

A special meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

President Lori Wilshire presided; City Clerk Patricia D. Piecuch recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Patricia D. Piecuch; Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja led in the Pledge to the Flag.

The roll call was taken with 12 members of the Board of Aldermen present; Aldermen Ken Gidge and Richard A. Dowd were recorded absent; Alderman Tom Lopez arrived after roll call at 6:35.

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

President Wilshire welcomes everyone and introduces the following individuals to offer remarks in remembrance of Alderman-at-Large Brian S. McCarthy

President Wilshire

I have called the meeting tonight to honor a friend and a colleague, Brian S. McCarthy. I would just like to say what a great audience we have here this evening, a lot of business people, a lot of former Aldermen and colleagues, friends of Brian's. Thank you. And most importantly, his wonderful family. Brian served his community with dedication and passion, he loved Nashua. He did, he loved Nashua almost as much as he loved his family. And we all knew that just knowing Brian, how he was, he handled himself, he was confident, he was brilliant, I can't say enough about Brian. But I am not going to do all the talking tonight because I know there is a lot more to be said around the horseshoe and in the back of the room. Thank you all so much for being here to honor Brian. I am going to ask the Mayor if he would like to say a few words.

Mayor Donchess

Yes of course Madam President. Well I would certainly want to welcome everybody to City Hall tonight, all friends and I'm sure close friends and supporters and fellow co-workers with Brian McCarthy. When I was in City Government before, I left office before Brian was elected to the Board of Aldermen, so I didn't know him personally until I served for a little while on the Board of Aldermen and then for several years as Mayor. I'm so glad that we have Brian's family, Kim and Gloria and John here today, just to see again how much he was valued here in the community.

I have to say that on a personal level, especially while I was Mayor, Brian and I would meet every Friday, usually before, every two Fridays before an Aldermanic meeting. Of course I found working with him a great pleasure; he always had very smart, constructive thoughts about what was going on in the City and a lot of insight into many of the issues that we faced. I think I benefited from being able to talk with him in those bi-weekly meetings about the issues that we were trying to address really together. He would often sometimes refer to things that happened with the family at different times, of course, he always spoke of you with great warmth and pride in his children, I can surely guarantee that.

We all know that Brian accomplished a great deal for the City and many people will speak to that. The two things that really, the things that really struck me the most, although he was involved in many things were first of all his dedication to education and to schools here in Nashua. And as we all know, he was instrumental in making sure that the two high schools were completed, two schools of which the City is still very proud. And his dedication to the downtown was really unparalleled. He was a supporter of the Performing Arts Center, of everything that is going on downtown. The trolley we had and many, many other things, his insights again regarding downtown. His knowledge regarding other downtowns and the other communities he visited in applying those lessons to us in Nashua were always very, very enlightening and always very interesting and again, just showed the deep insight that he had.

So I just want to say that I miss him, I know others miss him very deeply as well and I do have something, I think now is maybe the appropriate time. I wanted to give Gloria a key to the City so if you could come up, I'd love to present that to you.

President Wilshire

I'd like to recognize Donnalee Lozeau if she wouldn't mind coming forward. There is a mic right there.

Donnalee Lozeau

Well what a strange way to have to come back, you know I wish we were here instead celebrating with Brian and not about Brian. But when I heard that there was recognition for tonight I just wanted to be part of it. I first met Brian when he was running for Alderman in my Ward, he was my Ward Alderman. And then we would bump into each other in the hallways because our kids went to school together so parent's night, I almost always saw him. And I remember Brian for much of the same things that the Mayor was saying and all of you.

Madam President you served with him for a long time around this horseshoe, a few people, you know Brian used to be the soothing elixir between former President Bolton and myself at our monthly meetings which wasn't an easy job for anybody. But that was the thing about Brian. He had this way about him where he could know what was coming and find a way to get through it to get done what needed to be done. And I probably called Gloria more times than she wants to tell anybody looking for Brian to say – Ok here's what I am thinking, what do you think? And I appreciated that he was kind enough to be candid without being rude or hurtful in what he would say or advise.

