

PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 6, 2025

A meeting of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee was held Monday, October 6, 2025 at 7:00 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 5 members of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee present: Chairwoman Alderman Kelly presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly, Chairwoman
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons, Vice Chair
Alderman Ernest A. Jette
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Tim Sennott, Clerk

Members not in Attendance:

Also in Attendance: Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Mayor Jim Donchess
Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel
Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

ROLL CALL

Alderman O'Brien

So, you think it's easy it isn't.

Alderman Tim Sennott

I never thought it was easy. What's that?

Alderwoman Kelly

I guess that's why they can't see her from here, but. Sorry. We'll talk about it.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

INTERVIEWS

Greeley Park Advisory Committee

Kerry Miller (new appointment)
35 Concord Street, Apt. 2
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: August 12, 2028

Mayor Donchess

Ms. Miller is not here.

Chairwoman Kelly

She is on Zoom.

Mayor Donchess

What? Oh, she's on Zoom? Okay.

Alderman Sennott

Up top here.

Mayor Donchess

I didn't see that.

Alderman Klee

Yeah, well we can't see that.

Kerry Miller

I'm here.

Chairwoman Kelly

Oh, yeah, why is that not?

Alderman Klee

I don't know. He was having problems with it so.

Chairwoman Kelly

Kerry is here.

Alderman Sennott

Can we hear her?

Alderman Klee

Yeah, because right now that's the control room that we are seeing up there.

Chairwoman Kelly

Kerry can you say hi again please.

Kerry Miller

Can you hear me?

Chairwoman Kelly

Now we can.

Mayor Donchess

Yes.

Alderman Sennott

Yes.

Kerry Miller

Okay, cool.

Mayor Donchess

Alright. I didn't know Kerry was gonna be on Zoom. Well as you see from her submission, she's, of course, is a resident of Nashua who has been here for quite some time, was born here. She's maintained – she works for the Nashua Transportation for the bus doing public relations for the bus system. She's had a plot at Greeley Park for a long time. Lives on Concord Street kind of, I'd say, a half mile south of Greeley Park about, and she uses the park very frequently, has loved the park for a long time and therefore, is perfect, in my opinion, for the Greeley Park Advisory Committee. And with that I will - and she used to work in the Mayor's office so she found greener pastures, you know, and she's done a very good job working for the bus system. So I will turn it over to Kerry to add anything that she'd like to and tell the Committee of her interest on the Greeley Park Advisory Committee.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you. Miss Miller.

Kerry Miller

Sure. Thanks everybody. It's nice to see you all. Sorry, I'm feeling a little under the weather today so I just asked if I could be on Zoom otherwise I would be there.

But, yeah, I mean as the Mayor said, I lived in Nashua for a long time. I was born here and I just - I really care a lot about Greeley Park. I live in the neighborhood and I know that it's very beloved by everyone here in the city. It's so much life happens there, you know, with all the special events and the sports fields that are there for the tennis, and pickleball, and soccer, youth soccer, and of course, the public the community gardens plot which I have so enjoyed having the last few years. It's really just added a lot of joy to my life. I didn't know I love gardening but I really do. So, yeah, and I'm just - I'm so happy and excited to be part of the Advisory Committee and, you know, just have a voice and a say and all things Greeley Park. So, thanks.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you. Questions from the Committee? Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. This is kind of an unusual question and I'll ask others as well that have come forward for it. I'm the Ward 3 Alderman. So I've been recently getting inquiries from people, and I haven't had a chance to speak to the Mayor or anybody else, about people who are interested in perhaps putting up some type of - I want to say monument for lack of a better term - to Thornton Greeley, the Benefactor, the person who was that property at one point. Would you be interested in doing something like that not just the keeping up with it, or that would have to be, and I've been making it very clear, not on the city's dime, but would you be willing to work with other outside organizations for something like that? Similar, maybe not as big, but similar to what we have at Foster Square and so on kind of honoring a person for what they've done for the city?

Kerry Miller

Oh, you're asking me?

Alderman Klee

Oh, that's okay.

Chairwoman Kelly

It's a little hard when you're on Zoom.

Alderman Klee

Yeah.

Kerry Miller

Sorry about that.

Alderman Klee

That's okay.

Kerry Miller

Yeah, I mean I think that's a lovely idea. That sounds nice.

Alderman Klee

Okay, thank you.

Alderman Clemons

Yeah, I don't have any comments or questions I mean. I only have comments. But I did want to just thank you for coming forward. You know, Greeley Park is obviously a very special place in Nashua and, you know, I think anybody who is willing to step up and dedicate their time to one of our resources deserves a lot of credit. So I just want to thank you for your willingness to do that and, you know, I'm sure you will be a good steward of the park.

Kerry Miller

Well, thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Any additional comments or questions? Okay. You all set?

Alderman Clemons

Yup.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you, Miss Miller. We'll be taking up your nomination in just a bit. Mr. Mayor?

Historic District Commission

Paige Hultman (new appointment)
5 Bruce Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: October 14, 2028

Mayor Donchess

Well next to me is Ms. Hultman who I've nominated to the Historic District Commission. She has been the Manager of Penuche's for quite a while now. Very familiar with that area and also is in the Nashua Rotary Club. She is a Realtor with Purple Finch Realty. She's been involved in various service organizations. Most notably, she's been the - she's the incoming President of the Board of the Front Door Agency which is right there on Concord or on Manchester Street, I guess, technically, right? Concord Street, yes. She has been involved with the Historic District Commission because Penuche's and the next-door property are in the Historic District and therefore has had the opportunity to attend various meetings when changes at those properties have been suggested.

She certainly has an interest in Nashua, and in historic preservation, and will be a fine addition to the Historic District Commission in my opinion. So I will turn it over to Ms. Hultman to tell you a little bit about herself and anything she'd like to say about the Historic District Commission.

Paige Hultman

Thank you. As the Mayor said, I have been at Penuche's. He was kind enough not to say almost 30 years coming up in April. So I have done quite a few projects with the HTC over the years with improvements. I've always been interested just in architecture in general. I live right outside the Historic District. I've owned my home in a downtown for 20 years, so I really understand the need for, you know, preserving the history of the older homes while also, you

know, still encouraging growth. I love Nashua and just like being involved.

Chairwoman Kelly

Great. I'll take questions.

Alderman Lopez

Definitely impressed by all of your experience. I don't think there is a single organization here that I haven't had a positive experience with. Just out of curiosity is the Front Door Agency is the Nora House in the Historic District?

Paige Hultman

Yes.

Alderman Lopez

Because that looks like it's an historic building.

Paige Hultman

It is.

Alderman Lopez

So, I think, I mean I appreciate you stepping forward with all the other things you have on your plate. I think you're going to bring a lot to that Commission so I'll be supporting your nomination.

Alderman Jette

Thank you. So your resume indicates you're well qualified for this position but one of the things the Historic Commission is called upon is to enforce the zoning laws regarding the Historic District Commission, which means sometimes people come and they want to do something and sometimes the answer is no, you can't. Do you promise us that when there's a violation of the law that you're willing to uphold the law and say no, I'm sorry you can't do that.

Paige Hultman

Yes, definitely. I've been on the receiving end of that no from the HTC. People may not understand it at the moment but it makes sense in the long run and I hope to encourage and explain that to people if and when they get their no when they're asking for things, yeah.

Alderman Jette

Thank you. Thank you for stepping up to volunteer.

Paige Hultman

I may have to recuse myself.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. Yeah, I've been on the HDC as the aldermanic person as well as this year I'm the alternate to it. The Historic District is basically in my Ward. So one of the things that have come, and Alderman Jette pointed to that, is that you have to do that hard no. We actually did the hard no to the U.U. Church as well and we kept sending them back and we kept having to work with them. We tried not to do the hard no. We tried to do no but, you know, type of things. Some of the issues that do come up in there is people will come in and own a property that has been modified without ever having gone to the Historic District. It's hard to say bring it back when they're working on one part and we know the other part doesn't match. So I want to ask how would you handle something like that?

Paige Hultman

I definitely would, especially in the beginning, I would look to, you know, the other members of the Committee, and how it is presented, and how you do make those changes in the future when they haven't been up to code for the historic. So it would be interesting to learn that process.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. May I continue? One of the other things that I found actually disconcerting but is that in the Historic District, we can't tell you what color you can paint your house so it could be hot pink.

Chairwoman Kelly

What's wrong with hot pink?

Alderman Klee

With green shutters, you know, and so on. So that that can be a little frustrating but we can't dictate that I guess. I want to change but we can't.

But I lived in Chelmsford where they told you what color white you could have, but the city has never gotten into that.

The only other question I have is one of the issues they have a lot with Historic District is attendance. It's a big issue. You were probably one of those people that might have gotten pushed off because there wasn't attendance.

Paige Hultman

Definitely.

Alderman Klee

So that's my question. You don't feel that those Mondays that you would have a hard time showing up for? It's only once a month but.

Paige Hultman

No, definitely not. I think that's one of the top priorities is attendance and I feel that unless I'm out of the country, I will absolutely be at the meetings and make it a priority.

Alderman Klee

I appreciate that because it's very frustrating when you're on committees - and these are all volunteers such as yourself that aren't being paid. So I'm not doing anything harsh against them but it is frustrating when the applicants show up and we can't hold a meeting. So I do appreciate your attendance and thank you for stepping up.

Paige Hultman

Thank you.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you, Madam Chair. I just actually had a quick question relative to your letter of interest because you had referenced your work at Penuche's and then the property next door. Is it the yellow triple decker? Are you involved in the restoration of that?

Paige Hultman

So the owner is my direct boss, so I just manage his properties in a sense. I'm kind of his grunt worker when it comes to things. He is GCing the project which, I think, is why it's taking a little longer than it should because he doesn't live in town but I have, you know, I designed all the kitchens, and made all those decisions, and make phone calls when people aren't showing up for him, things like that.

Alderman Sennott

But that will one day look the way it used to?

Paige Hultman

That is the plan, yes. Yes.

Alderman Sennott

It's an odd property for me to take interest in but it's exciting for me because was when I was in seventh grade, a friend of mine lived on the third floor. So it'll be - I might be one of the only people in this room that's actually been in there so.

Paige Hultman

Yeah, we've been, you know, working next door for all these years, and seeing it go through a couple fires, and just being vacant, and so it'll be nice. We've done a lot of work at the bar next door so having the property, you know, to the right looking nice is going to be important.

Alderman Sennott

I'm glad to see it adopted. That's ...

