

PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

A meeting of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee was held on Monday, September 9, 2019, at 7:02 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Chairman June M. Caron presided.

Chairman Caron

Before I ask the clerk to call the roll, Alderwoman Kelly is participating via telephone and under the state law that allows her to do so, she must state the reason why she cannot attend this evening, who is with her, if anyone, and if she can hear the proceedings.

Alderwoman Kelly stated the reason why she could not attend, who was with her, and that she could hear everyone.

Alderwoman Kelly

I can hear you. Nobody is with me and I just had a baby.

Alderwoman Kelly stated the reason why she could not attend, who was with her, and that she could hear everyone.

Chairman Caron

We can hear you as well, and I will now ask the Clerk to call the roll.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman Ken Gidge

Alderwoman Kelly was not in attendance but participated via telecommunication.

Members not in Attendance: Alderman Ken Gidge

Also in Attendance: Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Mayor James Donchess

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Caron

We start off with public comment so I would just like to reiterate that in our NRO Section 5-14B Public Comment is limited to 5 minutes per person. We ask all speakers to conduct themselves in a civil manner. We will try to hold to that 5 minute rule because we do have a lot of people on the agenda today. We will get started.

Whoever is looking to give public comment, please come to microphone, please state your name and your address so that the translators will have that documented and then give us the reasons why you are tonight. Thank you. Anyone?

Jim Rafferty Good evening, my name is Jim Rafferty, I live in the City at Jackson Falls, Ward 3. I am here and rise in favor of your group or the Personnel/Administration Committee putting the Sports Betting Initiative on the ballot in November for the citizens of our great city to vote on its approval. Just a little bit of background, I won't take 5 minutes, but we the Charity Gaming Facilities, there are two and I think Curt will be speaking here in a second, have done much to support the City and its goals and its charities. Speaking for my facility, The River Casino & Sports Bar on High Street, we've been in business for 12 years; the first 9 in Milford and now 3 years in Nashua.

We have raised over \$3 million dollars for charities, 106 different charities; many of which are here in Nashua. We think we do a lot of public good and we think we are really good for the millennials who want to stay in Nashua as it is an important goal to keep millennials in Nashua rather than moving away. I think they enjoy our facility a great deal. So I think we do a great public service. We would like to include Sports Betting in this, in our facility. The way the Statute as approved and signed by the Governor states, first vendors will submit to the State and there will be 5 mobile licenses issued. Then those 5 mobile licenses will be then worked down to 10 retail facilities throughout the State. Nashua is the perfect place for at least 2 of those facilities to be located.

We think the or I think certainly that we will get a lot of cross play for our charities from Sports Betting; people wandering in. Even though the benefactors of Sports Betting will be the State, primarily the State of New Hampshire, they will get I think the biggest cut and then operators will do well. But you know from a charity perspective it has been raised, well the charities don't get a cut of Sports Betting, where that is true in the statute, we believe the cross play will be tremendous of people winning tickets and betting on table games and drinking and eating and having all sorts of fun at our facilities. So as I think Charity Gaming has proven itself to be a benefit to our City, we should allow us, you should proceed to put this on the ballot so the citizens can hopefully decide in favor of the proposition being approved and allowing sports betting at the River Casino & Sports Bar. Any questions? Thank you very much.

Curt Matthias Good evening, Curt Mathias, Boston Billiard Club, 55 Northeastern Boulevard, Nashua, New Hampshire. I also, like Jim, would like you folks to please put the sports betting on the ballot for November. As you all know, we have a charitable gaming facility at Boston Billiards on Northeastern Boulevard. We too support Nashua charities for the most part. We have a big monster that just opened up down in Everett that has cut into our business for about 20% now. Massachusetts is working very, very hard to get their sports betting passed and once the Encore gets sports betting, ultimately that is just going to draw more traffic away from us. We are already down about 20% since the Encore opened. I imagine that is a honeymoon period and we are going to get some of that back as we go, at least we hope so. But we think sports betting will bring more traffic into the facility; it will also ultimately help charities and keep the jobs here in Nashua. We employ 170 people in Nashua. We want to keep the jobs here and we think sports betting, it is a worldwide thing that is going on now and it is going on illegally and finally our governments are making it a legal thing so people can come in and do it. We think it will benefit not only the State but it will benefit the City, benefit the charities and benefit us as an operator. So we appreciate your consideration. Do you have any questions? Oh you can't ask them. OK I apologize, alright thank you.

Gary Braun Hi good evening, my name is Gary Braun. I am here to speak in opposition to the proposed ordinance regarding the regulation of cats as strays and as nuisances. I do have a submission for the Committee and I'll be happy to hand that out at the conclusion.

The first thing I am going to say as my perception of this law as a leash law for cats; I know there may be some disagreement there. But for folks who don't own cats, they are very independent animals. I can certainly as one of the basis of the proposed law is to constrain cats to their owner's property as I understand. My cats, I have had cats since 1991 when I moved to the City; I've lived here 28 years. They are very independent creatures and I have no way of constraining to my property if I let them outside, except by putting up perhaps – they don't respond to voice commands, there is no fence they can't climb over. I am not going to use a shock collar on them, now if people want to do that with their animals they can, I choose not to. So even though the law is not structured or entitled as a leash law for cats and even though it doesn't expressly require cats to be constrained on a leash or by some other manner when they are outside of their home.

The only practical way that I can keep my cat on my property if I let it out is to put it on a leash. And I just think that after 28 years of living in Nashua where that's never been required, I don't know that it's required by any other municipality in this State; I think that's a burden and it is egregious especially when the City is intending to seize the cat potentially as a stray or as a nuisance and potentially permanently deprive the owner of that cat. That happened to my cat back in 2017 when she was seized as a stray by the Police. I almost lost her and I fear the same thing is going to happen again if this law is adopted. So here's my dilemma and my problem; I either keep my cats inside all the time which will drive all of us insane, I get rid of them which is not going to happen, I put them on a leash because that's the only way I can keep them on my property when they are outside, otherwise they are going to be running off of the property and violating the law every day that they are there. So that's all a big problem for me. My wife and I have actually discussed, because this is the only practical alternative, is for us to move.

Now you may think I am overreacting to that and you may think you wouldn't react in that fashion. But part of the reason I am telling that story is that I think that the Committee members and the City and the Mayor and the sponsors of this law should realize how big of a deal this is for cat owners in Nashua. And it fundamentally and profoundly and I say whether you support the new law or not, radically changes the City's approach to animal control. You know never before in my 28 years have I known a City to require a cat to be constrained to its own property. Never have I understood the City to say that if your cat goes off your property, we are going to treat it as a stray and it is subject to seizure and impoundment by the Police. Never have I understood the City to say, "you have to keep your cat on your property or it will be a nuisance potentially under some circumstance and we are going to seize it and impound it". That's all a change to what is going on here. When I read the analysis, under the proposed ordinance and this is NRO93-6 subpart A, here's what the analysis says. "The Legislation clarifies the City's Ordinance relative to the impoundment of dogs, cats, ferrets and chickens. This amendment also makes explicit what is already implied by the ordinance, that the Dog Officer or other authorized person may take into custody cats and ferrets believed to be a stray or off premises of their owners and either being a nuisance or suspected of being diseased or injured".

Let me read you the current ordinance subpart A. So I read that as to say this is all the status quo we are continuing, this is our practice and policy over the years, we are just clarifying it. Let's read the Ordinance as it is presently configured, 93-6A. "The dog officer or other authorized person shall take into custody and impound 1, any dog of the premises of its owner which the dog officer or other authorized person has reason to believe is a stray dog. 2 – any dog off the premises of the owner of the dog without a current registration tag on his collar. 3 – any female dog in heat and off the premises of the owner. 4 – any chicken off the premises of the owner. Where does it say cat in there or ferret? Where does it say in there implied or expressly that a cat can be seized as a stray or because it is a nuisance. It doesn't. And so in honesty and to be fair and to hold out what is actually going on to the public and to me and I'm not saying this is intentional but the analysis there doesn't tell you the correct facts. This is not a continuation of existing City Policy it is again a radical change whether you support it or not and let's at least call it what it is.

So if the Committee is going to take this up tonight and there are several reasons why it should table the Ordinance and get some additional information; but if it is going to take this up tonight it should consider it as a big deal for cat owners and a big change in the existing law of the City. That leads me to my next point; why is this happening? I don't see, now I may be ignorant, I don't see a significant public health or safety issues or crisis in this City from stray cats or from nuisance cats or from cats running off of their property. What is it? And I think one of the things this Committee, maybe it is there and I'm just ignorant of it but one of the things that I think the Committee ought to do is commission the Public Health Officer, not the Board of Public Health but the Public Health Officer of the City to give you're a comprehensive thorough report and to talk about why this is a public health and safety issue and why what I see to be fairly draconian legislation needs to be put through. Because as I am going to speak about in a second, the as the proposed law is currently configured does not contain an assured notice mechanism by which notice can be given to cat owners of the seizure of their cat.

For example like a dog licensing program where you compel people to register their cat with the City. I think it's a bad idea to have a licensing law but at least if you are going to pass this Ordinance to compel people to register their cats with the City, the Police have a data base where they know who the cat's owner is when it comes in and is seized and they can give notice to the cat owner before that cat owner loses their property, their animal. That to me is fundamental fairness, it is decency, it shows compassion and otherwise not having a mechanism as part of the law to ensure that the cat owner knows that the government has taken their cat is cruel. And it magnifies what is already a difficult, bad law and imposes these burdens on cat owners and then if they can't meet that burden, they lose their cat and there is no way for the City to notify them. You've got to, to me and I think this is a constitutional and legal issue as well, you have to in this regard treat dog owners and cat owners the same way. They both have to have to be assured of being provided, almost on a guaranteed basis. The dog licensing law I think provides this protection; you've got to have a guaranteed, compulsory way to give cat owners notice of the seizure of their cat. If you leave it up to a voluntary system like an ID that the cat owner can get or not, they are not going to get it. People do what they have to do; that will leave a gap for those people who don't get the ID and they are at risk of losing their animals. I am mindful of my time here, Ma'am.

