

A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 7:30 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 Patricia Klee led in the Pledge to the Flag.

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

The roll call was taken with 12 members of the Board of Aldermen present: Alderman Clemons (via Zoom), Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault, Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly (via Zoom), Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire.

Alderman O'Brien and Alderman Sennott were recorded absent.

President Wilshire

I did hear from Alderman O'Brien and Alderman Sennott that they weren't able to be here this evening

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

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Donchess

Yes, Madam President. I wanted to begin by speaking, as we have before, about one of our critical needs here in Nashua which is the need for housing, particularly affordable housing, and I just wanted to update you on where I think some of these projects stand.

The most significant project that's going forward is being done by the Housing Authority. As you know, they redeveloped the site on Central Street, the former Bronstein Apartments, into Monahan Manor, and increased the number of affordable units there by to over 200. Their current project is to make a similar redevelopment at Maynard Homes. Currently, Maynard Homes has slightly more than 100 units and that will be increased to 270 or 75 through the redevelopment. It's being done in two phases. Phase 1 has begun and Phase 2 is, you know, in the works. The city agreed with Monahan - with the Housing Authority regarding a so-called "pilot agreement" regarding Phase 1, which enables the Housing Authority to pay the city a certain amount not quite equal to what property taxes would be were the project privately owned, but that type of agreement enables the project to go forward. So when we come to Phase 2, we will be agreeing to the same type of pilot where the city will be receiving money but not full property taxes. But out of that, we will be getting hundreds of units of affordable housing.

The revolving loan fund, the housing trust fund loan is also loaning the project \$1.5 million, again, to make it possible for that project - to those two projects to proceed but I think we owe, you know, the members of the Housing Authority and the staff over there gratitude for all the work they've put in on these redevelopments over a period of years, and I want to thank Director Tim Cummings for working with them on these pilots and getting the details ironed out so the projects can go forward.

The next project I wanted to mention - you're all familiar with it - but it's the Mohawk Tannery redevelopment. As you recall, we'll ultimately see about 500 units of apartments and condominiums on that site. But the first stage is, of course, to clean up the waste, the tannery waste that's remaining on the site. We have EPA money involved there of course and the developers are going forward now and are working on the cleanup, which should be done by the end of the year and then the next phase will, of course, be then to begin the construction of apartments - 20% of which will be affordable. I think at 80% of area median income.

We also have the Nimco Bagshaw Development. As you recall, you approved a development agreement between LMG and the city regarding the development of the Nimco site to approximately 250 units of housing. Again, 20% of which would be affordable. Subsequently, that same developer acquired the Bagshaw site and will be developing housing there. So where we are, we need to work on a revised development agreement that would incorporate both sites. There will be some phasing of the project. It'll become one project. Of course Attorney Celia Leonard and Director Matt Sullivan are working on that and expect to bring a revised development agreement to you in the next few months.

We have a private project but it's a so-called LITC project on Crown Street, which you've probably already seen. You've probably all seen. That is 75 units, all affordable. LITC means "low-income tax credits". That's a federal type of subsidy.

That is that project is completed and is partially leased at this point. They're leasing up. So those are some of the projects we have going forward. I mean our Planning Department, Community Development, Legal Department is working on these all the time to try to make it possible to expand the number of units and make more affordable units available, increase the supply generally. So to try to moderate the rather rapid increases we've seen in rents and the cost of housing generally.

Before I - I'd like to move on, Madam President, to Memorial Day. As you know, we've nearly completed work on the Renaissance Park and the whole waterfront project. There's still a little bit to go on the north side and the bridge by Clock Tower is being completed. But we are planning a whole series of events over the course of the weekend, Memorial Day weekend, starting on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and finishing on Monday with a, you know, an official ribbon cutting on Saturday. But you should look for the schedule of events. Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director, and Alyssa O'Mara from the Nashua Downtown Association are working very hard on that, along with Kath Palmer to make sure that these events, you know, are ones that people will enjoy. So I would encourage you all to attend as much as you can.

And finally, Madam President, I wanted to return to something that I've mentioned before, which is Nashua resident Ebuka Okorie who - and Alderman Thibeault has mentioned this as well. He is a Nashua resident who went to Stanford to play basketball and as a freshman, broke all kinds of scoring records for the ACC. One of which was the most 30 or more points per game by any freshman in the history of the league. He has now declared for the NBA draft. It's unclear, you know, I don't know how he'll be drafted or who might draft him but there's an NBA draft combine it's called I or NBA combine draft combine I think it's called where a lot of the prospects go to Chicago and just demonstrate their skills for the scouts and the like. But he is a major athlete. I know his parents are out there with him and so we wish him the best for his future. I believe Alderman Thibeault coached him at some point didn't you or you played against? You got beaten by him.

Alderman Thibeault

My son played with him.

Mayor Donchess

Your son played with him. Yeah. Anyway, he's a great guy, and he's very humble, and, you know, I just wish him all of the success in the world, and that concludes my remarks, Madam President.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam President. So does that mean we can get them to come here? Maybe give them the key to the city.

Mayor Donchess

Hopefully we can do that, yes.

Alderman Thibeault

Okay. That'd be great. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

Just to clarify, Mr. Mayor. You mentioned "pilot" a bunch of times and I know people might frequently assume that that's a trial program but in this case, it's payment in lieu of taxes?

Mayor Donchess

Correct.

RECOGNITION PERIOD - None

READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS - None

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING ONLY PROCEDURAL ACTIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS

From: Jennifer McCormack, Library Director
Re: Resolution R-26-027

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

From: John J. Boisvert, Chief Executive Officer - Pennichuck
Re: Pennichuck's Audited Consolidated Financial Statements for years ended December 31, 2025 and December 31, 2024

From: John J. Boisvert, Chief Executive Officer – Pennichuck
Re: Notice of Annual Meeting of Sole Shareholder and Proxy Statement; Proxy Card; and Annual Report of the Sole Shareholder

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the communications and referred them to the Pennichuck Water Special Committee.

Alderman Clemons

Point of order. I believe your mics are off.

Alderwoman Kelly

We heard the Mayor very clearly but like you seem to be being picked up by just other people's mics. We had a couple last night too.

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

Fred Teeboom

Hello. Good evening, Fred Teeboom, 24 Cheyenne Drive. Let me refer you once again, which I've done before, to a letter from Mayor Donchess December 22, 2025 talking about keeping the budgets to within 3% and he mentions tax rates of 6%. I suspect that if you keep them within 3%, the tax rates are going to be higher than 6% tax increases. He mentions in his letter a requesting that each department submit its proposed budget with an increase of no more than 3% excluding fringe benefits. So when you look at R-26-021, which is the Principal contract on your schedule, the first item you see under the cost analysis this year, Fiscal '27, a 5.86% overall increase. Almost twice the 3%. If you look at the salaries - just the salaries - the base salaries, it's 5.7%. Now why does the Mayor issue guidelines when nobody pays attention?

Now here people saying on this Board, "Gee, we have no control over these contractual items." It's all contractual stuff. Well here is a situation where the contract is under your control, Mr. Dowd. It's under your control. You can stop these excessive contracts. Now it's not the salaries. I did my own analysis on the spreadsheet. I did my own spreadsheet and look at the retirement benefits represent 29% of the wages. Insurance benefits - it's all the medical, life insurance, dental, vision,...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Fred Teeboom

...it comes in 23%. Total fringes are 52% of the wages. So these are not necessarily excessive. What's excessive is the increase in the annual increase. If you look at the annual budget, the annual salary in Fiscal '27, you have base pay per employees almost \$108,000. Do your mathematics. It's not in this - you have to do your own...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Thirty seconds.

