

A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. in the aldermanic chamber and via Zoom teleconference which meeting link can be found on the agenda and on the City's website calendar.

President Lori Wilshire presided; Deputy City Clerk Allison Waite recorded.

Prayer was offered by Deputy City Clerk Allison Waite; Alderman Richard A. Dowd led in the Pledge to the Flag.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. If you are participating via Zoom, please state your presence, reason for not attending the meeting in person, and whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.

The roll call was taken with 14 members of the Board of Aldermen present: Alderman Michael B. O'Brien, Sr., Alderman Patricia Klee, Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Alderman June M. Caron, Alderman Benjamin Clemons (via Zoom), Alderman Thomas Lopez, Alderman David C. Tencza, Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu, Alderman Ernest Jette, Alderman Jan Schmidt (via Zoom), Alderman Brandon Michael Laws (via Zoom), Alderman Skip Cleaver (via Zoom), Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire.

Alderwoman Shoshanna Kelly was recorded absent.

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

#### REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

##### President Wilshire

Mayor did you wish to address the Board this evening?

##### Mayor Donchess

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. A few things that I wanted to mention. First, just an update on the COVID situation. The numbers indicate of course we're still in substantial transmission and they continue to rise, although gradually. But the positivity rate, in other words, the percentage of people who get tested who test positive or the have COVID is 6.9%. That's up a little bit from a week ago and certainly higher than it was a couple of months ago. Another metric another measurement is the number of new cases that arise in a period of 14 days per 100,000 population. That number for us now is slightly over 400 - about 404. Previously that had been in the 300s. So numbers are going up. Again, we need to continue to exercise caution, look out for the large groups especially without masks, vaccines, and vaccinations of course are a way to prevent the spread of the disease and to protect yourself, your family, and your friends.

Now there will be coming to you a proposed policy regarding the use of sick leave. This will be accompanied by a memo from Bobby Bagley, Director of Community Health. What's being proposed is that for people who are fully vaccinated and who need to be out as a result of a COVID infection, they would not be required to use their sick leave during the period of their absence. The policy though would provide that for someone who is not vaccinated and who contracts COVID and needs to be out, they would use need to use their sick time. The purpose of this policy would be, of course, to encourage people to become fully vaccinated. Now this will be coming to you with a memo from Bobby Bagley and we would be looking for you to approve this probably at your next meeting with that will be coming.

Also at the State level, you might have noticed that on the issue of vaccines that the State Executive Council turned down \$27 million of vaccine money. Public Health was looking forward to receiving some of that money and using it to reach out and get more people vaccinated here in Nashua. New Hampshire is the only State in the union to have turned down that money. So, of course, that is unfortunate.

Other issues Madam President that I wanted to mention, some questions came up last night at the Budget Committee regarding R-21-178 having to do with the reallocation of some of the Master Plan money into the purpose of preparing the changes to the Land Use Code that would incorporate the concepts that were adopted in the Master Plan. Matt Sullivan is here - Planning Director - to answer any questions but there were questions asked by Committee members last night, I know. This was contemplated from the beginning that part of this money would be used to make the land use draft and propose the land use changes that would be necessary to implement the Master Plan. The reason this is going out to an RFP and to an outside contractor is that it is a massive amount of work, that it is much more than the Legal Department could do in the course of its normal duties or the Planning Department, and it was always contemplated that an outside contractor would be needed to do this. Youtile who was the consultant who helped us work through the Master Plan and engage with the community doesn't really do this kind of thing or doesn't care to. I mean, they're more into the

development of the plan. And the drafting of the legal language would be by an outside contractor. That would, of course, come to the Finance Committee.

A couple of other things Madam President. This is Red Ribbon Week. The Nashua Prevention Coalition, of course, is spearheading that and this is encouraging young people not to use any kind of substances or addictive drugs of any kind. The Prevention Coalition held their annual event at Leda Lanes last night and was attended by (inaudible – lost the sound) The Prevention Coalition held their annual event with a group of young people from the middle school and high school schools around the city at Leda Lanes last night and that was, of course, a very nice event as usual.

