

PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

A meeting of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee was held Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 7:10 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber and duly noticed in two places, including the City's website in accordance with the requirements of RSA 91-A:2 II.

The roll call was taken with 3 members of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee present: Chairwoman Shoshanna Kelly presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly, Chairwoman
Alderman Ernest A. Jette
Alderman Tim Sennott, Clerk

Members not in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons, Vice Chair
Alderman Thomas Lopez

Also in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr. (via Zoom)
Alderman Patricia Klee
Megan Caron, Chief of Staff
Dawn Enwright, CFO

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

INTERVIEWS

Kathleen Lodi (new appointment)
12 Bartlett Avenue
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: November 13, 2028

Richard Smart (new appointment)
159 Searles Road
Nashua, NH 03062

Term to Expire: October 14, 2028

Chairwoman Kelly

So just so you know, you're both being interviewed for the same so she'll introduce you. You can talk and then we'll open it up to any questions from the Aldermen as a group affair. It makes it a little easier for all. Okay.

Megan Caron, Chief of Staff

Thank you, good evening. For the record, Megan Caron, Chief of Staff. Just to clarify before I get started, you'd like me to introduce both candidates and then, okay. So we have two nominations tonight for the Greeley Park Advisory Committee.

The first being Miss Kathleen Lodi. I'm actually going to turn it over to Alderwoman Klee. Ms. Lodi came highly recommended from Alderwoman Klee so I'm gonna share the floor.

Alderman Klee

May I?

Chairwoman Kelly

Sure.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. I've known Kathy just about since she moved into Ward 3 into Nashua and one of the stories that I love about Kathy is she stalked the neighborhood because she truly loved the area. So she drove around, and so on, and the park was one of the things that she loved. We've talked about it with different things that have happened within the Park and so when it came up to this time and I kind of put out that we needed some people here, Kathy was one of the people that had stepped up. We've had some really good applicants and so on but I do believe that that Kathy and her husband Bob, they have this love for the Park. And I know it keeps it sounding very redundant but they go through the Park, they talk about the different issues with the trees, with the different paths, and so on but I'll let Kathy speak more for herself. I strongly hope that you will support her nomination.

Kathleen Lodi

Thank you, Alderman Klee. Alderman Klee has been an amazing advocate for Greeley Park. My story is - I probably for two decades, I stalked the neighborhood of the Park. I'm a lover of old homes. I would park at Greeley, and I'd walk down Concord Street, and look at all the homes, and I went to the New Hampshire Institute of Art in Manchester, and one of my classes was to study historic styles, architecture in homes, and downtown Nashua was my stomping ground for that. There were so many examples and I just, it was my dream to always move to the neighborhood.

Things finally came together in late 2020 and in 2021 we moved in. While I was unloading our moving truck, we got a notice from a developer that there were going to be 44 units going in up the street and all up against Greeley Park. So I was pretty emotional about it for two days and then I looked up to see who my Alderman was and that's how I connected with Alderwoman Klee. She came right over, spent two hours with me, and went over everything to do with the neighborhood, the Park, and what our options would be, and the City is lucky to have somebody that cares so much about their constituents and the public spaces that we use. So I am grateful to be considered for a spot on this Committee.

Chairwoman Kelly

Great.

Ms. Caron do you want to introduce Mr. Smart, please?

Megan Caron, Chief of Staff

Yes. Next we have Dr. Richard Smart. Dr. Smart's a long-time resident of Nashua and an avid disc golfer. He was integral to the disc golf course project at Roby Park, which really began as a grassroots effort and he was one of the driving forces behind it. He came to the City to advocate for the project, and engage the community at large, and to really promote the benefits of the activity. We feel that Dr. Smart understands the importance of recreation, and of our public spaces, and the role that it plays in our community. We appreciate Dr smart's civic engagement and feel he's a strong nominee for the Committee.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you. Mr. Smart would you like to add?

Dr. Richard Smart

Sure. As Megan said, I'm a lifelong Nashua resident. I was born here at Nashua Memorial Hospital. I went through the Nashua education system. I left Nashua for a very short time only because the things I was interested in were not available in New Hampshire or Nashua. After my education, I returned home. Nashua is home. It's always going to be home. Unfortunately for me, I do have to commute quite a ways to do my job but Nashua is where I belong.

My reason for joining this Committee is as Ms. Caron said, that I have a very vested interest in the parks in and around the City of Nashua. I believe that the parks are the people's parks. These parks belong to the people of Nashua and they should be used and respected as such.

I'm not here to put disc golf in Greeley Park. That's not why I wanted make that very, very clear to everyone right now. In fact, I think one of the things we need to do with Greeley is kind of get rid of some of those eyesore baskets that are on Manchester Street. The time has come that that project has lived up to what it was intended to do and

now that we have the proposal to move forward, we're excited to look at what Greeley Park can be used for and see, you know, how I can best help understand the impact of those uses.

Chairwoman Kelly

Great. I'll open up to questions.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you, Madam Chair. I don't really have a question but I will start with a comment to Mrs. Lodi. You had mentioned, I guess I would say very passively, the development that popped up next to Greeley Park and how you reached out to Alderman Klee and became connected.

I just want to put into the public record that I feel that you undersold your role in that a little bit because as I recall, you and Mr. Lodi were very outspoken advocates for the preservation of Greeley Park. That is where your name popped out to me. I was also sitting back there behind where Ms. Enright is now with you during those meetings when I was just a member of the public. So I can't speak strongly enough to how appropriate it is that I think you're being considered for this Committee and be very happy to support your nomination.

If I could Madam Chair to Dr. Smart, I know you said you're not here to put disc golf in Greeley park but I do just gotta pose the question I've always wondered and I saw it come up a lot during the debate over Roby Park and the disc golf course there. The arrangement - I won't even call it a course that's at Greeley, that's considered more of a practice scenario is that correct?

Dr. Richard Smart

Absolutely. Yeah, so if you were to imagine yourself going to a pitch and putt for golf, that's similar to what that is. So like I said, it served its purpose. It brought the idea of disc golf to Nashua but it's nothing near like a course. It's just like I said, it's a practice area and with the installation of the new course, we don't need it anymore. So I think, you know, that's the understanding. It's always been the agreement that when we had disc golf somewhere else, it would exit Greeley Park.

Alderman Sennott

Well, I think that's - I think a lot of people be very happy to hear you say that. I think your perspective on Greeley Park would be quite welcome on the Committee, so I'm happy to support your nomination as well.

