think it had to do with the fact that some people addressed issues in the Assessing Office, namely me in 2018, and it opened up this view to get a measure and list done. This was something that Attorney Bolton and Mayor Donchess got behind because we hadn't done a measure and list in 30 years. If you recall when the measure and list came forward, I actually said don't do it. I was opposed to that in spending that amount of money on a measure and list not believing that we'd get into that many homes and not believing we would resolve the issues which were really more interoffice regarding staffing and process. I wanted to see that improved before we went on the outside.

We got our new numbers from Vision. They did not provide any type of report for citizens like KRT did to inform us on what the general overall increase was, where the categories fell, we got nothing. We were then told that there was a shift between commercial and residential. There was no report done on that. I'd like to know what that shift is because right now the average home went up about 40%. Tax rate is coming down about 20%. That wasn't a 20% differential. There is other stuff going on there. We also had a concern with how depreciation was being applied and we were going to rework that and how we built condition on the home. We undertook that process. What was the result of that? We don't know. Was it effective? Was paying the \$1.3 million effective in fixing that problem? We have no idea. I'd be the first one to advocate not to do it again if it didn't work. I don't want to see money wasted like that. Just go back to an update for half a million dollars. So I think you're being very narrow-minded and you're uninformed about what we were really looking to do here and the fact that you as a Board don't have...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

1 minute.

Laurie Ortolano

...answers on what the outcome really is. You don't know.

So I also think that I'm very concerned when I hear Director Cummings is taking over for Miss Kleiner. I have a major concern with that because I view him as a major violator of open records laws. This guy is not good at that and he runs wild. He does it his own way. Beg for forgiveness afterwards I suppose but this guy isn't a people person and I don't think he's a people person for inside here.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

30 seconds.

Laurie Ortolano

I think you've got to start looking for people who are more aligned with what needs to be done for this City and have more skill-level. You didn't address what's going to happen to Economic Development when he moves over? Is he wearing all the hats? Maybe thirteen departments for one person isn't the right thing but I think that's a disaster pick and I know that is going to be a nightmare for people like me and other citizens but I think it's going to be a nightmare for people inside this City Hall. Thank you.

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

President Wilshire

I'll start over here tonight. Alderwoman Timmons?

Alderwoman Timmons

I think we made a great choice with Director Cummings, and I respect him, and he will do a good job. Other than that, I'm not going to say anything because it wouldn't be right.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam President. I have a few things. I just wanted to say thank you for having some public comment. We've only had one person recently so it's good to see more people come out on no matter what they say, it's great. I want to step up for Alderman Lopez. Very intelligent guy, no narrow-mind there.

So first thing is I want to congratulate North High School on beating South 47 to nothing in the Battle of the Bridge game. I also want to congratulate South for winning the Battle of the Bridge overall so despite losing that game. I'm a South person. I send my kids to South. Two of them have graduated and one still to go but I've coached many kids on both teams. They're great kids in both schools so I want to congratulate both of them.

Something I heard that concerned me a little bit from DPW that we have possibly about 100 street lights out in the City. I had one recently fixed. I helped Alderman Klee get one fixed in her area. Even when we were out there - me, Alderman Klee, Alderman Dowd at the Rocky Graziano Circle of Dedication, we looked up and we saw three that all that was hanging out was wires. And so my concern is it's going to start getting darker now. It is starting to get darker. Kids are going to come home from school. It's 4 o'clock, 4:30, whatever after school stuff and the lights in the City there will some throughout the City that aren't going to be lit. I don't know what the answer is there. It was hard to get one done. It took me a long time and I work at Eversource to try to get that one done. So if there's truly 99 more lights in the City, that's a concern for me because we'll have kids walking in the dark. With the recent thing that went on in Mine Falls, we need all the lights in the City that we can so I want to make sure that - I'm more than happy to help if there's any way I can help with DPW getting those done because I think that's a concern.

The last thing I want to mention and this may not be appropriate but I'm going to mention it anyway, it's actually something really good. Our Mayor Jim Donchess on Saturday night at the Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner got the Franklin D. Roosevelt Award. It's a prestigious award. What he won for was his stints as Mayor of the City, and how the City has grown, and how great the City has become over the 20 to 30 years in his double stints as Mayor. We continue to get good bond ratings. We continue to get magazines top 10 lists. I think you know we get a lot of criticism in the City but go to other cities, we have - I've said it a million times - we have a good City here despite the issues we have like any other growing City. We have a good City. We live in a great City and we have a good Mayor. I was very happy to be there to see him win that award and it goes to everything he's done for the City. So thank you.