And finally Madam President, I wanted to mention the results of the Your Voice, Your Choice project. This is the second time we've run it in the tree streets and the neighborhood gets together, develops a group of projects, and then votes on which of those projects should be implemented, given the funds that we've allocated. There were about 8 or 10 projects that were voted on and the top vote getter was improvements to Los Amigos Park on Ash Street. Alderman Lopez was very involved with this and has been each year we've done it. I think he predicted that Los Amigos would probably be this successful project. (inaudible – lost audio)

Sarah Marchant who is the Community Development Director and unfortunately we discussed last week will be leaving soon but one point she told me this (inaudible – lost audio) I just have a sentence to go really. I was just gonna say that Sarah Marchant mentioned to me that this project made her feel better than anything else she'd worked on for the City of Nashua. So 337 people voted, and I think we got a good result, and we will make a significant improvement to the neighborhood. So that's all I have Madam President.

President Wilshire

Thank you, Mayor.

#### RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR

Alderman Lopez

Yeah - I want to thank the Mayor for recognizing the Your Choice, Your Voice Project and Director Marchant for organizing it. I wanted to add that to the people who submitted ideas that didn't meet the top criteria, this is an opportunity to continue working on them. So there were some ideas about improvements of the Rail Trail that this process creates attention to and if the city can work on it through other means and other ways then we do. An example of that - the second runner up was the Ash Street Skate Park - one of the oldest ones in the State. There was a very good community effort to try to champion that cause. They were organized a little bit late, but it did yield some interest from some private partners who want to kind of further the equipment there and some opportunities. So we will continue to try to work on that. So if your project wasn't necessarily the one that was voted on the most by the community, that doesn't mean it's not going to happen. It means that we can work together and that you've raised awareness of it and that the champions that brought those projects forward can continue to work on them and we can probably still see a lot of them done. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Seeing none.

RECOGNITION PERIOD – None

#### READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the minutes of the regular Board of Aldermen and Special Board of Aldermen meetings of October 7, October 12, and October 14, 2021 be accepted, placed on file, and the readings suspended.**

#### COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING ONLY PROCEDURAL ACTIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS

From: Lisa A. Fauteux, Director of Public Works

Re: Referrals from Board of Aldermen – R-21-165, R-21-166 and R-21-169

From: Dorothy Clarke, Esquire

Re: R-21-181 "Authorizing Pennichuck Corporation and Pennichuck East Utility, Inc. to enter into a loan with CoBank, ACB"

***There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the communications, placed it on file, and referred Attorney Clarke's Memo to the Pennichuck Water Special Committee.***

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

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING FINAL APPROVAL PETITIONS - None

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS - None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Work Study Group Relative to Police Commissioners.....09/30/2021, 10/07/2021

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the reports of the September 30, 2021 and October 7, 2021 Work Study Group Relative to Police Commissioners be accepted and placed on file.

Budget Review Committee ..... 10/06/2021

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the October 6, 2021 Budget Review Committee be accepted and placed on file.

Finance Committee..... 10/06/2021

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the October 6, 2021 Finance 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 Monday, October 25, 2021 regarding Resolutions R-21-177 and R-21-178.**

Alderman Dowd

Yes. Last evening we had a Budget meeting in regard to the two Resolutions R-21-177, R-21-178 and I believe both passed unanimously and are ready for action this evening.

President Wilshire

Okay. Thank you.

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

**R-21-177**

- Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
- Alderman Richard A. Dowd
- Alderman Thomas Lopez
- Alderman Skip Cleaver
- Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

**RELATIVE TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$250,000 OF FY2021 ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE INTO FUND #6500 "PROPERTY & CASUALTY SELF INSURANCE FUND"**

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN JETTE FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-21-177, BY ROLL CALL**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Jette

Thank you Madam Chairman. Most of you were at the public hearing last night and heard the presentation but for those of you who weren't and for the public is listening in or watching, this Resolution is to transfer \$250,000 from the assigned fund balance to the property and casualty self-insurance fund. So the city is self-insured so unlike most businesses or most people who have insurance and pay premiums to insurance companies, from my legal practice someone pointed out - I don't know if this is true or not - but someone pointed out to me that insurance companies are not in the business of paying claims. They're in the business of collecting premiums and investing those premiums for the benefit of their share. (inaudible – lost the audio).

So unlike most businesses and most people who, you know, pay premiums to insurance companies and then the insurance company manages and pays whatever claims they might be, the city through years of experience has determined that it is more cost effective for the city. It costs less money in other words for the city rather than paying an insurance company premiums, (inaudible – lost audio)...three claims that some of our employees were very badly injured and required extensive medical bills.