Dr. Richard Smart

Thank you.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. For Dr. Smart. Obviously, it's my Ward. I drive by there all the time quite often and you may be aware of it - the LARPers - the live, you know, the live role play people are there with they tend to use their swords against those as if they're dragons, and so on, and they set up their tents. They do the whole thing. That's really the only true activity that I see within that area and to both of you, I would love to see something more developed there because I think that it's such a beautiful place.

I had to fight that community that was put in there and all the 17 acres of trees that were taken down. They tried to put the water pipes through that area and I was able to negotiate it to go down the fire road and so on. It took out less trees and it was less invasive in the Park. Is there anything - and this is for both of you and I'll start with Ms. Lodi - is there anything that you have ideas of what you would like to see in that area whether it be picnic tables or anything like that? And then Mr. Smart, if you wouldn't mind. Dr. Smart. I'm sorry. I apologize.

Kathleen Lodi

The area where the disc golf things are now?

Alderman Klee

The putt, putt as I call it.

Kathleen Lodi

I feel like we have opportunities on both the east and the west side for things and that can be anything from expanding. I would love to see the gardens expanded and I don't know if that would mean carrying it through to the west side, but there's a two year wait for those garden plots. I've talked to people who have them. They love the opportunity to put their hands in the dirt and I think that just makes the community a lot healthier, especially as you know this is a densely populated part of the City and we're only going to get more dense. As more apartment complexes go up, people need a place to walk through. They need some big trees to see. They need to smell nature. They need to put their hands in the dirt and if we can give them an opportunity to add a few more plots especially as we change things around, including DPW moving out of there, there's an opportunity to let the public know that they can start on Manchester Street, go all the way through the Park, across Concord Street, and get all the way to the river, and that's fantastic, and I don't think a lot of people know about that, and I would love to be part of, you know, helping market that to the community,

Dr. Richard Smart

Agreed. I think almost any use of that area would be would be impactful. Three things popped into my head right away. There used to be a fitness course there.

Alderman Klee

In the ..

Dr. Richard Smart

Yeah in and around that area, there was a there was a fitness course. Like I said, I work in Kendall Square in Cambridge. They have very, very strict ordinances around green space and what they've been doing with some of their green space is putting in really neat kind of things that, you know, the youth are actually using. So they put in what's called "a Parkour Park". Very much it's set up very similar to like a fitness course where you'd have different stations throughout and it just teaches folks, gets them out doing fitness, doing different types of things in the park that you may not necessarily see.

And then the other thing that they did was they're doing nature walks. So going in and maybe tapping into some of the local artists and photographers around Nashua and presenting to the youth what happens in your city? What species of animals do we have in Greeley Park? What can you expect to see on a walk through this area? So those are kind of the things that popped into my mind when we were talking about, you know, what we could use that space for.

The idea that you can go from Manchester Street to the river is a phenomenal way to look at it and I think that if you sort of create a new entrance to Greeley Park there, sort of to attract people to that to that side of the park.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Chairwoman Kelly

Additional questions? I'll just comment that I appreciate both of you coming forward. Greeley is a gem and you sound like you would be great stewards for the Park and for the City so thank you.

Dr. Richard Smart

Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

We will take up your nomination in just a little bit.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

Alderman Tim Sennott

All right. Next up for the Historic District Commission, we have Michelle Earnest, new appointment alternate. Term to expire November 11, 2028. 40 Concord Street, Nashua.

Historic District Commission

Michelle Earnest (new appointment alternate)
40 Concord Street
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire: November 11, 2028

Megan Caron, Chief of Staff

So next we have Dr. Michelle Earnest. She currently lives in the Historic District and is interested in its preservation, and integrity, and her interests in serving on this Commission stems from her experience on the other side going before the Commission for certain approvals. So we are happy to hear that Dr. Earnest's positive and informative experiences prompted her to get involved. So I will turn it over to her to share some of her reasons why she'd like to join the Commission.

Dr. Michelle Earnest

Thank you very much. I'm delighted to be here tonight and to have the opportunity to possibly go on the Historic Commission. As she mentioned, I have had the opportunity to go before the Commission about 4 or 5 times now. My mother and I undertook the renovation of my house at 40 Concord Street back in 2015. I don't know if any of you had seen it back then, it was pretty bad. It actually had, I think, some squatters in it. It was in pretty bad shape when we took it over and we had a lot of fun doing that renovation. It is a little bit different house in Historic District because it was built in 1952. So it's not one of the old Victorians but it's on the blueprint. It's on the foundation of a very historic home that was there and the building in the building in the back on the next lot, the red house, used to be part of that lot and it was their carriage house, I believe.

At any rate, I've had an interesting experience learning about the Historic District Commission, and how they work, and I've lived in the north end of Nashua most of my life. I grew up in Nashua, went away for a few years when I got married, and then came back in 2015. So historic area of Nashua is something that's near and dear to my heart. My mom, Pat Thurber, was instrumental in starting the Historic District Commission a long time ago and served on the Board I think the first few years that it was in existence. So even though I don't have a lot of experience in historic preservation or architecture, I was at the dinner table a lot with my mother going through all of this and have always had a keen interest in the beauty and integrity of buildings. I would very much love the opportunity to help preserve the Historic District in Nashua and to be part of the process for having it be even more beautiful.

Chairwoman Kelly

I will open that up to questions from the Aldermen.

Alderman Tim Sennott

Thank you, Madam Chair. Excuse me. Again not a question but I am familiar with 40 Concord Street. I grew up just north of Greeley Park myself actually and so in trips downtown whether, you know, with my mother on the bike we always passed by that and anybody who isn't familiar with how that house looked and how it looks now, I can't recommend Google Maps Street View enough because you can do a before and after comparison. It was it sat in disrepair for many, many years.

I guess I could dovetail that into a question. What was your experience like when you were undertaking that renovation going before the Historic District Commission? Did you find that to be a difficult process or one that really helped you understand what renovations you were able to undertake and which ones you were more restricted on?

Dr. Michelle Earnest

I think it was an interesting experience on both regards because it was a process I wasn't familiar with and the

actual process of it having to get all of the parts of it together and create a document to submit, that was all very interesting and very informative. It was a little nerve wracking to go before them and to have things hanging in the balance to see whether or not you'd be allowed to do something, but it was also informative and interesting in that way to find out why they were doing what they were doing and how important it was. So it wasn't a bad process. It was just a little intimidating to start with, I think.

Alderman Tim Sennott

Well thanks for that answer. And I think that experience will probably guide you very well in the decision-making process and as a member of that Committee to, you know, hopefully make that a little less intimidating for folks that do come before you with their own proposals going forward. So I'm looking forward to supporting your nomination.

