

A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 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 Richard A. Dowd led in the Pledge to the Flag.

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

The roll call was taken with 13 members of the Board of Aldermen present: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Klee, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Jette, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Comeau, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Gouveia, Alderman Caron, Alderman Thibeault, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Wilshire.

Alderman Moran and Alderman Clemons were recorded absent.

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

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Donchess

Thanks Madam President. Well first I wanted to report that S&P reiterated, reaffirmed the City's AAA bond rating. This is really good news is a testament to these strong management and financial controls that CFO Griffin and his Finance team have put in place. But what they cite specifically a number of things but they talk about prudent budgeting practices, which include conservative revenue, and expenditure assumptions, and consistent budget monitoring. They also cite that in Fiscal '22 Nashua recorded its seventh consecutive surplus supported by lower than budget expenditures and stronger revenues, especially from motor vehicles and other fees and fines. They cite that the City has a very strong cash position and strong cash reserves. In addition to that, I mean we definitely got credit for the fact that the economy is strong here. They say that the Nashua Center for the Arts together with a Riverfront Development Plan, which I will mention in a minute, should spur further economic activity in Nashua's downtown. They cite the fact that BAE is the City's largest employer is planning a significant expansion which could increase even further it says if BAE receives additional funding under the federal government's CHIPS and Science Act. That I will mention when I mentioned the escrows. So this is a credit to again our Finance team but also all of you for helping with sound budgeting. I think we should be proud to be part of a City that has a AAA bond rating from two different agencies. This is very rare and we just need to keep up the good work I believe.

Number two. The New Hampshire Community Power has reported to us that they believe that Nashua consumers have saved \$2.8 million since April as a result of our decision to move into Community Power. Of course you know this is because the City purchases energy for our consumers as opposed to Eversource. Eversource continues to deliver, to distribute, and get paid for all of its activities but the one area where the Nashua Community Power undertakes the work is to buy the actual power. So far in two different periods of time - first April through August and then September forward. The price that the Nashua Community Power has been able to secure power at undercuts the Eversource rate. Eversource does not produce. Eversource buys power itself. It doesn't produce any and therefore \$2.8 million in savings have been realized and this goes to the bottom line of our residents' family budgets every month. So that certainly is good news.

We have escrows on tonight. These were reviewed by the Budget Committee and were unanimously recommended. There's a little bit of detail to it but this comes from unexpended revenues. Areas where various departments did not fully well save money and did not spend everything in the budget. The principle purposes for which the escrows are directed are based basically the Police and Fire Departments for facilities. In the case of the Fire Department for a facility study and in the Police Department, there's also some IT improvements that are being made which they feel are very necessary. There's a significant amount, \$500,000, going to school maintenance projects. When this came up before the Budget Committee, Shawn Smith was asked. Shawn Smith from the School Department was asked, you know, what is your backlog? His answer was \$15 million. So of projects that he has on his list, so this will make some progress towards that. Aldermen Dowd often points out that we have at least a billion dollars' worth of school buildings in the City and so \$500,000 to maintain their shape is certainly not an excessive amount of money.

Finally Madam President, I wanted to mention a really good event that happened today and some of the members of the Board were able to attend. We had the groundbreaking for the first segment of the Riverfront Development Project which Standard and Poor's referred to - S&P referred to. This was the ramp that will make the Cotton Transfer Bridge fully handicap accessible so people with disabilities will be able to enter the bridge and leave the bridge from either end. Right

now the south end is able to accommodate with a ramp people with disabilities. The river was really beautiful. You can see what a wonderful body of water it is. What we have coming and going out to bid soon, everything has been designed and this will be put out to bid soon but we have expanded walkways, lighting, docking, and expanded Riverfront Park, and in the end and suspended walkways around all four corners of the of the Main Street Bridge. In the end, we will have a project - a riverfront that people really want to visit, I believe, and will be an incredible enhancement to the downtown and to the City as a whole.

Just returning Madam President for a moment to the escrows, the thing I left out there is that there is \$200,000 to serve as a match for the \$35 million CHIP Grant which BAE is seeking. That is a necessary part of the grant, a local match, a local contribution. They BAE are optimistic that they can get this money and \$35 million would come from the federal government but they also would put in a lot of money. Many of us toured their chip facility down in the south end. They would upgrade all of their equipment, add employees, and just remain a cutting edge competitive, high-tech, defense and civilian economy manufacturer. So that obviously is a wise expenditure of money in my opinion.

In any event, it was a great day on the riverfront. The weather was great and it's just nice to get that project started. With that Madam President, I will conclude.

President Wilshire

Thank you Mayor.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you Mr. Mayor for the work on Nashua Community Power. That's great savings. You know a couple of things there. One - being that, you know, we can always get the tax rate down as low as we want to but when we're saving money other places instead, that certainly helps the taxpayer.

On the other piece, I don't think we're saving enough because I think people are still - some of them are still on suppliers or third party suppliers which didn't automatically go over to Nashua Community Power. I was walking the neighborhood the other day and I met one man. We were talking about taxes and I went in and asked him about Nashua Community Power. He said that I'm still on third party supplier. He was still wary of what it was and so I explained it to him. He's like I gotta get on that so I told him how to do it. So I just think there's people that either haven't heard about it, don't know about it. I mean there's no newspaper really anymore so I think there's more people out there that could go on it. We could save more for the taxpayers so thank you.

RECOGNITION PERIOD - None

READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the minutes of the special and regular Board of Aldermen meetings of October 10, 2023 be accepted, placed on file, and the readings suspended.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING ONLY PROCEDURAL ACTIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS

From: Sam Durfee, Planning Manager

Re: Referral from the Board of Aldermen on proposed Ordinance O-23-059, amending the Land Use Code Notice Provisions Table and the Historic District Commission

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the communication and placed it on file.

PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT RELATIVE TO ITEMS EXPECTED TO BE ACTED UPON THIS EVENING

Laurie Ortolano

Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. First I'd like to address the escrow money. I came out for the hearing and I talked about the large number of escrow accounts we have in this City. I think it would be prudent for the Board when you look at creating these escrow accounts with extra money that you're doing yearly to get a report from the City on all of the escrow accounts and take a look at them. I think there's a lot of overlap. There's a lot of overlap in Building, Parks & Rec., and I think that it should be consolidated, and I think it should be cleaned up because those escrow accounts do put

a burden on the Finance office to maintain all of them. So I think it would be good for everyone to just know that when it comes.

Let's see. The other thing I wanted to address was the cyber security money and the transfer of money. I'm hoping and wondering if there's a way that a citizen can track the spending that's been done on that. Like if I put an information request in or didn't have to for change if I could say what was spent so far and I could get an answer for that. I'd like to think that we have that ability with our projects and I'm concerned with some of them that we don't and things that happen.

