



May 21, 2026

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA), to amend an existing award agreement with the City of Nashua (VC# 159884), Nashua, NH, as part of the InvestNH Municipal Demolition Program, by extending the completion date from to June 30, 2026 to August 31, 2026 with no change to the price limitation of \$232,610, effective upon Governor and Council approval. The original agreement was approved by Governor and Council on November 13, 2024, item #73, and Governor and Council approved amendments on June 4, 2025, item #5(L) and December 17, 2025, item #5(K).

100% Federal Funds

EXPLANATION

An amendment to the demolition award agreement with the City of Nashua is proposed to accommodate potential delays caused by a recently received HUD-related award, and additional environmental remediation that may be required as part of that award. Therefore, the extension is needed to allow time to determine and address any unforeseen environmental remediation requirements.

Approval of this action will support timely project completion in advance of ARPA-related deadlines. It also preserves flexibility, as GOFERR has confirmed the ability to reallocate the funding should the project be withdrawn prior to the requested date.

BEA manages the InvestNH Demolition Grant program providing capital to municipalities to use directly in municipal demolition projects or as a passthrough to developers for demolition and environmental abatement of structures in support of housing. Demolition grants have been awarded to municipalities to defray expenses for demolition or abatement of vacant and dilapidated structures that are unsuitable for residential use. 72 projects were awarded demolition grants supporting the creation of 2,302 units across New Hampshire.

Gateway Community Services project Demolition will assist in repurposing an existing building to develop affordable supportive housing for adults with developmental disabilities. Nine affordable housing units will be created. The project has received a Home-ARP award from the City of Nashua, which may require additional environmental remediation actions due to HUD rules. The extension is requested to provide flexibility in the event new demolition and/or remediation requirements cause unexpected delays.

The project is under way, and demolition is expected to be complete by August of 2026. If demolition has not been completed by this date, the funds will be returned through GOFERR.

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
and the Honorable Council

May 21, 2026

BEA respectfully requests that you approve the amendment to this InvestNH Municipal Demolition Grant Program award. This request does not require the authorization of any additional funds.

If Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

The amended Agreement has been approved by the Attorney General's Office as to form and execution.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lucy Lange".

Lucy Lange
Commissioner

Amendment #3 to Grant Award Agreement DEMO22-168

This grant award amendment ("Amendment") is entered into this 15th day of May, 2026, by and between the State of New Hampshire, acting by and through the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs, 100 N. Main Street, Suite 100, Concord, NH, 03301 (hereinafter referred to as "the State") and the City of Nashua, 229 Main Street, PO Box 2019 Nashua, NH 03061-2019, (hereinafter referred to as "Grantee"), collectively referred to as ("the Parties").

WHEREAS, the Parties entered into a grant agreement for the demolition of 4 Beard Street, Nashua, NH 03061, approved by the Governor and Executive Council on November 13, 2024, item #73, amended June 04, 2025, item 5L and December 17, 2025, Item 5K (hereinafter known as "the Agreement");

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to change the completion deadline of grant agreement;

WHEREAS, the Agreement allows for amendments by an instrument in writing executed by the Parties; and

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to amend the Agreement as provided in this Amendment.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, and the covenants and conditions contained in the Agreement and set forth herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. G-1, section 1.7 of the Agreement is hereby deleted and replaced with the following: **August 31, 2026.**
2. G-1, Exhibit B, 6 of the Agreement Project – Completion Deadline, June 30, 2025 – is hereby deleted and replaced with the following: **August 31, 2026.**
3. This Amendment shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor and Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire.
4. Except as specifically amended and modified by the terms and conditions of this Amendment, the Agreement and the obligations of the Parties thereunder shall remain in full force and effect in accordance with the terms and conditions as set forth therein.

Grantee Initials: 

Date: 

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have set their hands as of the day and year first above written.

City of Nashua:

By: *James W Donchess*
James W Donchess, Mayor
City of Nashua:

date 5/18/26

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE:
Department of Business and Economic Affairs

Lucy Lange
Lucy Lange, Commissioner

date 5/21/2026

Approval by the Attorney General of the State of New Hampshire (Form, Substance, and Execution):

Signature *Vasilios Manthos*

Name Vasilios Manthos, Assistant Attorney General

Date 5/28/26

Approval by Governor and Council of the State of New Hampshire:

Signature _____

Name _____

Date _____

Grantee Initials: *[Signature]*
Date: 5/15/26

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

I, Roger Ordway Jr., Deputy City Clerk, being the duly elected or appointed Deputy City Clerk of Nashua, New Hampshire (the "City") do hereby certify as follows:

FIRST: At the Board of Alderman Meeting held on October 8th, 2024, the inhabitants of the City voted to authorize the City to apply for, accept, and expend money from governmental or private sources, which may become available during the year, according to the procedures set forth in law.

SECOND: At a regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen (the "Aldermen") held on October 10th, 2024, the Aldermen voted to accept a Demolition Grant for the 4 Beard Street Project, grant award: MPU/DEMO22-#DEMO22-168, and enter into a grant contract (the "Contract") with the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs (the "BEA"), subject to Governor and Executive Council approval. The Aldermen further authorized the Mayor, James W. Donchess to execute any documents and perform any other acts necessary or convenient to cause the Town to enter into the Contract with the BEA.

THIRD: The following person has been elected or appointed to and now occupies the office of Mayor.

James W. Donchess

FOURTH: The authorizations described in this certificate have not been revoked, annulled, or amended in any manner whatsoever and remain in full force and effect as of the date hereof and will remain effective for thirty (30) days after the date of this certificate.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Roger Ordway Jr., Deputy City Clerk of Nashua of New Hampshire, have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Nashua on the date written below.

Date: 5/13/26



Roger Ordway Jr., Deputy City Clerk

L.S.



RESOLUTION

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$232,610 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INVEST NH DEMOLITION GRANT PROGRAM AND APPROVAL FOR THE CITY TO GRANT SAID FUNDS TO AREA AGENCY OF GREATER NASHUA D.B.A. GATEWAYS COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR DEMOLITION OF 4 BEARD STREET

CITY OF NASHUA

In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Four

RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Nashua that the City of Nashua and the Division of Community Development are authorized to accept \$232,610 from the State of New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs InvestNH Demolition Grant Program. No local match is required.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City is authorized to grant this \$232,610 to Area Agency of Greater Nashua d.b.a. Gateways Community Services to fund the demolition of the remaining structures on the property known as '4 Beard Street' in accordance with terms of this Resolution and the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs InvestNH Demolition Grant Program terms and requirements.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City is authorized to enter into a Grant Agreement with Area Agency of Greater Nashua d.b.a. Gateways Community Services regarding eligible demolition activities. The Grant Agreement shall memorialize the terms of demolition and payment terms, as well as any other terms and requirements of the City and of the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs InvestNH Demolition Grant Program. The Grant Agreement shall be approved by the Office of Corporation Counsel.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, with the assistance of the Office of Corporation Counsel, is authorized to prepare and execute all necessary documents and take all necessary actions required to effectuate the same.

LEGISLATIVE YEAR 2024

RESOLUTION: R-24-098

PURPOSE: Relative to the acceptance of \$232,610 from the State of New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs InvestNH Demolition Grant Program and approval for the City to grant said funds to Area Agency of Greater Nashua d.b.a. Gateways Community Services for demolition of 4 Beard Street

SPONSOR(S): Mayor Jim Donchess

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Human Affairs Committee

FISCAL NOTE: The fiscal impact is a \$232,610 grant to be used for a specific purpose.

ANALYSIS

This legislation authorizes the City to accept funds from the State of New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs InvestNH Demolition Grant Program and to then grant said funds to Area Agency of Greater Nashua d.b.a. Gateways Community Services for demolition at the 4 Beard Street site. No local match is required.

Approved as to account number and/or structure, and amount:

Financial Services Division

By: 

Approved as to form:

Office of Corporation Counsel

By: 

Date: 1 October 2024

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

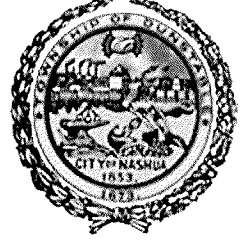
Office of the City Clerk

Daniel Healey

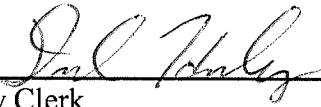
City Clerk

Roger Ordway Jr.

Deputy City Clerk



I hereby certify that the attached are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board of Alderman meeting held on **October 8, 2024**, of which I have initialed.



City Clerk

5/26/2026
Date



A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. in the aldermanic chamber, and duly noticed in two places, including the City's website, in accordance with the requirements of RSA 91-A:2 II.

President Lori Wilshire presided; Legislative Affairs Manager Donna Graham recorded.

Prayer was offered by Legislative Affairs Manager Donna Graham; Alderman Derek Thibeault led in the Pledge to the Flag.

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

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

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

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

President Wilshire

Mayor, did you wish to address the Board tonight?

Mayor Donchess

Yes, Madam President. I wanted to talk about a couple things particularly and mention the sad passing of a very significant Nashuan but that at the end.

First, I wanted to talk about the potential exclusion that is on the agenda but for which there's a special meeting scheduled on Thursday for further discussion. But I want to at least to introduce the subject a little bit now. We are under the auspices now of an unworkable what I think, budget cap which was given to us by the State Legislature. And I note again against the unanimous opinion of the Nashua House Delegation, 27 to nothing against this. They thought it was unworkable and it's now proving to be unworkable. And what we're faced with now is that even though we are seeking to pass bond resolutions and accept grants which will have no impact at all on the Fiscal '25 budget, not one dollar. We still have to get an exclusion to enable those proposals to be adopted and those proposals to go forward. Although, when I get to the Stellos thing, that is one that where we would need to spend cash but a one-time item. The idea that we need to include these things, grants and the appropriation or the authorization of bond issues in the tax cap calculation and we need to do what we call an exclusion in order to authorize those things going forward as I already said makes no common sense. So I've talked with and this is not a workable situation.

So I've talked with various aldermen on both sides of the aisle so to speak, about proposing in the next couple of months a tax cap that would go on the ballot for November of '25 the City Election when we can go forward with something like that and which would replace this unworkable situation we have with a tax cap that would be the ruling charter provision going forward. But looking to the exclusion, the reason we need this and is to undertake various infrastructure capital projects that are in really crying need.

What do we have on the agenda there and these have all been reviewed, well all been reviewed by our Ad Hoc Committee who was prioritizing the many, many capital projects that we have. What would I propose that we go forward with: the Stellos replacement – the field, the garages should be bonded and fixed. They are in a situation where they're not failing now but they should be fixed quickly. And if you want to take a tour you can go over to Elm Street right over here. And you can see that on the lowest level in a cage that is used to house vehicles and various items of equipment. There are maybe a dozen of these jack posts holding you know, supporting the principal horizontal concrete piece which is holding up the whole garage. Now, those could be taken out and the garage wouldn't fall down today but we don't want to get it to the point where it would. And in addition to that there's concrete falling in various places. There are rusting metal pieces within the concrete structure that should be removed and replaced. In one place the capped stones on the top of the garage have been removed and are now covered with canvas, otherwise we'd have water draining down through the structure. It needs to be repaired.