Dr. Michelle Earnest

Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

All set? Alright. Go ahead Alderman Jette.

Alderman Jette

So I hope this isn't inappropriate to say but I knew your mother. Her name was Pat Skillings at the time that I first met her.

Dr. Michelle Earnest

Okay.

Alderman Jette

When I was my first job after I got out of the army, I was the Attorney for what was then known as "Southern New Hampshire Legal Services" and Pat was involved in an organization that was very supportive of disadvantaged people. She was very encouraging and a great asset to my role as representing the people who were, you know, indigent. So I had a lot of respect for her and so I have, you know, a great fondness for her. I'm glad to see that you're stepping up and participating in the community like she did back then and, you know, I welcome your participation and your willingness to serve on the Committee, so thank you.

Dr. Michelle Earnest

Thank you. My mother worked with Project Help, I believe, a long time ago. She was very active in social work issues in Nashua so thank you for bringing her up.

Alderman Jette

You're welcome.

Chairwoman Kelly

All set? Thank you for coming forward. We'll be taking up nomination in just a bit.

Dr. Michelle Earnest

Thank you very much.

Megan Caron, Chief of Staff

Thank you.

Planning Board

Benjamin Zoller (new appointment)
2 Pasadena Avenue
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: November 11, 2028

Benjamin Zoller

Good evening.

Megan Caron, Chief of Staff

Thank you. So next we have Mr. Benjamin Zoller. He expressed the desire to become more involved with the City, particularly in its planning. He is a Civil Engineer by trade and as you can tell from his resume, holds various licenses, certifications, and professional memberships. He has an extensive background with relevant experience that spans different projects across the country. He understands how city planning affects residents' quality of life and the prosperity of a city and because of that, Mayor Donchess feels like he would be a great addition to the Committee. So I'll turn it over to Mr. Zoller to share a little bit more about himself and why he'd like to be part of the Planning Board.

Benjamin Zoller

Thank you so much. Not too many prepared remarks. Just like to mention that I'm passionate about the process of planning. It's a very important, you know, process to the development of a city and it has to happen in an organized way. It's very important to, you know, solicit input from the public and, you know, I like to think of development as a bowling alley and we would be the guardrails in the bowling alley so to say and that, you know, develop is very important to the future of our City but it has to happen in an organized way, and there has to be input from the City, from the public, and it's, you know, a process that I'm eager to be involved in. So very much looking forward to serving my City in a way that I would see fit.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay, thank you. Questions?

Alderman Jette

Thank you. So welcome Mr. Zoller and thank you for being willing to serve on the Planning Board. So I have a couple of concerns. One concern is your company is contracted by the City on various projects and I assume also hired by people who appear before the Planning Board. How do you plan on handling that?

In instances where I would have a conflict of interest, I would recuse myself. I wouldn't be voting in that situation and that's something that I've mentioned to the Planning Board members. I would like to look at it as, you know, an asset and that, you know, perhaps I can anticipate what developers might say when they come before the Planning Board. I would be able to give, you know, relevant feedback, and I'd be able to convey concerns that the City would have, and that the public might have about any kind of development that we would see.

Alderman Jette

Okay. Well thank you for that. I know the skills that you're able to bring to the Planning Board, you know, are very valuable and I think that's a good reason to have you on the Planning Board. I think you can provide a lot of expertise that they need.

Something else that, you know, it always bothers me whether it's the Planning Board or the Zoning Board but, you know, I can think of specific instances where members of the Planning Board have, you know, you're there to, you know, it's the Aldermen. It's the City who passes the zoning ordinances through their elected representatives, the Board of Aldermen and it's happened more than once where I've seen members of the Planning Board, you know, talk about how a particular ordinance in their opinion was, you know, no longer appropriate. That it outlived its usefulness and they will make changes, you know, or approve projects that that don't conform to the ordinances. I'm hoping that you can promise me and the in the rest of the Board of Aldermen that, you know, you will understand that, you know, we pass the ordinances. We set the rules. Your job is to enforce those rules and make sure that projects that come before the Planning Board adhere to those rules. It's not your job to change the rules. You can suggest, recommend to the Board of Aldermen that they change the rules but it's ultimately the Board of Aldermen who have the final word. I'm assuming you understand that but I'd like to elicit from you a promise that you do

understand that, and you will adhere to that, and encourage your fellow Planning Board members to do the same.

Benjamin Zoller

I don't believe that the Planning Board is a catalyst for activism. I believe that it's very much, you know, a crucible in which, you know, the role should be reviewed and cases should be reviewed against the rules that are on the book. Not necessarily facilitating change, you know, when cases are being heard. There are opportunities for, you know, new discussions to take place. I believe the Master Plan is looked at every 10 years or so by the Planning Board. That would be an instance where, you know, we can look at the regs that are on the book and say, you know, is there any, you know, room for change here? Is there anything that residents have brought up on a recurring basis that we should look at? But on a case by case basis, on a month by month basis, we should be judging cases based on the rules that we have on the book not seeking activism to change things, you know, with every case that we're hearing.

Alderman Jette

Thank you.

Benjamin Zoller

Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Are you good? Do you have one?

Alderman Sennott

I'm good.

Chairwoman Kelly

You looked like you were going to raise your hand.

Alderman Sennott

That was a great answer, so.

Benjamin Zoller

Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

So I have a question. You mentioned, you know, community growth and making sure it's appropriate for what the City wants as an alternate or a Planning Board member. What - how do you find that guidance? Where do you think that that should come from?

Benjamin Zoller

I believe that the residents that have lived here their whole lives, the people that are raising a family here today, you know, as I am they should be respected and, you know, development should happen in their city with respect to them and respect to the lives that they live on a day to day basis. I don't think that we should have skyscrapers right next to a single-family home. That's not necessarily a project that would be with respect to the community that it would be sitting in. I think that respect should be given to the people that are here first and the zoning code and the planning guidance should be, you know, looked at through that lens.

Chairwoman Kelly

Anything else? Okay, thank you for coming forward.

Benjamin Zoller

Thank you so much.

Treasurer/Tax Collector

Diane Mulholland (new appointment)
4 Chesterfield Lane
Londonderry, NH 03053

Term to Expire: Indefinite

Chairwoman Kelly

Dawn are you here to introduce - I see you. I think I see you.

Alderman Sennott

She's there.

Chairwoman Kelly

Are you just here for questions? Are you here to introduce or are you just here for questions?

Dawn Enwright, CFO

I'm here for questions.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. I thought it was you but I can't really see from here. Go ahead, Ms. Caron.

