

## PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 5, 2020

A meeting of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee was held Monday, October 5, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in via teleconference.

### Chairwoman Caron

As Chairman of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

We are utilizing Zoom and the meeting link can be found on the agenda as well as on the City's website.

You can also join by telephone by dialing: 1-929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 847 3812 7782 and Passcode: 026925. The Public may also view this meeting on Comcast Channel 16.

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, through public postings. Instructions have also been provided on the City of Nashua's website at [www.nashuanh.gov](http://www.nashuanh.gov) and publicly noticed at City Hall and the Nashua Public Library.

If anybody has a problem accessing the meeting via phone or Channel 16, please call 603-821-2049 and they will help you connect.

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting via the methods mentioned above, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that **all votes** that are taken during this meeting shall be done by **roll call vote**.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. **When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.**

Alderwoman Kelly called the roll and asked them to state the reason he or she could not attend, confirmed that they could hear the proceedings, and stated who was present with him or her. The roll call was taken with 5 members of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee present: Chairman June M. Caron presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons, Vice Chair  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly  
Alderman Skip Cleaver

Also in Attendance: Mayor James Donchess  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire  
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Alderman Laws  
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu

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### ROLL CALL

#### Alderman Clemons

Thank you. I am present this evening at home, I can hear everybody and my wife is here with me this evening.

#### Alderman Lopez

Hello, I am here, I can hear and see everybody and I am alone.

#### Alderwoman Kelly

Alderwoman Kelly is here, I am alone and I can hear everyone.

#### Alderman Cleaver

I am here, I am alone for the most part, my daughter is in and out of the room, and I am social distancing according to the Governor's Orders.

#### Chairman Caron

Yes, I am here, I am alone and I can hear everyone.

#### Alderwoman Kelly

All members of the Committee are present; I also see in attendance Alderman Wilshire, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Laws, Alderman Lu, the Mayor and Alderman Klee.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

#### Chairman Caron

We will start with Public Comment. I know that there was at least one person that was looking. Public comment is for conversation concerning those items that will be acted upon this evening.

#### Alderwoman Kelly

Yeah, I am looking I don't see anyone.

Catherine Sofikitis I am Shoshanna. I am a State Representative, Catherine Sofikitis from Ward 7 in Nashua and I am speaking tonight in favor of the Motion to substitute Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day. The time has come. Many people in this part of the country especially believe that the continent's history started with colonization. And sitting here in New Hampshire steeped with European Colonial history, it is often easy to overlook those indigenous people who were here long before the Vikings and the European Explorers. Archeological findings have confirmed their existence 11,000 years ago.

Here in the Northeast, in New Hampshire, we had the Nashua, Penacook, Winnepesaukee, Pequawket, Soco, Key, Koasek and Ossipee among others. All spoke dialects of the Abenaki Language a sub-division of the eastern Algonquin Language. They did not own the land, they hunted and fished in their homeland area. They lived in small family bands and joined to form tribes and confederations as their needs dictated. By the late 1600's their population was declining due to interactions that brought sickness to tribes and skirmishes for land. Between 1615 and 1620, there were epidemics of flu and smallpox. The tribes were dying off, so many of them left and went into Quebec, still a remnant of Abenaki Descendants remained here in New Hampshire including our present-day state. They are working hard to preserve their customs, language, and culture. Their current status is a pre-constitutional tribe that has filed for Federal Recognition with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Petition Number 151. They were originally recognized by George Washington as the nation was being formed.

I believe that is vitally important to honor our indigenous peoples and recognize the rich history they have given us and the contributions they continue to make. We are a state rich with indigenous names for towns, lakes, and rivers. It just remains for us to honor them. Thank you.

Chairman Caron

Catherine, would you please state your address?

Catherine Sofikitis Yes 54 Marshall Street.

Chairman Caron

Thank you. Anyone else with public comment.

Alderman Kelly

I do not see anyone Alderman Caron.

COMMUNICATIONS - None

INTERVIEWS

Chairman Caron

Mayor, I hear you are here. So would you like to ...

Mayor Donchess

Yes Madam Chair, good to see you.

Chairman Caron

Good to see you, glad you're doing well. So we will start with the Master Plan Committee.

Mayor Donchess

We will. We've already seen, Madam Chair, a number of appointments for the Master Planning Committee. We are appointing one from each Ward as well as other groups are designating people. Tonight we have my nominee for Ward 1 who is Rabbi Jonathan Spira-Savett. I think you all know Rabbi John because he such a prominent and well-known member of the community. He's been at Temple Beth Abraham for about a dozen years, has several kids in the School District. And over these past years, has established himself as a strong, moral leader for the community as well as, of course, a religious leader. He's been very active in the interfaith counsel where he is now Chair. He also is very interested in affordable housing, given our housing shortage at all levels of affordability. He's very concerned about less fortunate people in the City. A number of causes he's involved in, one that I've been present at for a number of years if the CROP Walk which always launches from the Temple. He will represent Ward 1 and I am sure will be a very important addition to our Master Planning Efforts and I see Rabbi John is on the call right now. So I guess I will turn it over to him and ask him to say a few words about why he thinks he'd like to be on the Committee and why he thinks the Master Planning effort might be important.

Chairman Caron

Thank you, Mayor. Rabbi?

Master Plan Committee

Jonathan Spira-Savett (New Appointment)  
39 Coburn Avenue  
Nashua, NH 03063

Jonathan Spira-Savett Thank you so much. Can you hear me, thank you Mayor Donchess it is so good to see you and hope you are doing well. I am honored to be with all of you, Representatives of the City. That was quite a tribute; I guess what I will just add to that is I think that the idea of a City is a whole organism that connects people who live in all parts of it. And I think a lot about the relationships that I have and I don't have with people who live even in my neighborhood, but also certainly in all the other neighborhoods.

The Master Plan is partly a way of thinking about the fabric of the City as a set of relationships that could be deeper, both which is good in own right, but also I think helps us make just better decisions overall where we don't all just seek our own interests but the interest of people who like to do the things we like and really knit us together more and teach us a lot more about each other. I am fortunate to partake of not only the things the Mayor mentioned but the Arts in the City both through my kids who have been involved in Youth Theater and Music. And my wife has served on the Board of the Symphony and I really am eager to help sort of look at this is a .... I think what I am bringing to this is not necessarily a lot of expertise that isn't already there, but just this kind of perspective of asking all the time, how does this help us connect, how does this not just – I mentioned I was at the meeting of the Committee last week, I guess. And I said, a lot of times we show up to things and we might be in the same place but it is sort of parallel play and so how do we come and create spaces and create opportunities where we really enrich our relationships.

I see Steve here and that's why I go to the Riverwalk Café, I go to meet someone I want to meet and then I inevitably see somebody else who either I know and I meet the person they know and how do we sort of spread that kind of ethic out and make that a microcosm for our, make the City a microcosm of what was on there at the Café which I miss tremendously.

I would be happy to answer questions; I don't know if that's what we do here. But I will tell anything more about myself. And I do have a background in sociology and social and clinic theory for whatever that might be worth. I am tremendously fascinated by urban planning and design.

Chairman Caron

OK do we have any questions from members of the Committee?

Alderman Kelly

Alderman Lopez.

Chairman Caron

Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

I was just curious what your opinion is on the City's current approach to affordable housing, low income housing and how you see that becoming a relevant topic of discussion in the Master Planning process.

Jonathan Spira-Savett Sure, it is something that I know is already on the Agenda. I know it is something that Sarah Marchant in Community Development, and the Housing Authority are involved in. The group that the Mayor mentioned, the Interfaith Housing Justice Group has been connecting through the Bronstein Project and interacting with some of you already around the School Street project. We are both, I am hoping that this and actually the Mayor and other officials have met with us. In fact tomorrow is a the third in a series of meetings. We would have certainly have met more by now, were it not for the pandemic crisis.

I think that our Citizen Group has set – has offered the City an audacious goal of 2,000 more units in affordable housing through the next decade. And the Bronstein Project just in pure numbers is a down payment on that and we are eager to kind of think about – and I hope that being on the Master Planning Commission would help sort of talk about more, what are the different dimensions of that both in terms of public development, private/public partnerships, private developers, places in the City that will diversify. So those are many of the kinds of things I want to sort of bring into the conversation.

Chairman Caron

Thank you, anyone else? Ok Rabbi, we will take up your appointment later on during the meeting. Thank you so much for offering to come sit on the Master Planning Committee.

Jonathan Spira-Savett Thank you so much. I am honored.

Chairman Caron

Thank you. Mayor? Nashua Arts Commission?

Mayor Donchess

Sorry I got on mute somehow. Madam Chair, I have nominated two people to the Nashua Art's Commission. The first on the Agenda is Steve Ruddock from the Riverwalk Café. I think we all know the Riverwalk Café. Steve has made that a real interesting destination in the City. It has really expanded the vibe of the City quite a bit I would say.

For quite a while he operated a music venue there and hopefully someday after COVID-19 that can be re-established with more community participation at some level. He has always been interested in the Arts and always interested in Communities. He's a good chef himself, which says something good about him. He formerly was a VISTA Volunteer in Danbury Connecticut. He is formerly a lawyer as well, believe it or not. He gave up that to become the owner of Riverwalk and we have to congratulate him there. So I believe given his interest in the Arts, in music, in the culinary arts, he will be a strong addition to the Arts Commission. I will turn it over to Steve to offer any thoughts that he may have.

### Nashua Arts Commission

Steve Ruddock (New Appointment)  
5 Town Crier Road  
Amherst, NH 03031

Term to Expire: July 30, 2023

Steve Ruddock Thank you Jim for those nice (audio cuts out). ... involved in various non-profits and governmental groups over the years. Before living in Amherst, it was a New Boston Conservation Commissions Amherst Land Trust. I have been involved with the Arts Commission, the Committee that assigns the grants for the last couple of years. So I have gotten to know some of the Arts Organizations that are out there and the merits of giving the grants to these organizations. So I have enjoyed that process. I am very much following and participating with items having to do with the symphony and the general music scene in the city. So when Mayor Donchess suggested I get involved and Mark Thayer I believe is also involved, I said, sure I would love to do it. So here I am and thanks.

### Chairman Caron

Ok thank you Steve. Anyone from the Committee would like to ask questions? Alderman Lopez?

### Alderman Lopez

I don't have any questions no. Did you guys want to ask questions?

### Chairman Caron

Anyone else, no? Alright, Steve your appointment will be voted on later on in the meeting. And thank you for offering to take part in the Nashua Arts Commission.

Steve Ruddock Ok, thanks.

### Chairman Caron

Thank you. Mayor is Travis here?

### Mayor Donchess

Yes, he is.

### Chairman Caron

Ok thank you, you're next.

Mayor Donchess

Madam Chair, my next nomination to the Arts Commission is Travis Tripoldi who lives in Ward 3, I believe on Manchester Street . Travis is an engineer by profession. He works in the medical device manufacturing industry. But most relevant to us he has already served as a volunteer for the Arts Commission. The City developed an Arts & Cultural Plan a little while ago and he was involved with that. He is very interested in the arts. And as a member of the younger generation that I think we don't have a huge number of people from that generation who are looking to volunteer for City Government. So he will be a good addition to the Arts Commission and I know he is, given all that he's done for the Arts Commission already, he will be very interested in participating. With that I'll turn you over to Travis.