Number two, another one. Number three I guess this is, is the Greeley Park Stone House. Again, it may not fall down tomorrow but I'm telling you now it should be done right away because imagine if the roof on that thing collapsed. That is 100 years old and it is a bit of a complicated project because we are hoping to retain the look of the of the Stone House



with the tile roof rather than a quicker, cheaper way of doing it would be to you know put shingles up there or something but that project needs to be done.

The fish ladder - if you want to license the Mine Falls Dam, the fish ladder is a condition being imposed by the federal government. That needs to be done otherwise we lose a revenue source.

The Police Training Facility - I can't say that is as much an emergency as the others but this is something we promised the Police Department, they're relying on this and it's in design. It's ready to go ahead. It will strengthen the Police Department if that project can get done.

And there is a little bit of work at the landfill that needs to be done.

Although, there is a memo in your packet which will be of course on the agenda assuming that this gets referred or gets tabled until Thursday night, where Mr. Cummings mentions that you know you could use some of the cash on hand to fund the CERF account. Now I'm not going to propose that because I want to be able to tell you that we can pass this exclusion and undertake these capital projects without adding any money to the current budget. There's enough in the CERF account to buy equipment for Fiscal '25 and we can budget that in Fiscal '26. So I think that is a conservative, safe way to go along with proposing the tax cap that I mentioned. Now let me turn but we will discuss this all in more detail on Thursday.

Let me turn for a moment to the issue of the Stellos Field replacement. You have on your desk resolution R-24-104 which would appropriate \$1.5 million from the assigned fund balance an account in which there is a lot of money. It was \$10 million before we generated a sheer surplus. So there is certainly way more than enough to pay for the Stellos replacement. The assigned fund balance, again that is not the unassigned which is \$31 million. In this account there's around \$20 million so there is enough there to fund this and that's on your desk for a first reading. But that will need an exclusion, right now we have a debt exclusion. Right now we have \$1.4 million under the budget cap the left. What you're going to see in this meeting now and the next meeting is this resolution plus a grant that the Transit Authority, the Transit wants to accept in the amount of \$600,000 for engine rebuilds and repairs to the buses and a couple of new vans for the Paratransit System. Both this and the grant cannot be pursued unless there's an exclusion because with let's say \$1.4 million towards the Stellos we couldn't take the grant but if we take the grant then there's not enough to do this. So we really need the exclusion.

But how did we I mean I wanted to address this for a moment because I mean I think there's some misunderstanding as to how this arose and why this happened. And of course, I understand the disappointment of the players, of the families, of the coaches, with the failure of the field. I mean I played high school football under the lights. I mean there's no question you know. I can picture what you know, I can understand what a disappointment this can be although I would say my memories of high school football they really have to do with what happened in the game rather than you know whether it was Friday night or Saturday afternoon. I mean at this point it didn't really matter but we want to get that field replaced as soon as we can. And again, we have the money and we have always had the money to be able to do this. But the process by which a, this is a school facility and is required to be such by law because there were state school funds that went into the construction of this so as a result of that it was, is and will always be a school facility and is under the primary care of the School Department. The and just to demonstrate that there is a contract with BG for the use of the field. BG pays you know a modest amount of money \$15,000 a year now. That contract was entered between the School Department and BG in 2021. It never came here, I mean I never even heard that they did it. I'm not you know fine makes sense, no problem. But it's a School Department issue and they handled it.

Then another thing that happened is there was a reserve account established some years ago and money that BG contributed over the years was deposited into this account, great. A few years back, I think 2018 the Athletic Department, School Department moved forward and used \$160,000 of that money to buy a new scoreboard. Fine, no question the right decision. The scoreboard was broken and the stadium needs a scoreboard. But no one came to the City, no one asked for the permission. No one even told us that that was happening. I suppose we observed the scoreboard but this is a School Department facility.

Now what and the way this has progressed is the School Department has proposed this as a second priority project a couple of times both to the Capital Improvements Committee this last spring and brought the project to the Joint Special and to this Ad Hoc Capital Priorities Committee we ran. But under the law, State Law and City Law, but State Law principally any school construction project and bricked out can tell you this is under the supervision and is run by the Joint Special School Building Committee again, a creature of State Law. That committee consists of some Aldermen and some members of the School Board. They have total authority. The City could not step in and do a project without their permission. So we look to them to tell us what the school priorities have been.

And of course we have spent as you know, hundreds of millions of dollars on schools over the last five years, six years with McCarthy, with the rebuilding of Birch Hill and Main Dunstable with some of the vestibules and all the things that have gone on somewhere between \$150 and \$200 million as well as smaller projects but we look to them for the priorities. Now what happened was they received in January a request from Shawn Smith that using a report from 2023 which said the field was still okay, this is a project should go ahead. They then when the project, when the annual evaluation of the field took place in July of 2024 where it said there were some problems in some areas of the field. The Joint Special, excuse me, the Joint Special moved forward and asked us to consider that as a project but the budget was already passed. So our plan is okay, we'll spend money from the unassigned fund balance and we'll do the project this fall. But even then in July no one was saying this was unsafe. And really when you meet with the School Department they think that things deteriorated more rapidly than were expected. I don't fault anything the School Department did. They spent money on the scoreboard, good. They I mean, there are a lot of things that could have been done differently and I wish they had been but they were relying on a report which suggested the place was safe. Needed replacement pretty soon but not unusable. They relied on that and things deteriorated more quickly than they expected and in the end unfortunately or fortunately you know Bryan Conant and Lisa Gingras decided the situation was unsafe a week or so ago and they asked that the facility be closed and it was. They're looking out for the safety of the players which is their job. But I don't fault. I don't personally. I mean other people have faulted all of us but I don't fault the School Department in the way they handled this or the Joint Special in the way they tried to prioritize the various projects that were in front of them.

As I said along the way, there are a lot of things that could have been done differently. For example, when this was replaced in 2011 I think the idea was the City would have this reserve and would build it over 10 years. But the previous administration never proposed putting a cent into that reserve account. And five years went by no money, no proposal, nothing. And at least when I came in you know, I didn't even know that this had been discussed in the past. All I you know we just talked about okay this field needs to be replaced pretty soon. Just like the Greeley Stone House needs to be replaced pretty soon right now and just like these garages need to be fixed right now. There's been some delay but you know hopefully we won't see anything like we're encountering at Stellos.

So I'd like to say that we should move but on the plus side we should move forward with the exclusion. We should pass this resolution. We can do the project and get it done this fall. It will be supervised by Joint Special. They have a vendor, they have a proposed contract, they have a proposed price. There are other improvements to Stellos which need to be made for safety reasons according to Ms. Gingras as well as the Fire Department. So we can really fix up the stadium if we move forward with this in the near future.

I know that was long but these are a couple of I'd say important subjects. So while we're on high school athletics, I wanted to turn finally to Frank Ulcickas who died this past week. He played for Nashua High on the football team. He went on played for Harvard. He's in the Holman Stadium Hall of Fame. He was just a great guy. When the Nashua Girls High Basketball Team finished number one in the Nation in the USA Today Poll 1987. He was a big fan; he went to all the games. And he ran Friends of Nashua Athletics which raised you know in his prime a lot of money for you know as a booster organization for the various teams at Nashua High then and then both high schools. So I'm sad to say that he passed away. His calling hours I believe are on October 25 at Farwell Funeral Home. And with that Madam President, I will conclude.

President Wilshire

Responses to the remarks of the Mayor.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR

Alderman Moran

Thank you, Madam President and thank you, Mr. Mayor. I think you and I had a conversation sometime last week about how in the know on the tax override and that I think we're going to kind of agreement about it needing to go on the ballot which I'm glad to hear you bring that up here today because I think it's very important that if we take measures like this to override spending, that the residents have a chance to weigh in especially if it might become something that's recurrent. If the residents decide that's the way it has to go, that's the way it has to go. But as I sit here today I know I would support it going back to committee being tabled for the presentation for Thursday. But just like I talked about at the last alderman meeting we got people taking it on the chin in the City when it comes to how much they're paying in their property taxes, potential water increases to subsidize towns and then people like me need to take it on the chin and let the spending cool no matter how beneficial is for the upper class people in the City to keep building their wealth. There's people in the middle that can't afford to live here and work here and even though it won't impact this year's budget it will certainly impact the budget in the future and cooling spending would be a good idea. Or even an alternative could be we need to build this garage but maybe we privatize the Parking Department to cut fringe benefits and pass the cost onto a private contractor



to reduce health care costs to the City. There needs to be some give and take and that's where I'm at the moment. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

I think what was mentioned as being on the ballot might be a reference to potentially introducing a tax cap rather than a spending cap. And that's something that I myself had talked to former Treasurer Fredette and reached out to the current Treasurer more recently and had talked to a number of other aldermen and I cannot be the first person to have come up with that observation that obviously our issue isn't if money is going to be provided to the City to better implement services, repair fields and that type of things then what was most likely intended by the spending cap was a way to limit the impact on taxpayers. So to that end Mr. Mayor, I commend you on that effort because I think a tax cap rather than a spending cap would serve our City much better. I can't necessarily guarantee that it's going to ensure that all of the other bodies and entities involved in spending do so in a manner that reflects foresight. There's been a number of issues I think with other entities pointing fingers at the Board of Aldermen over how much money they have to spend and you know what they're able to do.

And I sat in this chair multiple times over the lead up to the Budget Committee because I was watching the Board of Education meetings and I was watching the comments that were being made about how the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor never fully fund things. Asking what do you need funding for? What do you need support for? And this was not presented in their school budget, it was not brought up even when they presented here. It was referenced briefly I think by our own DPW that you know that should be an expense being looked at. But as was pointed out by the Mayor they have to ask and they have to tell us what they're what they need to do.

I'm sure Alderman Dowd has a better recollection. I know we talked briefly about the need to do this at Joint Special School Board Committee and no action was taken by the School Board. And there's a point where they're supposed to be managing these buildings and these facilities and they have to let us know what they need so I'm glad we know of it now. I wish we'd found out about it and able to salvage, in order to salvage you know people being able to go to local games. Because while the students most likely are going to make it to the games and have those experiences that they need. Not every family has transportation, not every family is going to be able to get to watch their seniors play. And I think that's an important takeaway too.

