

A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, February 28, 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 John Sullivan led in the Pledge to the Flag.

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

The roll call was taken with 11 members of the Board of Aldermen present: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Klee, Alderman Moran, Alderman Jette, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Gouveia, Alderman Caron, Alderman Thibeault, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Wilshire.

Alderman Lopez, Alderman Clemons, Alderwoman Kelly, and Alderman Comeau were recorded absent.

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

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Donchess

Thank you, Madam President. First I wanted to thank Public Works for all of the work that they've done over course of the last few days with respect to this storm. People sometimes have a misimpression regarding the difficulty of dealing with storms such as this. When you get 18 inches of powder, that is far easier to deal with for Public Works - plow the streets, push the snow off, then one of these mixed storms rain, sleet, snow, back and forth freezing, thawing. Much more difficult to deal with even though the depth on the ground is not nearly as much. Public Works employees have been working hard on the storm for many hours and of course, the job that they do is never perfect because there are so many different aspects to trying to plow 304 miles of streets and clear 50 miles of sidewalks. The employees are essential, and valuable, and I want to thank them for their efforts.

Second Madam President, I wanted to mention the possibility of Nashua Community Power making a significant step forward in the next few days. There is a meeting of the Board of the New Hampshire Community Power Coalition tomorrow. At that time, they're going to be considering the proposed contract with Calpine which is the back-end, kind of the bank that is working with NH Community Power. Now assuming that's approved, it's at least possible that they would go into the market. That is the last step that needs to be completed before they go into the market to bid for power and that could occur on Friday. Now still, it's only a possibility. Of course, Doria Brown, the Energy Manager, is our representative on the NH Community Power Coalition Board. She will be attending the meeting tomorrow, so we'll see how it comes out. If that does occur, then the launch for Nashua customers could occur sometime in early April. But we'll keep you advised on the progress there.

I did Madam President want to touch on the issue of rail for NH. This is a rail service/commuter rail service for our State for our region would be a real game changer for the economy here. It would add thousands of jobs, increase property values, result in a lot of residential development, and other types. Now this has been a project that has been a long time in coming. The first study, the feasibility study, was finished back in 2014 after it had been included in the 10-year Transportation Plan. The second phase and that was done back in 2014 and documents some of the positive results that would come from rail. Then the State DOT embarked on what Commissioner Sheehan used to call the "final planning phase of the Capital Corridor Project". This is done with federal money as we've discussed before.

The reason I mention it now is an article came out of the Union Leader which I think created confusion both here and in Manchester. Clearly part of this final planning phase, there are parts of it that have been completed but the State DOT, AECOM have made it very clear in meetings with our people, including Jay Minkarah, Tim Cummings, Matt Sullivan, and others that here and then made it clear to the people in Manchester who we've met with that the work is not complete. There's a lot that still needs to be done but the main things are the agreement of the MBTA to provide the service and the terms under which that service would be provided have not been worked out. So the consultant would need to do that. Number two and maybe most important, this whole project is directed to providing the federal government is filing – submitting to the federal government an application for capital and operating subsidies. That has not been done. That's not done. That still needs to come and that is a huge job. This is a request for hundreds of millions of dollars and it's a competitive grant. These are the steps that the consultant would complete were they allowed to finish their work. Now again, this has been made abundantly clear to the City here and in Manchester that this is the case. We are seeking an estimate for the amount of the additional work - the rough estimates are in the neighborhood of \$800,000, maybe \$700,000 but we haven't been given those final numbers yet.

Now at 4:00 p.m. today, some of the work that has been completed came out for the first time and that's great. These are very important things that we need to review but again without a federal application, I mean the project is dead. This article, which was accurate, because it talked about things that had been done but it created confusion because one could draw from it the conclusion well everything was done. But everything is not done. So that is why we got some calls today and so did Manchester like well is the project ready to go ahead or something like that? No. There's still very critical things that need to be done. So I at least wanted to clarify that for you because maybe you read the article and were confused as well.

