

A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. in the aldermanic chamber.

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 15 members of the Board of Aldermen present: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Klee, Alderman Moran, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Jette, Alderman Clemons, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Comeau, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Gouveia, Alderman Caron, Alderman Thibeault, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Wilshire.

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

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

So first I wanted to thank the PD, specifically Chief Rourke, Deputy Fay, and Sergeant John Goodrich for all of the work that they've been doing with the homeless population in Nashua. I think unbeknownst to most people, they have done a tremendous amount of outreach in terms of talking with, locating, and engaging various people who do not have homes that are living in various locations and I think had done probably more than anyone else in that regard. So to that end, the three officers separately toured some of these locations with me on one day, Emily Martuscello the Emergency Management Director on another day, and Bobbie Bagley on a different day. As a result of all of that, we've held an internal meeting with a lot of people involved to try to come up with additional ways of dealing with and hopefully engaging the homeless population and trying to get people, especially those involved with fentanyl (it seems there are quite a few) into treatment and a better situation. So we're just beginning with that but the Police Department has certainly done an outstanding job in that area.

Next, I wanted to mention our event on Tuesday the 30th. We are having the ceremony at which the Holman Stadium will be included on the NH Black Heritage Trail. As I think many people know the reason for this is that in 1946 the two African American players - Roy Campanella and Don Newcombe - were brought to Nashua. The Dodgers had the farm team, the Nashua Dodgers, and as a result of that - their introduction here in Nashua, Nashua was the first racially integrated team in the United States. Now Jackie Robinson, of course, made it to the majors first but in 1946 the Dodgers assigned him to their farm team in Montreal, Canada, on the theory that he might not be accepted at some of the AAA teams elsewhere. So he was actually in Canada while Newcombe and Campanella were in Nashua at the Nashua Dodgers. Don Newcombe wrote before of course he passed away, that his reception here was very friendly and he really enjoyed his stay. Ultimately Jackie Robinson went to the major league team in 1947 and our two players continued to play here and in then in subsequent years, they went to the major league team - the Dodgers. Now Don Newcombe's widow is coming to the ceremony from California is very excited about it and of course the NAACP here will be involved along with the NH Black Heritage Trail. So that's on the 30th. I think it's at 5:30 it begins at Holman Stadium. So I hope as many people as possible can join us there.

I also wanted to mention of course, that we - I did want to briefly touch on O-23-54 which is on the agenda. As you know, the ACLU has written us a letter on this. We are meeting with a lawyer from the ACLU tomorrow to kind of discuss the matter and I certainly will keep you posted on that.

Also coming up on the 29th is our Memorial Day Parade. I hope as many of you as possible can join and of course Memorial Day is for the remembrance of those who have lost their lives in battle defending our Nation but we also like to recognize - our country also likes to recognize the Veterans on that day those that are still with us. On our Board of Aldermen, I think we have Gloria Timmons, Rick Dowd, Ernie Jette are our Veterans. If there's anyone else, please speak up.

Alderman Jette

I'm still alive Mayor.

Mayor Donchess

I've noticed that but we're recognizing the Veterans who served and fortunately did not have to make the ultimate sacrifice. So as usual, we will have a city delegation marching in the parade and anyone who would like to do that, please join us and thank you to our Veterans for your service. That's all I have Madam President.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYORPresident Wilshire

Thank you Mayor. Responses to the remarks of the Mayor? Alderman O'Brien.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you Madam President. Mr. Mayor I would like to offer my kudos to the Police Department. The homeless problem in the City I don't want to use the term "acute" but it is something to be noticed. I'm glad that the City is taking a positive step. Those that know me personally without discussing my personal history and everything else like that, I'm attuned to some of the things that some of people are unfortunately afflicted by and if I could be of any service to you or them with it, then I would offer that. I congratulate NPD for stepping up to the plate on that.

President Wilshire

Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam President and Mr. Mayor. I think it was last week or the week before last. It was supposed to be Chief Rourke but he had an emergency and he couldn't make it so he sent two of his officers to my Ward meeting. At that time, we talked about a variety of things and homeless was one of them and they talked about some of the issues that they have and so on. I brought up an issue that I think I mentioned to you about and one of the things that we talked about was just moving people for the sake of moving them without having a plan and so on. I was happy to hear some of the things that they had to say about it so thank you. I, too, agree that our PD is doing a good a job as they can.