Paige Hultman

It's taking a little longer but we're getting there.

Alderman Sennott

...clearly shows qualification for the Commission you've applied for here. So I'd be happy to support your nomination.

Paige Hultman

Great, thank you.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. I don't have any questions but again, I just want to express thank you very much for coming forward and your willingness to volunteer. It's much appreciated.

Paige Hultman

Thank you. Thanks for the opportunity.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you for being here. We'll be taking up your nomination in just a bit.

Paige Hultman

Thank you.

Housing Revolving Fund Committee

Skylar Wheeler (new appointment)
7 Vagge Drive
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire: September 9, 2028

Skylar Wheeler

Hello, nice to meet you all.

Mayor Donchess

Madam Chair, I am nominating Skylar Wheeler to the Housing Trust Fund. The legislation creating the Trust Fund requires or suggests that one of the members have so-called lived experience. So Mr. Wheeler is a resident of Vagge Village and was graduate of Nashua High School back in 1917. Skylar has been active with the Tenants Council there at Major Drive at Vagge Village where he was Vice President of one of the committees, has been active with the Granite State Organizing Project which has been involved with Vagge Village for quite some time when the redevelopment of a portion of the project was proposed, the residents in the Granite State Organizing Project got very involved in negotiating some changes to the proposal, reducing the density to some degree increasing green space.

But overall Skylar will be a good addition because as a resident of a public housing project, certainly has a lot of experience with the problem of affordable housing in Nashua or lack of affordable housing in Nashua. So I will turn in over to Skylar so that you can go ahead and tell the Committee a little about why you are interested in this.

Skylar Wheeler

So I just wanted to be clear on a couple of things. I'm former Vice President of that resident Council Board. Not because I never wanted to stop doing the good work, I just had to leave for personal reasons unfortunately but here I am applying because I want to keep doing the good work of helping people. But yeah, I'm here because I'm very passionate about, you know, every human being having their basic human needs met. Nobody shouldn't - I just feel that nobody should be on the streets. I not only do I have experience of living in public housing, I also have experience of being homeless a couple of times in my life and that is a horrible, and in a lot of cases, traumatizing experience. Everybody should have a roof over their head, and a place where they can go home to, feel safe at night, rest after a long, hard day of work. Yeah, and I'm just, again, just very passionate about having human beings having their needs met.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you, Skylar. Questions or comments from the Committee? Alderman Sennott.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you. I don't have any questions necessarily but I did want to remark that I'm always happy to see Ward 7 residents stepping up and taking on the task of doing the good work. As you mentioned, you and I are certainly neighbors. I live about a block away from you. I think you're going to be a very strong advocate on this Committee. I've certainly seen you at a lot of GSOP events, the housing forums, and I know that you have the passion for this. I know that you took part in the Voices of Major Drive Leadership Program that took place so little over a year ago now?

Skylar Wheeler

A couple years ago? Are you talking about like the board in general starting to ...

Alderman Sennott

The little leadership class that you all took part in.

Skylar Wheeler

Oh, yes that was a little over a year ago, yeah.

Alderman Sennott

Yeah, and taking all that, and taking on the next step, and stepping forward not just in the role of, you know, we heard a couple weeks ago about, you know, policy changes that we can make in regard to attacking the issue of the housing shortage and homelessness but also the role that you can play in advocacy. I think that you're going to be a very strong advocate for the folks over there, especially at a time when there's a lot of tumult coming over there with folks being relocated for the redevelopment. I think it'll be a very strong voice to have on that Committee and I'm happy to support your nomination.

Skylar Wheeler

Thank you, I appreciate that.

Alderman Lopez

Yeah, have you had a chance to attend any meetings or observe them?

Skylar Wheeler

Any of these meetings or the?

Alderman Lopez

No, no this is just us. I mean yeah the Committee.

Skylar Wheeler

The committee?

Alderman Lopez

I mean, yeah, the committee.

Skylar Wheeler

No, I have not. The first meeting that I got invited to was originally supposed to be on the 13th but I heard that date was going to be moved possibly. But no, I have not attended to any of these committee meetings.

Chairwoman Kelly

I think there's been a couple like non-quorum meetings so it would have been hard.

Alderman Lopez

Great. That's my next question is are you comfortable feeling like you can attend the meetings? Are they going to be at a time that's you're available? You have transportation if needed, etc.?

Skylar Wheeler

So I can be - I've heard that the meetings are usually in the evenings, which is perfectly actually really great. I'm actually a night owl so it works out great.

Transportation. I can take the bus here. The only problem is that there is no bus returning back to my area after six o'clock during the weekdays. The #3 bus, their last run is 6pm but I usually have friends around. Like tonight, I do have a friend who is picking me up here and bringing me back home. So but other than that, that's the only like transportation trouble I would possibly have but I can figure something out possibly. I always do.

Alderman Lopez

I appreciate you making note of the little bit of flaw in our after-hours program that it only goes north and south and then no ...

Skylar Wheeler

There used to be a central route and I don't know what happened with that. A lot of people were using that.

Alderman Lopez

I would summarize a very complicated tale is for a while we ran out of drivers, and then we had to rearrange everything, and we needed (inaudible). But can you tell me a little bit about the GSOP's Leadership Program.

Skylar Wheeler

So the leadership program. It was a class for people who were interested basically on taking on like leadership roles and helping in the general community such as being part of committees, or sorry my brain getting scrambled on words, but like basically, a class for people who want to take on more leadership roles, and build their confidence, and taking on a leadership role well.

Alderman Lopez

Okay. So I would just comment that as somebody who's also in a public office, it's part of what you're kind of expected to do is bring information to the people that happens on the meetings but you also have a lot of information that people at that committee can benefit from. So make sure you're getting your voice heard and representing the needs of the people the best you can.

Skylar Wheeler

Yeah, I actually already have plans in place for when I get potentially accepted on to position #2 for the committee that I would go back to - I would go to one of the Resident Council monthly meetings and/or talk to other people as well who, even outside of my neighborhood, who just have also lived in public housing or currently live in public housing on what their thoughts are that I could help share. Because I could think of a lot of things that I could bring up as a representative of someone who lives in public housing, but I plan on talking to others as well to make sure there are I catch thoughts that I may have not have thought of and bring to the table.

Alderman Lopez

Well you're checking all my boxes. I'm excited about your nomination and I will definitely be supporting it.

Skylar Wheeler

Thank you. I appreciate that.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, Madam Chair. Yeah, I like what you have to say this evening and, you know, it's interesting that you mentioned about the bus because you know when it's stuff like that I hope, you know, when these conversations come up in that committee like, you know, oh, we're maybe somebody, a developer's coming in and there thinking about putting affordable housing somewhere, and they're asking to use those public funds. I mean those are the kind of questions, right? Well is there access to public transportation in that area?

Skylar Wheeler

Right.

Alderman Clemons

What kind of resources are in that area, you know? So it's - and that's your lived experience, right, and you know the importance of those kind of things. So I always say to somebody who is not used to maybe being on a committee like that, don't - we're appointing you. Use your voice. Speak up and use your voice. Don't be afraid. You have the backing here. I hope you'll have the backing here. I certainly will support you so thank you.

Skylar Wheeler

Thank you. I appreciate that.

Alderman Jette

So the Mayor said you graduated from high school in 1917 and I must say you look marvelous.

Mayor Donchess

It was really wasn't 1917. It's 2017. Sorry. A 100 years off. What's the big deal?

Skylar Wheeler

I promise I'm not a vampire.

Chairwoman Kelly

A different lived experience.

Alderman Jette

Thank you for volunteering and Ms. Miller is listening intently to what you have to say about the bus and the...

Alderman Lopez

Her screen gets stuck on because she's the last one to speak.

Chairwoman Kelly

Yeah, she's just very big in the chamber. Are you all set Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

I'm done. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay, great.

So I want to thank you for stepping forward for this role. The Housing Revolving Fund is something that I've been very involved with and having that lived experience was really important in building that conversation. The people in that room are incredible. It is also really important especially at this time to have the candor and the passion that you just brought in talking about your own lived experience because we don't all have that and as we're starting to think about what we want to see with a problem that we know is just continuing to get worse. I think your voice is going to be incredibly important.

So thank you for stepping forward. I really appreciate that. I was also going to make the joke about looking wonderful for your age. I am the alternate to that so I'm happy to bring you home anytime we have those meetings.

Skylar Wheeler

Thank you. I appreciate it.

Alderman Lopez

To his house. You can't bring him to yours.

Chairwoman Kelly

No, that's right. Tom, why? Always. Are we all set?

Alderman Klee

I just want to make one comment and I will forego the age comment. But I not only want to commend you for all the - I think the great things you're going to be bringing to it but I want to thank the Mayor, too, for I think many of your picks are good but this is one of the truly excellent ones. I think you're going to do wonders. The fact that you said you would make it work for transportation and everything like that just makes me in awe.

Skylar Wheeler

Thank you.

Alderman Klee

Because I have a big bugaboo about people showing up to meetings. So the fact that you're willing to not only volunteer but find a way to get there when you don't have the transportation. Thank you so much. It means a lot.

Skylar Wheeler

Yeah, no problem. I'm more than happy to be here and help however I can.

Alderman Klee

Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Awesome. Okay, we'll be taking up your nomination in just a bit. So we'll be taking up your nomination in just a bit. We'll make a recommendation after that. Thank you.

Skylar Wheeler

Sorry, I am hard of hearing.

Chairwoman Kelly

Awesome. Yup, we have one more person. Thank you.

Nashua Airport Authority

Larry Guerette (new appointment)
59 Ledgewood Hills Drive
Nashua, NH 03062

Term to Expire: August 31, 2028

Chairwoman Kelly

Mr. Mayor, would you like to introduce?

Mayor Donchess

This is approaching the chair here is Mr. Guerette. He has wanted, I have to say, to be on the Airport Authority for a long time but there were a lot of - there weren't openings and Alderman O'Brien has recommended Mr. Guerette. If you look at his resume, you will see that he went to Daniel Webster College, the Aeronautical Institute, some time ago and has had a very significant interest in aviation ever since.

I can tell you from having many discussions with him that he's definitely interested and will be an enthusiastic and active member of the Airport Authority, which is of course what we need. So I will just turn it over to Mr. Guerette and let him explain his interest and anything else he'd like to add.