Madam President I wanted to mention that one of our own Melbourne Moran, Alderman-at-Large along with Kim McCarthy, the daughter of former Alderman Brian McCarthy who's head of the McCarthy Foundation were both recognized as being among the 40 people under 40 in NH who have really are contributing a lot to the State. So I wanted to congratulate Alderman Moran for his many accomplishments as well as Kim McCarthy. These recognitions are well-earned, and well-deserved, and it shows that we have a generation of leaders in Nashua who can do a great job for the City in the future. That's all I have Madam President.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR

President Wilshire

Thank you Mayor. Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam President and Mr. Mayor for the comments that you made. I, too, would like to congratulate my colleague here to my right as well as Kim McCarthy. Both well-deserved.

I do want to mention also something about the clean-up. To those that are listening, thank you Mr. Mayor for brining that up as well. A lot of the people even commented about their grass is kind of getting chunked up a little bit. The City does fix that and because of what was pointed out, we've had a very unusual winter of warm and cold, and so on. The ground didn't freeze enough. When the plows are coming through, they're doing it. So just try to be patient and I know it's not always easy but thank you so much.

President Wilshire

Alderman Moran?

Alderman Moran

Thank you Mr. Mayor. I really appreciate the recognition. I was going to save this for the end but I wanted to point this out. I received this card in the mail. It was very touching and often times things don't strike an emotional chord if they don't come from my children. But it was a Boys and Girls Club member - Jay Lenny, 13 years old - sent me this card and said, "Congratulations for being honored as one of NH 40 under 40. Thank you for inspiring future leaders like me". I thought that was very touching and I appreciated the card very much and the recognition also from the Union Leader.

I do believe also getting back to the rail that if you read my statement in that 40 Under 40, I said we absolutely need commuter rail more to bring more young professionals like me into the State. Thank you for that Mr. Mayor.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Anyone else?

President Wilshire

I, too, would like to congratulate you and Kim McCarthy for being recognized as one of the 40 Under 40.

Alderman Moran

Thank you.

RECOGNITION PERIOD - None

READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS - None

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING ONLY PROCEDURAL ACTIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS

From: Wayne Husband, P.E., Sr., Traffic Engineer
Re: Recommendation to authorize a stop sign on Topaz Drive at the northwest corner of the intersection at Kelly Street

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

From: Linda Laflamme, Chairman, Board of Library Trustees
Re: Request for Joint Convention

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the communication and placed it on file, and scheduled a Joint Convention with the Board of Library Trustees for Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

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

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING FINAL APPROVAL

From: Mayor Jim Donchess
Re: Multi-Year Contract Award – Benchmark Office Systems

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN TIMMONS TO APPROVE THE AWARD OF A THREE YEAR CONTRACT FOR PATRON PRINTING SERVICES AT THE NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY TO BENCHMARK OFFICE SYSTEMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$43,948.44. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 179 NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY; FUND: 54428 TECHNOLOGY OPERATIONS/GENERAL FUND

President Wilshire

You've heard the Motion, is there discussion on that Motion? Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED

PETITIONS - None

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

The following appointments were read into the record:

Citizen's Advisory Commission

Amber Morgan (new appointment)
20 Lock Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: February 21, 2026

Downtown Improvement Committee

Phillip Scotsas (alternate to member)
169-173 Main Street
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire: December 1, 2024

Edward A. Hayes, Sr. (reappointment)
15 Franklin Street #3
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: December 31, 2025

Environment and Energy Committee

William Darby (new appointment)
13 Jensen Street

Term to Expire: February 21, 2026

Nashua, NH 03062

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Human Affairs Committee..... 01/17/2023

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

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-23-041

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly

AUTHORIZING A STOP SIGN ON TOPAZ DRIVE AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH KELLY STREET

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN MORAN FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-23-041

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Moran

I'd like to briefly speak on my Motion.

President Wilshire

Alderman Moran?

Alderman Moran

Thank you. This is a stop sign. A firefighter from another community who lives here in Nashua reached out to me and other Aldermen, including Alderman Thibeault who also worked with him as well. It's basically an area where the school bus stop that didn't have any type of signage to slow down or anything. So I went out there, observed it for a good period of time at school bus time, and he was absolutely right. It does need a stop sign there. I'm glad that we could get this all set up and I appreciate that we're hopefully all going to pass this tonight. Thank you.