Alderman Caron

Yes, thank you. First of all, I want to wish Kim Kleiner the best in her new position. I know she'll do a good job. I worked alongside with her on several projects and she always gave 100% so I wish her the best. I hate to see her go but, you know what, sometimes you have to move on to do better.

The other thing is that two weeks ago, the Nashua Senior Center was invited to participate in the Cultural Festival at Greeley Park. It was the first time I've been there. It was great. We had a wonderful time. We met a lot of people, and the Board of Directors, members that were there came up some ideas for next year because of their musical groups and things they had to try to bring them to our Senior Center and to be part of a couple of our major events that we run.

On that, Saturday is Motor Mania Day at the Senior Center from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. So old people would really enjoy coming with their cars. We'll have about 50 cars there in the parking lot and the Senior Center will be open so any Aldermen who has not had a tour, come on down and we'll have food and some entertain and what have you. So we're looking forward to participating along with the Telegraph this year. Thank you.

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you, Madam President. I know we emailed back and forth earlier this week but I want to wish Director Kleiner all the best in her future endeavors.

Other than that, we had our Wheels and Wings this past week at the Nashua Airport. Over 3,000 people came. It was a great event. Congratulations to DPW and Parks and Rec for putting it on. It was awesome.

Alderman Dowd

Yes. I just want to address the member of the public who spoke about the school projects. There's quite a bit of misinformation that he had. I would suggest he come to the meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 13th.

Just a couple things. Franklin Street we had issues there because of supply chain - two air-handlers just arrived. They're months late. The two outside stairs mandated by the City and State Fire Marshal were late coming in. The school was progressing along at a good pace but it's an older building and there were a lot of construction issues.

As far as the Main Dunstable/Birch Hill and the bonds, the reason for the expedited timing on that was driven by the State and federal government because of the ESR funds. All of that project has to be completed by 2024. There's a lot of work to be done and the schedule is compressed severely. That will all come out at that meeting.

Also as far as the security, there's not a lot of detail because it's security issues. Some of that will come out at that meeting as well. There's an excellent chance that that \$2 million will never have to be bonded because there's State and federal funds supposedly coming to cover that. As with anytime we have State and federal funding, it's a slow boat to China to get here. Again, it's on a timing issue and it's also a security issue so we're moving ahead.

And as far as the new school escalation of materials is a world-wide issue. We have managed it exceptionally well. We're looking at a school that's probably going to come in a little under \$80 million total. Some of that was caused by all the elements of the school going up in price but we've managed it quite well. The same school being envisioned in Concord was priced out at \$276 million. So I've had calls from the Union Leader and calls from many cities in the State of NH asking how are we getting this built at that low price. So it's certainly not an exceptional high price. We have done exceptionally well with it and again, the night of that meeting you'll get more information.

Alderman Comeau

Yes, thank you Madam President. I also wanted to congratulate South in winning the Battle of the Bridge. The football game didn't go exactly the way I had hoped but you win some you lose some. They walked it off last year not so much this year. But good competition on both sides.

I also wanted to bring this up. I did receive a couple of emails, and some phone calls, and I heard about it again tonight during public comment about the vaccination issue at one of the elementary schools. I do think this is something that should be looked into. First and foremost, I do support people that chose to get immunized. I think the flu shot is a good thing and I'm glad we have a lot of opportunities for people to do it and avenues to help people get it. I am concerned about a number of things here - primarily the health and safety of the children. DPHS doesn't have full medical histories on all these students. That's why they need consent forms to come back from the parents. So they don't know things like whether there's an allergy situation, the child could have already been immunized, there could be religious objections. That's why consent is so important. The parents all know the risk factors for their children, DPHS does not.