The third item is going to be the ordinance that has to do with amending the Land Use Code notice provision table. I don't know exactly what this applies to but I'm hoping at some point the Board will address some of these noticing provision Land Use Code for parcels that have maintained a code that allow them not to require noticing but they're in very residential areas. Like what happened to that condo development over by an NHTI where the crematorium is going in right next to it.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Laurie Ortolano

So it's a whole lot of people and families tightly packed, very middle income. They're not going to be able to move and a ranch sold right on the end and the ranch was zoned for the type of zoning that didn't require a public hearing. It was bought by a funeral home to do a crematorium. So you know 50 feet out people's doors will be this crematorium because it was allowed to go in and by the time that people knew it...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

30 seconds.

Laurie Ortolano

...it was too late. I think we should look at some of those areas and carefully consider whether we need to change them and we should do it also with our Downtown Improvement Plan in some of the areas as well because there's a lot of residential now going in. That's what we're building. Thanks.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING FINAL APPROVAL - None

PETITIONS - None

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS - None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Finance Committee 10/04/2023

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the October 4, 2023 Finance Committee be accepted and placed on file.

Special Committee on Infrastructure 10/04/2023

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the October 4, 2023 Special Committee on Infrastructure be accepted and placed on file.

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-23-157

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
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,054,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTO VARIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT ACTIVITIES

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-157
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-23-157 declared duly adopted.

R-23-158

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

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$331,539 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INTO TRANSIT GRANT ACTIVITY "FEDERAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY ("FTA") OPERATING GRANT"

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-158
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-23-158 declared duly adopted.

R-23-159

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 \$110,000 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY "FY2024 HAZARDOUS DEVICE UNIT EQUIPMENT GRANT"

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN TIMMONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-159
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-23-159 declared duly adopted.

R-23-160

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

RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF \$150,000 FROM DEPARTMENT #194 "CONTINGENCY", ACCOUNT #70125 "CONTINGENCY CYBERSECURITY" INTO VARIOUS ACCOUNTS IN DEPARTMENT #122 "INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY" AND DEPARTMENT #191 "EDUCATION"

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CARON FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-160
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-23-160 declared duly adopted.

R-23-161

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

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDS PURSUANT TO CONTRACT AMENDMENT #4 OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR THE PURCHASE OF VACCINES

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-161
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-23-161 declared duly adopted.

R-23-162, AMENDED

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE RE-APPROPRIATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2024 ESCROWS

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD TO AMEND R-23-162 BY REPLACING IT WITH THE GOLDEN ROD COPY OF AMENDMENTS MADE AT THE BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Dowd

On the list of changes, the line one is reduced by \$25,000, a line two was added to fund the cost to tree removal for \$25,000. The same amount, total amount it was the same at \$1,815,000.

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

Yea:	Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Klee, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Jette, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Comeau, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Gouveia, Alderman Caron, Alderman Thibeault, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Wilshire	13
Nay:		0

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-162 AS AMENDED 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 Lopez, Alderman Jette, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Comeau, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Gouveia, Alderman Caron, Alderman Thibeault, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Wilshire	13
Nay:		0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-23-162 declared duly adopted as amended

R-23-167

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

APPROVING THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC WORKS MUTUAL AID PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE RELATED MUTUAL AID AND ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-167

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Comeau

So this came before the Finance Committee recently. We got a good presentation from Department of Public Works and from the Office of Emergency Management. I think this is pretty much a no brainer. It makes absolute sense for us to be able to solicit mutual aid from surrounding communities for when not if we end up needing them. Not only that, I think that

it speaks to the good work and the professionalism of all of our departments that the surrounding communities would want to be able to seek our mutual aid in turn. So I think the agreement makes total sense and I look forward to its passage. Thank you.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I want to add to the perfect verbiage over there but one of the things that was also pointed out was that if the last storms that we had gotten were much worse and had actually come as were predicted, we would have been in a whole lot of hurt. So the sooner we get something like this into place the better off we are. I agree that it speaks to volumes as to them needing us and us needing them. We are a very large community outside of even Nashua and New Hampshire so thank you.

Alderman O'Brien

Yes thank you, Madam President. I don't know how many members of the Board know this but being a State Rep. up in Concord, we did vote and it was approved. Our Public Works Department is part of the first responder program and that includes police, firefighters, EMS, and now rightfully so Public Works. So this seems to fit hand in glove to work along with this and fully supported. Thank you.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-23-167 declared duly adopted.

UNFINISHED 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 second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-23-059

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Jette

Thank you. So I cannot support this Ordinance and let me give you my reasons. What this Ordinance does is several things. The first thing is that it eliminates the necessity to publish in a newspaper of general circulation notice of applications before the Historic District Commission. I'd like to just remind people that I'm reading from the Ordinances regarding Historic Districts purpose and findings. "This article contemplates that the future of the City will be enhanced by recognizing and strengthening the City's heritage. The preservation of structures and places of historic and architectural value is hereby declared to be a public purpose. This section preserves districts in the City that reflect elements of its cultural, social, economic, political, and architectural history. Conserves property values in such districts, fosters civic beauty, strengthens the local economy, and promotes the use of historic districts for the education, pleasure, and welfare of the citizens of the City. The City hereby finds that the loss of historical or architectural least significant structures through demolition, alteration, moving, or incompatible new construction contributes to the destruction of the unique character of the City."

I read that just to remind us that the Historic District is not just a concern of the people who live in the Historic District or the people in that general neighborhood. It concerns and is valued by the entire City. Everybody in the City and what this Ordinance does - the first thing it does is it eliminates the publication in a local newspaper, a newspaper of general circulation of a notice that the Historic District is being asked to approve something that's going to affect that district. So a lot of people get their notice of these things by looking at the local newspaper - the Nashua Telegraph. I know that some of us have pointed out that the Telegraph isn't what it used to be and we regret that. But the fact is there are still over 8,000 people who receive the Telegraph on a weekly basis - the actual newspaper. There are over 100,000 who view it

electronically. So when you think about those 8,000 newspapers that are delivered, how many people are looking at that newspaper? It could be zero. I don't think it's zero but it also could be the 8,000 homes. The homes are occupied by more than one person usually. The number of people that are able to get notice through the Telegraph are a substantial number.

Now during the presentation during the Committee meeting, the reason that was given to the Committee members and those of us who were there were that the Telegraph just doesn't reach as many people as it used to and it's become more expensive. I value the notice that's given to our citizens about what we're doing. I don't know about you people but I'm constantly being told by my constituents and other people in the City that they oftentimes have no idea what's going on. I've heard that complaint voiced about things that happened before the Zoning Board and the Planning Board. The people were just unaware that something was going before them. They complain about otherwise being unaware. So maybe the newspaper isn't reaching as many people as it used to but it's reaching a lot of people. I don't think that we ought to be removing it from that one of the vehicles that we have to notify the citizens about what is going on. In this case, in this particular instance, it regards the Historic District.

