

A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 7:45 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.

President Lori Wilshire presided; City Clerk Dan Healey recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Dan Healey; Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons, led in the Pledge to the Flag.

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

The roll call was taken with 15 members of the Board of Aldermen present: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Chess, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire.

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

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Donchess

Yes, Madam President. Thank you. Well I first wanted to discuss R-26-007 which is the Resolution authorizing the City to proceed with the design of the Public Works garage. This project has been under consideration for about 10 years. We are seeking here to design a replacement for the current Public Works garage which was built in the 1970s with a federal grant, was built cheaply then - too small even in those days - and over these succeeding 50 some years, the building has really worn out. The systems - and you saw this in the public hearing last night those of you attended - the systems, HVAC, everything is all failing and beyond its useful life. There have been safety problems in the buildings both in terms of environmental issues, which were detailed last night, as well as garage doors which needed to be replaced because they presented a hazard to the people using the garage. The mechanics use these - if you go out there, these trenches under the surface of the floor to repair vehicles and those do not conform with current OSHA Standards because there is no - when there's a vehicle over the trench and there's a city employee mechanic underneath trying to fix the truck or whatever it is, there's no way to get out of there without moving the truck. So that does not conform with even OSHA these days.

The other consideration is that the garage is so small that if you go there at any time, it's just packed with equipment. You can't really walk around in the garage, at least in the large area where the vehicles are kept. The vast majority of vehicles are kept outside and as you heard last night in the public hearing, this shortens the useful life and condition of vehicles when they're left outdoors month after month, year after year especially in climate weather. Also having to prepare for plowing and other activities such as that outdoors during a storm is not an ideal situation.

The City of Nashua like other cities is a service organization and we are basically here to provide service, schools, Public Works, picking up garbage, plowing the streets, etc., Fire, Police, and if we want our employees to perform as well as possible, we really have to give them the tools necessary to perform those duties and when it comes to Public Works, the garage and its ancillary rooms are not adequate. You've heard already just in the last couple of weeks, about some of the Aldermen having to replace some of the chairs in the very small break room which is supposed to be able to hold the workforce. It probably holds about a quarter of it. So for many reasons, I hope you will proceed with the design so that we can determine cost and decide how to proceed from there.

Also Madam President, I cannot resist talking a little bit about what's going on in Concord because it definitely will affect us directly. I saw that first that the Governor had vetoed a bill having to putting some kind of tax or something on the sale of paint which was designed to raise money to dispose of paint which is - at least some paints are considered a hazardous substance. What she said was that's a broad based tax and she's going to veto it for that reason.

Now I don't know if that's a broad based tax or not but what I do know is a broad based tax is the property tax. Now, candidates for office from both parties for years, for decades have been saying no broad based taxes. Well we've had a broad based tax for a long time. It's the property tax. Everyone pays it. Homeowners directly through their property taxes, renters/tenants through their rent which then is passed on to the landlord, and the landlord pays the property taxes and in Concord, they're taking so many steps over a long period of time which raised this broad based tax. The biggest culprit is the unconstitutionally illegally low level of school aid, which received of \$4,200. The legal obligation is to provide money for an adequate education. That alone is a very low bar - adequate I would hope we'd do better than that but the \$4,200 is about 20% of the cost of an average student. So the burden of public education is pushed onto the property taxpayers to the point where New Hampshire - among all the 50 States in terms of the proportion of school costs paid by the State is the lowest of all 50 States and in Concord, they are always taking steps which raise this

property tax. I mean more pushing more costs on the cities and towns. But in terms of trying to create revenue to help pay school costs and other ways reduce property taxes, they've moved in the opposite direction by eliminating the interest in dividends tax paid by wealthy individuals and by reducing the business taxes paid by large corporations. I don't know what their motives are but if you were designing a plan to undermine and destroy the public schools - I mean, could you have a better plan? Starve them for money, new money goes to vouchers, reduce State revenue so there's no money to increase school aid.

And now additionally, I don't know if you've seen that there are a group of so called "Open Enrollment" Bills pending in the legislature. Seems like some version of an open enrollment bill is going to pass. What it means is that any parent, any family, any parent in any district can enroll their student in another district. For example, a Nashua parent could enroll their kid in Hollis and guess who has to pay for that in that example? Nashua parent puts their kid in a Hollis school - Nashua taxpayers pay Hollis to educate this Nashua child. So if 20, 50, 100 you know - who knows - students were to leave the District and go to neighboring towns, it could be tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, millions of dollars that Nashua would have to pay to our neighbors. So chaos and none of the educators, School Board members, teachers, administrators - no one supports this because people who know something about education will tell you that this will create educational chaos. Hollis does - you know, they don't want more kids but they may have to take them. So we'll see what passes but again if you were trying to undermine public education - I don't know what their motives are - but if you were trying to do that, this is another good way to do it. So yes, I have gotten on the soap box about this tonight and that's the way it is but I think that all of these steps are directly affecting us here in Nashua and could affect us more severely in the future if these trends continue. So thank you very much, Madam President.

President Wilshire

I don't disapprove of your soapbox.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I agree with the President. I don't disagree with your soapbox. If I can indulge a little bit, I'd like to add that they're also putting in a lot of zoning laws that are going to affect the City - take away our rights from eliminating parking, required parking spaces, to additional ADUs, and everything else like that which will have a strong effect on us. I think there's a group in Concord that is decided that municipalities will no longer make laws, or rules, or anything else like that. I think that's what the ultimate goal is and just throwing this out there, I think the ultimate goal is to kill our public school systems. I think that's what it is. We can see it just by the extra money that we're paying to private schools, home schools, parochial schools, all these things. I think that's the ultimate goal and it's sad because we say that we have a bad school system but we keep taking away money. We have a great school system, and we have great teachers that are working for it, and it breaks my heart so thank you.

RECOGNITION PERIOD - None

READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the minutes of the regular Board of Aldermen meeting of March 10, 2026 be accepted, placed on file, and the readings suspended.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING ONLY PROCEDURAL ACTIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS

From: Rich Lannan, Chair, Nashua Center for the Arts Board of Trustees
Re: Nashua Center for the Arts Board of Trustees Annual Report

From: Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director
Re: Disposition of 342 Main Street - Upcoming Request for Proposals (RFP)

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the communications and placed them on file.

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

Susan Elberger

Thank you, Madam President. I am Susan Elberger. I'm a State Representative from Nashua Ward 1. I live at 11 Birch Hill Drive and just a comment about the Mayor's comments. We are depleting our rainy day fund in the State at a rate that is untenable and faster than has happened before. And just for fun on the national level, the Federal Treasury Auditors say that the Federal Treasury basically is insolvent because we have slightly over \$6 trillion in assets and almost \$48 trillion in bills that we owe. So we have some things to think about.

But I am here today talking for the Nashua Actor Singers who is the largest performing arts group in the City. It's a 501(c)3 corporation founded in 1955. They perform adult programs, and teenage shows, and children's shows. My husband Jim and I were somehow hornswoggled into supporting and working on the current show which is The Goosebumps. Some of you may have read - some of you may have children who read it. Some of you may have grandchildren who read those books. The show is going up this weekend - Friday night, Saturday night, and Sunday afternoon at 14 Court Street. Admission is pay what you will. So we hope some of you will come and see it.

They also are setting up a performance for school children from New Searles and Mount Pleasant schools on Thursday morning, which is free for those children and for the teachers who are going to be accompanying them. The Actor Singers have put in a request for funding through a grant. I'm hoping that you will consider supporting that grant because of the service that we provide to the community as well as for the joy of performing arts. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Betsey Martel

Hi. My name is Betsy Martel. I am at 1 Clock Tower Place. I'm the current President of Nashua Theater Guild here in support of the Arts Commission. We did send an email. One of our very eloquent Board members sent an email to Donna Graham that I was hoping could be read tonight. Is that possible?

President Wilshire

If we've already received it, there's no need to read it.

Betsey Martel

Okay.

President Wilshire

It will be part of the record.

Betsey Martel

It will be part of the record?

President Wilshire

Yes.

Betsey Martel

Okay, I wasn't sure.

President Wilshire

Yep.

Betsey Martel

And as part of Nashua Theater Guild, she was very eloquent speaking. She's at rehearsal tonight actually for our next show but we have been growing steadily over the last year or so. Our Board members are now about 12 to 15 where in the past, we were about 6 and so we have had more people audition for all of our shows lately than we've been able to

cast, which is also new for us. It shows that there's a lot of people wanting to participate in the arts because the arts are good for everybody. So we're in support of the Arts Commission 100%. Without their grant, we would have a hard time putting on any shows at all. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Elle Millar

Hello. My name is Elle Millar. I am a resident of Merrimack but a long time dutiful worker of Nashua. My name is Elle Millar and I'm the Executive...

President Wilshire

Can we get your address for the record?

Elle Millar

12 Essex Green Court, Merrimack.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Elle Millar

My name is Elle Millar and I'm the Executive Director of Peacock Players. I'm here today to express my support for the approval of the Arts Commission grants. At the Peacock Players, we offer performing arts education to the young people of our community. This season so far our stage has featured 139 young performers and seven main stage productions. We've hosted 280 theater campers. We have awarded 40 scholarships totaling over \$4,500 and have welcomed 635 area elementary and middle school students to our school day field trip performances, which are often their first ever theater experiences.

This is the third year we have applied for a grant through the Arts Commission to aid us in offering our annual summer workshop series ranging in topics from preparing to an audition to audition, to tap dancing, to stage combat. That is a very popular one. These grants allow us to provide these workshops for a reduced accessible rate of \$5 per workshop while also still fairly paying our talented teaching artists. These workshops not only foster creativity and self-expression but also promote teamwork and discipline among participants. By making these workshops accessible at a reduced cost, we are ensuring that there are more children and teens that benefit from this enriching experience regardless of their financial situation. Supporting the arts is crucial for our community as it cultivates talent, boosts local culture, and strengthens community ties. Investing in our youth through programs like this is investing in the future of Nashua. Studies have shown us time and time again that the arts are good for the economy. I urge you to reconsider or to consider the positive impact that these organizations have and approve the full slate of Arts Commission grants. Thank you for your time and support.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Kristy Ayi

Kristy Ayi, 4 Cosworth Circle here in Nashua. I am here to talk about the warming center in Nashua and the issues with homelessness. I know behind me - and I'll keep this very brief - there are many people who could speak with more gravitas and first-hand experience to the issue. My request for you to consider is to keep the warming center open beyond the April 15th date. I know it was meant to be a short term solution for inclement weather, but it's a great place for a concerted and centralized effort to do some outreach and connect folks with resources. And again, I promise to keep my remarks short because I know there are many people behind me who can speak to this issue more clearly but I just wanted to add my voice to the chorus. Thank you.

Gary Hoffman

Gary Hoffman, 38 Perham Street, Townhouse D, Nashua, New Hampshire. I'm also the President of the Nashua Teachers Union and tonight, I'm going to be speaking about R-26-001. It's the new collective bargaining agreement - our tentative agreement - with the American Sign Language Interpreters and the Family Engagement Coordinators. If you approve this tonight, this actually will be their very first contract and so let me tell you a little bit about who these two groups of people are.

First of all, our sign language interpreters. It's the only program of its kind in any public school in the State of New Hampshire. We have a number of deaf and hard of hearing students in our public schools and these are the people who provide translation services for these students. Our Family Engagement Coordinators are the liaisons between the public school system and the immigrant community. They provide translating services but they're also kind of a sort of ambassadors to the public schools for some of our newer families. As some of you know in the past 10 years, our English language learner population has doubled.