Fred Teeboom

...mathematics - \$108,000. So you want to bring that increase out to about 3%, you got to reduce the salary of each of the employees, Principals and Assistant Principals by about \$3,000. Represents about 42 employees about \$140,000. You should do that for every contract that comes before you. In case of the school, you say, "I have no control over these contracts." Of course, you send a contract back. You cut the budget bottom line...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Your time is up.

Fred Teeboom

...from the School Department by \$150,000 just to cover this contract. It's not a big deal. It's not difficult. Takes a little bit of guts.

Laurie Ortolano

Laurie Ortolano. I'm here to address the - I think it's the ordinance on changing public comment. I hope you vote for that and thank you for sponsoring it. You know in 2022, I came to the Board and I brought up the fact that I didn't think it was right that addresses had to be given. I didn't like giving mine. I wasn't a popular person and I didn't have to give it at the State House and that's logged in the record. When I watched what happened on February 10th when the individual came up and said, "I don't want to give my address" and the, you know, Chair and Corporation Counsel said, "It's our rule." You know, it creates a lawsuit and it seems so obvious to me that you shouldn't have to do it. Since February 10th when I've come out, I don't give my address. Nobody stops me but I never felt it was right.

I'm not certain I agree that you should have to give your town at all. I think just your name, whatever you want to do, first name, first last name, you can announce it. Again up at the State House, you don't have to give your name. You can just go up. You fill out a card but you can just go up and talk to them. I - so I think that whole situation is unfortunate. I'm glad to see the legislation is brought forward. I think it's a reasonable change. I think it's one you should initiate and maybe it will assist when it comes to dealing with this federal lawsuit that got filed. But I think it's something that could have been taken care of three years ago when I addressed it. So please support the change in that community public comment regulation. I think that would be great. Thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING FINAL APPROVAL

From: Faith Mandravelis – Nashua Arts Commission
Re: Arts commission's recommendation for remaining \$10,000

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Hi. Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director. I am the staff liaison to the Arts Commission so I wanted to introduce the Arts Commissioner. They receive a \$40,000 allocation through the budget every year and they are working towards more transparency, and visibility, and so I'll let Faith talk about how they would like to allocate the last \$10,000 of their \$40,000.

Faith Mandravelis

Hello. Okay. So for the past seven years, the Arts Commission has been awarded \$40,000 annually. I'm sorry. What was that? My name is Faith Mandravelis. I'm part of the Nashua Arts Commission. So for the past seven years, the Arts Commission has been awarded \$40,000 annually. \$30,000 of that money has already been allocated for nonprofit grants and has done a lot of great things within our community. As we move forward as the Arts Commission, we're trying to increase our visibility and really take our commissioners and challenge them to be engaged in a community event. For this season, we are asking for the Board to approve the remaining \$10,000 to be spent on the summer music series in combination with the DNA efforts to activate the Renaissance Park area.

So in the past Winter Stroll, we had about 25,000 attendees attend the Stroll and statistics show that about \$25 is spent per person. Unfortunately, none of those funds were given to the performers. A lot of local businesses profited from the performances that were put on, and we would like to advocate for the worth of the creative artists in music, and in mural art, and the right to a fair wage, and we believe that if the Board was to approve this money, it's creating jobs within the arts community that would otherwise not be available, and it helps us to activate this downtown area, and it sets the expectation for our city that we are going to be engaging all these areas, and all of these projects that have been

previously funded, and we want to continue to support them, and encourage the community to be engaged, and be proud of where they live.

So we are asking for the funds to directly pay the Sunday's Farmers Market performers who have so graciously dedicated their time in previous years to performing, and creating an environment, and entertaining the vendors, and so we're asking for this money to help pay these Sunday market performers as well as the Saturday music series which will be a one-hour event of music. This money is allocated towards the - we'd like to allocate towards the performers, as well as the person that will be running the sound, and this is going to really have a collaboration between the Downtown Nashua Association, and as well as other nonprofits and organizations that are represented within the Arts Commission like the Music School. This will provide a wonderful opportunity for upcoming music students to even job shadow, as I myself have volunteered and would love to volunteer my time to help support running the sound for these musicians, and also helping to encourage the next generation to kind of job shadow while it's happening, and so I'm hoping that you choose to approve this request in support of brightening our lovely city we all live in.

President Wilshire

Thank you very much.

Alderman Morgan

Thank you so much, Madam President and Faith for that really lovely review. Would you speak a little bit about how many artists you expect to be able to pay with that fund?

Faith Mandravelis

So the Saturday music series is going to be 12 weeks, not including the July 4 event. That is going to be handled separately of this. It's already been in works and also 42 performers for the Sunday Farmers Market. So the Sunday's Farmers Market starts Memorial Day weekend and goes through October. So that one's the longest one, and then the music series is just the 12 weeks, and it already has DNA. Alyssa has planned out the genres and we're really trying to be thoughtful of all things that could potentially inspire anyone and not just stick to one sort of vein. So it'll be a little music charcuterie if you will.

Alderman Morgan

Thank you.

President Wilshire

I think we have another question.

Alderwoman Kelly

Yes, thank you. So you just mentioned Alyssa. So is this money going to Great American Downtown and then they're facilitating that?

Faith Mandravelis

So it's going to be in collaboration. We want to as I mentioned increase our visibility. We have banners and we will be making ourselves known at these events so that, you know, everyone can see where their, you know, taxes and that stuff is really going into activating the community.

But for how the money will be dispersed in collaboration, it makes sense that the money would directly go to DNA, and we would then have our musical performers have W9s, and she would then pay them directly, and all of that would be documented, and that's how we would spend the total \$10,000 that we're requesting.

Alderwoman Kelly

Can I follow up?

President Wilshire

Yes.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. I honestly I think paying artists a fair wage is absolutely aligned with our city values for sure. I guess I'm just concerned with the way it's written. I'm surprised - I don't know if Corporation Counsel that it doesn't say that we're giving it to GAD. It sounds like we're paying these people directly the way it's written, and that's not your fault, and just wanted to make sure that it's clear, and that we're doing it appropriately.

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director. I'll just respond to that. It is a pass-through through the Downtown Nashua Association, so they're not making any money off of this. This is just that they can pay the way that we can't.

President Wilshire

Okay. Thank you.

Faith Mandravelis

And there will be open submissions, so it'll be - there will be visibility on people will be able to apply, and we will be, you know, choosing the best fit for the genres, and everything, and then they will be W9, and then - it's just because also not all the talent is booked so we couldn't possibly allocate these funds directly to the performers since we haven't released the submission form or allowed for anyone to apply yet. So like Liz said, it's more like a conduit.