During the presentation, it was said that signs are a more effective way. Those little signs that you see notifying people of a change that's being proposed. The Planning Department says they've had positive feedback from the use of those signs but I wonder how many – do those signs reach 8,000 people or 100,000 people? I doubt it but I don't really know. But the thing about the signs is that you know unless you're driving by or walking by the location of where this is going to be affected, you're not going to know. So people that live in other parts of the City would not be alerted to this change by that little sign. So that's one of the reasons that I oppose this Ordinance.

The other thing that this Ordinance does is that it reduces the number of days for which those signs have to be up. Now there are several instances including the Historic District where the signs have to be up for a minimum of 10 days. There are, I think, four or five other situations where those signs have to be up for 10 days. This Ordinance is going to reduce that to five days. I just don't think that's enough time. By the time people if they go by, if they drive by and see the sign, they've either - the sign just alerts you that something's going on. To find out what is actually going on, you have to get out of the car, go up to the sign, and read it because it's a small notice or call the Planning Department ask them what's going on, or go online, do some research.

It was pointed out by one of the Alderman who's on the Planning committee that if you if you want to submit something in writing, you've got to do it by a certain deadline. So when you think of the five days, the amount of time - you get to see the sign, you figure out what it's talking about, you do some research, you formulate what you want to say. I just don't think it's enough time. I think 10 days is a small amount of time but to reducing it from the 10 days, I just think is a big mistake. The Planning Department said that the reason they're looking for that is because number one, it's the State law in a lot of these instances only requires a minimum of five days. We've had more than that. I don't think that's a bad thing. I think we ought to provide as much notice as we can to the citizens.

The other reason they gave was that the applicant, the people seeking a change in Historic District, or site plan review, a variance, special exception, conditional use permit, those people are on tight schedules. By the time their meeting is scheduled and they're alerted to it, they have to come up and pick up their signs and getting it up 10 days before the meeting can be a problem. Rather than giving up the notice to the citizens, I would rather change the schedule so that you allow - you schedule the meeting far enough out so the people have the time to put the signs up and provide the 10 days. So that's another reason that I'm opposed to this Ordinance. I made some of these points to the Committee and the Committee recommended passage unanimously for the Committee members that were there. I'm hoping that the members of the Committee who voted for this might have a second thought about it and I'm hoping the rest of you would support me in and opposing this Ordinance. I really feel strongly that we ought to be giving our citizens more notice not less and that's what this Ordinance does. Thank you.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I was at that same meeting and I have to agree with what the Alderman from Ward 5 has said. I commented that many of my constituents like the signs because they say they're walked by it and they see it. We're coming into more foul weather of snow. We've always hit some rain and so on. I do have anxiety about lessening this. As a person who is on the Planning Board and on the Historic District Commission, I hear people come in and I hear about all the delays and so on. So I do have some sympathy as far as that's concerned. If they could shorten these days, they could get them into the committees and so on but my concern is also for the public. If there is a property that's going to be having some work done in the Historic District that could affect my property values and so on, I would want to know that. I would want enough time to be able to do this.

So I don't think that I can support this. I want to hear what other people have to say. I don't have an issue with it not being in the newspaper because I think that signage and maybe some other do - it was a significant amount of money that was going to be saved and we keep trying to save the taxpayers money but then we have to weigh it. Are we saving the taxpayers money to what extent? Are we doing it on the backs of those that that reside around there? So I think we need to really think about this. I do have some concerns about it. I respect those that have brought it forward but the more I look at it, the more kind of angst that I have towards some of this. So I don't really believe that I can support it either for most of the reasons that the Alderman from Ward 5 had brought up and so on. So thank you.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Madam President. Well I'm gonna support it based nothing more than on practicality. Yeah I do have a waxing nostalgic and do wish the Telegraph was printed daily. I like the tactile feel of sitting there at my kitchen table in the morning with the newspaper but you know something folks, it ain't happening anymore. Unless somebody here in the audience or in the City wants to start a periodical, I don't see it happening again unfortunately. It is a lot of money to publish it. This has really, truly nothing with the architectural needs of the Historic Commission. It's basically just trying to get the information out there. If we use all the Ward 5 Alderman's numbers and my numbers of 8,000 people read the Telegraph, it must be online or the one paper that they do publish which is Sunday of 8,000 people, it's basically only 12% of the population. Is that worth the cost involved?

Now, they're not going to stop putting up the signs where people can see them. When it comes down to who's really affected, are you really affected a critical if you live six streets away or are you affected if you are within that street? The thing is if you live on that street and they come and post - we've all seen it, they look like a political sign - then basically the people that really should be notified would be notified and then express it. Maybe there might be some way we can get it on our website. There's a lot of things that have fallen through the cracks in different meetings. I wish the Telegraph existed. It would stop some of the bull crap that is really going on of which is the fact and which is the lie. I have no smoke and mirrors in my pockets and I wish there was a periodical but it doesn't exist. So I think we better come and even though it's waxing nostalgia, accept what we are left with in the modern era. Thank you.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you very much. So I sponsored this and my colleague from Ward 5 makes a compelling argument and I'm thinking about joining him in the no column. I watched the meeting because I sponsored the legislation and I wanted to know a little bit more about it. As I watched the meeting, what I didn't hear and I saw Mr. Durfee out in the audience tonight and perhaps we could invite him up because the one question that I had was what problem are we trying to solve or what goal are we trying to achieve by passing this? I was hoping we could ask him and he could answer that.

President Wilshire

All set Mr. Durfee? Okay.

Sam Durfee, Planning Manager

Thank you. Thank you for your question Alderman Sullivan. So this Ordinance is really trying to address four key things. So besides the Telegraph which is one, and I will put a number to that, and we're looking at costs in excess of \$10,000 a year for notification requirements. The table itself if you look at it, there are a number of references to State Statutes. Some of these have changed or were originally inaccurate when this table was first drafted. So we are looking to correct those, bring everything into compliance from a reference standpoint so that is point one.

Point two I would say is that we're making sure that this table matches our practices as well as those that are required by State Statute. What we found in our review of this table was that there were a number of requirements from State Statute that were not on this table. We were practicing them because we stay up-to-date on things that change up in Concord but they weren't on this table. So we are making sure that this reflects statutory requirements. From a practicality standpoint, we have a lot of land use boards and we with our Planning Board and Zoning Board, they meet twice a month most months. We have a cycle that we have to maintain to be effective to make sure that things get posted on agendas and certainly to ensure that the public receives due notice of all applications. With the timing when we generate our notices, we work with other departments to see if applications are ready to go to boards. Sometimes we don't have that information until the day the notice has to go out. So if we're waiting to 1) get something into the Telegraph which their deadline is the day before that we typically know, we're either guessing, hoping, really bugging other departments to know if this one application can go forward to a board. So what we're trying to do is make sure that our notice requirements really work with our cycle so that we can make sure that we can meet our obligations that we set for ourselves which I will

state that everything on this table as proposed is in compliance with State Statute and in fact, in a number of places goes above and beyond the statutory requirements.

Signage is not required by State Statute. That's something that the City has affirmatively elected to do to provide notice and I think it is a highly effective means of notification because it is right there present in the neighborhood. If you are walking around driving around, you will see it. We often hear a lot of oh I didn't receive a mailer. Mailing goes out to direct abutters. However, you could be 10 feet away and still not be a direct abutter just how the lot lines fall. So signage is a way to kind of cover that that gap in a way. So again with cycling, with notifications, with the generation of agendas and notices, we've run into issues in the past. As Alderman Jette had mentioned, we do need to work with our developers and our applicants to ensure that they are able to pick up the signs in a time that is consistent with the requirements that we set out. We would hate for someone can't make it because they're on vacation or they have a conflict or whatever they can't pick up their sign and then they are not in compliance with our notification requirements set forth in this table.

A third reason for this is we're establishing consistency across all of our land use boards. The table would have you know ten days here, five days here for the same action but for different land use boards. We're hiring new staff who will be part of this. When I first saw the table, I was a little confused of why do we have these different timeframes for different applications for the same board when State Statute is pretty clear. It's all pretty steady and similar across the different boards so we're looking to add some consistency just to make it easier for us but also to comply with State Statute.

And then of course fourth, the costs associated with publishing in the newspaper. We do publish online so I will state that State Statute was recently changed to allow Planning Boards and Historic District Commissions to not be required to post in the newspaper provided this notice is provided on the city webpage which it is. We've been doing that for a long time. So we will continue to do that. Some great feedback at the committee meeting about advertising our agendas on community television which I have reached out and we're working to figure out a way to do that so that we have another means of notifying the public.

President Wilshire

All set Alderman Sullivan? Thank you.

Alderman Sullivan

Yes.

President Wilshire

Alderman Klee. I'm sorry. No, no, wait. I meant to call on Alderman Lopez first.

Alderman Lopez

So doing some napkin math if we're spending well if there's 8,000 readers and that's over 52 weeks that is a weekly periodical, that comes out to something like 41 or 410,000 different opportunities for somebody to see this and then you divide that by the 10,000 people that comes out to about \$41 an opportunity that we'd be paying. So I'd prefer to save the money and I'd prefer that we not be spending or investing in a periodical particularly that only has limited viewership and limited exposure.

I disagree with my colleagues that there's only that one periodical. I mean the Nashua Hippo is a little less often out but may have more viewers. There are other periodicals in this area - the Union Leader and the Boston Globe are most likely what you're going to see in a diner. So using those is not impossible and not ridiculous. I don't know that we have necessarily done enough research to conclude that there's no other place that we could do it so I would be hesitant to remove any plans or strategies to do that. That being said, I don't know if that has to be enforceable by Ordinance and I feel like a study of that particular nature just to yield what is every industry assessment says is a diminishing return. With regards to print news and is something that even the Telegraph itself has concluded like okay this is no longer the future. I don't know if that's cost effective. So I think the Ordinance amending that so that is removed is a good aspect of it.

I do have a problem with not necessarily mandating other forms of it. As discussed, I was the one who pointed out community television. That's something we operate. So any publications or media outlets that the City has, we should be using this. There probably should be a City Planning Board or whichever appropriate like title it would have like Facebook, or Next Door, or Instagram. I think we need to do a better job of that because we talk a lot about the around the horseshoe here. It's unfortunate the Telegraph is leaving. It's unfortunate we don't have a periodical. People are

frustrated that they don't get enough news. We just need to be more nimble. We need to learn how to reach out to people using modern electronics and modern capabilities.

So I am very much on the fence as to whether I support this only because I think we should codify some other mechanism or at least that there should be another mechanism to outreach people. We shouldn't just throw in the hat and say well the minimum standard is no longer to get the newspaper, we want to streamline everything by bringing everything down to the minimum standard instead of the quality that the City of Nashua and the people of Nashua are used to. We have talked several times about how useful signs are and how visible they are to everybody. They're not visible to everybody. I can't see signs. When I walk up to a sign, I have to literally kneel down and stick my face on it because I have yet to see a large print sign really. So I would say there's probably other residents who are in similar situations. They're probably residents who have mobility issues too who aren't going out and walking around their neighborhoods necessarily and they deserve to know what's going on in their neighborhood before it's right in front of them. I think that is a solvable problem. Just because I can't read a planning sign without walking up to it and maybe like walking over bushes, branches, through a ditch, whatever - I'm thinking of a specific one over on Fairmont Street which was really awkward to read. Just because I can't read that doesn't mean that I'm here about it because other residents hear about it.

So I think the goal shouldn't necessarily be to pay such a number that we hit every single person we can find but we should figure out how to reach enough residents that residents are starting to feel like they know what's going on in their community and they know what's happening. I don't see this Ordinance doing that. I think mostly it just scales back the expectations. While I do trust the department under this administration, and I do trust that they are trying to get word out and raise awareness of things in the community to avoid those kinds of awkward frictions that happens when neighbors don't know something's going on, I don't necessarily know that every future administration is going to be quite as attentive or is going to make it a priority to staff departments in a manner that they can be. So I would be reluctant to remove the newspaper without replacing it with other requirements to raise awareness.

And then finally, I agree with my colleagues that had pointed out that the timeframe for turnaround before meetings, putting signs out, we need to be monitoring that and that needs to be much, much longer than it is. Even 15 days or two weeks would be more appropriate in my opinion.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, again, Madam President. Truthfully, the loss of the of the newspaper isn't what concerns me as much as the five days of the signage, and so on, because of weather, and so on. I will say though in favor of the signs going up, I do get phone calls. Can you tell me what's happening over at XYZ? The Historic District is Ward 3. So it's going to affect my constituents a lot and it's going to affect the abutting neighbors. I think our Planning Department does a phenomenal job in getting notifications out there. I do have a community that is very active and they might drive by and just see the sign not necessarily have to stop and read it. So I might get a call or I'm sure that the Planning Department gets that call. I'm just concerned about the five days. I do understand what Mr. Durfee had mentioned about that if people are on vacation or something like that but when they put the application through, I would hope they get notification saying you're going to have to have someone pick this sign up within 10 days of this meeting, or five days within this meeting, and it should be upon them to make that work. It shouldn't be that the City has to be worried that they're on vacation, or that something has happened to them, and if they don't pick up the sign, then it needs to get pushed back.

I also appreciate that people need to, you know, they have deadlines and so on. More importantly, I also appreciate that we are short staffed in our Planning Department. This is also causing a problem. If this were a temporary thing, I'd be for it but I hate to do this because I don't like going in something that our Planning Department has worked. I'm sure they vetted it and so on but I really can't support it and it's in my Ward. It's going to have the biggest affect and I just don't want to do that to my constituents. So thank you.

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you, Madam President. I'm gonna support the Ordinance tonight. We'll say we'll save a little bit of coin for the City which I think is good but at the same time, I think it's time we start really modernizing our processes and how we do things. I know I'm probably in the slim minority of people under 30 who subscribe to the Telegraph so probably trying to get people my age to see notifications like this through the Telegraph not the best way but obviously social media and other means would be more helpful. So yeah I'm okay with us scrapping this type of notification just because I feel it's time that we move into more a modern strategy of how to notice the public. I would like to see kind of a long-term plan on how we plan on doing that because unfortunately it seems that newspapers aren't going to rebound anytime soon but I'm hoping we could see a long-term strategy that would allow in more wide range and something that would more than likely be more affordable than spending close to \$10,000 plus dollars a year to put it in the newspaper that has just a very small scope of people who would actually view it. Thank you.

Alderman Comeau

Thank you, Madam President. So I agree with a lot of what the previous speakers have all said. I don't necessarily have a huge issue with removing the publication in the newspaper requirement but I would also like to see that replaced with something else whether that is, you know, community television or a post on the Facebook page. I know the notices are listed on the City's website. I don't feel like a lot of people know how to get to that information. You can subscribe to meeting agendas and public notices and things like that but it's not something that might be super intuitive to most people. So I'd like to see the newspaper requirements replaced with something else. Rather than pass this legislation tonight and then come back later with some sort of solution, it would be nice to figure out what we could replace that with and get it right the first time.

I also agree with the signage conversation that's gone on. I think that having the signs out is a great thing. I myself can't read what they say when I drive by but I do see them and it kind of puts a note in the back of my mind to check the Planning Board agendas when I get home or bother Director Sullivan with phone calls. . So I think the signs are a good thing and I'd actually rather see that extended as opposed to reduced.

I agree with what a previous speaker said. If the developer doesn't pick the sign up in time then we just don't put that plan on the agenda for that next meeting. It's up to them to comply with what we tell them they need to do. So it seems like, you know, a healthy amount of us have some more suggestions, some more conversation that we'd like to have regarding this. So rather than just vote yes or no on it, I'd like to move to re-refer to Committee.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO RE-REFER TO COMMITTEEON THE QUESTIONPresident Wilshire

Motion is to re-refer. Mr. Sullivan is back there with his hand – Director Sullivan is back there with his hand up. I wonder if we could allow him to speak.

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

Just our request, I think, would be actually to request a tabling of the legislation and the reason for that request would be, as you're familiar with Land Use Code, modifications and the public hearing process that happens at PEDC, a re-referral to PEDC to discuss an amendment will then trigger an additional public hearing if a substantial amendment is made at PEDC. So it could create a situation where from a timing perspective it actually elongates the process. So if Corporation Counsel and the Board or President are comfortable with this, I think we would request a tabling so that an amendment could be prepared and brought back to this body and then re-referred if that would be acceptable?

Alderman Comeau

I will rescind my previous motion and make a motion to table.

MOTION WITHDRAWN**MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO TABLE**President Wilshire

Tabling is not debatable so I will refer to the Attorney because he's not going to weigh in.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Well on a public hearing, any amendment will require a public hearing. Any amendment unless it's to insert a comma or something. But if you want to change the 5 days that's presently to 15, or 12, or 13, or if you're going to substitute for the newspaper publication, a Facebook page, or community television advertisement, or whatever, any of that would require another public hearing.

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

May I just?

President Wilshire

Director Sullivan.

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

Thank you, Madam President. My only thought is that a referral will put us at a November PEDC meeting where an amendment would be made or considered and then would have to be reheard in December. Whereas a tabling here and drafting of an amendment by staff brought back to the Board in early November could then be referred to a mid-November PEDC meeting. I apologize for having this strategic discussion but from a timing perspective, I believe that the tabling and the re-referral may create different timelines for potential passage. So I defer to Corporation Counsel obviously but I was just thinking that one might accelerate the process potentially but perhaps it may not.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

I've got nothing to say about the schedule. The scheduling will be more in Donna's realm than mine.

President Wilshire

While the motion on the floor is to table.

MOTION CARRIEDNEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS**R-23-168**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Tyler Gouveia

AUTHORIZING THE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO ENTER AGREEMENTS FOR THE TRANSFER AND REDEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND OWNED BY THE CITY OF NASHUA

Given its first reading; Assigned to the PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, by President Wilshire

R-23-169

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

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$90,000 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE, INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY-"FY2024 HAZARDOUS DEVICE UNIT RESPONSE VEHICLE"

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

R-23-170

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

Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$43,117 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY-“2023 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL)”

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

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-23-064

Endorsers: Alderman Ernest A. Jette
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

ALLOWING PERMITTED OVERNIGHT ON-STREET PARKING ON COLONIAL AVENUE

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

O-23-065

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AMENDING THE LAND USE CODE REGARDING FENCE CONSTRUCTION ADJACENT TO THE FREDERICK E. EVERETT TURNPIKE

Given its first reading; Assigned to the PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, PLANNING BOARD, and SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING AT THE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M., by President Wilshire

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurie Ortolano

Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. I've come out tonight to address the remarks of the Aldermen at the last meeting on October 10th and I'm particularly concerned about the comments made by Mr. Thibeault. You know he brought up the fact that a citizen put in a Right-To-Know request looking at the costs associated with alcohol purchase on a grant. He said it turned out it was - he said this citizen has been taking all these Right-To-Knows was actually wound up about some alcohol that was purchased that had to do with the Right-To-Know on it. It turned out to be Black Heritage Trail with Mrs. Newman at Holman Stadium. Nothing nefarious, nothing fraudulent nobody's drinking upstairs. The Mayor doesn't have a case of champagne under his desk. No one's drunk right now I think you know. Just because someone says it in public it's not true.

I wrote a Right-To-Know very respectful, very respectfully. It had nothing to do with people drinking under their desk or being drunk Derek. What you do is dress the public down who comes out here to speak by insulting them over and over again and why this Board doesn't say no to that is beyond me. You have a code of conduct. My Right-To-Know said that there was an expenditure for five - please provide me with the grant fund document used to credit the \$514 expenditure for the New Hampshire Liquor Store purchase in the expenditure report up to 6-29-23. Please provide me with any records that will show what this purchase was used for and who authorized the purchase and what department it came from. Do you know I put that in? Because Rosemary Evans who had been calling me at home in September contacted me and told me about that alcohol purchase. She also told me about the City using a limousine to take Mr. Cummings on a travel thing. She was very concerned about how...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Laurie Ortolano

...the Citizen Bank credit cards are being used by the City. She had seen the charges go way up. She thought it was out of control. The Mayor was being irresponsible and Donnalee Lozeau would have never done that. She recommended that Laura Colquhoun put in for those expenditures and try to get as much as she could on them and I know my documentation to the authorities and the date on that combined with when we did this would probably match up pretty well. We had never ever myself or Laura put in for a request on those cards.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

30 seconds.