Now to me, this contract is a bargain. We have at various points of this year for at least the sign language interpreters had as many as 6 openings. When you have to contract those services out, it's about \$90 an hour from what I've heard. If you look at this contract, the wages are in the 30 to high 30s range. So to me, this is really a smart investment. Altogether, this entire contract only really represents about 24 employees so we're not talking about a lot of people. But for these people, this contract matters and being a first contract, we got a lot of the things that unions do. You know we have just cause language, a grievance procedure. We have a wage schedule, basic conditions, and rules for their work week and their work year. I'll tell you, I was so happy when this group ratified this contract. They all cheered and were so happy. So I'm just simply asking you to pass this contract unanimously. Let's honor these two groups of workers that are working with some really important parts of our student body. And by the way Mayor Donchess, I agree 100% with what you said. Stay on that soapbox and you as well Trish Klee. Thank you.

Lindsay Rinaldi

Hi folks. Lindsay Rinaldi, 37 June Street, Lowell Mass, but long time Nashua kiddo and work here every day and I love it. I wanted to let you know that today you have the opportunity to create something beautiful. Today you have the opportunity to say yes to the full slate of Arts Commission proposed projects. These 11 projects are champions of the Nashua Arts nonprofit scene. These projects are showcasing the power of what we can do for all of the residents of our City while also boosting tourism. A yes to the slate of 11 arts projects will support hundreds of children getting important education opportunities in music, that first chance on the stage, in dance. This opportunity to present and to support these 11 arts projects - this full slate of grants at a mere \$30,000 which I know is such a small amount of money comparison to all of the major projects you see across the City. This is a small investment with huge result potential. Supporting these projects have the opportunity to create, bring community together for our adults, to bring performing and visual arts opportunities together for our seniors, to support 8 years of the Board of Aldermen and the City of Nashua support of the arts and culture grants to this City.

By voting yes today, you'll be not only continuing to support the charter of the Arts Commission that you have supported over the past 8 years, you'll be moving our arts and culture plan forward and you'll be making a smart and savvy economic decision for the City because every single one of these arts nonprofits that runs these projects here as part of the \$11.2 million arts nonprofit economy that is present here in Nashua. Every single one of these arts nonprofits and these projects will create jobs either within this project or through their variety of activities. So not only are you creating a bright and brilliant future for children, for adults, for seniors in this community, you're creating a place to grow. You're attracting tourism dollars into this City and you are making the best decision you can on this very small investment to see amazing, extraordinary results.

Thank you for your trust in the Arts Commission for being charged with putting together this rigorous process to vet these applications strongly. I know this has gone to the Committee, as well as the Budget/Finance subcommittee, and I appreciate their positive recommendation, and I ask you to vote yes.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

David Harris

Hi. I'm David Harris. I live at 115 Colburn Road in Milford but I represent the Nashua Area Artists Association and in particular, the show that they put on at Greeley Park each year. I agree with everything that's been said about the importance of art for our community.

What I can add to that is just a couple of my experiences. For one thing, it's just a real sense of community at these events. It's a community among the artists that are coming from many different cities. It's a very welcoming kind of thing for the people that are coming in and one thing that's interesting is when a family comes in with some younger children or maybe teenagers, I'll just ask, you know, they seem to be interested in the art. I'll ask what anybody here interested in being an artist themselves and I'm surprised at how often the answer to that is yes. So not only are we supporting people who are artists today but we are helping to build the community of people in this city. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Jennifer Annand

Good evening. Jennifer Annand, 90 East Hollis Street, Nashua. I'm here as an Arts Commissioner and I've been on the Commission for the past 7 years with Lindsay. I come to you today as the reviewer of grant applications and for the past 5 years, the grant Chair. It's great to have everyone here tonight to speak independently of their projects. As you can see, we have a history of recommending awards that are fair and equitable and I'm here to speak to you a little bit about the process for that.

It's very detailed criteria and scoring rubric. What that consists of is applicants must provide proof of their 501(c)3 status, a Certificate of Good Standing, a budget form. They need to provide profit and loss statements, balance sheets. There's a five part document that asks for an organizational overview, a program description, a funding strategy, the execution plan, the marketing plan, and the metrics they'll use for measurable outcomes.

After the grants are awarded, the eligibility for the following year depends on reporting from the previous year which asks if goals were met, how the project fulfilled the City's art and culture plan, the outcomes of the marketing, and other measurable items, how many participants were served, and proof of collaboration with other organizations. These groups ask for your continued funding to provide low or no cost opportunities to children that want to learn an instrument, or act in a play, to teens that find safe harbor in organizations like Spartans Drum and Bugle Corps., to adults that don't have access to fine arts or reliable transportation to Boston, and to seniors who are on fixed incomes that want to enjoy the fruits of their investments to the city over the years. This ask is directly aligned with the Imagine Nashua Plan as it plays a crucial role in marketing the city as a destination for the arts. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Deb Kneeland

Good evening. I'm Deb Kneeland, 9 Osprey Lane, Merrimack, New Hampshire. I'm here tonight representing the National Choral Society. My purpose in being here tonight is to encourage you to approve the full slate of Arts Commission grants recommended by the Nashua Arts Commission. These grants are integral to the wellbeing of arts groups across the City. In our particular case, the grant money represents somewhere between 8 and 10% of our yearly budget. This helps us to perform four concerts a year and keeps our ticket prices affordable for seniors, adults, and families. Children are welcomed at no charge. We also work hard at keeping our membership dues as low as feasible to make joining the Nashua Choral Society possible for interested folks. Grants like the NAC Grant allow us to offer scholarships for anyone should they need financial assistance, no questions asked.

The Nashua Choral Society has been part of the Nashua art scene since 1964. We have provided continuous performances in Nashua ever since, even during the covid years when we presented our driveway choir concert sitting in our cars and using wireless microphones in our car radios. We've always been fortunate to have a diligent and innovative Board of Directors that find a way to perform music even during a pandemic. Beyond our typical concerts, we always enjoy supporting the Nashua community by participating in the Winter Holiday Stroll and performing the National Anthem a few times each summer at the Silver Knights baseball games. The arts are at the heart of Nashua and we are so grateful for the support of the Nashua Arts Commission. We and the people of Nashua hope you will heartily support the requested grants. Thank you for the work you do for the people of Nashua. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Fred Teeboom

Okay. My name is Fred Teeboom, reside at 24 Cheyenne Drive. Well as we approach the budget review season for 2027, it's worthwhile to see where we're going and I think we're on a hell of a spending spree. I'll refer you to a letter written by Mayor Donchess dated December 22, 2025. I hope you all got a copy. It's a guidance letter. It says in the letter "that I propose a budget that will deliver a tax rate increase of around 6%". We just had a 6% increase - more than double the rate of inflation. Then he says, "the request that each department submit its proposed budget with an increase of no more than 3% excluding fringe benefits". Well kind of interesting to take a look where we are. Take a look at R-26-001. That's where the rubber hits the road. When people come in and say well it's all done. We're under contract. We can't change a thing. This is where you can change things. If you look at that particular resolution, there is a spreadsheet. If you haven't looked at it, I suggest you do. What's the increase? Annual percent increase over previous years in 2026 - 7.6%; 2027 - 3.4%; 2028 - 3.4%. Certainly you're above the 3% guidelines. If you look at the total increase including fringe benefits for Fiscal 2026 - 8.97% - 9%. In 2027, a 4.9% and in 2028 - 5.5%. Who's paying attention to Mayor's guidelines? Surely you understand. Take this contract and send them back to the originators in the School Board and talk to them go renegotiate. Stop it. If you...

Donna Graham, Legislative Manager

30 seconds.

Fred Teeboom

...look at the upcoming Police contract, you can see that's not on the schedule, you're can to see more than a 4% increases - 4%, 5%. You know, this stuff's out of control. If you think this is not out of control with 14 seconds ago, I'll come back and talk about one wasteful project, wasteful as hell. You're losing over a million dollars a year. That's the hydroelectric dam. One second, I'll be back to explain to you in detail on the spreadsheets. Thank you.

Walter Schier

I'm Walter Schier, 16 Tiger Road, Hudson, New Hampshire, but I've been a long time Nashua resident. I moved with my family to Nashua in 1969. That same year, I joined the Nashua Choral Society. I've been a member ever since. These past 11 years I have been the Treasurer of the Nashua Choral Society.

I'm here to ask you to prove the full slate of grants submitted by the Nashua Arts Commission. These grants help support the cultural life of our community. The Nashua Choral Society relies on these yearly grants for about 10% of its budget. This helps us keep our ticket prices low and it results in very strong family attendance to our concerts. At our Christmas concert, we sold over 500 tickets counting children and students. We had an audience of over 600 filling the Immaculate Conception Church on East Dunstable Road. We typically perform four or more times a year. At this Christmas concert performance, the chorus numbered over 70 singers and we were accompanied by 12 professional musicians. These highly professional local performances of music and arts make the greater Nashua area such a wonderful, very special place to live. Thank you for supporting all these wonderful organizations.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Jim Larson

Good evening. I'm Jim Larson, the Director of the Nashua International Sculpture Symposium and tonight I'm here all the way from South Portland Maine at 650 Main Street. I'm here to ask that you fully fund/fully support the Nashua Arts Commission with their grants because specifically, their grant allows us to host international artists in this city to make large format public permanent sculpture for Nashua residents.

I'll take a second to tell you why this is such a big deal. You are putting artists to work if you fund these grants. You are asking artists to work on behalf of this city for this city and that work stays here permanently and for them that work is care. They are demonstrating a version of care when they craft a piece of sculpture for our City and that version of care stays with the piece for the entirety of its installation, permanently. That version of care is a model for caring for this city. It shows people in public parks that they should, in fact, care for that park as a shared space - that someone came all the way across an ocean just to make something nice for that park. So please consider as you vote how you put artists to work and how those artists work on behalf of Nashua. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING FINAL APPROVAL

From: Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director
Re: Arts Commission Spending Recommendation

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO APPROVE \$30,000 TO ARTS RELATED GRANTS AS OUTLINED IN THE FEBRUARY 3, 2026 MEMO FROM DIRECTOR LIZ HANNUM ON BEHALF OF THE ARTS COMMISSION, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTIONAlderwoman Kelly

Thank you. I am on the Budget Committee and we walked through this but I also just wanted to commend the Commission for the work that they do. I am a long-time lover of the arts and when I brag about my city, I talk so much about all of the vibrant arts community and organizations that we have here. I think it's just a true gem and I appreciate that we do invest in this as a community. So I hope everybody will support it as well.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I want to agree with my colleague who just spoke. In previous years, I was the Aldermanic liaison to this Committee and I can tell you that they worked very hard to make this determination to make the difficult decision as to who can get what to speak to them about whether or not the monies that they get will be sufficient, etc.

The other thing I want to kind of add to this is something that you heard people talking about for the benefit of students and for the people of all ages. I'm going to kind of focus a little bit on students. More and more money are being cut from our schools. What tends to get cut from the schools are not sports programs but arts programs. So that means our children - and don't get me wrong I know Nashua school system will do everything they can to keep arts with the students but that tends to be the low hanging fruit that gets cut. We have these other groups of people that are kind of helping with different things like that. They do great programs with children to encourage this love of art, performance art, physical art, and so on, so I really think it's important that we do fund this. Thank you.

Alderman Morgan

Thank you, Madam President. I wanted to commend the Chair of this Committee and being the Aldermanic liaison. The reason why we saw so many people come out and speak tonight is because the State of New Hampshire cut the arts funding down to 100 pennies. That's \$1 for all of the arts organizations. So if you're surprised to see so many people coming out to fight for this \$30,000 that is why and also how refreshing it is to see such a large show from our constituents to come out and speak in favor of something.