President Wilshire

Okay. Thank you very much.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN MORGAN TO APPROVE ALLOCATING THE REMAINING \$10,000 OF THE NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION FUNDING TOWARDS THE 2026 SUMMER MUSIC SERIES: \$200 - NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION BANNERS, \$200 - KIDS FUN-TIVITY ART MATERIALS, \$3,600 - SUNDAY FARMER'S MARKET PERFORMERS (5/24 – 10/11), AND \$6,000 - SATURDAY MUSIC SERIES, BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea:	Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault, Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire	12
------	---	----

Nay:		0
------	--	---

MOTION CARRIED

PETITIONS - None

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

The following appointments by the Board of Aldermen were read into the record:

Board of Health

Christian Jimenez (Social Worker)
21 Forest Hills Drive
Nashua, NH 3060

Term to expire: December 31, 2027

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the Appointment by the Board of Aldermen as read and refer the appointment to the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Joint Meeting - Committee on Infrastructure and Police Commissioners..... 12/10/2025

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the December 10, 2025 Joint Meeting - Committee on Infrastructure and Police Commissioners be accepted and placed on file.

Budget Review Committee..... 04/16/2026

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the April 16, 2026 Budget Review Committee be accepted and placed on file.

Joint Meeting - Committee on Infrastructure and Board of Public Works..... 04/29/2026

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the April 29, 2026 Joint Meeting - Committee on Infrastructure and Board of Public Works be accepted and placed on file.

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS

Cultural Connections Committee

There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the new appointment of Julia Stryzhenko, 2 Meadowview Circle, Nashua, with a term to expire March 10, 2029 to the Cultural Connections Committee.

Oath of Office administered by Corporation Counsel.

Planning Board

There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the re-appointment of Maggie Harper, 3 Taft Street, Nashua, with a term to expire March 31, 2029 and new appointment as designee Joseph MacIntyre, 40 Roy Street, Nashua, with a term to expire May 12, 2029 to the Planning Board.

Oath of Office administered by Corporation Counsel for Joseph MacIntyre. Maggie Harper's Oath of Office will be administered at a later date.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-26-021

Endorsers: Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Alicia Gregg
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NASHUA BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE NASHUA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PRINCIPALS FROM JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2030

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-26-021, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Dowd

The reason the first year is the 5% is because we are asking the Assistant Principals to work more days. So every one of the Assistant Principals are working more days. So that's why the first year is more expensive. The rest of the contract and the first year for the Principals is the relatively lower number and if there's any further explanations, the Superintendent Mario Andrade is here to answer them if there are questions, but that's the reason the first year is so high. If we're asking people to work several more days a year, we need to pay them for them.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam President. I wonder through you to Superintendent Andrade might ask a question. I don't know if you'd like to come up and answer my question. It'll be nice. When was the last time the Principals and the Assistant Principals got a raise?

Superintendent Mario Andrade

It's - good evening, everyone. Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools. So they receive an annual raise by their contract.

Alderman Thibeault

Follow up?

President Wilshire

Yes.

Alderman Thibeault

How much was the last one?

Superintendent Mario Andrade

3.5% - I can verify, but it's the old contract's online but it hovers around 3% to 3.5%.

Alderman Thibeault

All right. Thanks. Just a follow up. Not to you. You're all set. Thank you, though. Thank you.

I just want to say that, you know, people in the city deserve a raise, too, whether they're principals, teachers, firemen, policemen. In private industry, we get raises. We get performance reviews. We get raises or if we're not doing well, obviously, we don't get raises. I think, you know, I think it's important that we give our Principals and Assistant Principals a decent enough wage to keep the good ones here in the city. I knew one that taught my kids and she became an Assistant Principal. I don't know if she was a principal in the city, but she left this city to teach in another city or be a principal in another city. Probably because it was more money, and she would have been great here, and she's actually the granddaughter of somebody that spoke tonight. So I mean, you know, I think we deserve to - they deserve what they get. They do a good job. We need to keep people here that are good employees. I don't think this is outrageous. I think Alderman Dowd explained why that first year is such a jump. We are expecting them to work more. You expect them to work more, you should pay them more. So that's my thoughts.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you. To the point of more days, because the first year is higher than the out years, are we only asking them that they're going to work more days in year one of the contract and we're not asking them to work more days in the other years? Just want to clarify that.

Superintendent Mario Andrade

Hi. Mario Andrade again. No, it'll be 204 days moving forward. So - but their increase is the following years will only be a 2.5 percent increase. So they'll see the jump in year one and then all the administrators will receive a 2.5 percent increase years two through four.

Alderman Sullivan

Understood. Thank you.

Superintendent Mario Andrade

Thank you.

President Wilshire

Further discussion? Seeing none.

Superintendent Mario Andrade

I did get your answer. 3.8.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you.

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

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault,
Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire 11

Nay: Alderman Johnson 1

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-26-021 is declared duly adopted.

R-26-022

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderwoman Vengerflutta Smith
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Amber Morgan
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FOR AN AIR MONITORING STATION AT 57 GILSON ROAD

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-26-022, BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault,
Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Johnson,
Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire 12

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-26-022 is declared duly adopted.

R-26-026

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderwoman Vengerflutta Smith
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS AND EXECUTION OF GRANT AGREEMENTS WITH THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR GRANTS UNDER THE URBAN MASS
TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 1964, AS AMENDED, FOR FISCAL YEARS 2027 AND 2028**

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SULLIVAN FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-26-026, BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault,
Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Johnson,
Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire 12

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-26-026 is declared duly adopted.

R-26-027

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderwoman Vengerflutta Smith
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY ALDERMANIC JOINT COMMITTEE FOR THE UPCOMING LIBRARY
RENOVATIONS AND ADDITION PROJECT**

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-26-027, BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault,
Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire 11

Nay: Alderman Johnson 1

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-26-027 is declared duly adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-26-006

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Amber Morgan
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderwoman Vengerflutta Smith
Alderman Thomas Lopez

REPEALING ADDRESS REQUIREMENT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Given is second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN MORGAN TO AMEND O-26-006 BY REPLACING IT WITH THE GOLDEN ROD COPY OF
AMENDMENTS MADE AT THE PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, BY ROLL CALL**

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Madam Chair, may I make a suggestion?

President Wilshire

Yes.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

As written or as proposed to be amended, it's unclear what it means by name and city or town. If the intention is to make it the city or town of residence, I would suggest the words "of residence" be added. If the intention of the Board is to make it either their home address, or excuse me, their business, the town of their business, or the town of their residence, you can say one or both of those. But as it reads, I think there'll be difficulty in interpreting.

President Wilshire

Okay. Do you want to make that amendment?

Alderman Morgan

Sure.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN MORGAN TO FURTHER AMEND O-26-006 BY REPLACING IT WITH THE GOLDEN ROD COPY OF AMENDMENTS MADE AT THE PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE BY ADDING IN SECTION (3) THE WORDS "OF RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS" AFTER "AND CITY OR TOWN", BY ROLL CALL

President Wilshire

Okay.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Which?

President Wilshire

Which? Yeah. To say residences or business?

Alderman Morgan

Residence and/or business.

President Wilshire

Does that suffice?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Town of residence or business.

President Wilshire

Or business. Okay.

Further discussion?

Alderman Lopez

Just as a point of order, I was interested in amending it to myself. I don't know if you go three deep or putting it sucked

into a vortex. I was interested in amending it to say, "Speaker shall be asked to identify him or herself" so that we're not responsible if they refuse but we also don't necessarily have to (inaudible) the comment.

President Wilshire

Are you making that as a motion?

Alderman Lopez

I was actually asking if I can or if I should wait for this to clear and then try that later.

President Wilshire

Why don't we wait for this to clear and you try that later?

Alderman Lopez

Okay.

President Wilshire

Okay.

Alderman Kelly

I can - I have a larger question so I can just wait until this motion's done with.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, Madam President. Through you to Corporation Counsel, I assume with your suggestion of the amendment that this passes the constitutionality or and we won't get into any issues with lawsuits.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

I make no promises in that regard. People file lawsuits over anything and everything. I can't tell you that it's unconstitutional to ask for an address. I don't think it is. I'm not sure it's worth fighting over, but that's up to this Board but there's no guarantees that this avoids the pending suit or avoids future suits.

Alderman Clemons

Okay, thank you.

Alderman Kelly

If I could?

President Wilshire

Alderman Kelly.

Alderman Kelly

Since Alderman Clemons asked a question in the same room, I'm going to ask this...

President Wilshire

You need to speak up. We can't hear you.

Alderman Kelly

I don't know why you're having so much trouble with the - is that good?

President Wilshire

It's better but it's not great.

Alderwoman Kelly

Okay. Okay. Through you to Corporation Counsel, I have some concerns about constantly changing things every time there is a lawsuit.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

I cannot hear you.

President Wilshire

We can't hear you, Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

I'll see if I can fix it.

President Wilshire

I mean there's motorcycles and all kinds of background noise.

Alderman Lopez

Surely, they wouldn't be violating the noise ordinance.

Alderwoman Kelly

I'm sitting in a quiet room. That's weird.

President Wilshire

Alderwoman Kelly you're muted, so we can't hear you at all even if you are speaking.

Alderwoman Kelly

I will just suspend my question. I don't know what to do.

President Wilshire

We can hear you now.

Alderwoman Kelly

I don't know what I did. I did nothing.

President Wilshire

Well we can hear you now.

Alderwoman Kelly

Okay. Through you to Corporation Counsel.

President Wilshire

Yes.

Alderwoman Kelly

Because we didn't have him at our meeting. I was concerned about if we change every time someone gives us a lawsuit are we setting ourselves up for constantly doing that?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Certainly possible.

President Wilshire

You all set, Alderman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

I am. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Okay. Anyone else? Can you not raise your hand? Oh, Alderman Kelly can you put your hand down.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. Through you to Corporation Counsel. By law - or obviously we have it here in our ordinance but by law, public comment is not a requirement, correct?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

You do not have to permit public comment. When you do permit it, you have to do it in a fair manner. Some people apparently believe that asking for an address creates an unfair barrier.

Alderman Klee

Just hypothetically, not that I'm asking to do this, but would there be the ability to say only Nashua residents or those who work in Nashua could do public comment? I would not ask to do that. Just wondering if that would be considered within the fair?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

I think some people would not think that it is fair and proper. I happen to think we would prevail in a suit brought on that basis but it is a risk and it can be costly. When you lose a civil rights case, which this First Amendment implications, you have to pay the attorney's fees for the other side.

In the flag case involving the City of Boston, the attorney's fees were over a million dollars. Our flag case is going to come out to less than that. I have every expectation and hope. This latest one about addresses, I think there's a good chance we would win but you're risking lots of money and do you really need the address? Same is true about only Nashua residents. Frankly, same is true about town of business or residence. So you take your chances but you want to have public comment at all. I think you're taking a chance no matter what restriction you put on.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. May I?

President Wilshire

Yes.

Alderman Klee

The reason I asked that question, I would never want to get rid of public comment nor would I want to just limit it to those who work or live within the city. But I do think that it is fair for those that are listening to public comment, as well as ourselves, to know the impact of those that are speaking. So if someone comes from Tennessee and decides to speak about laws that we're putting through or things that we have here, to me, that would have less of an impact as to someone who lives within the city. That's why I really would like to have city or town.

I understand the privacy and maybe concern that someone might have about giving out their address. For those of us in the public, our address is published everywhere so. But I do understand the anxiety that people could have. I think it's fair to do city or town of residence or business, but I would like to know their connection to Nashua. Having said all that, the truth is they can lie. We know that they could say that they are a resident of Nashua, New Hampshire, and we have no way of proving because we don't ask proof. So, I think, that will be less likely. Those that are rabble rousing will probably do that. The person who spoke could have given a bogus address and we would have never known it, but they chose to do what they did so that they could do what they do. Just my feelings, my beliefs, and I've said enough. Thank you, Madam President.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam President. Yeah, I mean clearly this was a stunt and it was made to be this way because like Alder woman Klee said, you could just make up - you could say Tennessee and Main Street Tennessee and we would have let them talk. So I think it was clearly done for a specific reason - either goaded by somebody or planned by the person. I don't know but it doesn't make sense that they did it. So I don't know why. We have rules. I don't know why we can't enforce the rules that we have. I wouldn't go with the only Nashua because, you know, there's towns like Hollis and Merrimack that use some of our services like, you know, wastewater or stuff like that. So I wouldn't necessarily rule out people next to us, but I don't really care what a person from Tennessee cares about our rules in our city. I'm sorry, I don't. I care about what the people in our city or the people that use our services care about because that's what we represent. Go back to where you, you know, your city and complain about whatever is there. Let Nashua run by its citizens and the people in the surrounding towns. I mean that's just.

So I hate that we're getting pushed to do something over a stupid, frivolous lawsuit. But I will, you know, I will compromise and take out the address part, the street part, and go with the town and city. I think that's reasonable. Again, you can say whatever you want. You can say Berlin, New Hampshire, and we're going to let you speak. So anybody that doesn't just make up an address at that point is doing it just to sue us and I think that's a shame. It's a shame for the people in the city that have to front those bills. There's too many lawsuits against us for stupid stuff, and it's costing this taxpayer, and so these people don't want to cost the taxpayer money yet they still sue, and sue, and sue, and sue. So, you know, I'm not going to back down from that. I will compromise on this but I'm not going to back down and support the original piece of legislation.

Alderman Dowd

Through you to Corporation Counsel. Does this also imply for public hearings or is that separate?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

That's separate.

Alderman Dowd

So they have to give their name and address for comment at a public hearing.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Whatever the ordinance provides in that regard.

Alderman Dowd

Okay.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Okay. So we're amending to say "city or town of residence or business".

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

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault,
Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Johnson,
Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire 11

Nay: Alderwoman Kelly 1

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO AMEND TO READ, "SPEAKER SHALL BE ASKED TO IDENTIFY HIM OR HERSELF BY NAME ~~AND ADDRESS~~ AND CITY OR TOWN OF RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS WHEN BEGINNING TO SPEAK", BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Lopez

And my reasoning if I may speak to it?

President Wilshire

Yes.

Alderman Lopez

And my reasoning is just it came up a couple of times. Oh, we don't enforce this equally, or we don't verify or fact check, and I don't really feel like we elected President Wilshire to get out there and check IDs or, you know, look at paperwork. So I think it's sufficient for us to ask and I think given that this is transcribed and this is visible to the public, if someone's going to refuse, they're going to refuse but at least the public knows this is somebody who is going to start out their comment without being willing to identify information. It's not necessarily an indictment of them. It's just they're indicating their position and I think that's enough to signal to the public if a person, you know, is serious enough to say, okay, well, this is the town I'm from and this is what I stand for. Most Nashuans would identify they're from Nashua because they're part of this. They're our constituents. They voted for us.