This is something the School Board should have considered that I'm glad we closed it because I don't want a kid turning his ankle or twisting you know whatever, getting injured in a game. I'm glad no children are going to be hurt on this but I do think this should have been a solvable issue and it's unfortunate that it happened this way. I think it just speaks to the importance of Joint Special School Building and how maybe there was a little bit of pushback in the past about whether the aldermen were supposed to be exploring or chairing or whatever. I think it's true now more than ever that it helps to have a second set of eyes on their facility management and particularly a set of eyes that has an eye towards the City's whole budget. So I think we should take action on doing what we can to fix Stellos as soon as possible. And I think we should probably look at the if there's a pattern of behavior where maybe there isn't enough long-term thinking or will to take steps that maybe the Board of Aldermen are better able to do. Thank you.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam President. I got a comment and then a question to the Mayor. So along with and I don't want to mess up his last name but Frank's passing we also had, I know he doesn't live in Nashua anymore but the passing of Greg Landry who was a major Nashua star, played quarterback for the Detroit Lions, went to school with my dad and Alderman Dowd who I'm sure he'll mention as well. And I remember a couple years ago grabbing getting a football card of Greg Landry and always wanted to meet him. Never got the chance because he didn't live around here but his passing I mean, he's definitely a legend in this town.

And then my question to the Mayor is when the spending cap went through years ago and all the State Reps signed off on it was it all one party? Was it all one party or was there people from both parties signing off on that or going against it?

Mayor Donchess

There was a brief well, just like a little bit of a brief history til I get to the answer. So the spending cap was put in place in the 90s. It was you know in force and for many years. Then we made in around '16 I'm going to say a minor change and there was a lawsuit brought over that even though the City didn't even ask for this, the Court invalidated the whole spending cap. That went to the Supreme Court, they affirmed the invalidation. So then the Legislature got involved and the House Delegation at that time was and that's getting to your answer. It was twenty-six Democrats and one Republican. All twenty-seven asked that this not be done because this was going to create a big mess which it has. But



they insisted and the majority in the Legislature insisted that especially in the Senate, that this go ahead. So against Nashua's will the State Legislature imposed this spending cap and now we're faced with an unworkable situation in my opinion. And that is why I believe we could come up with something better which I believe there is support in the chamber to do which is to put a tax cap something like Manchester, but not the same on the ballot so people could consider using that approach rather than you know this thing we have now.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I was in the legislation when we, when that came back to the legislation and the truth be told when that was put through it only affected Nashua, there was no other municipality. So it was put there to specifically attack Nashua. So the 400 State Reps and the 24 I think Senators voted just to affect Nashua and only Nashua, no other municipality and they backdated it just to affect Nashua. That's how focused it was. It was just to get to Nashua.

But I want to speak to the elephant in the room relative to Stellos Stadium. Back in I think it was June we had a resident of Nashua who came to the podium and spoke to us about Stellos and started to speak about the alarm of the potential of the grounds at Stellos and mentioned it and I did hear that and I think we all did. And probably like me many of my colleagues went and asked a couple questions and when we did ask those couple questions we probably got all the same answers. And the report was it was in need of being repaired but it was okay and that it was slated to be done over the fall and then I don't know what happened but suddenly something very bad happened that one day they played and the next day didn't. I don't know what happened. I'm glad that that citizen came forward but it didn't happen.

I'm not going to point fingers at anything but knowing that that has happened that quickly I will be honest with you, I'm having anxiety about our garages that are okay now. And knowing all of this I don't want to put off what potentially could happen. We have things falling down on them and so on. They're okay now but are they going to be okay next year if we put that off? So I'm just putting that off because the Mayor had brought that up. So I'm just saying I have a little bit of anxiety. And to the citizen that did bring that to us, thank you for having brought that to us and I'm sorry that it didn't get acted upon sooner so to that.

I also want to say that while I'm trying not to point fingers, oftentimes what I've seen in the School Department when it comes to sometimes these projects is things of what my mother used to always call robbing Peter to pay Paul is what happens. They have a plan but then they have an emergency and sometimes they take the money to fix that emergency and I think maybe that's what happened with Stellos. I don't know, I'm not the fly on the wall that sees what happens but so again I don't want to point fingers but I think oftentimes that is what's happened.

As far as the tax cap, I am more in favor of a tax cap than a spending cap because the spending cap while I know there's a person the audience that's going to tell me I'm wrong the spending cap is affected by grants because you have to spend the money. And some people will say it's not free money but it is free money because it's not money that comes from directly from the taxpayers here. It doesn't get part of your real estate taxes and so when it doesn't come out of our budget. So that's why I say a tax cap would be better because that's really what the residents of Nashua are looking for is I don't want to affect my taxes. And the grant money doesn't affect your taxes so we would be able to spend that money as it comes in. Even today when we have something that's a pass through we wouldn't be able to do that, we wouldn't be able to take kind of that money and so on. So I would be more in favor of a tax cap and I said that from day one when I when I'd heard about the spending cap when I was running way back when. So thank you, Madam President.

President Wilshire

Alderman Klee, I just want to respond to one thing you said about Stellos and the constituent that came in June and mentioned there was a problem there. In July of 2024 an outside contractor came in and inspected that field and said it looks like it's going to need to be done but it's okay to use right now.

Alderman Klee

Exactly.

President Wilshire

Okay, so I just wanted to clear that up.

Alderman Klee

And I apologize I should have said, I should have made that comment. I did write it down that July it was reported as being okay even though that person had said that. So while that red flag had come up and I don't know why that person had said that but yes, thank you though.

President Wilshire

Thank you. Alderman Dowd.

Alderman Dowd

Yeah, on September 9 of 2011 I accepted a check from the New England Patriots for I believe it was \$250,000 to help to replace the field at Stellos. Shortly thereafter, I don't know if it was that fall or the next spring, the field was replaced. The field when it was replaced at a 10-year life span under normal use. That field gets extensive use and it gets tested every year for safety and as late as July of this year the test said it was safe. Yes, it was needed to be replaced. The School Department at least the last three years and maybe four has brought forth a project to the Capital Improvements Committee to replace the field. It never got a high priority, it never made it to the budget so when it didn't make this year's budget the Board of Education in July transferred the replacement of the field to the Joint Special School Building Committee like they do with most of their large projects.

And I immediately went to the Mayor and we've been discussing funding. In a parallel course we're trying to get the funding lined up which we've been talking about tonight but in the interim we also have a contractor identified and a contract and as soon as the money's approved we can start replacing the field. Now, it's not like a rug you can't just patch it, replace it or you know, do it overnight. It's going to take some time. We have to put the people under contract, they have to get the material and all that. So it's in the hands of the Joint Special right now. Soon as we have the funding, the field will be replaced hopefully this fall and definitely by early, early spring if we have the funding and we can't have the funding without having an exception that we talked about.

The other thing is Frank Ulcickas I knew him very, very well. Over many years we had lots of discussions about sports. He's a great guy, doing very well. Also, we also lost recently Greg Landry as alderman just mentioned. Greg and I were good friends and classmates. I had most of my lunches during my four years of high school at Elm Street with Greg. When I was in the Navy I met him several times in California and Puerto Rico and had a lot of good times and he was a great guy and great family and he's going to be missed. So just wanted to mention that.

Alderman O'Brien

Madam President?

President Wilshire

Alderman O'Brien.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you. With your permission, may I speak comments to the Mayor please?

President Wilshire

Yes.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Madam President. Mr. Mayor, you were spot on on exactly what happened at the New Hampshire House. It was one of the most shameful things I've seen in 18 years of serving as a State Representative. When the spending cap came about I think it went to an election, a vote but I don't know if that would be done today. So what's the next best way to sneak something underneath the covers, bring it up before the State Legislature where people from Berlin, Landaff, far away including the bear, bison and whatever else we get out there. Voted by party lines for the spending cap not for the whole State. This was singly bullseye target Nashua. Terrible, terrible, so whether the people want it or not it should go to a ballot where it can be properly you know, portrayed. People can make a decision but it was 26 State Representatives, 27 excuse me, State Representatives corrected by the Honorable Klee that were against this but most of



our comments from the podium fell upon deaf ears you know. So keep that in mind people, this was like a back door for the wolf to come in. What should have been done was it should have been put on the ballot to decide if we wanted to revisit it or not. That's what happened in the beginning, it's what it should happen in the end.

And it's kind of thank you, Alderman Klee for mentioning you know the garages and different things like that. If we're concerned about the playing field at Stellos Stadium then why aren't we equally concerned about the parking garages? What will happen to the downtown I ask you if we had to close those garages. Would there be enough parking spaces? Will we hear an outcry from the business type of community? The business community? I think we would. Now, the trouble is being Chairman of Infrastructure it's nice when you build something. They take your name, they put it on the plaque and you can put it on the side of the building and future generations of O'Brien could walk by and they could laugh at it and said that was Great Grampy. But the thing is where is the whole thing in fixing the garage? Not really but it's a project that is definitely needed to be done. And it's been on the back burner for a while so if we're concerned about things put on the back burner, the garages is definitely one of them, okay. And we're not catastrophic yet but when concrete, prestressed concrete fails quickly, let's you know get going before it does get catastrophic. And then other things that the city needs. So I would say my Infrastructure Committee is all in favor of this you know to get this particularly done and the Mayor is correct.

You know being an owner of your house, if the people want to come you know, have some concerns. Well, you paint your house don't you or you side it or something like that to keep this structure going. The City has to do the same thing with the facilities that are underneath that belt. So please if that comes up, anything with the garages I hope you join with me and support that. Thank you, Madam President.

President Wilshire

You're welcome.

RECOGNITION PERIOD – None

PRESENTATION

- Riverfront Project Review

President Wilshire

Tonight we have a presentation of the Riverfront Project and that will be presented to us by Economic Development Director, Liz Hannum. Thank you for being here.

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Hi, Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director and I have with me John Vancour who is our Project Manager from Hayner Swanson as well so any technical questions, I'm sending it to over to him.

So I'll keep this fairly quick but thank you for inviting me. I thought I would take a moment to just remind everyone why we do these kinds of placemaking projects. There are an incredible amount of economic benefits to placemaking which is activating spaces, making them beautiful and using them in a way to build economic output essentially. So every time we spend money on a sidewalk that's a business that looks better and people will spend more money, stop in, things like that. So something like the Riverfront Project we're hoping to hit all of these, all of these potential benefits, workforce, attraction and retention, especially with the rise in remote work.

The new generation of workers choose the place they want to live and then find a job there or remotely. So we want to be a place where people want to live. Business attraction and retention, obviously are really important when we want to retain businesses that need workers. They want to have a place that there are readily available workers. So property values go up when we invest in placemaking. Neighborhood engagement and activity go up and you can read more tourism, connectivity. So this particular project is going to be connecting Main Street all the way down to the Mine Falls eventually and up to BAE. So we're just doing quadrant two at the moment but that will be essentially a two and a half mile loop all the way through the downtown area so. And I just love this upward spiral of investment in enhancement of places. So that's one of my favorite kind of graphs, graphics.

So I'll just give you a quick history. The TIF district which is our funding mechanism for this was established in 2003 so we are using that to pay for the bond that will pay for this project. The TIF Advisory Board was established just the year

after that and that group is a volunteer group that we work with to make decisions about this Riverfront Project whether it gets expanded in the future to do more projects, that group will be kind of the first level of approval before it comes to this Board.