Madam President if I may through you to Corporation Counsel? I am the president of Positive Street Art. Do I need to abstain from this vote?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

You need not.

Alderman Morgan

Thank you.

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

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Chess, Alderwoman Smith,
Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd,

Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire

15

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

From: Mayor Jim Donchess

Re: Multi-Year Contract Award - Employee Assistance Program Provider

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND AWARD A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT TO COMPPSYCH AS THE CITY'S EMPLOYEE ASSSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP) THAT WILL IMPROVE ACCESS TO SERVICES, EXPANDING COUNSELING SUPPORT, AND ASSIST WITH EARLY INTERVENTION RESOURCES IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$61,240. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 113 BENEFITS; FUND: BENEFITS SELF INSURANCE FUND/52 – FRINGE BENEFITS, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTIONAlderman Klee

One of the things that I wanted to add is that this contract is and the new vendor is the same cost and benefits to our employees to help them and in the long run, it has the potential of cutting costs with people going outside. Because this is an inside program, there's less cost to it and so on. It gives them 10 visits as part of this program without having to go outside which would cost us more money. So I think that this is something we should strongly support. Thank you.

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

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Chess, Alderwoman Smith,
Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd,
Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire

15

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

From: Mayor Jim Donchess

Re: Million Dollar Contract Award - Hydropower Engineering Change Order #5

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SULLIVAN TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #5 TO THE VERDANTAS CONTRACT TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL SCOPE FOR THE CONTRACT THAT INCLUDES WATER QUALITY STUDIES TO BE PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NH DES ISSUED WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$196,942.00. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 170 HYDROELECTRIC OPERATIONS; FUND: MINE FALLS TRUST/53 – PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL SERVICES, BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Chess, Alderwoman Smith,
Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd,
Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire

15

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

From: Mayor Jim Donchess

Re: Million Dollar Contract Award - Operation and Maintenance of the Hydroelectric facilities

MOTION BY ALDERMAN GREGG TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #1 WITH ESSEX POWER SERVICE RELATIVE TO EXPENSES REQUIRED TO REPAIR UNIT #1 AT THE MINE FALLS FACILITY IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$436,000. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 170 HYDROELECTRIC OPERATIONS; FUND: MINE FALLS TRUST/53-PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL SERVICES, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Johnson

Yes, could I ask a question of Mr. Sullivan please through the Chair?

President Wilshire

Director Sullivan?

Alderman Johnson

Yes, Director Sullivan.

President Wilshire

Yes.

Alderman Johnson

Hi, thank you. When this hydroelectric turbo is repaired, how much in revenues do we get?

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

So it's important to note for the record that this facility is measured across the entire facility. We don't review revenue based on a specific turbine. As I've said at previous meetings, the revenues at this facility have ranged between anywhere between \$500,000, to \$1.5 million, and some years we've gone slightly above that as well. So I said 1.7 at the time. It's difficult to say exactly what revenue we're going to receive in the future Alderwoman Johnson. It's impossible to say in fact. We don't know what the precipitation will look like in the spring season. We have no idea what the flows will look like as a result of that. It simply is not possible to answer that question and it's something that frankly, the Manager, Ms. Chisholm, and I go back and forth about all the time as we're looking at projecting revenue for future years. I'm sort of constantly pushing to project more revenue and she's constantly and rightfully so pulling me back because of the volatility of these facilities based on precipitation and natural weather patterns. So it's impossible to answer your question. All I can say is that across a year, that's our general revenue at the facility.

What I also know is that our highest revenue seasons tend to be our snow melt/spring season when it's wet and then sometimes it can be wet, you know, in the winter season, or in the fall season as well, or during a particularly rainy summer. So it's really difficult to say and I don't want that to sound as like a dodgy answer but it's precipitation and it's unpredictable.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you very much.

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

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Chess, Alderwoman Smith,
Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd,
Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire

15

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

From: Mayor Jim Donchess
Re: Multi-Year Contract Award - Software Subscription: Policeapp.com

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF A THREE-YEAR SOFTWARE CONTRACT WITH POLICEAPP.COM, INC., FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF SWORN PERSONNEL IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$6,500 ANNUALLY. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 150 POLICE DEPARTMENT; FUND: GENERAL FUND/55 – OTHER SERVICES

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

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Chess, Alderwoman Smith,
Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd,
Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire 15

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

PETITIONS - None

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

The following appointments by the Mayor were read into the record:

Arts Commission

Lauren Spira-Savett (re-appointment) Term to expire: May 31, 2028
39 Coburn Avenue
Nashua, NH 03063

Sara Ceaser (re-appointment) Term to expire: April 1, 2028
15 Pike Street, Apt. B
Nashua, NH 03060

Cultural Connections Committee

Joslyn Kuchinski (new appointment) Term to expire: April 14, 2029
179 Pepperell Road
Hollis, NH 03049

Planning Board

Lawrence Hirsch (re-appointment) Term to expire: March 31, 2029
12 Salmon Brook Drive
Nashua, NH 03062

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the Appointments by the Mayor as read and referred them to the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Joint Meeting - Committee on Infrastructure and Board of Public Works..... 02/25/2026

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the February 25, 2026 Joint Meeting - Committee on Infrastructure and Board of Public Works be accepted and placed on file.

There being no objection, President Wilshire suspended the rules to allow for the oral report of the Budget Review Committee meeting held Monday, March 23rd, regarding proposed amended Resolutions R-26-003 and R-26-007.

Alderman Dowd

Yes, last night at the Budget meeting, we had voted on both of these Resolutions. On R-26-003, it was unanimous after discussion. On R-26-007, it was 6 to 1 in favor. So the positive recommendation of both these Resolutions came from the Budget Committee.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Joint Convention with Woodlawn/Pinewood Cemeteries Board of Trustees

There being no objection, President Lori Wilshire declared that the Board of Aldermen meet in joint convention with the Woodlawn/Pinewood Cemetery Trustees for the purpose of electing two Trustees and called for nominations.

Niles Jensen, Trustee

Good evening. My name is Niles Jensen. I am Chairman of both Woodlawn and Pinewood Cemeteries in Nashua. We have two candidates to be elected to five-year terms to expire in 2030 and they are, very simply, Mark Coulombe and Todd Whitney. Thank you very much.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

There being no objection, I will close the nominations.

A viva voce roll call was taken on the appointments of Todd Whitney and Mark Coulombe which result as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Chess, Alderwoman Smith,
Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd,
Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire

Trustee Coulombe, Mayor Donchess, Trustee Farwell, Trustee Jensen,
Trustee McLaughlin, Trustee Whitney, Trustee Plamondon

22

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Oath of Office administered by Corporation Counsel for Trustee Todd Whitney and Trustee Mark Coulombe.

Joint Convention with Library Board of Trustees - Kristin Kane and Ernest A. Jette nominations

There being no objection, President Lori Wilshire declared that the Board of Aldermen meet in joint convention with the Library Board of Trustees for the purpose of electing two Trustees and called for nominations.

Linda Laflamme, Trustee

Linda Laflamme. I am the Chair of the Library Board of Trustees and I am honored to nominate someone who is very familiar to many of you which is Attorney Ernie Jette and that would be for a term ending in 2028. He would be finishing out the late David Pinsonneault's term. For re-appointment, I would like to nominate Kristin Kane for a term ending in 2033, Kristin has been familiar to you. She's made several presentations about our renovation plans and projects. So thank you for your consideration.

There being no objection, President Wilshire closed the nominations and call for the vote.

A viva voce roll call was taken on the appointments of Kristin Kane and Ernest A. Jette which result as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Chess, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire

Trustee Dresner, Trustee Jaquith, Trustee Kennedy, Trustee Laflamme, Mayor Donchess

20

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Oath of Office administered by Corporation Counsel for Trustee Ernest A. Jette.

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-26-001

Endorsers: Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien
Alderman-at-Large Alicia Gregg
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman Tim Sennott
Alderman-at-Large Amber Morgan
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NASHUA BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE NASHUA TEACHERS' UNION, LOCAL 1044, AFT, AFL-CIO, UNIT E, INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING AND UNIT F, FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATORS FROM JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2028

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD TO AMEND R-26-001 BY REPLACING IT WITH THE GOLDEN ROD COPY OF AMENDMENTS MADE AT THE BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Dowd

Yes. A goldenrod copy was fully approved by the Budget Committee and this group as was explained is worthy of the money they're getting. It's a savings actually. If we have to hire outside people, it's going to be twice to three times as much per person.

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

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Chess, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire

15

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-26-001 AS AMENDED, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam President. I want to thank former Alderman Teeboom for giving us a cliffhanger because I'm really excited to see what he's going to say later.

But I wanted to know if we could have the Union President, Mr. Hoffman, come up and kind of talk through a little bit of some of the numbers that were thrown out there. This is the first time that they've had a contract like this. So there shouldn't be necessarily increased percent, correct? Can we have Mr. Hoffman come up and speak to that or the Superintendent - whoever wants to speak to that would be great. I just want to see if the numbers are truthful or not.

Dr. Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools

Numbers are always truthful. So Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools. So thank you for the question. So as Mr. Hoffman previously mentioned, this is the first contract with these employees but they have been employees in the District for a number of years. So they were non-affiliated and now they just unionized. The big increase in year 1 is that we've been negotiating with these employees for the last 2 years. So they did not receive a raise 2 years ago. So we held them flat so we thought we need to do right by them. So there's a bigger increase in year 1 and then it flattens out in years 2 and 3. But they did not receive a raise as part of the non-affiliates while we were actually bargaining.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you. That's exactly why I wanted to answer that question because they missed that raise.

Dr. Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools

Correct.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you very much. I usually do not vote on a lot of these contracts because I think the percentages in the increases is a little bit high but I'm going to vote on this one because I used to be the Chair of Operations and Finance. Did I get it backwards? It's been a while since I was on the Board of Ed. Contracts will come before us and I would see what was going on with some of the teachers and why we had to outsource some of this to agencies and this was one of them. And when you think about it, we need these teachers for the deaf and hearing impaired. If we can't get them, then these are kids that are going to fail and won't have the services that they need. So I am going to support this contract, although I don't like the first year, I think it's high. I understand because they didn't get an increase in one year because they were negotiating but I think the kids in this bracket especially where we can't always get the teachers and we have to do the outside sourcing and agencies. I think this is very important that they have teachers to help them. Thank you.

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

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Chess, Alderwoman Smith,
Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd,
Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire

15

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-26-001 is declared duly adopted as amended.

R-26-003, Amended

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman Patricia Klee

Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien
Alderman-at-Large Amber Morgan
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$15,000 OF ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE INTO DEPARTMENT 161 "STREETS", ACCOUNT 51300 "OVERTIME", AND \$40,000 OF ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE INTO DEPARTMENT 177 "PARKS", ACCOUNT 51300 "OVERTIME" FOR THE INTENDED PURPOSE OF COVERING EXPENSES RELATED TO THE CLEAN UP AND MAINTENANCE OF MAIN STREET, THE RIVERFRONT, AND THE LIBRARY WALK

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-26-003, AMENDED, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Lopez

I just wanna double check to anybody who would know. The Library Walk refers to the alleyway that leads from Main Street to the Library, right, because I've heard the trail also referred as the Library walk right along the river.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Not along the river.

Alderman Lopez

Okay, so it's not the river one, gotcha.