I know tomorrow there's a Continuum of Care clean-up project in the Armory Street area so thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderman Moran.

Alderman Moran

Thank you Madam President. Unsheltered instead of homeless is the best way to say that and I, too, would like to offer any support I can provide to the City. I was unsheltered within the decade so I understand the plight of people who don't have a home or a place to stay. So I would come to any internal meetings that you guys are having to offer any assistance.

Mayor Donchess

I mean one thing we're exploring further is that there are federal funds available regarding providing housing in general which possibly could be directed in this direction to the unsheltered. Bobbie Bagley, Director of Public Health and Community Services, also has some grant money that might be available to do case management. So as you talk with people, one of the biggest problems is for those that are involved with fentanyl that living outside makes it virtually impossible to try to become sober. So obviously people need a place to stay. Anyway, these are some of the issues that we hope to discuss.

In addition to the Police Department, Emily Martuscello who's as I said the Emergency Management Director has, I think, been doing a really great job with this and what she's been doing is providing some suggestions as to immediate steps in terms of just the organization that we might be able to take. So I'm cautiously optimistic that we can at least institute something that might make a difference.

Alderman Moran

And I would say my company will offer 40 hours of free case management to anyone who (inaudible).

Mayor Donchess

Well that's very generous. Thank you very much. One thing they point out is that they in general that rarely is there case management available. Again for someone who is in the grips of fentanyl which is a very serious health problem, case management is an essential service that people need in order to try to attain sobriety. I'm preaching to the choir I'm sure.

President Wilshire

Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

So I want to commend the outreach workers and the Police for developing this partnership. I would say it's probably existed for much longer than has been evident but they've definitely reached a new level which I think is long overdue. Some people might dimly recall some comments here by a former Police Chief with regards to some concerns I raised with the Police Commissioners regarding better integration of services and interventions that was awkwardly read out loud over here. That was because the Police are often used as the front line crisis response in an area where they're self-admittingly not the only tool we should be using. I think collectively we can't as Aldermen and legislators talk about how great a job the police are doing without giving them the tools and giving them the partners to address this.

We have for many years not increased the budget on City Welfare and we haven't focused on the primary helping agent that people who are looking at homelessness turn to. We try to review the eligibility criteria. We try to review the hours of operation. All these different efforts that really bore no fruit and I think if collectively we can address those things and we can make it clear to people that there is help available and there is a door they can go to, we will see improvements in the situation. People regularly ask me what am I doing about the homeless encampments. I'm like I'm trying to feed them and trying to find housing for them. Moving them to another area doesn't solve any issues. Even last year there was a couple of my fellow board men who were calling for retaliating against churches that were helping help the homeless because it was inconvenient and it was not good for our business scene. That's not a productive approach. The situation hasn't gotten any better.

So I think it's important for us to recognize number one, this situation didn't just emerge. It's very tempting to say oh this is something that's happening right now. We should jump in but the reality is there is systemic issues and indifference that have contributed to this over the last several years. Decision made at the State level to hand out tents instead of funding decompression shelters, I mean where do you think all of the unsheltered people got their tents. These issues have been building and they're going to take a longer lift and a heavier lift than just a short term approach. I think part of that Mr. Mayor might need to be looking at how we apply our city welfare systems because in the past, we've been able to use non-profit organizations as intermediaries and they've done a tremendous amount of work but they've been under the strain of increased pressures. Now we're starting to see other city services including the police but also not limited to Department of Public Works and any number of other departments - Code Enforcement - that are dealing with these issues as well.

So we thought we were going to get away without having the issue because Manchester is handling it but they weren't. It's always been a regional issue where people who are homeless, some of them are directed towards municipalities and some of them are our own neighbors and own residents who couldn't make it to this service or weren't eligible to that one. So I hope we're willing to look at this with the same kind of energy that we approached the opioid crisis the first time recognizing that that opioid crisis we didn't close safe stations because the opioid crisis was over, we closed it because we didn't have a 24/7 partner for the Fire Department to work with anymore. All of the very enthusiastic and interested parties that were there at the beginning of the crisis faded away and found other things to be doing. We can't do that here. So I'm glad that we're having these organized meetings. I might sound a little bit cynical because this is like year 19 of this for me but I do think we can make a huge difference and we can end homelessness. We can end substance misuse at least one person at a time if we align the resources and that means not cheering on the people who are taking the lead and leaving them to hang when it comes time to actually put our money where our mouth is. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Okay.