And in workers compensation cases, you know, as long as they can't work, then the city has to pay them. I think it's 60% now of their salary. So we're never sure how long that's gonna last. So our consultants have recommended that we add an additional \$250,000 to this fund just to make sure that we have sufficient amount of money. I should point out that workers compensation is a no fault system so that when an employee is injured if it's work related, it doesn't mean that the city did anything wrong. Doesn't mean the employee did anything wrong. It's just that an employee got injured while working. Under workers compensation law, the law is designed to take care of people when they get injured at work. So that's a long winded - I thought it was going to be a lot shorter but that's my explanation for why it's necessary to take this action. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you, Alderman Jette. Anyone else? Any questions? Anyone on Zoom?

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Klee, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Laws, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	14
Nay:	0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-21-177 declared duly adopted.

**R-21-178**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman Jan Schmidt  
Alderman Skip Cleaver  
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**CHANGING THE USE OF FUNDS FOR A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT  
FROM MASTER PLAN TO LAND USE CODE UPDATE**

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-21-178, BY ROLL CALL**ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Dowd

Yes. This went through Budget last night unanimously and as was explained very well by the Mayor at the beginning of the meeting, this was to just change the use of the funds to steer it more towards the Master Plan Land Use Code from the Master Plan. This will help us get started on a much needed Land Use Code update.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Any discussion? No one on Zoom. Okay, seeing none, will the Clerk, please call the roll.

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Klee, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron,  
Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette,  
Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Cleaver, Alderwoman Harriott-Gathright,  
Alderman Wilshire

12

Nay:

0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-21-178 declared duly adopted.

**R-21-143**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws  
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman Jan Schmidt

**PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER RELATIVE TO THE MANNER OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE NASHUA BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

- Tabled at Board of Aldermen August 10, 2021 meeting

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - NoneNEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS**R-21-179**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu  
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

**AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A FEDERAL AID PROGRAM PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLING RECTANGULAR RAPID FLASHING BEACONS AND TO ACCEPT FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$452,000.00) FOR THE PROJECT**

Given its first reading; Assigned to the COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE and BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS by President Wilshire

**R-21-180**

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman June M. Caron  
Alderman Thomas Lopez

Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright  
Alderman Skip Cleaver  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A SIDEBAR (MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT) BETWEEN THE CITY OF NASHUA BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS AND THE NASHUA FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION I.A.F.F. LOCAL 789 REGARDING MILITARY DUTY PAY**

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

**R-21-181**

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman June M. Caron  
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright  
Alderman Thomas Lopez

**AUTHORIZING PENNICHUCK CORPORATION AND PENNICHUCK EAST UTILITY, INC. TO ENTER INTO A LOAN WITH COBANK, ACB**

Given its first reading; Assigned to the PENNICHUCK WATER SPECIAL COMMITTEE by President Wilshire

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

**O-21-072**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman June M. Caron  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman Skip Cleaver  
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza  
Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu  
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**AUTHORIZING FREE HOLIDAY PARKING AT METERS IN ZONE III WHICH INCLUDES THE ELM STREET AND HIGH STREET PARKING GARAGES FROM DECEMBER 6, 2021 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2022**

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

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurie Ortolano

Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. I want to thank the Board of Aldermen members who brought forth the Letter to the Editor or the OP ad that was published in The Telegraph and Union Leader for the no vote for the Charter change for the Police Commission. I think that was appreciated by many of us and it's helpful in providing further education to the community.

Secondly, I'd like to address I'd like the Board of Aldermen to maybe take an interest in looking at employee turnover in the city. I find found out that there is no tracking of turnover for employees in any of the departments and I think it's important to know the health of your workforce and why they're going. We did have a letter read into the record a few meetings ago that attributed turnover in some areas to a group of citizens being too, you know, harsh or direct and trying to understand what was going on. I don't think that can really be validated and I think your process for exit interviewing needs to be reviewed because I don't think the department head who the employees work for should be conducting the exit interview. I think it should be done somewhere else. I can tell you, if you recall, when the Police Department investigated the Assessing office and they interviewed staff. If you look at those interviews, there were three or four staff members that said and expressed in those interviews that they didn't agree with the removal of a Chief and they felt that a Chief had to be brought back. But that had not been raised at that point by the administration because I don't think they felt comfortable telling the boss who made the decision to remove them to bring that individual back. So I'm not certain what free dialog you get and if people are leaving or moving on to jobs that are staying in the field within their field, they may not freely talk about why they exited from a city job. So I think it's important for us to understand that and to gather that information from all departments in the city and

assess the health of our city government in our departments. I would encourage you to start asking for those types of reports and tracking what's happening within the city. Thank you.

#### REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

##### Alderman Jette

I just wanted to let the people out there know that we are aware of these audio problems that we're having. I know the staff is working hard and trying to figure out what the problem is. I encourage them to do whatever it takes to solve this problem. My wife messaged me saying that she could not hear the speech that I gave.

##### Alderman Lopez

Do it again.

##### President Wilshire

You meant she was lucky.

##### Alderman Jette

I'll give her that speech tonight when I get home. I hope we can solve this problem.

##### Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. I'd like to just address the vote next week. Next Tuesday, voters will decide whether our city would be improved by changing who appoints the Police Commissioners. These Police Commissioners approve the procedures that ensure that eligibility for being hired, promoted, and promoted is determined by merit and not by influence or loyalty. 130 years ago, the city voters removed the power of appointment from the city elected officials and they placed it with the Governor. Reporters for the Nashua Standard at that time, which was a newspaper with a wide circulation for nearly 100 years, quoted residents who believe that the then current system in which elected officials appointed the Police Commissioners had resulted in corruption and political favoritism in the police department.

Since that decision to allow the Governor to appoint city residents to the Police Commission, our Police Department has developed into one of the most highly respected agencies in the country. Our high CALEA certification signifies the strength of the department's policies and procedures in identifying quality candidates in officer development, and retention, and promotion based on merit. Also since that time, our Police Department has been responsive and efficient in identifying and thoroughly investigating crimes even when permitted by elected officials. This is in part because our current system allows city elected officials no leverage to influence investigation or the hiring and promotions within the department.

We've heard time to join the 20th century, and everyone else is doing it, and there is no corruption here. None of these statements demonstrate that a vote to change the manner that Nashua residents are appointed to our Police Commission would benefit our City. In fact, it's nearly impossible to prove what would happen here if things were different. If police departments are successfully intimidated by pressure to hire or promote without merit elsewhere in New Hampshire, how would we know? Anecdotal evidence does suggest that it happens all the time in other communities. In those communities where elected officials appoint police commissioners, a lack of reported corruption says as much about what comes to light under this system as it does about any freedom from political influence that that system creates. A change of this type should not be a gamble. Change is not always good. So it's our difficult responsibility on Tuesday to decide whether the person elected to the seat of Governor has acted fairly and appointed judiciously giving consideration to the stated opinions and needs of our city.

Our city leaders can express the need for female representation or minority representation on the board. They did not do that this year when it was time to consider the seat of the commissioner whose term had expired. Our city leaders did not do that last year or the year before. Today our Police Commission is composed of three residents of Nashua each who have at one time written a letter of interest to the Governor, who then interviewed them, and reviewed their qualifications. These individuals were appointed or reappointed most recently by a Governor who won 60% of the ballots cast in Nashua. This Governor won a majority in every ward in Nashua and this Governor has not been heavy handed in his appointments. In a city who's elected Board of Alderman and Mayor are all Democrats, he reappointed the selections made by Maggie Hassan, his Democratic predecessor. No other names were put forward from Nashua elected officials.

Proponents of his change say that a change will give Nashua better control of the police budget. In this budget season, the Police Department proposed a budget 1.7% over the request of Mayor Donchess. City Hall meanwhile submitted a budget 2.7% below last year's budget and the City Hall departments were praised held up as examples by the Mayor. Examples of thrift, cooperation, and fiscal responsibility. Mayor Donchess then submitted a bill to give himself the power to appoint and remove police commissioners. In October, Mayor Donchess announced that of the \$10.5 million dollars of surpluses from budgeted funds from 2021 fiscal year, which ended June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2.4 million would go back to City Hall essentially bringing funding for City Hall divisions not down by 2.7 at all but up to an increase of 5.3%. When our Mayor compares our city departments' budgets praising one and expressing displeasure at another, he divides and intimidates.

When surplus is used as an enticement in this way to create a narrative of a runaway police budget, then political influence is on display. This is what it looks like. This referendum item is not needed to control budgets and it's not needed to gain diversity of race and gender on our boards. Please vote no on #2 on Tuesday. Thank you.