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

That is correct. So that is the Library Walk. The Riverwalk that is behind the Library is still part of the Riverwalk portion.

Alderman Lopez

Okay. Sorry - just to clarify. It says the Riverfront. Is the whole Riverwalk part of this or no? Sorry for making you come back.

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Yes, it is. So the Riverwalk, Main Street, and the Library Walk as well as some of the side streets as they need it.

Alderman Lopez

Okay.

Alderman Chess

Just a general, I guess, question to the Board and in general. The way I understood it based on a previous public hearing is that this is - the cleanup is something that's funded in future years. It's already funded in the future, and this is just for basically starting that four months earlier, and we're effectively paying a 50% premium because we don't have the extra employees on hand yet so we need to pay 50% extra just for a four month head start?

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

It's not quite that case because the budget for Fiscal Year '27 has not been approved yet. We do plan to put it in that so that it can be approved by you in the coming months but this would get us started to do the spring cleaning, which is kind of the most important piece of it from April 1st to June 30th. Then assuming that it gets approved through the budget

process, then we would pick it up as a full time employees versus having to hire additional people and then having to fire them if we didn't get it approved through the budget in July.

President Wilshire

You all set Alderman Chess?

Alderman Chess

Thank you.

President Wilshire

You're welcome.

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

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault,
Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan,
Alderman Sennott, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez,
Alderman Wilshire 13

Nay: Alderman Chess, Alderman Johnson 2

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-26-003 is declared duly adopted as amended.

R-26-007, Amended

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

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED THREE MILLION DOLLARS (\$3,000,000) FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION GARAGE DESIGN

Given its third reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-26-007, AMENDED, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderwoman Kelly

I've been instructed to abstain from the vote due to a work conflict.

President Wilshire

Okay.

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

Yea: Alderman Klee, Alderman Chess, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault,
Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sennott,
Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire 11

Nay: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Johnson 3

Abstained: Alderwoman Kelly

1

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-26-007 is declared duly adopted as amended.

R-26-011

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Alicia Gregg
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Amber Morgan
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$15,833 FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY INTO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRANT ACTIVITY "SMART HAZMAT FY26"

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-26-011, BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Chess, Alderwoman Smith,
Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd,
Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire 15

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-26-011 is declared duly adopted.

R-26-013

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Alicia Gregg
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Amber Morgan
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$280,000 OF ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE INTO DEPARTMENT 168 "SOLID WASTE", ACCOUNT #55520 "NHDES SURCHARGE FEE"

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-26-013, BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Chess, Alderwoman Smith,
Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd,
Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire 15

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-26-013 is declared duly adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES – None
BUSINESS UNFINISHED AT PREVIOUS MEETING

R-26-015

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Alicia Gregg
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Amber Morgan
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

SUPPORTING THE TOWN OF MERRIMACK IN ITS OPPOSITION TO AN ICE DETENTION CENTER

- tabled at Board of Aldermen meeting on 2/24/26

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-26-018

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Vengerflutta Smith
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Alicia Gregg
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Tim Sennott
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Amber Morgan
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN ADDITIONAL \$377,874 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTO TRANSIT GRANT ACTIVITY "FEDERAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY ("FTA") OPERATING GRANT"

Given its first reading, assigned to the Human Affairs Committee, by President Wilshire

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Billie Del Melin

Billy Del Melin, 150 Manchester Street. I'm here to talk about the fact that this Board is trying to close down the Elm Street warming station. Around 5 months ago, the Board passed bills criminalizing the act of camping on public grounds and further restricting where and when people may park their campers in recreational vehicles. These came after complaints arose from the local businesses about the unhoused population. Proponents have argued that these bills will attempt to drive down the negative effect that the unhoused appear to have on their businesses. It will help keep our public safe spaces cleaner and safer and that will generally have a positive impact on our community, which I disagree with.

Firstly with the warming station shut down, where do you think the unhoused will go? The Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, the Family Units, the Southern New Hampshire Rescue Mission with the Hope Center, and Mercy Center for Women and Men respectively, along with wherever else provides shelter for the unhoused only has limited capacity and are frequently at capacity.

When the warming station shuts down, there will be an influx of dozens upon dozens of people onto the streets. Now criminals for the act of being too poor to afford a home. While the camping ban does not explicitly involve jail time, you know that it can and will, especially given that some unhoused people have mental illnesses that can make them more violent or reactionary. So when Police come in trying to shut their shit down, and tear everything down, and push them away, they could react negatively and be thrown in prison for it.

The anti-camping measures passed will force people to move from camping spots or they receive a fine. What if they can't immediately? What if they move to a new spot and receive a fine for camping anyways because prior to them arriving, they had received warnings. Overall, why are you taxing the poor in efforts to get them to move into a house? To find a home? How is this reasonable for you? Do you think that taking their money will give them an easier way to find a home? Maybe you with your government positions, and jobs, and expendable income can afford a fine of \$100 or more. These people cannot. They are struggling to survive. I don't know about any of you but I alongside many of my comrades here in the stands interact and support with these people regularly. There are those who cannot afford their groceries.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

30 seconds.

Billie Del Melin

There are those with crippling illnesses and who are too old to work. There are those who cannot even afford products priced above \$50. How can you expect these people to pay more than what they have? How can you justify this? To say that give us money for being poor and don't let us catch you doing it again. You're criminalizing poverty and it's insane and for nothing.

Ben Heney

Hello. My name is Ben Heney. I'm at 2 1/2 Verona Street and I'd like to thank you for listening to me for a few minutes this evening. Over the next three weeks as the town warming station and the Soup Kitchen's overflow shelter are scheduled to close, about 80 people will be turned out into the street.

If you're new to the Board this term, there's a good chance that the person who was sitting in your seat last term voted to make people's hard lives harder by supporting vagrancy laws last fall. If that's the case, I don't think it's a coincidence that you are here and they are not. We do not tolerate those that do not tolerate our neighbors. It is now illegal for anyone to reside in public and residing on private property that you do not own is trespassing and it is also illegal. I hope you see a problem with this and that I wasting my breath. But if you don't, I dare you to say why not out loud and on the record because we'd all like to hear why you don't think some of our neighbors deserve a place to exist.

I urge the Board to address the needs of the community it serves by repealing the camping bans and continuing to operate at public shelters. As a postscript, please allow me to pass on a few comments from one of my neighbors who had to make curfew at one of the shelters tonight and couldn't be here for the end of the meeting. His name is Dowd and he was asking for your half of mutual respect. It's his experience that people who are treated with respect give respect and the few but highly visible problems that the community at large might associate with the unhoused population stem from a lack of respect and people who are stressed, tired, and hurt, lashing out, and making bad decisions. It's his experience that people offered respect and respite are better neighbors. Thank you for your time tonight.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Hilary Keating

Hi. I'm Hillary Keating and I live at 5 Coburn Woods Drive in Nashua and I'm a member of GSOP. I'm going to read you a summary of an interview. It's just a summary of a community member who is homeless currently. There'll be several other people that will do the same with other people that have been interviewed and they'll summarize their stories. It's a mission of GSOP because we want people of the community to know these people. People who are visible on the street but we don't really know about their lives necessarily. So they did an interview with several people that are currently homeless or have been homeless.

And I'm going to tell you about Scott whose 56 and I'm going to use his own words. He said, "I've lived in Nashua since I was a small child with my parents and grandparents. I've held four jobs as an adult. My current job for eight years at Dick's Sporting Goods, I believe. I've been homeless since 2023 when I lost the lease on my apartment near Ledge Street Elementary School. The price was not affordable unless two people paid the rent and my roommate was no longer able to pay her share. Since then, I've run the gambit living in a car, using the bathroom at Dunkin Donuts, living for a time at the old Y, and at the Mission Shelter, which he hated, and now in the overflow shelter at Spring Street. It's not easy because all the rules like having to check in at a certain time. It's not the best but at least I'm not sleeping outside. I'm finishing application for the waiting list for the efficiency on the 4th floor of Spring Street. It's hard but I will have my own key, which is good.

The main challenge for me is affordability. I've been looking for a permanent housing for a long time. I watch buildings being planned and then built but the units are not affordable. The hardest part is not knowing where you'll sleep the next day, where you will eat. I just want a place to lay my head. This time without a home has changed my perspective. Before I lost my housing, I had a routine. I remember one day when I was off from work I left my phone on the bed in my apartment and walked to a Silver Knights baseball game with friends. It was pure freedom. Now I'm taking small steps to get my old routine back. When I first was homeless, I shut down and then I was in the hospital for two weeks with cellulitis in my legs. When I got out, I began to open up to other people and was amazed at the number of people who asked me how are you doing? There are some good people out there. I've been back to Good Shepherd Church seven or eight 8 times...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

30 seconds.

Hilary Keating

...and I remember the old pastor there. I've met some decent people that I will know for life, I'm sure. My advice - don't be afraid to ask for help. This has been an eye opening thing for me. Anyone can end up in this situation but to rely on other people is good." So please think about Scott and the warming shelter please.

Sister Rosemary Burnham

Good evening. I'm Sister Rosemary Burnham and I live at 9 Reflection Drive in Hudson but I am a Nashua native, and I am a Sister of Mercy, and a member of GSOP, and the Sisters of Mercy have been involved in housing issues for many years alone and is part of housing initiatives. We in Nashua support the Nashua Soup Kitchen and the housing on Spring Street. I'm particularly proud of Spring Street because I went to school there.

I am here to speak as a member of Granite State Organizing to all of you, to the Aldermen and women who are residents of this welcoming city and who care deeply, I know, for all the residents. The members of GSOP are working with you on ways to obtain adequate, affordable housing for the people of this city and so we are advocating for people who need safe, attractive, affordable housing, especially those who have found themselves lacking the essentials to live life fully and so we asking for you now to keep on working to make affordable housing a reality, as you have stated you would do, and to keep the warming center on Elm Street open even during the warmer months.

Our citizens want everyone to be prosperous, appreciating our diversity, and taking pride in our city. You and I cherish our homes, places where we can be warm and prepare adequately for the next day but what if that place was cold, damp, and open to the elements? How could we possibly function today or in the long term? With a good night's sleep, we can all carry on our responsibilities. Otherwise, we are fatigued, discouraged, and unable to complete the other duties of life and I think we would wonder who really cares about me?

Our country has many resources and our State is one of the most affluent in the nation. I believe that we are creative people and that we have a moral duty to care for the common good not just those in our circle. Our GSOP Committee gathered personal stories of local people as you heard who are inspiring and they must use a lot of energy and determination to make it through the day.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

30 seconds.

Sister Rosemary Burnham

Several people who shared their stories spoke of times when things were better and people were there to help them and so I ask you to please make it your own that we strongly seek your approval to keep the warming station on Elm Street open. Thank you.

Tom Sheehan

Tom Sheehan, 13 Oneida Circle in Nashua. I'm here on behalf of an anonymous person who is unhoused and wishes to offer some testimony. I'm with the GSOP and I will now read this.

"I have lived in Nashua 8 years. I had a car. I worked for Instacart part time for a year then lost the car and began scrambling for work but I am resourceful. I worked for Sam's Club as a demonstrator in 2024 and used an electric scooter for Door Dash. In 2024 and 2025, I shoveled snow but when there was no snow there was no work. During this time, I stopped being able to pay rent and in February 2025, I started going to H.E.A.R.T.S. and other places like that. We need more jobs.

Now I'm staying at the Mission. I like it there because they have rules, especially about showing mutual respect. They do not tolerate people with attitude who show disrespect. People need to have more respect for each other. We need more programs to teach respect.