Also while it's not as important as the children's safety, I'm also concerned with the potential liability of the City, DPHS, the Board of Education, and us here on the Board of Aldermen if someone's child was injured by this program. Since Director Bagley has acknowledged that the incident did in fact take place and although it's unfortunate that we can't go back and fix it, I'm hoping that we can look forward now and come up with a process to ensure it doesn't happen again. I encourage DPHS to come up with a comprehensive plan to ensure greater set of controls is put in place to make sure that we are absolutely certain beyond any doubt that nothing like this will be possible again and I hope they will update the Board of Education and us here on the Board of Aldermen once that audit has been finalized and the plan has been developed.

Alderwoman Kelly

I wanted to thank Director Kleiner for her service and wish her well in her new role. She's done a lot for the City. I personally worked with her on Pride Month and other things and she's been incredible so I wish her well on that.

I also was going to comment about the school building projects but Alderman Dowd did a pretty good job. As a mom with a daughter who just finished at Main Dunstable, they've done a lot with what they've got but they definitely have some infrastructure needs there. I'm looking forward to seeing that happen as well as some security measures being put in place.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, Madam President. I wanted to take this opportunity to express my thanks to Kim Kleiner for her services in the City. I first met Kim when I was campaigning for Alderman-at-Large in 2007. Kim grilled me like no one else about what my positions were, particularly on education. Ever since that day, we've been close and we share the same points of view. But she has done a tremendous amount of work for the City both as a private citizen back then and then when she got on the School Board helping our custodians preventing them from Union busted by some of the members of the School Board at the time. To then moving to City Hall and working closely with the health insurance as was mentioned, the savings there, and also little things like the Court Street building and some of the tenants and working with some of them behind the scenes has been challenging. Kim has always been there to be that point of contact. She does a lot of different things. There's things that are Public that we all see, but then there is a lot of stuff behind the scenes too. So we are truly losing somebody who has really done a tremendous job for us. While it will be sad to see her go, I do wish her luck in her new endeavors and I'm glad she'll still be around in this community to continue to lend her support to the causes that she and I both believe in. So I truly will miss her in City Hall. Thank you.

Alderman Jette

Yes, thank you Madam President. So I've been away on vacation for a while and a lot has happened. When I came back - when I was on vacation, I didn't have cellphone service and had unreliable access to internet so I wasn't really aware of a lot that was going on but when I came back, I became aware that a lot of my constituents have written to me and called me about a proposal that's being heard by the Planning Board next Thursday night to build 44 townhouses at so-called Merritt Place at the Maplewood area. That's an area that Alderman Sullivan slid over into my Ward. I want people to understand I was away, I couldn't respond, and that's why you haven't heard from me. The meeting is this coming Thursday. I want people to understand that proposal is being made and is going to be heard by the Planning Board. It's not before the Board of Aldermen. The Board of Aldermen many years ago established that what's called a "flexible use overlay district" which there are only two or three of them in the City. In this particular flexible (FUOD), it was something that former Ward 5 Alderman, former Alderman-at-Large, former President to the Board of Alderman Brian McCarthy had a big role and also former Alderman, former Planning Director Kathy Hirsch, and a lot of other people about the planning.

We heard comments about the necessity for long-range planning. This was a long-range plan for a good part of the southwest quadrant of the City, which is located largely in Ward 5. It was a proposal to allow for the development of that area to allow for residential use and also commercial use. So that Ordinance talks about what can be done there and that Ordinance unlike other zoning ordinances, the provisions of that Ordinance and most other zoning ordinances you can appeal to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. In this flexible use overlay district, it's the Planning Board that hears appeals from the ordinance. There are very specific criteria that are enumerated in that ordinance about to guide the Planning Board on whether or not they can allow variances in essence or waivers they're called in that ordinance from the provisions of that ordinance.

So to my Ward 5 constituents if you object to the proposed use, your objections should be made to the Planning Board. If you go to the Planning Board agenda, there are specific instructions there and time limitations on when you can send emails or letters to the Planning Board. You can also appear at the meeting which will be held at the City Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. next Thursday. It's also available on Zoom. There are instructions on how you can make your voices known in those various ways. So to my Ward 5 constituents, I'm not the one that's going to be deciding and the Board of Aldermen is not going to be deciding whether this project can go forward or not. It's the Planning Board and they have very specific criteria that they have to look at in making this decision. I encourage you to look at the ordinance, look at the criteria, and if you feel that the proposal doesn't meet those criteria, let your voice known. Or on the other hand if you're in favor of this project, you can let them know that as well.