RECOGNITION PERIOD - None

READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the minutes of the Board of Aldermen meeting of April 11, 2023 be accepted, placed on file, and the reading suspended.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING ONLY PROCEDURAL ACTIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS

From: Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager
Re: Resolution R-23-123 – referral to Greeley Park Advisory Committee

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

PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT RELATIVE TO ITEMS EXPECTED TO BE ACTED UPON THIS EVENING - None

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING FINAL APPROVAL - None

PETITIONS - None

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

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

Greeley Park Advisory Committee

Brandon Laws (new appointment) Term to Expire: May 23, 2026
21 East Dunstable Road
Nashua, NH 03060

Francis Murphy (new appointment) Term to Expire: May 23, 2026
72 Berkeley Street
Nashua, NH 03064

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Committee on Infrastructure 04/12/2023

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the April 12, 2023 Committee on Infrastructure be accepted and placed on file.

Human Affairs Committee 04/17/2023

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the April 17, 2023 Human Affairs Committee be accepted and placed on file.

Pennichuck Water Special Committee..... 05/03/2023

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the May 3, 2023 Pennichuck Water Special Committee be accepted and placed on file.

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-23-117

- Endorsers: Alderman Richard A. Dowd
- Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
- Alderman Derek Thibeault
- Alderman Tyler Gouveia
- Alderman Alex Comeau
- Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
- Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
- Alderman Thomas Lopez
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NASHUA BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE NASHUA TEACHERS' UNION, LOCAL #1044 AFT, AFL-CIO, UNIT B PARA-EDUCATORS FROM JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025 AND RELATED TRANSFERS

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-117

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Dowd

Yes this passed the Budget Committee unanimously and recommend for final passage.

Alderman Moran

Thank you Madam President. For the record, I was not here to co-sponsor this but I fully support it. I was out of town at a conference.

President Wilshire

Motion is for final passage. Further discussion? Alderman O'Brien.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you Madam President. I would just like to say I don't know if all of you know it but my wife Diane was a para for over 20 years. Like I said at the Budget hearing, I think she personally potty-trained half the population of the City of Nashua. These teachers cannot teach and develop the time in the classroom. There's a lot going on and if it wasn't for these paras that come into the classroom and to do their job. I was very proud of my wife for over her 20 years of service in doing that with the pre-school and everything else. A lot of great kids and stuff like that and she got to see a lot of them grow up and lead very productive lives. So it's rewarding in that regard. I think it's high time that we reward them. They have traditionally been one of the lowest paid within the School Department so I am 100% going to support this and I hope that you join me. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam President. I want to echo my colleague's words relative to the important of paras. I recently went on tour of a couple of schools. One of the schools we stopped by and Alderman Dowd was there as well. One of the schools that we stopped by, the Principal was just singing the praise of the paras. That particular day I think she had three or four teachers that were out and it was the paras that were stepping up and doing this. It wasn't just walking them to a bathroom or doing any kind of education. They were actually teaching the class. So it's extremely important that we have them. Our schools rely on them, the teachers rely on them, and I think it's important that we give them what they're worth so thank you.

President Wilshire

Motion is for final passage. Further discussion? Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-23-117 declared duly adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-23-054

Endorsers: Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

RELATIVE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

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

O-23-055

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AMENDING THE ZONING MAP BY REZONING LAND OFF ALONG THE AMHERST STREET CORRIDOR FROM GENERAL BUSINESS (GB) TO GENERAL BUSINESS WITH MIXED USE OVERLAY DISTRICT (GB/MU), FROM PARK INDUSTRIAL (PI) TO PARK INDUSTRIAL WITH MIXED USE OVERLAY DISTRICT (PI/MU), AND FROM HIGHWAY BUSINESS (HB) TO HIGHWAY BUSINESS WITH MIXED USE OVERLAY DISTRICT (HB/MU)