The other thing is under the analysis of the Ordinance it says a fiscal or financial note it says none. I am confused by that. I don't know if the City has undertaken an analysis of what the costs of this program are going to be. I'll give you my opinion. If you start to treat cats as strays, those cats who are wandering around as strays in the City, if this ordinance is adopted, will vastly outnumber wandering dogs. How many loose dogs do you see in the City? Hardly any; that's probably a testament to the good job of the animal control officer. Cats you see all the time. I think the Animal Control Officer and the Police have a full time job already. I think you are going to have to and at least you should investigate this point and table the Ordinance until you know. The Police should come in and tell you what kind of additional imposition or burden this is going to be on their time and their resources. I don't think the Animal Control Officer can take on this added burden. It seems reasonable to me to assume you will have to hire another ACO full time or part time. I understand that the ACO makes about \$50 grand, so if you put in the benefits and all of that, it's \$75, \$100. That is a significant additional burden that the City may have to take on if they are going to adopt this law. I think the Chief Financial Officer should get involved in this terms of kind of quantifying and confirming those costs. He should also give you some indication of where the revenue is going to come to hire that person if you need him or her. Again for that additional reason I would ask that you table the Ordinance for tonight, you go and get that information, you make it available to yourselves, to the Full Board and to the public.

On the substance, I don't think we should burden the Police with this. They have a lot better things and more important things to do. Let's let them deal with the opioid crisis and gang activity and violent crime, not chasing stray cats. It is not a good use of City resources to spend our tax dollars there. These Police Officers need to focus on important things. Remember the ACO is only a day time job; he doesn't work on the nights or the weekends. So our patrol officers will have to respond to stray cat calls on nights and weekends; that is going to take away from patrolling our streets and preventing

crime.

Finally I am going to say this it may not resonate completely, but because of a lack notice provision and the lack of guaranteed notice to a cat owner whose animal is seized, I think this has constitutional problems, the ordinance as proposed. I was a lawyer for 30 years, I know I am biased, but I think if it is adopted as written, the proposed ordinance bringing in cats and ferrets has a good chance, a good susceptibility of being challenged in court on legal grounds including constitutional grounds. The Committee and the Board ought to be mindful of that. They ought to ask Corporation Counsel to give them a written legal opinion as to the constitutionality of the proposed ordinance on at least three points; 4th Amendment Unlawful Seizures and that is written down here so you can follow it afterwards; Equal Protection Under the Federal Constitution; and Due Process Protections Under the 14th Amendment to the Federal Constitutions; and various provisions of the State Constitution. That should be carefully taken up, carefully prepared. You folks should be able to look at it, the Full Board ought to be able to look at it and it ought to be released to the public. So until you have all of that information, the legal opinion, the cost review, and the public health report, I think you ought to respectfully table the ordinance for tonight, get that information and take it up at a later meeting. Thank you, any questions.

Chairman Caron

No they can't ask.

Mr. Braun Thank you.

Chairman Caron

You're welcome. Anyone else?

COMMUNICATIONS - None

Animal and Dog Park Advisory Committee

Chairman Caron

We have Animal & Dog Park Advisory Committee; Mayor do you have your people? Alright, please come forward.

Mayor Donchess

Alright Madam Chair, thank you very much for having us. As you know, the Board, the City recently established the Animal & Dog Park Advisory Committee with a couple of purposes. First to work to establish a downtown dog park; number two – to advise the City generally on animal and dog issues. My task pursuant to that is to find at least two people from the public who wish to serve on the Committee. I have nominated the two people you see before you.

First June Lemen immediately on my left, I think she is known to many of you; a long-time resident of the City on Manchester Street. She has written for the Telegraph for a long time, public interest/human interest column. She has previously worked for Digital Corporation and now works down at UMASS Lowell and I think most importantly is very interested in working to establish the dog park. Therefore I believe she will be a very good addition to our new committee.

The other nominee is of course Amber Logue whose idea it was to form the Committee and who has very effectively advocated for a downtown dog park and has been very effective in articulating why this would be of great benefit to the City. She is a business owner and has owned more than one business in the City. She lives downtown or close to it on at 20 Lock in the former residence of Diane Sheehan,

a historic house on Lock Street. She has convinced a lot of people and has brought to light the need for a dog park for our inner city downtown residents. So she also will be a great addition to the committee. That's really all I have to say, I will just turn it over to June and then Amber to briefly give you a little statement as to why they think the committee is important and why they'd like to serve on it.

Chairman Caron

OK June we will start with you and give us a little idea as to why you would like to be involved in this new committee.

June Lemen (New Appointment)

Term to Expire: September 10, 2022

June Lemen Well I didn't know anything about the dog park until I heard about it in the paper, that Amber was working on it. I went to her and I said, "I would love to work on this because I have a dog, I've always had dogs". This is a new dog to me, the dog we have now and I am spending so much of my time at the Benson Dog Park and I would like to spend more time in a facility like that here in the City. I also think it would be wonderful to be able to go out and walk my dog in the City and then go to a dog park where he can run and play with other dogs. And you meet the nicest people at the dog park. I mean I think it would be a great boon to the City; particularly if it is connected to the walking trails. It will be great for people to walk their dogs, stop and have their dogs play and plus I love dogs. A dog that has a park to play in, is socialized with other dogs is usually not a problem animal. Dogs left get enough exercise are happy animals and then you have a lot less reports of you know snarly dogs, unhappy dogs in the City. So that's why I would like to be on the dog park committee.

Chairman Caron

So we will start with the committee? Any questions from committee members? Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

So it says here your cat's name is Anubis; did you consider Serapis when you were naming them?

Ms. Lemen No we did not.

Alderman Lopez

So likes the dog less than cats.

Ms. Lemen My daughter named both of our pets and I thought it was extremely funny that she named our cat after the Dog God of the Dead.

Chairman Caron

Anyone else from the committee?

Alderman Klee

Yes I'd like to my support for the recommendation of Ms. Lemen and so that I don't have to bother you twice, also for Ms. Logue. Both of them happen to be my constituents in Ward 3 and I have been impressed absolutely with both of them. Before Amber gets a chance to speak I want to tell you that the presentation was incredible, she did a lot of work and we couldn't ask for a better person on it. And I think both of them will be great. So thank you.

Chairman Caron

Anyone else? OK thank you June.

Alderman Dowd

I just wanted to thank both of you for coming forward. I think it is a great idea. Several mornings I get to go out and drive around the City and I see everyone out walking their dogs. My daughters all have dogs and the dog park is a great idea. They are great social animals and they love to run around with other dogs and get that sense of freedom and play.

Mayor Donchess

Before we go to Amber who again was the originator of the idea of not only the Committee but the dog park itself, I wanted to mention that in the New York Times back about a week ago, August 31, there was a column by Frank Bruni "Dogs will fix our broken democracy"; and the subheading "We need more reasons and prods to step outside of our narrowest selves", which is what we just heard. It will create more social cohesion in Nashua if we can make this a success. So with that I give you Amber.

Amber Logue (New Appointment)

Term to Expire: September 10, 2022

Amber Logue Thank you Mayor and thank you Committee for hearing from us today. I could go on for a number of reasons why; I think everybody understands why I want it to be here. And more so is the dog park is exciting that I think there is a huge value behind that, that's the fun thing to talk about. And as much as I would love to go on, I think it's also important to talk about the not-so-fun side of it which is really the bigger reason why I am excited to be considered on the committee is the education around the proper animal waste disposal and really the long-term effects of what that could do for our community in terms of reducing the pollution. If we can come up with a way to educate and dispose of it properly as a Citywide effort and really come together in that respect, in the long-term we could potentially reduce the pollution in our watershed, water soil and waterways which, you know, a dog park will make the citizens who own dogs a lot happier and also those who don't and don't want to see them. But also in the long-term make it have a greater effect in terms of being able to make more use out of our waterways.

Chairman Caron

Any questions.

Alderman Wilshire

I'm not a dog person, but I really appreciate people who are and the fact that you are willing to step up and do this. My sister has a dog, my mother, you know they all love their dogs; I'm just not a dog person. But I totally get it, I just get how people, sometimes their dogs are their best friends. And you know thank you for stepping up and doing something creative and good for the people of Nashua. It's great, both of you, thank you.

Alderman Lopez

So for me I am excited about the Animal Advisory Board not just because of the dog park but also because I do not have to repeat the brown shovel experience. But for me particularly in Ward 4 as the more urban areas in the City start to become more urban and they get denser and more and more people are living there; animals are important for people's mental health. That's why you have service animals, that's why you have dogs that are therapy dogs. People do better with companions and dogs make very good companions.

But when you have a City that is growing and you have more and more people sharing the same amount of space, you need somebody who is attentive to both of those things when you are planning and when you are overseeing the creation of new initiatives to support that. And particularly I think Amber is very well-suited for that. She and I have been working with the Veterans for years decorating Christmas Trees and making their hallways look a little bit better; organizing events and activities of that nature. We have worked together at Positive Street Art. I think Amber really gets it that a City, in order to keep being a City and a Community, needs to have more than just great lights and ideally has perfect sidewalks, but great lights and perfect sidewalks. It also has to have that sense of community that comes from initiatives like this and that sets up companionship that comes from having companions like dogs and cats and that kind of stuff. So I want to thank Amber for all of the effort she has put in over the years and also for stepping forward to take on this challenge as well.

Alderman Clemons

I just want to thank you both for coming forward and for volunteering your time.

Chairman Caron

I would like to thank you for stepping up because this is a brand new committee so all the members that are going to be part of this, you are going to be setting the standards for future. I am a dog lover as well so I appreciate the fact that we can have another dog park in the community. We will take up your recommendation later on. And then you will be notified as to when to attend the Board Meeting to be sworn in. Thank you.

Ok next is position for City Clerk. OK Mayor?