President Wilshire

You've heard the Motion, is there further discussion on the Motion? Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-23-041 declared duly adopted.

O-23-042

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Tyler Gouveia

Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

ALLOWING LEASES FOR SPACES IN THE WATER STREET PARKING LOT

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-23-042

ON THE QUESTION

President Wilshire

You've heard the Motion, is there discussion on that Motion. Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-23-042 declared duly adopted.

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-23-089

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Moran
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

ENDORSEMENT OF THE CITY OF NASHUA AND NASHUA TRANSIT SYSTEM JOINING A STATEWIDE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COALITION

Given its first reading; Assigned to the PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, by President Wilshire

R-23-090

Endorsers: Alderman Ernest A. Jette
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$13,000 FROM THE CONSERVATION FUND FOR BEAVER MANAGEMENT WORK IN THE HASSELL BROOK AREA

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

R-23-091

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AMENDING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 RELATIVE TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (“CDBG”) HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS AND RENTAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMS

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

R-23-092

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

RELATIVE TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$1,771,199 OF FY2023 UNANTICIPATED REVENUE INTO FUND #1001 “CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS”, DEPARTMENT 160 “PUBLIC WORKS – ADMINISTRATION & ENGINEERING”

Given its first reading; Assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE and SCHEDULE A SPECIAL BOARD OF ALDERMEN PUBLIC HEARING at 7:00 PM ON MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023 in the aldermanic chamber, by President Wilshire

R-23-093

Endorsers: Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

ADOPTING ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

R-23-094

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman Alex Comeau

APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NASHUA BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS AND NASHUA POLICE COMMUNICATION EMPLOYEES N.E.P.B.A. LOCAL 125, I.U.P.A., AFL-CIO FROM JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027

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

R-23-095

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$25,231.25 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY “FY2023 BULLET PROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM”

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

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-23-046

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

AUTHORIZING A STOP SIGN ON GROVE STREET AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH WHITNEY STREET

Given its first reading; Assigned to the COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE, by President Wilshire

O-23-047

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Derek Thibeault

AMENDING THE LAND USE CODE REGARDING MINOR SITE PLAN AMENDMENTS TO PERMIT SEASONAL OUTDOOR DINING APPROVALS

Given its first reading; Assigned to the PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE and SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING AT PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING at 7:00 PM ON TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023 in the aldermanic chamber, by President Wilshire

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTPresident Wilshire

We have two people that signed up. Name and address please and note that you have three minutes. Thank you.

Stephen Scaer

Good evening. Stephen Scaer, 111 East Hobart Street. I just had some thoughts about our health equity statement and I realize this probably isn't the highest priority right now. Our health equity statement says that inequities are created when systemic barriers disproportionately impact minority groups and goes on to say that racism effects the community by preventing some people the opportunity to attain the full health potential and that the Health Department has identified the racism is a public health priority. By doing so, we are committed to prioritizing race equity at the core of our work.

There's some brief concerns about why I don't think angle - it's obviously critical theory. I don't think it's helpful as first of all its circular reasoning that shut downs other thinking. Disparities in health care are caused by systemic racism. How do you know there is systemic racism? Because there's disparity in health care. It leaves out the possibility of discussing other factors like 2008 Barak Obama talked about disparities being caused by fatherlessness. Everything is automatically attributed to systemic racism which you can't really point to items.

My other concern is this policy focuses on groups and constructs. But it's not groups that access health care, it's people and people deserve to be treated as individual whether their race, or their sexual orientation, everyone's circumstances is different and we shouldn't be stereotyping them.

And lastly, I wish good health care for everyone and most of our well-being depends on our own personal habits.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Stephen Scaer

Thank you. Teaching people that their health out comes from a result from of historic, social economic systemic racism takes away that feeling of individual agency and responsibility. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Beth Scaer?