There's also that same night the Planning Board is also hearing a proposal to build ten single-family detached condominium units as part of a condominium conservation subdivision on Buck Meadow Road. That has gone before the Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission has won some adjustments to the plan. I encourage you to look at that and if you want to say anything about that, it will also be that Thursday night.

And also I have to say I say - I said this when the cable TV contract came before the Committee. I said it then and I just want to make it clear to the public that and I say this because I'm on the Cable TV Advisory Board. The contract that we have, the franchise that we have with Comcast, is not a monopoly. It does not grant Comcast the exclusive right to provide cable TV services in Nashua. It allows them to provide cable TV in Nashua. Any other entity can also make a proposal to provide cable TV in Nashua and they are entitled to the same benefits that this contract is giving Comcast. So Comcast doesn't have a monopoly. Just as someone else pointed out, I think you Madam President pointed out, Comcast has acquired over the years the infrastructure that is located. They've put up the wires to provide cable TV service to the City. Anyone else can do the same thing. We would encourage anyone else to compete with Comcast. We would love to see that but we are not in a position to do much about that. We have to wait for someone to come forward.

Now I understand that Consolidated is trying to compete in a way but it's a different - they're not providing cable TV. It's through the internet that they're going to be providing services but I just wanted to make it clear to people. The contract we did negotiate with Comcast. We did win some concessions from Comcast. They are providing an additional public access channel - a hi-definition channel and they are providing monetary payments in addition to that. So there are various concessions that we did get but it's very limited to what we can do. It's largely controlled by federal law. So your constituent and other people out there - I know they're always complaining about Comcast.

I just want to make it clear that it's not an exclusive contract but we're very limited as to what we can do. We have nothing to do with what they charge and the services that they perform. If you have complaints, we can hear the complaints. We do have a relationship with them and we can advocate to try to help people with that but we haven't given them an exclusive right. It's not a monopoly. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

Yeah, I'd like to – I probably should say something in remarks to what the Mayor was commenting on but I'd like to congratulate Miss Brown for her energy savings initiatives. I think Nashua has definitely lead the way in a lot of different areas in addition to us locking our rates down which is nice. We've also looked at green energy and alternative energy sources which save taxpayers a lot of money whether it's a CNG buses that are driving around running off the natural gas that we extrude from our own landfills, or whether it's solar installations at our schools offsetting costs, or the ongoing efforts of the Electric Aggregate Committee to try to help Nashua turn it's hydroelectric capabilities into being a utility provider. We look at a lot of different ways to save taxpayers monies and I think there is a danger in presenting to the public only one possible solution, only one mechanism, or you know demonizing people that are largely very effective at running a successful City by creating a strongman and saying well if they don't do this, then they're not good enough. I think we need to have a holistic approach if we're going to continue to be effective.

I want to congratulate Miss Kleiner on her future opportunities. She will be very much missed. I found her to be a very diligent, hardworking, and patient person. She like many City employees has taken a lot of very negative comment and push back from individuals using public comment, which is a very difficult position for a non-elected employee to be in where they're trying to do their job but the public has an opinion on how they do their job because it's a public job. Working in the public sector is not easy. She has shown a lot of leadership and a lot of innovation over very difficult times which I appreciate.

On the topic mentioned in public comment of character assassination, I recall myself that she didn't make comments accusing members of the public of things. I believe she read a statement by one of our vendors that was communicated to us to advise the Board of Aldermen of a concern. That's my recollection at least.

With regard to the comments that were directed at me with regards to me speaking in code, my comments stand for themselves and I think people can understand them pretty clearly. It was my understanding that there was a group of people that were pushing for the revaluation and that was what the taxpayers wanted. For an individual to self-identify as a precipitant of that, the truth speaks to itself. If it does, other individuals in public comment who are on record as repeatedly using profanity came up and said in public comment that they believed it was intended directed towards them but they were baited into using it. So you don't always get people taking accountability for things. Sometimes you get people taking credit for things that they may not really deserve credit for. I don't know where code comes in with that. I think I have a right to express my opinions as Alderman as I was elected as Alderman. I think the public has a right to speak in public and they are accountable for the things that they say in public.