Larry Guerette

Thank you, Mayor, and thank you Alderman O'Brien. As the Mayor said, I've been knocking on his door for many, many years trying to pursue a position on the Airport Authority. Aviation has - I've had a passion for aviation since I was eight years old. I came to Nashua - I was born and brought up in Augusta, Maine, and I came to Nashua in 1972 to attend Daniel Webster - well it was called "New England Aeronautical Institute" at the time. It was founded by Warren Rudman, Harry Sheffield, and Jim Tamposi. I graduated from there. It was only a two-year school at the time and I graduated from there in 1974, and transferred to the University of Southern Maine, and majored in public administration and government at the time.

Upon graduation from the University of Southern Maine, I got on an airplane and flew out to Seattle, Washington, where aviation was king of the universe. I spent my primary flight instruction was done at Boeing Field International and I just loved aviation. I mean it was so deep in my blood and what better place to be than in Boeing's backyard.

I moved back to Nashua in 1978 and have been a full-time resident since 1978. I think I've been knocking on the Mayor's door since 1978. We used to work out at the health club up in Merrimack. We'd be on the stairmasters side by side.

Mayor Donchess

Yeah, but I was better so.

Larry Guerette

That's why he's thinner and I'm not.

Alderman Lopez

That's the whole advantage of the Stairmaster.

Larry Guerette

And I sincerely and gratefully appreciate the Mayor's appointment and the help from Alderman O'Brien.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. Questions or comments from the Aldermen? Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

Okay. So seeing in your background in aviation, I can assume you're plane spoken. Are there things that you specifically think we should be changing? You seem pretty driven to - what do you think we can do with the Airport Authority?

Larry Guerette

Well one of my concerns and passions is to try to get the college back up and operating. Back in the 70s and 80s, they had a very successful program with the FAA, a Co-Op program training air traffic controllers. I had mentioned to the Mayor that I felt that somebody from the city should contact our congressional delegation and try to get Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy up here to show him what we have to offer. You know, we have the college, we have the dorms, we have the tower building. We have the FAA on Northeast Boulevard. We have TRACON up in Merrimack and I know there's a deep need for new air traffic controllers and what better place to train them than here in Nashua, New Hampshire. I do have a personal issue with the present owner of the college. I've never met him but I would really like to see the college come back into the hands of the citizens of Nashua if possible.

Alderman Lopez

You are aware of the two resolutions we have later tonight on that topic?

Larry Guerette

I've heard a little bit about them.

Alderman Lopez

Well while you don't have to say, I have to redo your discussion. I would hang out just so you can see.

Larry Guerette

Okay. I hope they're successful in that endeavor. I feel the Nashua Airport is an economic engine that has been sleeping for several years over there, especially with the college. If they can get the college up and running, maybe get into a joint partnership with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University down in Daytona, Florida, to have a northern branch, and teach kids how to fly in the winter months which they don't have that opportunity in Florida, and all the students that would come in there. At one time, I think Daniel Webster had 400 or 500 college students over there and the money that they bring into the city, you know, is it's been sleeping for too many years.

Alderman Lopez

I definitely think our airport is something to be proud of and I appreciate that you're stepping forward with the sense of vision and, you know, have spent decades trying to get onto it. So I mean that's the kind of persistence we need and I'm looking forward to your nomination.

Larry Guerette

Thank you. I appreciate it.

Chairwoman Kelly

Other comments, questions? Alderman Clemons.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. So, again, I don't have any specific questions. I do want to say that, you know, I appreciate you stepping forward. You obviously have a lot of experience and background in this and I think, you know, the fact that you are from Maine, studied here, went out to Seattle, and came back shows that, you know, you have a passion for this community. You want to see it successful, and I hope that you bring that, and I know you'll bring that to the Airport Authority. Hopefully, we can implement some of the ideas that you have because I think they're great ideas and I, you know, would love to see stuff like that happen so.

Larry Guerette

Thank you.

Alderman Clemons

So thank you for stepping forward.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Sennott.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to thank you for coming in with the passion that you have tonight for aviation and for the opportunities that we have in that area that unfortunately right now are just kind of sitting dormant. I wholeheartedly agree with you that the college and its proximity to the airport is an opportunity that's just being left on the table. I know when I was growing up here in Nashua if I went one year, I went no years without at least one of my classmates in school. It wasn't me obviously. I'm an accountant but, you know, wanting to learn how to fly, you know, wanting to get behind the yoke of a plane and, you know, get up in the sky. That's an admirable thing for anybody to aspire towards and there's still an appetite for it here because we've just seen a new ATC program open up at Nashua Community College and that wouldn't be opening up if there wasn't the appetite for it with the students that are in Nashua.

So wholeheartedly happy to hear you say that we need this back here. That you'll advocate for that on the Airport Commission and that we, you know, can hopefully take the strides towards getting that back. Because to me, growing up I always thought that was one of the coolest bits of Nashua was that we had this college. So hand in glove with our local airport where, you know, kids I graduated with were going to take their first steps into the aviation field before going out to, you know, Boeing or Northrop Grumman, or something like that. So I think you are absolutely the right choice for this Authority and I'm happy to support your nomination.

Larry Guerette

Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Anyone else? Oh, I can't see you. Go ahead, Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you so much, Madam Chairwoman. I have an ex-husband who went through the same training program that you went through, and many of his friends, and so on. One of them went on to become an air traffic controller. Another went on to become a pilot with one of the bigger airlines. All three of them, believe it or not, went through school as engineers. So it was a really great program that they had there at the Daniel Webster and it's very interesting that you brought that up. I'm glad that the air traffic control classes are starting at the Community College because I think it's good to train local people to work within that organization and so on.

But if I may Madam Chairwoman, I used to live at Canongate and one of the issues that we had was a lot of the flyovers. They had the helicopter training and they had all different things like that. They built a new runway at that point in time. I don't know how much, and I apologize for not having quite as much information about the committee that you're on, but would you, I believe, you would probably have say as far as like new runways, and I was even living there when the jets started coming in. I know people say well, the airport was here first. Maybe and maybe not but are you willing to also consider any upgrades or changes to the airport that could affect residents that are there now?

Larry Guerette

It's an interesting question because you want to try to balance everybody's needs. Of course, noise can be a very aggravating need that needs to be met but what has to be followed are the FAA regulations. Nashua is unique because of the back in the day, the homes that were on Indian Rock Road, the FAA had established a higher downwind altitude than what is normally required. The Nashua Airport is 200 feet above sea level and the downwind requirements are 1,000 feet above sea level at the airport. So the downwind pattern was 1,200 feet. Normally it's about 1,000 feet give or take but that was to help with the noise abatement. It is very difficult when you have - it's a tradeoff, you know. You don't want to annoy your neighbors. You want to be a good neighbor but you also want to bring in the economic engine that's sleeping and it's just a balance.

Alderwoman Klee

I agree with everything that you just said there and balance is the is the key here. You know, wherever you live near an airport, you're just gonna have to understand you have the noises and I think living somewhere like in Cannongate which is up on the hill even that - we knew when there was a party going on at Daniel Webster College believe it or not. I remember one time they had a reggae party going on and we could hear it all because the noise just kind of traveled up that way. But I would like just, you know, consideration of that. I mean we have planes flying all over us because they go to the Manchester Airport. So, but at times especially early in the morning when those jets were going off, and UPS jets, and all that type of thing that are coming in can be a little bit so. I'm on the Planning Board. I always look at we need development but at the same time, I don't want to push the economic portion of it over the residents that have been living here for a long time. So that's why I asked if you would take that into consideration.

Larry Guerette

Oh, absolutely. Balance is very important to me.

But on another note, there are people like me. If there are house lots available on the side of the runway, I'd be over there and buy the first house lot and live at the airport.

Alderman Klee

May I?

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

They actually did build all those homes that are right there at the end of that runway. I can't think of the name of the street. I'm gonna say Charon but right there, they built all those lots there and I remember driving by them going I hope they know what they're getting into.

Larry Guerette

Oh there's a lot...

Alderman Klee

You could have bought one of those.

Larry Guerette

There's a lot of aviation enthusiasts that ...

Alderman Klee

Yeah.

Larry Guerette

...love that type of environment.

Alderman Klee

If I may? Yeah, my ex-husband used to like to go sit there at that - I can't even think the name of the pizza place that's there. We used to sit there and watch the planes come in because, yeah, so I get it. Thank you very much.

Chairwoman Kelly

All set? Thank you for your willingness to serve. My husband is an aerospace engineer who grew up in the flight path from Minneapolis. So I get the enthusiasm for that and when we first moved to Nashua, I really enjoyed going to the Aviation Heritage Festival that they used to have. We would go every single year and I was really sad when that went away because it was such a cool thing to have in our city. So your passion for wanting to bring that back, I just I felt that because I also, you know, when I first got here was just so excited that we had such a gem in our city. So thank you for your willingness to be on this Committee. I think Alderman O'Brien wants to ask a question but I'm going to finish.

I wanted to know what's in your binder. You brought a whole binder.

Larry Guerette

I'm sorry?

Chairwoman Kelly

You had a whole binder of what's in your binder?

Larry Guerette

My binder? Just notes. I didn't know what type of questions you'd be asking but...

Chairwoman Kelly

Nothing too technical. I promise.

Larry Guerette

I'm getting old and so like I like to have reference notes and things of that nature.

Alderman Lopez

You know, last guy was over 100 years old.

Larry Guerette

I know.

Chairwoman Kelly

I'm going to ask my husband about downwind patterns when I get home.

Larry Guerette

Now Alderman O'Brien had mentioned to me that there's \$100,000 stipend for this.

Alderman O'Brien

No. I thought that was our stipend.

Chairwoman Kelly

I know nothing about that. These volunteer committees are at your leisure.

Larry Guerette

I really relish this appointment more. I don't know as if I can express it adequately but it means a lot to me.

Alderman Klee

Well you were knocking on the door all that time. We get it.

Chairwoman Kelly

Yeah, enough knocking on the door. Alderman O'Brien did you want to add something?

Alderman O'Brien

Yeah, thank you. I do not have a question for Mr. Guerette. I have known Mr. Guerette over the years. He was good friend to my father. That's how far back the O'Brien connection goes in his private industry and dealing business. He's been the long friend of Nashua and everything. But what I found out most impressive, I think as you heard it today, as a matter of fact, I think we heard from three good candidates. Ms. Miller, Ms. Hultman, and now Mr. Guerette.