Alderman Tencza

Thank you. So speaking of folks who have left the city recently, I just wanted to congratulate Director Justin Kates who has left Emergency Management. In my time on the Board, Director Kates has really impressed me as someone who is just thorough, and diligent, and real asset to the city. Like Director Marchant, I think he's choosing to pursue other opportunities but certainly he will be missed here in the city and there will be big shoes to fill for whomever comes in and takes over his position. I always felt like Director Marchant, I was just amazed at his budget presentations, how thorough he was, and how really how much he knew about emergency management. I always felt that the city was in in really good hands if it was ever emergency that we needed to respond to as well as his dedication to making Nashua a more resilient city because we know that unfortunately in the future, there are going to be climate events that are gonna affect us. But you know if we plan and work together as a city, we'll be able to get through them just fine.

Also, I just want to wish everybody a happy and healthy Halloween this Sunday night. Hopefully people can go out and enjoy their trick or treating. Even last year given that it's a holiday with that we're all masked up anyways, we could go out and enjoy the outdoors. But even this year, it's important to stay safe and remember that we should still be safe as we're going around.

And then finally, I think that next Tuesday's an important day. Thank you to Clerk Lovering and her staff and all the volunteers in advance for all the work that they're going to do over the next week to get us ready for this election. I think in a lot of ways, you know, this election, every election is about what kind of tone we want to set for the city. What kind of leaders we want sitting around here and filling all of our other positions within the city. So please, every election is important. It's a privilege for us that we get to go out and choose our elected officials. So if you're around or if you're not around next Tuesday, please come out and vote and make your vote heard. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

I just wanted to comment that last night Nashua Fire managed to put down a fire at Kinsley House of Pizza. This is the second fire in two days that has displaced residents. So I would just caution residents and urge them check your smoke detector batteries, make sure that you're keeping clutter away from heaters. Just be careful. As the weather gets colder and we started to turn heaters on and you know there's more risk. Nashua Fire is quick, and they're fast, and they get the job done, and they save lives. Even managed to save the cat but still destruction of property. It's dangerous and it puts our firefighters in danger. So please just take whatever steps you can to mitigate the risk wherever you can.

A week from Thursday is going to be Veterans Day. We are having a Veterans Day Parade. I'm working with a group of neighbors who are also trying to make sure that we're doing a meal for veterans who are staying over Dalainis House. So if anybody would like to participate, you can buy a meal for veterans over at Joanne's Kitchen. It's right around the corner here. \$5 will buy them a ham dinner, macaroni and cheese, southwest style corn. So help us make that a great event for everybody.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, Madam President. I'll be brief. I just wanted to remind everyone go out and vote on Election Day which is coming up on Tuesday, November 2. So this coming Tuesday. Normally I keep off my you probably notice I keep off my camera because what I joke is that well it's not Halloween I don't want to scare people but now that it is, I figured I'd turn it on real quick, say hello to everybody, and wish everybody Happy Halloween. Here I am. I'm just joking. Happy Halloween everyone thanks.

Alderman Caron

Yes, thank you. I'd like to echo Alderman Tencza's remarks concerning voting. It is your right. If you're looking for changes within any boards, commissions, or in this circle, this is the time for you to be heard. Whatever happens, happens and we wish everyone good luck next Tuesday. Also please remember that people who are working the wards, they are there at four and five o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock plus at night. So be kind to them. They're gonna do the best they can under the circumstances that we have because of the protocols that are in place. So just be patient. Always be patient. So I appreciate that and also Happy Halloween everyone. Get out there and carve your pumpkins.

Alderman Dowd

Yes, some good news. The middle school project is moving along very well. We have completed the acquisition of the final piece of property. It's been registered and recorded. So we're good to go. The only thing we're waiting for now is the final AOT approval from the State of New Hampshire and we will be starting the new middle school.

Fairgrounds has been completed and you will all be getting an invitation to the rededication ceremony which should be, I believe, the first week of November but you'll get an invitation. That school turned out exceptionally well and they finally get all of the new furniture. So it's been a good program.

Pennichuck Middle School is well underway. The south edition is moving along very well and is due to be ready in April and the north addition barring all this rain and weather, we're hoping to pour the cement foundation. So that's going very well. It will be completed at the end of next summer.

Also in that same area, the Pennichuck Water works their solar farm is underway and they're getting all the land ready and also the power companies putting up several utility poles on the Pennichuck land. There's quite a bit of work that will be happening there at the start right near the entrance of the school but that's all Pennichuck Water work's project. So thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else?

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I just have two quick things. One is I'm looking forward to Halloween and praying that it doesn't rain. It's one of my favorite times of the year. And this year it feels like it'd be a little bit more normal from last year.