The master plan was approved in 2018 which includes this. This was from the study done in 2017 and so we're focused very specifically on the boxed area there. We had a little pandemic in between when the \$21 million was approved and construction started this past May. So we did have to figure out how to fit our much larger project once inflation happened, the project was more expensive than what we had anticipated so we did have to level out and figure out what we could fit that was worth it and exciting and could still bring the economic benefit.

So I'll show you some of the renderings here now but we are anticipating completion in fall of 2025. The weather is going to be hopefully working with us to make that happen. But as of right now, fall of 2025. So Main Street will be on your left here. So that's the sidewalk on Main Street into Bicentennial Park so those are the improvements there. And we will have created kind of an entertainment space, seating wall, just kind of a cutesy little kind of secret garden off of Main Street almost. And then boardwalk from Bicentennial over the river past Four Water Street and down into Le Parc de Renaissance. So as you'll see it kind of continues from the left past Four Water Street. There'll be a small parking area, a big lawn in the middle there kind of in the very center where that little section of trees is. You can't see it very well in the rendering but that is La Dame, the statue of the mill girl. We've kind of created the whole park around that statue. She's boxed up at the moment so she's not moving at all. I know that was a big concern early on in the process but then we've got an amphitheater with the lawn area, kind of a stage front and a pavilion at the moment. And then the boardwalk will continue throughout that whole area, so it will connect. And then this is just another rendering of that from Four Water Street area.

So this will be kind of the front view so we'll have kind of seated amphitheater and the pavilion will be lit. We worked with an artist locally sort of. There'll be a mural along that left wall, the retaining wall there, and they'll look onto Clocktower. So I think it'll be a really nice kind of sound system the way that we've placed it. And just a night rendering of that so you can see what it'll look like on Fourth of July or some evenings when we do performances in that space in the future.

And then we've actually completed the ADA ramp which is the first project that we've done as part of this. So it will continue down Clocktower and up to the Cotton Mill Transfer Bridge as you saw. The first part of that is the ADA ramp which is now open and then it will continue down past Greeley House and around the substation there. So this is just a rendering. Unfortunately, we did have to get rid of the dock as part of that post-pandemic construction. Values went up exceedingly and it was going to be really hard with the water levels to work with anyway. So we'll have a screen around the substation because it's not a pretty view and then the boardwalk will go over the cove. And then there is the actual screen that we have chosen. So this is just a construction document at the moment but that'll show you what it's going to look like. It's supposed to kind of represent reeds for the water.

Okay, so construction is underway. We started in May as I mentioned, and we are probably about 25 to 30% completed. We've got almost all of the pillars in that will hold the boardwalk. As you can see, we've got lots of cranes down there right now. We've got a barge. I don't know if you can see the barge in one of these. Ok, so it's in the middle there. Oh, there we go, there's the barge. So they put a crane on the barge and then drill from there, which is pretty exciting. That's actually a value engineer that they came up with. So hopefully we'll see some credit there, maybe. But the boardwalk will continue kind of around this area here.

So the beginning of the amphitheater is in. That's the lowest level of the stairs, so we're building up from there. The walkway is in as well to continue the boardwalk. And then this is Bicentennial Park which has just been dug out so. And I think yep, this was from yesterday. I just added this photo in this morning. They have now put in the cheek wall forming and I think they poured this morning for the concrete for that wall. So it's moving very quickly and you can see the boardwalk behind it there. So that is ready as well. It just has to have railings and boards. So we're moving along very quickly.

So money, which I know is important. So of the \$21 million bond we have \$17 million in contracts right now, just slightly above \$17 million. We've spent about \$5 million of that \$17 million and the rest of our contracts get us to that \$17 million. So we have anticipated spending another almost \$12 with those contracts. So the contract is \$17 million and it includes everything so far including we did have to do some Water Street retaining wall repair that we didn't anticipate. So that was a new project and those, the ADA ramp and the retaining wall are completed at this point. So we are continuing with those other services until we're done with the project. So we as of the right now we have \$4 million kind of sitting there waiting. However, we do have some anticipated change orders so these change orders, some of them we actually are receiving as we speak this week but this is what we have so far that we know about and we don't see a whole lot of other things coming yet. I always want to caveat that. But for right now we have about a million dollars in anticipated change orders which would bring us to just over \$18 million in spending so far.

The bridge repair we did not anticipate but the other you know we found, one of the things we found was an old foundation of a building because the water, the riverfront used to have all buildings all down it. So we found as you find stuff the geotechnical support is continuing because we keep finding things underground. We had to change/modify some of our plans because we found some of those old foundations. We've had kind of lots of different things come up. Some of the grading issues around the statue we've fixed. So we're continuing to see some of these things but this is fairly decent. I'm pretty happy with where we're at right now at this point in the in the construction.

So you'll also see projects that we have not yet contracted. So we have two of the projects that we have not yet started and that's the Clocktower Walkway. Basically from the pavilion, what will be the pavilion to the bridge and then from the ADA ramp by Greeley House to that boardwalk across the cove there. So those are the two projects that we haven't yet started. So we've got essentially just under \$3 million to do those two projects. And then I would love to add some gateway signage on the Main Street side to kind of add a little beacon to people that this is here and you should use it and it's really exciting. So we've got kind of three potential projects that will eat into that \$3 million space there.

So one of them, this is a rendering of one of the projects that we haven't yet started or yet haven't yet contracted is just kind of landscaping and things. So we're not anticipating a huge amount for those three projects. So we should as of right now, should have a little bit of wiggle room for this project. So I hope I was pretty quick in that. I know you got lots of stuff to do tonight but any questions at this point?

President Wilshire

Alderman Sullivan.

Alderman, Sullivan

Thank you very much. Great presentation. Good progress so far. Looking forward to seeing how it's finished. You alluded in your presentation about \$21 million. I was going through and I noticed that back in '21 there was a resolution passed for \$21 million. I don't see it in our budget under our debt service. And the only bond that I see assigned to this was a bond that was issued back in 2015 for \$493,000.

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Right.

Alderman Sullivan

It did mention in the resolution that the \$21 million bond was going to get sold in '23-'24. I just don't see it.

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Yes.

Alderman Sullivan

Obviously you alluded to it so it's here.

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Correct. Yep, so we actually just did the evaluation so we're selling it this month. So we decided to only sell \$14 million as of right now so the bond will be sold in the next month or so for \$14 million and then we'll do the other seven in the following year.

Alderman Sullivan

Okay, thank you.

President Wilshire

Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

There is some I understand some additional streetscaping that is being done on the Water Street adjacent to that. And then there were some concerns I think about that Water Street itself. Is that work done? Is this going to affect the park construction?

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

I guess, the watershed the public works project that's the? I guess I'm not sure what Water Street.

Alderman Lopez

There's a couple of things. There was one that was supposed to be I think, Mechanic Street into Water Street. Water Street was supposed to be reversed and I thought those were underway. We approved the reversal and everything but then there were also issues with the actual structure that were being addressed.

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Yes, okay so it is the project I'm thinking of. So that project is about to go out to bid. So that is a public works project that will likely start in the fall and it should be done around the same time that this project is completed. It should not have any effect on the Parc de la Renaissance as we won't be having people visit the park until after they're completed but so yes, the Water Street project is going to be underway later this year.

Alderman Lopez

Okay, I wasn't thinking people were going to visit using that road. I was thinking more like the road might be offline. Would that affect construction? If you have to pull things off of the overpass for example, or change it then how would that affect anything?

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Yes, so we have anticipated that that's happening. So as of right now we have a plan to move everything around and we've been working with some fantastic contractors that are really flexible and are really willing to work together so I don't see any anticipated issues with that. They've been great at rescheduling around each other. This is kind of a Tetris game right now that we're playing anyway. So and they know that and are really fantastic. It's Morin's Landscaping and Sea and Shore Drilling. They've been fantastic to work with so far.

Alderman Lopez

And I presume we're coordinating closely with Clocktower, the Veterans Program, the building full of lawyers that are all next to it.

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Yes, yeah. So we have regular communication with them understanding and hopefully we'll get even better with the Cotton Mill side. I think we've we missed the boat a little bit on the beginning of construction just because we were kind of in the process of changing over staff right then. And so I think we had a couple of complaints about noise at the very beginning of the project but we got rid of the noise one) or the constant noise but two) we've been building a much better communication system with the Cotton Mill apartments there.

Alderman Lopez

Okay, thank you very much.

President Wilshire

All set. Thank you very much. We appreciate your presentation this evening,

READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the minutes of the special and regular Board of Aldermen meetings of September 11, 12, and 24, 2024 be accepted, placed on file, and the readings suspended.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING ONLY PROCEDURAL ACTIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS

From: Sam Durfee, Planning Manager
Re: Referral from the Board of Aldermen Petition for Street Discontinuance – Portion of Veterans Memorial Parkway (right of way)

From: Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director
Re: R-24-098 – InvestNH Demolition Grant – Request for First and Second Reading

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the communications and placed them on file.

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

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

Good evening, Board Members. Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director. I wanted to just take a moment to speak to R-24-098 which is on your agenda for consideration this evening as a new piece of legislation. Specifically R-24-098 contemplates the acceptance of a grant from the InvestNH Demolition Program in the amount of \$232,610. You may remember this grant program has actually been considered recently by the Board of Aldermen for the Mohawk Tannery Project. This is a grant program that involves no municipal match but actually grants funds directly to the municipality who then subsequently grants those monies out to an entity performing demolition for the purposes of affordable housing.

Specifically, the proposal contemplated here is the redevelopment of the Gateways Community Services property at 4 Beard Street which has received both Zoning and Planning Board approval for the demolition of the existing structure and reconstruction of a nine unit building consisting of one bedroom units both for workforce and for actually Gateways clientele. One of the interesting things about this grant program is that these are ARPA funded. This is an ARPA funded program and therefore timeliness is critical. And so we received a request from the State of New Hampshire to accept these monies over the next 10 days. As a result, I have made the request and I've included the memo within the packet requesting first and second reading consideration of this, this evening in light of that timing constraint.

I do want to note for the record in light of several the conversations so far this evening that this has already been contemplated within the budget, the fiscal 2025 budget and so it's really just acceptance of the grant. Appropriation is not necessary.

I know that Sandy Pelletier, the President and CEO of Gateways is also here this evening. I believe she signed up for public comment subsequent to me. She'd be happy to answer any questions about the project but I want to thank the Board for their consideration of both the legislation, first and second reading, and certainly continued support of affordable housing for those most vulnerable across the City of Nashua. And I'm happy to answer any questions at the time you actually consider the legislation. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Sandy Pelletier

Good evening Mayor, Madam Chair, President and Board of Aldermen members. Thank you for giving me this opportunity this evening. As Matt mentioned to you this is a major project for Gateways Community Services. Gateways has been a nonprofit here in Nashua, New Hampshire for over 40 years. I'm their longtime Executive and we've been blessed to have an incredible collaboration with the City of Nashua. Gateway serves over 2,800 individuals, children and adults with developmental disabilities and elders in need of long-term care. Gateways also owns 13 properties, one on Canal Street and many group homes in the region. This was a real opportunity to work in collaboration with the City of Nashua to look at our property on 4 Beard Street which is near downtown, has availability to busing and ability for individuals to walk to their jobs, an opportunity to shop, do pharmacy needs, whatever.