I worry about Elm Street overnight shelter closing in the spring. This is a place of last resort for people, the last beacon of hope for people who have to leave the other shelters at the Mission and Spring Street. It needs to be open as a cooling station in the summer to keep people from congregating in outdoor spaces like last summer where there were too many people without rules, people who don't have respect for each other, and trouble starts.

What keeps me going is being at peace with myself and serving others. I get up in the morning and put others first. For example, waiting in line at the Soup Kitchen. Even if I don't like them, I try to respect them. I have faith in a higher power. I would love people to know that there are a lot of homeless people who are clean and red – I'm sorry - just read...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

30 seconds.

Tom Sheehan

...and that we need more mutual support. So, thank you for listening."

Fred Teeboom

My name is Fred Teeboom, 24 Cheyenne. Well, now that you've blown the Mayor's guideline of 3%, every union employee will ask for 4% or more and point of the contract that you just approved. That's just fact.

Let's talk about a project that is a real loser. Let's talk about the Mine Falls dam hydroelectric generating facility in Jackson falls. Now when Director Sullivan comes up here, he kind of wishy washes. He's a good guy. A competent man but he tends to give you wishy washy figures. Let me give you some real factual figures. Of the entire previous 10 years of the operation of these dams. Since I haven't got much time, let me talk about 2025. Mine Falls Park produced a million dollars. That's based on selling power to Eversource for 11.3 cents a kilowatt hour and Jackson Falls produced 153,000. So a total of 1.1 million, not 1.5 million - 1.1 million. A pretty good sum, not bad but no one here is asked a single question about expenses. If you do, you get blown away. You don't follow it up. Let's talk about expenses.

There is a resolution R-19-124, another one R-22-074 - 20 year and 30 year bond resolutions. The current cost per year is \$424,000 for repairs in Jackson Falls; \$96,000 for more repairs in Jackson Falls; \$287,000 for the Mine Falls purchase, total of \$807,000 in bond payments per year - right now, this year, next year. Essex Hydro of which you just approved a \$1.1 million contract with the extension, they're getting \$696,000 a year in O and M. I got that from Deb Chisholm in a letter. There's an outfit called "Verdantas" who studies and certifies things...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

30 seconds.

Fred Teeboom

...I don't exactly know what their annual cost is. They don't spell it out. You just approved them a \$1.13 million contract. If you add up all of this money and forget about Verdantas - I just take that out - it adds up to a \$1.5 million and you just approved a \$600,000 supplemental appropriation for more repairs of a turbine up in the Mine Falls Park. Adds up to \$2.1 million.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Time.

Fred Teeboom

...against 1.18 revenue. That's a \$1 million loser. So don't talk to me about you have no money, crying, complaining. Go do your homework.

Gayle Hoisington

Hi. Good evening. My name is Gail Hoisington. I live at 65A Amherst Road in Merrimack. I'm also part of the GSOP and I'm going to share a summary as well. I do want to just share one personal thing. I was a clinical social worker for a long time, specifically domestic violence advocate and something that haunts me as much as the violence that I heard about is when there were community resources that weren't complete, or that closed when they should have stayed open, and how that could upend someone's life. So I'm here to speak in support of keeping the warming station open.

And here's this young woman's story. A young woman who's unhoused. "Came to Nashua from Vermont when I was 16 after my dad died and I moved in with my mom. I went back to Vermont junior year in high school, came back, went to Florida, came back in 2020, been here since then. My mom is mentally unwell. She stays with my grandparents who are snow birds from Florida to Vermont. I like hanging out at the library and socializing and being with my boyfriend. We love food. Love to Eat. I like to walk. I have a routine and I like having a routine. Stay at warming station, Day Cafe, Soup Kitchen, Library, Soup Kitchen, and then warming station again. I really try to laugh, and joke, and enjoy life.

In 2018 when I was 18, I left home and ended up homeless. I'm 26. I did have an apartment in 2021 with my daughter for about three years. I had stable housing for three years. I had to leave due to a domestic violence situation. I worked at South High School as a para educator and I was starting classes at college for education. I left due to DV and then he had me evicted so I lost my housing voucher. When I lost the housing piece and everything else fell apart. I had had food in the cupboard, a job, I paid my utilities. Things were going well. I didn't know about all these resources when I was younger. My daughter is 4 and my son is 1. They are with family. I miss kicking my feet up on the couch after a long day. I don't have a place to keep clothing. Everything is in my backpack. Somebody stole my phone and not having a cell phone is hard, no place to keep my things. I can't really own anything. Can't just take a shower when I feel gross. I have to sign up for a shower on time. I can't carry a lot of food and I have no place to cook. Hardest part is keeping consistent with my kids and my phone got stolen and I couldn't call them. I'd love to have a place to bring my daughter and have her in my space. At Christmas, I had a hard time buying gifts for her because I had no place to keep them.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

30 seconds.

Gayle Hoisington

Before the warming station, it was very difficult. I was staying in a camper that was way out of the way. There was no electricity, didn't know what time it was. I would miss meals at the Soup Kitchen because I didn't know what time it was. It was so far away. Now I have a structure with the warming station and being closer to resources and warmth. My mental health is better and I've gained a little weight. Now I have blankets at the warming station and I know I have a place to stay. We need more immediate access to places to live. It would clean up the streets."

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Time.

Gayle Hoisington

Now, we're at time. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Tori Markiewicz

Hello. My name is Tori Markiewicz. I live at 759 Grove Street in Manchester. Not by choice but because there's lack of affordable housing options here in Nashua. I work here in Nashua as a community organizer for the Granite State Organizing Project and as folks before me have said, we're kind of at an important moment right now where the warming station is about to close. I know that it was only supposed to be emergency warming but because of the camping ban that passed last fall, we're going to see it really go into effect for real in a few weeks and there's not going to be a legal place for people to stay - dozens of people.

I know that a lot of you on this Board are sympathetic to this issue. I also know that it's a really, really difficult issue to solve. But because there's been no movement on permanent solutions for people to live, I think that's why we're pushing to keeping the warming station open until there are things like more shelter beds and transitional housing built. I think most of us would agree that the warming station is not a great long term solution but it does give people a safe and legal place to lay their head at night until like I said, long term solutions are created.

I also just wanted to say that I've been volunteering at the warming station since December and I see how much work it is for Public Health to keep it stocked, and stacked, and to how emotionally draining it can be for the staff and the volunteers to be there but I also see how crucial it is for the people that use it who come in a lot of times cold, and wet, and hungry, and exhausted. For them to know that that's an option for them is a huge deal for them.

And I also just wanted to say that this homelessness crisis affects all of us. I don't see it as just a - helping the poor issue, although that is part of it, but like we heard last fall, it affects businesses.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

30 seconds.

Tori Markiewicz

It affects all of us and it is crucial that the city can house the people that live here. So I urge you to keeping the warming station open until long term solutions are built. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Skylar Wheeler

Hello. My name is Skylar Wheeler. I live in the Major Drive area of Nashua, New Hampshire. And yes, I am a committee member of the Nashua Housing Revolving Fund but I am here to speak independently. I'm here to speak and add my voice to the support of keeping the warming station open year round. The warming station open year round is just turning it into a cooling station during the warmer seasons. It would be unfair and inhumane to close it and give the homeless community nowhere to go, especially after y'all decided to basically criminalize homelessness which was already inhumane and cruel. Yes, I know some of y'all don't like to say that it's not criminalizing them, but it is. Use your brain and think critically.

If an officer catches a homeless person living on the streets and tickets them, sure that doesn't necessarily criminalize them and right away and they don't arrest them right away, but stop and think about it. You are giving tickets to homeless people who didn't have the income to pay for a home. They certainly will very likely not have the money to pay a very expensive ticket so therefore be called to court and potentially get arrested. So do the right and kind thing and give the human beings a chance to survive. You could have easily been one of them if you didn't have your privileges and community and didn't have the chance to land on your feet right. If Mayor Zohran Mamdani can quickly and effectively take care of his citizens whomever they are so can you and I know that you know that you can. Thank you for your time.

Pushpa Mudan

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Pushpa Mudan. I live on 4 Houston Drive, Nashua. I've lived here for 15 years now. I'm a retired emergency physician. This was the last State I worked. Before that, I worked in different States. I am a new member of the GSOP and I am part of a subgroup that we discuss about the homelessness in Nashua area.

I have a story or information that was obtained from one other homeless person. His name is Bob, age 62. He was interviewed on March 10, 2026. "I was raised in Brighton and spent summers in Nashua as a kid. I worked in security for a law firm in Boston and lived with my parents in Brighton. I also worked for Briggs of New York - a women's clothing manufacturer until they went out of business and closed. I took care of my aging parents at home until they went into a nursing home and then after they died, I moved to Nashua and worked two jobs to make ends meet for 9 years. I worked at Target 30 hours a week in the day and Christmas tree shops 30 hours a week at night in shipping and receiving. Working 60 hours a week was hard and my legs were becoming weak. Finally, I had to go into the hospital. When I got out, I could barely move around with a walker and so could not work. Without work, I could not work. I could not afford an apartment and lived on the street. Sometimes I went from shelter to shelter at night. Finally, Harbor Care helped me start the process of getting disability. It took me a year to get all the paperwork done. They found a room for me in Claremont, New Hampshire, where I stayed for two years until I was able to get my own subsidized apartment here in Nashua. I have friends in the building and we help each other out. I get up every day and take the challenges step by step. No use complaining. The hardest part is not having an address, a place to call your own. The best thing is to have your own apartment which I have now. I would like to see more programs for housing for people and to keep the shelters and warming stations open."

I know having been an emergency physician for nearly 40 years. I see the effects of inclement weather and homelessness on people who show up at the emergency department for various illnesses, especially during cold seasons...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

...hypothermia, and pneumonia, and they can die from it. I think my last statement is to request that these people be provided warming station during winter time at cold seasons and then cooling stations during the summer until the permanent housing can be made available for them. Thank you.

Christopher Smith

Yes, my name is Christopher Smith and I've been staying at Elm Street for about a month. I just want to say I love all the staff there. The staff is great. As for my peers, you know, it gives my peers a controlled - like a controlled place where they can quickly get the help they need. As for me someone that's in between therapists with different organizations, like after I had a bad day, I can go there at night and get my therapy. I also want to say my mom has talked to my therapist and told me that he's a good guy and I should keep working with them because my various things that I'm going through and that's all I want to say. Thank you.

Kenneth Walter Frank Doucette

I'm not a stranger to this podium. I want you to know how much it means to me that you're allowing me the freedom to speak here for all of us that are there at the warming station now and hopefully with the plans I'm now hearing, that it's going to be turned into a cooling station come the, you know, the time in the summertime for what it's needs for. I say to that, continue keeping it open.

Now there's other things that basically I've heard about the place that used to be my mother's old high school in which I say this that as an Alvirne graduate of maroon and gold, you know, being as it is through class '79, my mom and I joined the rest of the Purple Panthers out there that I want to keep this place well-kept as well - undestroyed as well because I hear that there's a theater that there is and I could talk to my producer, writer, director, Mike Gaudreau. I've got actor credits that I've done performance at the Nashua Public Library for my first movie in 2017, Ghosts versus Monsters, on the Nashua Public Library grounds that I'm accredited actor as well, which there's a theater in that place that could be in there could be housing for, you know, children in which there would be a place in Nashua having a place like Manchester has, a theater, that is open for people to live at and having a place to perform as well. Plus there's two auditoriums that could be for conventions uses as well. Plus, I've also thought of that there could be expanding the seating in the, you know, the gymnasium to have actual semi pro sport team to being moved in there too. So don't break down this building as far as that goes. Build it up. It's a resource that you need to keep rather than tear it down and I'm here to make sure that my words are in your hearts, fellow Nashuans as well I vote in Ward 4 as far as that goes and I'm proud of, you know, Tom Lopez, and I'm also happy with Paula Johnson as well, and you as well Mayor Donchess as well.

Please keep on doing your good work and I want to see this place being kept up as well. If you need any other ideas, ask me what can be done with that facility even more so. Yes, it would make great housing as well for the homeless. I'm also homeless as well for what I'm seeking. I give you over the time as it is now, Appreciate it for your time and patience. Thank you all.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Bob Keating

My name is Bob Keating. I live at 5 Coburn Woods Drive and I'm a member of Granite State Organizing Project. I'm speaking about keeping the warming station open. It's a place that literally saves lives and improves the well-being of people there.

You've heard the stories today. You've heard directly from people who stay at the warming center. It's an important resource. You've heard stories from Scott who said that the hardest part is not knowing where you would sleep the next day or where will you eat. I just want a place to lay my head. Mr. D said, I worry about the Elm Street overnight shelter closing in the spring. It is a place of last resort for people. The last beacon of hope for people who have to leave the other shelters. You heard Mr. D about - I had a long conversation with him today about respect and how much that he just continues to promote no matter how he's feeling about respect. I think this is what we can as a community do. What we have done by having the warming station open but we can continue that respect and in a way in which Aldermen and the Mayor have the power to do is to fund that to continue to.

Today, I saw a person that you have seen previously. He spoke here. He spoke very eloquently. He's a poet. He read some of his poetry and some of his prose but today he looked real bad. He had a band aid over his nose. His nose was broken. He had bloodshot eyes. He had spent the evening at the ER. He struggles with voices, trying to make decisions about what's the right thing to do, and good, and evil. He is a deeply religious person and he just would benefit for having a place with the supportive services there. He even said - because I said to him, look just keep going to the ER because they took him in. They took him in and he could spend the night. You just keep coming there. You just - he says well they won't...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

30 seconds.

Bob Keating

...hospitalize, you know, he says well they'll be there to listen to where you is as he just feels so unsafe. It's a regular thing for him, unfortunately but I've seen him when he's been stabilized and it's generally when there's more supportive services around. So just implore you. We have all the financial resources. I don't know why we're still in this position. Just fund it. The resolution would have been here but somehow the information didn't come back to get the resolution with the finances. So just - it's the right thing. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Alderman Lopez

Oh, first again. So first, I want to thank everybody who came out to speak and I hope we all realize what it takes to come from that kind of situation and speak from the heart here to us. That's not an ordinary thing. I think it's an honor for me to hear people with that much trust and that much faith in us and this Board to do what we can to help them. I think a lot of wisdom was shared as well, and it's very easy to kind of speed past some of it but some of it is very moving, and I think we should let ourselves be moved because this is something that I can speak all day about how financially effective it is to intervene with people before they get into crisis. We can hear law enforcement say when we allow these situations to pile up, they become security issues. It's common sense fiscally in my mind to intervene at a manageable point before situations get out of control.

For many of the individuals that are staying at the warming station, I think they're past that point but we can still bring them back. I know firsthand that there are a lot of organizations that are working to do that and the missing piece, 9 times out of 10 from what I've seen in housing recovery, is making sure that you find the person when you need to reach them for a resource or service that's become available and making sure that they have a trusting relationship with you so that they're willing to hear you out and go into a situation that's strange and new. So, I think, the warming station is performing an essential role. I believe what we really need to be doing is moving forward on a resource center and an emergency shelter model. But I also heard all of the promises. I heard all of the intentions and I don't see any results. So I think I would definitely be supportive as Alderman of continuing the warming station until we have a viable solution, particularly in light of the fact that we have passed the ordinance last year which applies consequences to being unsheltered.

I also want to just leave you with a thought. Some of the speakers spoke very eloquently and I have a quote from somebody who I really appreciate speaking, which I hope it's okay to share. Last year, a lot of the terminology and a lot of the characterization of the people who are unsheltered in Nashua was there from somewhere else. They're from Manchester and the individual that I'm speaking of was reflecting one night at the warming station and he said, "you know I never thought when I was going to school here 30 years ago that this is where I was going to be coming to for survival in the middle of the freezing weather." These are not people who are from somewhere else. These are our own people coming back. These are our own people that need help. So I think as a city, I don't know what we're doing if we're not helping people who are most in need and most vulnerable. I mean I think we put a lot of really important projects out about the hydroelectric dam, bringing green energy back to taxpayers. I think we have a very urgent need to make sure that our trucks and our vehicles are being taken care of in a financially responsible manner but I also think we really have a responsibility to start recognizing our neighbors that are out on the streets and helping them and acknowledging the situation that we're in.

If I told any of you to sit on a stool with two legs on it, you'd be like - no, it'll fall over. Two legs can't hold up a stool. What we have right now is a very similar situation in the nonprofit world where there are really only two emergency shelters that a person can access. Meaning if they're banned from either one, then they can only stay at the other one and if something goes on there, then they are also banned from that one and they have nowhere to go. The City needs to be the third leg. Unless some miracle happens and somebody shows up with a mission and decides to fulfill that need, which I would be very grateful for, in the absence of miracles, we have to do something. We have to be the third leg to balance the other needs.

So finally with the comments that I've made, I also want to recognize the very difficult work that the staff and volunteers at the warming station are doing. They're here for people with very complex needs. The people who spoke eloquently tonight are the ones who could. There are a lot more people that are staying there who cannot make it up here tonight to show you who they are and I would encourage any of you who are able to speak to Director Bagley in a respectful manner, try to volunteer, or work at the warming station. I don't think you need to go on a tour bus and go check it out as rubbernecking or anything but I think creating an honest relationship with some of the situations that are going on there gives you the insight that we all need as leaders. There's still a couple of weeks. It's going to be, I think, the most difficult transition time if we don't do something because people are looking at the change in the weather. People are trying to figure out where their next steps are going to be. I think we should be there for them.

So again, I want to thank the staff that are working well beyond what we could ever ask them to do. The volunteers - I feel like I want to acknowledge Alderman Thibodeau who is still volunteering there - former Alderman Thibodeau. He stuck to his word. As an elected official, he wanted to step up and do stuff and even beyond his election, he's still out there volunteering. I think he's a good role model for all of us to look at. There's a lot of good work being done at the warming station but I think we need to do a lot more. Thank you.

Alderman Morgan

I invite you all to imagine this news headline with me. "Local advocates turn possible ICE detention center into shelter and transitional housing". Let that sit with you for a minute. So the next question is who, who is responsible for this, and where? And so this is a collaborative approach that will have to be between private sector, private fundraising, nonprofits, the government. Our nonprofits pick up where government stops and they are showing us we can't do it anymore. We can't do anymore and so really I wanted to commend and show my gratefulness to the GSOP and their ability to step up, stand out front to gather their advocacy, their activism, their work and while I don't have an answer, somebody out there does and collectively, we can do this together. Thank you.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. A few points here. I just wanted to talk about hydroelectric. When we were talked about that, one of the

things that our Sustainability Manager talked about was that as a city we were very committed to being green. As stewards of taxpayer dollars, it's not our job to turn a profit. It's our job to give them the right services for the tax dollars that we collect and we have seen it again and again in our Imagine Nashua and a lot of other documents that this is an important thing for the city. So that's what I have to say about that.

While I'm up on my soapbox, I am going to talk a little bit about the State House and a little bit of a different way. We talk a lot about local control. That's what we have - we have local control but there's so many pieces of legislation that come through and fly in the face of that. Open enrollment is just one of the more recent ones. Spending caps for school districts is also being contemplated. A voucher system that's going out of control with no transparency, which is taking money from our school districts and then the real doozy, a piece of legislation a couple of years ago, that was targeted specifically at Nashua to put back a spending cap. And then you come and you talk to us about you don't take care of your infrastructure. You know, this is too expensive. This building that we've made work for 50 years and it wasn't working. People were talking about snow in their office but you can't say you have local control and then handcuff us because the only way that we can fix those things is through local property taxes. So that's my that's my soapbox there.

And then I'll end by just addressing the people who are here from GSOP. I just thank you very much for coming forward to remind us that homelessness just didn't go away for the last couple months. Many of us are intimately aware of the fact that Bobbie Bagley and her team are working really hard at the warming station but that is not a forever solution. We all know that and we talked very much in depth about that in this chamber. Things aren't going to happen overnight but it's going to become a very visible problem again as things get warmer. So I'm sure it's unsurprising to everybody that I'm still committed to working on short and long term solutions and I would happily bring forward a repeal of those pieces of legislation.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you very much. I'd like to thank everybody who came tonight and I have spoken to some people on the phone, and I have sent emails to Ms. Bagley regarding keeping the warming station open longer because I had a lot of emails, you know, people appealing. I did get an answer from her and I'll be more than happy to read it into the record.

"Thank you for your email. We do realize there are many concerns regarding the status of individuals who are experiencing homelessness at this time. The Elm Street warming station was operated as a public health protective factor to prevent death related to exposures and extreme cold weather serving as an overflow to support other existing shelter services provided by the mission and the Soup Kitchen and Shelter. The operation period of December 1 to April 15 coincides with other winter protective services offered in Nashua and the State. The operations will close on April 15th.

The E.S. warming station was meant to be temporary for a time period where folks would have been at a greatest risk for harm due to being outside overnight. This threat is minimized as the weather conditions become less cold. Our staff will continue to work with those who have been at the E.S. warming station to find housing and other shelter options. We are also working and we're partnering with agencies to achieve this outcome."

So I just want to let everybody know that I have reached out and like I had said on a phone call, I can't make a decision up front. It's not my decision because Ms. Bagley knows if she has volunteers and she has staff that has to be there. So if she doesn't have the volunteers or the staff, then that's definitely a no.

The other thing I'd like to mention that last Thursday night I had the West Hollis Street corridor meeting and it was very well attended. It was a great meeting. It was about an hour. I called the Mayor's office and I thanked the Mayor for coming. I called Director Fauteux and thanked her and her staff for being there. I'm really sad that no Alderman-at-Large except for President Wilshire attended the meeting. Everybody knew about it and it's sad because...

Alderwoman Kelly

We were in a meeting.

Alderman Johnson

I know there was a meeting here at 7 o'clock and I made it here after but I had said even if you can make it a half hour, it would have been nice to hear the presentation and hearing what the people in Ward 5 are talking about. Thank you President Wilshire for coming to the meeting. Thank you very much.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you, Madam President and thank you to everybody who came and spoke tonight. I'll add to my thanks to my colleague from Ward 5 for reading the response from Director Bagley. I think that helps contextualize the conversation a little bit. We had a lot of heated conversations about this back when those ordinances came forward and my favorite conversation that didn't take place here in the Chamber but with somebody relative to this topic, left me being called "short sighted", "ignorant", "lacking critical thinking" because well, we were going to pass these ordinances but it's okay because we were going to set up a Resource Center. Three weeks from tonight, the warming station closes and we don't have a resource center. I hate to say I told you so.

I voted against all those ordinances because any of us in this room could have seen this coming and here we are. We don't have a resource center and we're about to close a resource for our homeless population. I think that's abhorrent. I think that's inhumane and I think we backed ourselves into this corner. I know that we ask the world of our Public Health Department and I understand that they don't have the world to work with. They work on what amounts to a shoestring and that's a shortcoming here in the city.

