

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

December 18, 2001

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Cashin.

Mayor Baines called for a moment of silent prayer asking that we keep our troops in Afghanistan and around the world in our thoughts and prayers who are protecting liberty and fighting for the cause of democracy.

The Clerk called the roll. There were thirteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas, Levasseur, Sysyn, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, Vaillancourt, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, Hirschmann

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting was to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments will be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Jeff Kassell, 22 Appleton Street, Manchester, NH (Re: MCTV) stated:

I wanted to talk for just a couple of minutes about this victory that Joe Levasseur had in court regarding MCTV. As some of you may know myself, Don Welch and Steve Vaillancourt had a show called *Politically Alert* and we were banned for three months and Joe tried to bring Don and myself and Steve on his show and was prevented from doing so and he went to court and fight it...I felt pretty good about the victory. I want to congratulate Joe...I haven't always agreed one hundred percent with everything he's said and done, but he has helped us out on this and he really has engaged in what is probably going to become a

landmark case in New Hampshire on First Amendment Rights for Public TV and according to Joe there has been no cases regarding First Amendment considerations on public access. But, today I was very disturbed to find from Don Welch that when he tried to go on someone else's show Public TV said that he could not go in the studio and this would pit the School Board and the School Administrator and MCTV against a judge. I know these people like to go to court...they've been in and out of court for years with the Aldermen...there's been a lot of disputes here...it's cost a lot of money. We don't have a lot of money to go to court to oppose these people and we're getting hit on both sides for their lawyers, the citizens of the City of Manchester and we've got to pay for representation on our own...although in this particular case Joe Levasseur represented himself. So, I would like the Aldermen to take a look at the MCTV situation because we think that on the part of Grace Sullivan and Norm Tanguay there is clear abuse of authority especially when they're violating a judge's court order.

Don Welch, 811 Dix Street, Manchester, NH (Re: MCTV) stated:

I come before you tonight also...there's a lot of times I find myself in great disagreement with Joe Levasseur on issues, but that is what makes this whole democracy, this whole debate work...when you have a constructive debate about an issue and Joe was for the civic center, I was against the civic center...but, I too come here tonight to stand up...I've got some extra copies here of this court decision by Pat Conboy. You people have to take a look at it because all of you according to the Charter, according to the State Constitution are sworn into office to uphold these constitutional rights that we all have and it's clear in that decision by Judge Conboy that Joe Kelly Levasseur's Constitutional Rights and First Amendment Rights were taken away from him. Now, some can sit here and say listen what goes around comes around. The reality is not what goes around comes around, it's about Constitutional Rights and I'm a strict for the Constitution whether it's the First Amendment, the Second Amendment, the Fourteenth Amendment...it doesn't make a difference. You people have a duty to uphold the constitution and if somebody in one of your departments is ripping these Constitutional Rights away...we all have big problems much bigger than Joe Levasseur and much bigger than myself, much bigger than MCTV or this Board. I urge you to take a look at this decision and read what it says. It's gonna curl your hair. Thank you very much.

Cindy Carlson, 234B Green Street, Manchester, NH (Re: French Hall) stated:

I came to talk in support of opening up French Hall tonight. I'm a formerly homeless mom, I also do some street outreach with under the bridge and I think that the homeless problem is growing. For those of you who don't know besides living in hotels we also have families living in cars and different places because people have become unemployed. We have people under the bridge and stuff and I think that opening up French Hall would be a good idea. I know you have to work out details of transportation, getting all the folks there and stuff but when I go and visit the EconoLodge or the Queen City Hotel it just amazes me every single week how many families are there and this problem continues to grow because

even women who are on Welfare are suppose to be working off the program and are still going into low wage jobs and these jobs are not matching the rent that we have in Manchester right now. So, I think that the problem is going to continue to grow and you're not even seeing all of it.