Our intention is to support individuals with developmental disabilities who can live semi-independently and also have some ability to place staff in the building to help support them. This is a unique project and one that's getting a lot of recognition both at the state level, the city level and at the federal government level. So I thank you for this opportunity. Welcome any questions but again this is just the testimony that the kind of partnership Gateways has had with the City of Nashua for many, many years.

President Wilshire

Thank you very much.

Sandy Pelletier

No questions, alright.

President Wilshire

If we do, we take it up during the legislation.

President Wilshire

Thank you, Sandy.

Laura Colquhoun

Laura Colquhoun, 30 Greenwood Drive. I'm here tonight to say no to R-24-089. Mayor Donchess you may not realize this but most residents realize that you and some of the Board members seem not to have the virtue of being able to tell the truth and I hope residents remember your lies in the next election. It seems that a lot of residents came out tonight to talk so Alderman O'Brien's comment at the budget meeting about listening to the peanut gallery; he'll just have to sit there and suffer. Remember we pay your salaries.

First the total budget the 2025 is up 10.71 and not the 3.75 that Mayor Donchess told the residents. Mayor Donchess may have failed math but most residents have not and realize that when your last budget was \$412 million and you bring it up to \$456.6 million that's an increase of 10.71%. When you increase the City Buildings Budget by 121% and the Community Services budget by 117 just to name a few departments. Residents know the budget is going up a lot more than 7.75 and you may want to override the spending cap of \$45 million. Well, I can tell you as a resident I'm saying no, enough. The City needs to cut some of their spending, like some of the Riverwalk we don't need. Mayor Donchess you have increased the City of Nashua budget by 56.53% since 2017 and taxpayers are fed up. Mayor Donchess you have also increased the City of Nashua's debt. You know mortgages that type the taxpayers have to take out for the City from \$474 million in 2017 to \$633 million in 2025...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Laura Colquhoun

...The payments on this additional bond is almost \$11 million in yearly payments. That is an increase of 33.53% and that's not counting this \$21 million bond you're now going to put through for the Riverwalk. It appears that you are driving the young residents out of Nashua because they cannot pay the high property taxes nor the high rentals. If this Board votes to increase the spending cap it will be like kicking the taxpayers while they are down and Nashua...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Thirty seconds.

Laura Colquhoun

...taxpayers will remember. Mayor Donchess, all these figures are on your website if you want to look at them, thank you.



David Scalera

David Scalera, 2 Paddington Place. I'm not going to accuse anyone here of lying but I will say there are a lot of mistruths that were said earlier. So I'll just give you some truths. Mayor Donchess you said that Stellos Stadium is the primary care of the School Department. That was a quote. Article 2, Section 215.4 of the Nashua Code says that Stellos Stadium is under the control of the Parks and Rec Department. It can't even be rented out by the School Department. It's excluded from their rental property. It has to go through Parks and Recs. I know this, I used to run Nashua PAL Force. We had to go through Parks and Recs to rent it and for all of its maintenance requests.

The BOE does not have a revolving budget, they can't make capital expenditures. I have the last three years and four GMAX Test results. I got them from DPW not from the Board of Education. It's the DPW and the Parks and Recs that manage Stellos Stadium. Now, as Miss Klee said, on 6/11 June 11th I was here and I brought to the Board of Education meeting the fact that there were issues with Stellos Stadium. It was brought to the Board of Education brought it or voted in January to bring it to the JSSBC. It wasn't until July that the JSSBC brought it up, I wonder why? Maybe they were talked about it in June by a resident myself that came to talk about it.

But let's talk about more facts. On April 6, 2023 this is the CIP for Fiscal Year '24. This was prioritized for some reason as a C1 but it says it is now at the end of its service life. There are drainage issues in several areas. The most recent GMAX Testing, a measure of service (inaudible) yielded very poor results. That was on April 6, 2023. On July 15, 2024 after it was brought to JSSBC and another test was done. It said the field tested at an average of 184 this is near the limit of safe play. Certain test locations on the field are over 200 which is unsafe...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

David Scalera

...So President Wilshire it was not safe in July when it was tested, it should have been shut down then The GMAX 200 is not a passing score. It's when you risk as the experts in the industry folks say life threatening injuries. In fact, 80 to 120 is optimal, 165 is considered dangerous when the field should be fixed.

And finally regarding dollars. There should be a maintenance program put into place for this field, it should be more like \$200,000 a year. As Alderman Dowd said this is not normal use. ...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Thirty seconds.

David Scalera

...It's used by three high schools, about twenty four varsity teams, two youth sports programs. It should be about \$200,000 per year and replaced every eight years. BG who is also a victim in this should actually probably be paying more than they are as well if they're gonna be paying about 15% but lot of untruths here. This is a travesty about the finger pointing that's going on. This has nothing to do with the Board of Education, this is all on this Board's responsibility.

Brad Westgate

Good evening, Madam President, Members of the Board. My name is Brad Westgate, I'm a lawyer with Weiner and Bennett, 402 Amherst Street. I represent Blaylock Holdings LLC which is the prospective developer of the Mohawk Tannery Project. Just briefly, there are four items before you tonight for final approval regarding the project. One was one of which and the first of which you'll see is the petition of a street discontinuance. That's a portion of the Veteran's Memorial Parkway right-of-way that becomes integral to the project. It's been contemplated in the master development agreement the Board approved as well as a purchase and sale agreement that the Board approved for that 4 or so acres.

There are three resolutions also before you, 24-086 which pertains to a release of a portion of the sewer trunk line easement along the Nashua River that is a component of the land that will become the containment parcel and it's fundamental to allowing the environmental containment parcel to be utilized. Secondly is 24-087 which is somewhat of a technical step to underpin the purchase and sale agreement for the sale of the right-of-way portion I referenced regarding the street discontinuance and the last is R-24-088 which is to enable sewer permit fees for the project to be paid incrementally on a building-by-building basis. All four of these have favorable recommendations from the Committee on



Infrastructure. The petition actually had an amendment that was processed with the committee which I believe you'll see in your packets as the amended language. We would respectfully request a favorable consideration of these four items.

And just lastly Madam President, we have appreciated the time this Board has given this project, time you've spent allowing us to present various presentations regarding the project, the efforts and the due consideration and thoughtful deliberations you've made on a variety of matters even before this evening. Thank you.

Fred Teeboom

My name is Fred Teeboom, 24 Cheyenne. I'm the original author of the spending cap. I prepared a chart which I think will illustrate just how badly the City is managed. It is really badly mismanaged. I'll send out some of the charts this way Mr. Sullivan. Hopefully included in the minutes. It shows you just how much spending is done outside the annual budget. It's astounding.

Now nothing burns me up more than listening to Mayor Donchess misrepresent the cap and misrepresent what happened in 2021 before the State Legislature, as well as Alderman Klee, Alderman O'Brien. They never read the law to you, do they. They just talk, they said how bad it is. Well, I met with Mayor Donchess a week ago and it fell on deaf ears. I prepared a briefing for him. He was not interested in listening to the briefing. But just keep it very simple, because I only have a few minutes here. To quote from the State Law (inaudible) made such a mess. The key statement is all towns or City Charters which have been adopted, revised or amended before 5 July 2011 to include a tax or spending cap of any kind are hereby endorsed, ratified, validated, legalized, and are fully enforceable. That's RC49B1328. What that says is the cap was grandfathered. I know it was which I wrote that date working with the House Committee and the Senate Committee...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Fred Teeboom

...It's clear the cap is grandfathered. Now why are grants and face values of bonds that haven't even been sold yet appear in the supplemental budget? They don't appear, at least the bonds don't appear in the annual budget. It's a complete misrepresentation sponsored by Alderman Bolton who totally misrepresented the cap...

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

I'm not an Alderman.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Thirty seconds.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

I'm not an Alderman.

Fred Teeboom

The law. No sir you're a City Attorney misrepresent these people with the law.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Yes, you referred to me as Alderman. I'm correcting you because you're wrong.

Fred Teeboom

Clearly, clearly the cap was grandfathered. The cap never carried grants. The cap never carried face values of bonds. The cap basically looked at the annual budget as you can see...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Your time is up.

Fred Teeboom

...Lozeau the very few dollars in supplemental budgets and before 2010

President Wilshire

Your time is up Mr. Teeboom. Thank you.

Laurie Ortolano

I wanted to start my stopwatch. Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. A couple of things. You know, I come to this chamber enough to say that I'm concerned about the hyperbole, omissions and misrepresentations I continue to hear in here on a regular basis. I had a lot of reservations about what I was hearing about the field at Stellos and in comes a gentleman with facts and contracts and inspection reports that gives us the real answers. I came here a few weeks ago, we talked about assessments. Much of what was said here about the contract and the new statistical update was not factual and not correct. That letter did not go out correctly. We had a contract that specified the location of the data needed to be in there, a call out to the RSA on how to appeal and abate needed to be in there. The Mayor and the Assessing office and the Board of Assessors would approve that letter and know when it went out. When I got emails from KRT in 2018 and Vision in 2022 I have the emails that went between the Mayor, the Assessing Staff and everyone else that would communicate on that so. Is there a problem?

Alderman Klee

Yes, this is not on the agenda.

Laurie Ortolano

Oh, okay.

Alderman Klee

What you are talking about is not on the agenda.

Laurie Ortolano

Okay, I'm just talking about misrepresentation. So let me jump over to R-24-089, so Stellos Stadium was on the agenda and I'm really concerned about what I heard with Stellos. And I don't think we get factual information from this Board and from the leaders of this City. Omissions, hyperbole and misrepresentations is the standard dialog here.

Regarding O-89, I'm not a supporter of it and the reason why is I don't think it was properly vetted at the Budget Review Committee. I went to that meeting. There were only five people in attendance, there was supposed to be seven. There was only the Finance Office there, not Director Cummings or the Mayor. There's been a new letter put out by Director Cummings that was never vetted by the Budget Review Committee. And I think you want to have seven people there and I think you want to have all the parties there to have a discussion. When I came to that meeting and I spoke and gave public comment. I said I wanted the five people there to really lean in and ask questions so that I could understand something that was complex. I heard one individual ask questions, I saw another individual work closely on their computer and three of the sponsors were in that meeting, Lori Wilshire, Mike O'Brien and Rick Dowd and...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Thirty seconds.