Beth Scaer

Beth Scaer, 111 East Hobart Street. I'm here to talk to Alderman Moran about your vote as a State Rep. on Bill HB1625 that would have repealed the unconstitutional buffer zone law. Although you are vocal in your opposition to Governor Sununu's agenda on many issues, you showed solidarity with him for giving private abortion businesses control of public sidewalks when you voted to uphold his veto of this Bill. As a Catholic, you know that Christians are called to serve the most vulnerable and who's more vulnerable than a pregnant mother and her child. Your fellow Catholics are on the public sidewalks outside abortion facilities to offer help to pregnant mothers in their hour of most desperate need when they're considering ending the lives of their precious pre-born children.

You may ask what good your fellow Catholics are doing on the sidewalk outside abortion facilities. They are reaching out with offers of help to women who are there under threat of being thrown out of their homes by abusive partners, or angry parents, women who are being sexually trafficked, and women who are addicted to drugs. They're reaching immigrant women, documented and undocumented, who feel like strangers in a strange land and who don't know who to turn to for help. One of the mothers who was recently helped was an immigrant from Brazil and was pregnant with twins who was being physically abused by her husband. Her husband told her she must have an abortion or else. Your fellow Catholics were there for her on the sidewalk and offered her help which she gratefully accepted and they threw her a baby shower. She was so grateful and she gave birth to her beautiful twins. They have saved many more babies with equally heartwarming stories. These are happy stories that everyone should be celebrating and yet you, Alderman Moran, voted with Sununu to allow private...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Beth Scaer

...abortion businesses to force your fellow Catholics off the public sidewalk and deprive these vulnerable women and their babies of life-saving help. You accused Sununu of not caring but where is your compassion?

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

President Wilshire

I'll start over here tonight. Alderman Thibeault?

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you Madam President. I, too, want to congratulate Alderman Moran but not for that - for 40 Under 40. So congratulations to that.

The second and last thing I wanted to bring up is this past Saturday we had the raising of the Dominican Republic flag for their Independence Day. I just wanted to thank Alderman Lopez who stood in for the Mayor. It was freezing out there. Two years in a row that it's been bitter cold. I was for one of these not to be so cold so we could do a little bit more spending time out there and talking to people. Also, Alderman Gouveia was there. I also want to thank him because I brought my son and he slipped on the ice a little bit and Alderman Gouveia was there to save him. So I just wanted to pass that on. Thank you very much.

President Wilshire

Alderman Gouveia?

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you Madam President. I agree, the Dominican Republic flag raising was a great event minus the wind that was howling and freezing but it was really good to be there. Also congratulations to our colleague Alderman Moran and Miss McCarthy for being placed on the Union Leader 40 Under 40 list. It was a great honor. I was very fortunate to be selected on that in 2017, I believe. So it's great to see more Nashua residents be placed on it for sure. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderman Dowd?

Alderman Dowd

I, too, want to congratulate both Alderman Moran and Kim McCarthy for their awards of being 40 Under 40. We've been celebrating with Kim. I'm on the Board of Directors of the McCarthy Foundation and we've known for a while and very happy for her. So congratulations to both.

President Wilshire

All set? Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Thank you Madam President. I want to make a plug for the Plus Company which most of you know provides services to people with disabilities and have done so for a long time here in Nashua. Their big fundraiser is the Wild Irish Breakfast which was started by former Mayor Bernie Streeter and who was the so-called Blarney Master for a number of years, followed by Chris Williams who did a great job, and now former Mayor DonnaLee Lozeau is the so-called Blarney Master. She has invited Mayor Donchess and of all people me to be so-called "Irish Wits" at this event. Now why she picked a French-Canadian boy like me, I don't know. I mean there is O'Brien, there is Sullivan, there's Moran, Dowd who all could have filled in very nicely. But I'm sure she had her reasons. So I know that people aren't going to be attracted to go there because of me, but Justin McKinney who is a very well-known comedian from NH is going to be there. He's very funny and he's well worth going. So I ask people to support the Plus Company by buying tickets to the breakfast. It's March 17th at the Doubletree Hotel at 7:30 a.m. You can go to the Plus Company website to buy your tickets, or buy raffle tickets, or whatever. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderman Moran?