I wanted to echo what Alderman Jetty had said. I got two text messages. One from Alderman Schmidt who tried getting off and coming back on as well to see if that helped and I think the same was with Alderman Laws. They were having a hard time with the audio. It just kept kicking in and out. I wish your wife luck with your speech. It was very worth listening to and my husband said that he'll just talk to your wife to get the highlights so. Thank you.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Madam President. I just want to recognize the Mayor. I know we had amplification microphone issues during his remarks by the Mayor but sitting next to you with my new hearing aids, you sounded pretty good to me. You muddle through correctly.

I, too, did hear from one particular citizen that says a way of tracking people who leave the city but just to remind, it might need to be explored. In this State, its employees at will so that means employees and employers can leave or stay with not much and I don't know if we really can legally track them. But it needs to be investigated in to take a look unless there's some other venue.

And then I also would like to recognize as what Alderman Tencza said – Justin Kates who was our Emergency Preparedness Director. I had the pleasure as being the Deputy Fire Chief and working with him for several years. When I first heard that he came on board when they told me his name was Justin Kates as Emergency Preparedness, I thought making it up but he had the most perfect name for the position. But top of his name, he did an extremely fine job and the citizens and Nashua were greatly served by him and us on the Fire Department. Really appreciated the work he did. So we wish him best luck in his new endeavors.

Also, too, to our drivers out there - Halloween, be careful. Leaves, wet weather, slippery conditions, please watch out for the kids.

Also, too, I agree with Alderman Lopez. Usually in the fire service we said around whenever you change the clock change the batteries in your smoke detectors. It's very wise advice. So thank you Alderman Lopez.

And finally, please get out there and vote. It is your right. That's what makes the whole political system tick. So please, exercise your right and vote next Tuesday. Thank you Madam President.

President Wilshire

Thank you. I, too, want to weigh in on Director Marchant and Director Kates. Director Marchant has been a fabulous Director of Community Development. She's done a lot for the city. She worked really hard to get this Master Plan done, and she did, and I thank her for that, and for all the years she spent making it a better city. Justin Kates - the same. I think he was a valuable employee. I'm sorry to see both of them go but Justin did a really good job for us here in the city and will be missed.

Committee announcements:

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you. Just to remind everybody. There's a joint meeting of the Committee of Infrastructure and PEDC. That will tomorrow evening, Thursday night at 7 pm here in the chamber. If those you wish to wear your Santa hats, feel free to. That will be because of O-21-072 allowing free holiday parking in Zone 3. It's our annual gift for that.

President Wilshire

Could you clarify? You said tomorrow, but you said Thursday. So which is it?

Alderman O'Brien

Did I say Thursday? It's actually Thursday?

Alderman Klee

No, it's Wednesday.

President Wilshire

Tomorrow night, okay.

Alderman O'Brien

No, that's okay. I'm going to buy a calendar after this.

Alderman Lopez

Maybe someone will give one to you for Christmas.

Alderman O'Brien

I stand corrected. So it is Wednesday night. Thank you so much.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Alderman Dowd

On Thursday, there will be a very short, I hope, Joint Special School Building Committee so we can pay some invoices. We'll get an update from the construction manager and the architect and pay the invoices. It shouldn't be that long a

meeting but masks are required for everyone to attend. The Board of Education has said anybody in the school at any hour of the day must be wearing a mask.

Alderman Caron

Yes thank you. Well, Monday, November 1, is the Personnel meeting at seven o'clock. We do have at least six people who are coming in for interviews. So it's really important that we have our committee members present because we did have to cancel last month's Personnel Committee because we didn't have our quorum. So please, I know that Donna has already received notification from at least three. So if the rest of you would contact her and let her know for sure, that'd be great because I don't want to be scrambling and scrambling with Donna to find someone to fill in. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Other committee announcements? Committee announcement Alderman Lu?

Alderman Lu

No.

President Wilshire

Okay, that's what we're on. Any other committees? No. Okay.

Alderman Lu

I just wanted to let you know that I got a text saying Channel 16 had shut - the sound went out about 15 minutes ago.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Okay.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN THAT THE OCTOBER 26, 2021, MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE ADJOURNED, BY ROLL CALL**

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Klee, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Tencza, Alderman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Cleaver, Alderman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire	12
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Nay:	0
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**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Attest: Allison Waite, Deputy City Clerk