It seems like the airport is very highly technical. You know, they rent out hangers. They do this maintain, so it is quite an experience over there. I had dabbled in it for a few years when I was Captain of the Airport Station and I feel very and more than very, extremely comfortable to recommend to you Mr. Guerette because I think he has more than the casual understanding of the subject matter at hand. He'll be able to be at the direction. And may I remind you, we got some, you know, potential issues. We're trying to rebuild Station 5 as far as the Fire Department, and there's some negotiations with the Airport Authority, and different other things. We have a property that is a kind of close to, you know, incursion of the flight path out there off of Deerwood Drive. So it's a lot going on and I think Mr. Guerette would be a proper addition to it so thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

All set? Okay. We'll be taking up your nomination in just a moment. That is all of our interviews.

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

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SENNOTT TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING RE-APPOINTMENT AND NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION: CHRISTOPHER BARRETT WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 9, 2027 AND PAIGE HULTMAN WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE OCTOBER 14, 2028;

TO RECOMMEND TO THE FOLLOWING NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE HOUSING REVOLVING FUND COMMITTEE: SKYLAR WHEELER WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 9, 2028;

TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE NASHUA AIRPORT AUTHORITY: LARRY GUERETTE WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE AUGUST 31, 2028; AND

TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE GREELEY PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE: KERRY MILLER WITH A TERM TO AUGUST 12, 2028
MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

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

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SENNOTT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. So this actually was - came up because Alderman Moran wanted to do it and it was based on the discussion that we had about, you know, I think it was in August about the Nongfu Spring Company. What this essentially does is it says that, you know, the City Clerk is directed to send a resolution to the President, Governor, and all of Nashua State, and federal representatives to basically look into this situation.

Now when this legislation was submitted a few days after the meeting that happened here, the Governor did start an investigation. I think the results of that were released last Friday. So I still think that there is a benefit to releasing and moving forward with this despite the fact that the Governor has - despite the fact that the AG has essentially concluded their portion of it, you know, I don't think that it would be harmful to move this forward at all. This just simply, you know, is going to give it to basically all of the other entities that are out there and essentially what it's going to say is that, you know, Nashua we heard the people. We heard the people that came here that expressed their concern and we're doing something about it.

Unfortunately, the legislative process in the city moves a little bit slower than we would like it to but, you know, I think it's still important that we adhere to this and move it forward. So with that, I'm hoping that the Committee will support the recommendation as read.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you, Madam Chair. I concur with Alderman Clemons that I still think this is a worthwhile piece of legislation. I spent some time today reading the report that was issued from the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office and well I think that report told us everything that we were expecting it to which was pretty consistent with what had come out of this chamber a couple of weeks ago when we had a big crowd with us, one of the things that stuck out to me was the, I guess, maybe the breakdown in communication a little bit between the entities who were working to attract this company to Nashua and the company itself giving their assurance that they had gone through the process of submitting to the CFIUS, which is the Committee on Foreign Investment, who is the federal agency who's responsible for investigating this in the first place. We're here today discussing this because a lot of misinformation and a lot of pointed fingers came out of that breakdown in communication.

So, you know, I signed on to this as a co-sponsor and I'm comfortable passing it through for final passage even where we are now with the information that we have now that we didn't have a couple weeks ago. Because to me what this says is this takes our response, acknowledges that something very real happened, and it places it back in

the agencies that are responsible, and says do your job because clearly something didn't happen with everybody being taken surprised by this. Instead, all the fingers got pointed inward at the Mayor, at the Board of Aldermen for a private sale that we did not have our hands in.

So I'm happy to support this if anything just to acknowledge as Alderman Clemons said, that we heard our constituents. We heard their concerns. Those concerns were valid and we're going to direct them to the proper parties. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

I would like, I guess, to ask through the Chair to the Mayor what constitutes a hostile government? I know in recent months, we've heard Canada is hostile, Greenland's hostile, Germany is hostile. So I just want to make sure that I know that theirs is not going to be pointed at something, you know, politically or because I don't think the State thought China was hostile when they were like soliciting them so.

Mayor Donchess

Well I didn't write the Resolution so I'm not sure. There are certain restrictions at the federal level or the special review the CFIUS review that has to take place regarding certain governments, China being one of them. On that score, I found it interesting. I looked up, you know, this was a bottling - what an iced tea or water bottling plant. I looked up like how many bottling plants does Coca Cola have in China? Thirty-eight. So China apparently doesn't see a big threat from an American bottling company having a facility.

Then I looked up Pepsi and it's far more than 38. So the fact that there is, I mean, I understand the concern if, you know, for a company that is related to, you know, some kind of national security type industry defense technology but when we're talking about a, you know, a bottling plant, I think certainly we want the proper investigation to be done. So I think that's what you're asking for but in terms of what the word "hostile" means in this Resolution, I'd say it's ambiguous.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. Basically what Alderman Lopez said was kind of what I wrote here on my notes. We've all talked about this particular thing speaking about a very specific company. In the past, we also talked about the Daniel Webster purchase and so on. But my biggest concern is the vagueness and ambiguity of how it's written and what is written. It's not saying, you know, let's take this particular purchase. I think Northwest Boulevard, I think that's what it was, and have that looked into and so on. So my concern is in the future, putting Canada and Greenland aside, if we have a small business owner, you know, that may have come from China that may have for all we know anything like that and open up a restaurant are we going to start - to what point do we continue doing this? Do we start calling for these investigations and so on?

While I think all of this was done in good faith and I understand where it came from, I did not lend my name to co-sponsoring it because that was my biggest concern is that we were kind of putting up these red flags. Where does it stop? What is the definition of hostile, what is, and so on. So considering that we already have had the investigation, the AGs office said that they weren't going to really be releasing anything more. We've seen the emails that have gone back and forth when you've read the reports, and when you looked at the NHPR, and the Granite Eagle I think it was, those are the two things that I looked at. Granite Eagle put the emails out there redacted, but they put the emails out there. You can see that this was very solicited by our State. The fact that the State of New Hampshire and the legislation didn't know. Based on this particular company, a certain couple senators put through legislation that per the State, someone from China can no longer have a business here in New Hampshire which is concerning to me as well because I look at these tiny little businesses of a restaurant or something of that nature. Again, where does it stop?

So I'm not on this Committee. I don't get to vote but when it does come to the Board, I'm not going to support it because of the vagueness, the ambiguity, and I really hate being contrary on such a sensitive subject but I just feel like, you know, we're starting the McCarthy thing and I know that's a big leap but I get anxious about this. So thank you.

Alderman Jette

Thank you. I'm troubled by this. I mean at first I thought the Resolution was motivated by the concern over the, you know, the bottling plant. Since then, it has been as shortly thereafter I mean, right away, the Mayor, you know, I think contacted the Governor and asked, you know, for information about it. He came to us and told us. You know,

a lot of what was in the Attorney General's report and the Attorney General's report kind of, you know, substantiated what the Mayor had had told us.

Since the purchase of that land by the bottling company, you know, as other people have pointed out, you know, the State legislature passed a law making it a felony for someone from China to buy property here, which I don't know if that's constitutional and if that would you know. Certainly we as a city, you know, we really can't do anything about it. It's up to the State to regulate, you know. I'm not sure how we can regulate the purchase of land by foreign companies. I hate to point out the obvious but, you know, you look around, you know, there are a lot of foreign companies. You know, BAE is a foreign company. Anheuser Busch, the Elbit in Merrimack is an Israeli company. A lot of foreign investors have invested money in the United States, you know, because they saw it as a good investment.

You know, we're in a global economy. I understand a lot of people, you know, have strong opinions about China and, you know, but there are a lot of American companies doing a lot of business with China. I thought, you know, the threat that people perceived, you know, with China buying this building in Nashua. I mean I was thinking to myself, yeah, you know if I'm the head of the Chinese Secret Service and I'm thinking of ways of getting into America and subverting America, the first thing that would come to my mind, you know, is establishing a bottling plant.

Alderman Lopez

With a Chinese company instead of using anything else.

Alderman Jette

So I don't mean to make light of it. I think, you know, I know people who know a lot more about these things than I do. You know, find the threat to be very serious but, you know, I'm concerned about this. I think you know what this was looking for has already been done. The Governor ordered the Attorney General to investigate it. He investigated it. He made a report. He said there was nothing. No law was broken. Nothing bad happened and most importantly, he affirmed that, you know, nobody in Nashua had anything - had much to do with this. So, you know, I think the questions have been answered. I understand Alderman Clemons' point about how, you know, it isn't doing much harm but I have concerns about your lack of definition.

I think there's a federal law that has identified some countries, but they're not identified by this Resolution. I just think it's unnecessary. I'm opening to being persuaded otherwise but you know right now, I don't feel comfortable supporting this.

Chairwoman Kelly

Has everyone spoke? You already spoke, right?

Alderman Sennott

I did.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. I'm going to speak first if you don't mind. Don't want to cut you off but I just want to. Okay.

I'm a bit ambivalent about this piece of legislation. I think that there were definitely concerning points to the AG's report as well as general concern over paying three times the price. Why? At the same time, I have similar concerns about us limiting who can buy whether that's even legal and also, what does that say and what does that start to do to the economic outlook for our city? So I don't know how I'm going to vote on it. I'm all ears for now but I'm struggling.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. No, I think people have to vote their conscience on this. I think it's one of those things where, you know, for me there are - I'll tell you that I thought that the Senator and the person running for Congress who made this a national issue did a huge disservice to the people of this city, and State, and really country to anybody that watched it because there was more innuendo involved in their understanding of what was going on as opposed to

facts. So that's my issue with this. They whipped up the public into a frenzy and they got it wrong. That's the part that aggravates me the most is because it's not that people shouldn't have been maybe questioning what was going on, the problem was is that there was finger pointing towards the city government of Nashua.

It was the State government that brought these people to our doorsteps. It was the state government that facilitated this transaction and to have a State Senator who was involved in the State government say to us, oh no, it's the city when clearly the AG's report clearly defines that it's not I think is concerning number one. But two, this Resolution, in my opinion, is intended to stop the innuendo and to prevent the innuendo from going forward. So it's asking these different federal agencies and State agencies to look into the facts. Now whether or not they do, whether or not this goes to, you know, the letter gets sat on and nothing happens, I mean maybe that's going to be the case but, you know, I'm not looking for - I guess, you know, I have low expectations of what's going to come out of this actually because the folks who are in charge in Concord anyway had to have months, and months, and months of basically fake news. What essentially was fake news going out there to address the situation. It came to a boil and it had here in this chamber and the person who started it didn't even bother to show up to the meeting.