On a more personal and pressing note for me, I'm hearing more constituent concerns about people who are unsheltered, people who are homeless, more people who are presenting behavioral issues, and dysregulation. It's getting colder out. People who are easy to ignore in our daily lives who are struggling nightly and we've had a tremendous amount of rain these last couple of days. Imagine having nowhere to stay. We don't have programs to meet everybody's needs in Nashua. We have a fantastic organization with Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelters that does their best to meet their needs of the populations that their mission supports but there is a large number of people who are struggling with substance misuse and mental health issues who regardless of what their personal challenges are end up homeless, end up unsheltered. Our City is not meeting those needs. Our citizens see that happening and they don't know what to do. So I think it's a good reminder as always to support the organizations doing the work. Support Revive. They're working on recovery efforts - a peer-based recovery program. Support Rise Above, support the Soup Kitchen, support Stepping Stones which is working to help youth homelessness be addressed and help kids who are unsheltered. Support the new initiatives that are coming forward to provide low income housing and workforce housing.

The people of Nashua see things that are happening around them and they feel they are not equipped to do it but often I can say working in non-profits and directly with those populations, the support, and the resources, and the supplies that lead to success come from individuals. So as it gets colder and we all start to think about the holidays, and Thanksgiving, and our own personal gratitude for the different privileges that we have, don't for a second doubt your ability to extend that to others. I think it's important to remember at this particular time of the year as the nights do get longer and the days do get colder. Thank you.

Alderman Moran

Thank you Madam President. One - I would just like to express my best wishes to Director Kleiner. I met her several years ago when I ran the Safe Station Program and I've always found her to be very engaged, very intelligent, a very strong advocate for people with mental health and substance abuse disorder. It's very hard around City Hall to find anyone who has a negative thing to say about her. So I do wish her the best of luck on her endeavors.

Kudos to the City Employees that keep on saving us money and the taxpayers' money. It's great to hear that about the

utility rate coming down for a lot of our accounts.

To my Jewish brothers and sisters, I'd like to wish you a Happy Yom Kippur. I believe it ends tonight and then - no, Rosh Hashanah is today. Ends tonight. Yom Kippur is next week. So I want to wish them all a great celebration of their holidays.

The Egyptian Festival was a couple of weekends ago. I could not make it to the Cultural Connections Fair at Greeley or the Touch a Truck. I had a lot of things going on that Saturday, but the Egyptian Festival was wonderful. My kids enjoyed it, great food, a lot of activities for everyone, and it's great to expose my children to different cultures around the City. I'm glad that Nashua has so many diverse opportunities to do that. It's just wonderful and I think that's all I have.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you, Madam President. Best wishes to Director Kleiner. I had the opportunity to meet her. We met. I was President of Nashua West Rotary. She came in while I was President there so we did get to meet. She was a great member and she'll be missed for sure.

Tonight we heard first readings of some bonding that's going to be coming towards the City. I myself will be scrutinizing each and every project. I will be because interest rates, regardless of credit score or bond rating, have gone up and it all adds up and it falls on the backs of Nashua taxpayers. I think it's important that you ask four key questions: Why this project? Why now? Who benefits? A question I often ask of legislation that comes before this body what happens if we do nothing? The cost of inaction. So those are questions that I'm going to be asking of each and every project that we bond because what we borrowed money for even six months ago is not what we're borrowing money for now. Because there's a lot of people around the kitchen table in Nashua tonight that have to make hard decisions and sometimes have to push off what they want to do but can't until a further date. So I would just make sure that we scrutinize each and every project as it comes before us. I'm happy to see that we now have some time to vet these projects and to ask these questions. I'll be asking the questions and I would ask all my colleagues to do the same. Thank you.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Madam President. I, too, would like to offer Director Kleiner my best wishes in her future endeavors. Did work with her on several projects within the City and she's done a phenomenal job. Unfortunately when you work for the City, and I'm talking even from my 35 years of experience being on the Fire Department and remember one particular incident when the guy across the street nearly cut his arm off. Do you think he ever came over to the station to thank us for saving his arm? It just doesn't happen but you hold no malice. But what we fortunately have in this City are dedicated people. Kim Kleiner was one. So again, wish her the best of luck.