Alderman Moran

Thank you Madam President. So just a couple things. So first – oh man what day was it last that week that this happened? Wednesday I think or Thursday I was over at the High Street garage. I think you guys all got a recap of what happened and Public Works does a great job overall in general but I noticed an issue that needs to be addressed in the future. I hardly ever take a lunch break but I came downtown to visit my tailor because I try to do all my business in Nashua, came back to my car, sat in my car, getting ready to leave and across the street, there was an elderly disabled man trying to get into the clinic there to see his doctor and he slipped twice on the ice and hit head and back and cut himself up pretty good. I was able to run over and give him medical aid from my training until the nurses from High Street came out and EMS arrived and took over. Gentleman is going to be okay thankfully but I connected with Public Works and Director Cummings and so we've identified an issue. The Mayor was very helpful in getting a response over there as well to make sure everything got salted down and shoveled out. I think when the budget season comes up, I think we really need to look at making sure whether we subcontract or how we get it done that there's follow-up not just to the schools that are very important to making sure sidewalks and cross-walks are shoveled but also access to clinics that about City property.

One of the things I noticed in that particular area on Factory Street was the three handicap parking spots were just covered in ice. An again like the Mayor said during his comments, they do a lot. It's hard to keep up with all the work they're doing in Public Works and other Departments. But I think as an elected officials notice a problem, wasn't expecting to notice this problem that we work with the Directors to get a resolution done. I'm hopeful that Director Fauteux and Director Cummings reached out to me today so we can make that happen whether it's through budgetary ways or other ways. So at a minimum, a disabled elderly guy can get into his doctor's appointment without an issue.

Second, and this is not related to the 40 Under 40 but I wanted to read this. I thought this was another kind letter I got. "Dear Mr. Moran, Successful people inspire success in people. Your dedication and commitment to the City of Nashua and its people as State Rep., Alderman-at-Large, and owner (company name) is proof that everything is possible when you put in hard work. You're an inspiration and the reason the Nashua Community College Class of 2023 Associates Science Degree in Nursing would be honored to have you as a guest speaker for their pinning ceremony." and it goes on to say when that is. With warmest regards, Class of 2023 Mercedes Perez and Madeline Fraseys (spelling?) Committee Chairs. I don't really get mail like this and to get it all in the same day is different for sure. Usually its complaints but I do appreciate Nashua Community College and the Associate Nursing Program inviting me out for their pinning ceremony. I

think that's pretty much it. I won't go into Public Comment, apparently I'm renting some space in someone's head. But I'm sleeping good at night.

President Wilshire

Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam President. And again congratulations to you on that. That's quite an honor. I'd like to very belated but congratulations to Alderman Gouveia for his 2017 40 Under 40. But I do have to ask, were you like 14 or 10? You were very young, so that's really impressive. Thank you so much.

I just wanted to give a shout out to Public Works and Parking Enforcement. What some people don't know is that downtown area is taken care of by Miss Stansfield. We always thank Public Works for the work that they do but our downtown area is taken care of by Parking Enforcement. I want to give a shout out also to Park and Rec. who takes care of our French Hill area and our very narrow streets. So thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderman Sullivan?

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you Madam Chair. Congratulations Melbourne on that great honor. Congratulations Tyler. It's way overdue.

I was delighted and surprised to see what Mayor Donchess was speaking about the other day on the front page of the Union Leader - the fact that the Rail Study is here, 80 pages of it. There were a lot of numbers that were thrown out there. A lot of very big numbers. I think it's good to see costs associated with it. We now can have discussions around it. For me personally, I'm agnostic to rail. I'm on the fence firmly. If you're for it, I see your points. If you're against it, I see your points. In my line of work if you want to move off the fence, sell me on it, make a pitch. That's what I'm saying because I think that there are a lot of long-term benefits to the City but there's also big costs associated with it. So it's really tough. If you don't live in Nashua, if you live in a rural part of NH which is a big chunk of our State, I can see that they're like well I don't see it. I don't get it. If you live in the City, you understand and know that our City is growing which takes more people, more fire, more police, more fire stations, infrastructure, and whatnot. Somehow we have to pay it. Here's what I know also in just being 14 months on this Board. Residents of this City have an overwhelming burden on them to come up with the tax funds to fund everything that I just talked about. That has to even out, maybe rail is the solution. I don't know. I'd like to see it.