Given its first reading; Assigned to the PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, PLANNING BOARD, and SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING AT PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING at 7:00 PM ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023 in the aldermanic chamber, by President Wilshire

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTFred Teebom

Good evening. My name is Fred Teeboom. I reside at 24 Cheyenne Drive. I am here to address the spending cap calculation that is attached to the Fiscal '24 budget Resolution R-23-125. As (inaudible) Mayor Wagner beginning in 1994, Mayor Davidson, Mayor Streeter and Mayor Lozeau all calculated the spending cap legitimately but Mayor Donchess and his administration beginning in 2016 has attempted to undermine the cap with fake calculations. The spending cap attests to the Fiscal '24 budget Resolution has three major errors. Namely it includes supplemental appropriations, it includes grants, and it includes special revenue funds. None of which will be included. I won't go into details. I don't have enough time in the three minutes that I have.

The issue of excluding these items in the calculations were not resolve in a complaint I filed with Superior Court last year. Since the Court heard no testimony on city officials, it did not accept solely my own testimony. The Court stated in its decision that the Plaintiff, me, did not sufficiently establish that the City erred in calculating the cap but also noted and I quote "that the Plaintiff has raised legitimate concerns". I should note that Attorney Bolton outsmarted me because he didn't call CFO Griffin and other city officials that appeared on this witness list. He had me on the stand for an hour and a half. I was the only witness so he denied me the opportunity...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Fred Teeboom

...to cross examine these individuals. I will therefore reserve a renewed filing of my complaint with this Fiscal '24 budget or succeeding budgets. When I do, I will subpoena a number of City witnesses including Mayor Donchess, CFO John Griffin, Comptroller Rose Evans, and former Treasurer/Tax Collector David Fredette to testify. I will not make the same mistake twice. Thank you.

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Alderwoman Timmons

Thank you Madam President. I'd like to thank the Mayor for recognizing Veterans. My family did make the ultimate sacrifice. My brother got killed during the Vietnam era so I did lose a brother that was only a couple years older than I and that's why I joined the military. I know that's crazy. My mother thought it was crazy anyway. He did make the ultimate sacrifice and lost his life at the age of 23. So thank you.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you Madam President. A couple things. First I want to thank Alderman Dowd for doing a great job so far with the Budget meetings. I know he's got more coming up and he's got the big one coming up at North. So far I've watched them. I've been in the chamber and I think he's done a great job and so have the City Departments. So those have come through so far, I thank them for coming in on their pretty late in the night to answer our questions. I think it's gone pretty well so far.

The other thing I want to talk about is this week the consultant for the schools had come out and stated that his advice would be to close six schools in Nashua, including a high school and a middle school and I thought that was crazy advice to the City. I think it must come from someone that wants to completely get rid of public education because there's no way that this City could afford to lose that many schools. We do not want 30 to 40 kids in a classroom. You know we're building schools. We're building a school right now. Why would we ever get rid of them? One of the consultants main thoughts was I've done this in many, many places and you can build all the construction you want and you can build all the housing but it's not going to bring in students. Enrollments are going down. In 10 years, you're not going to have more students than you have now. I throw that out to us, and Director Sullivan, and Director Hannum that now let's not make that happen, right. Let's continue to make population come here, live here that have families and children that go to schools. We want to be that City. We want to have all kinds of people here whether it's the elderly, whether it's young people, whether its young couples, whether its families with young children, older children, and I think that it's important to prove this guy wrong. Because he was arrogant and he was as some people have said to me today in this Chamber rude and rude to our citizens. You can't come here from somewhere else and disrespect Nashua and tell us what we can and cannot do because we're not closing six schools. I hope the BOE throws that recommendation completely out. You can throw all of it out as far as I'm concerned. He can take his bag of money and go back to Missouri or wherever the heck he's from because he doesn't believe in the values of this City. So I hope we don't approve any of that and I hope the Superintendent and the BOE makes good choices on this. Thank you.