Alderman Timmons I'm so glad you mentioned the Arlington Street project. Many years I spent in that fire station next door and it was vacant for a while and now look at it. Positive situation for the community and the City at large. So, again, she has left her foot print.

And then I would also like to wish Director Tim Cummings best of luck into his new position. To me, it proves that the Mayor seems to make some wise choices. As we hear in Patriot's football next man up and in this situation, it looks like we have the depth on our team of somebody that can come in and seem to do well. So you know I wish him, again, the best.

And Mr. Mayor I'm so glad you mentioned Doria Brown. As you know when I was up at Concord not being fiscally conservative or anything else, but I worked with the projects of the two dams that we're very fortunate to have in Nashua and worked with Doria Brown as you remember in the net metering project and got that through, which was extremely difficult at that particular time. I kind of wish every single one of you Aldermen would join me up at the State House. I know several of you have done it. I see Alderman Caron turn away. Yes, she did do it. Alderman Moran, Alderman Klee and even yourself Madam President because it is extremely important. To Alderman Gouveia in your current position, you understand what is happening up there for \$100 a year pay. In 1969, I was making more money annually collecting and delivering the Boston Globe. If the taxpayers of the City don't want to elect me again, I'll go out and get the paper route again to make up the \$100 loss but why do you do it?

I can tell you why you do it because you are concerned with the City. To me why every single Aldermen should perhaps maybe consider becoming a State Rep. to me is very important. How does one hand know what the other hand up at the State level is doing? There's a lot of things. There's a lot of bills. Check my voting record. I'm proud of it. Look at my percentile in voting, I'm proud of it. Even with my medical condition, extremely proud of it. My attendance has been good. But look at the issues, yes a lot of us and I'm very proud of the 27 other members of our delegation and work. They have

tried to stem the tide but when you're in the minority party, you don't always get what you want. Even like trying to save the \$2 million in the pension issue. So what do you do? You can pick yourself up, you dust your clothes off, and you go back into the arena and fight again for another day, and I will do that up in Concord.

My wife thinks I'm a fool for doing it but to me you just don't spent as I do 35 years of protection to the City of Nashua and walk away and not care and I do care. To me, this is my City. My kids went to school here. They're all eating with the correct knife and fork, we are blessed. We've got a roof over the head. So it's well worth my personal investment into this and well worth the time. I would like to invite all my constituents up for lunch but keep in mind its \$100 per year, bring a brown bag. So we'll leave it at that. Thank you Madam President.

President Wilshire

You're welcome. I, too, would like to offer my best to Director Kleiner. She has been a good and excellent employee for the City. She's brought a lot of talent here and I think she'll be missed.

I also want to address what Alderman Comeau had to say to you Mayor in hopes that we would not have a child in our City that's vaccinated without consent. So I'm concerned about that too. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Madam President, there is an investigation.

President Wilshire

Okay. Thank you, Mayor.

Committee announcements:

Alderman Moran

Thank you, Madam President. So next month we've added an additional PEDC meeting. We had a lot going on so October 12th we're going to actually have Director Sullivan, the new Planning Manager Sam Durfee, Chief Buxton and/or his designee, maybe the Fire Marshal will be there to talk about rezoning up on Amherst Street. They're going to make a presentation to PEDC and get direction on where we want to go and potentially adding some residential overlay to some existing commercial properties around Building 19. Then the following meeting will be on October 18th to further the conversation about outdoor dining fees for businesses. I hope everyone can come to both meetings. Thank you.

Alderman O'Brien

Just to make everyone aware, you have this month off as far as Infrastructure. There is a bill that did come through on this reading but needs to be investigated by traffic so therefore, enjoy your time off and we'll see you next month.

Alderman Lopez

I'm trying to make sure I get the right date here. Our next Human Affairs Committee in October, we're supposed to be getting, I believe, a public hearing and a presentation on some upcoming HOME funds allocations. So the public may want to be aware of that. The Urban Planning Department is planning on putting out an announcement to collect input on that too and that is ARPA funding that specifically should be going towards populations that may be dealing with homelessness such as people experiencing domestic violence, substance use, etc.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Anyone else Committee announcements?

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN THAT THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2022, MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BE ADJOURNED
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Attest: Dan Healey, City Clerk