Chairman Caron

OK thank you Mayor. Travis, your turn.

Travis Tripoldi (New Appointment)  
34 Lawndale Avenue  
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire: April 1, 2023

Travis Tripoldi Thank you Mayor, thank you everybody for having me and thank you for that introduction. That address actually is incorrect, I think I am member of Ward 6 over on Lawndale Ave. But I am new member of Nashua and I am new to community involvement. But I am looking to make Nashua my home and I think part of that is being involved in the community and being involved in whatever way I can. I am very interested in the arts, I am not a professional in the arts community, but I think that that allows me to kind of bring a different perspective to the Commission. So I am really looking forward to serving on the Commission. And thank you all for having me.

Chairman Caron

Thank you, Travis. Does anyone have any questions for Travis? No one? Ok thank you Travis. Your appointment will come up later on in the meeting for a vote. Mayor, you have the Tax Increment Financing Advisory Board?

Mayor Donchess

Sorry it keeps going on mute. So next as you suggested we have the nomination for the TIF, Tax Increment Financing District Advisory Board. And for that, I am nominating Angelina Spillios, who is currently the counsel for the Crown Linen Service which is in the Tax Increment Financing District. Her family owns the Crown Linen Business as well as the Mill Yard Technology Mall or Mill Yard Technology Building where many small businesses are located.

Now the Tax Increment Financing District Advisory Board by law is required to have members, property owners within the District to offer advice, provide guidance regarding how Tax Increment Financing might be spent. Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development works closely with the Advisory Board. Angelina is replacing her father Arthur Spillios who has served on the Committee for a few years since its inception or since we expanded it to include the area of the river west of the Nashua Main Street Bridge. She, Angelina, is a graduate of Wellesley College and as I said a lawyer, she went to the University of New Hampshire Law School up in Concord.

Her business, the Crown Linen Business, is of course an important downtown business which employs a number of people, some hundreds of people. And of course the Mill Yard Technology Office Park is a very important building in the Mill Yard, they are a member of the Mill Yard Association and they as I said already, they serve as the home for many smaller businesses, a number of them technology-related businesses.

Given that her father wanted to step down, she was willing to step into the role of the Tax Increment Financing District Advisory Group. I was very pleased that she was willing to step forward. I am also pleased to be able to appoint her to the position that I was just discussing. With that, I see Ms. Spillios is on the call and I will just turn it over to her to introduce herself.

Chairman Caron

Thank you, Mayor, Angelina?

Tax Increment Financing Advisory Board

Angelina Spillios (New Appointment)  
15 Technology Way  
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire: September 30, 2021

Angelina Spillios Thank you very much. Thank you Mayor Donchess for that introduction, I really appreciate it. So yes exactly as Mayor Donchess said, my father Arthur has really enjoyed being on the Committee. It is something that is very important to us with our business being so closely tied in with the Nashua River and we are right there in the thick of everything and we love being downtown. We care about what is going to happen with the Riverfront Project. My dad just wants to step back a little bit, he's semi-retired at this point and we thought it would be great if I could be considered to step into his shoes with it.

So basically just as Mayor Donchess said, we being a business right on the Riverfront, we want to see the City maximize everything with just what a wonderful asset the Nashua River is and I'd love to get more involved. I have sat in on a couple of the TIF Committee Meetings so far and I am just familiarizing myself with everything that's going on with the project. I love going to work there everyday and it is something that is very special to me being a part of the Nashua Community. So I'd love to be able to offer our perspective as the project is underway and take it from there.

Chairman Caron

Thank you. Any questions from Committee Members?

Alderman Kelly

Alderman Lopez and then myself.

Alderman Lopez

I was interested in your book; it looks like it is in your resume regarding no good deed goes unpunished and it's in reference to NH Attorney's larger role in establishing non-profits. Can you tell me a little bit about that?

Angelina Spillios Sure. So I wrote that as my student note on the law review. My second semester of my second year in law school. And I had heard about a case here in Nashua with a non-profit and it was just something that I thought was interesting. I did more research about it and I learned more about what the State Attorney General's role is with non-profits and what happens when somebody who passes away, they have wishes for what happens to their assets or how they want to donate their money and assets to a non-profit. And what happens if the purpose of that can't be fulfilled anymore and how the State Attorney General can make a lot of decisions even if there are other interested parties that might be involved. They really don't have standing to bring a lawsuit, so that's kind of what that research was about.

Alderman Lopez

OK I am just curious because we recently had an issue with funding that was assigned to, it was intended for Nashua on behalf of a Performing Arts Center Steering Committee that just appeared to whittle away over time and ultimately that funding did not stay with Nashua it went to Manchester. That's just an element of curiosity because it was relevant to the City. Looking forward to the TIF specifically and developing the Mill Yard area, what are your opinions with regards to the Animal Park initiative I guess, proposal, I guess doubling down on your Mill Yard Association experience.

Angelina Spillios Sure, so I have to be honest, I am not as familiar with that particular initiative, with the Animal Park. I've just gotten back involved with the Mill Yard Association after being away from it for several years when I was in law school. So I just joined the last couple of meetings for that and I am still sort of figuring out everything that's going on with that at this point. So I am just going to take everything in and see what the information is. I am sorry I don't really have more specific knowledge about it at this point.

Alderman Lopez

That's fair, I don't think it is germane to the TIF specifically because I don't believe they are looking for any TIF money. But we are a group of passionate Nashuans who have come forward to try to organize a citywide effort to introduce dog parks. There is a piece of land that the Mill Yard Association is not negotiating exactly but discussing with that Advisory Board to decide whether or not it could be used as a dog park. It's below the flood plain so its development options are fairly limited. More recently that Committee has needed to get money from the City in order to fund a feasibility study in order to make the case more strongly to the Mill Yard Association that that is a worthwhile and viable endeavor.

And it is an example of how similarly to the Performing Arts Center program I referenced before, a group of passionate citizens can have an idea and a dream, but it sometimes take a partnership between the City, a business entity and then within the confines of legal managing to actually make that project come about. So that was kind of why I brought it up. But I mean if it's not something you are immediately familiar with; I don't think it's relevant to the TIF District strictly speaking. As far as I know they are not looking for that kind of funding.

Angelina Spillios Sure, no that's OK, I am glad you brought it up. I've heard a little bit about it but I am just not super familiar with it yet. But anything like that, my father and I always strongly feel that we want to work with the City and we all share the common goal of wanting to like you said, when a group of people come together with something they are passionate about, we have worked really well with Mayor Donchess and other folks at the City with the boat ramp that we have on our property. That has gone really well with having people utilize that. And so we look forward to exploring other things like that as well, especially anything through the Mill Yard Association.

Alderman Lopez

So the boat ramp is actually a much better example than the other two that I was kind of fishing around for. The boat ramp is where a private owner and the association in the city have all collaborated in and it has really provided an amenity that is being well used by the City. Even as recently as the Light Parade, I mean that really wouldn't have been possible without that area for access. So that's a really good example. I guess my only suggestion is there is a lot happening in Nashua, even a small place like the Mill Yard, so there's always going to be a new project or a new thing coming up. So as long as you're versatile I'm sure you will see them all coming by.

Angelina Spillios Yes that's a good point, thank you.

Alderman Lopez

Thank you for being willing to volunteer and step forward.

Angelina Spillios Thank you.

Chairman Caron

Alderwoman Kelly, you wanted to speak.

Alderwoman Kelly

Tom said it all, no I actually just wanted to comment and say thank you for stepping forward. It sounds like your family has been involved and you are up to date on what is going on and can bring a fresh perspective. So thank you for that. You sound very passionate too, so I appreciate that.

Angelina Spillios Thanks, I appreciate that too, thank you.

Chairman Caron

Anyone else?

Alderman Wilshire

Alderman Caron?

Chairman Caron

Yes, Alderman Wilshire?

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. Thank you, Angelina, for stepping up to do this. Unfortunately, we will miss Arthur because he's such a great guy. Thank you for stepping up in his place and we look forward to working with you. Thank you so much. And hi to Arthur.

Angelina Spillios Thank you, I will, thank you, yes he says "hi" to everybody. We are so glad to see the Mayor too, we've been worried about how the Mayor is doing, so it's nice to see everybody and everybody looking well. Arthur says hello too, so thank you.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you so much.

Chairman Caron

Thank you, Alderman Wilshire. Angelina your nomination will come under vote later on in the meeting. And thank you for volunteering.

Angelina Spillios Thank you.

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

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING CONFIRMATION REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE CULTURAL CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE: ERIC DROUART WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2020; MOHAMMED MUSTAK ARIF WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE FEBRUARY 28, 2023; ADELINA HERNANDEZ WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE JULY 30, 2023; AND JESSICA GORHAN WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2023; THE FOLLOWING NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE: JONATHAN SPIRA-SAVETT; THE FOLLOWING TO THE NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION: JUDITH CARLSON (REAPPOINTMENT), PAUL LAFLAMME (REAPPOINTMENT) AND TRAVIS TRIPOLDI (NEW APPOINTMENT, ALL WITH TERMS TO EXPIRE APRIL 1, 2023; AND STEVE RUDDOCK (NEW APPOINTMENT) WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE JULY 30, 2023; AND ANGELINA SPILLIOS (NEW APPOINTMENT) TO THE TAX INCREMENT FINANCING ADVISORY BOARD WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 30, 2021, BY ROLL CALL.**

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

Yea:	Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Aldermen Lopez, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Cleaver	5
Nay:		0

**MOTION CARRIED**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

**R-20-077**

Endorsers: Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly  
 Alderman Jan Schmidt  
 Alderman Skip Cleaver  
 Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons  
 Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws  
 Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

**RENAMING COLUMBUS DAY AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE DAY IN NASHUA**

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE BY ROLL CALL**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Caron

Any comments, questions?

Alderwoman Kelly

Yeah, we've got Alderman Clemons and Alderman Lopez.

Chairman Caron

OK, Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, I want to thank the sponsor of this, Alderwoman Kelly, for bringing this forward. I think it's a great endeavor. It is about time we stopped celebrating Christopher Columbus, he is not worthy of the celebrations. Some people look at this as your ... Italians finding it to be almost an Italian Heritage Day and I get that and I understand that. However, when you look at the context of history and what that man did to the Native population versus anything that he positively brought to this side of the world, I think it is clear, in my opinion, that we should stop honoring him and start honoring the people who were here before him and the people who really unfortunately were victims I guess of European Colonization. With that I am happy to support this. It is a small token of what we can do, it doesn't take much effort on our part but at least especially in a City that calls itself Nashua, I think shows that we at least care and we are open to change. So thank you.

Chairman Caron

Ok, Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

Well first as a Lopez I would like to point out to anybody who is focusing on this as an Italian Heritage thing that Mr. Columbus did get some funding from the Spanish Court, not that we are super proud of the results, but it is worth mentioning. The initial reaction I had to this was it is great because Columbus Day particularly is a very much an antiquated holiday and it's not something that needs to be celebrated in terms of his accomplishment. He as just a businessperson who had a theory that ended up being proven wrong and ended up in grossly the wrong part of the country versus what he aimed at. But that the impetus behind it was that he was an explorer who initially kicked off what ultimately resulted in the colonization of the US.