Laurie Ortolano

When you diminish us and you speak like we wrote something about people being drunks, you are a disgrace. We are citizens that does - and you're laughing the whole time. You think it's hilarious.

Alderman Thibeault

I do.

Laurie Ortolano

Yeah it's pretty - and somebody here ought to call that out because we have a right to make those requests respectfully. The City's response to me was very respectful. They offered an explanation.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Time.

Laurie Ortolano

They made no assumptions like Mr. Thibeault. They didn't say how dare you infer we're drunk in our offices. They treated it respectfully and I expect you Aldermen to do the same.

President Wilshire

Time.

Laurie Ortolano

A pox on you Mr. Thibeault.

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Alderman Thibeault

Yeah well I got extra stuff to talk about I guess. You know for her to come in here and bring up City Hall employees and drag them through the mud and bring up their names. That's disgraceful. To constantly attack everyone here or almost everyone - I should say everybody but three is disgraceful and to not listen to us speak back to you is disgraceful.

Laurie Ortolano

I only got 3 minutes.

Alderman Thibeault

The people have to know out there what she is doing to this City.

President Wilshire

All right.

Laurie Ortolano

I get 3 minutes Mr. Thibeault. You get 10 minutes.

President Wilshire

Enough.

Alderman Thibeault

Go away. So the people, the citizens need to know what she's doing and so that's my comments. There's people in here that will not speak out against what she's doing to the City. Costing us money, going on a Right-To-Know for \$500 would really think that we were doing something we shouldn't be doing. Why do you need that expense?

I'd love Director Cummings to come up here and tell me what limo he's driving in. Love to know that. Oh yeah I guess can he speak? That would be great.

Tim Cummings, Administrative Services Director

May I speak Madam President?

President Wilshire

Director Cummings.

Tim Cummings, Administrative Services Director

So to clarify some of the comments that were just made, I never took a limousine. Never taken a limousine and expensed it to the City of Nashua but I believe what was in reference to was I believe a limousine company had a passenger van that could accommodate eight or so City employees. I was one of them that went down to Norwalk, Connecticut, to meet with the senior staff of Norwalk to learn about best practices. We needed to have a vehicle large enough to fit the six or eight or so Directors that that went down for a day to listen to a like municipality located on a river of about 100,000 population. Something that you know, New Hampshire doesn't have a lot of and we wanted to meet with that senior personnel to hear how they handle and do some things. It was a wonderful one-day session where I think a lot of municipal employees here in the City took great value in hearing some of those best practices and how a like city does things. Thank you.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you. Thank you for that comment Director Cummings.

My other comments are about the meeting that are the - so we had a committee meeting on the zoning or the Historic District Commission ordinance that was on here. We had two committees as part of that. So there was a lot of people there. A lot of people spoke. Alderman Jette made great comments just the same as he did tonight and it passed. I think if we would have gone through this tonight if we were actually gone through the votes, it would have gotten a yes or no vote either way without it being, you know, everybody not knowing what they were going to do. So I don't know why we would table that but I think we should have voted on it. It went through the committee. The committees were there. People that wanted to table were people that weren't there so whatever.

Alderman Caron

Thank you. First of all, I'd like to send out condolences to Dr. Moheban's passing last week. Dr. Mo was very instrumental when the Boys Club came to Nashua a long time ago. He was the second longest member for the Nashua Lions Club in the City along with Al Savage who we all know and love. So it was a very sudden passing so I'd like them to know that we're all thinking of him. He was a jolly gentleman and did a lot for this community. Secondly, the 53rd Annual Park and Recreation Senior Outing is Sunday, November 5th, at the Marriott. So I hope to see all you elderly Aldermen in attendance and young ones too. We always have a good time. We always have great prizes

to give out and it's always a fun time. Mayor has been coming for well not as long as me but long enough. So please come down and see. It's the one thing that the City's Parks and Recreation Department does for its senior citizens and it's a wonderful event. They look forward to it and I'm glad we're continuing with it.

And finally...

Alderwoman Timmons

Can you give us the time please?

Alderman Caron

It starts at noon.

And finally for all of you out there as you know, I'm dressed in my Sunday best. Happy Halloween!

President Wilshire

Alderman Caron were you referring to the June Caron Outing?

Alderman Caron

Yes.

President Wilshire

I thought so. I just wanted to clear that up. Alderman Dowd.

Alderman Dowd

Yes just a couple of things. I'm also a Lion. My condolences on the passing of Dr. Moheban.

The second thing is somewhat unrelated but related to the discussion we had earlier. I think if we had a - when you open up the home page on the City website if you had a button that said "Land Use Changes" and then underneath that it had it by Ward, make it a one or two click thing and you can see anything that's going on. I know that people call me the first day green signs go up. What's that? If you could go on the website and click on that, go to Ward 2, you'd see what all the green signs meant. That's one of the best things other than, you know, we've been struggling for a long time with how do we notify things about what's going on in the City. The more we can do to make it easier - sometimes it's really hard to find things on the City website and I've been on there a lot. So I think that would be one way of doing it. Again, I'm into high tech stuff because I've spent years and years in the high tech industry but normally people - June's age - just kidding, just kidding. We go back a long way. The older people aren't into high tech all the time but young people are all high tech and less and less newspapers.

I also get the Union Leader because I want the daily news and I like to sit down and go through the newspaper but the notices in the Union Leader are the whole State. Very often I don't miss anything from Nashua because, you know, they're digging a ditch in Colebrook or something and it's all on there. It gets lost in the Union Leader so for us paying for the Union Leader - I mean how many people in Nashua get the Union Leader? That's the daily newspaper now for most people if you want to read a hardcopy newspaper. So I think we did something simple on the website that you go in and bang and you go right to it would be great because if you have to dig down, people don't like to do that.

Alderwoman Kelly

I was gonna talk about that but now I want to. I think it would be interesting - it was an interesting discussion around noticing the public. I think in terms of the Land Use Code that is a thing that we obviously was in front of us but also people say all the time well I didn't know there was this happening, or that happening, or there's an election happening. So there could be an opportunity to bring in a consultant who can give us some suggestions on the ways that we could start to move towards new technology and what types of ways we could make sure that people know what's going on because it's important.