Laurie Ortolano

...none of you spoke and gave any information to your constituents on why you supported this. There was dead silence. I think this note, please send this back to the Budget Review Committee, give it another chance to really be vetted with the whole committee with the right players there. I think it would be worthwhile. Thank you.



Paula Johnson

Good evening, my name is Paula Johnson, I live at 15 Westborn Drive. I'm against R-24-089 because I sat on this Board and we adhered to that spending cap completely and the City didn't fall apart and we did everything that we had to do. But what is shameful, I want to use Alderman O'Brien's words, what is shameful is that this Board does not listen to its constituents here. And the mere fact that priorities, what is the priorities? I took pictures of this Riverwalk? Well, if we have parking garages that's falling apart then we need to do that before Riverwalk and spend all that bond money. Oh, and let's talk about Stellos Stadium. I was on the Board and it got brought up many times, Stellos is about to fail. What the hell happened here that this wasn't taken care of. That's a priority and yes, Public Works, Parks & Rec did take care of the field. Everything went through them, but we talked about it on the Board. We knew Shawn Smith came before us and that's when I was on the board back in 2023 said that the field is going to have to be replaced, we have issues here. So what happened between here, there and everywhere. That to me is more important than this Riverwalk Downtown. We're going to bring businesses in, we're going to do this, but we have those friggin barriers that takes up parking spots downtown. So where is my money going? My taxes increased 22% my assessment went up this year. My husband and I are senior citizens. I don't qualify for the exempt and I will bring that in. It's unfortunate that I had in last April, I had another death in my family and that threw me off and I just didn't do anything that I said I was going to do.

But I'm going to bring this in showing other communities take a look at single and married differently which this City doesn't. All you do is rob us of our money. Don't do what you need to do. \$13 million of deferred maintenance in the School District. And then you want to know why Stellos...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Paula Johnson

...doesn't get done or anything else doesn't get done in the City. And yet we have these parks that how many of us are going to use to bring in tourism and businesses. I'm sorry this is shameful, using O'Brien's words, this is shameful against us.

Monica Chaput

Hi, Monica Chaput, 78 Avon. I am a resident and I am a landlord. The spending cap needs to stay okay. All you people sitting here you're forgetting about all the people that are paying rent. When you put my taxes up, I got to put my renters taxes up. Okay, it's just that simple. I can go to my block. Klee in her neighborhood, in your neighborhood I can go to my block and I can tell you I can get a signature from everyone there to put this spending cap down, okay. So that's all I have to say.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING FINAL APPROVAL

From: Tim Cummings, Administrative Services Director
Re: Communication to Further Explain R-24-089 & Seeking Special BOA Mtg

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

Alderman Sullivan

Point of order, please. Point of order. Don't we need final approval on that communication? Don't we need to vote on that?

President Wilshire

No.

Alderman Klee

Not on a communication.



Alderman Sullivan

Oh, because it says here we need to make a Motion and the Motion carried or failed.

President Wilshire

We have that coming up further in the agenda. There will be a Motion.

Alderman Sullivan

No, it just says under the communications

President Wilshire

Okay, no.

PETITIONS

- Petition for Street Discontinuance – Portion of Veterans Memorial Parkway (right of way)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD TO AMEND THE PETITION FOR STREET DISCONTINUANCE – PORTION OF VETERANS MEMORIAL PARKWAY (RIGHT OF WAY) BY REPLACING IT WITH THE GOLDEN ROD COPY OF RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS MADE AT THE COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Dowd

You have your golden rod copy, the changes are in red.

President Wilshire

Alderman O'Brien.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Madam President. This was brought up to the Infrastructure Committee and we agree wholeheartedly with this amendment.

MOTION CARRIED

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD TO GRANT THE PETITION FOR STREET DISCONTINUANCE – PORTION OF VETERANS MEMORIAL PARKWAY (RIGHT OF WAY) AS AMENDED
MOTION CARRIED**

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

The following appointments by the Mayor were read into the record:

Cable Television Advisory Board

Andrew Cernota (re-appointment)
547 Amherst Street, Suite 300
Nashua, NH 03063

Term to Expire: January 1, 2027

Cultural Connections

Elizabeth Berry (re-appointment)
505 Amherst Street
Nashua, NH 03063

Term to Expire: September 30, 2027



Environment and Energy Committee

Arden Anita Cala (re-appointment)
15 Taylor Street
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire: March 31, 2027

Nashua Arts Commission

Tina Cassidy (re-appointment)
12 Newcastle Drive #10
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire: September 1, 2027

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Joint Meeting – Board of Police Commissioners and Committee on Infrastructure 09/12/2024

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the September 12, 2024 Joint Meeting of Board of Police Commissioners and Committee on Infrastructure be accepted and placed on file.

Budget Review Committee..... 08/26/2024, 09/19/2024

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the reports of the August 26, 2024 and September 19, 2024 Budget Review Committee be accepted and placed on file.

Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee..... 09/03/2024

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the September 3, 2024 Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee be accepted and placed on file.

Pennichuck Water Special Committee..... 09/30/2024

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the September 30, 2024 Pennichuck Water Special Committee be accepted and placed on file.

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-24-086

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A PORTION OF AN EXISTING SEWER EASEMENT

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-24-086
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-24-086 is declared duly adopted.

R-24-087

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.

AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY



Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBODEAU FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-24-087
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-24-087 is declared duly adopted.

R-24-088

- Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
- Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
- Alderman Thomas Lopez
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
- Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
- Alderman Richard A. Dowd

**AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF WASTEWATER SERVICE PERMITS UPON INCREMENTAL PAYMENT OF
SEWER ENTRANCE CHARGE ASSESSMENTS (REDEVELOPMENT OF LAND IN THE VETERANS MEMORIAL
PARKWAY REDEVELOPMENT (VMPR) OVERLAY DISTRICT)**

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-24-088
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-24-088 is declared duly adopted.

R-24-089

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

**APPROVING AN EXEMPTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 FROM THE CHARTER'S LIMITATION ON BUDGET
INCREASES**

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD TO TABLE R-24-089

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Dowd

To the meeting, the special meeting we're gonna have on Thursday for further discussion. I'd like to speak to it briefly.

President Wilshire

Alderman Dowd.

Alderman Klee and Others

You can't speak to a table.

Alderman Dowd

Right, sorry.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-24-089 is declared tabled.



R-24-092

Endorser: Alderman Patricia Klee

AUTHORIZING PENNICHUCK WATER WORKS, INC. TO RENEW AND INCREASE ITS FIXED ASSET LINE OF CREDIT WITH TD BANK, N.A.

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-24-092
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-24-092 is declared duly adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-24-033

- Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
- Alderman Richard A. Dowd
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
- Alderman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
- Alderman-at-large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
- Alderman Chris Thibodeau
- Alderman Thomas Lopez
- Alderman John Sullivan
- Alderman Tim Sennott
- Alderman Patricia Klee
- Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

UPDATING THE ORDINANCES RELATIVE TO SCHOOL SAFETY ZONES AND SCHOOL ZONE FLASHING SPEED LIMIT SIGNS

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-24-033
MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance O-24-033 is declared duly adopted.

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-24-098

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

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$232,610 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INVEST NH DEMOLITION GRANT PROGRAM AND APPROVAL FOR THE CITY TO GRANT SAID FUNDS TO AREA AGENCY OF GREATER NASHUA D.B.A. GATEWAYS COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR DEMOLITION OF 4 BEARD STREET

Given its first reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR A SECOND READING OF RESOLUTION R-24-098

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Lopez

I'd like to speak briefly to it.



President Wilshire

Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

There was a communication, there was public comment made regarding this. It is a partnership with Gateways which does a lot of community good, well a lot of good work in our community. And it's for a housing program that needs more rapid review than we would be able to do with the Human Affairs Committee. If we didn't do the second reading it would have to go to Human Affairs and then would have to come back to the Board of Aldermen. And because of the different organizations involved they don't have the time to spare basically. So I was approached by Director Sullivan earlier this week, I will not be anyone who slows down an affordable housing program especially for group homes and people with developmental delays. So I urge the Board to consider this second reading.

President Wilshire

Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Oh, I'm sorry this is for the second reading. This is not for the final approval.

President Wilshire

Right.

Alderman Klee

No, sorry.

MOTION CARRIED

R-24-098

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

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$232,610 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INVEST NH DEMOLITION GRANT PROGRAM AND APPROVAL FOR THE CITY TO GRANT SAID FUNDS TO AREA AGENCY OF GREATER NASHUA D.B.A. GATEWAYS COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR DEMOLITION OF 4 BEARD STREET

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-24-098

ON THE QUESTION

President Wilshire

Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I sit on the Planning Board and this did come in front of the Planning Board and I want to say that when they brought the plan forward and discussed it and so on, I think it's a good plan. I think it's going to help. Gateways is very strong in our community. And one of the things that I was quite impressed with is as part of this are units for onsite staff. It's very important that this is as well as for DD patients as well as but to have the onsite staff which



means that there's going to be somebody there. And I found that it was well thought out and it's an incredible program. So I think it's something that you know, in hearing that because of the way the funding is coming through we need to put this through. I don't feel like we're rushing it through because I think it was well thought out. So I think it's just we're rushing through to make sure that it's happened. But I want the public and everybody know that this project was well thought out. It went through the Planning Board. It's gone through all the processes that it needs to go through. So planning and everything has happened. We're just pushing through the funding and the process to get it through so that they can get their money through. But all of the steps and everything through engineering and everything has happened the way it needs to happen. So as the public has spoken to I'm sorry, I just want to get through that the public did get to speak. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Further discussion? Alderman Thibodeau.

Alderman Thibodeau

I just had a question regarding the grant. I'm just curious if this is a federal pass through to the State of New Hampshire or if this is truly a New Hampshire based grant?

President Wilshire

Director Sullivan can answer your question.

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

Thank you, Madam President. The answer to Alderman Thibodeau's question is that these are federal pass through monies being granted through the Bureau of Economic Affairs to the City of Nashua. They are pass through dollars.

Alderman Thibodeau

Thank you.

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

Absolutely.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-24-098 is declared duly adopted.