The colonization of Nashua particularly included a lot of tension between the settlers and the Abenaki and the Nashua Indians. Our history, as a City, does not do a very good job of referencing that at all. If anything it just glosses over the conflict. It takes a reasonable amount of effort to find out what exactly the Indian Head Massacre was about. While the originally residents of Dunstable Village all have death dates at approximately the same time. So while I appreciate the focus on this being an Indigenous Awareness Day, are we doing anything as a City to connect with the Abenaki or any Indian Tribes particularly to try to reclaim some of that lost heritage? That's really my concern. I wanted to get a little bit more background from Shoshanna as the author as to what prompted this. I didn't know if there was any conversation, or if we would have any kind of presentation from those that (inaudible) culture or anybody representative of the regional tribes? I guess so my question is to Shoshanna, is that all we are doing here, is we are just changing the name?

Alderwoman Kelly

I am waiting to be recognized.

Chairman Caron

Alderwoman Kelly would you like to speak?

Alderman Kelly

Yes. So I mean I think characterizing this as just changing a name sort of misses the point here. I think Alderman Clemons had a good point about why we are doing this. I think if I could take all the credit I would, but I had a constituent come to me and say there are multiple cities in New Hampshire that are doing this and I think given our heritage and the fact that we are a very diverse city that we should consider this. And I agree wholeheartedly. I have Blackfoot Indian, my dad's grandmother was full, so I think of that to the point of who are we putting any sort of a celebratory role, we need to shift that focus. I hear your thoughts on the connection with what happened here in Nashua and I think that's a really solid opportunity for us to reach out and potentially make sure that history is out there. However, I think we have to do this first.

Chairman Caron

Thank you, Alderman Kelly. Anyone else from the Committee that has ....

Alderman Kelly

Alderman Lopez has his hand up again.

Alderman Lopez

My hand was up, I was asking that question for clarification.

Chairman Caron

OK Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

So based on the response I am in favor of moving forward with this. But I wonder if there's an opportunity especially since the Mayor was attending this meeting; I think he's missing, to add language in that we would welcome some sort of celebration or input from the Indigenous Community or representatives of it. Because I take Alderman Kelly's point that we have to start somewhere, we have to at least change the name. But I want to make sure this doesn't end up being performative justice and I want to do more than change the name if possible, because we are in the middle of creating a Resolution so if we could add some sort of invitation or at least an indication that we are committed to better researching our own City history and how that's presented. Those would be just my recommendations. I guess if the Mayor isn't here then I can just ask him to redefine his proclamation.

Chairman Caron

Alderman Kelly.

Alderman Kelly

Yeah, if I could reply. As I said before, Alderman Lopez, I am totally open to working with you or the Mayor to refine that, I think it's a really important piece of this.

Alderman Lopez

Well like I said, there's nothing that I can amend right now or propose in order to codify it because I don't have the Mayor here. But it's like I said, this is an opportunity, so maybe that's something we could look at in terms of how as a City we present it, you know, next Monday.

Chairman Caron

Is there anyone else that would like to make comments?

Alderman Kelly

Alderman Dowd has his hand up.

Chairman Caron

Alderman Dowd.

Alderman Dowd

Yes, I agree with everything that's been said and I have no problem with the action that is being addressed. However, I wish that it was being done at the State or Federal Level. My only concern matters that might be is that we are going to have towns all over the country naming the holiday a different term. And I guess the other thing is I'm not sure if any contracts call for having Columbus Day off which would require a change to a contract but those are my only concerns

Chairman Caron

Thank you, Alderman Dowd. Is there anyone else?

Alderman Kelly

Alderman Klee has her hand up and then I'd like to reply to Alderman Dowd.

Chairman Caron

OK Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Yes, I just wanted to add as a State Rep we have brought this up in the State House. I believe this year it had actually passed. The problem was that with the pandemic all those bills got killed. So I do think with the right people up in Concord it will pass most likely on a State Level but I can't attest to that definitely.

Chairman Caron

Thank you. Alderman Kelly?

Alderman Kelly

Thank you and thank you Alderman Klee for that update on the State, I'd love to see that happen at the State Level as well. I think to the point that was made about people changing it. It's a slow increment of change; I know Dover has changed it, Keene has changed it and for sure there's creating that to then hopefully get it to the State and Federal level, so I hope we will continue to lead.

Chairman Caron

OK anyone else have a comment? Ok so I would like to speak. So with these questions Alderwoman Kelly from Alderman Lopez, would you like to refine this or add to this Resolution, some of the ideas that he has presented. And if so, would you consider tabling this and this wouldn't go into effect until next year anyway?

Alderman Lopez

I don't think that it needs to be tabled, because we have the right to amend at any point.

Alderwoman Kelly

I was going to say the same thing, literally what I was going to say.

Alderman Lopez

And I would also point out that there is still some symbolism in being it pass it in time, so I see the opportunity but I mean I've got a year to work on it. It took Columbus awhile to get here, so I'll figure it out.

Chairman Caron

OK Alderwoman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

No I am good; Alderman Clemons has his hand up again.

Chairman Caron

OK Alderman Clemons

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, yeah, I was wondering, so our Calendar is – well Columbus Day is next Monday and it would be nice to change it ahead of time. I don't know you know if it is possible if the President is on I know, if she would be amenable to adding this to the Agenda or if that's even possible, if we were to move this forward tonight.. Tomorrow's meeting we have a Special Board of Aldermen Meeting and try to get it done tomorrow so we can have it done in time. I don't know if that's even possible though, but it would be nice if we could.

Alderman Wilshire

Alderman Caron?

Chairman Caron

Yes, Alderman Wilshire, thank you.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. I don't oppose this Legislation but I think it's really short notice to put it on the Agenda. I think a lot of people will think it's a big deal and that we just moved it along quickly. I think people might have a problem with it. And I think it's too short notice to put it on the Agenda for tomorrow night.

Alderman Clemons

May I continue?

Alderwoman Kelly

Alderman Clemons has his hand up and then Alderman Klee?

Chairman Caron

OK. Alderman Clemons.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, I appreciate that President Wilshire that it's too short of a notice and I get that. But you know I would agree with the previous speakers that there's no need to amend this, I think it should move forward and we should pass this as soon as possible. Thank you.

Chairman Caron

Alderwoman Klee, would you like to speak first?

Alderman Klee

Yes, I would thank you. I think that it's a good thing for the Board to discuss this and vote it and so on. I will be honest, I've gotten a lot of negative feedback, I think if it were out there long enough, we would probably hear equally from both sides. One of the things I keep getting people who say as Nashua is making such an important decision as to name a holiday that is considered a Federal Holiday and so on. They would like it on a ballot. I don't necessarily agree with that. I think that it is a decision that the Board can make and so on. But I think what President Wilshire had mentioned, if we push this to tomorrow's meeting it is going to give the appearance that we are trying to rush it through to get it through without hearing the voice of the people. And I really would like to hear from the people. And I think it will give those that are definitely for it the opportunity to come out and speak more because it will be out there and it will be heard. So just my opinion, I'm not a member but I think waiting is a good thing. But I do respect what Alderman Clemons said about we are coming up on Columbus Day so it would have been a nice gesture to move it forward, but I think we do need to give the people time.

Alderwoman Kelly

Alderman Lopez has his hand up.

Chairman Caron

OK well Alderwoman Kelly would you like to speak first and then Alderman Lopez?

Alderwoman Kelly

No you can go to Alderman Lopez.

Chairman Caron

You sure, OK. Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

Oh great, ok, well so I concur with much of what Alderman Clemons and what Alderman Klee said. I don't think anybody has a crystal ball and can automatically anticipate this. So first I applaud Alderman Kelly for being the one who actually stepped forward and brought it up regardless of whether of whether it was a little too close to the Columbus Day Weekend or not. I don't think anything we do here necessarily has bearing on National Holidays and I think we are acting well within our rights to name a Holiday in our City.

But I also agree that there are going to be people who want to be heard and I want to hear from them too, because I want to see exactly how they frame their argument and what their positions are. So I appreciate Alderman Clemons' enthusiasm for moving forward. I think that we get the best of both worlds by passing this Legislation the way that we are doing it but then by giving us time to continue to create it. Because when we do craft something to amend to it to make it a little more than just a name change, people can object to that if they want to.

So I think we give the opportunity to the public to debate the issue or the topic in the context of the change that we would be making, we would also likely be able to actually inform the public in general through that dialogue as to some of the history of Nashua. So I kind of think it's a win/win here where we can pass it today for next year. We can demonstrate that we are attuned enough to public opinion to at least recognize the need for this while at the same time we get the opportunity to entertain people who have differing opinions at a different time over the year.

Chairman Caron

Thank you. Anyone else?

Alderwoman Kelly

I would like to speak.

Chairman Caron

Alright, Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

So thank you for everyone's thoughts on this, I think it's been a good discussion. I appreciate the enthusiasm of Alderman Clemons as well but I think I have also been the cheerleader for doing things in the right order at the right time. And I think there are people who want to be heard on this and we don't need to rush it through.

I think it pushing it here from this Committee says how we feel and we can hear from everybody else. It doesn't keep us from trying to get into the history, as Alderman Lopez said. I really look forward to finding some of that history and connecting with the community in that way. I will stop talking.

Chairman Caron

OK any other discussion? OK, would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Aldermen Lopez, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Cleaver	5
Nay:	0

**MOTION CARRIED**NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES**O-20-031**

Endorsers: Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons  
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws  
Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu

**PROHIBITING DOGS IN FENCED-IN TOT LOTS****MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE BY ROLL CALL**ON THE QUESTION

Alderwoman Kelly

And I believe Alderwoman Klee would like to speak to this?

Chairman Caron

OK, you've heard the Motion. So Alderwoman Klee, you are the sponsor of this, would you please speak?

Alderman Klee

Yes, I was going to do a bark but I thought that was really not appropriate. You did say speak and I have two dogs and that's just what I do. The truth is the way that this Ordinance came about was I was contacted by a constituent originally about the Shattuck Tot Lot. He had brought his children there and there were many animal feces there and a number of times he went to go in there and there were people that had one or two dogs that were just running around freely in it. So he decided to go to another Tot Lot and as he did, he ran across similar situations. So I contacted Mr. Caggiano from Parks & Rec and I told him that I wanted to kind of put this through and I wanted some input from him.

He had told me and my original plan was all tot lots. He spoke to me and said that really wasn't practical because some of the Tot Lots weren't fenced in. So it would mean that even people that had leashed dogs couldn't walk though the area, it would be hard to control. And truth be told, the thing that I had really asked for was just to have signage put up, "No Dogs Allowed". But as the signage requires an Ordinance, that's where we come to. So that was the whole thing. And as you can tell, there's only a small number of Tot Lots that are actually are fenced in. So that's why I put those particular ones in there.

This has gone to the Animal Advisory Committee and they have made a couple of brilliant suggestions and I would like if Alderman Lopez would be so kind as to amend this to include the following changes. One would say to “prohibiting dogs in fenced in tot lots” at the current name of it it would be “prohibiting pets in fenced in tot lots”.