Mayor Donchess

Thank you Madam Chair. Well as you know the City Clerk is a very important position in City Government. The City Clerk runs the elections in the City, not only our City Elections, but State Elections, National Elections, Primaries, everything. The City Clerk has to supervise all of the Ward Workers and train them on an annual basis to make sure that the Wards function properly. The City Clerk also of course is at all of our Aldermanic meetings and helps to arrange the order of business and supervises many other activities; dog licensing, marriages, all of the activities that go on down at the City Clerk's Office.

We have had a number of people who have served for quite a period of time and I think very effectively. We've had Trisha Piecuch most recently but before that Paul Bergeron who was in for 15 or 16 years, Eleanor Benson who was the Clerk for about that period of time. I don't know if anybody remember, but Lionel Gilbert before that who was there for quite some period of time. All have served the City well. My nominee Sue Lovering is in that tradition. She has worked for the City for a long time; first for the Legal Department which I think she began in 1989. And she has worked now for the Board of Aldermen since 1996. So she knows all of the people active in City Government, knows the Aldermanic Process and the Process of Legislation inside and out. She will also will be very good at the customer service portion of the job where we know that she will do a great job in interacting with people; she's very friendly and very outgoing and will enjoy working the many citizens who come to the City Clerk's Office.

In addition one thing that we want to try to accomplish is to be more active in reaching out to potentially new voters, get more people registered in some of our neighborhoods, schools and the like. Ms. Lovering will do a great job at that as well. The one area that she needs to learn more thoroughly has to do with the elections, but she has already attended the first year of the City Clerk Certification and has been working with Trisha down in the City Clerk's Office since I nominated her several weeks ago. Trisha is going to be leaving on the 17th and that's why I made the nomination early.

We have a City Election coming up and I made it effective September 17th, so Sue can take over on the day when Ms. Piecuch leaves.

So I know you all know her very well. I know she will do a great job as City Clerk and I believe she will be in the fine tradition of the other City Clerks we have had here in Nashua who have done a great job of servicing both the City and the residents of Nashua.

Chairman Caron

Alright you are up Ms. Lovering.

City Clerk

Susan Lovering (New Appointment)

Indefinite Term at the Pleasure of the Mayor
(Effective Term Date: September 17, 2019)

Susan Lovering Thank you very much. I would just like to begin by thanking the Mayor for this opportunity. It is an honor to be sitting next to you this evening, Mayor and to come before you this evening for your consideration. As the Mayor stated, last week marked my 30th year with the City. I have enjoyed working for the City and consider City Hall as my second home. I believe my knowledge that I have gained and experience here with both the day-to-day operations of the City as a whole and certainly the legislative process, provides a solid foundation for me to build upon. And as the Mayor stated, I do realize there is a learning curve and I certainly will be focusing on the elections. I am fortunate to have some strong working relationships that I have built over the years with both past and present employees. City Clerk Piecuch certainly has been very helpful over the last few weeks and is only a phone call away up at the Secretary of State's Office. And also I have a very good working relationship with the three attorneys upstairs. I have also recently spoken with former City Clerk Paul Bergeron who has expressed his support for the Mayor's nomination and also has offered guidance and assistance. So I feel I have the recipe for success; I am looking forward to the person growth in this opportunity. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Chairman Caron

OK Committee Members? OK we will start with Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. I do not have a question, just a comment. Thank you for bringing Sue forward Mr. Mayor, I think she's an incredible person for the job. I have not been with the City for 30 years, but the few years that I have served, she has been an incredible resource and I 100% agree on her ability to work with people and give you the answers that you need and do it in such a polite and warm way. So I look forward to seeing her take on this role and I appreciate all her work.

Alderman Clemons

I think you are a wonderful candidate, I couldn't think of anybody better to serve in that role. I have no doubt that you will serve the City well, as you have served this Board of Aldermen well and through that the City in your last 30 years. You have my full support and I think with Trish up in Concord and with Paul Bergeron willing to help you out, you'll get through this election and you'll be fine from there.

Ms. Lovering Thank you very much Alderman Clemons.

Alderman Lopez

So there is staff down in City Clerk's Office and you are going to managing them. Will you be ruling them with the same iron fist and velvet glove? And the question will there still be KitKat in the bowl? Well I want to thank you for stepping forward and being crazy enough to take this on equally as I thanked Patricia for doing it. The City Clerk's Office is a very big job and it is very difficult and the fact that you are willing to take that on and also engage in outreach for voter registration; I think it's just great. I have enjoyed working with you on the Board of Aldermen, I've found you to be very approachable, very grounded, but also very, very knowledgeable. So thank you for coming forward.

Ms. Lovering Thank you very much Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Klee

Well I don't get a chance to vote for you here, I am assuming that you will get a positive nod and then I'll get the chance at the Board of Aldermen. But it is bittersweet to have you leave is really going to be hard. Thank you.

Alderman Dowd

Yeah I have no doubt whatsoever that Sue will be successful as City Clerk because her professionalism and her hard work ethic that I have witnessed over many years is going to bring great things to the City clerk's Office. And again I wish her very well and the only regret is that she won't be the person that we call every 5 minutes with the things going on on the Board of Aldermen, but again, she's not that far away. So best of luck.

Ms. Lovering Thank you very much Alderman Dowd.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. I just want to echo what everyone else has said. Sue has been here since I've been on the Board. I don't want to say how many years that is, but it's not 30. It is a big job the City Clerk and Sue is up for it. She will be great, I can't think of anyone else myself that would do a better job down there at this point than Sue Lovering. Thanks Mayor.

Chairman Caron

Well Sue when I talked to you the other day I told her I had some questions. I know she will do a good job because I remember when Sue started, that's when I was already here some 20 odd years. But I just had a couple of questions for and I gave her a hint.

Ms. Lovering What I should be thinking about and I've been thinking.

Chairman Caron

And you have, OK. So one of the things that and I think you've already answered with this, reaching out to voters. But one of it was what you thought your priorities were going to be in the next 90 days especially with an election coming up.

Ms. Lovering Certainly and I think my goal in the next 90 days is to focus on the upcoming elections and get as much knowledge. And also to get to know the employees and the day-to-day procedures in that office. Certainly I need to focus on the upcoming elections. I already mentioned City Clerk Piecuch and former City Clerk Paul Bergeron; the new Deputy City Clerk was a former Town Clerk and has had first hands on with elections in her town. And three employees downstairs have also worked here in the

City for elections, so a wonderful team she has built. My goal is just to get to know them better, get to know the process, work together and strive for a smooth transition and learn as I go.

Chairman Caron

One of the questions I had Alderman Lopez already asked about your managing style and how tough you would be because you are going to be managing what, 5 or more employees so I won't ask that one. But the other thing is with your new position you are going to be doing a lot of work. You have to work in the office, where you really had the capability of working remotely which was great for you and great for us because you could do double-duty if needed. So how do you feel that's going to, how are you going to survive that, is it going to be a difficult thing for you especially come election time when you are up at 2:00 in the morning and don't go to bed until midnight?

Ms. Lovering I will say Alderman Caron that one of the reasons I left the Legal Department to come to work for the Board of Aldermen was because of the flexibility. I had small children at the time; I started here what I call "BC" – Before Children. They are now raised and I am a grandmother. So that is not as important to me as a value as it was at that time. I think I have balanced the work and my dedication here to my family life and certainly I understand that this requires to come in before 8:00 to get everything up and running and to stay for however long it takes and I will continue to bring the work ethics that I think have demonstrated over the years and dedicate any hours that are necessary.

Chairman Caron

You have done a fabulous job.

Ms. Lovering Thank you very much.

Chairman Caron

I've worked with you in different aspects of your career so I know that you will jump into this but I think it was important for you to think about some of the things, because she got nervous Friday when I said I have some questions. But you answered them truthfully and I know that you will give 110%.

Ms. Lovering Thank you so much.

Chairman Caron

You're great. So we will make our decision later on and you know the drill.

Ms. Lovering I would just like to thank the Board. It has been a pleasure, it has been a true pleasure to support each and every one of you and the past Aldermen. I have a deep respect for this process; for this room. It certainly has been an honor. And I think the win/win in this is I still get to support the Board, albeit in a different role. I still get to come here and be with you. So thank you very much.

Chairman Caron

Good. Well thank you, Sue. Ok Mayor we have got the Conservation Commission.

Mayor Donchess

My nominee for the Conservation Commission is Gloria McCarthy. I think she is familiar to everyone. Gloria has lived in the City a long time, worked for our school department for a number of years at the Broad Street school and is very interested in serving on the Conservation Commission helping to promote the use of green space; the preservation of green space in the City. She and Brian have been

dedicated to this cause for a long, long time. We all know the work that Brian did but Gloria was always in the background encouraging his direction and especially with respect to the many, many accomplishments regarding conservation and the trails and everything else that has been established in Nashua over the years.

I know that Gloria will do a very good job as a Conservation Commission member. We are nominating her first as an alternate, where she will of course learn the job and hopefully then when the time comes she will be able to serve as a full Commission Member. On the Conservation Commission often the alternate does sit and therefore I expect that she will play a very significant role in the Conservation Commission even in the position of as an alternate.

Conservation Commission

Gloria McCarthy, Alternate (New Appointment)

Term to Expire: December 31, 2021

Gloria McCarthy I've lived in Nashua since 1980 and Mayor Donchess just said everything I was going to say. I can make my presentation short and sweet. I've been here for a long time and hope to continue

The work that Brian did in the past. It is important to have green space in the City. We notice in the spring when we have bears looking for bird feeders because we are taking up a lot of their habitat. So it is important to leave spaces for natural plants and the animals the live and make sure we can balance that with the rights of the land owner's that want to improve their land. So I hopefully I can help the Conservation Commission to do that. Thank you for the opportunity.

Chairman Caron

Thank you. Any questions?