Thankfully, the Mayor had looked into it. Some of the Board members here had looked into it and we quelled it enough that, you know, it finally got the Governor to act. But that should have happened months, months, and months ago. So essentially what this legislation is doing at least, in my opinion is it's saying yep, you know, this probably foreign owned property in Nashua by hostile people from hostile governments. I don't know. You define that. I don't care to define it to be honest with you in here. I think it's an open-ended question. But, you know, and it's saying just look into it so that we don't get another rumor mill going on.

So that's where I'm coming from this. Now you could argue it the other way that, you know, by doing this, you're going to create a rumor mill. I've heard that from plenty of friends who feel like some of you folks do here tonight and I do think it's a matter of conscious. I also think that regardless of what happens with this Resolution, you know, tonight or at the Board of Aldermen, I think we can at least - whether this passes or not, this chamber can at least be proud of the fact that we first of all allowed the public a forum to come and talk about this A; and B, delivered facts and forced the issue with the Governor to deliver facts, which came out on last Friday. So regardless of whether or not this passes, this Board in my opinion has done its job. This is just icing on the cake.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you, Madam Chair. Yeah, again this, you know, I understand where the slippery slope conversation comes in and I see that. That conversation is going to occur whenever you're talking about any foreign entity whether they're considered hostile or not when you begin regulating business within this country. I don't see this legislation as regulating anything. I don't think we have the capacity in Nashua to say that folks from - I have the Secretary of State's website up here so I apologize - countries of particular concern. I don't believe we have the capacity here in Nashua to regulate land ownership, or property ownership, or businesses being run by folks from these countries, nor do I think we should. You know I've said in this chamber before and I'll say it again, Nashua is a welcoming city and I support that because the sum of our parts is what makes us a great city.

For me, this recognizes a breakdown in a process that should have happened, and turns it back onto the folks who are responsible for seeing that process through, and asks them to do it in the future because we learned from that report. Further as I pull it up and remind myself of my notes that I jotted down on it that whoever was interfacing on this deal, sat on their hands for seven months before letting anybody know where this particular investor even was from. That would have triggered the process. I have to believe that in my heart of hearts that government still functions and that if that had been done, then the proper channels would have been followed and all of this could have been avoided. I don't say all of this as in this company coming to Nashua. In the grand scheme of, again, a water bottling company, I don't have a lot of concerns about that. I think a lot of that was overblown but we have processes they should be followed. They weren't city level processes. So I am comfortable voting to reach out to our delegation that is called out in this - the President, the Governor, and all of Nashua State, and federal representatives, and senators - meaning the folks that brought this to our doorstep in the first place and saying we did our work, do yours.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. I think what everybody has said here is very valid, but the key that I keep thinking of here is we call ourselves a welcoming city and you brought it up yourself. How welcoming are we? If this legislation said to investigate that particular sale, if it's said to investigate a company larger than such and such, you know, and had more parameters on it, I could possibly support it. But as a welcoming city, I can't help but thinking that we are going down that slippery slope. I mean who would have ever thought that as a government we would - our

government would be whether they're doing it just to stoke the fire but to call Canada a hostile. I'm sorry but I can't help but think of the, you know, Japanese internment camps because we had World War II and so on. It all started with one step of going down that road and I'm frightened for it.

I don't want Nashua to be part of this witch hunt, to be part of this, you know, and you're right, it took seven months before anybody did anything and this did happen on Governor Sununu's watch and not Governor Ayotte's watch but those particular legislators, and one who's here from Nashua who brought this forward, did not do their homework and started this fake news and started all of this. This is - I worked on the - I was Chair of the State Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs Committee and so many times we did these resolutions that we knew were going to be round filed, you know, but it made us feel good, you know. Let's put it forward. Fifty percent of the time they passed. Fifty percent of the time they didn't. We would send it up to the delegation and we send it up to the President saying we want you to do this knowing that it was going to end up literally in the round file.

I don't want to say that that's what's going to happen with this but I would rather put a resolution that says I want you to look into this, and I want a formal report back, and then CC that. I mean we put here, "further resolve that the City Clerk is directed to send a true copy of this resolution to the President, government, and all Nashua's State, and federal representatives, and senators". That's wonderful that we're sending them a copy of this particular resolution, but the resolution doesn't really state. It just states, "that problematic nature of foreign ownership of property in the city, most particularly when said property is acquired by entities ties to the government hostile to the United States". It talked about problematic nature of foreign ownership. What is a problematic nature of foreign ownership and I have to look at future Boards of Aldermen, and future mayors, and future city officials how they're going to define that.

I sat up for six years up in Concord and they would fight over words. They would fight over these things and I think this is wonderful and I'm going to say to all the people that are listening, I am the first one that is very happy that Governor Ayotte finally decided to do this. I don't think it necessarily went far enough but we don't know if this company is hostile. We can say all we want that they've got ties to this and everything like that. We're now going to possibly have a second property here in Nashua, large property here in Nashua, that will go nowhere and just sit vacant. Are we going to slowly do this? Are we going to chase out BAE? Are we going to chase out this because, you know, maybe that country is a little bit foreign?

We talk about wanting to bring people in. We talk about being a welcoming city. This legislation is not welcoming. While I agree with everything everybody said and I feel so split between this, I just can't help feeling like we're putting up a red scare. We're putting up all of these things and, again, I don't get to vote here but I just can't support it when it comes to the Board of Aldermen however it comes that way. Thank you for listening to me.

Chairwoman Kelly

I actually have made a decision and I think you're right. If the people on the Committee would like to have the sponsor work on language - when you look at this language, it doesn't even say commercial property. What unintended consequences could this potentially put out in the current political climate if we say any person who wants to buy property and has ties to a hostile government could be investigated? I just - it's not ready for prime time.

Alderman Lopez

That was one point that I was going to make. Additionally, I would point out that we would be literally urging the United States and the State of New Hampshire to conduct all appropriate investigation based on their definition of appropriate and their definition of what entities and agencies need to be involved. We have on the national scheme a federal government which is extremely intrusive and is mobilizing agencies that many would say are not appropriate. Why would we urge them to do that here in Nashua? Why would we send a copy to the President and say, hey, can you review all of our citizens property transactions to make sure there wasn't anything funny going on? That seems incredibly intrusive and I mean if they want to do it, there's nothing we can really do to stop them from the federal level down because that's where States rights are right now. But I don't know why we would urge it and I'm confounded by people who would say they are a welcoming community when they would support legislation that could annihilate certain populations that are owning property open them up to persecution. I don't see how that's welcoming.

I think it's definitely a ticking time bomb. I think, you know, if for example our President decided that Venezuela was hostile, anybody who owns a Venezuelan business is now going to be subject to investigation and we are urging the full regulation of laws as deemed by federal and state bodies? I am a local Alderman. I represent the people in my

neighborhood. I don't speak for the federal level policies and I don't have any control over those. I want to make sure that my residents and people who are actually voting for me are being given as much liberty and freedom as they possibly can. I mean I would care to look at what exactly constitutes a hostile government if we're going to start attaching the city's urgings to it and I don't know that we have any control over what's appropriate and what's not. So I think the legislation is definitely problematic. I would support tabling at minimum.

Alderman Jette

So I think Alderman Lopez raises an excellent point that I really, really hadn't thought of before. So, you know, and I agree with him on that but what I have thought about before and I've been reminded of it is, you know, think of the message that we're sending. I mean, you know, the President is trying to impose tariffs on foreign companies to encourage them to build plants in the United States. So let's say I don't know, Mercedes Benz was looking to, you know, build a plant in the United States and they read or somebody pointed out to them that we adopted this resolution relative to foreign ownership of property and it says, "the City of Nashua being aware of the problematic nature of foreign ownership of property in the city". I don't know if they get to the point where it talks about, you know, hostile to the United States but which governments are hostile to the United States right now? The United States is doing a lot of things that is, you know, not endearing us to the global community at large. So, you know, I just think that that this is just, you know, sending the wrong message. So again, that's why I can't support it.

Alderman Sennott

This is why we do the work in committee to learn to hear other opinions and second guess ourselves, which I'm doing now and I'm okay with that. I'm fine to admit when maybe I haven't always been 100% correct.

I think at the bare minimum, this needs a severe language cleanup. I think whether we agree or disagree with the federally dictated terminology, it's out there for our disposal to incorporate into this to make it clearer and more finite. I'm not going to shut off the discussion by moving to table but I will say that I am open to that so that amendments could be made and could be discussed with the primary sponsor. I'll even reach out to him myself and catch his feelings on that and if we can't come to it and this is the final version of the resolution, then I'd certainly consider a no vote and consider removing my name from it given some of the opinions shared tonight. Thank you.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. I think it's a sad commentary where we are at right now in the country and not because of anything that was said this evening or the opinions that were expressed here this evening. The commentary that sad is that we clearly there are folks in this room that have no confidence in the federal government. Clearly, there are people in this room that have no confidence in the judicial system or our State government either. Because this is a resolution that essentially was asking for their help in investigating what might be hostile property and the opinions expressed here, it's clear to me that there is no appetite for inviting in that type of attention and I can certainly understand that. You know when you have things that are going on in Chicago, for example, where instead of, you know, the federal authorities going after a gang by going into the particular apartments that they occupied within a building, they went in and they overtook the entire building and then weeded out the people that they were looking for detaining innocent folks along the way.

So when you put this resolution into that context, I can completely understand why you wouldn't want to support it and my myself included. You know, things have unintended consequences and certainly an event like that happening in Nashua is the exact opposite of what we're trying to do and was the exact opposite of the intent of this legislation.

But to my colleagues point, this is why you do the work in the committee. This is why you have discussions on these things and, you know, maybe there is a better way to do this. Maybe the better solution is to just leave it alone all together. I don't know. It's frustrating to me because we live in a time when, you know, the institutions that we used to have faith in are literally shaking before us and the foundation of liberty that we thought this country was founded on is cracking. So I think that with all of that said, yeah, I think that probably the appropriate thing to do would be at a minimum is to table this but I am more inclined to just, yeah, I guess I would be inclined to table it and to leave it there until somebody can come up with something better but with the environment that we're in right now, that may not be possible so.

Chairwoman Kelly

Is that a motion Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

No, I didn't want to stifle debate.

Alderman Sennott

Nobody does.

Alderman Lopez

I would very much like to make that motion because I don't want stifle debate either but I do want to make sure we do table it.

Chairwoman Kelly

Does anyone else have any additional discussion points? The motion on the floor is to recommend final passage.