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you Madam President. I just want to wish Jim and Sara Rafferty a very happy retirement. I got to go to their retirement party this afternoon before our meeting tonight. It was a great time. I was a former employee of them as a Marketing Manager for both of their locations here in Nashua - the Lucky Moose as well as the River Casino. It was great to see some former colleagues of mine and they're under new ownership now and I wish them all the best. They've done a ton for local non-profits in the City donating 35% of revenue to a new non-profit every ten days. So fantastic work by them. Happy for them. Hope they enjoy their retirement. Thank you.

Alderman Dowd

Just a couple of things. One I want to thank everybody for passing the para contract. My daughter when she graduated from college and had a teaching degree started as a para at Fairgrounds Elementary School followed by being a teacher later. But a lot of the paras are fully qualified teachers and when they take over a class up until this contract, they got paid their regular hourly wage which is next to nothing. Now if they teach for more than an hour, they get the full substitute salary which is not a heck of a lot better but at least it's more money for taking the responsibility of teaching a number of students.

The other thing is as was mentioned about the schools, I looked at the calculations this afternoon and they're woefully wrong. The calculations on the schools and the population was done by square footage. They had over 1,200 students attending the new McCarthy School. I can tell you right now, it's not building for 1,200 students. It's built for 800. They're using square foot rather than class size. My guess is that they don't have any idea the size of the classrooms. So I think that needs to be closely looked at before they make any decisions.

The other thing I just want to wish everyone a Happy Memorial Day coming up. Anybody that's been in the military know the sacrifices that the military goes through even in peace time. It's something everybody should be proud of because the things that we enjoy here every single day are because we have those guys and women out on the line. So thank you.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. I wanted to thank the Mayor for bringing up the Holman Stadium opportunity next week. I'm real excited for us to get onto the Black Heritage Trail. It's always such a piece of joy and excitement when I get to share that story that we were the first integrated baseball team in the country. So I'm looking forward to attending that.

Also had a lovely time last week at the NH Businesses for Social Sustainable Responsibility Conference and we did a lot of talk around climate. Doria Brown came up a number of times and they were very complimentary about the work that the City is doing. So it was nice to get out there and meet a lot of people who are like-minded in that way.

I, too, wanted to thank everyone for the support of the para. I think there's a lot of really good ways to uplift the work that they do. As Alderman O'Brien said, they use some of the hardest work in those classrooms and I know that vividly as a middle school mom. So I'd like to see that happen and I'd love to pay them more. Thank you.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you Madam President. I just wanted to give a very heartfelt thank you to all of the Veterans and their families, especially the ones who did give the ultimate sacrifice. Thank you all for your service. Appreciate it.

Alderman Jette

Thank you Madam President. So I was kind of joking with the Mayor about still being alive but I did want to make sure that people understood that Memorial Day is a day set aside to honor the people who died in service of their country. I appreciate people thanking all the Veterans. They should be thanked every day but that's not the purpose of this holiday. I want to remind people that most of the people who died in wars, it wasn't their choice. It wasn't even their choice to be in the position they were in where they were victims of the war.

Back in WWII, most of the people that served were drafted and the same is true during Vietnam when I served most of the people were drafted. They didn't have any choice. Vietnam kind of sticks out as one of those wars that was very controversial. The soldiers who served did not have the full support of the country and as history has moved on, I think that more and more people recognize that that war was a mistake and not to dishonor to any degree whatsoever the people who served and gave up their lives. But as you read history, we look at WWII. We kind of grew up watching the movies and kind of hero worshipping of people who served in WWII. Again as history has moved on, we've learned even WWII the whole country was not behind that. There were a lot of people who were opposed to our going into WWII. It's just one of the unfortunate aspects of war is that people die, people get injured not only physically but psychologically.

I remember reading I was really touched by General Dwight D. Eisenhower who became President wrote about how the most difficult decision he ever made was ordering D Day because he knew that a lot of soldiers, a lot American soldiers, a lot of British soldiers were going to die in that invasion of Normandy on D Day. It's something that I would like us all to remember about how the people who lost their lives what a big sacrifice that was for them, and their families, and it should be remembered. So thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

In reference to the recognition of Holman Stadium's historic place, that's very exciting to be a part of. I mean I've been part of recognizing history that other people that have been made but I think I was there at the NAACP event at Holman where Gloria and the Mayor started to talk about why aren't we doing this? Why aren't we on that trail? I think that kind of a moment needs somebody to take charge and say well we should and to take that lead. So I definitely want to credit the work that the Mayor, and the NAACP have done, the roll that its President Linda Harriott-Gathright has played in it as well. I want to encourage us all to recognize that we have those moments in front of us because often we are presented with inequities in our life and they seem too big or too insurmountable to do anything about. We're here to make that difference. We're here to make that history even if we just have to say we have ideas about doing things differently that some future generation might say you know what this is where Nashua decided to be a welcoming City. This is where Nashua decided to be a City of kindness.