Alderwoman Kelly

Again not a question but a comment. I just wanted to Gloria for coming forward for this. It has been incredibly eye opening for me being on this commission and seeing the work that was done by Brian and being able to continue that work. So I look forward to serving on the Committee with you.

Mrs. McCarthy Thank you.

Chairman Caron

Anyone else?

Alderman Lopez

So I appreciated your comments in your e-mail with regards to the eco systems within the City particularly because of last year and the squirrel holocaust where for some reason they were everywhere and something was definitely out of balance. I was just wondering if there's any particular issues you think we should be addressing like bees?

Mrs. McCarthy I'm not really crazy about the hornets that have taken up residence on my porch because one stung me. But other than that, we need to have the wildflowers and plants so that the bees will have the opportunity to do what bees do.

Alderman Lopez

With the birds.

Mrs. McCarthy And the birds. Yes the birds and the bees. We need to be aware of the pesticides to be sure that we don't continue to destroy bee colonies.

Alderman Lopez

OK Thank you and thank you for being willing to step forward. I appreciate it.

Alderman Wilshire

I don't have a question I just want to thank Gloria for her willingness to be part of this Committee and just being here. Thank you.

Alderman Dowd

I too want to thank you for stepping up but I know you and the rest of your family and you've all been deeply involved in conservation and conservation land here in the City. It is critically important to have a green space so thank you very much.

Alderman Klee

Yes I'd like to say thank you also and I know a lot of people will say that you are continuing Brian's work but I don't believe that to be true. I think you are starting on your own path of your own work so thank you very much.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you Gloria for stepping up to this and if there's one thing that I know about you from knowing you in the past is that when you dedicate yourself to something you are all in. So I know you will do well on this Committee. So thank you for stepping forward.

Chairman Caron

So everyone has said the same thing and I think it's wonderful Gloria that you are willing to do this and be part of something that you really believe in. So we will take up your nomination later on and hopefully you'll be all set for the next meeting. Thank you. OK Cultural Connections Mayor.

Mayor Donchess

Madam Chair this Eric Drouart who I am nominating for the Cultural Connections Committee and also we didn't really meet before the meeting so I really didn't realize you were here but also Nonyem Egbuonu for the Cultural Connections Committee as well. We didn't get to meet before the meeting so I apologize for that. But with Eric he has a very extensive resume. He is a native of France, he has been in the United States for a long time, you can see his resume, very deep, academic resume as well as business experience. He is, of course, fluent in French, has been Chair of the Club Richelieu at various times including the present.

The goal of the Cultural Connections Committee is to create a sense of community among all of the people of Nashua, many of whom come from different ethnic backgrounds. We have been a City of immigrants for a long, long time, we are officially a welcoming City and this is part of what we are trying to accomplish to make every person who comes to Nashua feel part of the community and welcome,

accepted and valued. Of course, Mr. Drouart's background being from France is reflective of at least the French background we have via Canada at least. He is fluent in French as I said. He has been President of the Club Richelieu and therefore will do a great job in helping us to achieve the goal of supporting and including all of the people of Nashua whether they have been here for a long time or whether they have just come recently. So I think he's a great nominee.

Now Nonyem Egbuounu is another great nomination. I had not seen her as I apologized, we had not gotten together today. I didn't realize she was coming tonight. She is a retired public educator and she has very varied experience in community and in organizing. She is a mother, grandmother and an active member of the Main Street Methodist Church. She's part of the Nashua Interfaith Council which itself is doing a lot to make sure that Church Members and Community Members in general are all included in the City. So she has been active there and that's an important part of her history. She's part of the Granite State Organizing Project. I think I have seen her sing at various functions including at Martin Luther King Day, The Nashua Interfaith Choir, she sings there. She is a member of the Y. So I think she will do a great job in helping to reach out to some of our newer residents, again making it clear that people from every nation who come here, we definitely have new resident immigrants who have come to Nashua in the last few years. She will help us make sure that we welcome them and make sure that it is clear that we include everybody in Nashua and we want everyone to succeed and have a great life for themselves and their family here in our community.

So I think both nominees will do a great job and with that I give you our two nominees.

Chairman Caron

We will start with you Eric.

Cultural Connections Committee

Eric Drouart (New Appointment)

Term to Expire: December 31, 2020

Eric Drouart Thank you Mr. Mayor. Thank you I am here really as the President of Club Richelieu as you've heard. I've been in Nashua for the past 20 years teaching at Rivier and teaching at Assumption College. I am not teaching French but business. But really I am very committed to multi-cultural connections. I've attended already many of their meetings; I am looking forward to the multi-cultural festival next Sunday. We had a meeting just to illustrate of the Club on Sunday, yesterday, and we had two visitors from the Democratic Republic of Congo recent refugees that have come to Nashua; French-speaking persons with their families and this is what I would like to be useful for in terms of my knowledge of the French language and helping some of our newest residents to get acclimated to this wonderful City of Nashua.

Alderman Lopez

So it wasn't too long ago that I was Chairing the Cultural Connections Committee and we were organizing Cultural Festivals. It is nice to see that is all continuing, particularly the Richelieu Club being engaged. I think at the time where I was Chairing there was this perception that Cultural Connections was really more about new-coming cultures and minorities. I think for real culture competency to really see different cultures come together, you have to approach all of them and where they come and where they are. I know that the French culture has been very strong in Nashua for many, many years. That doesn't just make it an older heritage, it also makes it a foundation for new coming Nashua residents like you said from the Republic of Congo and maybe Haitians and other places where they find something familiar and if it is not just language, but in culture and taste and history. So I am really happy to see all of that continuing to work. And I happy to hear that you are saying that the Richelieu is also going to be an active member.

Alderman Clemons

I have a question and I'll pose it to both if I may to both nominees. But what in your estimation, what do you think Nashua's biggest area of improvement needs to be or should be when it comes to engaging in getting multicultural things together, I'm not wording that correctly But what is our biggest shortcoming I think is my question?

Mr. Drouart I am not so sure there are short-comings because even the Multi-Cultural Committee is very large and includes Public Health, people involved with the Adult Learning Center. So I think it is just being known and being open to and engaged with these new immigrants. I wouldn't say that there are shortcomings, I think we are very open community, I don't think there are any minority or immigrant-related problems. I don't see them actually. I think it is just staying aware and engaged with the potential needs of these new immigrants. Of course the French Canadian Heritage and the French Canadian descent has been a very important role in the developmental plan of Nashua. But we have new French speaking immigrants that need to be – their needs need to be addressed.

Nonyem E. Egbuonu (New Appointment)

Term to Expire: July 9, 2022

Nonyem E. Egbuonu Do you want me to? OK I am actually representing the President of the Nashua Area Council at the Cultural Connections Committee level. From the very first day that I joined in the past year, this is my second year, I actually contributed a little bit to this idea of making sure that Nashua is a welcoming City. I didn't mince words from the background, being welcoming means truly being welcoming not just by word but by action. Some suggestions were brought up with the cause, we rubbed minds together about if we say we are welcoming we should reflect it when we see new faces; strangers among us. And some of the cultures that are already maybe established attracting more people from where there culture is as they feel that "OK Nashua is a City that is welcoming". And let me say that I have sing through the multicultural festivals that is I participated in for the first time last year. Really more people are coming out and interacting through such opportunities. So creating more opportunities for social interactions is what I think our business is, the Cultural Connections Committee level. I see that already many people are looking forward to coming there on Sunday, this Sunday to participate this year because they have heard so much about how we enjoyed the one of last year. So creating more awareness when such an event is coming up is something that I think we will have to work on because publicity is very important for us to get many more cultures that probably don't think they are welcome, to know that everybody is welcome.

Chairman Caron

Alderman Klee you have a question for Eric?

Alderman Klee

Not so much a question but to make a statement, I'm sorry I have a problem with my throat so my voice is going to go in and out all night. Mr. Drouart is a constituent of mine and he's been very active in beautification of the area within his community. He has remained active; I think he is good representation of what multicultural means here in the City of Nashua and I strongly also recommend him for this position.

I don't really know you very well but your answer was perfect.

Ms. Egbuonu Nonyem is my name.

Alderman Klee

Nonyem thank you so much your answer was perfect.

Alderman Lopez

Nonyem can you just say your name because everyone is dancing around it.

Ms. Egbuonu Nonyem E. Egbuonu.

Alderman Lopez

We've got to practice that. We can't just skip around and not just say the whole name.

Ms. Egbuonu I'm actually because of that difficulty, Nonny is the simple way which is the way I fondly known and called. So more people at Church at all the groups, interfaith it is Nonny to them. So maybe that is very easy.

Chairman Caron

OK so now it is your turn to tell us why you would like to be on this Committee?

Ms. Egbuonu I will actually assuming that I am already on the Committee because from the very first day I have been active and doing stuff with every member of the committee. So when I'm at the committee I was asking what does it involve being invited for this kind of interview? That don't mean nothing, is just so. So I am assuming active participation which is what I've been used to doing my work life and now as a retiree, I jump in, I say my mind, I bring in my experience and we keep interacting. So the Cultural Connections Committee is giving me a lot of opportunity to continue being a very active member of the community, age notwithstanding. I thank the Mayor for nominating me because it is the way of jumping in that I got to know the Mayor that is at the events, I am able to say the Mayor is here. So thank you very much for appointing, even with a difficult name.

Mayor Donchess

You know they used to call me Don C. Hess so they've difficulty with my name too sometimes they divide it into three. That's what Lopez usually calls me so.

Alderman Lopez

Yes that's what I call you. So Committee Members, if you participate in the Committee you don't always need a title to be heard, especially in the Cultural Connections Committee. They are very receptive and they listen to all the members. There are appointed members who can vote on specific issues like how to represent the committee. I know that the interfaith community is one of them and you were already their appointee. But this would be nominating you to get a 2 year term where you are representing yourself. Does that mean there would be another appointee made by Interfaith to take over your other spot?