R-24-099

- Endorsers: Alderman Richard A. Dowd
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
- Alderman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
- Alderman-at-large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
- Alderman Tyler Gouveia
- Alderman Thomas Lopez
- Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
- Alderman Tim Sennott
- Alderman Derek Thibeault
- Alderman Patricia Klee
- Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
- Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NASHUA BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE NASHUA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPERVISORS, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, AFL-CIO FROM JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027 AND RELATED TRANSFERS

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

R-24-100

- Endorsers: Alderman Patricia Klee



Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

AUTHORIZING THE MERGER OF PENNICHUCK EAST UTILITY, INC. WITH AND INTO PENNICHUCK WATER WORKS, INC. AND THE MERGER OF PITTSFIELD AQUEDUCT COMPANY, INC. WITH AND INTO PENNICHUCK WATER WORKS, INC. AND OTHER RELATED ACTIONS

Given its first reading; Assigned to the PENNICHUCK WATER SPECIAL COMMITTEE, by President Wilshire

R-24-101

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

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BY AND AMONG THE CITY OF NASHUA, PENNICHUCK WATER WORKS, INC., PENNICHUCK EAST UTILITY, INC., PITTSFIELD AQUEDUCT COMPANY, INC., AND ALL OTHER PARTIES TO DOCKET NO. DW 23-101 BEFORE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Given its first reading; Assigned to the PENNICHUCK WATER SPECIAL COMMITTEE, by President Wilshire

R-24-102

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

RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF \$26,809 FROM DEPARTMENT 142 "WOODLAWN CEMETERY" TO DEPARTMENT 140 "PINWOOD CEMETERY"

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

R-24-103

Endorsers: Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Tim Sennott
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

ESTABLISHING A NASHUA MILLYARD DOG PARK EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND, FUNDED BY DONATIONS

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

Without objection, President Wilshire suspended the rules to allow for Resolution R-24-104 that was received after the agenda was prepared.

R-24-104

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

RELATIVE TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$1,500,000 OF ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE INTO CAPITAL PROJECT ACTIVITY "STELLOS STADIUM TURF FIELD REPLACEMENT, PROTECTIVE FIELD COVER, AND OTHER RENOVATIONS"



Given its first reading; Assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE and SCHEDULE A SPECIAL BOARD OF ALDERMEN PUBLIC HEARING ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024 AT 7:00 P.M., in the aldermanic chamber by President Wilshire

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-24-035

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Tim Sennott
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

CHANGING THE DAY OF RESCHEDULED BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETINGS

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

O-24-036

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO SEASONAL ROAD CLOSURES AND ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN ON-STREET PARKING FOR EXTENDED OUTDOOR DINING AND OTHER NON-VEHICULAR USE

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

O-24-037

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

AMENDING THE LAND USE CODE REGARDING MUNICIPAL CHANGING SIGNS

Given its first reading; Assigned to the PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE and SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING DURING THE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024 AT 7:00 P.M., in the aldermanic chamber by President Wilshire

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Nick Scalera

Hello again Board. My name is Nick Scalera, 2 Paddington Place here in Nashua. Before I get started with what I usually would want to be saying, just wanted to bring up and bring to everyone's attention including the communities partnering with 350 Nashua, relaunching of the 350 Chapter here in Nashua. There is going to be a community cleanup in conjunction with the Arlington Street Community Center this Saturday 11:00am to 1:00pm. I would love to see any and every one come out picking up some litter here in the City, trying to make our City a greener place.

Also going forward talking about Stellos again. Me and buddies have worked through the Public Works and Department of Public Works many summers while when we were in college. I know the people who work Stellos Stadium, they are not Board of Education employees, they are DPW employees. It's really just that simple.

On to what I am going to be talking about today. Yesterday we marked one year of endless bloodshed in Gaza and now continuing throughout the Middle East and it only proves to be getting worse. The strategy by our federal government has failed hopelessly and it's hard to find hope these days. It's hard to find hope for my friends that are still living in the West Bank not knowing if they will have another year in them and we here in the United States are complicit. We are complicit through silence, we are complicit monetarily and through resources. And there's complicity through silence here in this Board, silence since our resolution has been tabled calling for a ceasefire and limiting arms to the rogue Israeli State as we have proven to see, they are more rogue than even we thought. As I said, this goes back to money and resources. President Biden has mobilized 40,000 troops to the Middle East, two aircraft carriers waiting in the region just in case I guess, in case our strongest ally our supposed strongest ally decides to launch a regional war. Billions of dollars have been sent. Our tax dollars have been sent to continue the ruthless bloodshed of men, women and children. Billions of dollars that could have been put to use here in our home. We have seen the devastating effects of climate change here this past week and now coming this week, hurricanes Helene and Milton have proven that our infrastructure in our country



is not fit for the global rising temperatures and rising sea levels that our own commerce has created. Instead of sending billions of dollars to FEMA, we are now in a FEMA shortfall of nearly \$9 million announced the day after we sent \$9 million in additional funding to Israel. Usually a little weird how that comes out. Those tax dollars go to kill men and women and children like you and I, they go to kill people like Hush Kamala Amagalad (spelling)...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Nick Scalera

...who is a US citizen from Dearborn, Michigan who was going to visit his ailing mother in the South of Lebanon, who was killed by his own tax dollars during Israeli strike on his family home. People continue to die as we do nothing. Over 2,000 now in Lebanon. Most estimates are saying over 200,000 in Gaza. How many more? I struggle for words at this point, because I think of people like Kamala Amagalad (spelling) and how his federal government has done nothing to protect him...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Thirty seconds.

Nick Scalera

...and it makes me wonder if my City would do anything if I got killed. It makes me wonder if I was visiting my friends in the West Bank as I hope to do again someday in the Village of Beit Sahour in the outskirts of Bethlehem. If an Israeli raid comes through and kills me and my friends will this City do anything. The past six months have proven they will not. We have plenty of time to do unanimous police funding, unanimous things throughout our City, but we cannot even come together have a single...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Time's up.

Nick Scalera

...conversation about human rights. Thank you.

Dave Scalera

Hello again, Dave Scalera, 2 Paddington Place. If you remember the last meeting I was talking about difficulty getting some transparency from the City regarding where we're spending our money. At an issue on that was the \$63,346,139 of equity securities held by the City of Nashua in the annual comprehensive financial report dated June 30, 2023. At that meeting Mayor Donchess said that that may have been a mistake. We don't have that much money invested in equity outside of the wealth management. The next day I was told that I couldn't get any more information via email. I had to actually meet with Mr. Perrin in person to get that information. So I was expecting to come in and sit in a boardroom, give a bunch of binders and have to go through that information. No, I was given three documents two of which I already had which had been sent to me prior email. Those were the wealth management RBC documents. And then the final was a was a 10-page Charles Schwab document. Not sure why that just couldn't be emailed to me. But anyway, that added up to \$48,288,011. The Charles Schwab document was a trust fund of money market funds not even equity security so that wasn't relevant. So there's still a gap of somewhere around \$14-\$15 million invested in equity securities that the City of Nashua has yet to disclose to me. Furthermore and I emailed you this, City of Nashua has a comprehensive financial policies document of which an investment policy is included on the website. It's from 2011 that's 13 years old. According to RSA Title 3, 41.9, Section 7, the BOA is required to annually review and improve an investment policy. In that investment policy it states that there are reasons for the City to invest in mutual funds. It invites mutual funds, for domestic mutual funds and domestic stocks for long term trusts and for capital reserves. So this is a direct contradiction to what Mayor Donchess stated last meeting when he said...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.



Dave Scalera

...the city doesn't invest in the stock market. Well, there's definitely code that allows it to. And finally Section 10.8 of that 13 year old document says that the City Treasurer shall provide quarterly reports to the CFO for review including following a listing of individual securities held at the end of the reporting period with maturity dates and percentage of total portfolio. Where is that report? It's supposed to be a quarterly report issued from the City Treasurer to the CFO. It's all I'm asking for. It's \$63 million of which I can add up \$48 million of it...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Thirty seconds.

Dave Scalera

...and nothing is there. So I suggest that this Board convene a committee that brings together BOA members, citizens, financial experts and someone proficient in ESG Investment Initiatives to review the City Policy and holdings. Thank you very much.

Paula Johnson

Good evening, Paula Johnson again. First of all, I'd like to say I think it's shameful when former Alderman Teeboom mentions called our City Attorney an Alderman and you allowed him to scream at him. That's shameful. He works for us and he needs to control his temper.

Also, I just want to say that I think it's shameful that we had a Ward 5 Alderman, a Ward 5 Corridor Meeting and not one Alderman-at-Large showed up for that meeting again. This is shameful. It was very disappointing once again that none of you attended the meeting on Tuesday night, October 1 to discuss the West Hollis Street Corridor. None of you attended the first meeting on February 6 and I emailed all of you then and asked why none of you attended the meeting. Alderman O'Brien responded that he was ill and then Ms. Timmons said she wasn't invited.

Approximately 30 people plus attended both meetings. These meetings are important to the residents of Nashua who are impacted by the increased traffic on West Hollis Street. The Charter School has caused additional traffic and they planned expansion and the traffic will once again increase during morning and afternoon hours. I thanked Alderman Jette for being at the meeting and I asked where were all the aldermen and alderwoman-at-large. Were they given an invitation because I was told they needed an invitation. I want to remind you all and I'll say it again, when I was an Alderman-at-Large I attended all these meetings and even if I only could stay 5 to 10-15 minutes my constituents appreciated that I was there because I showed that I cared about their issues.

And also I believe that Alderman O'Brien and Alderman Kelly live in Ward 9 which borders Ward 5. Once again, Police Chief Rourke if you're in Ward 5 then you really should be there. If you're 9 to 5 there you go...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Paula Johnson

...Um, he was not I guess invited. I'm going to just go through this quickly now. I left a copy for all of you to get later on. We did appreciate Fire and Rescue for being there again. I'd like to thank Mr. Hudson, Mr. Husband and Mrs. Fauteux. And I'm going to just kind of end somewhat with this and like I said at the beginning, none of the Alderman-Alderwomen who are at-large had a problem attending the meeting...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Thirty seconds.

Paula Johnson

...when it came to voting yourselves a stipend raise of \$4,000. You now get \$9,000 a year. It becomes apparent that the ones who voted themselves the increase are nothing more than a bunch of self-serving individuals on this Board that

doesn't care about taxpayers of this City. Just spend more and more of our money. Our assessments increased once again as I said before, within the last two years. Mine is now up 22% from two years ago. No one cares...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Times up.

Paula Johnson

...about our senior citizens. And also, I just want to end that I'd like to give my condolences to the Ulcickas family because both my two children were in Mrs. Ulcickas class. And I'd like to say Happy New Year to the Jewish community. Thank you.

Laurie Ortolano

Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. I'd like to address transparency with the City. About a month ago when John Griffin was here I addressed the 2011 Comprehensive Financial Report on the website and I encouraged you to get that updated. He's retiring. He's essentially retired. He's back as a consultant. He, I think is the one who put that manual together and it would be a shame for him to leave and not have that manual updated and I hope you do, do that update.

A gentleman spoke at the last Board of Alderman meeting saying you know, addressing a Right-to-Know issue that he was having. Came back tonight with trying to get records from the City and mentioned that he's not into all these Right-to-Know issues that are going on with the City. Well, I agree with him I'm not into all these right to know issues but on June 13 I put in a Right-to-Know to get all the outside counsel legal spending that was spent on a couple of different lawsuits that were running in the City. I anticipated that there was upwards of \$600,000 of spending and I just wanted to get the data.