I think particularly with regards to what Alderman Thibeault said about the schools. I have been in the education field forever and have been hearing about the incoming student bubble where smaller family sizes are likely to create a reduction in the use of schools, and public schools, and all that kind of stuff. The outlier to that has always been families that are economically diverse, families that are culturally diverse. It's not every family that has smaller children sizes and I

think sure maybe the consultants could be right about what Nashua would look like if we gentrify it and if we favor all of our construction toward young professionals and, you know, whatever imaginary person we're trying to recruit up from Boston. If we look at the families that are growing up here, and the people who have roots here, and these residents, and these neighborhoods, you're not going to see Nashua shrink. You're going to see it grow.

I watch the borders of my Ward shrink because Nashua is growing vertically upwards in Ward 4. We're getting more buildings, more people, more ideas, and we're getting different types of lifestyle. It's very easy for that to be misunderstood or for people to compete with each other over things like parking revenue, or access to parks, or amenities, and that kind of stuff. We're not recognizing that the different experiences have different needs. So I think being part of history at Holman Stadium should be a reminder to us all that we are part of someone else's history in the future.

On the topic of making history, I want to congratulate State Representative Marc Plamondon on his win. He did a lot of great service for us as Alderman. I'm looking forward to representation in the State House. If we could get all three, that's a problem for another day, but at least now we're two out of three so I'm looking forward to that.

Finally, I wanted to put an announcement out now that it's close enough that people might actually have it on their calendars, the Tree Streets Block Party is going to be June 18th. It's Sunday and it's Father's Day. We are focusing on fathers this year, particularly the fathers who may not have access to a cruise or whatever to bring their kids on but do want to be out and part of the community and want to celebrate it. We're also excited to be including Juneteenth as a celebration over at Los Amigos Park that is in partnership with New Fellowship Faith Baptist and NAACP is helping as well. It's exciting to be part of those different changes and it's an honor to recognize the different people in our community that have different needs and different stories. So I invite you all to come and be part of that as well.

Alderman Moran

Thank you Madam President. I didn't read the data from the school consultant but I won't comment on it until I actually read the numbers. In general, I think, getting young families to come here should be a key goal of the City overall, especially when we look at housing developments. The rents are very, very expensive not to consider the home prices. Even next to where Alderman Caron and I live, I think we're looking at \$700,000 for a single family home and it's not a lot, not a lot of space. We only have so much control of the market of supply and demand. But families want to live in an environment that has good schools, have great communities, have diverse culture as well, and we have that here. We just have to focus on making housing that's affordable - not 80% or whatever the median is. We're talking about lower end pricing but good housing. Hopefully the overlays that I put forth today, that ten of you co-sponsors would help that if we can get development up on Amherst Street. But definitely whatever we can do to try to motivate the City to bring in more young families so there are children going into school.

My oldest daughter is transitioning to public school next year so I look forward to that. It's either going to be Bicentennial or New Searles. I don't know Ward 9 is a little weird on how they divvy up schools. I saw the redistricting is a little odd. So it will probably be New Searles. I think other than this is a great job looking at moving, I decided to stay here in Nashua because of everything it has to offer. I think we need to increase the job we're doing to bring more young families in.

Second, the event at Holman Stadium Tuesday night. I encourage everyone to come by. It is an election year remember everyone. Come by, have yourself seen, and heard. It is a great thing that's happening for the recognition of the place on the Black Heritage Trail that Holman Stadium will have. Just speaking with Representative Linda Gathright who's the president of the NAACP just the history behind it and it happened here. Just another thing for all of us, and our families, and our community to be proud of. She talked me into, I haven't done it yet but I will, signing up for a membership for NAACP. So I hope everyone will do that as well.