If somebody's coming in and they want to deliver a message and they want to identify that they're coming from another place and delivering a message, we've had that too and that's fine. I think if we ask, that's sufficient and the public deserves to at least see the question asked.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

May I?

President Wilshire

You may.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

I think we have an ambiguity, again, that I would like to see if we can resolve. Alderman is it your intent that if someone refuses they not be allowed to speak or they be allowed to speak?

Alderman Lopez

Is my intent that they only be asked and then they be allowed to speak.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Okay and that you would apply to both the name and the town of residence or business?

Alderman Lopez

Yes.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Okay. So in that case, I suggest that it say, "the speaker shall be asked but not required to identify him or herself by name and city or town of residence or business".

Alderman Lopez

Okay. I think that serves my intent and I appreciate the council.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO AMEND TO READ, "SPEAKER SHALL BE ASKED BUT NOT REQUIRED TO IDENTIFY HIM OR HERSELF BY NAME AND ADDRESS AND CITY OR TOWN OF RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS WHEN BEGINNING TO SPEAK", BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Gregg

Thank you, Madam President. So I disagree with this line because I do think it's important that we know what city people are from so that we know if this is somebody that we're representing, that we have been elected to represent, and I - what I'm hearing, you know, we have a lot of debate in Concord, A lot of bills may and shall and this is one of those situations. I am going to put forth that the people that are coming here to talk to us are in good faith. I'm not going to put anybody that they're in bad faith. So I'm going to say that they are going to say where they're from. I think it's important.

What I do think we could do better at is being consistent with asking and we're not going to change that by having them just asking them to do that. I just think we have to make sure that we're being consistent but I do think in order to speak, they should say at least the city where they're from so that we have an idea too, because things are very different in Tennessee and in Colorado than they are here. So that weighs on that opinion. But I am not going to say that anybody's in bad faith coming up here to talk to us. It's hard to get up to a microphone and talk to people. So I think that it is fair to have them just do their city and leave it at that and we should be asking for that.

Alderman Klee

Again, I'm going to reiterate what I had said before and much to what my colleague just said, I want to know where these people are coming and I think the public who is listening to these comments and so on also has the right to know where these people are coming from. Again, Tennessee, West Virginia, various other States, including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut all have different ways of doing things.

The truth is towns within the State of New Hampshire does things very different than cities do as well. So if the person is speaking, at least we have a little perspective to know kind of where they're coming from. If you wanted to say that we shall ask and they must identify themselves, I would not have had a problem but if we're going to allow someone to refuse what compels anybody, why bother even having this? Let's just get rid of any requirement at all. I cannot support this. So thank you, Madam President.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you. Through you to Corporation Counsel. Excuse me. Don't we ask technically right now we say, please give your name and address for the record, please. I mean that is kind of a request isn't it?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

That may be the polite way of the President expressing herself. The ordinance as now written requires name and address.

Alderman Sullivan

Follow up, please?

President Wilshire

Yes.

Alderman Sullivan

So if we're at a full Board meeting and the President the way the amendment is being proposed if the speaker decides not to report out their name and where they're from, the President allows them to speak. Yet they come to a committee meeting and the chairperson of that committee does not allow them to speak. Goes to the point of the consistency because that leaves it to the discretion of the chair of the committee or the President of the Board, correct?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

If the ordinance governing these things is silent, yes whoever's presiding at the meeting makes these calls. But there are differences inherent in the full Board meetings, committee meetings, public hearings mandated by Statute, and so forth. So there may be reasons why those things are different. But it's within the power of this Board to change the requirements of name, or address, or city, or town, or required, or requested. So if you want something other than what's currently in the ordinance book, you are free to propose it.

Alderman Sullivan

Just a comment. I think if you do come before this Board or committee to speak your mind on something in three minutes, I think you should identify yourself and where you're from. I think that, you know, that should be the way that it is. I mean I think that I value every opinion, and I'm certainly open to feedback, and I would want to hear it regardless of where they're from. However, I think they should say who they are and where they're from.

Alderman Dowd

Yeah, I sort of concur and it's not so much more than they're telling us where they're from but I think it's more important because these meetings are televised that the general public when they hear somebody's comments know where they're from. It makes a difference if they're a resident here in Nashua or they're from East Timbuktu. The people can then take their comments at what they're worth for the - because they don't live here.

I think that even the people that watch our meetings want to know what the residents of Nashua are thinking and perhaps the surrounding communities. I don't dissuade from Merrimack and Hollis, although I don't know what their rules are but. So I'm not in favor of the current change that the current change.

Alderwoman Kelly

I'm just going to also express that I am not in favor of this. I understand the intent but I think as someone who chairs a committee, it it's more ambiguous and that makes it harder for chairs and, obviously, you Madam President.

President Wilshire

Okay. Further discussion on the amendment? Seeing none. The amendment is speakers shall be asked but not required to identify him or herself. That's the amendment that's being proposed.

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

Yea: Alderman Lopez 1

Nay: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault,
Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Johnson,
Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Morgan, Alderman Wilshire 11

MOTION FAILED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN MORGAN FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-26-006 AS AMENDED, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTIONAlderwoman Kelly

Did you call me? Yeah, you called out. Okay. I'm not going to support this. I think that it was brought - it was talked a lot about it in Committee. I asked for it to actually come forward without a recommendation because I was happy to have the full Board have the conversation. But we've heard from Corporation Counsel before that we are allowed to make the rules for our meetings and able to make sure we get to our business and I think that every time we make changes, we're making our case softer and softer. So I think to the points that have been made, our addresses are out there, you know, 123 Main Street, whatever you want to say, I think that our rules are our rules and I very much want to hear from the public and I don't think we're asking for a lot.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. As I was looking here, and I hate to muddy the waters, but when we're asking for city or town should we not be asking also for State? If someone said they were from Springfield, it could be Springfield, Mass; Springfield, Vermont; Springfield, New Hampshire. I hate to throw one more amendment in there but I'm - to the maker of the motion. I know we both co-sponsored this and so on. Would - do you feel if I may ask, do you feel that we should be asking for State as well as?

Alderman Morgan

It is my opinion that if you are not from New Hampshire, you would state that and if you are from New Hampshire, you wouldn't. You would just say Nashua. You would say Nashua, New Hampshire.

Alderman Klee

May I ask to Attorney Bolton? I understood what my colleagues said but if someone just said they were from Springfield, per this, they're not required to say what State they're from. Saying Springfield is sufficient, correct?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Well, it says identify themselves.

Alderman Klee

Yes.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

If you're unclear which State Springfield or which Springfield they are talking about, it's fair to inquire as to which State so that that identifies city or town.

Alderman Klee

Okay.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

So I don't think it's necessary, but it probably does no harm so.

President Wilshire

Oh, I'm sorry.

Alderman Klee

No. Thank you.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam President. You know, I think listening to this debate and all these amendments, I was going to compromise the city on town but listening to Alderwoman Kelly, I think I'm going to stick with her on this and vote against it.

Alderman Gregg

I was originally on the fence as well. I have seen certain people come testify, especially in Concord. They do have to give their address. At least it's written down somewhere that if we have a problem, we can check that. But it's tough. It's tough to get up and like say where you're from, especially your address in this day and age. If somebody's watching online and decides they don't like you, or they do really like you, and you're giving your address, and that's kind of that can be a little daunting. I think that can be a barrier that I think this is reasonable enough.

My main concern is are you from Nashua? I love, you know, I do like to hear everybody's opinion and see what that's going on, but I really the Nashua people they, you know, they're - I don't want to say they're more valuable but we really do need to hear them because we're elected to represent the people from Nashua. So I think that this is a good compromise. I have always been uncomfortable getting up there and saying my address even though it is published everywhere. So I think that's a small thing that we can do and I wonder why we ever had the full address on there anyway. But certainly with the internet and stuff, I think this is a good compromise for right now.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, Madam President. Yeah, I'm going to support this. Personally, I had no - from my own personal point of view, I had no objection to the address. But I do understand, you know, people being uncomfortable giving out their address these days. Unfortunately, you know, we live in a country where, especially in a in a room where we talk a lot about politics and people are giving their opinion on frankly things that are political, there's a lot of angst. There's a lot of anger out there and you know we see we see political violence, unfortunately, and I would hate to have that extend to a member of the public who came up to give their opinion on something. So, you know, I think it's a safety thing. I have no problem doing it. I think, you know, if you just identify where you're from and your name, that's good enough for me.

More to my point, though, is that I value anybody who's going to come and take the time to speak in front of this Board regardless of where you've where because your opinion - you know if you feel that deeply about something and you're coming before this Board to express that opinion, then I want to hear what you have to say because those words are more meaningful than where you are from, in my opinion. So I value everybody's opinion and I think this is a fair compromise.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you very much. I understand Alderwoman Kelly's reasoning behind this. I don't think we should cave in because somebody didn't want to give their address. But in Committee, I had said, you know, why don't we put the city or town do it that way because at least like I agree with everybody around the horseshoe. I think we'd like to know if they're from Nashua because they're our number one priority because we represent them and even if they come in from another city or town, we want to listen to them because it could be affecting something in Nashua even though they don't live here or they have relatives that live here. I'm going to support this the way it is because I think it is a good compromise and I think that, you know, we shouldn't have to have a lawsuit because somebody doesn't want to give their address. So I think this is good and I'm going to support this. Thank you.

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

Yea:	Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire	10
Nay:	Alderman Thibeault, Alderwoman Kelly	2

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-26-006 is declared duly adopted as amended.

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

R-26-020

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

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$900,000) TO FUND THE PURCHASE, DESIGN, PRE-RENOVATION WORK AND RENOVATIONS FOR A RESOURCE CENTER AT 14 MULBERRY STREET

- tabled at Special Board of Aldermen meeting on 4/22/26

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS**R-26-031**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A SUCCESSOR CONCESSION AGREEMENT WITH GRANITE DIAMOND, LLC

Given its first reading, assigned to the FINANCE COMMITTEE, by President Wilshire

R-26-032

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderwoman Vengerflutta Smith
Alderman-at-Large Alicia Gregg
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Amber Morgan
Alderman Thomas Lopez

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (“CDBG”) AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ENTITLEMENT FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

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

R-26-033

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Patricia Klee

Alderwoman Vengerflutta Smith
Alderman-at-Large Alicia Gregg
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NASHUA TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THE SOUHEGAN VALLEY TRANSPORTATION COLLABORATIVE, NASHUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, RIVIER UNIVERSITY, TOWN OF HUDSON AND TOWN OF MERRIMACK FOR TRANSIT SERVICES

Given its first reading, assigned to the FINANCE COMMITTEE, by President Wilshire

R-26-034

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderwoman Vengerflutta Smith
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman-at-Large Amber Morgan
Alderman Thomas Lopez

APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NASHUA BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS AND TEAMSTERS LOCAL 633 FROM JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2031

Given its first reading, assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE, by President Wilshire

R-26-035

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderwoman Vengerflutta Smith
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman-at-Large Amber Morgan
Alderman Thomas Lopez

APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NASHUA BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS AND UFPO LOCAL 645 PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES OF THE NASHUA POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2031

Given its first reading, assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE, by President Wilshire

R-26-036

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderwoman Vengerflutta Smith
Alderman-at-Large Alicia Gregg

ADOPTING THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY AND RESILIENCY (C-PACER) PROGRAM

Given its first reading, assigned to the PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, by President Wilshire

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-26-010

Endorser: Alderman Paula Johnson

REGARDING USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING MEETINGS

Given its first reading, assigned to the PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, by President Wilshire

O-26-011

Endorsers: Alderman Paula Johnson
Alderman Derek Thibeault

REGARDING VIRTUAL MEETING PARTICIPATION

Given its first reading, assigned to the PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, by President Wilshire

O-26-012

Endorsers: Alderman Tim Sennott
Alderman-at-Large Amber Morgan
Alderman-at-Large Alicia Gregg
Alderman Thomas Lopez

AMENDING THE DEFINITION OF SECONDHAND DEALERS

Given its first reading, assigned to the PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, by President Wilshire

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTBob Keating

My name is Bob Keating on 5 Coburn Woods Drive, and speaking about the discussions we've had around housing the homeless, and I'm very encouraged by the I think the strong support, including the price tag that we're looking at. But I thought I would take this opportunity since we don't have a proposal right on board at this time to just look at some of the frameworks.

First in terms of property, the One Main Street that I talk about is available for sale and it is when you look at all the square footage, it's 9,000 feet and I think it's something well worth looking into. I spoke to and communicated with Mr. Cummings a number of, you know, times about it and been in contact with the agent representing it. There's other properties also out there.

But as I said, I wanted to give a framework. Some of you know this and others have not been exposed or just heard the term. But our RC and most of the country is moved by a framework that's called "the Housing First Model". It began in 1992 in New York and what the model is, is it focuses on moving the person into housing as soon as possible and building the support services around. Because what was found is that if a person was to sort of resolve their issues whether it be mental health issues, substance abuse, and waiting for that point in time, there was more damage created and clearly being homeless in and of itself creates difficulties. It's much more problematic to deal with your life when you're living out on the street. So that's the housing First Model and it focuses, particularly, on permanent housing. So even though we're looking at this property on Mulberry Street about having other kinds of services, the thrust is continue about permanent housing.

And two things I want to speak about - the proposal and moving forward is the notion of a resource room and a resource center that's being done, you know, at all points in times, and the warming station that we had at Elm Street, you could build a resource center there.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Thirty seconds.

Bob Keating

The final thing is about the warming station. There's a lot of different use of that language but particularly moving forward, just hope that we pay attention that having people lying down sleeping because there's been some - I tried to get it clarified but I wasn't able to. But moving forward, we need people to lie down, and d sleep, and there is enough space for it. So encouraged by what's done and hope that we'll be able to continue to move on this...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Time.

Bob Keating

...in such a way that we will be able to make significant progress in terms of people being housed. So, thank you.

Justin Gerstenfield

Justin Gerstenfield and I think we settled on city, right? So I'm from Nashua. Good evening and thank you, Madam President. I'm here to speak against the proposed ordinance O-26-010. I'll be honest. I'm surprised that this is on the agenda and that we're wasting our time about this matter. I disagree. I don't disagree that the Board members should

be engaged and attentive during meetings, but I really question if this ordinance is really worth discussion and effort on behalf of the residents of Nashua. I have two problems with this. First, it's unenforceable. The language in the ordinance is very vague. Who will enforce this and what is the violation if observed to enforce this? The city would need to pay a staff person to walk around the horseshoe to look over your shoulders during session and that just doesn't really sound like a great use of our taxpayer dollars.

The second issue is that the permitted uses are too narrow where members do their best work when they can access a full range of information not just what appears in the official packet. What if an alderman has an email that they want to reference from a constituent during discussion or what if a critical file didn't make it into the Board packet? Not that that would happen but, you know, just in case. You know, some crazy things happen. So like limiting devices to the city website and pre-approved materials in the middle of the live policy discussion is really short-sighted in my view.

I also want to be direct about something else. The Alderman who sponsored this legislation ran on lowering taxes, controlling spending, and solving Nashua's traffic problems. Those are serious issues affecting rural residents. We're still waiting to hear or see meaningful progress on any of those issues and I'd encourage that sponsor to redirect their energy towards commitments that got them elected instead of writing legislation that only suits a small number of people.

Ordinance O-26-010 does not improve how the city is governed. I urge the Personnel and Administrative Affairs Committee to table this proposed ordinance and allow the Board to focus on issues that really matter to the people of Nashua. Thank you.

Laurie Ortolano

Laurie Ortolano, Nashua. Regarding the ordinance for NRO for public hearings, there's nothing in there at all. I happened to check. There's no name, or address, or anything listed but you could check that so there won't be a conflict.

I want to address a little bit about Community Development and my concerns with HUD funding. I think there's a lot of problems going on in Community Development and I think the Board is not apprised of what is happening over there. I became aware of a whistleblower complaint at the end of last year that was really concerning to read what went down and I'm not a proponent of seeing HUD money managed in Community Development at all. I think it should be all pulled and removed.

I had a discussion or a communication today with HUD out of Boston and DC and they did tell me they are opening up an investigation into what's going on in Nashua and I think there's plenty of information for them to take a look at to investigate. And it's my understanding that we are on red status, not green after last year because we had some accounting issues and it's my understanding that some money was returned to HUD based on our accounting issues.

You know, I am deeply concerned at the way I see employees treated and particularly women. We treat women terribly and what's going on in Community Development is shades of Gregg Turgiss in Assessing and I don't understand why we let this happen. I don't understand why one employee was not removed, and the culprit of the problems was not disciplined, and frankly, given his walking papers but we didn't do that. Instead, we let that individual stay. Essentially, told the woman it was her problem. She went forward and filed a Department of Labor complaint as a whistleblower complaint, and that changed the whole equation, and I see the problems materializing.

I don't understand in the CDBG Block Grant in the Human resource Affairs meeting how Mary Sweeney Home could not receive their money in two years when it was approved and I have followed up on this with a Right to Know request. My understanding is as of today, they never got their money. They didn't get \$50,000 from '23 approved for '24 grant money and they didn't get \$35,000 in '24. It was approved and the KPERS Report, the closeout report for CDBG on the website for 2024 speaks about the Mary Sweeney Home receiving \$50,000...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Thirty seconds.

Laurie Ortolano

...but where did the money go? They never got it. The Board Director lady came to the Human Affairs meeting and said, "for two years, we've never gotten the money. It never came to us." When I heard that, I was shocked and, you know, Mr. Lopez, I think that group has talked to you. I've asked for every email involved in that and I've asked for

accounting on where's the money? I think I think HUD CBDG has to get in and do an investigation not just lead and healthy homes. You have a serious problem in Community Development...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

You're times up.

Laurie Ortolano

...and all of you better wake up because when we talk about litigation, you got some very high cost coming your way. Thank you.

President Wilshire

I'm gonna recognize City Clerk Healey. Did you have an announcement?

Dan Healey, City Clerk

Yes. I just want to announce that the deadline to change party affiliation for the State Primary, which is September 8th, is June 2, 2026. The Clerk's office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., for party changes. Nashua residents can – Nashua voters can check online at the Secretary of State's website. They can type in their info and see what party they're registered as, make sure it's what they believe it to be, and we also have a book in our lobby that residents can come in, and view, and make sure that they're in the correct party. On primary day if you're registered for a particular party, that's the only ballot you can get and it's one of the complaints that we get on that day. So we have signs in our lobby. It's on the website. We're trying to get out as much info as we can on that so people can verify what party they're in and the day after that is the filing period for State offices. So that's why it kind of all ties together.

President Wilshire

Okay.

Alderman Klee

I just wanted to ask City Clerk Healy a question if I may.

President Wilshire

Sure.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. What was the date again June what?

Dan Healey, City Clerk

June 2.

Alderman Klee

June 2 and you said that whatever party they are when they come in if they're undeclared, they can then - they can declare and take a ballot at the - is that correct?

Dan Healey, City Clerk

Yes. So on the day of the Primary any undeclared voters will have the option of selecting whichever ballot they would like. And on those days, there's what's called a "change back" table near the exit. A lot of voters miss that. So when they select a ballot, you know, of either party, they're basically registering for that party if they don't go that table and change back. So it's important to check that prior just to make sure because if they're registered one way or the other, we can't give them the other ballot.

Alderman Klee

Thank you.

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I could be wrong on this but I just wanted to make a comment to one of the speakers speaking about Housing First. I think Housing First is a great program but going to the Continuum of Care, one of the things we're learning is that HUD is no longer kind of supporting housing first. They're pushing for people to go through care and so on. But Housing First seems to be dropped by HUD, so that means there's no monies coming for it and so on. So I just wanted to clarify that and I will speak to our committee announcements later. Thank you.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam President. I just wanted to say that, you know, the reason we wanted Mulberry Street was because of the size of it. You know, Director Bagley doesn't want to support 9,000 square feet. I don't think we could staff that and if we did staff it, it would cost more money. So, you know, I think we have to be careful what we look to next as to what we want to do with that and give proper direction to Director Cummings and the Mayor of what we're looking for in the next step of combating the homeless crisis. It's not just getting bigger. It's not just going and getting the biggest next building we can find, you know, because Director Bagley didn't want that. She didn't want a huge building. We can't staff it. So we have to think about that before we just start taking anybody from the street giving us buildings. We have to understand what we're trying to do with it and how we're trying to impact the homeless crisis. There's more to it than just getting a giant building and throwing people in there. That's just not - you got to have staffing. You got to fix the building. There's a lot that goes into all of it and we have to think about that. So thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else?

Alderman Johnson

Thank you very much. Again, I would like to thank my constituent for speaking up tonight and we're talking about lowering taxes. We are in the budget season. I am asking questions. I'm trying to find out, again, you know, the budget is in different pieces. It's like a jigsaw puzzle. I've spoken to the President of the Board and I've spoken to the Chair of the Budget Committee to try to make heads or tails of this and it's going to be very tough because it is in pieces.

Seeing meaningful results and progress, I'd like to let my constituent know that I've been out walking in the mud. Looking last night. I did mention it about what's happened on Teak Drive and I'm trying to get that resolved because they did take down some of the - they cleared some of the trees, and it opened up, and I saw the video of people on the four wheelers in that area, and it's disturbing that neighborhood now.

I'm meeting with other residents regarding the fields out on Groton Road for BG because there's an issue there. If you see me, I am out all the time and it's not uncommon to see me in Market Basket and people calling me, and talking with me, and having a conversation, and also where I work. They will call me across the store. I am very visible. I try to get back to everybody within a day, which depending on my schedule, and I tell people you're welcome to reach out to me by phone, by email, by text messaging me. I'm very visible. I am one person.

I am trying my best to lower the taxes. I have been asking the questions about what is the tax rate going to be. At this point, I was told 8% probably and I asked CFO Enwright. I did send her an email about that. You know, I think it's a group effort here that we have to roll up our sleeves come at the end to see where we're going with this. There's a lot. We asked a lot of good questions tonight about the exemption for our seniors, our disabled, our veterans but, you know, we have to take a look at the bottom line when we get through the questioning of the different departments and sitting down and rolling up our sleeves at the end of the budget. So I am trying to make progress and I'm out there all the time for people to see me and my constituents. You know, so far so good. I've been getting like a star, a gold star. Thank you very much.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you so much. I'd like to touch on two things with my remarks this evening. First, I am sad that I was unable to be in the conversation around 14 Mulberry Street. I was traveling. It was pre-planned travel and I didn't feel it fair for me to include myself in those meetings when I was unable to be in the non-public sessions. Since then, I have been talking

with Director Bagley and others in the city around where do we go next and one of the discussions that we've been having is around creating a committee to look at the overall needs of the city in all facets that are connected to housing, and homelessness, and start to look at and piece together an overarching plan because the real goal here is our Public Health Department shouldn't be doing this alone. We have nonprofits in the city from the Soup Kitchen, to Marguerite's Place, to Harbor Care who are doing this work and it is a complex problem that is going to need everybody all in on a solution.

So I have been working on a piece of legislation to request a committee where we can come up with that report. What is it that we need? How many transitional housing units do we need? Do we have enough emergency shelter beds? Like something that can really put a stake in the ground as to how we can tackle this as a city and the makeup of that committee the goal right now is to not have it just be aldermen. That it should be other community partners, Continuum of Care people, etc. People who really know this work day in and day out. So I just wanted to give an update there. I hold no grudge to how people on this Board voted. I didn't have all the information and I know that we're all trying to commit to a way forward on this and I want to make sure we can do that together.

That being said, I do want to address something else that has come up this week in the community and I just I have to say that I'm really disappointed in the decision that we will no longer be doing the Pride Parade. I know that it was talked about being passed on to Great American Downtown. I did not know when that conversation happened that they were going to be getting rid of the parade. It also was not well handled in terms of the committee. I was on the committee that started this whole thing. We were not really told and that was - that left me feeling exceptionally frustrated. I think it's because of where things are in this country. I think it's exceptionally important that we communicated about this clearly, and we didn't, and I think there's a time in this country where marginalized communities are under attack, and, you know, things that might seemingly to us be a little change, we did it for safety concerns whatever can be read very different, and I would just say in this moment I think that we need more love on display in full view of everyone, and so I would really urge the city to reconsider this change, and restore this community event that has meant so much to so many people. Thank you.

Alderman Morgan

Thank you, Madam President. On a different note, I wanted to invite anyone who has not walked by yet the mural that is going on in French Renaissance Park. It is really a delight. It is beautiful. It's nice to see it coming together and I cannot wait to see all of the festivities that do happen on Memorial Day weekend on that Saturday. I don't have the calendar in front of me - 23rd, 24th, whatever that Saturday is. At 2:30 p.m. will be the mural unveiling and ribbon cutting. So please plan on coming to that.

Also, we can see it from Ward 3. Very nicely. It's very beautiful from across.

And also I wanted to send a congratulations to Dan Spleen on launching a new news source called the "Nashua Independent" and I really look forward to reading your recap of this meeting.

Alderman Lopez

I want to echo some of the previous speakers' sentiments regarding the Pride Parade and Festival. I was approached I want to say a little over eight or nine years ago, maybe 10, by Paul Shea at the time who was with Great American Downtown, and a teenager who was felt very passionate that we should raise the Pride flag up over City Hall, and I was like, okay, well, let's start doing that. That's fine. It's a community forum. All you have to do is ask the City Hall to do that. That was simple back then. And then he said, well, what about doing like an event? Like we could do some kind of like you know walk and I was like, okay, that's easy too. We were in the middle of the opioid - coming out of the opioid crisis. We had an awareness as healing walk. We were doing it from Greeley Park to downtown. Very easy to organize as well. So I reached out to the Mayor's office and the Mayor, without speaking for him, it was my recollection that he had way bigger ideas and said, "No, let's do a parade. Let's pull this together", and I saw City Hall's leadership for years in a way that made people felt welcome, and made people feel inspired, and I don't know what happened this year. All I know is that we're not doing that parade now, and I don't see any kind of leadership to try to bring it back, and my purpose here isn't necessarily to single out the Mayor, although I will ask him what am I supposed to do with my inflatable unicorn now?

But I will say to the public, citizens can organize events. This started with a citizen. It does not have to end because we designated an organization to run it for us and they, I mean, most likely had their own priorities or methodologies for organizing it, which hasn't been communicated. So I don't know the story of what happened here. It was not effectively communicated in my mind only because we found out about it very last minute event planning purposes-wise. But I

would say to people who are passionate about it, don't give up. Just take ownership of it, organize, and look for the Aldermen who are supportive of that because I think plenty of us are.

On that vein, I just want to bring up I guess first that June 13th we're doing the Tree Streets Block Party from 1 to 5 on Ash Street and then June 19th, we were having a Juneteenth celebration from 1 to - let me check to get the time right. Sorry. Two to six at the newly refurbished Le Parc de Notre Renaissance Français. So there are plenty of community events coming up. If people were feeling like they wanted to be involved in one and it didn't come out the way they wanted, Nashua is a busy place and we can definitely use people turning out to other events too. So don't give up on the community. Give people time to regroup and hope to see you out and about downtown.

Committee announcements:

Alderman Dowd

Yes, tomorrow night and Thursday night FY27 budget meetings.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. This is way in the future but I'm letting the Pennichuck Special Water Committee members know that we will be meeting on 5/26 before the Board of Aldermen meeting at 7 p.m. So I really need you to be there. This meeting is important. As you saw the letter for the voting and so on from Pennichuck and they're having their meeting on 5/29, I believe. So it's imperative that we are there, and we have quorum, and that's 5/26 at 7:00 p.m. Thank you.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam President. Next week, Tuesday, we have the Planning and Economic Development Committee. We'll talk more recoding and we will have Nashua Downtown Association's Alyssa O'Mara. So if you want to come and ask all your questions about the Pride Parade and the Pride Festival, this will be a perfect time to do it. She's going to go over what they do and kind of just explain their organization a little bit. As far as quorum, please let Donna know if you're not going to be there. I know some of these budget meetings have been very tight lately so if you're not going to be there, please let her know.

Alderman Lopez

We have a Human Affairs Committee meeting coming up. I actually will be out of town, but I have Alderman Kelly who puts the vice in Vice-Chair chairing it for me. So if anybody is interested in the end, we will continue.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS THAT THE MAY 12, 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, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault,
Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Gregg, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan,
Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Morgan,
Alderman Wilshire

11

Nay: Alderman Lopez

1

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Attest: Dan Healey, City Clerk