Probably my favorite Brian McCarthy story is around Pennichuck Water. As you know Brian was dedicated to that for a very long time and many approaches had been taken to try to figure out how to make that happen. Brian was really great about talking to us about how to move the ball forward, but was happy to step back when it needed to be done a different way, encouraging and that sort of thing. But I won't ever forget that we signed the Pennichuck Agreement in the Mayor's Office right after the Veteran's Day Parade. And seeing Brian and his expression, I have this great photograph of the group of us that were there signing it, passing around the same pen, you know as corny as it sounds and then a great shot. And Brian said to me – This day for always will be one of the best days.

And that was the other part about Brian is that he shared success with everybody. He didn't need to be the guy that made it happen, he was happy behind the scenes, if he had to be in front of the scenes, you know he would do that too. As his family knows in talking about him and what he could do, he got an awful lot done in a short period of time. I mean 25 years feels like a long time, but when you look back about what happened in that period of time for the City, it's really quite extraordinary. I like to say all of us, particularly elected officials, you meet all kinds of people in your life and some people you learn what not to be like from, some you learn to strive to be like and others are just kind of that glue that holds things together. And Brian was that kind of guy, he was smart, thoughtful, kind; I used to say – You are a good government guy and when I retire and start a new party called the Good Government Party, you are one of my first calls. And then I'd say to him – But sometimes politically you are a little too clever for your own good. And he got great fun out of that, didn't he.

But anyway so thank you for extending to me an opportunity to share some of my thoughts about President McCarthy. To me he will always be President McCarthy for my time with him. Thank you and like the rest of you, you miss him but people like that, they are just never far from your thoughts and that is what keeps him with us. So thanks again.

PRESIDENT WILSHIRE

Thank you. Alderman O'Brien did you want to say a few words about your friend Brian?

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you Madam President and it is with much prejudice because I consider myself honored to be know the gentleman and to be considered part of his cohorts of friends and shenanigans and I see many other friends out here in the audience and remember many great times with Brian.

But I look at him in his political career, you know, we had some great captains of our ships and former Mayor Lozeau and our current Mayor Donchess and others in the past, but Brian probably filled the role basically as the navigator of that ship; steering in proper directions and looking at the many different things that had the common good within this community. That's what I liked about him, taking the City and bringing up ideas of looking at the Pennichuck purchase; looking at the different schools that were built under his particular time. Basically I consider, you know, the ancient Egyptians would build pyramids for their memory to live on forever, but Brian in a way did. And we look at some of the efficacies that he has done and some of the influences that he led the City to make it exactly where we are.

We have been voted Number 1 in this country for the City to live in and I think Brian had a big impact as well as others with that. And so therefore I say to his family, I miss him too and I know you guys do – we will miss him together. But I tell you, I look around this City and the greatness of this City and I will see Brian every day. And I mean that, thank you.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

Yes thank you. I first met Brian 15 years ago when I was on the Board of Ed. Our conversations revolved around two things; buildings which has continued in the 15 years we worked together and science education. Even when the topic of the evening wasn't science education, at some point during the evening, our conversation would turn to science education. Sometimes in geeky ways because of things we both heard on NPR as we were driving home from work that night and it was like – Oh did you hear that? And we would compare our views of whatever it was that we had listened to.

In the last ten years as a member of the Board of Aldermen, we've worked on obviously many projects and I came to count on him for historical insight as well as his technical knowledge and knowledge of the people involved and knowledge of the community. We share a very deep interest in the Arts and the development of the City and science education. And also cooking and many nights our conversation would end up revolving around the latest spice we had tried and how we prepared it and what we were making.

So Brian, as others have mentioned, had a way of making everyone feel included, and he lent his insight and his interests into doing what was best for the City. As I listened to the Prayer tonight I very quickly wrote down some words; justice, charity and betterment for all. And I think that really captures how he approached his work in the City of Nashua. It was not about self-promotion but about doing what was right and promoting the City. Thank you.