My only other point was that we do not have a Board of Aldermen meeting before the election on Tuesday, November 7th. Make sure you go out and vote from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Alderman Jette

Yes thank you. I can't help but respond to the comment about tabling which seems to offend Alderman Thibeault every time it comes up. You know we are a deliberative body. That means we're supposed to deliberate. We're supposed to, you know, think about things. We're supposed to have hearings, get input from people. There's nothing that requires us to deal with an ordinance the same night that is referred to a committee. I thought - maybe I - kind of recall during the Committee meeting when I brought up a lot of these points Alderman Thibeault you said gee Alderman Jette brings up a lot of points. I'm going to have to think about this. So I think that's a good thing. I think it's good when we think about things and I think it's good that we, you know, when a committee tables something to get more information. Give the Planning Department an opportunity to respond to the questions that I raised. If you recall during that meeting, the Planning Department didn't have answers to all of the questions that I raised and it would have been nice for them to have the opportunity to go back and look at that discuss it among themselves. So I don't find, you know, tabling to be abhorrent. I think it's in the right situation. It's a good thing. I would encourage us to think more and deliberate more about the ordinances that we pass because once we pass the Ordinance, it's the law of the City until it's changed. These things aren't changed that easily or that quickly.

So you know I hope that - I was ready to vote no tonight. You were probably ready to vote yes but the vote would have gone whichever way but I think a lot of questions were raised and I'm glad that Alderman Comeau tabled it to give us the opportunity to come up with something better, to look at the problems that the Planning Department sees, and see if there's some better ways of dealing with those problems.

You know I don't know if - I see that Mr. Durfee has left. I would like to get an answer. It doesn't have to be tonight but I can't - when he said that we're spending \$10,000 on publishing new notices in the Telegraph, I cannot believe that we are spending \$10,000 on notifying people of changes to the Historic District. I just don't think there have been that many applications made to the Historic District and that's what we were dealing with tonight is removing the publication requirement just for the Historic District. That's all we were dealing with tonight. So I can't imagine that we're spending \$10,000 a year on the Historic District. So I don't think we're going to save that much money by eliminating publication about the Historic District.

So lastly I, too, would like to encourage people to vote but I would like to take this opportunity to remind Ward 5 voters that the polling location has changed to Nashua High South. During the Mayoral Primary, a lot of people had trouble finding where the voting was because Nashua High South is a huge, a huge campus, a huge building and a lot of people went in the wrong door, and had to walk around the building, and complained about it. So the polling place is in the gymnasium. The City Clerk has corrected the City information about where the polling location is to add the word "gymnasium". So when you drive to the high school, there's a sign that points to the gymnasium. So hopefully that'll help people to find us at the gymnasium at Nashua High South. I hope everyone comes out and votes. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

First as a point of personal privilege, I'd like to clarify that myself at least and I believe another speaker were at the Committee meeting and we did bring things up. My idea was specifically cited by the City staff as being at least promising which, you know, I didn't put a lot of work into that so I think a little bit of work in figuring out ways to outreach to the public is absolutely possible. I don't think we necessarily knew of that, that evening that it came up. So I do agree that it is definitely our prerogative. When we talk about something in a committee to review it at the Board and then re-refer it or in this case table it because we referral might have created a timeframe crunch and we were, you know, compromising with the City staff, I think it's our prerogative at the full Board. I think we have not only a right but an obligation to make sure we aren't just doing one pass at any particular legislation. If any of us aren't attending the meeting in person, there is a reason that we're not all just continually meeting with Board of Aldermen meetings. We trust each other to do some legwork but we also have to actually do research. I think my colleague down the table here who commented that he had watched it was able to articulate information from the meeting so was obviously very aware and did his homework. So I think most of the people that publicly spoke on the ordinance either did go to the meeting, or did watch the meeting, and I think that fulfills the role of what a committee is supposed to do.

That being said, I also think that the comments directed at my colleague were unfair and not consistent with what we've seen in the past. I think demanding that people be showing you with respect while refusing to use their titles, while using your public comment to confront them, and berate them at least we were elected to do that but I don't think the City staff signed up for that and I don't think it's fair that that's continually done. I think it is on us to stand up for City staff periodically when people in the public single them out for attention that's unfair and is unkind. So I do believe in public holding staff accountable but I also recognize that members of the public can make claims, accusations, and deliver information freely using their freedom of speech and without us here to correct it or to challenge it then we are letting misinformation spread with the platform that we provided. So I don't think it's appropriate to directly target and criticize

people in a negative manner, particularly one that's inaccurate. I do think there have been many, many, many examples of public comment particularly by the individual where somebody was singled out, somebody was targeted, and very disrespectful things were said, and it's unfortunate that that person is willing to express those things but does not accept the same kind of response.

With regards to some comments that were made over the weekend about a supposed flyer, I don't think there's any actual tangible examples of the flyer going out, that talked about how we've blown up the budget over the last couple of years. It was pointed out that some of these claims were untrue because they included adding grants into or accounting for grants in the City budget. So I just wanted to make note of the fact that while we did just dispose of \$1.8 million of escrows in this meeting alone, we also approved \$1.65 million worth of federal grants which is taxpayer money coming back to them because you pay into the federal government and what are they going to do with it? I mean are they going to give the USS Roosevelt a new paint job or is it going to come back here to help us with our public health issues, or to come back here to make our police officers safer? I think whenever our City departments are able to identify grant funding to achieve City projects for our taxpayers to be spent here in our local economy, that's a very good thing. I think that's not necessarily credited directly in terms of how much we reduced the budget, how much we expanded the budget, how much the budget impacts the overall tax burden. I think those are things that do need to be said and acknowledged periodically because our staff work very hard and we deliver very effective high services in a number of areas because we don't just tax people and then spend their money. We have a much more complex and progressive sense of how to identify revenue to meet constituent needs.

Additionally, I wanted to thank the Mayor and the organizers of the Crop Walk. It was a great event this past Sunday. I've been going for over 20 years now and I understand that they're at their 39th year so if my fellow Aldermen want to join us next year, it should be a great celebration. It's a great opportunity to walk with your neighbors, to talk about issues like poverty and homelessness that directly affect our community and are also in a larger global context.

I also wanted to congratulate all the businesses that have been starting up over the past five to six weeks. It's kind of been like one after another. Like we know The Yolk place right around the corner. We know Coffee and Kindness opened up on West Pearl. Congratulations to both of them. The restaurant Pearl has also opened up. They did that a few weeks ago and I never really acknowledged it and then this Friday, Soel Sisters is doing their ribbon cutting over at 30 Temple Street. A very exciting business that has been doing a lot in the community over the years in a space that I think a lot of us miss because it used to be the City Moves. So it's going to be another great business opening up downtown. I think we've done a great job in stimulating that particular economic area and it's great to see so many people who were able to start their small businesses successfully in Nashua. Thank you.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. There's so many things here. First, I would like to say that when we have speakers that come and weaponize public comment to attack someone such as an Alderman or an employee, it brings down the City. I'm not trying to single any one person out but I can tell you that I get calls all the time for someone said how do I speak in public? I said well you come to the meeting and you do that. They have fear, true fear and anxiety of being attacked themselves if they were to speak. I'm not saying by that particular speaker. I don't mean that but just kind of airing their because they see it happening on Facebook. So more and more things are being weaponized and so on and then bombs are being dropped.