The other language change would be to say to add language “excluding service animals as defined under the ADA” from the prohibition of it. And that makes perfect sense. And the third that they requested and I agree fully with this is to add language to include not only the listed fenced in tot lots but also future fenced in tot lots. So that as we add more tot lots that are fenced in that they will be included and not just the named ones. I am not sure if that would be appropriate or if we would have to make amendments as those come through. But I do think it’s good language to put in there.

I have no issues at all with those changes; I am glad that they caught it. I think that there are really good suggestions and ideas. And I think the original thought from my constituent was that not to allow the dogs to run free in there. I don’t believe that, and I have had three that have contracted me, and I don’t believe that they felt a dog on a leash would be an issue but the truth be told, dogs on leashes still poop and I’m sorry to say that not everybody picks it up. For the health of our children, everyone knows I am a dog lover, I am obsessed with my dogs, but I think it is probably a good idea just to exclude them from these few areas. I don’t think it’s a hardship for a dog owner. And if anybody has any questions, I am happy to answer them.

Chairman Caron

OK do we have any questions or concerns from members of the Committee first?

Alderman Kelly

Alderman Lopez, Alderman Clemons had their hands up.

Alderman Lopez

I was going to let Alderman Clemons start because I was asked to do the motion.

Chairman Caron

OK. Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

No I’ll defer to you, Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

No, no after you – OK. So just to add some context from the discussions that were brought up, if that’s ok with the Chair?

Chairman Caron

Yes that’s fine.

Alderman Lopez

Ok the changing it to no pets was, I mean first of all there's an opportunity here because if you change it you are going to start addressing issues in there, there's other pets than can really be an issue. Someone mentioned someone deciding to bring their pet bull into a tot lot which is just not a good idea. And then other things like chickens or potbellied pigs which have been identified by people. So people might see an area that's fenced and think, Oh I can let my thing loose and that's not what that area is for. So that was a lot of the idea behind that. Changing the language to include service animals specifically and make sure that's excluded in the way – they wanted to leave that up to Legal which I think is a wise idea as well. So I don't know that I would sponsoring specific language in an amendment, just maybe suggesting a general change.

And because of the way that Committees are designed, the Animal Park Advisory Board is obviously just an Advisory Committee. But we wanted to make sure that we didn't make a motion and advance with it after they had had given their advice if that advice hadn't gone to the sponsor. So I am glad that Alderman Klee got a chance to see those changes from members of the board that were a little taken aback that it wasn't forwarded it to them. It looks like there was literally just a clerical misunderstanding where the initial notes were sent out this morning as a Memo and they were addressed to the Board of Aldermen but they were sent to our Assistant instead of using the actual Board of Aldermen E-Mail. So if this had been any other situation and there had been more than like a weekend and a morning to get this done, then I think we would have all seen this before the Committee. But I think they are making suggestions that as a Committee we can enact here.

Alderman Klee

Thank you very much. Madam Chair, if I may add, I do want to comment on that this Committee did meet on this past Friday and they did take it up at that time. I was unable to attend that meeting so in all fairness to them, they did try to get it to us as quickly as possible. So I hope we don't hold that against them that it wasn't here on time . I think after reading this Memo it's really, truly a paragraph of just those three items that I mentioned and I think they've done their due diligence and they tried to get it to us as quickly as possible, it was just a little snafu and I don't think it's truly anything of a major (audio cuts out).

Alderwoman Kelly

Are you all done Alderman Klee, you cut out, I think,

Alderman Lopez

Oh yeah, she froze.

Alderman Klee

Ok I can see you guys, you are moving and talking but anyways, I said you know whatever the Board decides, obviously it is up to you to make that decision but I hope that this will not slow this down just because we didn't get the Memo on time. I think it was an honest snafu.

Alderwoman Kelly

Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, I would be happy to make the amendments that were suggested officially. And what we can do is have Corporation Counsel put this in the correct lawyer language if you will. But I would move to amend to add the following to the Ordinance.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO AMEND O-20-031 TO ADD THE FOLLOWING TO THE ORDINANCE; NUMBER 1 – PROHIBIT PETS IN FENCED IN TOT LOTS TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE ORDINANCE TO THAT; INSTEAD OF REFERENCING DOGS IT WOULD REFERENCE PETS. NUMBER TWO, EXCLUDE FROM THIS SERVICE ANIMALS; NUMBER THREE, PROVIDE THAT ANY FUTURE TOT LOTS THAT ARE FENCED IN WILL BE INCLUDED IN THIS ORDINANCE BY ROLL CALL**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderwoman Kelly

The Motion by Alderman Clemons is to have those things put into lawyer language. Is there any discussion on the Motion?

Chairman Caron

OK alright so you all understand the amended motion. Is there any other questions or concerns? OK then we will ask the Clerk to call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Aldermen Lopez, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Cleaver	5
Nay:	0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman Caron

OK next Ordinance?

Alderman Clemons

Madam Chair?

Chairman Caron

That was the Motion to amend, we do need to recommend final passage.

Chairman Caron

I'm sorry, you're right, Alderman Clemons.

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO RECOMMEND O-20-031 AS AMENDED FOR FINAL PASSAGE BY ROLL CALL**

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

Yea:	Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Aldermen Lopez, Alderman Kelly, Alderman Cleaver	5
Nay:		0

**MOTION PASSED**

**O-20-032**

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Brandon Laws  
 Alderman Thomas Lopez  
 Alderman Jan Schmidt  
 Alderman Skip Cleaver  
 Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly  
 Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu

**REDUCING THE FINE FOR OVERNIGHT PARKING VIOLATIONS**

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE BY ROLL CALL**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Caron

Ok you heard the Motion and my understanding is Alderman Laws is here.

Alderman Laws

Sure am.

Chairman Caron

OK, would you like to speak on it before I tell you about my phone call, thank you. Put you on the spot Alderman Laws.

Alderman Laws

I'm OK with it. I have two primary objections to the current overnight parking fine. First and foremost is a matter of equity in that it disproportionately affects people who live downtown which are disproportionately lower income residents. The parking ticket is \$25.00 and it goes up to \$35.00 whereas most every other parking violation is a \$10.00 ticket. So people who you know aren't owning property in Nashua and are renting downtown, typically make less income and have to pay more money. A lot of them are renting from landlords who don't provide parking at all, whatsoever, which you would think would be more of an impetus on the landlord to provide parking for their tenants and not something that burdens the tenants.

That being said, my other objection to it is that as you all know, I am a life-long bartender or career long bartender anyway, and I know from personal experience with patrons from my bar and other bars and countless stories, that the \$25.00 fine is a deterrent for people to leave their cars downtown if they've had too much to drink. I mean that is enough for me, I mean not encouraging people to drive drunk I think is enough to get rid of it altogether. But I understand the need to have the fine, and if \$10.00 is enough to deter them from parking overnight, then \$25.00 is 2 ½ times that. I lost my thought there, sorry.

So I would be very interested to hear what Members of the Committee thought. I would very much want to hear about your phone call if I may. I am assuming it has something to do with the Economic Development suggesting that this would effectively cripple the overnight parking program where they find people to go around and get tickets, which is certainly not my intention. This is really just a matter of protecting my constituents who have come to me and this has been a real financial burden for them and then people who might potentially driving drunk and not have the judgement to say it's better to take an Uber than to get a \$25.00 ticket. (audio cuts out).

#### Chairman Caron

Thank you, Alderman Laws. Does anyone from the Committee have any questions or concerns concerning this Ordinance?

#### Alderman Kelly

I see Alderman Clemons and Alderman Lopez and I will probably speak after that.

#### Chairman Caron

OK, Alderman Clemons.

#### Alderman Clemons

Thank you. I don't like the overnight parking ban. I think that the City would be better served without it. What I would rather see is a parking program put into place that we have in the Tree Streets and in French Hill right now and see that expanded to any Nashua resident who wants it. And to supplement the ticket revenue, I'd rather see that, you know, in other words make it a thing that you have to buy for the year and we can get rid of the fines altogether unless you don't have a pass, you know what I mean. But as far as lowering this I understand we received a Memo from Jill Stansfield about the park – the Committee Members did about the parking or I'm sorry to get revenue and what it goes to fund and I am sensitive to those needs as well.

But I agree 100% with Alderman Laws and the rationale behind this as well. We need to strike a balance and we shouldn't be doing it off the backs of people that are making a responsible decision not to drive impaired or making, you know, they happen to live in a place that unfortunately their landlord doesn't provide them with parking and they risk a ticket every night. So I do understand that as well. So we have to be able to strike a balance. I am not 100% there on this Legislation yet, because what I would like to hear from, is I would like the Economic Development Director to come to this meeting and discuss this along with Jill Stansfield as well. And really so that we can get more of a grasp of the numbers and what the details are. Because while I appreciate the Memo that came out, it came out an hour before this Committee Meeting and I don't think that is appropriate. So with all that said, I would, you know, my recommendation would be that the Committee at least hold it until they can come in and discuss with us exactly what the details are. But thank you.

Chairman Caron

OK, Alderman Lopez and then Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderman Lopez

Yeah I think Alderman Clemons makes a very good point about this being a very much an 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Memo and reference to the conversation we just had about making sure that Committees are informed or have enough time to actually process this kind of stuff, I think it is important to give that kind of timeframe. So I would be open to tabling if the sponsor, Alderman Laws is open to it. I will say that whether we table it or whether we are voting on it tonight, I am going to support it because as it was also observed, I am one of two Ward Aldermen whose residents are subject to this pretty regularly, versus other Ward Alderman or At-Large Alderman that might represent constituents who choose to park in certain areas because they are visiting or engaging in recreational activity.

So on behalf of the residents who live downtown and get nailed with parking tickets, I feel no choice but to support this moving forward. I recognize that it is problematic. I think Alderman Clemons' idea about creating a downtown parking program is very interesting. I think maybe focusing it on specific areas like the parking garage might also be interesting. But I have not seen a will on the part of Economic Development to engage in that – in a manner other raising prices and making it more difficult for people with lower economic means to park. I think that is perceived as the revenue generator and while as Aldermen we have to be careful not put ourselves in the red and make sure that we can actually pay the guy to go out and ticket, that's an important part.

We also very rarely get an opportunity to lower taxes and I think this is a tax and I think this is a tax. So while there is a need for regulation and there is a need for balancing the books, I think specifically because of the constituents I represent, I am going to support this in whatever form it moved forward if possible. Thanks.

Chairman Caron

Ok thank you. Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

I am going to defer to Alderman Klee because I think she wants to talk about her constituency who is also affected by this more often and then I will speak.

Chairman Caron

Alderman Klee isn't a member of the Committee. I'd like to speak first and this might give the Committee some thoughts to what has been suggested about tabling. And I agree with the Aldermen that a last-minute Memo really makes it kind of hard for the Committee to look at. I feel that someone from parking or Economic Development should have been here. But the phone call I did receive was from Jill Stansfield and they are recommending that this be tabled only because as you know, parking enforcement was supposed to be putting together a report concerning all the parking within the City. And unfortunately with everything that has happened since March, that hasn't taken place.

But they are working to get it started at the beginning of the year and they would rather not have new Legislation coming in for parking until this report is finalized and presented to the Board of Aldermen. Because if there are things in there that we have to come back and change some of these new Ordinances, it is going to make it a little bit more complicated. And we are paying to have this study done. So my feeling is that we should table this to time certain.