What I don't think is proper for us to do is to close a door without leaving a window open. I put that into action with the input of some of the folks that are here tonight when we passed the no camping ordinance by amending it so that it couldn't go into effect until that warming station opened on December 1st. We, and myself included, we left the back end wide open because now we're going to close that warming station and we don't have a resource to serve as that next step and so I know three weeks is basically crunch time. I hope we can see something. I will support something, whatever it takes to open that window where we're shutting that door but again as it was stated earlier, none of us around this horseshoe have the unilateral power to just direct that or make that happen. I'm happy to engage in those conversations and I'm happy to support those efforts but I hate to see where we're at now and I hate that we've done this. Thank you.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you. I wanted to explain my no vote on the bonding resolution around the DPW garage. I know I've said before that it was really a no on principle not necessarily what was actually in the bonding resolution but the principle was I had stated before that I thought with this specific project, we had spent \$2 million to get an initial cost design. We had a number. We've been floating the number out there of about \$54 million for plus minus six months. What I would have liked to have seen is maybe \$57 million in front of us so we can discuss about the whole project, decide on the project, if we're going to move forward on it, or not. What was interesting last night is in the meeting, 98% of the discussion was around the entire project. We had a great presentation that tied together the business case. Something that I had been asking for how long does it take for this project through achieve savings to pay for itself? We had all that. We should have had the entire amount put in front of us tonight, debate that question, move on, and get moving with this thing up or down. That's what I felt should have happened. That's why I voted no. I know that may sound a little wonky for logic but that's how I think about things.

What happens is if this happens again, excuse me, if you spend a little bit of money on design and then a little bit more money on design, then what you have is what's called "a sunk cost trap". Because if you've spent \$5 million designing a building and then you decide whether or not you want to build it, then what sunk cost sounds like is what we've already spent the money designing it, we might as well build it. So that, to me just seemed backwards. So I voted no on it tonight for principle. I hope going forward with the fire station or any other major infrastructure that we have that we look at the entire project, and debate it, and move forward that way, and I'll leave my comments there. Thanks.

Alderman Dowd

Yeah this year's budget is going to be very challenging for a number of reasons. First challenge is that after consulting with members of the Budget Committee and Divisions Directors, April is going to be a challenge for meetings. So we're moving most of the start of the budget out into May. We're still going to have the opening budget meeting on the 16th with the Mayor but the next meeting will be with Education. This is still draft but it looks like this is coming together. That Tuesday, May 5, would be the next meeting after that. We're going to have to move the public hearing on the budget to June 8th. So just wanted to give people a heads up that the budget meetings will be primarily during the month of May, and I'm asking the public instead of waiting with your questions for the public hearing on the budget that when the specific subjects that you're interested in are being discussed in the budget meetings that you be there so that those questions could be answered before we get to the public hearing. Thank you.

Alderman Gregg

Thank you. So I appreciate the comments from all of my colleagues today and I especially appreciate those that came out to testify. I think one of our biggest problems is, is abuse is really fester in silence and kind of hiding things and so

putting that human element to it was great tonight because when we talk about our own house, we're not just talking about statistics. We're talking about our neighbors and just because we have a camping ban and we've said, well we don't see them here anymore, that doesn't mean they cease to exist. We're judged, you know, with the job that we do not just based on taking care of the prosperous in our community, and taking care of those money issues, but also taking care of our most vulnerable. We have a mighty charge on this horseshoe to take care of the entire city. So we are far from solving a problem that's gone on since biblical days but I think that I'm hearing a commitment to really try to work on this and provide more services. So I certainly hope that we continue to keep this dialog open. I also hope that neighbors continue to trust us with these testimonies on what they're going through because somewhere in there there's something we can solve. So I just am very grateful for all of that and everybody's work tonight.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam President. I think too - I think the budget season is way tight. In a budget season that's probably going to be the tightest we've ever had to deal with as far as the money, I get very concerned that it's getting pushed to May just because I think we really got to go over it with a fine tooth comb.

To Alderman Sullivan's point, and I think Director Cummings had made it, I don't know, at one point during one of these meetings you, you can always save those plans. I do get his point - I get your point because I think you're right. We could debate it. Why don't we debate it earlier? We could. I don't see why not. I'm not opposed to that but the point of doing the plans, you still have them even if you can't do that project maybe for 2, 3, 4 years. You can put them away. Now I don't know if that's prudent. I don't know if 10 years from now if you still those plans, those are the plans that you would make, right, so but I get your point on that.

As far as the issues of the warming station, you know, no one said here when we were doing those ordinances that we were going to solve homelessness by putting a camping ban on. Alderman Thibodeau for as good as guys he is, he voted with me on the camping ban. So, you know, we can't all be good. We're good and bad. All of us are good and bad inside, right? We have a little bit of each. So it's, you know, we have a lot of people saying well we should do something. We should do something. We should do something. Well it's three weeks away. Why don't we have any legislation? We could - and the point is, well one of us can't do anything. One of us could put legislation to extend the warming station but I don't see any of that legislation. So have we been thinking about that or we just thinking about it now that people are coming to talk to us? So, you know, I don't have any legislation to vote on. I can't vote on that.

We knew even though we were promised a resource center, we knew that it's not something you can just erect overnight. I know for a fact, and we know for a fact, that the Mayor, and Legal, and Director Bagley have been working on it and they have had some offers out there and things didn't go the right way. So we can't just blame them for not doing something because they are trying. It's not something that can go up overnight. You know Manchester's warming station closed a month ago. I'm not saying that's right or wrong. I'm just saying Nash was doing a better job at some things but some things we need to do better at. You know, I think, Director Bagley doesn't sound like she wants to continue on with it. So if she can't put continue to go on with it are we going to force her to do it or does she have the staff as Alderman Johnson said in the email that she read? We can't force Public Health to put it on if they don't have the resources to do it. And so I mean it is on us. It is on us to do something if we want to but again, I don't see the legislation. If it comes through, I'll take a look at it.

I think we need to - if we want housing you know what we need to do, we need to sell Elm Street. That's what we need to do because that's a huge plot of land that can have a lot of housing on it. That's gone on now for a while where we haven't sold it. We haven't done anything with it. If this comes up, this comes up as a supplemental appropriation that I know Alderman, former Alderman Teeboom won't like. So, you know, it's - I don't know but I think we need housing there and we need housing there as quick as we can. Thank you.

Alderwoman Smith

You know as one of the new kids on the block so to speak, it was kind of wonderful. So I want to thank everyone from GSOP and all the community members who came to speak regarding all of the issues this evening. One of the things I had been doing was doing tours with the city. I did a tour with Department of Public Works, Board of Health, and our wonderful Police Department. Each one I asked them regarding our unhoused, or homeless, or housing insecure individuals, and we all know it's a very complex issue. I appreciate my colleague sharing, you know, like where's the legislation? What are we going to do? And I think I just want to put that out there. You know that we knew that this was coming. There are our community members. We just don't want to turn individuals quote "back out onto the streets". That is not the issue.

By conversation with Director Bagley even had to do with everyone keeps saying resource center, resource center. She's like well that's not the answer because people can't live at the resource center. The answer is housing. One of the

things I really appreciated when I did the ride along was being able to see one where individuals had been camping, where the encampments were, and the conversation with the Officer talking about the communities that the individuals had established. I think, you know, once again putting their humanity back on this and saying, okay so we need to take care of our community members. And you're right, we can't just put it just on the Health Department and they don't have the staffing. I was shocked to hear that there are going to be some individuals who will lose their jobs or their positions at the Department of Health this June because positions aren't being funded. So we really need to kind of step back and take a realistic look at this particular situation and put some real solutions out there. You know, we know what we need to do. We need housing there whether it's sell Elm Street or find some other facility.

What struck me was the number of abandoned buildings and structures that I saw around the city. I'm like well what are we doing about this? Who sold this? Who owns this? Are we not asking the right questions? Are we not looking at the resources that are right there in front of our face? We need individuals also that are going to be able to help us to provide services for the individuals who are currently using the warming station. It needs to be extended. It needs to be extended. It needs to be extended because our problem, the situation, has been extended. So we've got to look at this and deal with it realistically. Not all of us are going to leave from here - most of us, we are fortunate that we're going to leave here and probably go quote "home". Everyone in Nashua needs to be able to leave and go someplace and call it "home" even if it's temporary housing. So we need to, you know, put our great minds together and to come up with a realistic solution because that's the only thing that's going to work. Even if it's a temporary - and temporary might be a 1, 2, 3, 4 year solution because at one point, Elm Street is not ready for individuals to actually live and sleep there. It's a warming station. It's a respite. It's just a place where people are sort of they have a place to be so they're not on the street but they're not, you know, it's not the Ritz Carlton. People are not - don't have hot showers. They're getting granola bars, and some food, and some nutrition. So I think we need to stop looking at putting a band aid on certain situations and be realistic and take care of the members of our community. I know that we can do that. I know that we can do that and we just have to do it.

Alderman Chess

So just as a reference, Mr. Keating, I'm assuming, is saying the budget stuff didn't necessarily fall flat. I have been slightly in a sleep deprived state so maybe not as well as I could be due to having a kid recently. Been trying to get budgetary information. Playing a bit of phone tag with Director Bagley. Previous conversations with her, we've talked about the difference between having volunteers versus hiring people to be able to keep it open. It sounds like there's issues having volunteers for a longer term basis. So the idea is to get pricing information for keeping it open long term. Again, I've struggled in the near term. Due to that and maybe foggy thinking due to all this, but it sounds like so many people approve of this that the reason for doing that is mostly to get the finance piece to be able to put a legislation through. This would be a first legislation for me. I don't even care if I'm the one that puts it in but clearly, everyone's saying they agree that there needs to be a place where people put their heads at night. So I would welcome any and all support in trying to get a legislation through like this. I'm trying, maybe not doing it too successfully but based on previous conversations, at least I would estimate - not that that means anything - somewhere in the scale of a few hundred thousand dollars to keep it open for a year just based on somewhere in the park of \$150k to keep it open for that December to April timeframe.

But regardless of what it is, we spend way more money on that on things that are less important than people having a place to put their head at night. So I don't know medium term solutions, long term solutions but people aren't allowed to sleep outside, nor should they have to anyways, and this is the only thing we have available to us already that's closing. People are saying they'll support things if a legislation is put through. Anyone I welcome your support. Like I'm trying, maybe struggling a little bit but 100% like it sounds like we have enough support to get this through. Anyone's like if a legislation is coming through, some of you have a lot more experience on getting a legislation in than I do. So especially, again, in this state but please, I would like that support to help get something in. That's what we do. What we can do right now like we have so many - every single person I think before me has said something and most of them have said we need to keep this open. So that's exactly what we do and I'm happy to be the top like person you talk to to help but yeah.

I would welcome assistance and then it sounds like we can very easily vote on this and get it moving. The difficulty obviously being that we don't have enough Aldermen meetings to be able to have the first reading and second reading before it's set to close. So I'm hoping I can stop playing phone tag and actually have a good conversation with Director Bagley and maybe we can have a two week extension or something on a volunteer basis. But I guess please to all, I welcome assistance on getting that legislation put forward so we can hopefully hear it in two weeks.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. I'm going to put the Mayor on the spot to start. Mr. Mayor, I know that we talked about temporary resource

center with the units from the trailers going to Mulberry Street. Is that in fact happening or do we have a glitch on that or?