Megan Caron, Chief of Staff

Great, thank you. So lastly, Mayor Donchess is nominating Diane Mulholland for the Treasurer/Tax Collector position. As you know, Dawn Enright accepted the CFO position in late summer and we then posted the Treasurer/Tax Collector position internally and externally. Ms. Mulholland interviewed with several City employees and, again, with Mayor Donchess and we believe we found a highly qualified candidate for this role.

Diane brings over 30 years of municipal experience to us. She currently serves as the Deputy Tax Collector in Lebanon and she's held several different roles including Finance Director. I believe Town Clerk, Deputy Treasurer, Welfare Director in various municipalities across the State of New Hampshire. So with that being said, I'm going to turn it over to Ms. Mulholland and she can share why she is interested in joining the City of Nashua.

Diane Mulholland

Good evening. I'm Diane Mulholland. I've been the Tax Collector in Derry. I've been the Finance Director in Allentown and Claremont. I think I have a well-rounded experience to work well in Nashua. I've gone through covid where trying to figure out how to still collect money and work under closed conditions. I've dealt with an embezzlement case in Allentown. I've just been in this for a very long time and I really enjoy my work. I've deeded tax properties. I've worked with residents to do tax payments. I've had to work with the auctioneers to auction property, do buy backs, and I look forward to a new challenge and a new chapter in my life.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you. I'll open up to questions.

Alderman Jette

Well, thank you. You know looking, you know, where you've worked before you've been in some tough situations and so you've had combat experience, I guess, I would say. So welcome to Nashua and I hope that you find the conditions here a lot easier to deal with, and that you will enjoy your stay here, and hope it's a long one.

Diane Mulholland

Thank you.

Alderman Sennott

Oh, thank you, Madam Chair and again, welcome.

Diane Mulholland

Thank you.

Alderman Sennott

My question to you is and, you know, again looking through your resume, you've definitely been in some challenging situations which lead me to believe that you're well capable, suited for the job. My question to you would be as I'm sure many of my colleagues can attest to, we do have a residency in Nashua that has a great deal of value on information. We have folks throughout the community that have many questions, especially as they relate to property taxes, their home valuations, things of that nature, and I was hoping that you could speak a little bit to your comfort in interacting with the public in that degree, and how well you feel you deal with strong pushes for information.

Diane Mulholland

I rely on the law. So I, you know, I do very well with speaking with the public and I try to educate them on what the laws are and why we have to do the things we have to do. I try to work with them as much as I can to try to make it so that they can do payment plans and things like that to get caught up again. I've been very successful with people that have been behind on taxes to actually get completely caught up. You know and I'll work with the Assessing Department to find out if there's exemptions and things like that that people will qualify for. But basically, you know, trying to educate the public is the best way to help them understand what's going on with their taxes.

Alderman Sennott

Follow up?

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Sennott.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you for that answer. You sound like you have a lot of confidence with that, which fills me with confidence.

My follow up on that in regard to educating the public is I have a background myself in accounting and finance and I find that one of the trappings that we've - I even fall into sometimes - is assuming that everybody knows what I'm talking about, which for folks outside the realm of accounting and finance is not always the case. We have our own terminology, and abbreviations that we use, and sometimes people look at me cross eyed a little bit when I'm trying to explain them. Do you feel that you're comfortable conveying some of the more in-depth information that you would be dealing with in a way that layperson could understand?

Diane Mulholland

I believe I am. You know with 30 years of trying to explain taxation to people, you kind of learned how people react to it, and what they understand, what they don't understand. You know they get very confused with the tax year running April 1st to March 31st. Just, you know, how the assessed value and the tax rate work and, you know, you just have to be patient with people and just try to listen to what they're asking and trying to get it to a point that they understand. I've been very successful with, you know, calming people down and talking to people.

Alderman Sennott

Well, thank you for that. I imagine in a tax office you don't deal typically deal with people thrilled with a piece of

paper in their hands they're bringing to you. So, I'm glad to hear that you ...

Diane Mulholland

I don't know, I've had people this week coming in looking for tax bills and I'm like, it's going to be at least two more weeks.

Alderman Sennott

Well, I'm glad to hear that you have that skill set and I'm looking forward to the opportunity to work with you.

Diane Mulholland

Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

All set?

Alderman Sennott

Hmm mmm.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. So thank you for coming forward. I have, you know, utmost confidence in your ability given your background and also that the people at City Hall have brought you forward. They definitely take their time.

So my only question because I've been told my whole life that you're interviewing us as much as we're interviewing you. So you've got a great background, so what about Nashua was appealing for you to want to come and work here?

Diane Mulholland

Well you're the second largest city in the State of New Hampshire, so that's interesting and I followed some of the things that you've done with like your busses. I've actually when I was in college, I got my degree later in life and one of the things I looked at was your bus system, and the natural gas, and I just find it very, how do I say this - forward thinking. It's very progressive and I like that, and I like the fact that there's a lot of resources here to get things done, and move forward, and I feel like I'm going to really enjoy working with Dawn. I've known Dawn for a long time, so.

Chairwoman Kelly

That's good. Great answer. I don't have anything additional. Does anyone else from the Committee have anything? Okay. Well, thank you so much for coming in.

Diane Mulholland

Thank you.

DISCUSSION

- Formation of a Special Aldermanic Committee on Unhoused Policy

Alderman Moran

Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. I guess I can give some case context why I introduced this. About a year ago after Grants Pass, the Supreme Court ruling came down. Manchester started working on their plan and myself and Alderman Lopez had a side conversation to see what we could do amongst ourselves as Aldermen to get ahead of what ultimately happened here at the Board of Aldermen a couple of weeks ago with the new camping type ordinances.

Ultimately, I met with the Mayor, Chief of Staff Caron, and the President of the Board Lori Wilshire, and discussion ended instead of forming a special committee to look at housing and unhoused issues in the City a year ago through either a joint effort between the City Administration and the Aldermen or just the Aldermen. It was ultimately recommended that Alderman Lopez and I have joint meetings between Human Affairs and PEDC, which we did. But ultimately at the time, there was no, other than from Department of Public Health, there was not much buy in to move any particular policies of discussion that we've had at those meetings forward until recently.

Then as we were myself and other Aldermen were creating some legislation as an alternate choice to the move along method, we were faced with some confrontation. Well not confrontation, push back. Again, I've experienced it myself throughout my 4-year term and I know I'm different type of personality than other Aldermen but the reminder of that Aldermanic interference.