And I understand everyone's concerns, the cost, but we also have to look at the other things. We are not a City of overnight parking except in those designated areas that you have to have a permit. So we have to look at it in both ways. So with that being said, Alderman Klee if you'd like to speak.

Alderman Klee

Thank you so much I appreciate it and not being a member I appreciate you giving me the time. I have very mixed emotions; I think much like what Alderman Lopez feels about this. It affects actually more than just the low-income residents of my Ward in the French Hill area. It affects throughout Ward 3. In this particular case lowering the fee does not kill the overnight parking program, it still maintains it and it is just bringing the fee in line with what the other parking fees are. So I see that point. At first I thought, why are we doing this, we've got that Master Plan kind of going through as far as the parking is concerned and then I realized that this just changed the fee structure, it didn't change the overnight parking as to where and so on. It didn't do that, so I didn't feel that one affected the other. But I am not disagreeing with you for tabling it, I think that's probably a good idea to get all parties in to speak to it.

I don't have a solution to this. I think we do need an overnight program. I would also suggest if it would be OK for when you do bring this back up that you possibly bring in Chief Rhodes because one of the things when I had spoken to the Nashua Fire, one of the issues that came up was that at nighttime, 3:00 in the morning or something like that, if there are cars parked and they can't get to a house with Fire & Rescue, meaning they can't get an ambulance in there. A lot of times the car that's parked in front of that house illegally doesn't necessarily belong to that house. And that means trying to get the people out and so on. I would just kind of like to hear what they have to say about some of our narrow streets. And then to that just getting their opinion on it, as far as the overnight parking. Not as far as the fees are concerned, this again has nothing to do, you are not killing the program. You are just changing the fee structure in this one.

But when you do decide to move forward as to whether or not to keep the overnight program, I really do think that it would be nice to have Fire & Rescue and their opinion in the whole thing. So thank you for allowing me to speak.

Chairman Caron

You're welcome; anyone else? Alderwoman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

Yeah thank you. So I want to thank Alderman Laws for bringing this forward and for laying out a pretty succinctly how this affects lower income people in our City. I think the argument that just bringing it in line with other fees makes complete sense. The piece that, I won't support tabling it, I think we have consistently used this parking study as a reason to not talk about anything parking related for over two years. I think we need to; I appreciate that there's going to be an overall plan at some point, I think that's great. But we also have to deal with the business that's in front of us and stop deferring it because this parking study is going to happen at some point at some time. Like we have said before, we have the ability to change Ordinances that we write pretty easily. So I am going to support this for all the points that were brought forward by Alderman Laws and there are about five other people who would like to speak now.

Chairman Caron

Ok, members of the Committee first.

Alderman Kelly

Sure, Alderman Cleaver.

Alderman Cleaver

Yes thank you very much. I think it's time we moved forward to this; I object to the idea of tabling. I think all the reasons are very clear that we need to get this reduced for all of the reasons that Brandon has pointed out and others. I think it's a burden that needs to be lifted. And I agree it is a reduction in revenues, just by sheer mathematics. But it doesn't kill the program and I am sure that we can make up for it in other ways without burdening our citizens. So I would like to move forward and get this down to \$10.00.

Alderman Kelly

Alderman Clemons has his hand up and then Alderman Dowd and Alderman Laws would like to speak.

Chairman Caron

OK thank you.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. I agree 100% with not tabling this because of the parking study. I think that the excuse for some of the things that we haven't done or that have been tabled because of the parking study, get to be on some level ridiculous. However, I do think that a good reason to table this would be the fact that we are losing \$250,000.00 and somebody's job might be in jeopardy. And that's what I am concerned about because I want to make sure that if this is something that we are going to do, that we have a funding plan in place to make sure that that person has a job with the City and can continue on doing that. If that means, if the difference is you know reducing (audio cuts out) I think the Ordinance is \$10.00 to \$15.00 to be able to make that up, so that somebody can keep their job and we can keep revenue to a better degree in the City I would be in support of something like that. For me I am not going to support it going forward at this point because I need more information from the Economic Development Director. Thank you.

Chairman Caron

Ok thank you Alderman Clemons. Alderman Kelly.

Alderman Kelly

Yeah, we have Alderman Dowd, Alderman Laws and Alderman Lopez.

Chairman Caron

OK. Alderman Lopez will go first and then Alderman Laws and then Alderman Dowd.

Alderman Lopez

Thank you, Madam Chair. So my not so head secret history of trying to change parking downtown is a matter of record on the Infrastructure Committee. And I would just caution the Committee that the Economic Development Department does its job which is to advance its Agendas and its Objectives and to manage the City that it sees as best. Some of those ideas are a little bit more philosophical than are necessary for Nashua, in my opinion.

I think they may be based on best practices quote that have been taking place in larger cities. So it's been my experience that as Aldermen we have to do our job, we have to vet these issues. Because if we allow for an indefinite tabling or some sort of let's table until we get a study done, what I have personally seen happening is the scope of studies continually be expanded. The desires and interests, you know, what might be a traffic flow study turns into a parking study.

The definition of "downtown" has expanded to river to river. I literally have seen that over the last couple of years at the Infrastructure Committee. Or I've seen complete radio silence. There was at least two years where you couldn't get anything proposed or any discussion even to be had. So this is a conversation that's long overdue. But additionally the time for pure conversation is over, like there's definitely a need for action. There's definitely a need to support our constituents and I think that while I am sensitive to the needs of a City staff member, I'm also sensitive to the needs of the constituents who \$25.00 is a big deal in the middle of a pandemic where you don't have a lot to spend. And it's not just people who might be drinking a little more than is a good idea to drive home that are getting caught with overnight parking fees, it might be people who are having other issues too. And while the City does try to be somewhat reasonable with how it addresses these, I think this is definitely an area that we need to take action on.

So I am not in favor at all of waiting for the parking study which was I believe when we started this and Alderman Clemons might be able to or Shoshanna Kelly might be able to refresh my memory. But I believe I started pushing on parking somewhere around the Summer of 2018? And was convinced you know to wait until we had a full conversation about on-street overnight parking and downtown parking and all of that kind of stuff. And then in 2019 I had a number of bills that were just on the table because we were waiting for the parking study which was supposedly going to be initiated in the summer and then the fall and the spring and then COVID-19 hit. So I think if you make a problem so big that you can never find a solution, there's always going to be a reason why you can't do anything. And frankly in working with people who experience depression, that's kind of the same thing that I see where a molehill turns into a mountain a person just never gets out of bed because there's too many what ifs and too many maybe's. And we can't do that in terms of legislating and in terms of addressing needs in the Nashua Community.

We can't just make a problem so big that we do nothing about it, if we make a misstep, we can correct it. We could also, as Alderman Clemons said, modify the legislation so that we pilot the program and say, alright well let's see what this looks like over the winter and maybe the holiday season and at least see what the real impacts of this will be and that would also give us some ideas for some other alternatives, because as Alderman Clemons pointed out there's an opportunity for a specific downtown parking program to be implemented. I would love to see some kind of permitting or license fee tax applied to tow trucks operating downtown, because I think a couple of them are being a little bit opportunistic and making a killing off of basically our citizen's misery and they are taxing a lot more than we are. So I think there's other areas that we can be looking at this dynamic rather than making it a choice between an individual constituent who doesn't have any money and a City that needs to maintain a program for safety sake. I think we should look at this, definitely have a larger conversation, but I don't think that conversation will take place if we don't take any action.

Chairman Caron

Alderman Laws.

### Alderman Laws

Thank you. Everyone has pretty much touched on the points I was going to make. But if I could add a little context here. This isn't something that just came to me in a dream three weeks ago. I've been dealing with this for much longer than I have been an Alderman. I have been working downtown late at night for literally the last 20 years. So I've been dealing with this a lot when it comes to, at least encouraging people not to leave their cars downtown after they had drinking part. That being said, many of those people are the ones that have reached out to me. It's all been constituents who live downtown, don't make a ton of money and are getting popped with \$25.00 parking tickets because, you know, for one reason or another. I'm not going to bog you down with all the details but there are varying reasons and varying levels of accountability for these residents. I mean some of them, no fault of their own, it is like the fault of the City.

That being said, three weeks ago I was driving to Milford to pick up a cord of wood. And the only reason I bring it up is because I remember specifically what I was doing when I was having this conversation with Director Cummings. So they've had three weeks to prepare for this meeting and to come in here and give you guys an argument for why they should, why you should table this or why this shouldn't go forward. I think the fact, and this not, I mean no disrespect to Director Cummings or Jill Stansfield, I think they are great and they do wonderful work for the City. But I think the fact that they are not here and their presence is not known at this meeting, tells you everything you need to know about how important it is for them to not have this go forward.

Furthermore, as a few of my colleagues have pointed out, I mean this is a conversation that needs to, not just happen, but continue to happen. Our parking situation in Nashua is antiquated and it doesn't make a lot of sense in a lot of different areas. I feel like people have this tired tropes about we have to worry about the 911 thing, we have to worry about the narrow streets and yeah, that's great. I don't disagree with any of those things. But the fact that we just keep tabling these parking discussions until later, all it does is support what Alderman Lopez is saying, we just end up never having the conversation at all. I would highly recommend that my colleagues on this Committee reconsider if they were thinking about tabling this until later. I think that we need to push this forward on behalf of our constituents and on behalf of this conversation that needs to happen. So thank you, Madam Chair.

### Chairman Caron

You're welcome. Alderman Dowd?

### Alderwoman Kelly

Alderman Cleaver also has his hand up.

### Alderman Dowd

I don't disagree with the things that have been mentioned as in generating this motion. I will say that as Chair of Budget that I disagree with the previous speaker that the fines are a fee, not a tax. And this is not reducing tax. If we reduce our revenues by \$250,000.00 that will be a tax because there's only – we have very, very tight budgets going forward. And we found with some of the accounts where we had a heck of a time trying to add less than \$100,000.00 to an account; \$250,000.00 is going to do one of two things. It is going to increase the tax rate or it is going to cut services. So unless we find another alternative for this revenue, I will not support this.

Chairman Caron

Thank you. Alderman Dowd. Alderman Cleaver.

Alderman Cleaver

Yes thank you very much. Just to address that point, my understanding is that \$250,000.00 is total parking revenue fees. So it would be \$100,000.00 that would still be there, so wouldn't lose all \$250,000.00 first of all. Second of all, I think it's a lot to be said to be bringing the parking fee in line with every other fine we have associated with automotive operation and parking in the downtown. And I disagree very strongly with trying to table this. I think we have it reversed. I think if we eventually get the parking study, and they recommend higher fees are needed then I would address it then. But \$10.00 is fee that we should be charging right now.

Chairman Caron

Anyone else?

Alderwoman Kelly

Alderman Clemons, Alderman Wilshire.

Chairman Caron

OK Alderman Wilshire, since you haven't spoken, I'll let you speak first and then Alderman Clemons.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. I agree with Alderman Dowd. I won't be supporting this when it comes to the Full Board. I think we don't push this in City Department's faces because they haven't done anything for us on this. I understand that there's some frustration that this hasn't gone forward. I am a little frustrated with it too. But we had planned to start this in the spring and you know seven months later, here we are. So I don't think it's the right way to go, I do think there are areas we can work on that need overnight parking, but just to say people that are out drinking want to leave their cars and its safer.