Alderman Lopez

I'd like to motion to table.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO TABLE
MOTION CARRIED**

R-25-208

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Tim Sennott
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE DANIEL WEBSTER COLLEGE PROPERTY

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SENNOTT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Chairwoman Kelly

Mr. Mayor would you like to speak to this as you were the prime sponsor on this?

Mayor Donchess

Yes, Madam Chair. I think this one's simpler than the last one.

Chairwoman Kelly

Let's hope.

Mayor Donchess

Given that State officials ..

Alderman Jette

We'll determine that.

Chairwoman Kelly

It's getting saucy.

Mayor Donchess

Given that State officials have expressed concern about Chinese ownership and have even prevented via the law that has been discussed future acquisition of property by Chinese entities, I think it would be worthwhile to ask them and the federal government as well for the funds necessary to buy a property owned by a Chinese entity - that being Daniel Webster College. Because we know we could make productive use of it where we'd own it.

Now instead of investigating what has been - the property has a lot of potential but I did go out there to see the hockey school which is there, and I don't think it's well understood and I had not understood the extent of it before the visit, but part of the campus - but it's, you know, just parts of it - are occupied by what's called the "Northern Cyclones Hockey Program". This is a program that serves about 275 hockey players who attend a - they have various levels but it's basically high school and then post high school. The high school kids attend an online educational institution and then play hockey over in Hudson where a rink is owned by the - well double rink is owned by the Northern Cyclones - and then there is a kind of a post high school program for kids that are a little bit older. They seem to be successful. They've got a lot of interest. I think a lot of people are there. The guy who runs it is a guy named Bill Flanagan. Long hockey background. His daughter is named Callie, attended B.C. as a hockey player, was on the U.S. Hockey Team that won the gold medal in 2018 - the women's hockey team that won the gold medal in 2018. So there's a lot of hockey background over there. But they're interested in the City buying this as well and they've tried to buy it but the price is too high for them. Were the City to acquire it, I think they would like to kind of move into a corner of the campus, maybe build some new buildings or whatever. We could work out something with them leaving the rest for whatever use we think it could be best be put. There are some fields and other things that could be used or developed.

So what I'm asking here is for your endorsement of an effort to seek State funds and federal funds to buy this campus so that we could make more productive use of it.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. Have you - through you to the Mayor a couple questions I guess. First one is would this be by eminent domain?

Mayor Donchess

No, no, no. This would be by - I mean we no, no. I never even thought of that. I mean the owner has made it clear through his agents that this could be purchased at the right price and \$20,000,000.00 would do it.

Chairwoman Kelly

That was going to be my question.

Alderman Clemons

Okay, yeah, because the problem with eminent domain if we were to go down that road is that the City could then - would have to own that in perpetuity until its - and really you couldn't even sell it at that point because it would be constitutionally prohibited in the State of New Hampshire. So it's good to hear that this would be a private purchase because eminent domain and what would be involved you would have to have some kind of private partnership and that just would not be - it wouldn't be possible to do.

Mayor Donchess

Right.

Alderman Clemons

So I did not sign on to co-sponsor this because I was on the Board of Aldermen and I forget what year it was. I think it was 2015 maybe when - I can't remember 2016? Whenever the Daniel Webster College went out and they did the teach out. Alderman Cookson had made a motion for the City to look into buying that property and the amount of - at that time, the amount of like infrastructure work that would have had to gone into something like that for the City to own that property was tremendous. To the point where Southern New Hampshire University didn't even want

it. So I'm thinking now we're almost 10 years out from that and I've got to think that there is 10 years more of degradation in there.

So, you know, it doesn't hurt I guess to ask for money from the State to purchase that because I do think that there is an opportunity there and if it's not coming directly, and I say directly from Nashua tax payers, then I think that that's something that's worthwhile to pursue but I think putting in Nashua tax money towards that, I think, would be a mistake because again, the amount of infrastructure upgrades that that property needs - and this is again from a report that was almost 10 years old at this point, would be problematic. I'll support the resolution to get the funding for - to try to get the funding for this but I couldn't support using Nashua tax dollars for it.

Mayor Donchess

Now were we to get the money for this from the State of New Hampshire, we wouldn't, you know, you wouldn't necessarily want to keep all these old buildings, although you'd want to work closely with this hockey school. They would, you know, it's kind of spread all over the place and that's the kind of the way they are but I think they would like a more concentrated area. If you wanted to use at least some of the buildings, and they did too, they're offered - they're reluctant to make any improvements to these buildings because they don't have a long-term relationship. It's like a lease. I think if there's a term of years but it's not very long. I think it runs out in a couple of years or something like that. So they can't or they don't want to put, you know, money into a building which then they don't have in three years. So some of the buildings may not be worth saving. You're right about the eminent domain. We definitely do not want to go in that direction.

Alderman Jette

Thank you. So, again, through you to the Mayor. So there's a hockey school - is there a hockey rink there?

Mayor Donchess

No but they skate over in Hudson. So they own a double rink over in Hudson. They, you know, they bus the players over there, and they have hockey, and then they have the educational program via online at various buildings on this campus - the Daniel Webster campus.

Alderman Jette

Okay. Because I drove over there and I saw the Cyclone sign and everything and it was on a building that looked like a hockey rink. I didn't have any idea what...

Mayor Donchess

There's like an athletic building but it's not, you know, it's like a gym but it's not a hockey rink. I think what they have in there - it's probably what you're looking at. What they have in there is a lot of workout equipment, you know, weights, and exercise equipment, exercise bikes, stuff like that for these players to condition with but there's no rink there.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Jette do you have a follow up?

Alderman Jette

So I'm wondering, you know, the other thing is, you know, why do you have \$20 million in the resolution? You know it's assessed for like \$1.3 million.

Mayor Donchess

It's assessed more than that but it's not 20. Because that's what the seller says he'll sell it for.

Alderman Jette

Okay. Well it is assessed for that.

Mayor Donchess

1.3? I think it's more Ernie.

Alderman Jette

Well there are three parcels.

Mayor Donchess

Okay, alright.

Alderman Jette

So the main parcel with all the buildings you're talking about - there are a couple - there are two house lots with houses on them but then the main parcel is assessed at 1.3. So I'm expecting somebody to say like they did about the bottling plant, you know, they're paying X amount more than what it's assessed for. What's going on there? I'm expecting that kind of outcry. I mean I understand that the buildings are assessed and what they're assessed at doesn't mean that the seller is willing to sell it for that value. So you're telling us that you somehow obtained information that \$20 million is what the seller is looking for.

But I also wonder why this resolution? You know why don't you just tell the Economic Development Director to send a letter to the congressional delegation, and the State, and everybody saying we want to do this, we're interested in this, and are they willing to support us? What's the advantage of the resolution?

Mayor Donchess

Well we could go as you suggested, as you just mentioned. It just, I think, it has a little more authority if the entire city speaks as a, you know, through a formal vote as opposed to - I just think it carries a little more authority that way.

Now Michelle here is Chief Assessor. I think that's her title.

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

Assessing Manager.

Mayor Donchess

Assessing Manager, excuse me. Chief Assessor is Bob Gagne, but Assessing Manager. She's looking up the assessment. I think there's more than one parcel or something because we're getting more than \$20,000 of taxes out there, I believe, but I think we'll find out for sure. They bought it for 12 ½ at the auction. When Daniel Webster was a nonprofit college, you know, it seemed to be going pretty well but then whoever controlled the college sold it to ITT, a profit making then publicly traded company. ITT was making some questionable student loans and eventually went bankrupt. When it went bankrupt, it didn't have many hard assets. Meaning, you know, real estate and it was the goal and mission of the bankruptcy court which was in Indiana to sell the assets for the highest amount they could get and to distribute the money to the creditors of ITT. So the court in Indiana held a bankruptcy auction and this buyer bid \$12.5 million dollars. By far, the highest bidder.

Now Southern New Hampshire University was interested, and I think they put in a bid, but it was far lower than that. It was like \$3 or \$4 million, which, of course, is what we were - we the city was rooting for. But the bankruptcy court, you know, sells to the highest bidder and this owner was the highest bidder and they paid 12 ½ and it was about 16-17, somewhere in there. So they've had it a while and \$20 million is what they say they would sell it for. Were it city money, no I wouldn't pay \$20 million of city money but we've got a lot of concern expressed at the State level regarding Chinese ownership. So if they're concerned, maybe they'll give us, you know, if they're as concerned as they say maybe they'll give us the money.

Chairwoman Kelly

Any other questions Alderman Jette? I have Alderman Klee next.

Alderman Jette

Just a comment. It just, you know, when you put \$20 million in a resolution, that's pretty much - you're not going to be able to buy it for anything less.

Mayor Donchess

But of course, we have to ask the State government for a specific amount. So that's the downside of being a public entity. You know, you can't get money secretly. So were we a private buyer, yeah, we wouldn't put a number out there but we're not. So if we're going to ask them for money...now Cindy Rosenwald has already sponsored a bill to ask for \$20 million dollars. Now that will be introduced when the legislature goes into session in January.

Alderman Jette

Okay. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

All set, Alderman Jette? Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I am in support of this. I mean obviously I look at the \$20 million as high. I also and Mr. Mayor I don't know if you could through the Chairwoman to Mr. Mayor but if you could answer this. I know in the past when outside Nashua - meaning State or federal monies are used to purchase something - if we were to sell off parcels of it, we can't keep the profits. I believe it has to go back to the person because what we're actually asking them is to give us this money and not to lend it to us. Is that correct?

Mayor Donchess

Correct. Now how this would work, I don't know. It depends what the legislature would do, right? If they were to appropriate this money, they could place such a condition. For example what you're thinking about among others probably is the acquisition of the Broad Street Parkway now Veterans Memorial Parkway property. When there was excess and that gets sold, at least there's some wrinkles to that but in some situations, the money goes back. For example, the property there at the corner of Broad Street and the parkway when it sells, which I think it's going to, that will go to the, you know, federal government, federal highway.

Alderman Klee

Yes and that was actually what came to my mind was that particular one. So we would just kind of be the conduit of selling and so on of that. I really think that's probably where it would go. I think if we were to purchase it and get this much to what Alderman Clemons had said, many of those buildings are probably going to be in rough shape but if we could carve out what the city would want such as the fields, you know. I know we talk about low income housing but a third party could come in to do that. The city shouldn't be developing necessarily low-income housing and so on, but I'm for this resolution. I think this is just step one.

If they did, which is unlikely, but if they did say we would have it, at that point we could put some of our own conversation to it as what we would hope for it to be to sell off for us to keep the fields maybe one other small portion of it so we can do something for the residents of the of the city. I think all of the things that have been brought up here - and I do remember when that sale. I think it was I want to say 2016 because I think it was just as I became a State Rep. that conversation would happen. I remember a lot of people having those arguments and I do remember much of the conversation was that there was a lot of asbestos, but we didn't really go in, and look, and do drilling, and so on so we didn't know what we would get into and that's kind of why we did that sidestep to it. So it's not like the city blew it. It was just there wasn't enough time, I think, for us to fully investigate if I remember.

Mayor Donchess

Well we would have had to come up with more than \$12.5 million dollars.

Alderman Klee

Yeah.

Mayor Donchess

I mean we would have had to outbid this guy and who knows how high this, you know.

Alderman Klee

Exactly, right.

Mayor Donchess

Well actually, it's a sealed bid but ...

Alderman Klee

Yeah.

Mayor Donchess

...we would have had to be higher than \$12.5 million to actually get it.

Alderman Klee

Right and we didn't know whether...

Mayor Donchess

Now Michelle might have an answer here.

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

Is this on.

Alderman Klee

Yes.

Chairwoman Kelly

Yes. Can you just say your name and you know for ..

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

Oh, Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager. The value for 2024 for the address of 20 University Drive is \$18,392,900.

Alderman Klee

Could you repeat that?

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

\$18,392,900 for 2024.

Alderman Jette

That's the assessed?

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

Yes for 20 University Drive.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay.

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

So I just wanted to express that I think that I appreciate how the resolution is presented. It was brought up why do it this way and why not just have economic development work on it? Given the notoriety and the visibility of the apparently soft power invasion we're all being met with, I think it makes sense to make sure there's very clear starting point and a very clear response to the concerns or claims that are associated with that. I can't tell you how many projects as Alderman I've been involved with for years only for someone to be like, what's going on with French Park? You guys doing some construction over there or, you know, what's up with over by the Tannery? You guys are gonna clean that. Like yes, we're doing it forever. But then when they ask, you know, well where can I get information? At the point of 50 different locations, and, you know, updates, and meetings, and all that kind of stuff. I think having a clean resolution that says hey, we want to do something about this is a very good starting point, especially if we have a State senator who's willing to accurately rally for Nashua's needs. I think this shows that we're with that person and that we actually are serious about moving forward this.

I would also just add for as a note that the Rivier University when we were looking at the Elm Street Middle School Project, Rivier University had a whole presentation about two hockey arenas and all this stuff that I guess was just more of a brainstorm and I didn't really saw it follow through but there might be other partners interested in partnering in like causes in Nashua. I know that the soccer community is very interested in a stadium or indoor soccer area. So there's a lot of different applications that you need in Nashua that could really build our resources but you need a large enough square footage, footprint, and opportunity. So I think this could be that and I think this resolution asks for the resources to take advantage of that in the way that we've done so successfully over the years. But, you know, we are also trying very carefully to be very careful with our budget, with our funding, and this isn't an ideal time for it. So I think by reaching out to the State, we are giving ourselves the best of both worlds where we can advocate for some of the best economic development opportunities we see without necessarily sidelining other important priorities.

Chairwoman Kelly

So I've come full circle in the conversation here. I'm supportive of this. I think it makes sense for us to look into this, especially if it is State or federal money. My concerns with the assessed value was are we going to end up buying a piece of property that we can't then turn whether it's because it's, you know, as the infrastructure is crumbling or there's just not the market for what we paid for it. So I feel a little bit better with the assessed value that was just brought forward but I still, you know, express my concerns about if we own it as a city now there's going to be maintenance, now there's going to be other things. So I think I'm okay to green light this initial step but I want to make sure we have enough information to really understand what purchasing it would look like, and whether that's a flip it around, and there's other people who are interested, or if we are truly going to keep it as a city, and then what does that look like for us?

Mayor Donchess

You know this hockey school, they've got some money. I mean I think they're paying considerable rent. I think it's - my recollection, but I'm not sure, but I asked the guy how much you paying? I think he said \$30,000 a month.

So I mean the only reason - so they would be a partner we could definitely - would we'd ever get this? I mean there's someone we could definitely work with in terms of trying to see a redevelopment of the site. It's just that they don't, you know, as I already said, they don't want to invest a lot of money in something where they don't have a long-term commitment.

Alderman Jette

Yeah, I just want to apologize for my misstating the assessed value. You know I was looking at the GIS site and what I thought was the assessed value was actually a previous sales value. So I was pointed to the right place and indeed it is assessed for \$18,392,000 so I apologize for any...

Mayor Donchess

Well that's more than I thought it was so neither of us had it right.

Alderman Lopez

But for the record, I wasn't wrong.

Chairwoman Kelly

Never. Motion on the table is to recommend final passage. Additional conversation?

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Donchess

Thank you very much.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you.

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

Chairwoman Kelly

We will not be taking our R-25-158 off the table.

Alderman Sennott

Unless you want to kill it?

Chairwoman Kelly

No, well, If anyone wanted to, sure, or O-25-056.

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

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

- Tabled at 6/2/25 meeting

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SENNOTT TO REMOVE O-25-062 FROM THE TABLE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Jette

I'm sorry. I didn't – what was the motion?

Alderman Sennott

Motion to remove from the table O-25-062.

Alderman Jette

Oh, okay.

Chairwoman Kelly

There's a lot going on in the chamber.

Alderman Jette

I heard the 62 and I thought wait a minute.

Alderman Lopez

Can we call for quiet on the set, please?

Chairwoman Kelly

Hey, sorry. We're just - people can't hear what's happening.

Okay. So the vote is to remove from the table, O-25-062.

MOTION CARRIED

O-25-062

Endorsers: Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Ernest A. Jette
Alderman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Tim Sennott
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

INCREASING THE TAX CREDIT FOR A SERVICE-CONNECTED TOTAL DISABILITY

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SENNOTT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

I'm just here in case anybody had any questions about the actual change in law.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. Do you want to sit with us?

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

Sure.

Chairwoman Kelly

I'll have Alderman Klee give us a quick update since this is or you're both co-sponsors. Who would like to talk to it?

Alderman Klee

Did you want to speak to it or would you...?

Alderman Jette

Yes, please.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Jette.

Alderman Jette

Thank you. So this ordinance is a result of the State legislature passed HB99 which increased the - so let me back up. So with veteran's tax credits there are, you know, different categories. One is called the "Optional Veterans Tax Credit" and it's in our ordinances as 295-13. Then there's - so the Optional Veterans Tax Credit is a tax credit that's provided to, you know, veterans who meet certain requirements like having served, you know, during a time of war or conflict and that's \$750 in Nashua.

And then there's the All Veterans Tax Credit which applies to - it expanded the scope of it to include, you know, veterans who didn't meet the requirements of having served during identified conflicts but who had served at least 90 days on active duty. So that's called the "All Veterans Tax Credit" that as well is \$750.

And then there's a separate category for veterans who are totally disabled. In that under the old law or the most recent law before it was just changed, allowed towns to provide this extra credit for disabled veterans up to \$4,000 and Nashua had adopted that but only to the extent of \$2,000.

So prior to HB99, totally disabled veterans in Nashua who qualified could get a tax credit of \$2,000, plus they could also get the Optional Veterans Tax Credit of \$750 for a total tax credit of \$2,750.

So HB99 increased the authorized cities and towns to offer veterans who were disabled, totally disabled increased it to \$5,000. But it said if you take the disabled credit of whatever your town chooses, you give up the right to claim the optional credit of \$750. So veterans in Nashua who were qualified for the total disability were getting \$2,750. They continued under HB99 without the city doing anything, they would continue to get the \$2,000 for total disability but they would no longer be eligible for the \$750 for the Optional Veterans Credit. So they would lose \$750 on their credit.

So what this ordinance does is it says that Nashua, you know, increases the credit for disabled veterans from \$2,000 to \$2,750 so that our veterans will not get any less. They'll get the same thing because the State took away that extra \$750 from them. So we're adjusting the credit that they're entitled to as disabled veterans to make up that difference so that they stay even. They're not losing. They're not getting anything more but they're not losing anything.

Now the Assessing Department did an analysis. There you are. You were standing right there.

Chairwoman Kelly

I had her come sit with us.

Alderman Jette

You were standing right there. So could I defer it to the Assessing Manager to explain what effect that would have on city finances?

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

So currently, we have a total of 160 disabled vets; 122 of those currently stack the Veterans Credit, the Optional Veterans Credit with the disabled. So that leaves 38 people that would get an additional \$750 versus the only \$2,000 they get now, which is a total of \$28,500 additional that the city would have to pay but you are saving the actual vets that have always gotten to \$2,750 from losing \$750.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you. Questions from the Committee? Alderman Clemons.

Alderman Clemons

I'll let Alderman Klee. She was the co-sponsor of this.

Chairwoman Kelly

I just never see her hand.

Alderman Klee

That's okay. Thank you so much. I appreciate it. I appreciated this coming this coming forward, and when it was brought to our attention, and so on. If I may ask a question of why would these 30 not stack it?

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

Well because you can only stack it with an optional vet credit. So for the All Vet Credit, they are not allowed to stack it. So some of those veterans may not "qualify" to be able to stack it because they are an all vet, or that they clearly just didn't apply for both because they are two separate credit amounts with two separate different applications.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. I appreciate that answer. When the legislation came through, if I may continue?

Chairwoman Kelly

Go ahead.

Alderman Klee

When that legislation came through of HB99 and basically stopped the no double dipping and all of these 122 people would lose that \$750, I think that was a low blow to them. I appreciate - in this case, I think the State put through the legislation to try to keep it clean, number 1. I wish they had not. I wish that they had basically taken - I also think it was to help those 30 and so on get a full credit for disability. I would rather them have put all of the veteran's credits, the other, the all vets, and so on into this category. I think that would have been better and allowed them to do stacking because this is going to create some havoc. I do appreciate they went from the maximum \$4,000 to \$5,000.

When this first came through, I know there was conversations about maybe we should put this up more than \$2,750 and give them all that. If there's anybody considering that, I would not recommend it. I think that keeping people whole is the main thing. We are benefiting 30 extra people in it which, you know, I think they deserve it as well. When you're disabled veteran, there's a lot of stumbling blocks in your way. So I think we should do as much as we can. I've always been for helping the veterans. I was a little concerned when we pushed the credit up not because we were - originally when we pushed the credit, not because we were doing that but because they still felt that we were unstable of knowing how many veterans are not going to qualify once they redefined the 90 days and so on. So that was my real concern for fighting against it.