What I would love to see moving forward is a reason, data driven, get ready for this one, non-partisan discussion around rail because that's what I think needs to happen. In keeping with St. Patrick's Day, I had an old Irish Uncle Mick Squiggy that told me that money doesn't grow on trees John. So I understand that. So there has to be a solution. There are big problems and there are big solutions. I'm looking forward to a reasoned discussion about rail in the future but for me personally, I'm open. I'm open-minded and I'm open to hearing what's next. That's it. Thanks.

President Wilshire

Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you Madam President. I, too, would like to offer my condolences to my fellow colleague Alderman Moran and to Kim McCarthy that's quite an honor.

President Wilshire

Condolences?

Alderman O'Brien

Did I say condolences? I mean congratulations! I have condolences on my brain and I'll tell you that's a good segue into

the next part.

But I would like to say to Alderman Jette, I can see why they made that choice to have you there. The good nuns of St. Peters and the brothers of Don Bosco told me there was no need for me to kiss the Blarney Stone, yet I did. So I think you've got the eloquence and I think you'll do quite fine. I'll give you my Irish blessing and may you do well but I think you'll do fantastic.

But I would like to remind the public, when I elected to State Rep. in 2006, I fought for the commuter rail. I wish it was non-partisan but it is partisan. When I have, and I can document it. It's black and white. I could show you somebody from the Town of Bartlett against it. He was Speaker of the House and he shot it down strictly partisan. What do the good folks of Bartlett have to do with the commuter rail that's going to affect two major cities - Nashua and Manchester? Yet, let's look at Keno. Do you know that the money that gets generated in Nashua, we could build our own railroad. I know, I'm an Irishman, we built the railroad in this country that connected until we met our Chinese friends out in Utah. In the 16 years I've been a State Rep., we could have put about four layers of track in during that time.

So what's been like the whole problem? People forget when they look at the numbers. Thirty-five percent of the State economy is generated right here in the cities of Nashua and Manchester yet the State won't admit that because what supplies? Did I mention the Keno. Do you know that in Keno your community may choose whether to purchase Keno or not. Yet how many tickets are sold in Nashua yet that community that sold no tickets comes up with the bucket annually and says to the State fill up the bucket. It's the same with the lottery tickets. How much is generated in the City of Nashua? Yet when Nashua comes up - and I've been there for 16 years and I'll tell you, you want to partisanish - here comes Nashua coming to look to do something worthwhile to improve themselves, to make us what we are - the economic engine of this State and they knock us off our little high horse there.

So yes I agree with my compadre Alderman Sullivan that maybe we should have a non-partisan discussion on it and discuss basically the facts. Particularly, let's eliminate a group that comes all the way up from Virginia to tell us how to run a railroad in the State of NH. Let's just talk amongst NH people and try to get something. I'll tell you, I've seen for 16 years, and I'm sure the Mayor can agree, I've seen the numbers too. This would be a big boom for the citizens. You want to lower the tax rate in Nashua - commuter rail. Yes we'll be paying for it. Yes will it be subsidized? There may be some subsidize as mentioned in the Union Leader article but we're going to get what we pay for. Is it going to popular? Then you haven't paid the price of a parking space down in Boston. It will be utilized. I'll have to ask everybody in the State of NH what's wrong with a Nashua person going to the City of Boston, earning a Boston income wage, and bring it right back here to Nashua? Nothing wrong with that. So thank you Madam President.

Committee announcements:

President Wilshire

Alderman Dowd?

Alderman Dowd

Yes, Monday at 6:30 at Nashua High School North, Joint Special School Building Committee. That's a special day and time. Then Tuesday, Budget here at 7:00 p.m.

President Wilshire

Alderman Moran?

Alderman Moran

It's a little bit further into March but March 21st if anyone's interested in the stuff that's going on with the tannery, we'll have some public hearings at PEDC and I think we got just legislation tonight that will also be heard on the 21st as well.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN THAT THE FEBRUARY 28, 2023, MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE ADJOURNED

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Attest: Dan Healey, City Clerk