Well if they have money to go out and drink, maybe they can take an Uber home or Lyft and not, I don't know. I'm not going to support this, I have concerns about the budget hit it will take and it will probably put one or two people maybe even three people out of a job. Those are things we have to discuss with the Department before we pass this. And do you really want to send it to the Full Board with a positive recommendation before you talk to them? That's ok, we will have the discussion there which really isn't where it should happen. So I would suggest, if I were on the Committee, I would vote to table. But I'm not.

Chairman Caron

OK thank you. Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. I agree with Alderman Wilshire and Alderman Dowd to a degree. I think that, I agree with the fact that I think that this needs to be put on hold here in the Committee and have Director Cummings come in; have Jill Stansfield come in and talk about it. I am very sensitive to the fact of what however Alderman Laws said in that the fact that they are not here does speak volumes and you know, I get that sentiment, because I am frustrated with it too.

Because there's been things that I've been working on that I've had to push and pull and I still don't have answers and things like that. So not my favorite Department in the City I can tell you that.

That being said, there are hardworking people that do work in that Department and I am very concerned that a \$250,000.00 cut could mean their jobs. The Fiscal Note on the back of the Legislation says, and I will read it, a 60% reduction in the overnight parking violation fine amount would result in an approximate loss in annual enforcement revenue of between \$225,000.00 and \$250,000.00. So that's \$225,000.00 to \$250,000.00 a year approximately that they are estimating that we are going to lose and that's on the Legislation itself. So yeah it is concerning and one of the things that I would like to know is, is there some kind of middle ground here. Is there a way that we can go in-between \$25.00 and \$10.00 and make that number work.

I want more answers and it is frustrating as all heck for me that we don't have the people here tonight that we should have and we got a Memo an hour before and you know, I have already put the blame where it needs to be. But as policy makers we need to look at those things and we need to look at the decisions that we make are going to affect people and in particular they are going to affect the parking enforcement people. I just can't move forward with something that I don't have an answer to what it is going to do to those people's livelihoods. And quite frankly, a lot of the maintenance to the garages and things like that, how are we going to make up the revenue? So you know, it's not, for me, for me personally, it's not about the parking study. For me personally it's not about the lack of communication that we've been receiving from the Department, for me it is about the fundamentals and what we are looking to do. And so for me, I can't support it moving forward. Thank you.

Chairman Caron

OK anyone else? OK can you hear me?

Alderman Kelly

Yes there's two more people, June. Alderman Lopez and Alderman Klee have their hands up.

Chairman Caron

OK Alderman Lopez and then Alderman Klee.

Alderman Lopez

So listening to the points that are being discussed, I just I believe what Alderman Clemons just said that it's not about the parking study, for me it was parking downtown was never about the parking study. That was where the City Departments moved the debate to and then didn't deliver. And that is a discussion that was overseen and shared against my objection for at least two years, dating back probably further than that too. So I appreciate all of the understanding that some of the other Aldermen have expressed here. But I don't think thoughts and prayers are very effective. I think if you were elected specifically to represent people and drive policy, and you are empowered with that ability to do it, and you aren't doing that, then your understanding is not borne out by your actions. So I look forward to seeing any kind of initiatives, effort, momentum, legislation sponsored, any kind of steps at all from any of the Aldermen who are expressing this solidarity with the people of Nashua.

I do think that when it comes to \$250,000.00, we seem to be able to find it when we want it. Like whether it is going to be for subsidizing a Riverfront Property or numerous, numerous feasibility studies. It's not like the money doesn't exist anywhere, despite the fact that the \$250,000.00 is the upper limit, that's the only number that's going to be quoted, I can anticipate that already. So if Aldermen are already committing themselves to, if I don't get my way, then I won't do anything, I'll let a disaster unfold and people will suffer? That's very unfortunate.

I think it would be more effective to work cooperatively and in working cooperatively that doesn't just mean asking one position to concede, it also means offering something a little bit more tangible.

I do think it would be an opportunity for Economic Development to come and present. I think they had plenty of opportunity to do that, but I also think that the discussion here may show them that it's more important for them to do so. I don't know the implications of one Committee recommending final passage, whereas another doesn't. And I know that the Infrastructure Committee isn't necessarily inclined to do that based on my own personal experience. So I don't think that this is the only Committee that has to take this up period for the rest of all time. In fact, I think we do need it to run it through Infrastructure Committee and that there would be an opportunity to present on it at that point. Whatever we do, if it does get to the Board of Aldermen, I am sure we can handle it. I am sure that meeting will be Chaired as fairly as any other meeting is. And then we will have the discussion as needed. This is a larger problem and I think if we continually blow it up to be an unsolvable problem, then we are giving ourselves a reason not to do anything.

Chairman Caron

OK, Alderwoman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam Chair, I appreciate getting a second bite at this apple. First, I do want to echo that again this does not kill the overnight program which (inaudible) fees and (inaudible). But I do have a question about the fees. Many years before I was an Alderman, I made the mistake of letting a meter go beyond its time over by the Riverwalk at Railroad Square there. I received a \$25.00 fine not a \$10.00 fine for that and I paid it immediately so I don't know what the fine would have been if I didn't pay immediately, but I received a \$25.00 for that. I don't know if it has been lessened since that time. But my question is, does anybody know why the fee was set at \$25.00 and \$35.00 if not paid on time? At that point was it in-line with what the normal parking fees were? And did something change in that or was this to back into an estimate of being able to pay for this program. That's my question, I'm not sure if anybody can answer that.

And I think listening much of what you have to say, my other question is, is this in fact going to the Infrastructure Committee before Alderman Lopez had brought that up, I was going to ask that question. Or is it just here and then to the Board of Aldermen? And I think that's really all I had to ask. Thank you.

Alderwoman Kelly

Alderman Wilshire, had her hand up?

Chairman Caron

I was just going to ask if she had her hand up. Thank you, Alderman Wilshire.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you, my concern is – you can send this along but we don't know how many people will lose their jobs. No one is speaking up tonight objecting to working with someone. No one has said, I'm not going to work with anyone so don't put this Legislation forward. I mean I would like it to stay in your Committee where it can do the most good, where you can do the most work on it, get the information you need, know how many people may; or may not lose their jobs. You know, how much are the fees in the other towns. What does Manchester charge downtown for their parking? How much does Concord charge?

I think at the time we did the fee structure that was very comparable, in fact, lower than some of the other towns. So I think those are all things we should be looking at and not just, I don't know, not just you know passing this just because we think it helps. We should have more information about how it is going to help, who it is going to help, where we can compromise. I'm OK with all of that but I think that should be done in the Committee. So I'd support that.

Chairman Caron

OK thank you Alderman Wilshire. Anyone else? Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. So one of the things I wanted to bring up and I am not sure if I want to but we will go there. The (inaudible) / parking that we put together last summer, we went round and round quite a bit and the fiscal note for that was fairly high. And I will guarantee you and I'd love to hear the follow up from the parking department, that it did cost the City that much. These are estimates based on worst case scenario. So I just want to put that out there in terms of how we consider that money. I obviously don't want anyone to lose their job. My other point is we spend a lot of time in the horseshoe even though we are not in a horseshoe right now, pontificating on how other people might feel about this. People will talk about, Oh the businesses don't want this, but the businesses aren't the people who are here. If the Department that this was going to affect felt very strongly about this, they could have been here. I am still not in favor of tabling and I think we can have this discussion at the Full Board it's not like it goes into effect tomorrow.

Chairman Caron

Ok, thank you, Anyone else. So first of all, just to clarify I am just as frustrated as everyone else who spoke tonight because I think it's imperative when you have the piece of Legislation, the person who brings it forward should be at any Committee meetings to have that conversation. Any Department that could be affected by a piece of Legislation should have somewhere here to speak. And so that falls on those people who did not bother to attend. But that's another issue. The thing that I am concerned with is that \$250,000.00 loss. Yes Alderman Lopez we always find a way but right now, we have been under seven months of lockdown. We don't know what is going to happen in the future. We don't know how our taxes are going to be next year. Our Budget Committee is going to be really pulling strings to try to get that taken care of so that our community doesn't have to pay really high taxes in light of everything that has been going on.

And I agree with Alderman Wilshire, when you bring pieces of legislation, discussion should take place at the Committee level. If the Committee votes to pass this and this goes to the Full board in two weeks, you are going to have a lot of questions and unfortunately those people who should be answering the questions at the Committee meeting, will not be allowed to speak at the Full Board Meeting because it's not where it should take place. It needs to take place here. I also think that the Infrastructure Committee should be pushing their Economic Development people as to this study for parking and everything else, because that's really their Committee Project. Ours at Personnel is to look at fees and costs. I will not support this; I will not support this going out, this has not, to hold this off for a month is not going to change anything one way or the other for 30 days.

Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development

Alderwoman Caron, I just want to let you know Tim Cummings is now on, I joined the meeting. I just wanted to make sure you are aware.

Chairman Caron

Alright, let me just finish. So to table it for a month I don't think that would be that big of an issue. I understand tabling can be very difficult, but I'd rather see us table it and have a discussion or we are going to have major discussion at the Full Board Meeting. Now with that being said, with Director Cummings here, does the Committee have any problems if we have him speak on this piece of Legislation? Anyone?

Alderman Clemons

I don't.

Alderman Lopez

I think this is what people have been asking for, so let's talk about it.

Chairman Caron

Ok that's fine, I think it is just fair to ask you as members of the Committee about this. Alderman Clemons did you have your hand up?

Alderman Clemons

I did, I was going to say that Director Cummings is here, but he introduced himself. My question would be directly to him two-fold; one with the projected loss of revenue, would anybody's job be in jeopardy. And two the second question would be, if not or if so, what other things are we looking at that we won't be able to do because this revenue is gone. And my third question would be is there some sort of sweet spot compromise that we might be able to do to address the needs that Alderman Laws brought up and where we are right now with the fines. Those are my 3 questions. Thank you.

Chairman Caron

OK thank you Alderman Clemons. OK Director Cummings, you heard questions from the Committee. If you would take some time and answer those for us, that's much appreciated.

Director Cummings

Certainly, I heard Alderman Clemons' questions and I'll be happy to address those as best I could. I was not watching this meeting previously before signing on so I do not have the luxury of having any of the prior context. So if there's a specific question that arose from earlier this evening, please ask it. I'll be happy to answer. I would like to take a moment though and just explain a little bit as to why I wasn't here. I was not aware that this was coming up this evening; I was notified around 4:00 p.m. when a member of the Board of Aldermen had given me an indication that this piece of Legislation actually was going to be coming up this evening. At that point in time, I had already made plans this evening, so I couldn't rearrange my schedule. So that's why last minute, I asked Jill Stansfield to forward her Memo on to you all as members of the Committee so you at least had some sort of communication on at least how this piece of Legislation would affect parking.

With that preamble stated, I guess I would just comment by saying that the piece of Legislation before you, ultimately it really comes down to whether the community wants to have any type of overnight parking enforcement. Parking, the fines are supposed to change behavior, it is supposed to compel people to conform in a certain way. I understand that by reducing, that reducing this may make sense, because some people are getting fined over and over again. I am sympathetic to that; I am also very sympathetic to the fact that there are certain areas of the City that get fined more than other areas.