Ms. Egbuonu So far I didn't see that anybody was actually prepared to add additional responsibility to what they already bear. So Rabbi John of the Temple Abraham was like very pleased to hear that I was prepared to come and serve at this level. So if I've got 2 years, that is somebody willing to do it, I would like another person to have the position, otherwise, I'll continue doing it.

Alderman Lopez

So Mayor you can correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe we are recognizing, you for your own term and that will free up a space for the Interfaith because the Interfaith Council actually has an appointee as well.

Mayor Donchess

Correct.

Alderman Lopez

So keep someone in mind, that's not something, I don't think we oversee the Interfaith Designee, they just picked one and they picked you and it went so well that they wanted to set you up as a regular citizen on the committee and now you have your own term, your own vote and another person can be involved in the Interfaith. The reason I brought the Interfaith up particularly is because one of the worst kept secrets I think in Public Health right now is we are facing a tremendous surge in suicides and I think barriers to faith, religion, culture, are preventing word from really getting out that there are resources for this and that we need to be inclusive and engaging so people don't feel isolated and without hope and helpless. What can we do as a City to reach across cultural barriers to address this issue?

Ms. Egbuonu Let me jump in right away and say that through the Interfaith Council I must have been nominated for specialist training that was a collaboration between the Integrated Delivery Network and the Institute for having the spirituality competence as part of the health care delivery to address some of the problems that probably have caused people to get to that extent of committing suicide or people who are struggling with the opioid issue, substance use and substance misuse. So my project was on the area of spirituality and fortunately the Church has given me more platform to work with the Institute so I'm a co-facilitator with another person Dr. David Sundar from Institute we are working on this and now we are learning to train some Swahili speaking pastors, using the ministry at the Methodist Church as the venue.

So we are working hand in hand with not only our own competence here in Nashua, Nashua is one of the regions being addressed by the Integrated Delivery Network for the problem you have mentioned. So the Cultural Connections Aswalas, the Interfaith, they all intermingle; for me I don't see that this one is limited to this or that because whatever problem we are dealing with are across with cultural and faith and so I suppose we are making some conscious effort to make some input in the area of addressing some of those problems.

Alderman Lopez

I just have to say that's an incredibly satisfying answer for someone who is a mental health counselor. It sounds like you are way ahead of it and you are deep into the trenches of working on integrating things like spiritual dimensions and counseling but in a real world practical way like through the Integrated Delivery Network. So thank you. I am looking forward to your nomination.

Chairman Caron

Anyone else? Well we thank you both for wanting to participate and your nomination will come up later in the meeting. Thank you. Now we have Downtown Improvements. Ed Hayes?

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Hayes should come on up. So Madam Chair as you know the Downtown Improvement Committee was formed some years ago to advise the City and the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor regarding downtown issues in general. They help guide us regarding the direction we should take with respect to downtown redevelopment issues and supporting businesses and commerce and residents Downton. Alderman Clemons was very instrumental in creating this Committee. They also help to advise us regarding the direction of parking meter and leased parking revenues in excess of the figure of

\$728,000.00 where they advise us as how to spend the excess above that number which has ranged from \$100,000.00 to \$150,000.00 about every year. So it is an important Committee to the downtown and to the City.

One thing that I've tried to do and I believe has been done in the past, is to try to make sure we have downtown business owners on the Committee so they have first-hand knowledge of conditions downtown and we want a variety of business owners on the Committee. I have previously nominated Michael Buckley and long-standing members have been Marylou Blaisdell, Rich Lannon and others who have downtown businesses.

Edward has a salon business on Main Street. He's an entrepreneur here in Nashua, he started the business on his own. He's had the business for a number of years. This is a sector of our downtown business community that is not yet represented on the Committee. He has expressed an interest in this Committee as well as in the direction, in the initiatives that we are taking downtown and the direction that we want the City to go with respect to downtown issues. He is an ideal nominee for the Downtown Improvement Committee and I believe with actively and effectively represent our Downtown Business Owners. With that Edward can say a few words as to why he thinks he'd like to be on the Committee.

Downtown Improvements Committee

Edward Hayes (New Appointment)

Term to Expire: December 13, 2019

Edward Hayes Thank you. So it is my understanding that all of these seats that are relative to business owners are taken. I am a business owner but the reason that I am nominated is because I am a resident of downtown. I live right near Gate City or whatever the Church is now called on Franklin Street. And so yes I live right there, I walk to work every day, I walk home at 10:00 at night. I am in downtown, I patronize downtown businesses, I own a downtown business, I employ people downtown. I deal with all of the regular problems. I've been sitting and watching the Committee for the last six months or so participating as minimally as I can. I am not a minimal participant.

So I think why do I want to be a part of it? I'm not really sure to be honest with you. I have a lot of opinions about how I would like the town that I have lived in and spend all of my time in, I have opinions as to why and how I think that would improve or could improve. I understand that it's far more complicated than I probably give it credit for. I was doing Tracy Hall's hair one day and she was telling me that there is an opportunity, you should go check it out. So she and I have lots of conversations about things that are going on and I assume that she knows better than I; she seems to know a lot of things. So what I have participated in so far I know that a lot of my questions tend to sort of throw a wrench into the processes because I don't necessarily agree with a lot of what other people have to say. But I believe that might be a particularly helpful perspective in the process of making decisions.

Alderman Clemons

So here's my question for you since you brought it up. Give me an example of something that you would like the Committee to explore or you would like the City to do either differently or that is new and something that you are going to hopefully bring to that Committee if you are appointed.

Mr. Hayes So it would be new, so it's more of a "we" thing than a "me" thing so I can sort of bring ideas. It is my opinion that we should be trying to focus on making downtown a hospitable place for new businesses. I think there is a lot of conversation about how to do that and there is a lot of conversation about you know how we can put lights in different places and make it sort of feel more safe for people. But I think that there needs to be some sort of way that we encourage people who don't yet own businesses to own small businesses. I'd like to see some sort of organization, or some way that we sort of encourage people to open small businesses where this is space downtown to open small businesses.

We hear a lot of conversation about there's not enough lights for the people who walk downtown to get to the places that there are going to. But I am out after dark downtown constantly because I work really late and I don't really see a lot of places that would need the way lit for them. I would like to participate in any way that I can having opened a small business and you know running one regularly to maybe help support new business owners who come in. I know the girls who own Comrade feel similarly. So I see when I go to other towns around New Hampshire that there are a lot more small businesses that people would frequent in other towns than there are here. I would like to get a better handle on, I personally am motivated to try to figure out how to get more small businesses in downtown. And then when they have questions maybe we could participate in helping them run a more stable business, because we've all been trying our best for so long.

Alderman Clemons

I love that approach. When the Downtown Improvement Committee was originally discussed, it was sort of a bid district which levy a tax on everything. They decided to go a different approach for how to fund the downtown but the idea was and has always been that the funds that are raised every year should be reinvested into the downtown. And so I think it is a great idea to explore using some of those funds to help an entrepreneur open up a business there. Because the more that we can invest in successful businesses within the community, the more success the community is going to be. It is sort of a cycle and so I think that's a great thing that you should definitely bring up and explore. You have my support. If you are approved, reach out to me and let's talk.

Alderman Lopez

Ok so you run a salon and normally I have like a certain go-to joke for that, it seems it wouldn't go over well with you. Regarding entrepreneurs though, are you aware of the E for All Program.

Mr. Hayes I am, they actually came and spoke so yes, they came and spoke.

Alderman Lopez

So you would find that a good way to stimulate downtown business and improve the downtown committee?

Mr. Hayes That was not my opinion when they spoke.

Alderman Lopez

OK but you do want to stimulate downtown by encouraging entrepreneurs and small businesses.

Mr. Hayes Yes most definitely. The E for All Program seemed a lot more relative to business starting as a general idea whereas there is money allocated to particularly good ideas rather than the process of helping people. It is my personal belief that there are lots of people who would want to start small businesses; not all of them are going to be people who the E for All Program seems to be an organization that would support. It seemed as though their scope was really super wide and not based around downtown. And I'm you know more interested in the improvement of downtown rather than their mission as a whole.

Alderman Lopez

Well that's a good differentiation of roles too. You are specifically trying to incentivize downtown businesses whereas they may be casting a broader net.

Mr. Hayes Very broad.

Alderman Lopez

This was the first that they had such a broad net but that's also because as the Downtown Alderman I just assume everybody should start businesses there. So I might be a little bit biased. And then my other question is the length of time we have for parking downtown being capped at 90 minutes. Do you think more time would be better?

Mr. Hayes Now is the time you want to talk about that? Yeah so I believe that everybody on our committee seems pretty strong in making decisions that sort of suit themselves. I would be no different; we struggle with the 90 minute parking cap. I see, on a regular basis, people who park downtown and park in the same spot all day long. I have customers who want to park there. It is my personal opinion that people should essentially be allowed to overpay for proximity to what they want to go for. Because we have the app and the app is like wonderful and handy until you realize that the app only gives you 90 minutes in which case you can just game the system by going and paying the meter, which we then have to do for people because people refuse to park 100 feet away because it's ridiculous. I personally think the system doesn't work and I think that it is a really complicated solution. But no I don't like the 90 minute thing.

Alderman Lopez

Ok well I mean that's what you are going to be joining the Committee for so good luck with all of that.

Alderman Dowd

Yes, I'm not going to touch the parking thing. We are going to have a comprehensive study I'm told soon so I'll wait to see what the professionals come up with. But I get to be downtown a lot now that I'm retired and we have some people in Nashua that don't think we ought to spend any money downtown. I find that very discouraging, especially some of them that came from Europe. Because in Europe the center of the town is the cultural center, it is where everyone gets together and I've had an opportunity to travel throughout Europe and the downtowns are clean, bright, you know, and are lots of flowers and very welcoming. I notice now our downtown it is the flowers and the plants now are really nice and the sidewalks and everything is coming along, hopefully we can repave the street which looks like a checkerboard right now. But when Main Street is finally paved at some point, I think our downtown really looks nice and also we have or we are trying to develop along the riverfront and walkways and things to make downtown a welcoming place for people. I think that's very important and I would hope that is your thought as well.

Mr. Hayes Do you want me to share what my thoughts are relative to that? I really love the idea. I think that we seriously lack a number of businesses and business types for people to come to downtown to do many things, right? It is my experience where people will sort of come for one thing and maybe participate in one other thing. Like people will come for a haircut and maybe get some coffee or get a sandwich or something. I personally think that it is really important to have a wider variety of things for people to do, to draw a wider variety of people downtown, alright? And so I think that's all really nice but I think there is a belief that there is a variety of things downtown that I don't believe exists and I would like to participate in, if I can, the expanding of the offerings of our town. When you walk through any other towns, there are different types of businesses that you can walk into.

I, for instance, was in Concord two weeks ago and there were probably 4 different businesses that I walked in that had nothing to do with each other categorically and I walked into all of them because I wanted to. So when I am in Nashua, I don't do that. I stop for food alright and so I hope that one of the ways that we grow culturally is that we have a wider range of cultural foods because I would like that. But yeah I mean I definitely love the waterfront thing, I mean I walked along the waterfront yesterday.

It is in better repair than it was a couple of months ago due to construction down there. But it super nice and I would like to see that expand. And I really, I really just believe that we need a wider array of businesses downtown. You know with the Performing Arts Center coming in, I think that will be great and I think that will motivate a lot of people to be able to spend time down here which I think might make it more appealing to people who don't currently have businesses down here. And I think it will also help people be more aware of parking that they are currently not aware and maybe less afraid of it.

Alderman Kelly

Yeah thank you for your thoughts on downtown, I am also a business owner downtown, so I am right across the street from you and I see a lot of the things that you see as well. So my question is, well what you said, I think Concord has done an incredible job and their downtown is really walkable, all kinds of different stores. Do you have any ideas on how we attract that to downtown in terms of getting that variety?

Mr. Hayes How we attract a variety of businesses to downtown? So hopefully the Performing Arts Center has a huge impact on that. But I personally would like to see some sort of understanding of the number of open store fronts. And an understanding and maybe a sort of deal with the people who own them to help us understand what kind of spaces there are. And I would like to find some way to figure out how we can find people who are willing to run small businesses. Small businesses are not a fun thing that you do for entertainment, it's a thing that you do that takes a lot of your time and energy and so it requires passion. It sometimes can require lots of dollars, right. And so I think that it would be a one at a time kind of thing, but I think, assuming that all things go well with the Performing Arts Center, the motivation for that might be pretty primary. It is my understanding that everybody has got their eyes on the Performing Arts Center right now and most of the dollars that are being chosen to be spent are Performing Arts Center, for the forward-movement of the Performing Arts Center. So I think that what we are talking about would be a little bit more down the road and would be secondary for now although I will push it as primary because you know hopefully the squeaky wheel gets the oil.

Chairman Caron

Alright, anyone else? Well thank you so much Ed, we appreciate it, your nomination will be coming up shortly.

Mr. Hayes Thanks.

Chairman Caron

And finally Mine Falls Park, Douglas Gagne.

Mayor Donchess

Yes Madam Chair. So my nominee for the Mine Falls Advisory Park, Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee is Doug Gagne. Mr. Gagne is recently a resident of Nashua but has lived for a long time in Hollis. And he moved in the right direction he figured out that life in Nashua is better than Hollis believe it or not. He served a long time on the Hollis Planning Board and owned the Mix Border Nursery & Gardens which you might remember on Pine Hill Road just after you cross the Hollis Line over on the left of the southside of the road which was garden designer/nursery. He has spent a lifetime in landscape design and nursery work. He's formerly a graduate of the University of New Hampshire in Plant Science and therefore he has expressed an interest in being on the Mine Falls Advisory Committee which is a perfect fit for him. It is really my pleasure to nominate Mr. Gagne and look forward to his service with respect to one of our premier parks, that being Mine Falls Park.

Chairman Caron

Ok thank you, Mr. Gagne?

Mines Falls Park Advisory Committee

Douglas Gagne (New Appointment)

Term to Expire: September 1, 2022

Douglas Gagne Thank you Mayor, yes to amend the record slightly, I was actually born in Nashua and I have spent about half of my life here and the other half in Hollis. So I really haven't moved very far from Nashua at all.

Alderman Lopez

Boomerang generation.

Mr. Gagne Yes, yes, that's right. And what caused me to return, my wife and I actually, is we care for my mother who has dementia. So we've been doing that for the last several years. As the Mayor indicated, oh by the way, I also have to say just as a side note here, I thought when I first expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee that it would be sort of like a rubber stamp. There's a vacancy – four months later I am almost there and I am really looking forward to it. So I do commend your thoroughness and observed the proceedings tonight and I appreciate all your very thoughtful questions.

When my wife and I decided to close our business so that I could care for my mother, I was looking for a way to remain outdoors, because I've been outdoors really all my life. And I sort of rediscovered Mine Falls Park. Growing up in Nashua, Mine Falls was there but it wasn't really a thing, we never went there. And even when I was an adult, I would go there occasionally but didn't really know very much about it and I didn't always feel comfortable because I wasn't sure where I was going and so forth. But anyway this year, I decided to explore it and once I become interested in something I try to become active in it. So I have used the park quite extensively over the last several months and decided that I'd like to become a part of helping to keep it going into the future. And I'll also say I regard Mine Falls Park as a jewel really for the City of Nashua. Greater Boston has its Emerald Necklace and in many ways I think that Mine Falls is like that; we were so lucky to have a park that is over 300 acres in the Center of Nashua. There is a major highway that bisects it and yet access to both parts of the park are there. It is also relevance to and proximity to the mill yard district which is becoming vibrant again which is a good thing to see and the plans for the riverfront in general.

So at any rate, I really do appreciate it and more from not only should I say from a plant perspective, but that certainly does interest me greatly, the natural world. I am very familiar with the plants that grow there; I have concerns about some of them in terms of invasive. But I am also interested in from more or less I guess an urban archeology standpoint; looking at the history of it. This is almost 200 years old; it will be 200 years old in 2023. I think that there's an opportunity there to educate people passively and actively about the history of this, you know, this didn't just arise, you know, how this came to be and how it helped. It was really necessary for the formation of the mills and the mills were necessary for the formation of the City. So anyway I think it's a bigger thing than just a park.

Chairman Caron

OK questions

Alderman Lopez

So first of all it's a local tradition to get lost in Mine Falls. You haven't gone in the mill yard and come out at Home Depot, then you are missing half the park. But I really appreciated what you were saying about the plant identification. I remember when I was a Boy Scout I was all about that because I was thinking like "there's free food everywhere". It turns out that blind people are terrible at it. So like a led walk though were you can describe things to people, you can engage their interest, make it a little bit easier so you are not trying to figure out from a book what you are looking at. I think that's a huge opportunity here; I almost feel bad that we wasted a couple months of your time over the summer where we could have been bringing groups of people in. I see obvious potential with groups like the PAL Center kids or the Boys & Girls Club. But Alan Menoin does lantern tours and they are hugely popular, I could see something like that happening in Mine Falls and I would love to see that. So I am looking forward to your nomination.

Mr. Gagne Thank you and that's the very same thing or very similar thing at least that I've had in mind as well in terms of opening up people's eyes as to what is there, good and bad.

Alderman Klee

Yes thank you for that, and sorry for my voice. One of the things is that I am glad you mentioned Mine Falls as a gem to the City because I agree with you. Just about every Sunday I have a greyhound walking group and we gather and they come from all over; Massachusetts, a little further north and we walk Mine Falls. We have, at times had, 13 greyhounds with us. The only problem and I hear this all the time with Mine Falls are those people who allow their dogs off leashes. And that is a real concern. I love the idea about walking groups and I think the more that we have people there of authority, such as yourself and so on and it is not something that I would ask for the Police to do all the time; but I think that would help more awareness to the people and so on. I would love to see a little bit more signage that reminds people "pick up" – maybe the dog advisory group that will be one of the things that they will be looking at; as well as the importance of maintaining your dog on leash. And we often hear times where people say "my dog is friendly". Well I will tell you, my dog is friendly but when someone says my next words are "well mine is not" mostly so that they will keep their dog away. Greyhounds look at other dogs like "I have no idea what you are" because they only get to see greyhounds when they are coming through the system. But I really do think and I would love to see more signage, I think it would make a friendlier park because I've even seen dogs coming running out at people that are biking, people with small children. And the dog may be friendly and may be excitable but we don't know that and we can't take those chances. So thank you very much for stepping out.

Mr. Gagne Thank you. And as far as signage, I agree and the problem with signage is it becomes creative vandalism. So I am also involved in another organization nearby which has a trail, so vandalism is an unfortunate reality.

Alderman Clemons

Briefly I just want to thank you for stepping up to this position; I think you are going to bring a lot of good to it. So thank you.

Mr. Gagne Thank you very much.

Chairman Caron

Thank you and your nomination will come up later in the meeting. Mayor?

Mayor Donchess

Madam Chair I don't really want to interrupt but there has been an emergency that has come up and I need to call one of the Division Directors. I wanted to mention, if I could just briefly, why I support the ballot referendum regarding Sports Betting, if you won't mind, so I can go?

Chairman Caron

Certainly, certainly.

Mayor Donchess

This is the opportunity to let the citizens of Nashua decide whether we are going to have Sports Betting. They did vote in favor of Keno. Our two charitable gaming sites in Nashua have expressed their support; they believe that it will help them generate actually more money for our non-profits. They have done an incredible job in generating money for the non-profits and the charitable organizations in Nashua. It has exceeded everybody's expectations. I think there is practically not an organization in town that has not received an incredible boost, shot in the arm, from being the beneficiary non-profit of a week or 10 days at one of the charitable gaming sites. They've injected millions and millions of dollars into the Nashua Non-Profit Center, helping us serve poor people, people who need help, children who are in need, the homeless, people without food, you know, many of the needy people in our community. So I think we need to, in my opinion, give the Nashua Citizens the opportunity to decide whether we should proceed with the Sports Betting as the Legislature has authorized. So I hope the Committee will act favorably on that Resolution. Again I would have waited until that came up but there is this thing going on which I really want to attend to right away.

Chairman Caron

Absolutely, thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Alright thank you very much.

APPLICATION TO LICENSE HAWKER'S, PEDDLER'S, ITINERANT VENDOR'S LICENSE – None

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO RECOMMEND THE CONFIRMATION OF THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR BY ROLL CALL:**

TO THE ANIMAL AND DOG PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE: JUNE LEMEN AND AMBER LOGUE FOR TERMS TO EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 10, 2022;

TO THE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: LYDIA J. FOLEY, JOHN E. TULLEY AND BRADLEY VEAR FOR TERMS TO EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 13, 2020; JASON B. HAVILAND AND DEBORAH NOVOTNY FOR TERMS TO EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 30, 2021; KIM REAGAN FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE MAY 1, 2022; AND DAVID M. DENEHY, H. JOHN STABILE, AND CARL ANDRADE FOR TERMS TO EXPIRE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2022;

TO THE OFFICE OF CITY CLERK: SUSAN LOVERING FOR AN INDEFINITE TERM AT THE PLEASURE OF THE MAYOR;

TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION: GLORIA MCCARTHY FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2021;

TO THE CULTURAL CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE: ERIC DROUART FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE: DECEMBER 31, 2020, AND NONYEM E. EGBUONU FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JULY 9, 2022;

TO THE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE: EDWARD HAYES FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 13, 2019;

TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION: ED WEBER FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE: MARCH 31, 2021, AND ROBERT G. SAMPSON FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2022;

TO THE MINES FALLS PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE: JEFF HANNIGAN, PAULA G. LOCHHEAD AND DOUGLAS GAGNE FOR TERMS TO EXPIRE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2022; AND

TO THE NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION JOHN EGAN FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

Chairman Caron

OK you heard the motion, is there any comments or concerns? OK will the Clerk please call the roll:

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

Yea: Alderman Lopez, Alderman Kelly Alderman Clemons, Alderman Caron	4
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-19-162

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee

RELATIVE TO A BALLOT REFERENDUM TO ALLOW SPORTS BETTING WITHIN THE CITY OF NASHUA

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Caron

OK you've heard the motion. City Clerk Piecuch is here. Would you give us a few minutes? This is time sensitive for the Committee to understand. Thank you.

Patricia Piecuch, City Clerk

Good evening Madam Chair and Honorable Members of the Committee and other members. For the record, my name is Patricia Piecuch and I am the City Clerk. And so yes this is time sensitive due to the fact that as you know the closing of the filing period just occurred this past Friday. We just pulled the names for the way that they are going to appear on the ballot. We are ready to preparing the ballot. So I know that I have talked with Alderman Caron and I think she has talked with the President and everything about possibly bringing this out tomorrow night. I think it is on the agenda currently as a partial referral so that this way the final vote can be taken so that this way we can get the ballots prepared. The Public Hearing still will be held in accordance with the law, not less than 15, not more 30 days prior to election of November 5th, so that probably will be scheduled sometime in October.

Chairman Caron

So you understand the motion. Any questions?

Alderman Clemons

No I just want to obviously, I was proud to endorse the legislation as soon as I knew that passed the House I contacted the City Attorneys and I said "let's get this on the ballot so that we can make sure we are one of the first communities so our casinos have the opportunity to get one of those or both of those licenses". So to me, you know, it is going to be up to the citizens. I don't see why we should have much opposition to this because ultimately the citizens of Nashua are going to make the final call on it. So we would let them do that and I have no problem bringing this out tomorrow either.

Alderman Lopez

I have two questions through the Chair to the City Clerk. Is like Keno where it funding some kind of public activity or is it just we are allowed to bet on sports.

Ms. Piecuch

That I'm not aware of.

Alderman Lopez

And then the second thing is what do we do if there is a massive outcry in the public comment period? Is it too late to take it off the ballot?

Ms. Piecuch

At that point in time it is, this Board has to make that decision as to whether or not they want to allow the voters, the City of Nashua to ahead and vote on this question. I know that I did ask for a ruling from Legal due to the fact that the timeframe from the Public Hearing and they felt that at that point in time the public can go ahead and still provide their comment but still it will be, the Board will if they put this forward, will be able to let the citizens of Nashua make that final decision as to whether they will support or not support this motion.

Alderman Lopez

Right because like 30 days before that is a little late to cross it out on all the ballots. So that was my question. I am in favor of letting the voters make this decision; it's going to be right after the World Series so I am sure a lot of people really have it in their minds as to whether they wanted to bet on that or not.

Alderman Klee

Yes hi, as my role as State Rep I was one of the ones that did vote for this. The State is taking their piece of the pie on this. Whether or not it will go as much to education as Keno and all the other ones, I'm not quite sure on that to be very honest with you. But I know we will be having an overview by the Lottery tomorrow. The key to this is that it is a 3 step process. Beyond us passing the legislation, it has to go to the voters within the municipalities. Once they choose and say yay or nay, if they did say "yay" it is still not a done deal. They have to apply; they have to be approved by the State. The State has a limited amount that they will give. If one or both of our charitable gaming are selected, then we as a municipality, this Board, will have to vote whether we or not we will allow them to have it. So it is a 3 step process; it is not a one and done. They will jump through hoops, they will answer questions and I believe if it doesn't work out for the City, we can revoke it.

Alderman Dowd

Just a few real quick bullet points; one – I think it is a good idea to let the voters decide, put it on the ballot and have them make their decision. The Public Hearing, as far as that is concerned, that can influence people's votes, so I don't see that as an issue. And you know the State does not have a lot of ways for raising the money that they want to spend and I made a point of saying don't keep taxing the cities and town on their property taxes to make things happen. So if it gives them some funds to do something, great. As far as the two venues that it might possibly happen to in Nashua; both of them have been extremely great in controlling the gambling that they use for the charities; and the charities have made out really well because it is very, very hard for charities to raise money these days. And it is not only beneficial to the charities but for the services that they provide to the City, it's a good thing. So let's let the voters decide.

Alderman Wilshire

I work for a non-profit and I will tell you we benefit from the Charitable Gaming from the organization, one of the organizations here. But I am sure both do serve the community well, the non-profits well. I am all for giving this to the votes; I mean I don't think it is a whole lot different than we are doing now. So I think the voters will support it; I know I will support it.

Alderman Lopez

So back to Alderman Klee's response. I feel like there is no jeopardy now because I am in favor of giving it to the voters but I also want to make that the voters who come to Public Comment aren't coming with the understanding that we've already done it, so it's too late. So if we have an additional check against it, if everybody comes out and for some reason thinks this is a terrible idea, at least they will still will have their voice heard because we would have to approve it, once the State approves us, then we can approve the site. So I am fully in favor of this, I think it's a good idea.

Chairman Caron

I think this is great too, I think it's important for the voters to be heard, one way or the other. I think putting the, unfortunately because of the time frame, having the Public Hearing after we've agreed to put it on the ballot is not a difficult thing because more people will come out or not and make their decision based on that. And to you President we will certainly have this for tomorrow's meeting as an amendment and to get that done. So OK, you've heard the Motion about R-19-162. We need roll call vote.

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

Yea: Alderman Lopez, Alderman Kelly
Alderman Clemons, Alderman Caron 4

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-19-052

Endorsers: Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderdwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly

AMENDING NRO 93-6 IMPOUNDMENT OF DOGS, CATS, FERRETS AND CHICKENS

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Klee

Yes I know I am not a member but I am the primary sponsor on this and I would like to make an amendment to this amendment to this Ordinance. I would like to amend the wording of dog officer to reflect the actual title of the position which is the Animal Control Officer, the ACO.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO AMEND O-19-052 TO CHANGE “DOG OFFICER” TO “ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER (ACO)”

Chairman Caron

So Alderman Klee is asking for an amendment to number 2 that is it listed as “Animal Control Officer” rather than “Dog Officer”. Any other comments?

Alderman Klee

I do have a comment on it but I think I should be waiting until after you vote on this one, because I want to make comment before you do your final vote. So do I do that now?

Chairman Caron

Yes.

Alderman Klee

In addition to that I'd like to make some clarity to this Ordinance. First off, this is not a new law. This Ordinance, this NRO, I'm sorry, 93-6 "Impoundment of Dogs, Cats, Ferrets and Chickens found at large" has been in existence since about 1977. This is not new. There have been additions to its including the chickens. When I spoke to many lawyers, I spoke to the Department of Agriculture up in the State, I asked them the impoundment of dogs, cats, ferrets and chickens found at large, does that mean the City or the Animal Control Officer would, in fact, have the ability to be able to pick up the animals that are listed and they said "yes".

I went forward and said there is obviously a clarity issues because of law suits that are being brought because of other comments that have been made. So I chose to clarify it. I chose to make sure that it was understood that your dog, cat, ferret and chicken needed to remain on your premises or within your control. How you choose to do that is your choice. Again, it is not a new law, it's been around since 1977. Now I know people keep saying or at least the speaker kept saying it was not his understanding. I think it may not have been his understanding but it's there. And I would think in his profession, as he's stated, that he has been a lawyer. He would understand that impoundment of dogs, cats, ferrets and chickens found at large in fact means that they will remain on your property or within your control. We added a few items under A. I believe if anybody were to care to look at it anything that is scratched out is being removed, anything underlined is new, in fact, to the NRO. Again this Ordinance is nothing more than an amendment for clarification. It adds nothing.

No Animal Control Officer will be anything different than they have been doing all along; it has been always their right and their ability to pick up any cat, dog, ferret or chicken if it were off premises or in some kind of nuisance, stray or ill. I don't believe our Animal Control Officer will be going and picking up chickens, I am hoping that they are not straying over everybody's lawn. They would do it for a cat if the cat looked ill. It was also commented that at Public Health we should table this because a Public Health Officer needed to come and speak to us. We had Public Health Officer speak to us including Dr. Stephanie Wolf-Rosenblum who spoke to us all about the diseases and so on of cats that are walking around. And that these cats can in fact not show any sign of illness, yet have something. One of the number one health concerns are stray cats. We need to keep this under control; again I'm not saying we are going to anything different. I don't think the Animal Control Officer would have time to go around and gather up all the cats that are running around. But it gives them the ability and the opportunity to do it well known to the public.

The comments about that cats would be taken and no person would be contacted, that's wrong. Number one if your animal is chipped and I think a responsible owner should put some form of identification including a chip. I don't think that if a cat owner says, "well I'm not required to, so I am not going to". That is their choice but then they take the choice that if their cat does get out, even a cat that is kept inside a home can get out. I strongly recommend responsible cat owners will have some form of identification. I don't recommend a tag collar because cats get under everything; they could get seriously hurt. And as far as I'm concerned, this amendment to the Ordinance for the clarity of it just explains to people; control your animals. I care about cats, I care about dogs. I had 5 ferrets and by the way my ferrets were on leashes, I did take them for little walks. Most often I took them for carries. But I have not had chickens in Nashua. I grew up with chickens and they stayed in their pens. But the bottom line is that we have to be responsible, animal owners, pet owners here in the City of Nashua. I think this clarity just explains it.

And the truth be told, the fact that someone thinks that this is new means that no one did understand that. So the fact that I put this amendment through I think is something that has brought conversation to the table and people now are well aware of it. The Humane Society, the Animal Shelters and Vets will first check for identification; no collar? They will scan. A chip will have the person's name and information. The first year that most animals are chipped there is a free service that comes along with it. You do not have to continue that service; I haven't and my dogs are chipped, my ferrets are chipped by the way also. But the bottom line is that I am finding this very upsetting and I have spoken to you all before and I've spoken to the public since the mailing went out. I don't know, I am assuming that this is what this was all about; my life has been a little bit of turmoil between the phone calls not just saying "don't do it", but people saying "thank you, thank you for putting this out". The phone calls that say this is a crazy Ordinance, this is a crazy law have to often come with a threat. A threat telling me they know where I live; a threat telling me that they know I have two dogs. I don't know if that is what the intent was but it was cruel.

I don't think it was fair that these lies were spread. I don't think it was fair that these lies and misdirection were spread. There is under no circumstances when someone's animal will be picked up and euthanized and not giving the owner the opportunity. I apologize for being so upset but my life has been turned upside down. I fear when my husband goes for a walk with our dogs that someone will try to hurt him or them. I think we have good citizens; I try to look for the silver lining in every bad situation. My take here is we have incredibly passionate animal lovers here in the City of Nashua and I thank goodness for them. But please understand this is not a new law. This is a clarification of an existing law. The Animal Control Officer will not do anything more than he has already done or she will do in the future. And thank you for letting me speak I appreciate that.

Alderman Clemons

I just wanted to come at this with not a different perspective but from a perspective of a person that has a cat. I have an indoor cat and my wife and I got her from the Humane Society and she's chipped. And they don't know, the gentleman brought this cat in because it was hanging around and really friendly but it seemed to not be, all of a sudden it just appeared out of nowhere so they brought her in and she's a beautiful white cat, she's gorgeous. We have taken her in and we have made her an indoor cat. She every once in a while will get out. And as an animal owner, a cat owner, that scares me for a number of reasons because we have predators in Nashua; we have fox and coyotes and hawks and things like that. She's an all-white cat and very easy to spot. So I actually appreciate the fact that this was brought forward because it was always my fear that you know while she is a cat and she got out, and when you see cats on the street, you tend to think "Oh OK it's an outdoor cat" and nobody pays it any mind and drives by, you know?

Now while she would be very easily identifiable, it was still was pause for concern that somebody might see her and we might be out looking for her and nobody would know the difference. Now if you lose a dog and there's a dog roaming around and you've never seen that dog before, most people would say "OH I wonder if it's lost". But you don't think that about a cat. So I just appreciate this because from my perspective is if my cat got out, I could call the Animal Control Officer and I can say, "Hey can you be on the lookout for my cat" and the Animal Control Officer would say "Absolutely that's my job". So in addition to that with the chickens, up in Concord I had a friend that moved in and their neighbors had chickens and the chickens would go over the fence and it became kind of a problem and they had to call the Animal officer and the Animal Officer took care of that problem as well.

And so where we have chickens now I think that's a good amendment to this and the other thing I think what is important for people to understand that this is just a reiteration of State Law. So we are not really doing anything really different; we are just reiterating State Law. We are saying to our citizens, "Please keep your animals on your property". I don't really think that is too much to ask; especially when kids they play outside in yards. They have sandboxes, cats go in there and they use them as a litter box; I mean those are nuisance things that if we can have an animal control officer come and say, "Well you know if you see the cat call me again" or whatever. But I just think that with an animal comes responsibility and that responsibility is incumbent upon the animal owner to make sure that their animal is safe and to make sure that they are not being a nuisance at large. So for those reasons I am going to support this.

Chairman Caron

Anyone else? Before we do a final vote we have to do a roll call on the amendment to change the title from "Dog Officer" to "Animal Control Officer". So would you please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman Lopez, Alderman Kelly
Alderman Clemons, Alderman Caron 4

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Caron

So we are now on final passage of 0-19-052. Would the clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman Lopez, Alderman Kelly
Alderman Clemons, Alderman Caron 4

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

O-19-053

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES FOR CONTRACTS LESS THAN \$1,000

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE OF O-19-053

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Caron

Ms. Kleiner is here to speak on this particular ...

Kim Kleiner, Director of Administrator Services

One of the Administrative Services functions is final review of contracts so we ensure that the contract has gone to Legal, had the necessary signoffs, gone to Risk Management had the necessary signoffs and if needed come to the Finance Committee and had necessary approval; if it is a multi-year contract to the Full Board for that approval. We ensure that all of this is done prior to the Mayor's signature. So as it stands now, the Mayor is the only one that is authorized to enter the City into any type of contract. That was all well and fine and it has been that way I don't know for how long but certainly my four years here. But what we have realized lately we have some every day contracts, expenses that are below, generally \$1,000.00 and it really just becomes tedious for the Mayor to be the signatory. I can give you some examples. So pest service, we all want them to come and spray our areas to make sure there are no friendly little pests. It could be a \$50.00 a month charge or a \$60.00 a month charge and the contract is for a year and you know it's below – things like that. We would like to allow the Division Directors to make those decisions and sign those contracts. Generally these are your every day, normal type of expenses but they may last for a 12 month period and you typically sign them for a year at a time. So again they are generally certainly nothing that any Division Director would enter to that is away from normally, every day business.

And if it was, that Division Director would be responsible for certainly having the conversation with the Mayor. But this really is just so that City Hall can get its normal business done in a timely fashion.

Alderman Lopez

Are you saying Pest Control is so often the Mayor cannot personally be bothered? Sorry I work with Pest Control every week in my previous occupation so I enjoy speaking with them but I understand not everybody else does.

Alderwoman Kelly

I apologize but I just had a couple of questions, am I understanding it correctly that we wouldn't see any amendments to contracts with a finance level.

Ms. Kleiner

No good question, so generally for contracts at this level they wouldn't come to the Finance Committee, they are below the threshold. Considering that they are below \$1,000.00 in nature, again these would just be contracts because we have everything reviewed by Risk & Legal would be reviewed by them and then go up to the Mayor and wait for his signature. They wouldn't be something that would normally require Finance approval.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you I just want to make sure. I think I'll just ask this to you because I posted before I am 100% for making things more efficient, I know you guys have a lot on your plate. When we raised the amounts that come through the Finance Committee I did mention that the less oversight, does the buck does stop with us in terms of making sure everything is kosher. So I just wanted to hear your opinion on that in terms of oversight and making sure that...

Chairman Caron

I'm sorry Alderman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

Sorry I didn't know if I dropped the call. So anyways I was just asking your opinion in terms of letting go of that oversight and allowing the heads to be more efficient.

Ms. Kleiner

So one of the items that the Mayor has asked us to look into and we are currently investigating now is a software that will handle contract management. So right now within the City a Division Director may have a contact and we've worked it out and they've commonly worked it out with Purchasing and Purchasing has given them some verbiage incorrect and it goes to Legal and they do their magic. And it goes to Risk and she makes sure of insurance purposes, but this all done via e-mail, not the most efficient way to do things.

So we are currently evaluating a number of different software that will all have workflows within them. That will not only ensure the necessary signoffs and approvals, but it will speed up the process and make sure that it is not getting hung up in someone's inbox. It is really a software that I am familiar with from private industry and for a City this size is something that we would expect to see. So there is a group of us, myself and Director Codagnone and Janet Graziano from Finance and Dan Kookan from Purchasing that are reviewing different software out there and hope to come back to you all with a

recommendation.

Alderman Kelly

That’s really great information to hear and I look forward to seeing that. As an Alderman Lopez said e-mail is not the most efficient or the most secure. So thank you for your answers, I appreciate it.

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

Yea: Alderman Lopez, Alderman Kelly	
Alderman Clemons, Alderman Caron	4

Nay:	0
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MOTION CARRIED

DISCUSSION

Alderman Kelly

I just quickly wanted to comment on Alderman Klee’s discussion during the Ordinance with the cats and the chickens and all that. I appreciate that we have a lot of passionate people in the City but I would ask our citizens to engage in a way that makes everyone feel comfortable and safe. We can all disagree without making people feel unsafe for sure. I hope that we can all come back around to working that way on any issue, no matter how passionate you are about it.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN - None

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO ADJOURN

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

Yea: Alderman Lopez, Alderman Kelly	
Alderman Clemons, Alderman Caron	4

Nay:	0
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MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared closed at 9:22 p.m.

Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Committee Clerk