Mayor Donchess

Well the short answer is yes. But I, you know, since we've been on this for a little bit, maybe we should review the history. So when we began discussing this in the fall, I believe, we had hoped to establish a resource center at the Headlines building on East Hollis Street. For a short time, we owned the property because we had taken it by taxes, but the owner had a right to redeem under State law and did that. So they took - they took and they paid all the back taxes plus penalties. So they took ownership of the property and at that point, we're not interested in leasing it to the city. They say they have a sale. So that alternative which seemed promising was no longer possible.

So the other two sites we looked at were a site on South Main Street next to the Enterprise Rental Car location just south of there. We actually own a lot there and could establish a resource center there and maybe that would be the quickest alternative. I don't know but the alternative that we focused most on was the parking lot right over here at 13 Mulberry Street where the former - it used to be a bakery. That yellow practically condemned building exists. Well we own the parking lot that surrounds it and the plan, and we could have Tim Cummings come in and brief you, but the plan is to move two portable classrooms to that site and improve the site to accommodate that. Now that requires in, you know, money and infrastructure. For example, there needs to be water and all other kinds of things extended but that is in the planning process and I think we intend to come forward. This is going to require a bond issue. This is going to be somewhere between a million and \$2 million. So I think the plan is to come forward pretty quickly to seek the funds to establish that.

Director Bagley is, you know, well aware of all this and has looked at these classrooms and seems pretty satisfied with them. If you go out to Broad Street School where the School Department uses a couple of these portables for - I don't know, they've got - I forget what function they use but I think it has to do with meeting with parents. In any event, they have two of these portables together and they've sort of fixed it up. It looks, you know, pretty good. So I mean as an example of what can be done with these portables. So that's the plan. We'd be glad to come in and brief you again on exactly where - or Tim Cummings would be glad to, I'm sure, come in and brief you on exactly where we stand with respect to the timing but that is, you know, a general outline of what's happened.

Alderman Klee

Thank you.

Alderman Dowd

Madam President - Birch Hill not Broad Street.

Mayor Donchess

Birch Hill. Yeah, sorry. Birch Hill.

Alderman Klee

Thank you and thank you, Mr. Mayor for that update and I appreciate that. I brought that up because I wanted to say that the city hasn't ignored things. I'm also an advocate for at least extending the time for a little bit because last night, Director Fauteux made a comment - off the record actually - so I apologize for saying this out loud - that we've kind of heard that there's a chance of another large storm coming before the end of April. So knowing that, I would like to see this extended for that particular reason whether or not we could extend into the summer.

I'd also like to know if we did extend this what is going to be the effect of those that have put a bid on the property? Are they going to run away saying you guys aren't really serious about it and so on? So I think that that whole conversation has to happen. We talk about, you know, let's get housing in there and there is one bid that talks about having really good, affordable housing but we can't have that if we continue doing this. So it's a tradeoff and I just want people to know. Thank you for coming out, thank you for talking to us because we need to hear it. I want to tell my colleagues here that I have had the privilege of recently meeting with a group of a couple of GSOP ladies who spoke to me about how they can get legislation through and so on. I gave them all your names and suggested that they reach out to you as well. It was an incredible conversation. Truthfully, it wasn't so much as, you know, would I support this or what I support that as much as it was on education, how they do it, and you know how to bring it to Concord, how to bring it here, and so on. Amazing people. The people from GSOP are amazing people and are really hard workers.

But I also, you know, want to say is that when that ordinance came forward about camping, I did support it. I've been honest about it and the reason for it is because we already have a State RSA that prohibits camping on public property. The city erred in giving a perceived approval by putting things through like dumpsters and port-a-potties and that's why we had to put the legislation through because we couldn't even move the people that were hanging around Mine Falls. It was maybe short sighted because we had no other place to put them but it got to the point of an emergency. So I want people to know that it was a sleepless night decision and I think every one of my colleagues had that same feeling. I'm sorry that one of my colleagues was spat upon and I hope it wasn't by one of us. If it was, I hope it wasn't me. I don't think I said something as horrible as that but anyways.

I agree that to one of my colleagues who said, you know, our job is not just to help the privileged but also to take care of the most vulnerable. You're absolutely right in that respect but we need to look forward to the resource center. The resource center doesn't give someone a place to lay their head but it gives them a place to help them find maybe a way out. Some people may never have a way out because of, you know, illness or something but maybe we can help get them resources. We have a lot of nonprofits that are trying to do that and this would be the city's way of helping as well.

To the comment about the Main Dunstable - I watched the video. So it has been videoed. So for my colleagues who didn't get the chance to do it, we can still watch it. There's a YouTube video there and I and I watched it. I had to be here. I couldn't run there and then try to get here. My feeling sometimes is just showing your face for 20 minutes or 30 minutes is just saying, look at me. See I care. I think when we're there, we should be there.

So as far as comments about abandoned buildings and so on, I've often said why isn't this happening? Why isn't that happening? I get reminded by some of those people who own that property, it's private property and you can't tell us what to do with it, which is very frustrating. I recently spoke to one of my colleagues here on the horseshoe about properties that could have so much use. For instance, Building 19. But in that particular case while yes, we say, wow, why can't they build there because there's this abandoned building. Well there's also settlement stuff that's behind it that says if they do anything that they lose a settlement agreement. So there are things that we don't always know. So to just point to a building and say they should do something with it, it makes us sound great, and I don't mean I didn't mean that against you, I apologize.

Alderwoman Smith

No just that we should explore the possibilities.

Alderman Klee

But we should explore the possibilities but there are also some things behind it so. But I'm going to say for the record, I do think we should extend at least to make sure we get past that storm in April. But we can do first and last reading all in one shot but whether or not Director Bagley would have the resources is a whole other thing. So we don't want to put her into a bind. I commend all the volunteers that have been there day after day, night after night. So thank you, Madam President,

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, Madam President. Yeah, I do want to thank everyone who came out this evening and spoke on a lot of different topics, but I kind of wanted to recap since last summer what we've done to try to address the unhoused situation. We, obviously, we did the camping ban which is controversial. I understand. I was on the side of putting that in place because I believe that it was a public health hazard. That being said, you know, we have moved fast with a lot of the things that we've done. We needed a, you know, it was mentioned we needed a handicap accessible bathroom option, which we - I worked hard behind the scenes with Director Sullivan to get a handicap port-a-potty in place and now I know Director Hannum is working on trying to figure out and with Director Sullivan is looking to find a place to put a more permanent bathroom structure that obviously could be used by the community somewhere downtown.

We are working. - we just put into place tonight the downtown cleanup crew, which will help keep downtown, you know, and a nice place for everybody who comes and visits. The warming center is in place. There's obviously a cry to get that extended, which I would certainly be supportive of. We've done the police overtime to patrol the downtown area and we extended that through the end of the budget year.

In addition to all of all of that, I have been pushing and working hard behind the scenes with Director Cummings to try to get the resource center up. We looked at many different places as the Mayor has indicated and came on the using the two portable buildings that are over actually near the warming center at Elm Street to the Maple Street lot to be used in the future as both the resource center and perhaps a warming center.

So, you know, I would say in my history - I've been on the Board of Aldermen since 2008 on and off and I can tell you that this issue came up as a major issue first addressed with some of the businesses really in April or so of last year, and it came to a major head in the summer - I want to say around the August time frame - August/September timeframe - last year and we have accomplished I would say 75% of the points that I just went through. The extra police patrol hopefully will be in the budget this year. You know like I said, we're working on the bathroom. The port-a-potty is not a permanent solution but it is at least something that, you know, we could immediately put in place.

The resource center - it sounds from the Mayor is going to be coming up soon for us to be able to vote on and, you know, so this has been one of the fastest moving things that we have tried to do with many different approaches. In all of my years on the on the Board of Aldermen, I've never seen anything move this fast and that, honestly, is a testament to the community of Nashua not just the business folks in downtown. Also, the people who spoke tonight and it's a testament to the rest of the Board of Aldermen as well in our resolve that this is an issue that matters to Nashua. It matters to us that we make sure that our community has places for everybody.

And that brings me to my final point that I want to bring up and that is that the State government and the federal government are not supportive of unhoused people. They just are not. It's not like the City of Nashua because I know if Nashua had the resources that say the federal government did or that the State of New Hampshire could have if we decided to, you know, use some invest in things, we would we wouldn't have the number of issues that we do.

So it's extremely important that, you know, everybody who came out tonight pays attention to the upcoming election, and goes out and votes, and make sure you're voting for people in especially in the State government that have the same values that you do because right now, we have a Governor who as the Mayor pointed out at the beginning - at the very beginning of this meeting, voted or vetoed a bipartisan tax on paint to make sure that - and the purpose of it was to make sure that toxins didn't get into our landfills. She vetoed that with absolutely no suggestion of how to address this. That's just a minor example of ignorance that is coming from that office on a daily basis on many different things. And so again, I would recommend that you pay attention to who your legislators are. Pay attention to who the Governor is. Pay attention to the Executive Council. This is your state government you want to address the homeless population in Nashua in the State of New Hampshire, it's got to come from the State. It's got to come from the federal government and we can't do it. Nashua is not going to be able to solve this problem on its own. So I recommend to pay attention to who you're voting for, pay attention to who's in power now, and if they're not doing the right things, vote them out. That's all I have Madam President. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Committee announcements:

Alderman O'Brien

Yeah, the Infrastructure Committee and Joint Meeting have been canceled. So my Committee, you're the best. You get the night off. Thank you.

Alderman Dowd

Thursday Joint Special School Building Committee, 7:00 pm, Nashua High North.

President Wilshire

That's it. We will be having a Special Board of Alderman meeting on Thursday, April 9, to discuss Community Power at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS THAT THE MARCH 24, 2026 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE ADJOURNED, BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Chess, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly,

Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire

15

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

Attest: Dan Healey, City Clerk

Graham, Donna

From: gravedirt@
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 10:55 AM
To: Graham, Donna
Subject: For the Board of Aldermen meeting on Tuesday, March 24th

CAUTION: This email came from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments if the source is unknown.

Dear Ms. Graham,

I am a Member at Large of the Nashua Theatre Guild Board of Directors. I understand that Nashua Theatre Guild is being considered for a grant, and that one of us from Nashua Theatre Guild should attend the Board of Aldermen meeting on Tuesday, March 24th at 7:15 to encourage final grant approval. I planned to attend and had a speech prepared, but I apologize that I cannot attend because I have rehearsal for our latest production, which is called *The Littlefield Gazette Does Not End Today*. In lieu of my attendance, please accept my speech via email.

Nashua Theatre Guild produces several plays a year. Our season begins in the summer with Shakespeare in the Park, which is a free event at Greeley Park, open to the public. We also put on full production plays in spring and autumn, and we feature local talent in February for our weekend of One Act Plays. We are a nonprofit organization, relying 100% on ticket sales, donations, and grants in order to run.

Why is theater important? Why should the arts be funded?

We could also ask, why are Shakespeare plays still put on over 400 years after his death? Especially when the language has changed so much, it can be difficult to understand.

His words may be difficult to understand, but his themes are not. Revenge. Jealousy. Love and longing. Fate. Betrayal. These are universal themes that continue to show up in our everyday lives, even to this day. They are timeless. The human experience shows up time after time--different scenarios, but the same stories.

And when we go to Greeley Park for an afternoon of Shakespeare, we not only get together to see some good theater, we gather to share and celebrate these human experiences. In historic Greeley Park, we are connected. We are united. We are not alone. We are all in this human experience together.

In current times, when disconnection is common and prevalent, theater brings us back to what connects us.

In this way, art adds values to our lives. Nashua Theatre Guild exists to bring this connection and joy to our community. As an actor who is, as we speak, across the street rehearsing to bring another story to life, I thank you sincerely for considering us as a recipient for an arts grant.