I work really hard to equalize it to make sure it's spread out throughout the entire community. But ultimately the fundamental question is does the community want to have overnight, on-street parking or does it not want to have overnight, on-street parking. This has been an underlying issue that's been floating around the Board for a few years now. And I think this is a good conversation that should be had. But it's probably not a conversation that you know should be solved all in one night.

So anyway with that being said, specific to your question about whether we would potentially lose any personnel if this Legislation moved forward. I don't know, I would want to look at that more closely before I say yes or no to that. Ultimately what this Legislation would do is it would make it, and not that this should be a driving motivator for making these decisions, it is just something you should have as background context, it will make it cost prohibitive to actually run the program as we currently do. Because we would have to – to keep the program running so we you know, have no affect on the property tax base on the property tax levy, we know that we have to generate a certain amount of tickets to cover costs. And this runs off book in essence, since it's not covered by the General Fund. And that's OK. And that's how we've run the program. If it is the opinion and the desire to do it differently moving forward there can be one of two things that happen; we reduce the amount of coverage at night, that we do "enforcement" or there might be a cost that gets charged to the General Fund that we would need to plan for so we can continue providing the services. We work really hard to run this in a way that it doesn't affect the taxpayer. So that's, I believe that's two questions of Alderman Clemons. Alderman Clemons was there a third question.

Alderman Clemons

Yeah well the third question is, so I guess I'm not sure you answered my, I know you said you are not sure where it would go as far as if it would affect personnel, staffing levels that we have now.

Director Cummings

So let me further clarify that, we don't have an overnight parking person dedicated solely to that shift. So if were to let's say not do as much overnight parking enforcement moving forward, the person that was working would just have to look to pick up hours in other enforcement times. I do think that there are shifts available, so I don't think that necessarily would be a problem.

Alderman Clemons

Aren't their positions funded by these fees?

Director Cummings

Yes.

Alderman Clemons

So that's my question, is the \$250,000.00 loss going to prohibit us from, in other words, are we going to have to lay somebody off because we are not collecting enough tickets or we are not raising enough revenue?

Director Cummings

And so I am going to say the answer potentially is yes, in the sense that we won't be raising enough revenue but we might need to put on, you know, I would want to check and look at it further before I answered your question. But I would work really hard not to lay anyone off.

Alderman Clemons

And I understand that, I know you would and I think we all would. The other two questions were more of, and again I am thinking that based on your answer there, that you are going to need to dig into this more. But is what things we would not be able to do without that money and then would there be some kind of sweet spot compromise in the middle. But I guess based on your answers this evening, all three of those questions you are going to have to look into more.

Director Cummings

I really would Alderman Clemons. In terms of a sweet spot compromise, if you are suggesting splitting the difference between the \$25,00 now and the \$10.00, I guess my point would be it's not really about the fine, it's about changing the behavior. And, in fact, what I think a parking study is going to show is that you really actually should be charging more of a fine than less to actually get compliance. Now whether that's something that this group or others want to take on someday, that's what I think the data is eventually going to show you. So that's anyway one point; the second point would be what this pays for are parking related costs and parking related expenses. So it doesn't necessarily need to get picked up by the residential taxpayer.

So for example, there have been conversations about making improvements at the High Street Garage for everyone's benefit so people will enjoy the High Street Garage more. So that doesn't get borne by the taxpayers I was thinking that would be an expense that this type of fund would cover. Whatever those improvements may be, additional lighting, potential security guard, capital maintenance in terms of drainage repairs and you know what not. Those types of you know miscellaneous expenses that are parking related get covered by this account.

Alderman Clemons

OK, thank you very much.

Chairman Caron

Before I ask if anyone else has questions, do you feel that that there should be a time for this to be tabled so that the Economic Development Director can get the answers to the questions that Alderman Clemons made. Also to look at fee costs from other major cities or do you want to push forward with the motion? Anyone?

Alderman Lopez

I have an opinion.

Chairman Caron

Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

I think this is exactly what I was seeing happen on the Infrastructure Committee and commented on before it happened. You just continue to expand the question until it becomes an unsolvable question and say that you need more time to solve it. I think the objection that was being raised was that we didn't have anybody from Economic Development to speak to it and they are here. I don't know if it matters whether here's he or not because apparently, we are going to oppose it regardless of what is presented.

Chairman Caron

Alderman Lopez, you have the Economic Development Director here late, which is fine. He's telling you he can't give you all the answers to the questions. So you are looking to vote, one way or the other, good, bad, or indifferent, based on not having all the information that he might be able to give you at another time.

Alderman Lopez

I think you are mischaracterizing what I've said. I think Alderman Clemons asked those questions and what was delivered is that Director Cummings and you can correct me if I'm wrong Director Cummings in your own words. But when Alderman Clemons asked if this was going to result in layoffs Director Cummings said that he couldn't say that it would result in layoffs tonight, he needs to study it further in order to confirm what Alderman Clemons asked would happen. The initial presentation was that he would work very hard to avoid that. And then I think the follow up question was, what other things will this take from the table if we do reduce the revenue, projects such as a hypothetical project to improve High Street garage. So, no I don't think any of my concerns were actually addressed at all.

If I were to, I guess my question would be, if this is intended to change behaviors, how is our plan to change behaviors entirely dependent on those behaviors continuing as they are? If we are really trying to change people from parking overnight unnecessarily as an option, then there's an assumption there that they are parking unnecessarily and then there's also the assumption that this fee is going to deter them. Director Cummings sounds like he says that this fee does not deter them because it's not high enough. I would revisit the assumption that people are unnecessarily parking on-street, overnight as opposed to what the genesis of this Legislation was, was that they are doing it in order to be safe in many cases because they might have too much to drink. Or they are doing it because they live in the area and they don't have other choices.

Director Cummings

If I may, Alderman Caron.

Chairman Caron

Yeah, ok.

Director Cummings

If the genesis is this that if someone needs to be safe and they don't want to drive the vehicle, as I understood what was just said, we have a whole process set up that can allow for that. It's called an "overnight exception process" where someone can call in 24/7, put in their name, put in the vehicle, put in where it is, it is then immediately put out to the parking enforcement folks. And you know, just so long as it's not abused. It is absolutely something that's done that keep people from getting tickets. They just need to follow that process.

Alderman Lopez

So that's an example, I think, of ways to address problem behavior without simply fining people, is actually market that, promote it, make sure it's known and that situation does exist. And then I think likewise that also suggests that there are solutions other than simply raising fees or continuing the process despite objection.

Chairman Caron

Ok, alright, if we have no other new things to talk about, I guess, Madam Clerk if you would put the motion out again so we can do a roll call.

Alderwoman Lu

Well actually Alderman Caron, this is Elizabeth Lu.

Chairman Caron

Yes Alderman Lu.

Alderwoman Lu

Yes, I have a question for Mr. Cummings.

Chairman Caron

Ok go ahead.

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. Now that we have him here, I think I understand that the budget for parking operations is total parking operations cost are \$728,000.00.

Director Cummings

No.

Alderwoman Lu

Oh I'm sorry that is the revenue. I'm just looking at the Nashua Fiscal 2021 Budget, am I on the wrong page?

Director Cummings

What you are referring to is the revenue that gets transferred from Parking Operations, Lease Fees for instance, not the money that we are talking about tonight which is Parking Enforcement. And that \$728 is what goes to the General Fund and then the excess revenue above and beyond that gets transferred into a Trust Fund that supports the Downtown Improvement Committee. So above the \$728 full revenue to be accurate, you're looking somewhere in the vicinity, depending on the year, somewhere between \$900,000.00 and \$1 million dollars; I'd say \$900,000.00 on average.

Alderwoman Lu

I'm not sure I understood you. Are you saying that the actual revenue from Parking Operations is \$1 million?

Director Cummings

Just under \$1 million.

Alderman Lu

And the appropriations are \$400,000.00 and so I am just ...

Director Cummings

Again I just want to be clear, they are essentially two different departments. You have Parking Operations and then you have Parking Enforcement. And so when you say the \$400 figure, I am not exactly which one you are ...

Alderman Lu

Oh, you're right, OK. Alright I guess I can't get into this I thought maybe we could get a sense of what the costs were versus the income. The thought I had while I was listening to people talk is that well I guess my thought was based on looking at Operations rather than Enforcement. Operations must be a higher revenue than Enforcement, isn't it?

Director Cummings

Yes, I think that's fair to say, yep.

Alderman Lu

Alright, thank you.

Chairman Caron

Thank you, Alderman Lu. Madam Clerk are you ready to put the motion out for this piece of legislation?

Alderman Kelly

I believe the motion on the floor is still to recommend final passage by roll call. There have been no other unless I missed one.

Chairman Caron

Ok, will the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Aldermen Lopez, Alderman Kelly, Alderman Cleaver 3

Nay: Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons 2

**MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman Caron

Ok motion passes. Thank you, Director Cummings.

Director Cummings

Thank you.

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

**R-20-021**

- Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien
- Alderman Patricia Klee
- Alderman Thomas Lopez
- Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
- Alderman Jan Schmidt
- Alderman Skip Cleaver
- Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

**ESTABLISHING AN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STUDY COMMITTEE**

(tabled at 6-1-20 mtg)

**O-20-008**

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

**CHANGING THE STARTING TIME OF THE OVERNIGHT PARKING TIME LIMIT RESTRICTION IN CERTAIN LOCATIONS**

(tabled at 3-2-20 mtg)

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE 0-20-009, BY ROLL CALL**

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

Yea:	Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Aldermen Lopez, Alderman Kelly, Alderman Cleaver	5
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Nay:		0
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**MOTION CARRIED**

**O-20-009, AMENDED**

- Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Richard A. Dowd
- Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
- Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
- Alderman Patricia Klee

**RELATIVE TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

(tabled at 3-2-20 mtg)

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE AS AMENDED, BY ROLL CALL**

ON THE QUESTIONChairman Caron

And Alderman Dowd is here to speak on that. Thank you.

Alderman Dowd

Thank you. As the main drafter of this I would like to explain the rationale. The revisions to the Board of Aldermen's rules of order of business, Section 5-14, Order of Business as proposed by Ordinance O-20-009. This Ordinance and the clarification proposed for revision this evening is not meant to overly restrict the public's input to the Board of Aldermen. Rather, its intent is to provide some clarification and guidance to these procedures. The full intent of the Ordinance is to establish guidelines to structure public comment to allow more than one person to comment on an evening's agenda or comment in general at the end of the meeting.

The Board has had the aforementioned rules in place for some time, limiting public comment to 15 minutes with the provision to allow that it be extended if there were more people who wanted to provide input and the majority of the Board were OK with extending the period of public comment. For the most part, this has been the practice we have followed. But we have often have this period monopolized by individuals who often went beyond their 5-minute restriction with their comments and often went beyond the 15-minute allowance.

Some also commented at the first 15-minute period of items not provided for by these rules of order. The first public comment period is restricted by current rules to communications requiring final approval by the Board of Aldermen that evening or other items that are going to be acted upon that evening for final approval. Let me be clear that we don't wish to limit what anyone can provide for public comment and that is why we have allowed for the public's ability to provide written comments to the Board and have them included as part of the meeting minutes.

