

A special meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, October 8, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

President Lori Wilshire presided; City Clerk Susan K. Lovering recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Susan K. Lovering; Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws led in the Pledge to the Flag.

The roll call was taken with members of the Board of Aldermen 11 present; Alderwoman Shoshanna Kelly, Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja, Alderman Jan Schmidt, and Alderman Tom Lopez were recorded absent.

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

**President Wilshire turned the meeting over to Alderman Caron, Chair of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee, to conduct the public hearing.**

President Wilshire

I did hear from Alderwoman Kelly that she is unable to join us this evening; Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja is unable to join us this evening; and Alderman Schmidt is on vacation. I am going to turn the meeting over to Alderman Caron, the Chair of the Personnel Administrative Affairs Committee to conduct the Public Meeting.

Alderman Caron gave a brief overview of R-19-162 before the Board heard public testimony.

Alderman Caron

Good evening the Meeting will begin with a Public Hearing on R-19-162 relative to a ballot referendum to allow sports betting within the City of Nashua. So we are going to start with testimony in favor.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**R-19-162**

### **RELATIVE TO A BALLOT REFERENDUM TO ALLOW SPORTS BETTING WITHIN THE CITY OF NASHUA**

Testimony in Favor

James Rafferty Good evening and thank you for this opportunity. My name is James Rafferty and I am a citizen of the City of Nashua. I live at Jackson Falls and I also own a business on High Street; 53 High Street, called the River Casino & Sports Bar. We are very engaged with all things funded exciting for our City. We are here tonight to talk about Sports Betting. I just want to make a couple of points. I think that Sports Betting will do several things for us that are positive for our community.

One it will provide more fun for the people of our City and regional sports betters, gamblers, fun-seeking people who enjoy the environment that I provide at my business; which is, in my view, as solid, good, clean American fun as can be had anywhere. Sports Betting will provide my charity partners and 35% of all our proceeds on our gaming side goes to charities, that is over \$3 million dollars for the 12 years we've been doing this in the region. It will also help my business become a stronger and more vibrant business, like many entertainment businesses, I need a new way to have fun almost every year. Sports Betting will give us that nice boost and a competitive boost as it just gets more competitive in the gaming and entertainment business in our region.

Sports Betting will also bring dollars through the Lottery Programs, significant dollars through the Lottery Programs to help education. Sports Betting will also I think bring a new level of entertainment to the whole region and a way to enjoy, these are some of the favorite things people do in our region, the Patriots and the

Celtics and the Red Sox. It is just another way to get involved in those games. People really want to get involved at multiple levels; they are tired of sitting back and just watching and listening to the announcers. They want to interact with those games, they want to be part of those games with their friends and they can do that if Sports Betting, as proposed, in the Great State of New Hampshire is approved.

The one thing that I would say that you know Sports Betting will not do, it is not going to answer all of the problems of how do we find better entertainment for our citizens. It's not going to be the silver bullet for the success for my business. Sports Betting in reality we've seen it for 40 years that I've been involved with the gaming business; it is a low margin business. It is just tough to make money with Sports Betting and I've closed a lot of books in Nevada because they didn't make enough money. Because people are really good at this stuff, you know, they really study it, they are really engaged, they are really happy doing it, it is a good pastime for them. But we shouldn't expect this to be the wherewithal. Hopefully the State can make the money that they hope to make out of it. I think it is really good for our State budget. But it is not the silver bullet for my business or any others. But you should support Sports Betting. It is a great thing; it is a great opportunity for us here in Nashua. We should be out in front of it just like when we voted for Keno and that ends up being a very good product for some of our businesses here in town, including mine. Thank you very much.

Alan Brouillard Good evening, my name is Alan Brouillard, 20 Main Street, Nashua, New Hampshire. I strongly support that this referendum be allowed on the ballot and that it be passed. I hold in my hand 6 legal tickets purchased in Las Vegas, Nevada. I have multiple visits to Las Vegas in my life and one of the things I've always liked about Las Vegas is making a Sports Wager or a Future's Wager. Who is going to win the next Superbowl? Who is going to win the next Stanley Cup?

The Supreme of the United States in its infinite wisdom recently decided that Nevada should not have a monopoly on this and allowed the States to individually set their rights on this subject. The New Hampshire Legislature has approved a Bill, the Governor signed it and now it is before us.

Sports Wagering is one of the very few wagers that you make an intelligent decision and bet accordingly. With no disrespect friends at the New Hampshire State Lottery Commission, unlike buying a scratch ticket or playing Megabucks, you have some direct thought process on what you want to do. It is entertaining, it can be very lucrative if you put time and research into it. If it was allowed in New Hampshire, I would gladly, instead of traveling to other States, spend time in the City and as the gentleman just said, probably play more games of chance which would help the local economy and the local charities. It is a situation where its time has come. We are also going to be, very soon, surrounded by other States that are going to allow this to happen. Right now if I wanted to, I could go to Rhode Island, and I am sure very soon this will be allowed in the State of Massachusetts, right over the border at the new Encore Casino in Boston.

So it is an idea whose time has come. I am strongly in favor of the proposal and I hope you see accordingly and enact it. Thank you very much.

Testimony in Opposition

Testimony in Favor

Testimony in Opposition

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO ADJOURN  
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Attest: Susan K. Lovering, City Clerk