Next month is pride month. I know Alderwoman Kelly will be talking about it soon enough. My pin will transform from the American flag to the pride pin for the month of June. I look forward to all the great public comment I'm sure we'll be seeing throughout the month of June. I feel like I'm missing something. Nope, that's it. All right.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam President. First, I want to start with the event at Holman Stadium and the parade. For the first time in six years, I'm actually taking a vacation, a real vacation. So I will not be in town for that. For two weeks I will be leaving the State so. I'm really sad that I'm going to miss that. If I could change this date but they refuse to change the whole conference just for me I would do that.

The other thing is I do want to touch base on the school redistricting. It's no secret that I've very upset that Mount Pleasant seems to be targeted in that. To the end of the conversation of Mt. Pleasant is that it's one of the few walking schools that we have. Many people that move into that area move in because it's a walking school and now suddenly they're talking about closing it and redistricting the students to be bused, which would disenfranchise the families of these students and so on. I read the letter that the gentlemen who is the consultant. His first comment in that letter was that he had never worked on a City the size of Nashua and that he had never experienced anything like this. Yet he's got grand ideas of closing one high school, one middle school that hasn't even been built yet, and we're still paying off the high school and I think six elementary schools. Redistricting is hard for anybody. So whether if you close one school or you close six schools, no one is going to be happy. For those of those that are saying well it's Mount Pleasant and it's not my school, you're next. So I think we all need to stand up, and we need to speak out.

Mount Pleasant is a very special school and it's not for disadvantaged children but it's the only (just for everybody's knowledge) it's the only trauma school in our school district. The only trauma school. That's because of the teachers and so on that went and got certified to make it a certified trauma school. I think we should have that throughout the entire district but this school is special. Katie's Pantry that they have and yes it needs work but for 37 years no one has touched the school. So that's why it needs work and that's why it need whatever money it needs to have it repaired, and updated, and so on. It is a historic building, however, the 1986 or 1987 addition would allow for the security vestibule. So you don't have to touch the front of it and you don't have to affect that. So there are work arounds if they really want to do it. I don't want to see any school close. I just don't like the fact that Mount Pleasant was targeted from day one, including in the Superintendent's letter that said the potential of closing schools, specifically Mount Pleasant. Those were the words "specifically Mount Pleasant" without ever having talked about it.

I was a little disappointed in that. Again, I want to send out my thanks to Chief Rourke and the Officer that came and spoke. We must have had 30 or 40 people at the Hunt Building all asking lots of questions. They were wonderful. They answered many of them. We had a lot from Jackson Hall Condominiums because they are dealing with a lot of things that are happening on the railroad tracks. I've been trying to be in touch with CSX through Senator Shaheen's office. I kind of really spoke my mind in the last email with their lack of responding to us but I feel confident that Senator Shaheen's office will get more attention to Nashua. I'm talking about not just in Ward 3, although this part is in Ward 3, the railroad tracks that go across the border. When we spoke to them they made a comment and said something to the effect of well you know we've had to reroute Main Street. I think the Mayor, myself, Director Sullivan, and Director Cummings almost in unison said okay we would reroute it while they fix that particular thing as long as they really fixed it. So there's been a lot of cheap talk and not much action so hopefully we can get that moving. Thank you Madam President.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you very much. I wanted to say a word about Memorial Day. It always struck me kind of weird that you always say "Happy" Memorial Day when it's a very unhappy occasion because I think about the families of those soldiers, airmen, marines, etc. who made the ultimate sacrifice and the burden that those families carry on and I think about that. I have been blessed over the past two years to make frequent visits to West Point and this past weekend I was at the US Naval Academy. I will say that if you ever have a chance to go to those institutions in this country, it is an opportunity to understand the sacrifice that was made by generations before us either those that raised their hand, or those that we made to sign up through a lottery, and even before in the Civil War when the race riots in New York City that helped form what New York City is today.