As part of the meeting minutes, these comments are available as well to the General Public. All Public Input requires a name and address to be included with both oral and written comments. This revised Ordinance also clarifies what may be addressed at each public comment period as a guide to whoever is Chairing the Full Board Meeting or Chairing the Committee Meeting. It further clarifies that a speaker providing oral comments in either public comment period be limited to 3 minutes and they may only speak once. This allows a person to clearly state their position on any items of business and no one may delegate any part of their time to another speaker.

This is a rule followed by most Board of Aldermen and Selectmen meetings in New Hampshire and has actually been followed by most of our public committee meetings. Further clarification identifies that this public comment period is for comment only and not a question and answer period with the Board of Aldermen. Only the Chairperson may receive a question and determine if someone answering this question will help clarify the item being discussed. The Chairperson may answer the question or designate the one person who may answer the question.

Public Comment periods are not to allow speeches on any subject. All discussion should be relevant to items that fall under the purview of the Board of Aldermen or the Committee conducting that Hearing. Again, the public has the ability to provide written comments to the Board via mail or e-mail which may be included in the minutes of the Full Board or Committee Meetings or jurisdiction on that subject. Matters that are under the purview of the Administrative Branch of the City of Nashua, should be addressed to the Mayor's Office and not the Board of Aldermen.

The three minutes is something that we have been using in public hearings for quite some time and we had a very large one recently on the bond for the PUC and the Parking Garage and it worked very well because I ran the meeting and I have a stopwatch and I time everyone. And 90 to 95% of everyone finishes within 3 minutes and if they run a little over, we don't call them unless they get to 5 minutes, then we tell them they have to wrap it up. But this has worked quite well and I advocate for the passage of R-20-009. Thank you.

Chairman Caron

Thank you, Alderman Dowd. Do we have any questions from Committee Members first?

Alderwoman Kelly

I believe Alderman Lopez's hand is up.

Chairman Caron

Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

I have a question through the Chair to Alderman Dowd actually about the formation of this. In the notes that we were provided for this, the Fiscal analysis just says none. Just to be clear is that because one wasn't done or because it has no impact.

Alderman Dowd

It has no impact.

Alderman Lopez

OK. I guess I am surprised by that just because when public comment runs long and sometimes it runs quite long, we do have people who are transcribing, we have people that are running the video footage and I think that's definitely worth considering.

Alderwoman Dowd

If we pass this, that will alleviate some of that concern.

Alderman Lopez

Yeah, I just would be interested in maybe if (inaudible) spend more staff time than this ends up saving. If somebody would be able to just comb through really quickly. Some of the more notable examples what it looks like when we don't have a public comment within a reasonable amount of time actually costs the City because we are running everything. We still have the lights on and people you know running this through the TV still, we still have the transcribers and the Aldermanic Assistant trying to run things. And I think it does have an impact and I don't know that your average person really makes a difference. But some of the more notable speakers definitely make an impact on the system, I think.

Alderman Dowd

And I will say that this had extensive review and comment and clarifications from Legal.

Alderman Lopez

OK, well like I said, I trust the experts in their analysis; I was just a little surprised that it said "none".

Alderman Dowd

It may be just because it's so hard to quantify.

Chairman Caron

OK anyone else?

Alderwoman Kelly

I have questions.

Chairman Caron

Alderwoman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

I'm laughing at myself because I am raising my hand, it's late. So I have a few questions through you Alderwoman Caron to Alderman Dowd. Just a couple of clarifications, I mean I think makes a lot of sense and I appreciate the work that you've done here. One of the things that I was hoping to see in here was a mechanism for keeping track of this time. I know that there are other cities that have a very specific mechanism for keeping that time and making sure that we stay to it. So if you would be open to, oh Alderman Wilshire has her hand up.

Alderman Dowd

I was going to defer to Alderman Wilshire and I think that she can answer the question based on the new guidance and the renovation of City Hall.

Alderman Wilshire

Right, now that we have a brand-new Aldermanic Chamber sitting there, due to COVID we haven't been able to use it which is unfortunate. But we did put a time piece in there, a time clock that the Clerk will set once someone speaks and there's a little light that sits on the closest desk to the microphone that the speaker can see letting them know when their time is up.

Alderman Dowd

It's a red, yellow, green light.

Alderwoman Kelly

Do we need to include that in the ....

Alderman Lopez

.... Is that the ones that's over by the door.

Chairman Caron

Too many people are talking, Alderwoman Kelly has the floor.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you, do we need to include that in the Legislation so that we can be very clear that your three minutes will be taken by time clock and you will be notified. I think that might be a question of legal.

Alderman Dowd

Yes and I asked Legal that specifically since we just did all those renovations and they preferred it not be in the Legislation at this time.

Alderwoman Kelly

Ok, that's interesting. The only other one I had a question, if I could continue Alderman Caron?

Chairman Caron

Yes.

Alderwoman Kelly

The only other one I had a question, I believe you added this and (audio cuts out/inaudible). The idea of number I think it's this one, Remarks shall be civil, rude or profane remarks are prohibited". I just feel like that's so subjective. Like what I think is civil and what Alderman Wilshire thinks is civil and I know that part of that is the Chair's prerogative. But if someone wants to be rude, I don't think we should tell them they can't be rude. I would prefer that they wouldn't be.

Alderman Dowd

Again Legal specified these words and suggested that we use this. It us up to the purview of the Chairperson of either the Board of Aldermen Meeting or the Committee.

Alderwoman Kelly

I guess my question I think this is still effective if we strike it and that idea of whether to hear it or not is up to the Chair, it's not like suddenly we have more legislative effectiveness by saying people can't be rude.

Alderman Dowd

I think it becomes as subjective to the Chair and this gives some guidance and backup to the Chair that they can use it and say it is part of the Ordinance. And that if you are rude or not abiding by the rules, the Ordinance says that she or he can stop you from talking.

Alderwoman Kelly

I guess my comment is I still just ... I know you started out by saying you don't want to muzzle anybody or allow them not to speak and I think that is someone is fired up, that can come off as being rude and I don't think we should have the ability to tell someone that they can't talk.

Alderman Dowd

Again, this is used from most Boards of Aldermen and Selectmen in the State of New Hampshire.

Chairman Caron

All set for now, Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

I'm done; Alderman Lopez has hind hand up.

Chairman Caron

Ok Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

Would it be possible to insert a line and I am asking this before I make an amendment to that effect, which specifically references that comments being addressed to the Board of Aldermen must be addressed to the Board of Alderman and not to people specifically and must reference the role of the Board of Aldermen. Some examples of breaches of that that I see pretty regularly are when somebody takes the opportunity takes the opportunity to use public comment to target the Mayor and his dispute his policy or his actions. That's not the Board of Aldermen's fault, he's the Mayor. He can do what he is going to do. If they are asking us to take action than it has to be within an appropriate role of ours as well. And then likewise if they are criticizing an individual staff member of the City, I really don't think that's our role at all to weigh in on that kind of stuff and interfere with the Human Resources process.

So would it be possible to amend this or add to it a condition that public comment should be made to the Board of Aldermen upon topics that the Board of Aldermen have purview over and address to the Board of Aldermen not other members of the public or whatever.

Alderman Dowd

Actually that is pretty well covered in the wording, there's places where it says, must be germane to the meeting's agenda and there's another place if I can find it, that they can only address things that we have authority over. So if they say they are upset with the Mayor because he did this or that and we don't have authority over telling him what he can do, that's not germane to the Board of Aldermen so they could not be allowed.

Alderman Lopez

Ok well I guess my proposal I guess anticipated amendment is unnecessary, so I appreciate you putting that in there because personally I think that members of the public don't understand the liability they are pulling the City into when they start criticizing individuals like that. We don't need to be, I don't know the implications of being a public employee and suddenly having yourself subject to criticism in a public forum but I don't think we necessarily should be enabling that in any way. That's not what we are here for.

Alderman Dowd

If Alderman Clemons wants to address it but I think that the Chairperson should certainly limit people that are getting out line with making derogatory comments about any individuals that work for the City because I don't think that's correct. I can't call on you, I have to give that to June.

Chairman Caron

Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. I don't think that what you said is in the Ordinance, because we only made the first public comment period germane to the Agenda and the second public comment period is still open. And in my opinion, that's the way it should be. I don't agree with Alderman Lopez on that, that it should only be germane to the Board. I think if somebody wants to come to speak to the Board of Aldermen, they should be able to do that and give us their opinion on the Mayor or give us their opinion on the President or whatever it is, in the second public comment period so long as they do so within a three minute time period. So I don't see that in this Legislation and I wouldn't support putting it in.

Chairman Caron

OK anyone else? Ok then will the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Aldermen Lopez,  
Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Cleaver 5

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**O-20-010**

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**CLARIFYING THAT COIN DEALERS ARE NOT SECONDHAND DEALERS**  
(tabled at 3-2-20 mtg)

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderwoman Kelly

I don't see anybody.

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO ADJOURN BY ROLL CALL**

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

Yea: Alderman Caron, Alderman Clemons, Aldermen Lopez,  
Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Cleaver 5

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 9:26 p.m.

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Alderwoman Kelly, Committee Clerk



# THE CITY OF NASHUA

*Economic Development Division – Parking Department  
Office of the Mayor*

*"The Gate City"*

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TO: Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director  
FROM: Jill Stansfield, Parking Manager  
DATE: September 22, 2020  
RE: Concerns Relative to O-20-032: Reducing the Fine for Overnight Parking Violations

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The Parking Department has concerns relative to Ordinance O-20-032 which I will use this memo as a vehicle to outline these concerns.

- Dropping the fine amount from \$25 to \$10 will actually promote and increase overnight parking, which is not allowed unless permitted. The legislation calls for a sixty-percent reduction in the overnight parking fine amount.

The reason this policy is in place is to change behavior. The legislation before you will not change the behavior and there may be an increase in illegitimate overnight parking.

- By reducing the parking fine it will drastically hinder the Parking Department's ability to effectively enforce and curb non-compliant behavior, especially in overnight permit areas in downtown, and, as a result, have unintended consequences for residents.

Over the course of the past two years, parking enforcement has continued to observe and report several areas where non-permit vehicle owners continuously choose to park illegally and willingly continue to receive tickets and pay the fines. And, in several of these areas, this type of behavior has actually caused a lack of available parking for permit holders. The result of such a drastic reduction in the fine amount will not only be less of a deterrent for those who continuously choose to park illegally in resident permit areas, the unintentional consequence of this reduction would ultimately negatively impact residents who are lawfully participating in the City's current overnight parking permit program.

Revenue from parking violations has covered the cost(s) related to parking enforcement expenses the legislation will jeopardize this going forward and there will need to another funding source (most likely from the property tax levy) or conversely a reduction in service, i.e. no more Parking Enforcement patrolling at night, which may lead to public safety concerns with block driveways and hinder snow removal operations.

As a reminder, a parking study is slated to begin in the spring of 2021, which will include a thorough review of the City's current overnight parking program and a review of all current fines.

## **Recommendation**

The Parking Department strongly recommends that no changes be made to the current overnight parking fine amount until the study has concluded and the findings and recommendations have been presented to the City and members of the Board of Alderman.