So after reviewing the Charter, this section was actually pointed out to me in great detail recently by Corporation Counsel. I thought the best thing that we could do is use our own authority to form such a committee that has the Chairmen of the all the Committees that would be involved that way there's cross communication of what efforts are being made by each committee on the actual issue. Perfect example - remember this camping ordinance that came through ended up in the Infrastructure Committee. That is the absolutely worst Committee it could end up in because it really is a Human Affairs type issue but it just happens to do with no camping in a park, which would fall under Infrastructure.

So having a special committee that would include the Chairman of Infrastructure, and the Chairman of Human Affairs, and others, I think it do the City justice to have such legislation in the future that might come forward with this Board or the next Board go through maybe even that Committee as the Board see fit. But I think there's so much siloing in the City, intentional or not, policy driven or not, that just happens. It's human nature and I feel like utilizing the City Charter with strengths that we have as a Board of Aldermen to form such committees to not just offer solutions but to perfect oversight of how our funding mechanisms are executed by the City department and the vision that our constituents have elected us to represent is actually followed through on with more sense of urgency than as more of a we'll get to you when we feel we want to get to you type of approach.

Chairwoman Kelly

I guess ...

Alderman Moran

So with that, I would open up any questions of what this would look like. Again like I said at the first meeting, you could start it here at this Board. You could bring it back at the next Board. I think it's worth the conversation that the siloing has to end on such serious issues that we're facing like the unhoused situation, affordable workforce housing, and not leveraging, and the power of cross communication versus this whole - well, this is my Committee. I'm the Chairman. I'll let you speak when I want you to speak type of approach.

Chairwoman Kelly

All set Alderman Moran?

Alderman Moran

Yes, I am.

Chairwoman Kelly

Go ahead Alderman Sennott.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you, Madam Chair. Alderman Moran could you remind me because my brain is a little foggy this week which Committee Chairs are you envisioning this Committee being comprised of?

Chairwoman Kelly

I think he said almost all of them. You - we're not getting sound from you.

Alderman Sennott

Yeah, I think you're muted Alderman Moran.

Alderman Moran

Thank you. I'm so sorry. As I discussed at the previous Board, it would have been the Human Affairs Chairman who would also serve as Chair of the Committee cause it just seems right, the Chair of this Committee - Personnel/Administrative Affairs, Budget, Infrastructure, and PEDC. So buildings, parks, planning, zoning, economic development, budget, and administrative policy.

Chairwoman Kelly

Hmm. Are you all set, Alderman Sennott?

Alderman Sennott

For the moment, my wheels are turning.

Chairwoman Kelly

So I'll respond. I know this was sent to me because you brought it up in the meeting and we wanted to have more discussion around it. I have a couple of thoughts. I do agree that some of these things are bigger than the individual committee that they go on. Specifically, the Infrastructure makes a lot of sense.

I'm concerned for a couple reasons. One - because I think that Alderman Clemons and Alderman Lopez are really good voices in this space and they're not here to talk on this this evening because the meeting was moved. So that's concern one.

And then my other concern is, well a couple of them, I think that your thought process makes a lot of sense. I worry about setting up committees sort of ad hoc like this and then they kind of run the course. I mean even Alderman Lopez can talk about well we used to have one on, I think, it was called the homelessness and then it kinda ..

Alderman Lopez

Substandard Living.

Chairwoman Kelly

Right. It was Substandard Living. So, yeah, it was Substandard Living. Thank you. So I worry about that and then, you know, the other thing that's been on my mind is, is it potentially more appropriate to do more of a working group type format where it's not just Aldermen around the table but other people who are involved in the specific City services and then can come forward like the Ad Hoc Committee that we that looked at all of the different bonding and give recommendations to the full Board so that it's a little bit more flexible to have some discussions. But to your point, making sure that that conversation is not siloed by one committee or another. Those are my thoughts.

Yeah, go ahead Alderman Moran.

Alderman Moran

Yeah, so all valid points and, again, I think kind of what I alluded to back at the last meeting like this is we're a little under two months left of the term whether the current Board moves forward with this or not or at least the conversation has started, I think that's the most important piece because as we are seeing, we start in live action, right? The Ad-Hoc Committee that you just suggested, that's exactly the ad hoc type of approach Alderman Lopez and I proposed to the Mayor and the President of the Board and that was turned down. I think we are clearly in not prevention stage in the City when it comes to this issue. We are certainly working towards it but we're in a reactionary moment that I feel that an ad hoc committee or a committee like this in any shape or way or form that comes out of will have support now.

You know it's a, you know, people like Alderman Lopez and I who work in social services and healthcare may be seen as alarmist at times. It's just because we can know patterns and the social science behind what is happening in the infrastructure of the social service spectrum a little bit closer than others. But I think you guys are, and I'm still

an Alderman, but we're having a conversation that what's clearly happening. There's no real results being driven to resolve the problem because of that siloed situation and we have these issues going to committees.

Quite frankly, they don't have heart for it. They have the mind and the wherewithal and experience but not the heart behind it because you're talking about roads and parks, it's not a human type of issue that goes to committees like that. When you bring everyone together who has those type of experiences whether it's human affairs, planning, etc., then you combine the heart, with the mind, and practically the soul, and then you have outcomes that will be better for everyone involved because everyone's voice is actually being heard and shared equally or equitably in a way that you're not shut down because you have an opinion that is not a priority.

Chairwoman Kelly

I'm sorry that you were unsuccessful in getting this going a year ago because I know we've been - the alarm has been being sounded to us for a long time, so. Alderman Sennott?

Alderman Moran

And I would - anyone can request those right to know records of that meeting. I'm sure I know someone was taking notes but I represent to what I know to be accurate based on my memory as I recall.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Sennott go ahead.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you, Madam Chair. And Madam Chair, I'm glad you said the word work - the phrase "working group" because back at last week's meeting, I certainly supported this because I think the discussion needs to continue and the last thing that I want to see fall out of everything that took place over those five hours last week is that we pass an ordinance and then we just sort of drop the ball on this topic again. I think that would be the greatest disservice to the situation that we're faced with.

The reason that working group throws up some flags in my mind, and they're green flags rather than red flags, because when I think working group, I think back to the committee that was formed to study the outdoor dining process and that was comprised of Aldermen and stakeholders. As I consider this and some group needs to move forward with this discussion. I don't know if the Chairs of select committees is the best approach. I think the working group model with Aldermen who are invested in it and want to see tangible change paired with a subset of stakeholders throughout both City staff and the community to work towards tangible solutions, I think could be the most successful model for this.

I don't know how it is that we go about putting that into place but right now as I'm just mulling this over in my head, that's the model that I think it's going to come out with the best results.

Alderman Moran

And .. ?

Chairwoman Kelly

Go ahead, Alderman Moran.

Alderman Moran

May I follow up?

Chairwoman Kelly

Yeah.

Alderman Moran

And I think that's exactly what needs to happen is the conversation what works best for a moment in time. Again,

you know, this is just a, you know, what can we do that's different that breaks down those silos and just broaching the conversation to figuring out what actually works best given the scenario is what needs to happen so the conversation doesn't stall. It should run all the way to December 31st, and then start it on the first municipal meeting after the first of the year, and continue onward. There needs to be that sense of urgency that continues because as you enter the holidays and then the new year, that passion is going to wear off and then, again, just like it seems the last 4 years of my term and I know it's the previous terms, we have this crisis that seems to always happen around the wintertime when things get rough for that particular population. We end up on the news.

So we can't feel anymore that it's just going to cool itself off, that the behind the scenes people are going to fix everything because the behind the scenes people - the social services, Public Health, others are just being crushed with so many different aspects of the grant system, funding sources being ended, cut, withheld. Medicaid rates don't increase so you can't do billable services to meet up with the inflation and the healthcare costs of businesses that buy their insurance. It's all compounding. That ignorance is bliss, out of sight/out of mind won't work anymore given the compounding effects of the social economy that we're facing right now. It's kind of reminiscent of the social issues that we had in the late 90s in the Clinton era.

Chairwoman Kelly

I appreciate your passion and I share it. I know we both sit on the Board of the Soup Kitchen and I know for a fact that I'm not gonna let this burn out.

Alderman Moran

And I'm not saying ...

Chairwoman Kelly

I know you weren't. I'm just saying, I'm just saying, don't worry about it. It's gonna keep going.

Alderman Moran

It's the (inaudible) who wants it to fizzle out and I don't think it's anyone in that room.

Chairwoman Kelly

Yeah, I agree.

Here's what I would like to propose everyone to think about. I think that we have the funding on the table that's coming to Budget. We can discuss that. There's other conversations going around and around a specific new action around a resource center. I think if we can keep this on our agenda for next time, I'd love to hear Alderman Lopez, Alderman Clemons, and in the meantime, we can also discuss with the President, you know, what the thoughts are on maybe going more going towards a working group and who might be sitting at that table. So that gives us a little bit of time. We already know that the immediate action is being looked at and hopefully funded and in the meantime, we can be thoughtful in how we continue to have this conversation because it's really important and urgent.

Alderman Moran

Thank you. And may I follow up?

Chairwoman Kelly

Yup.

Alderman Moran

And myself and others I think are proposing other legislations and for myself, the whole point of stuff that I brought forward in the last couple months of the term for me is not having an expectation that anything would actually pass. It's to give the idea and concept to continue and basically pass the torch to those who have also championed while I was there in prior to continue with a stronger message.

I just asterisk to everything that is being talked about is remember the continuing reminding of Aldermen about aldermanic interference and referencing to the City Charter because it's not just me. Other very reputable Aldermen who are zealous advocates like myself, or passionate, or enjoy friction have also been told the same thing and it just doesn't feel right to have that highlight and point it out and within that subsection of that City Charter portion, it does accurately reflect what power we can execute without aldermanic interference and we should continue to look at those when it's appropriate.

Chairwoman Kelly

I guess I'll respond with just one other thing which is, you know, we have some new members coming on the Board but, you know, it is totally within our power to suggest that a piece of legislation gets sent to more than one committee for review and I don't think that happens often enough.

Alderman Moran

Hmm mmm. Yup.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Jette?

Alderman Moran

I, I ...

Chairwoman Kelly

Sorry, I'm gonna let Alderman Jette ..

Alderman Moran

No worries.

Chairwoman Kelly

...and then you can go ahead. Go ahead.

Alderman Jette

So thank you for, you know, bringing this up. I'm sorry that you that we are not having this discussion, you know, four years ago when you first joined the Board and, you know, I was on the Board at that time. I think you're, you know, you're honing in on a particular problem housing in the unhoused but you're also, I think, I may be wrong but I'm also detecting or maybe it's my own interpretation/my own thoughts and that is, you know, your kind of commenting on, you know, what is the role of the Board of Aldermen and have we been exercising that role?

You know, a lot of people don't understand, you know, because they watch what's going on in Concord, in Washington, and other places, and, you know, they see elected officials constantly, you know, talking to each other, and coming up with ideas, and coming up with plans, and lobbying one another, and that type of thing. When I first became an Alderman eight years ago, it came as a surprise to me that we are prohibited from talking to each other. Technically, we can speak as long as - we can speak to one Alderman or to maybe two Aldermen but you can't speak to two Aldermen if you're on a committee of five, and, you know, the quorum is three, and you could be at a meeting, and there's only three of us like tonight, there's only three of us on this Committee that are here. So you know, we probably all have experienced when we first started as Aldermen a reprimand from the Corporation Counsel about not talking to each other than in a public meeting, generally speaking. You know there are a lot of details to it but I'm talking about the so-called Right-to-Know Law, you know, 91-A and for those people out there who don't know, don't understand, it prohibits more than a quorum of Aldermen from speaking about any issue that is going to come before the Board.

So we're supposed to have our discussions at these meetings and, you know, tonight is an example. There's nothing on the table. There's no resolution that's been ordinances, that's been proposed. You know, we're talking about an idea of something that that might happen and we're discussing it in public, you know, the way that the law

intends it to be done. But we don't, you know, we don't often exercise that because, you know, I don't know about the rest of you but oftentimes I come to meetings, and especially when I was first an Alderman, I remember being reminded that, you know, hey there was a Bruins game going on. Let's not waste a lot of time talking, you know, we have places to go. The truth is, it's at these meetings where we're supposed to be discussing things. We're supposed to be coming up with ideas. We're supposed to be talking to each other about, hey I've got this idea how do you feel about it?

But oftentimes, I don't want to speak for anyone else, but I feel pressured to follow the agenda. You know, don't talk about anything that's not on the agenda. Let's move on. You know, somebody says the favorite motion is motion to adjourn. Let's get out of here and I think we've done, personally - I can we speak for myself - I think I've done a disservice to the City and my constituents by not, you know, insisting on spending our time at meetings, you know, fully discussing issues, coming up with ideas even before something you know is proposed. I mean the usual thing is you get an idea, you talk to Legal, and you say I've got this idea. They come up with an ordinance or a resolution. It gets submitted. It comes before the Board, is the first reading, it's sent to a committee, and then the Committee, you know, recommends passage, or recommends that it not be passed, or amends it and stuff, and you kind of lose the ability to come up with something, you know, a good piece of legislation. Because, you know, I know I've certainly been, you know, criticized if I come up with an amendment at the, you know, the Board meeting, I know I'm not the only one who's been reprimanded for not doing the work at the committee. I know some of us have tried to do things at the committee and we're told no go to Legal and bring it up at the full Board. So somebody goes to Legal, it comes up at the full Board, and it's all well this should have been done at the committee. It's very, you know, and it takes especially for new Aldermen and we're all new at the beginning, it takes a lot to push against the more established, the more experienced people here.

So I'm glad you've brought this up, you know, but I did not catch what Charter provision you are using to when you say, you know, we can create this committee, you know. Can you repeat for me the Charter provision because I'm ..

Alderman Moran

Yes, Charter Section 47-A. Actually I'm not at my office at the moment but I have it hung on the wall as a reminder to never violate City Charter 47-A.

Alderman Jette

Okay. Well I'll take a look at. So, you know, the idea of this Committee and you're trying to get the, you know, I think you said that you tried to get the President to form this committee and didn't happen so now you're trying to do it, you know, have the Aldermen do it. I think it's a great idea. When I was looking at various committees, you know, and I came across - I don't know how many of us are aware that there is a Strategic Planning Committee and it's composed of the chairs of the Planning and Economic Development, Budget Review, Infrastructure, the Mayor or a designee, President of the Board of Education, the Chairman of the Police Commission, the Chairman of the Fire Commission, the Vice Chair of the Public Works, and the Chair of Library Trustees. I've never heard of this Committee. I've never heard of the Committee. I've never heard of them meeting. I've never heard of any results of any meeting that they've had. It doesn't seem to be ...

Alderman Moran

I'm the Chairman of PEDC and I've never been called to sit on that. No one's ever called that meeting for the past four years I've been Chairman of PEDC. So I'm assuming nothing has been referred to such committee as well.

Alderman Jette

So thank you for bringing this up. I'm sorry that we didn't think of this earlier in our terms and hopefully the new Board will, you know, maybe the new Board ought to consider doing something to require, you know, all new Aldermen to attend a class on the Charter, and the Code, and what their rights are so that they come into this new term, you know, with a full understanding of what their power is and that they are encouraged and feel comfortable exercising it so. So thank you Alderman Moran.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. Alderman Moran?

Alderman Moran

Thank you. Just to respond to Alderman Jette, thank you for sharing your perspective as well because as you know, I'm not one to shy away from a Board fight and it can be hard when it's a fight about policy and it becomes personal because folks can't separate their persona from the position. It is not about the person who holds the seat. It's about the seat effectively working and advocating for the policy and that may mean letting someone speak who's not on the committee a little bit longer than a committee member. Just as anyone comes to PEDC, Alderman Klee, anyone, they all get - everyone gets ample time and I don't think I've ever really cut anybody off.

But yes at the start at being an Alderman even though I had a very contentious start with the joint PEDC/Infrastructure for downtown dining, the assumption there of what your actual power and abilities to do is not really known because of that system of trying to keep everything with the experienced, longer term people which are valuable but also you're equal to them. You're equal to them in every manner whether you're a one term Alderman or not because you've been elected by the people to have that same power of vote as they do. Some people are chairmen, some people aren't. That doesn't really matter much. It's that knowing that you can bring forth legislation whether the City wants to do it or not. You can talk about it in public whether they want to do it or not unless it might violate some kind of fear negotiation process. At the last three or four Boards I've seen that grip of that olden time way of doing government slip and that control no longer be as firm as it once was and I'm encouraged by that. Because in order for things to actually change, you have to be willing to look at your friend and say that's a bad idea, we're not going to do this, you're wrong but you can still vote your way even though you're wrong, and vice versa. You know that's people's opinions but these are very important things we're dealing with.

Housing - people need to afford to live here and we're pricing them out because we don't want to confront that the policies of my party has caused devastation to the working-class people who are being priced out and homeless in the City.

Chairwoman Kelly

I'm gonna tie this up but I think that this has been a good discussion. I think one of the things that occurred to me in the last, you know, five minutes of discussion is that if we look at it as a working group, that is more a preemptive look at this. How do we look at policy? What kinds of things can we recommend? When we did the working group on the Police Commission, there's a lot of stakeholder conversations and then we put forward a suggested plan just like they did with the ad-hoc spending. So that has one function.

One of the things that you've brought up Alderman Moran is, you know, the siloedness. I don't know that that necessarily will fix that. I also think that a committee like this is more reactionary once the legislation's already created, and asking how that's vetted, and making sure it's not siloed. So there could be - I think there's a lot of nuance and really good discussion here and I want to keep it going. I don't know if anyone else in the Committee wants to add to this before we move on? Alderman Klee you're also allowed to speak. That's fine. I just didn't see you come in.

Alderman Klee

No, no, no, no, no, no, you always give me the chance to speak. Please, I never felt in either of your Committees I've never felt put off. So thank you very much to both of you for that. And I apologize. I was not here during that discussion but just hearing the last few moments of it if you don't mind, I just wanted to add something. When the City had a severe problem with a particular, I'll call it a "no tell motel" but that's not very nice - Country Barn - that made headlines and so on, we did put through a committee to look at the less than stellar housing within the City. So we have been reactionary in the past to create committees and I apologize Alderman Moran that I couldn't be here to listen to your presentation. I had to be up in Planning but - so the City - we have. The Board of Aldermen has put together to look at issues and so on. We disbanded that, I think, two years ago simply because there wasn't anything coming forward into it.

So we do have a precedence that we could put through a committee, or work group, or whatever to look at a problem and then once we feel that that problem has been resolved or is no longer an issue, which this particular one is not going to be, if what the title of the unhoused is. That will be a long time going but still, you can, I think that is within the body of this group to be able to do something like that to put that together. Even if it's just a, you know, as long as it's needed kind of type of things and we have precedence of having done that.

Chairwoman Kelly

Yeah and that's been the discussion is that we've definitely done it before. We don't want to add committees that will just sort of become defunct like Substandard.

Alderman Klee

Right.

Chairwoman Kelly

But also how do we be flexible in this discussion?

Alderman Klee

Yes, thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

That should have been happening for a very long time. So I think what we're going to do is just keep this on the discussion because my initial thing was that I was disappointed that Alderman Clemons and Alderman Lopez who are very passionate about this were not able to be here. Totally my fault because I moved this from election eve to tonight. So I think if everyone's okay with leaving it on, let's bring it back up at the next Committee meeting, have some discussions then as well, and just keep moving the ball forward.

Alderman Klee

I look forward to hearing it.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Moran are you happy with that?