Attorney Bolton

Thank you Lori. For most of my adult life I've been in elected or appointed office in the City of Nashua. I've met a lot of public servants in that time; all of the Aldermen for the past 35 years or so, and the Mayors, Governors and Senators. Brian McCarthy was the best public servant I've ever met, would ever hope to meet. Circumstances, events the situations we find ourselves in, they can't be prime the way a number can be prime. Circumstances and situations are the product of many things, many events that have gone before, the contributions of many people. So while we can say that Brian worked on a lot of good things for our City, we can't really know if we would still have two of the best high schools in the State that his leadership ensured were constructed on time and millions of dollars under budget.

We can't be certain that without his steering the course we would have acquired the Pennichuck Water System which will ensure lower water rates now and for future generations. We cannot know for sure that we would have had water protection legislation, wetlands protection legislation, the economic development initiatives that are working to keep our City strong and vibrant.

But it is certain that without Brian's contribution for the last 25 years, that Nashua would be a different place and I know it would not be a better place. I am proud to have called Brian my friend; the 12 years that I worked in this Chamber with him were the most satisfying for me in my public life. I will miss him.

Police Commission James Tollner

I will be brief; I would say that Brian was probably as people have had the smartest politician I have ever seen. I don't even think of him as a politician, I think of him as a servant of the City. You know as one of the Founding Fathers you look at what they did in the beginning and as Donnalee had mentioned, he wasn't one that grabbed an issue and wanted attention for it. What he basically wanted to do was grab the issue and do the best thing for the City and the citizens. You know there are a number of things that we did, whether it be the high school or Pennichuck and people that worked on that, when it came time to get the picture taken, they'd probably be in front. Brian was the type of guy that he said – Hey everybody else get in front and I'll stay on the side.

I served with him for 14 years and I would say some of those Boards were pretty tumultuous at times to say the least. Sometimes you wanted to crawl under your chair and disappear. But he was always the steady hand, he always did what was right for the City. He did what was right regardless of where you were in the City. You know, whether you were in a position of wealth or if you were in a position of looking for support. The other thing if you had a chance to attend his services, he loved his family as much as he loved the City. And damn did he love the City. The stories that the kids brought, you know, I never knew he did all those different things. But I appreciate the opportunity to speak. The City has had a loss but I think as Steve said, everywhere you go in the City, there are things there that, you know, it is kind of like that movie with Jimmy Stewart around Christmas time. I forget the name of, Wonderful Life, okay? Brian McCarthy was Jimmy Stewart in that movie. If he had disappeared and he wasn't here, what would the City look like? And we are better for him being in the City. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you Jim. I have one final thing to read, it is from Alderman Dowd who went to be with his daughter who is having a baby this week. So he was unable to be here but I told him I would read his words into the record:

"I'm sorry that I can't be with all of you tonight to celebrate the life of my good friend and colleague Brian McCarthy. I am out of town celebrating my third grandchild and my daughter Emily's first child. Brian and I go back several years, long before I served with him on the Board of Aldermen. My youngest daughter and Brian's twins, John and Kim, were in the Nashua High band together and as parents we served on the Nashua High School Band Booster's Group to support our children. I became good friends over the years with Brian, his wife Gloria and his children and attended many an event together. We also shared a very close group of friends who will also miss Brian very much. Brian was one of the smartest people I have ever known and know how passionate he was about his many interests, including electronics, space, rockets, air shows, ham radio, astronomy and politics and of course, computers. I don't know how he found the time for all of those past times and activities; anyone else would have tired in pursuit of all those activities year after year, activities that he lovingly shared with his wife and children and his many friends. Brian was a very hard worker and solved many complex problems as all his friends can attest, whether it was taking pictures of an eclipse with his automated camera setup or firing a very large rocket into the waiting sky. Brian also has a compassion for the City of Nashua and spent more hours than you can imagine working to make Nashua a better place to live. Much of what I know in several subject areas are because of working so closely with Brian; I just hope I can be some small part in the success of his latest project such as the Middle School Project, the Performing Arts Center and the return of Commuter Rail.