So for instance, the attack on Director Cummings of him getting a limo. Now it's gonna go all over social media and so on that Director Cummings was granted a limo when in fact that was nothing to the - it was something that actually benefited the City to have these department heads go down there and to be able to have this discussion and so on. So it was beneficial to the City but it's going to get out there through social media and so on. So I'm really glad that Director Cummings was allowed to come up and speak against that.

As a person who has been attacked by different speakers whether it be on social media, whether it be here and so on, it does smart but we are elected officials and sometimes we can take it. To have our employees have to go through that breaks my heart and we've seen it for five years now. It goes from one department to another department. When something gets old, we go to something else and we do an attack on someone else. I'm going to kind of leave it that way.

And to the comment about we should have taken care of something in committee. I can honestly say that I was at that one and I did speak up and I did say have my reservations but I was not a member of that. I would have asked for it to be tabled at that point but not being a member of that Committee, I don't have that right to do that. I can just ask my questions and so on. So while I know that that was a perfectly legitimate comment and not meant to attack in any way, I could not vote on that one. I do think there's so many different things that could be done. The Nashua Patch, the Hippo, you know CTV. Not everybody has Comcast. Not everybody gets the newspapers but if we can hit enough places,

maybe we can kind of do a big thing to that one there. So I do think that we do deliberate here. I think we deliberate in the in the committees and so on so, again, I don't like the fact that any kind of judgment was being made that way.

I do want to talk to the \$100 million tax increase. For those - I sent out a very, very detailed message to many of my constituents as well as I know that there were some people that shared it on Facebook. It was an attacking in saying well didn't we go up this way. Well if you really look at the numbers, \$77 million was added to the budget and that was for the grant money under the appropriations, I believe, that I'm saying that properly. As such, it was never \$100 million anyways. I think it was like a \$92 million increase, and \$77 million of that being the appropriation for grants. I want to say 25 and 56 I think or something of that nature million dollars. Some of it was put as appropriation to the School District. Some was put as appropriation to the City. As was pointed out today alone, we did like \$1.7 million in grants. Not all those grants require matching funds but because of the spending cap that was put in by a certain Senator and the entire State, the entire 400 State Reps. got to vote on what happens in Nashua which truly broke my heart because it didn't affect them. It only affected here. So whether you like it or not, the spending cap meant we could not go a certain percentage over the previous years.

Some people go yeah I agree with that but what they don't realize is that these grants, which are free money and I think it was pointed out yes it is free money, so some people said well I'm paying my taxes. Well you're right but you're still gonna pay it into your taxes and then it will go to another community. It will go to another State and do we really want that if it's something that we can get here? It affects our police, it affects our fire, it affects Health and Human Services, affects Public Works, it affects every single department within the City. If we weren't able to spend this because of the spending cap, we would have to increase taxes. We'd have to do something else to that so we don't want to do that. Anytime we can save money through grants and so on I think we should we should do that.

I just want to kind of remind everybody that the League of Women Voters have been having their forums. The next one will be for the Board of Ed. this Thursday and that will be at the Nashua Public Library. There'll be one last one and that would be the Mayoral Forum and I believe that is going to be at Nashua South if I've got that properly. That's the Thursday before the election. I think we all deserve the right to be listening to what the candidates say regardless of what team you're in. I have who I prefer but, you know, you have to make your own decisions and so on. I really wish that things weren't taken out of context whether it be from there, or from something that's happened here, or somebody looks at a piece of paper and says oh limo, and now I'm going to announce this to the world. I wish we as a City would stop weaponizing some of the words that were said and take them out of context where it's going to show up on social media and we have fear of good citizens who want to come here and comment. Thank you, Madam President.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you. A few things on the ordinance tonight getting tabled. I think it's important that we hit the pause button on that and relook at it. A few weeks ago maybe two, we stood and talked about affordable housing. I think one of the things that are going to be facing cities all across the country that not a lot of people talk about is going to be land use and rezoning because the way cities are put together now and the way they were originally planned is going to change. One thing that's consistent that I think we can all agree on is that people hate change. One thing I know that they hate worse is when things change and then they don't know about it. So I think getting the ordinance right so we can fill that box with something that's going to increase awareness of what's going to happen in the City I think is a good thing. To hit the pause button and to get it right I think it's good.

Congratulations. A lot of promotions happened at Nashua Fire and Rescue over the weekend. Particularly, I wanted to congratulate now Assistant Chief Mark Wholey on his promotion. I wanted to wish William Atkinson a good retirement. I think that's great. I've known Mark and his wife Kelly for a long time and they're great Nashuans and I was really happy to see that happen and have that come due for him.

Also Alderman Dowd, I'm gonna get you on this one, Friday 1:30 - I can't believe you didn't mention this - the Franklin Street School dedication. So that's at 1:30. Are we gonna cut the ribbon, or put a shovel in the ground, or we don't know?

Alderman Dowd

No we're not digging up the street that was just paved.

Alderman Sullivan

So that's Friday at 1:30.

Alderman Dowd

No shovels. Just a plaque.

President Wilshire

You all set?

Alderman O'Brien

Well I'm gonna save you all and say nothing.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Yes I just wanted to take a moment to add to Mr. Cummings' explanation of the van. I think the cost my recollection was less than \$500. I think it was less than \$200. But it was no limo. I can tell you that because my back hurt for a few days after we rode in that thing.

Now one of the other purposes is that Norwalk has an auditorium which was built as a WPA project very similar to the Keefe. They've made some changes there. I know, of course, we need to make a decision down the road about the Keefe itself and it was helpful just to be able to see, you know, how they have - there were some improvements made but a long time ago 20 or 30 years ago I would guess. It was just interesting to see what they had done to it. So that was another reason for the trip. But my back recovered after a few days and I wish we had taken a limousine but it was only a van.

Committee announcements:

Alderman O'Brien

Tomorrow night October 25th the Infrastructure Committee will be meeting right here at 7:00 pm in the aldermanic chamber.

Alderwoman Timmons

Okay Madam President. The Cultural Connection Committee is meeting tomorrow at 12 o'clock and hopefully my mouth wouldn't be so bad. I'm getting a tooth pulled. I might have to have Alderman Lopez attend tomorrow if I can't make it. I'm not sure if I'm going to still be okay to attend. I'm going to the dentist tomorrow. That's at 12:00 o'clock here at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN THAT THE OCTOBER 24, 2023, MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE ADJOURNED

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Attest: Dan Healey, City Clerk