But it's the new generation that's coming up. The new generation that have raised their hand because of the situation we're in that we are blessed to be in but there are those that raise their hand to say I am preparing for the next one and I will sacrifice what it takes. So I pause to remember those that came before us that gave us the opportunity to speak our minds, and worship in the way we want to, and do whatever it is that we do in a free society. I also applaud those that have stepped up either your commissioned or non-commissioned. I applaud you and I thank you.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you Madam President. I, too, just like to reflect upon the moment of Memorial Day. I do understand there's gonna be a ton of hamburgers and hot dogs to cook on the grill and families will get together. Maybe that's why our soldiers, and sailors, and airmen made that supreme sacrifice so that we could have the quality of life that we have here in America. So while you're waiting for the burgers to cook and before you put the cheese on them, maybe if you could take just a second and reflect back to our Veterans who have made that supreme sacrifice. Thank you.

Alderman Kelly

Thank you for giving me a second bite of the apple. I have two things. I particularly only had one but then everybody

talked so. The Pride Festival I wanted to mention which thank you for that reminder. I knew I forgot something. It's the 24th of June from 2:00 to 6:00. We'll be pushing off from Elm Street as usual and it will be in the Nashua Public Library parking lot like it was the last few years. But the thing I wanted to point out was that the pride merchandise store opened today. So if you go to nashuapride.org and go to our Facebook page, you can get the link to get this year's tee shirt or there's some real cool tie dye hoodies. It's really a nice set of stuff this year. So I just wanted to mention it's only open until June 5th. So if you want to pre-buy and not hold out hope that you'll get one on the day of the festival than you should do that before the 5th.

I also wanted to make sure that all of the Aldermen put it on their calendar and come with us. It's my understanding that our trolley is not working but I'm going to see if I can rile up something so we can get there or I can get there because I walk it.

I wanted to just quickly note about the redistricting. I've been close to that process and I've seen what's come through from consultants. I think that there was a lot of really good discussion here in terms of the numbers that are being put out are numbers and they're based on methodology and (inaudible) is that kind of thing but they're not necessarily based on what we want for our community. So if we want a community where we have walking schools, where we have families that want to live and walk to school and have that type of thing, everything that we do in this chamber actually affects that. What kinds of buildings are we building, what kind of sidewalks are we building, what kind of infrastructure are we taking care of and not let schools sit for 37 years. I don't want to get into the nitty gritty of it but I think if the idea of closing six schools is surprising and startling to you, then there are things that we can do to shift that. Thank you.

Committee announcements:

Alderman Moran

Thank you Madam President. June 14th the PEDC will be having a Public Hearing on some new legislation. We'll also see the legislation that we saw tonight at that meeting as well I believe regarding the rezoning of Amherst Street with the overlay.

Alderman O'Brien

Yes, we cancelled the meeting May 24th for the Committee of Infrastructure. The reason we did so, and this is just to inform the public, the budget takes priority and the Budget Committee is meeting every single night. There was nothing really too pressing on the agenda that cannot wait. So we'll yield to Alderman Dowd and the Budget Committee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam President. I thank Alderman Dowd for the date being given up of 6/12. So June 12th, the Pennichuck Special Water Committee will be meeting. So for all the members that are on that, it's really important that we all show up on June 12th. We have one item on the agenda and that's the easement through Greeley Park. There will be an amendment that will be coming once they talk about the changes of the metes and bounds. So it is important that you all show up. The last couple times we just barely made quorum and I'd like to thank Alderman Dowd and Alderman O'Brien for being there but we really need everybody there so thank you.

President Wilshire

That's metes and bounds.

Alderman Klee

Metes and bounds.

Alderman Lopez

The Human Affairs Committee has been moved to June 20th as well. We are also exceeding to Alderman Dowd's will most graciously but we will be meeting June 20th because the budget does need to get done.

Alderman Dowd

Yes tomorrow evening we have the public hearing on several items followed by a budget meeting. There is no FY24 budget discussion tomorrow night. On Thursday is the Joint Special School Building committee at 7:00 p.m. at Nashua

High School North. Also, just to remind people that the public hearing on the budget which was going to be on the 12th is now on the 20th.

Alderwoman Timmons

Last but not least. The Cultural Connection will be meeting on Wednesday at 12:00 at 70 Temple Street.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN THAT THE MAY 23, 2023 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE ADJOURNED

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Attest: Dan Healey, City Clerk