We as a Board should work to make Brian proud in these areas. Another passion of Brian's was the New England Patriots and we shared my season tickets for several years watching many victories and being there to unfurl several Super Bowl Banners. Many games were enjoyed with his family members and friends at Gillette Stadium. Brian's last night with us included a fantastic Patriot's Victory over Aaron Rogers and the Green Bay Packers, which brought a great smile to Brian's face. Shortly after that game, we lost our Board President, our mentor and our very good friend. This tribute we share tonight is the very least we could do to honor such a great man. We will all miss you Brian."

RECOGNITION PERIOD

R-19-112

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess

Board of Aldermen

RECOGNIZING BRIAN S. MCCARTHY AND HIS DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE CITY OF NASHUA

Given its first reading;

There being no objection, President Wilshire suspended the rules to allow for a second reading of R-19-112

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-19-112

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman O'Brien

Resolution R-19-112 Recognizing Brian S. McCarthy And His Dedication And Service To The City Of Nashua.

In the Year 2019 Resolved by the Board of Aldermen and the City of Nashua that the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen recognize Brian S. McCarthy for his years of service and the valuable contributions to the City of Nashua.

Brian began his political career as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment from 1993 to 1994. He served as a member of the Board of Aldermen for 25 years from 1994 to 2018. As Ward 5 Alderman and Alderman-at-Large his Aldermanic Colleagues elected him to serve as Alderman President 5 times and Aldermanic Vice President 2 times. Brian served as Aldermanic President from 2004 to 2005, 2010 to 2013 and 2016 to 2018; and as Vice President from 2008 to 2009 and 2014 to 2015. Brian was a member of many standing committees including: Budget Review Committee for 10 years; Finance Committee 2 years; Committee of Infrastructure 4 years; Joint Special School Board Committee 25 years; Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee 4 years; Pennichuck Water Special Committee 12 years; Planning & Economic Development Committee 18 years.

Brian was also a significant contributor to the Business and Industrial Development Authority and the Downtown Improvement Committee.

Brian's successes are too numerous to list but one especially stands out. Brian's leadership as Chair of the High School Building Committee resulted in the construction of the two finest high schools in the State of New Hampshire being completed on time and millions of dollars under budget.

Brian's love for the City of Nashua was well-known and the City will deeply miss his knowledge, commitment and presence.

President Wilshire

We hope that you will enjoy that and this is the memory book that people wrote many nice things about Brian so you can reflect on that and we have one other thing. Can I ask Alderman Melizzi-Golja and Alderwoman Kelly, just give me one moment, we are almost done.

It is with great honor that we present this on behalf of Brian S. McCarthy. He is going to be remembered here for a long time, a really long time.

Thank you all very much for being here tonight and we love Brian and we know how much you love Brian and thank you so much.

John McCarthy Hi I just wanted to thank you for all the kind words and the support. I didn't prepare anything, so bear with me here. The start of all this began with a campaign and I just can't urge all of you as City Leaders and supporters to urge the community to come out and vote this coming election. None of you would be here without an election so I think we know how important it is. So I can't stress enough to get out, tell people to vote, get people voting and you know that is the right thing to do. So thank you guys so much.

Kim McCarthy I just wanted to say thank you to everyone that's here tonight. 25 years is a long time and unheard of for almost any elected official. You are all here tonight because my dad supported your businesses and your ideas and your visions and your passion and your love for the City of Nashua. We are here and fortunate enough to be here tonight because you all returned to that to my dad and supported the same for him and supported him throughout the years. So we just ask that everyone keep moving forward with your passions and your visions and keep helping Nashua thrive and remain the vibrant place that it has become. Thank you.

PRESIDENT WILSHIRE

Once again, I want to thank everyone who was here. I know we all appreciate Brian did for the City. So there is a motion that Alderman O'Brien made to recommend final passage of R-19-112. Discussion on that motion?

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-19-112 declared duly adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN THAT THE FEBRUARY 19, 2019, SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE ADJOURNED
MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Attest: Patricia D. Piecuch City Clerk