Bruce Connell, 358 Mitchell Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Shopping Center) stated:

I understand that we're not on the agenda tonight for the shopping center that is proposed on South Willow/South Beech Streets, but I understand that there was a voice vote allocating the right-of-way from the City to the shopping center and it's going to be ratified tonight which is why I'm here. I was at the Planning Board meeting with a letter from VHB who did a Rails & Trails Study and they thought that the idea of giving this over to the shopping center was a bad idea and I'd like to give a copy of the letter to the Board, I've got a copy for each one. Just before the meeting there was a correction, a good one on the proposed...VHB had information that there was going to be a painted stripe sharing the road with the traffic going into the shopping center which was a bad idea and Jane showed me drawings that we just saw for the first time tonight which is a huge improvement...we really appreciate that. The second issue...we still take issue with the easement because no matter what happens the traffic for Rails & Trails is going to come out onto South Beech Street where we know there is going to be a large amount of traffic from people coming from the west side of Manchester, take a back door entrance into the shopping center and we feel this is going to be dangerous for the Rails & Trails to meet with all of that traffic. We're still opposed to it and I'd like to set the record straight on this issue. One of the Alderman have spread rumors that I work for Vista Foods, that's false, a lie...I don't work for Hanneford Bros. either no more than John St. Hilaire who has done a lot of promoting for the shopping center and again I'm not going to mention any names, but I know that I'm representing citizens of south Manchester who are concerned with the entrance way from South Beech Street. Basically, what I feel is happening with this shopping center is you're making the shopping center of South Beech Street and not South Willow Street. We like the idea of another supermarket, we all need one, but we don't want it on South Beech keep it on South Willow.

John Lavoie, 47 Enfield Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Shopping Center) stated:

Where I live happens to be in the backyard of Bruce Connell and also right alongside the railroad tracks and in the backyard of Donovan Springs for those of you not familiar with the area. I did a traffic survey that didn't cost \$50,000 on lunch yesterday at a half-hour break that I had in Berlin. I travel up to Berlin everyday. Since we moved into the neighborhood 24 years ago there's been approximately...on my list here, I would say 20/25 businesses...expansion at the Mall, Home Depot, Shop 'N Save, three AutoFairs...other car dealers, Barnes & Nobles, a couple of buildings and I don't think it takes a rocket scientist for this Board to realize that the southend is overloaded. Also in that time period they've managed to put 64 flights a day over my house which I don't appreciate too much and we fought with the airport and one of the reasons why the citizens of south Manchester are trying to speak through Bruce and one person is because unfortunately most of the Mayor

and Aldermen know all too well. Albertine Morrissette did a great job with the park, Mr. Gelinas with the Airport Soundproofing and now Bruce Connell with the Shaw's. My wife and I personally are totally against Shaw's going there at all just because of the traffic situation. I called my Alderman last night and I asked him if he dared go to the Post Office from either one of our houses or where the Mayor lives at forty-thirty in the afternoon and he said "no", right, Bob. Try another one...try coming out of Beechmont Market at that time of night with a load of groceries and cut out into South Beech Street with people doing 50 mph down that hill and I think the Manchester Police Department will support that because they spend a lot of time at the end of my street and Purchase, in the Beechmont parking lot to slow these people down. In closing, I would just like to say I think we need to go back to the words of Nancy Reagan and just "say no". We have enough in the southend. Thank you. Could I have another minutes. I'd like to thank Mr. Pariseau for his years of service.

Representative Greg Salts, 72 Kenney Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Notre Dame College) stated:

I want to talk about Notre Dame College potentially shutting down and I would like to encourage this Board to do whatever it can to save the college, particularly there's two graduate programs that are distinct to northern New England...that is, the PA (Physician's Assistant) and PT (Physical Therapist) programs. As far as I am aware there are only three colleges in Massachusetts that offer the Physician's Assistant Program, so that is really a feather in the cap of New Hampshire and what I would like to see is local college co-op these two graduate programs into their college and I believe...actually this is a two-fold win/win situation because if perhaps St. A's co-op'd those programs into their accreditation they could also house the students. Now, I know that right behind Pappy's there's a huge shaped triple-decker which has housing for Notre Dame College students that could potentially be turned into affordable income housing for just the residents. So, I really urge this Board, if it can, to save the Graduate Program for Notre Dame College and I also want to thank the Aldermen who are leaving this Board, this is your last day here and I want to thank you for your time and service to the City.

Mayor Baines advised that if there is no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

There being no further business to come before the special meeting, on motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Cashin, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk