

A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. in the aldermanic chamber.

President Lori Wilshire presided; City Clerk Dan Healey recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Dan Healey; Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr., led in the Pledge to the Flag.

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

The roll call was taken with 15 members of the Board of Aldermen present: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Klee, Alderman Moran, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Jette, Alderman Clemons, Alderwoman Kelly (via Zoom), Alderman Comeau, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Gouveia, Alderman Caron, Alderman Thibeault, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Wilshire.

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

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

First, I wanted to address R-23-152 which is a Resolution that I know all of you I believe support and thank you for that. The Resolution would dedicate \$8 million of the surplus from last fiscal year to tax rate reduction. Once you pass this, which I believe you clearly will, then the end result we'll be able to achieve a tax rate that increases somewhere a little bit less than 2%. Less than half the rate of inflation. I want to thank the entire Board of Aldermen for their support of a budget this year which I consider to be lean but which also meets the service needs that our citizens expect. So this is a joint team effort. Everyone is involved to achieve a tax rate that is lower than the rate of inflation because I know I understand and I know you all feel the same but last year was a very tough year for homeowners because of the revaluation. State mandated I will mention again because it did push up homeowners property taxes. Homes went up so much in value, commercial property did not, so the revaluation had the effect of pushing the tax burden towards the homes. I believe this year in trying to achieve a low tax rate we certainly have that in mind and we want to make people's family budgets as easy as we possibly can.

Next Madam President, I did want to mention that Main Street is going to be - has received one layer of pavement and will be receiving or the final layer will be applied assuming weather permits by Continental Paving on Saturday, September 30, this coming Saturday and then of course lines and the like will be painted on after that.

Also on Main Street, you noticed I'm sure on Sunday into Monday that the railroad, CSX now rather than the previous owner, CSX repaired the Main Street crossing of the rail line that runs parallel to Canal Street. That was a long time in coming. Thank you Trish Klee for working on the railroad to be responsive on that issue and I think that will just make people's lives a little bit easier.

Next. Public Works did want me to mention there is a hazardous waste collection day coming up a week from Saturday, October 7th. The location for that has been changed from the Crown Street parking lot to the Public Works facility on Riverside Drive. So everything is the same except for the location has been changed.

I wanted to mention briefly Madam President that we cut the ribbon on St. Andrew's Park today for the new playground. Thank you to the Aldermen who were particularly involved. Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Sullivan in this Board of Aldermen and in the previous Board, Alderman Harriott-Gathright but you may here a little bit more from them about that.

Finally Madam President, I wanted to mention the passing of Barry Palmer. He was a long, long time Nashua resident. He had been a reporter for the Union Leader and WSMN. He was a veteran. He served in the Army for a number of years. He was on the Human Rights Commission at the State level for quite a while. He was head of the VFW and the American Legion at different times and during the course of his long residence in Nashua he was a State Rep. I didn't know if I mentioned that for a couple of terms from Ward 5. During his tenure, his long residence in the City he was a big contributor to the life of Nashua so I wanted to give my best to his wife, and his family, and extend at least my condolences to them. That's all I have Madam President.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR

Alderman Lopez

I just wanted to add. As the Mayor said, the first coat of paving has been put on Main Street. It was pointed out to me that not all the stripes line up. So I did check with the Director of Public Works and she said it was just because obviously

we can't just live no striping on Main Street for a week and a half. So yes the crosswalk over by High Street for example doesn't exactly line up the right way. You can still use the crosswalks. The bump outs are still there but it's sort of temporary paint and once they fully pave it, they'll do the much more careful and aligned job.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Alderman Thibeault.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you Madam President. Just two quick responses. First one, you know everybody here passed the budget and I think to get to this point where we have minimal increase is pretty amazing considering how many cities and towns have to go at least at the rate of inflation or above. I hand it to all the City employees who worked so hard to get their budgets down so we're able to pass a responsible budget that allowed us to do this and thanks to everybody here that voted yes on it.

And then St. Andrew's Park. I was able to be one of the Aldermen that was able to attend that this afternoon. It's close to Ward 8. It's probably one of the parks that Ward 8 will go to most outside of Roby Park. So you know it was great to be able to see the work that was done and be able to be there and for all Ward 9 representation to be there, the Aldermen, and then certainly the three State Reps., including State Rep. Marty Jack. So thank you for coming to that and being part of that event.

President Wilshire

All set?

RECOGNITION PERIOD - None

READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the minutes of the special and regular Board of Aldermen meetings of January 10, 2022, and September 13, 2023 be accepted, placed on file, and the readings suspended.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING ONLY PROCEDURAL ACTIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS

From: Sam Durfee, Planning Director
Re: Referral from the Board of Aldermen on a petition for waiver of school impact fees for Covington Place, A Condominium Community (2-21 Sutton Way)

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

Without objection, President Wilshire suspended the rules and allowed for a communication that was received after the agenda was prepared.

From: Dan Healey, City Clerk
Re: Results of the September 12, 2023 Mayoral Primary Election for the City of Nashua

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

PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT RELATIVE TO ITEMS EXPECTED TO BE ACTED UPON THIS EVENING

Laurie Ortolano

Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. I wanted to talk a little bit about the use of escrow money to offset the tax rate. I expressed some concerns last year with this and I think my issue is, you know, I just heard Derek say we do such a terrific job with the budget and it's also low but what we're doing is creating a lot of escrow accounts in this City. We have many, many of them and we're talking money in these escrow accounts and we're leaving it in there unspent - millions of dollars. There's another account that we just looked at, Miss Colquhoun and I that has \$12 million sitting in it. So I don't think we should be patting ourselves on the back because we have strong fiscal management and tight budget controls that are keeping our tax rate low. I think we're misusing public funds by allowing these escrow accounts to exist and all of that money to stay stuffed in there. If you look at that last year, we gave - this is the graph for six years of our escrows and

money back. We gave \$4,000 back and kept over \$7,000 in there to use for some pet projects and have you vote on things you wanted to do. Last year was the tough year when we should have given the \$8,000 or \$9,000 back but we didn't do that and I think we didn't do it because it wasn't an election year. So I think what we see going on here is partisan politics at its best. The Mayor is going to do what he needs to do to look good to keep that tax rate low.

President Wilshire

That's not part of our discussion what the Mayor's doing.

Laurie Ortolano

Excuse me. This is open public comment for me to speak. You are violating my constitutional rights. I want my time back. Do not interrupt me if I offer a criticism to this Mayor. It is wrong.

Now what the Mayor is doing is partisan politics here and you can see that all of a sudden the blue line of what we're giving back is huge this year.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Laurie Ortolano

In 2019 when he was running, we didn't give that much back because there was no one running against him. There was no incentive to do it. So I think we need to manage our escrow accounts much better and I think we have to stop having 11, 12, 15, \$20 million in these accounts that we can play with to give little tidbits back at the end of the budget season to make ourselves look good. Other seasons are doing this. Other towns are not doing this because they don't hold that kind of money. So I think it's really important that we manage our finances better because what I think it represents is a real misuse of public funds and I hope this Board starts addressing those escrow accounts, and what's in them, and how we're moving the money through them. Thank you very much for your time.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING FINAL APPROVAL – None

PETITIONS

Petition for Waiver of School Impact Fees – Covington Place, A Condominium Community
(2-21 Sutton Way)

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN MORAN TO GRANT THE PETITION FOR WAIVER OF SCHOOL IMPACT FEES –
COVINGTON PLACE, A CONDOMINIUM COMMUNITY (2-21 SUTTON WAY) BY ROLL CALL**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Moran

Thank you Madam President. This came to the PEDC Committee regarding a senior living community that's being built over off of...

Alderman Klee

Off of Concord Street.

Alderman Moran

Concord Street, thank you. But it's only impact fees related to capital improvements of schools. The typical base rate of the school contributions will continue to be there. This is just for capital improvements.

President Wilshire

You've heard the motion. Further discussion on that Motion? Seeing none.

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Klee, Alderman Moran, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Jette, Alderman Clemons, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Comeau, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Gouveia, Alderman Caron, Alderman Thibeault, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Wilshire 15

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Petition for Waiver of School Impact Fees is granted.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

The following reappointment by the Mayor was read into the record:

Airport Authority

Brian H. Law (re-appointment) Term to Expire: August 31, 2028
78 Concord Street
Nashua, NH 03063

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Budget Review Committee – special and regular..... 09/07/2023, 09/14/2023

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the reports of the September 7, and 14, 2023 Budget Review Committee be accepted and placed on file.

Finance Committee 09/06/2023, 09/20/2023

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the reports of the September 6 and 20, 2023 Finance Committee be accepted and placed on file.

Human Affairs Committee 09/18/2023

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the September 18, 2023 Human Affairs Committee be accepted and placed on file.

Planning and Economic Development Committee 09/19/2023

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the September 19, 2023 Planning and Economic Development Committee be accepted and placed on file.

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-23-152

- Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
- Alderman Patricia Klee
- Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
- Alderman Thomas Lopez
- Alderwoman Shoshanna Kelly
- Alderman Alex Comeau
- Alderman Richard A. Dowd

Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

ESTABLISHING THE USE OF FUND BALANCE FOR TAX RATE

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-152 BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Klee, Alderman Moran,
Alderman Lopez, Alderman Jette, Alderman Clemons, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Comeau, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Gouveia, Alderman Caron,
Alderman Thibeault, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Wilshire 15

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-23-152 declared duly adopted.

R-23-153

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

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF UP TO \$425,000 FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY, HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-153 BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Klee, Alderman Moran,
Alderman Lopez, Alderman Jette, Alderman Clemons, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Comeau, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Gouveia, Alderman Caron,
Alderman Thibeault, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Wilshire 15

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-23-153 declared duly adopted.

R-23-156

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman Patricia Klee

Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
 Alderman Thomas Lopez
 Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
 Alderman Alex Comeau
 Alderman Richard A. Dowd
 Alderman June M. Caron
 Alderman Derek Thibeault
 Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
 Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AMENDING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021-2025 TO AMEND ROUND 4 CDBG-CV FUNDING UNDER THE 2020 CARES ACT

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-23-156 BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea:	Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Klee, Alderman Moran, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Jette, Alderman Clemons, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Comeau, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Gouveia, Alderman Caron, Alderman Thibeault, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Wilshire	15
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Nay:		0
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MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-23-156 declared duly adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-23-157

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

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,054,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTO VARIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT ACTIVITIES

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

R-23-158

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
 Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
 Alderman John Sullivan
 Alderman Patricia Klee
 Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
 Alderman Thomas Lopez
 Alderman Alex Comeau

Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$331,539 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INTO TRANSIT GRANT ACTIVITY “FEDERAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (“FTA”) OPERATING GRANT”

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

R-23-159

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

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$110,000 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY “FY2024 HAZARDOUS DEVICE UNIT EQUIPMENT GRANT”

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

R-23-160

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien, Sr.
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly

RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF \$150,000 FROM DEPARTMENT #194 “CONTINGENCY”, ACCOUNT #70125 “CONTINGENCY CYBERSECURITY” INTO VARIOUS ACCOUNTS IN DEPARTMENT #122 “INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY” AND DEPARTMENT #191 “EDUCATION”

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

R-23-161

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

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDS PURSUANT TO CONTRACT AMENDMENT #4 OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR THE PURCHASE OF VACCINES

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

R-23-162

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess

Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE RE-APPROPRIATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2024 ESCROWS

Given its first reading; Assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE and SCHEDULED A SPECIAL BOARD OF ALDERMEN PUBLIC HEARING ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE ALDERMANIC CHAMBER, by President Wilshire

R-23-163

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Thomas Lopez

AUTHORIZING CITY TO GRANT AN EASEMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR TAX MAP 43, LOT 105 AND LOT 106

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

R-23-164

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

AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF A TAX DEEDED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1 EDWARDS STREET

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

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-23-060

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

AUTHORIZING FREE HOLIDAY PARKING AT METERS IN ZONE III WHICH INCLUDES THE ELM STREET AND HIGH STREET PARKING GARAGES FROM DECEMBER 11, 2023 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2024

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

O-23-061

Endorsers: Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.

AUTHORIZING TRAFFIC CHANGES ON WOODWARD AVENUE

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

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTCharlie Sherman

My name is Charlie Sherman and I live at 24 Mindy Place which is right off of Ayer Drive. A stone's throw from Route 3. I come to you tonight with a plea for your support and guidance in building a sound wall between mile post 6.8 and 7.6, not the entire 7 to 8 stretch because residents there have expressed to me their dissatisfaction with the amount of noise that goes on, especially when motorcycles are racing from exit 7 to exit 8 and making a terrible racket. There's also semi's downshifting and I can't express this to you strongly enough but it's almost hard to envision and imagine what impact that has on a person or person(s) without being there. I live very close and so I'm asking for your help, and guidance, and influencing the Department of Transportation for the building of a sound wall. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Laurie Ortolano

Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. You know I've raised some concerns with Aldermen about our accounting systems and how we handle our money in our escrow accounts but I want to raise another concern tonight regarding a \$7.1 million loan that we gave from the City of Nashua to one of the 201 Corps that we formed to do the art center. It was the Financing Corp. and it was a very secretive kind of loan. The documentation on it was not well noted on the drawings and what was done with this money and it took some of us a long time to figure out what was going on but it turned out it was a loan with loan documents that was kept outside of the closing binder when we did the art center project and it was given from the City to 201 Main Street Financing I think on a 30-year term, maturity 2050, with a 1% interest rate, so interest only payment for 70 years of \$71,000.

The loan for unknown reasons was never recorded in the City books and that is a case of financial fraud and mismanagement. Where it really glares out is that the comprehensive annual financial report which is done yearly except we have not done the report for 2022 and there is no reasons given why we haven't done that audit but if you look at the report for year '19, '20 and '21, there is on page 51 a section that said loans. "The Economic Development Office administers loan programs that provide working capital and capital asset financing for startup and existing businesses in the Nashua area. The City records a receivable for the principal amount of the loan issued." We did not do that and that loan was passed right through the Economic Development Project page. It was in the Economic Development account when it was moved out. So the question is why didn't we do it?

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Laurie Ortolano

Well Mr. Griffin was sending emails right after the December closing and in March asking Celia Leonard and Director Cummings do we have any loans that need to be recorded on the City financials and it doesn't appear that they provided him with the loan documents. There is no record of it. They did a Zoom meeting instead and after a lot of investigation primarily with Miss Colquhoun because she has an extensive finance background, she determined that the...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Thirty seconds.

Laurie Ortolano

...loan wasn't there and after 29 months in August, they recorded the loan on the books in the May trial balance which is on the sheets that we have here. I'm going to encourage this Board to really pay attention to our documentation in our finance office and I'd like somebody to find out for me why we haven't done the annual audit for 2022. We're going on six quarters behind with no audit of our books. Thank you.

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you Madam President. To the gentleman that spoke with the sound barriers. If he wants to stay until after the meeting, the other hat I wear is a State Representative. If look in the first bench to your right is the Clerk of Public Works and Highways the good Representative Marty Jack who would probably this would come under his particular Committee. So if you can give us a few minutes afterwards, we might be able to give you some advice on where to throw the dart at on the board. But as it sits right now, I do not think it's a municipal responsibility. Those roads are owned by the State DOT so I think you have legitimate concerns but, however, you're in the wrong format. I think maybe you may need to reply to the State DOT. So we'll go from there and we're happy to advise you. Thank you Madam President.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you very much. I wanted to take an opportunity this evening. Before the meeting tonight, I stepped out to walk the dogs and up the road from me was a nice couple that just moved into Ward 9. They moved here from Woburn, MA, and I took the opportunity to say hi. His name was Mark, her name was - I hope she's not watching because I can't remember it - but the daughter's name was Gianna, 6 months old and I just took the opportunity to document a little bit what it's like for first time home buyers to enter into a market like Nashua where our inventory is pretty strained. The anxiety that they had because they couldn't have a home inspection because that's just the market. Nobody gets a home inspection anymore. They took a tour with a builder friend that walked them through the house. The amount of money they had to put down, the amount of rejection that they had to face before they settle on this house. I was really obviously unhappy that we have a new family coming into Nashua, coming into the Ward but it was just an interesting conversation to see what young folks today are facing in this economy. So thanks.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam President. I just have a couple of things that are real quick. I want to congratulate Nashua South and Nashua North for making the top 25 high schools within New Hampshire. Nashua South made 12 and Nashua North made 24 and this includes charter schools as well as what we would consider the normal public schools as well. So congratulations to them, and their staff, and teachers, and so on.

For the last time, I'm not going to promise because I never make a promise that I'm not sure I can keep but I want to thank everybody for all of the hard work that they did to, including CSX, to make that Main Street project complete. I did have someone who called and said there was a little lip on the north side when you come over and I did reach out to Engineer Hudson and he said that the rest of Main Street from that point on within the next couple of years will be paved and that will be taken care of. It's a small little one compared to the jarring we had but once again, I would like to also give a shout out to Joanne St. John who helped me reach out to Senator Shaheen's office on another matter with CSX and then we took the opportunity and I say "we" because through the Mayor's encouragement as well as Director Sullivan, Director Cummings, and including Senior Engineer Dan Hudson, we were all able to make it happen. I do want to give a special thanks to Mr. Hudson. He was incredible keeping the Jackson Falls people abreast of everything that was happening and Director Cummings worked really hard to make sure that they had parking as well.

And then I'd like to set two things straight in the record. There is a document going around saying that Ward 3 was the one who carried the Performing Arts Center in the election and so on. While I appreciate the kudos of Ward 3, that's not truly the case. It did pass by a slim margin but it passed. We don't have like electoral college to do this so it was the entire City that voted and it was a small turn out. As part of that document that's going on, they say that Ward 3 voted so strongly for it because the Center for the Arts is in Ward 3. I know we do some jerry meandering but just for the record, the Center for the Arts is in Ward 4. Ward 3 has not adopted the downtown Main Street at least not that part of it.

Then in comment to the \$7.1 million loan they keep put forward and making it sound like it's above and beyond that 20/20 bond, it is not. It's within the 20/20 bond and I think that needs to be heard loud and clear. So thank you for your time Madam President.

Alderman Moran

Thank you Madam President. Someone passed away recently. His name is Dean LeMire. He wasn't from Nashua but he had a great impact on the people of Nashua. He was a certified recovery support worker who worked here in the City at Harbor Care and various other recovery agencies and helped provide get off the ground with specialized support and training. Unfortunately, he passed away suddenly recently and I wanted to express my condolences to his family and all of his colleagues that he's worked with throughout the greater Nashua community.

In addition to that even though it is an election year, it's also very impressive to keep a budget at half of inflation regardless of what year it is given what's going on in the national economy. So kudos to everyone in the city government including the Mayor's office for managing to do such an astonishing thing given the economics of the nation. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

Thank you. I'd like to start by thanking Alderman Klee for not attempting to seize more territory. When she redistricts, some of my favorite streets are gone.

I would also like to point out as was commented at the beginning that the Mayor is not solely responsible, although certainly his leadership helped a lot, for us being able to address the tax needs of the citizens and not everybody on this Board is actually running for reelection. Some of our at-Large Aldermen are and several of our local Aldermen are running unopposed. So we won't have to do everything for political purposes. I don't think some of us did. I think some of us just wanted to, as the Mayor said, make things square after more circumstances that we couldn't do much about were imposed on us last year and in order to further our City's economic growth following the pandemic. I know we're a little tired of hearing about the pandemic but other communities are still very much recovering from it. We are seeing greater degrees of economic development recently than we haven't in many years.

And to that end, I'd like to welcome several of the new restaurants that are announcing that they're opening on Main Street, including Coffee and Kindness, including Pearl, and of course Soul Sisters which I'm really excited about personally.

I wanted to congratulate Paige Beauchemin – I'm hoping to pronounce that right - my French is a little weak lately - for her performance in the local primary for Ward 4. We had to have a special election because we had two State Representatives that were ultimately unable to perform their duties. So Marc Plamondon was our first elected Representative. Paige had a very good showing. I noticed in the Union Leader that they gave it to David Narkunas who did manage to beat his primary opponent. It is only the primary so I don't know if congratulations are quite in order for anybody yet but Paige managed to earn more votes than the people who were actually in a primary combined. So I think it's worth it. I'm very impressed with her as a candidate and I'm glad she is stepping forward. She's got a lot of support especially from her neighbors.

I wanted to thank everybody who came out to support Employment Connect, particularly the employers. The City did a great job of recruiting as well. It was a great presentation but the businesses that we engaged in the First Impressions Program. In the past it's been called "Suit Yourself and Dress to Impress". Basically it's a community effort to make sure that we have resources on hand for people attending the job fair that may not have access to resources of their own at the same quality so they can best reflect and put their best foot forward. So a lot of the restaurants downtown, a lot of the businesses downtown were collecting new and good condition interview clothes. We got some really, really nice stuff. Very, very generous donations. We were able to do a great job of setting up in the library a job preparation pantry so that people applying for jobs could meet the employers and have that conversation which is important for employment but make a good impression and not be restricted by their economic access to nice ties, or haircuts, and that kind of stuff. We were able to do with donations most of that so it was a great event. The library was a great host. We had a lot of support from the City and a lot of great participating organizations. That is organized by the Employment Subcommittee of the Greater Nashua Continuum of Care.

I would recommend to all Aldermen that you attend a GNCOC meeting in the near future if you're able because they're extremely informative. It's the opportunity to learn about what is exactly going on with all the non-profit organizations that are focused on housing and housing stabilization. This is going to become increasingly important as cold weather advances and more and more of your constituents ask you where should I go for this, how do I do this, what do I do if I'm homeless. These are questions that the GNCOC is a collaborative meant to answer and they do a great job of it. They're the first Wednesday of the month. This month it will be October 6th at 9:00 a.m. Alderman Klee attends regularly as well and I've seen Alderman Timmons there. So I definitely would invite you all to come, participate, find out what is going on in the City, and how you can best help people when they come in your direction.

And then finally, I'd like to thank all of the hard work that DPW has managed, that Board of Public Works has begun to pave Main Street, and CSX as well for fixing the railroads. I don't have to do my Evil Knievel on my Segway and try to leap over it. I can just drive like a normal person. Definitely much appreciate. I know it's only half way done so I want to thank the people of Nashua for putting up with the inconveniences. The businesses that are still open and still functioning will definitely love a little bit more love and all of their patrons for their support. Thank you.

Alderman Jette

Yes, thank you. So here we are in the beginnings of autumn and with that comes the resurgence of COVID. So my wife and I got our COVID vaccines this weekend. There's a new variant and the current edition of the vaccine is designed to combat that so I encourage everyone to get their COVID vaccine. The flu vaccines are also available and you should get

those as well. If you're over 65, you ought to talk to your healthcare provider about this RSV vaccine as well. So thank you.

President Wilshire

You're welcome. Alderman Clemons.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you Madam President. So I wanted to address some of the things that were brought up in public comment. It's funny to me because an election year was mentioned and these things always make me laugh when certain things are said because you often find yourself hearing contradictory things during election years and it depends on how things are going, right.

Nashua has been continually ranked as one of the best run cities in the country. We have a AAA bond rating. We got a number of awards for various things. One of the ways that we do that is by saving money. When I say saving money, all of the accounts that were mentioned where there's "millions of dollars set aside" well yeah that's how we're able to maintain some of these awards, the bond ratings that we have. That's how we're able to make sure that the tax rate is low because when times are good, we put money aside. When times are difficult and we need to give back to the taxpayer like this year, we give a big surplus of \$8 million back so that the taxpayer doesn't pay as much. That is fiscal responsibility at its best not politics at its worst. So the idea that there is some nefarious things going on just ask yourself as a citizen. If somebody comes up to you and says I have proof of all of these accounts that have all this money in it and it's nefarious and what not, ask yourself the question how did they get that information. Well they got the information because it's public, it's knowledge, it's above board, and it's why it's there. That's how they're able to access. If we were doing stuff that was shady, if the Mayor was doing things under the table, there would be nobody in the public who would be able to come forward and say aha I found this. No, you'd have to be like in the FBI or you would have to have like the State Police backing you up. These are all public documents, these are things that are all done above board.

So as a taxpayer and as a citizen when you see people saying things like that, take a second, take a breath, and think about it. It's common sense. You do not have a AAA bond rating. You do not have this City being ranked as one of the best run with shady things going on in the background. It just wouldn't happen. I am very confident of the team that we have here in the Treasurer's office running our financials. I think they do a fantastic job and I think that the political season brings out some funny things. If it had been that we were spending too much money, they would say we didn't save enough, right, but now we're doing a good job so we're saving too much. It's just ironic. So just keep that in mind folks when you're out there and you're hearing things. Some of the things that you hear might be a little fantastical so thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderwoman Kelly you're all set? Okay. Alderman Comeau.

Alderman Comeau

Thank you Madam President. Just two things real quick. Early Sunday morning there was a pretty substantial house fire on West Hollis Street. Maybe you noticed that it required the road to be shut down for several hours. I first wanted to thank Nashua Fire Rescue for an amazing job as always making sure that it didn't spread into adjacent homes. There were a number of people that have been displaced by the fire and I'm told they are being assisted by the New England Chapter of the American Red Cross. So if anybody is interested in supporting them or making any donations, they can reach out to the American Red Cross.

The second thing is I am just – I'm appalled that the Mayor forgot to mention Sandy Pond. We also cut a ribbon at Sandy Pond, although it was not nearly as well attended. I believe aside from the park staff, it was just the Mayor and myself but we did walk out onto the dock and we can assure you that it's not going to sink. That's a great amenity for that neighborhood as well. Thank you.

Alderman Dowd

Yes, two quick things. In regards to the wall, three years ago I went to Senator Levesque and we tried to do something about that wall. The place you'd put the wall is totally on State land. It's totally up to the State. The City can't do anything and is not allowed to do anything by the State so Alderman O'Brien's input was very good. That's where you have to go to get something done for that wall.

The other thing is we have, of course, several school building projects going on but the Franklin Street School is completely done, ahead of schedule, and under budget. So that's great. We have two more invoices to pay so we don't have the exact number yet but it is under budget.

I just got the report from Harvey on all the school projects. I know the Joint Special gets it but I'm going to send it out to all the Aldermen so you can see the work that's being done on all the school projects.

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you Madam President. This past weekend we had a Wheels and Wings up at Nashua Airport. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend I was away at a wedding. Also, I wasn't here last night at the public hearing but I'm here tonight so that's positive. Over 3,500 people attended donating food, canned goods to end 68 Hours of Hunger. A fantastic organization.

This coming weekend the fun doesn't stop. In Ward 1, we have Apple Fest. I will be there. September 30th through October 1st that's 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Sullivan Farm on Coburn Ave. Let's keep the speed down on Coburn everybody. I've got a lot of complaints recently about it. There will be enough apple crisp. I'll make sure of it but let's just be careful and have a great event. Thank you.

Alderman Caron

Yes, thank you. I would like to thank everyone who showed up for the 45th celebration of the Nashua Senior Center. It's hard to believe that it's 45 years. Also to remind you that the Senior Center is self-sufficient other than they pay rent for the use of the building that the City put up for them. I think it was great and I appreciated all the Aldermen and the Mayor who got us the Proclamation. I know that the staff and the Board of Directors really appreciate everything you do for them. Thank you.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you Madam President. Before this meeting I had a lovely conversation with Attorney Bolton about - I wasn't going to say anything. But I'm breaking my promise to you Attorney. So a couple of things. I was going to bring up Sandy Pond even though I wasn't able to attend because I've spent some time there cleaning it up with Eversource this year. I saw the dock and it is a really nice dock. I'm glad that we were able to put that in. As we go further in the City, we keep doing nice things for the City by putting fixes to these parks whether it was St. Andrew's Park, or Sandy Pond, or Atherton that's coming up soon. I think, you know, it's a credit to the Parks and Rec Department for all the work they do there.

Secondly, to say that from the public comment I'm going to chime in on that too. To say that it's a campaign stunt, or campaign event, or re-election year is a disservice to the people that work in City Hall that are trying to get that budget down because they're the ones working to get it down at the end of the day and they're the ones that have to decide what's more important for the City. This year compared to last year, compared to next year.

When it comes to escrows, I'm still waiting for us to have that topic tonight because it wasn't on the agenda but as far as escrows go, last year for instance we had escrows go towards hiring two policemen. That's not a pet project. That's just a pet project of the Police Department, right? It's to keep our City safe.

CERF was also on there. If we get to a habit of not paying for or not saving money in these escrow accounts to fund whether it's infrastructure or whether it's vehicles, we're going to come to a point where it's going to go back to the old days where we have to put rubber bands on plows to get the streets plowed. We have to save money. We have to put it somewhere and the escrow is the best place because it can't be touched for just about anything except for what it's there for.

This year for instance, we had to buy a couple of fire trucks that weren't coming up this year but to save money, we had to buy them this year, right. Also it takes longer to get them now. So it's critical that we – there's so many pieces of this stuff. When people go out and they talk about it being a campaign year and an election year, well we all signed off on the budget this year. Every single one of us. I mean we must have thought it was a good enough budget. There really wasn't a lot of complaining or a lot of fighting on it. Went through pretty swift. I went to most budgets or I watched them and I thought those meetings were pretty good overall. They didn't last as long as they did the year before. So I mean I think at the end of the day, we did pass a good budget and the City made a good budget, and I think it will set it up for years to follow, and we can save money this year for the taxpayer. So I don't see why that's a negative but if anybody in this horseshoe thinks that, I'd love to hear why what the person said out there is true because I don't think it is.

As far as the PAC stuff that keeps coming out over and over again, Nashua Center for the Arts stuff, it's wrong. It's absolutely incorrect. It can be proven that it's incorrect. Alderman Klee and Alderman Clemons have already spoke to that multiple times so thank you.

Alderwoman Timmons

Thank you Madam President. At the last Board meeting, I misspoke regarding the million dollars that a speaker was costing the City. My intentions was to say that they asking the City for \$2 million in an ongoing lawsuit against the taxpayers. My passion for the City and its employees' welfare on attack lead me to misspeak. However in my opinion for transparency purposes, the citizens of the City should know when a lawsuit has been filed, who filed it, and how much money does this citizen want to get from taxpayers. My passion was not to mis-speak about it but to defend the onslaught of attacking our City employees. I really can't stand that. I don't like negativity and I try not to be negative but when certain people come in here, that's what I hear. There's no winning. It's just no winning so no matter what you say good, bad, or indifferent, it's going to always be the opposite. So thank you Madam President.

President Wilshire

Okay. Mayor.

Mayor Donchess

I did want to answer a couple of things. First, it's impossible to answer all of the misstatements, all the false facts that the speaker at the beginning and at the end of the meeting has made. But one if there was the assertion, the allegation, the implication that the City is not audited totally, totally false. The City is audited for 2022. We have a clean audit as usual and if anyone got the impression that we're not audited, that is totally false. Of course as you've already heard, we have a AAA bond rating and we could never get that if we weren't audited.

The other thing is this secret lease. Now as Alderman Clemons already mentioned if the lease were secret, the speaker wouldn't have it. She got it because it's not a secret but what this is it's the evolution of other false allegations. So originally the allegation that we spent \$7 million, \$9 million, \$16 million more than the \$21 million that was authorized for the Performing Arts Center. Of course, those allegations were obviously false, and ridiculous, and would be impossible. You think the CFO in the Finance Department are going to write checks for millions of dollars that they're not authorized to do? So we had to rebut that false allegation over, and over, and over again. Finally, I think that has been maybe - well it on the internet today but I think it's been somewhat dropped in the public arena. Now that's morphed into there was a secret lease.

And the other complaint is the tax increase is too low but if it were 6%, it would be that it was too high, and if it was 4% it's too high, and if it's 2%, it's too low. I think people as you've already heard should be careful about all of these election year allegations. That's the one thing that I do agree with the speaker. Yes it is an election year and I think those two statements make that very obvious.

But back to the beginning, the City is audited every year. We always get a clean audit and the Finance Department runs a very clean operation. Thank you Madam President.

President Wilshire

You're welcome.

Committee announcements:

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you Madam President. Somewhat of a busy evening tomorrow night for the Committee on Infrastructure. At 6:00 pm here in the Aldermanic Chamber will be a joint meeting of the Infrastructure and the Board of Public Works. We basically have some success with, of course, the new building at the landfill. We're starting to wrap it up. Things are looking good so we're coming to the end conclusion and that's what the 6:00 pm meeting is about.

Which leads us next to the Committee on Infrastructure later at 7:00 pm. We'll convene again and this will be a regular infrastructure meeting. There is really nothing officially on the docket so I think we have the wonderful opportunity to discuss some things that are pending out there. Some of them are an update on the Riverfront Project, and specifically and update on what's going under the construction over the next year. Number two, an updated reversal of Water Street,

and West Pearl Street, and the Walnut Street Oval straightening out. And then also the continuing design to bring passenger rail, something that I'd love to see here to NH. So all those items will be discussed with a presentation by Director Cummings or Administrative Assistant Cummings and bring us up to speed. So please turn in, get to see what your Infrastructure Committee got up our sleeves. Nothing hidden their folks.

President Wilshire

Any other committee announcements? Alderman Dowd.

Alderman Dowd

Alderman O'Brien did you want to mention something that is going on Sunday?

Alderman O'Brien

Patriot's game?

Alderman Dowd

The Firemen's....

Alderman O'Brien

Oh yes, thank you if I may take personal preference?

President Wilshire

You may.

Alderman O'Brien

Every single year at this particular time Nashua Fire Rescue honors members of the Department who have passed on and also, specifically, the 14 names of the firefighters who have given their lives in the line of duty. This is a presentation or I don't want to say a celebration because it's a solemn occasion but it occurs at the monument at Manchester and Concord Street. In case people don't know, that's one of the original fire bells that was struck to wake the horses up and the firemen up. It is now incorporated as part of the memorial. So if you want to come down, everybody is welcomed. I think it's at 10:00 am. I'll be giving the invocation so I'll bless you all if you want to come down. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderman Dowd did you have something?

Alderman Dowd

No.

Alderwoman Timmons

Oh thank you, Madam President. Tomorrow is the Cultural Connection Committee. It's going to be held at 12:00 in person here on the 3rd floor. That's the auditorium of City Hall. We have a guest speaker, Dan Healey, who's going to offer information regarding voting. He's the person you need to talk to when it comes to voting, and how to register, and what you need to do. I think this is going to be a worthwhile Committee meeting and I look forward to working with Mr. Healey.

NONPUBLIC SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN THAT THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2023, MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE ADJOURNED BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Klee, Alderman Moran,
Alderman Lopez, Alderman Jette, Alderman Clemons, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Comeau, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Gouveia, Alderman Caron,
Alderman Thibeault, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Wilshire 15

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Attest: Dan Healey, City Clerk

City of Nashua
229 Main Street
Nashua, NH 03061-2019
(603) 589-3010, Option #5
CityClerkDept@NashuaNH.Gov

Office of the City Clerk

Daniel Healey

City Clerk

Roger Ordway Jr.

Deputy City Clerk



September 25, 2023

Lori Wilshire, President
Board of Aldermen
229 Main Street
Nashua, NH 03060

Dear President Wilshire:

Please see below the results of the September 12, 2023 Mayoral Primary Election for the City of Nashua.

2023 MAYORAL PRIMARY ELECTION - NASHUA - SEPTEMBER 12, 2023										
	WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3	WARD 4	WARD 5	WARD 6	WARD 7	WARD 8	WARD 9	TOTALS
OVERVOTES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNDERVOTES	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	4
MARK A. GALLANT	40	13	17	13	33	14	17	12	19	178
JAMES DONCHESS	545	458	447	115	463	249	289	482	494	3542
MICHAEL SOUCY	469	320	304	137	461	284	314	283	378	2950
WRITE-IN	0	6	1	0	2	1	0	3	1	14
	1055	797	769	265	959	548	621	782	892	6688

Sincerely,

Daniel Healey
City Clerk