Alderman Moran

Yeah, that'd be great and I just would have one more request of the Committee if you could also keep my legislation regarding foreign ownership on the table as well until Alderman Clemons returns to the Committee. I believe he had comments and input as well.

Chairwoman Kelly

All right. So noted, thank you.

APPLICATION TO LICENSE HAWKER'S, PEDDLER'S, ITINERANT VENDOR'S LICENSE – None

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SENNOTT TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE GREELEY PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE: KATHLEEN LODI WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE NOVEMBER 13, 2028 AND RICHARD SMART WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE OCTOBER 14, 2028;

TO RECOMMEND TO THE FOLLOWING NEW APPOINTMENT ALTERNATE TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION: MICHELLE EARNEST WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE NOVEMBER 11, 2028;

TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING RE-APPOINTMENT TO THE NASHUA HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: THOMAS MONAHAN WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE OCTOBER 14, 2030;

TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING NEW ALTERNATE APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING BOARD: BENJAMIN ZOLLER WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE NOVEMBER 11, 2028;

TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING NEW APPOINTMENT AS TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR: DIANE MULHOLLAND WITH AN INDEFINITE TERM; AND

**TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING RE-APPOINTMENTS TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT:
STEVE LIONEL WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 30, 2028 AND JAY MINKARAH WITH A TERM TO
EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 11, 2028
MOTION CARRIED**

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you everyone who came out for interviews. You will be – Donna will reach out to you to come forward for confirmation at the Board.

Alderman Klee

Probably next...

Chairwoman Kelly

Yeah, most likely, yeah. Thank you.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

R-25-158

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

RELATIVE TO A NON-BINDING BALLOT REFERENDUM CONCERNING THE KEEFE AUDITORIUM
- tabled at 5/5/25 mtg

R-25-207

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Tim Sennott
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF NASHUA
- tabled at 10/6/25 mtg

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SENNOTT TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE O-25-056
MOTION CARRIED

O-25-056

Endorsers: Alderman Chris Thibodeau
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman John Sullivan

RULES FOR REMARKS BY ALDERMEN AT MEETINGS

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SENNOTT TO RECOMMEND INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT
MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Alderman Jette

So I would just like to comment on the Ordinance regarding Remarks by Aldermen. It was an Ordinance that was, you know, intent. I don't remember the all the details but I do kind of remember the general feeling that since we limit the public comment to three minutes, that the remarks by Aldermen should be limited to three minutes as well. I just want to, you know, reminding people of the discussion we just had. That we Aldermen are supposed to be talking about things at these meetings in the public. So for the people who think that we speak - and I know I've been accused of this recently. I got an angry email reminding me of this but this is our job. We're elected as Aldermen to come to these meetings, and talk about city issues, and, you know, discuss problems, and try to come up with solutions.

It's not true that we can't talk about anything until there is an ordinance or a resolution that's put on the table. You know the discussion by Aldermen - any Alderman at any meeting can bring something up, you know, if he or she chooses to. That's in our rules and it's part of the process. So we can't, you know, we can't limit the Aldermen in discussing things. That's their job. That's the whole purpose of having these meetings is for Aldermen to discuss things and try to come up with solutions.

So it's different. You know, the public is here. You know some people think it's their constitutional right to come to these meetings and say things. You know, it's not. The public does not have a constitutional right to come to a meeting of the Board of Aldermen and talk about anything they want for as long as they want. They don't. They have a right to express their opinions in public. You know they can write a letter to the Editor, they can write emails, they can go on the sidewalk and say whatever they want to say. We can't do anything to stop people from expressing their opinions but we don't have to allow them to come to our meetings and take up the meeting time, you know, with whatever they want to talk about.

We do allow public comment, and we do have the right to limit it to the three minutes like we have done, and, you know, there are a lot of city councils, a lot of Board of Aldermen where there is no public comment. The public can't come. You can't go up to the State House, you know, at a committee meeting and just start talking. It's only when you're invited. It's only when you sign - it's a meeting, it's a public hearing, you know, but the regular meetings of the legislature and the committees, the public is not permitted to speak. Congress does not allow the public to come and speak at their meetings.

So I think it's, you know, I'm happy that the sponsor, you know, withdrew that proposed ordinance. So that's why I feel that way. Thank you.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. If I if I may, I kind of want to expound on what my colleague just said and that's Article 3 514-B, Order of Business. 514-A is Order of Business for the full Board of Aldermen and 14 B is for all the committees within it.

Technically general comment isn't in there but the remarks by Aldermen are and I 100% agree with what you said. We have to at times speak to business that happened here and if there were 10 items of business, we could not get that out in three minutes to discuss perhaps. I just had a meeting at Finance and at the end of that meeting, one of our colleagues wanted to express why they voted in a particular way and I would want to make sure that that person had that opportunity to do that. They wanted to know that it was done without malice, and so on, and what their logical reason was. That's just something on a simple kind of basis but I felt that they had the right to have that opportunity to do that.

Manchester only does one public comment a month and that is prior to the beginning of their meeting. Not all the Aldermen are there. I've expressed this before. I don't agree with that. I think if you're going to have public comment, we should be here to accept the public comment and to listen to what they're saying.

But I think here in the City of Nashua, we are very good in that respect. That we give a primary at the beginning for anything that's going to be acted upon and then the second public comment is kind of an open field. We need tough skin at times for some of the harsh remarks and maybe sometimes we deserve them and maybe sometimes we don't. But regardless, I think we are good. It is not the constitutional right that they have this. They have freedom of speech and they can send us emails, they can speak on social media which most people are not afraid to do. So I, too, am glad that this was pulled back and requested for indefinite postponement because I think it would have done a disservice to the people of the City if we weren't able to do our jobs and speaking such as this is doing our jobs.

I can tell you for a fact there are times that - and Alderman Jette, I probably am as long winded as anybody in this horseshoe so - but there are times when I've had my constituents who have reached out to me and said thank you for what you said. I didn't know that or I didn't understand when that was happening. So sometimes I may be long-

winded but it's so that I'm speaking to them not just my colleagues here or the people here, it's the people that are listening. So I appreciate your comments. Thank you.

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Chairwoman Kelly

I'll just remark that I want to thank everyone at City Clerk's Office for a great - all their great work for the election on Tuesday. We always run such a tight ship here in Nashua and is grateful for all the people who came out to vote.

Alright, do you have a motion?

Alderman Sennott

Do you want the honors?

Alderman Jette

I'll make the – somebody - it's not my favorite motion but someone else's favorite motion and that is to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN JETTE TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 8:34 p.m.

Alderman Tim Sennott
Committee Clerk