For full disclosure, my husband is a veteran. Was not a disabled veteran but he was a veteran too. So I benefited from that \$750 and I still had voted against this pushing it for \$50 to \$750. So anybody who thinks I'm against veterans, I've already stated that I worked with that. I've been working with veterans since it was 18 years old, working with Department of Defense, working with the Veterans Affairs. So I have done work very diligently with veterans, and volunteer, and so on. So I'm never against veterans. I'm there for all of it.

But knowing that we put the \$750 through, I don't want to see anybody lose it. If 30 more people gained for it, so be it. These aren't just your average veterans. These are veterans with disabilities. I know there is another veterans credit that basically kind of wipes out all taxes is there not?

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

_Yes but that one we only have four people in the entire City of Nashua that qualify for that one.

Alderman Klee

Right and Manchester, I think, has one.

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

Yes.

Alderman Klee

I really looked into that. So this does not affect them because we're already wiping out there (inaudible) so it's four people.

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

Correct.

Alderman Klee

And that's a more severe disability and so on.

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

A very severe, yes.

Alderman Klee

Very severe of multiple limbs and so on. So just for anybody that's listening, this is not that same credit.

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

Correct.

Alderman Klee

I just wanted to make that perfectly clear, but thank you, Madam Chairman. Thank you, Alderman Clemons.

Alderman Clemons

Of course. Thank you. So, yeah, I think this is a great idea. I think, you know, making people whole is the right thing to do. Disappointed to hear of the legislature. I don't know why they cared, right, like but.

But as far as raising the cost, you know, it occurred to me tonight that we ought to - and I think I'm going to submit legislation to do this. We ought to tie these into inflation up to the maximum, in my opinion, so that they go up every year automatically. That way this doesn't have to become a political discussion here in this chamber. It's just something that automatically happens. It goes based on inflation up to whatever the State decides is the amount. I know that that's, you know, might be - you can argue that either way and I know that's kind of off topic a little bit so I appreciate the leeway, but obviously these credits to our veterans and the other credits that we have too for, you know, elderly folks, and disabled folks, and things like that, you know, I think they're important. We want to recognize these folks for, you know, just especially the veterans for their service, and for our seniors for all that they've done throughout their lives to better the community, and of course to give help to our disabled residents. I think, you know, in regards to this, this just makes total sense and leave it to Nashua and leave it to Nashua's legislators here around this horseshoe to outdo the State. Once again, they come down with something that says we're going to tell you and we come back and say, no, we're going to tell you. In this case, we're taking care of our veterans. I completely support it and thank you for bringing it forward.

Chairwoman Kelly

All right. The motion on the floor is to recommend final passage.

Alderman Jette

So, Madam Chair?

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Jette.

Alderman Jette

So I'm embarrassed to say that I was on vacation. I wanted to thank the Committee for postponing this. I know it was up - it came up at your last meeting, and I asked that it be tabled until I could be here, and I appreciate your courtesy in doing that. But when I had a chance to review the language and like in comparing it to the statute, you know, I found a few inconsistencies which I thought, you know, I talked to the Legal Department Attorney Clarke who wrote the original ordinance. I talked to her about it. Unfortunately, I admit, you know, it was my fault. I didn't talk to her until this afternoon but she agreed with the changes that I recommended. She sent them to Donna but I think it was after Donna had left. I was expecting that there'd be a golden rod copy here for us to consider.

Alderman Lopez

They ran out of golden rod paper.

Alderman Jette

What's that?

Alderman Lopez

They probably ran out of golden rod paper.

Alderman Jette

No, I doubt that very much. We have a big supply.

So I don't, you know, I have the copy that Attorney Clarke prepared and I don't know if I could make copies for you or if I could just read it to you. It doesn't change anything. It only changes the form. It doesn't change any of the substance. If I could read it to you in the form of a motion to amend?

Chairwoman Kelly

Yeah. I would love to hear your motion to amend and we can put it in the packet afterwards.

Alderman Jette

So if you have the original in front of you, you could follow along. So I move to amend O-25-062 by replacing it with the following: "The City of Nashua hereby adopts the provisions of New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated 72:35 as it may be amended from time to time relative to, and this is the new language, the Optional Tax Credit for service connected permanent and total disability in the amount of \$2,750 which shall replace the tax credits pursuant to RSA 72:28, 28-B, 28-C, and 36-A in their entirety and shall not be in addition there to".

So this is the language used in the Statute. Of note, the Statute no longer refers to just total disability but adds the words "permanent and total disability". So the references to 72:28, 28-B, those are, you know, the optional credit, the all veterans credit, and I can't remember what the others are but so, you know, it's what the legislature requires that people who choose or qualify for the permanent and the total disability amount whatever the city chooses. In our case, \$2750, you know, cannot be increased by the \$750 that's available to all other veterans.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN JETTE TO AMEND O-25-062 BY REPLACING IT WITH THE FOLLOWING: "THE CITY OF NASHUA HEREBY ADOPTS THE PROVISIONS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED 72:35, AS IT MAY BE AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME, RELATIVE TO 'THE OPTIONAL TAX CREDIT FOR' SERVICE-CONNECTED 'PERMANENT AND' TOTAL DISABILITY 'IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,750'

WHICH SHALL REPLACE THE 'TAX CREDITS PURSUANT TO RSA 72:28, 72:28-B, 72:28-C, AND 72:36-A' IN 'THEIR' ENTIRETY AND SHALL NOT BE IN ADDITION THERETO"

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Clemons

So I just want to clarify in layman's terms. Your motion there though leaves in place those other tax credits for those that want to take those independent of this, correct?

Alderman Jette

Yes.

Alderman Clemons

Okay.

Alderman Jette

Yeah, this would this only takes away the \$750 from people who qualify for the larger amount.

Alderman Clemons

Yeah.

Alderman Jette

So some towns that we offer - our credit for disabled veterans is \$2,000. Other towns go to the max \$4,000 and now that's been increased to \$5,000. I assume other towns will be in going up to \$5,000 but we're going to change it to \$2,750.

Alderman Clemons

Yeah, thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

All set? Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. Perhaps you can answer this question to me. Does this affect the widows and...

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

No.

Alderman Klee

So, right so.

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

It would...

Alderman Klee

They'll still get the \$2,750?

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

Correct. Should a widow qualify under the same, she or he would still get the same amount. It would not affect a surviving spouse.

Alderman Klee

Just...

Chairwoman Kelly

Yup.

Alderman Klee

I think I know the answer to this but if there were two veterans owning the property and one veteran passed, they would not get both?

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

They could get both, yes.

Alderman Klee

Both of the credits.

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

Yes, yes.

Alderman Klee

One as the widow...

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

One as the widow and one as the actual veteran. Yes.

Alderman Klee

Okay. I just want to make sure that that...

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

Yup, yes.

Alderman Klee

That stays in place and that we're not...

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

Yup, no.

Alderman Klee

That we're not kind of messing with this ...

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

Nope, right, yeah.

Alderman Klee

Okay. Thank you very much. I appreciate that. Thank you for the clarification.

Chairwoman Kelly

I've learned so much about the Veteran Tax Code this evening.

Michelle Welsh, Assessing Manager

Well I'm glad that I was here to answer any questions for sure.

Alderman Lopez

So are we.

Alderman Klee

Yes.

Chairwoman Kelly

Agreed, agreed. Okay, the motion is to amend. Any additional discussion?

MOTION CARRIED

**MOTON BY ALDERMAN SENNOTT FOR FINAL PASSAGE AS AMENDED
MOTION CARRIED**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paula Johnson

Good evening. My name is Paula Johnson. I live at 15 Westborn Drive. I have to apologize for the Mayor talking to me. He said that we should charge me \$10 a month for that chair, and I said to him that's only because I broke my kneecap over the wintertime, and I can't sit on a bench. You can see I'm limping again.

But anyway, I want to say thank you for voting for the Veterans Tax Credit for the disabled. They've given so much to protect borders on other countries and, you know, they deserve our praise for them.

The other thing I'd like to speak about is to Alderman Kelly. You were talking about 80 Northwest Boulevard about how much they paid the new owners. Well the amount of money basically was the assessed value - I just looked up on the card which I think changed - but the assessed value on the card is \$15,628,900 but what they paid is actual market value on it. So we don't really know what the commercial is because the commercial they've under assessed commercial as we're seeing now what's going on here. When someone pays that amount of money on a piece of property and your assessed value is \$15 million, then that's telling us that, you know, we keep assessing the residential properties that maybe it's about time we start taking a look at the commercial again because so to take the burden off of us, the homeowners, and that would change.

Things happened during covid but now covid is over with. People are back. People are coming out. It's time. Instead of doing an assessment on us next year, do it on the commercial and you're going to see a difference in the commercial because homeowners - that residential homes are kind of flat right now. They're not really going because there's nothing to sell.

The other thing I'd like to say is about the Daniel Webster College, which is giving you basically about the assessed value and the market value because the Mayor is willing to pay \$20 million for that property and the assessed value was \$18 million. So he's willing to pay a couple million dollars more on that property, which I have a real concern over to buy that property. You know you're asking for federal money, State money but is there going to also be the State or the federal government going to say there has to be a city matching amount to it? So I would be cautious about this. Right now, nothing's going to happen. The federal government is shut down. The State doesn't have money probably. No one's going to get money right now because there's nothing out there. So I would say walk with that property with caution and thank you very much for your time. Have a great night.

Chairwoman Kelly

All right. There's no other public here.

GENERAL DISCUSSION - NoneREMARKS BY THE ALDERMENAlderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. While I hate to be dissenting from the previous comments that were made, one comment was that we are under assessing businesses and then a comment that we would be paying too much over the assessed seems to be kind of contrary to what was said during that comment period.

But if I may, I want to thank my colleagues here for the lively discussion on both the Daniel Webster and the Nongfu property. I think as was pointed out and we continue to point out, the work happens here in the Committee and excellent work was happened by all of you. I'm not on this Committee but I appreciate it being able to be part of this conversation even if I were contrary to some people. I think we talked it out. I don't disagree with almost anything anybody said here. Even though I didn't, I said I wouldn't vote for it. I think all points, and I think this body truly shows what the other governments should be doing. We disagree, we listen, we kind of maybe change our minds to some point. There is no hostility, no anger, just really good, clean discussion, and I'm so proud to be on this Board. So thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

Chairwoman Kelly

Anyone else?

ADJOURNMENT**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 9:17 p.m.

Alderman Tim Sennott
Committee Clerk