Mr. Cummings had done a presentation in March to the whole Board. At that point there was like \$400,000 of spending but I thought we had crossed a new threshold. I put in a Right-to-Know on June 13th asking for the total billing on the case and also I asked for the trial in April, the invoices that had come in on that. The next five days later on the 18th I asked for Russ Hilliard's Upton-Hatfield's payments for work done on all matters from August of 2022. The City responded on June 13th to my request saying this was on June 20 that they needed until the 28th to get back to me and then on the 24th they got back to me, and they gave me nine pages of one contractor's billing for the trial but they missed the other contractor's billing and they never answered the first part of my request, which was the total billing for that lawsuit. That was skipped completely...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Laurie Ortolano

...Then they went on and responded on the 27th saying the report, the financial report I was looking for which is just a two page financial report run with a push button. They would need another month to get this to me. That would have to come on July 17. On July 17, I got it. I wrote back on the 18th or July 18 I received it. Wrote back on the 19th and said you never completed the first one correctly, could you please go back and run a report like this for the spending...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Thirty seconds.

Laurie Ortolano

...on the full one. It goes on and on and on and here we are at 10/7 and I still don't have my records. Three months and I'm still arguing back and forth with the City. It's nice to hear this gentleman was allowed to come in and meet with Mr. Perrin. I am not, so I play this game of struggle. It's absurd what's going on in the City for simple financial reports. This is absolutely maddening and so unnecessary. This is why you have litigation issues.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Your time is up.



Laurie Ortolano

Thank you.

Peggy Anderson

Hello, thank you for your time tonight.

President Wilshire

Name and address for the record, please.

Peggy Anderson

My name is Peggy Anderson and my address is 75 Walden Pond Drive.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Peggy Anderson

I bought my condo here two years ago and I have three concerns about the assessment and one suggestion for how you might make things better. My first concern is the lack of notification about the letters. The homeowners were not given a heads up that these letters were coming and there was no indication on the envelope that they were the Nashua assessment document. So a lot of people in my neighborhood picked up the letter on that Saturday, along with all of the ads for the grocery stores and just threw it in the junk mailbox because they didn't know what it was and you couldn't tell what it was. So that's my first issue.

My second issue is that there are errors that have been found in the data and as the assessed values get bigger and bigger, the errors become more and more obvious. So in my situation, our townhouse that we bought two years ago which is 40 years old was assessed up 33% this year and this was on top of a 60% increase two years ago. So cumulatively that's a 113% increase on a 40 year old condo. It's when I purchased it, it was assessed at \$218,000 and it's now half a million dollars. Now that doesn't make sense, does it?

So that brings me to topic number three which is one year of sales data is not enough for you to do this properly. No unit like mine was assessed during the time frame that you guys did between April 23 and March 24 but I still got a 33% increase so that particular increase is not supported by new sales that happened this summer.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Peggy Anderson

Thank you. So we need to figure out what is going on and fix these errors but that takes time. So my solution that I would offer to you is take more time on this. You could put this assessment on hold for one year and then you would still meet your two to three year assessment priority that you want to do. You could still use the '22 assessment for the next tax bills that are going out and then you have more time for transparency, more sales data and more accuracy...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Thirty seconds.

Peggy Anderson

...That's the best outcome for the City and for the homeowners. I hope you will consider the suggestion. Thank you very much for your time tonight.



President Wilshire

Thank you.

Bradley Conway

Bradley Conway from Manchester. Good evening, everyone. Free Palestine. We have a resolution here at the City of Nashua that exposes the New Hampshire Federal Delegation's complicity with the genocide in Palestine. This resolution basically tells our Federal Delegation to stop arming Israel because doing so violates US federal law. It's illegal for the US to provide military assistance to a country that violates international law or blocks humanitarian aid into a conflicted area. In September reports leaked to ProPublica detailed how the US Government's two foremost authorities on humanitarian assistance reported that Israel was deliberately blocking deliveries of food and medicine into Gaza. These leaked documents prove that the Secretary of State, Antony Blinken lied to Congress about those reports to keep US weapons to flow into Israel. This weekend New Hampshire leaders like Sununu, Shaheen, Pappas, Kuster and Hassan issued statements once again proclaiming their unconditional support for Israel. But anyone with half a brain in this State realizes that they were really proclaiming their undying support for white supremacy, American exceptionalism, authoritarianism, religious extremism, and both their corporate and foreign donors. By declaring their continued support for Israel this weekend Sununu, Pappas, Shaheen, Kuster and Hassan really declared their unyielding support for using starvation, rape and dehydration as weapons of war for murdering hundreds of journalists, healthcare workers, teachers, emergency responders, assassinating foreign leaders and their entire families, imprisoning and torturing tens of thousands of Palestinians without charge or trial and displacing millions from their homes for the idea of Zionist safety.

I don't expect New Hampshire's leaders would be swayed by this resolution because as we can see plainly, the emperor has no clothes. These people are proud white supremacist murderers who see Arab and Muslim death and suffering as a business opportunity. We must be undeterred and cast whatever grains of sand we can find into the gears of their death machine. This means nurturing pro human, anti-Zionist sentiment at the City level. Zionism is a plan for Western powers to colonize the Middle East. This is not a complicated issue. All men are created equal and are deserving of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Bradley Conway

...Live Free or Die. Nashua is deeply tied to the US military industrial complex which through its complicity with Zionism has deprived millions in Gaza of food, water, life, dignity, freedom, health and happiness for a whole year. Nothing could be more urgent than putting a stop to this. We have to step up. We have to be brave. We have to take a stand on this issue and save lives right now before it's too late. This is a Nashua issue. This is a catastrophe made possible because of weapons from Nashua, money from Nashua, labor from Nashua....

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Thirty seconds.

Bradley Conway

...It's our residents who are being dehumanized. It's people from Nashua who will be fighting in the Zionist war. It's nationalist federal leaders who are breaking the law to make this possible. And it's Nashua Aldermen who have the power to say it's wrong but have yet to take preventative action. Please pass this resolution in its current form. Thank you for entertaining us again.

Gerri-Ann Garon

Gerri-Ann Garon, 5 Summit Street, Nashua. Concerned parent, I'll start off by saying thank you for your time but I think that's all I can really say thank you for and I'm sorry for saying that. We can't say thank you for keeping our children safe while they get to play different sports at this time because Stellos Stadium was taken away when it should have been taken already away. This could have been done. This is something that you knew about in advance and kept the children playing on it until it was finally completely unsafe. If it was replaced in 2011 and it says 10 years, my math being that I work with elementary school children that would not make 2024 being shut down appropriate number. Don't you think this is a little ridiculous. The City has the money to do other things hmmm, but keep saying that we're not supposed that they

weren't supposed to do this. The City chose not to. We can't say that thank you for giving our children the best senior year memories for some of them because you took that away from them by not replacing the turf when it should have been replaced not waiting until the fall when it's football season, soccer season. What happened to the summer before this? I know you looked at it in July but it was addressed before this.

So imagine the disappointment of all those Nashua children when they had learned that they didn't get to go to the event that they were planning on. You took that away from them. You took a safe place for teenagers. Is it hard enough to understand. Isn't that your responsibility also as the Alderman. All of the parents pay taxes as well and yet the City chose not to use the money that was supposed to be in the budget. BG is also involved in that. And what about the money, well to me that seems fraudulent but I also don't know how anybody and I will not name names but how some people can get sleep at night and knowing that they have done this to so many people. It's absolutely disgusting. I'm sorry. I know that at my job if I drop the ball then it's children's lives that are affected...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

One minute.

Gerri-Ann Garon

...and it's not acceptable. So why do you all get to drop the ball and it's acceptable. Accountability is what needs to be dealt with and not allow things like this to happen again. Thank you.

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Alderman O'Brien

Comments from the Board, I would like to say thank you to everybody that showed up Sunday for the Firefighters Memorial Sunday. Unfortunately, this year we had to put another name on the stone, Lieutenant Jess Wyman. This is a hidden killer to us firemen you know, your pores, you're overworking you pores open up so you can breathe and then they close up when you cool down and you get cancer and doctors look at you like arr. But Jess died of cancer. So being up at the State House we did pass the law and it did pass and so I'm very happy that it came out. So I would like to thank everybody that came. It was to memorize somebody so recent more than any other organization in the City. I think there's something like 15 names on that monument. So thank you all.

And then other news comes in and it's from the family of Les Blondin. He was on the same litter. That means him and I got appointed the same day together. And Les was fantastic, he knew where every single water line was in the City. We used to call him Big Water but he would go out make sure your truck had the proper GPM gallons per minute and everything. Well, sadly, he has just recently passed on so.

And then with the comment of peanut gallery. I think I know I used to watch the Howdy Doody Show. I was in the peanut gallery so I understand exactly what it is. Thank you.

Alderwoman Timmons

Thank you, Madam President. I just want to comment on the statement one of the speakers spoke about the at-large not attending these ward functions. However, I just got in from another country, I wasn't here so and I'm still tired from that so I'm just want to say had I here on what day was it, October 1st? Which is I wasn't I probably would have attend Ward 5 meeting.

Alderman Moran

Thank you, echo that I was working on the West Coast so I was unable to be physically here in Nashua. While I was on the West Coast though, I went into my office and I guess this was a convenient thing and Megan Caron and Director Cummings have this. But the City of Vancouver, Washington very similar in demographics to us but maybe 55% larger in population, sends out a quarterly newsletter to its business and residents that includes you can read this, what will the police levy due to taxes of property taxes? And it is a great example of you know, communicating to the residents ahead of time. And also, you know you could even include you know, welcome COO Director Cummings whatever his title is as well. But it's good information sharing that I think would benefit in the future. Obviously, their population is larger. It's much more costly. I am seeing their Mayor next week and I'm going to ask about the cost of this. I have reached out to their City Manager as well because I think it's some information that could come back and Director Cummings and Megan



can have some information about how it's put together, how it's processed and might be a benefit to the City later on. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

First this Thursday, October 10 at 3:15 at McCarthy Middle School we'll be holding the ribbon cutting and given this Board's connection to former President McCarthy, I just want to make sure that that is being relayed to any members who might have been traveling. That's this Thursday at 3:15.

Second, it is not in our rules that there would be no fact checking so I feel like we should at least point out that in the Mayor's comments it was pointed out that in the State agreement and the way that we manage City properties versus school properties, the School Board does have to engage the alderman in order to do projects or make substantive repairs. Now the City might be sweeping it or cleaning it or raking it. That doesn't necessarily mean we can rebuild it and this is obvious because the Board of Education did ask the Joint Special School Building Committee to do it and we are working on it as Alderman Dowd pointed out, but they asked us to do it after our fiscal year. So that's why it's also frustrating that we have to entertain the spending cap override to do something that could have been anticipated and discussed when I can speak for myself, I definitely asked multiple times are there other things on your radar? Because I don't know everything the School Board needs to repair and I watched all of their budget discussion meetings. I don't think they mentioned this, I could be wrong but we brought it to Joint Special School building. I know Alderman Dowd is doing everything he can to get it fixed as soon as possible. I am also hopeful that it will be fixed before the fall is up but this should have been done much earlier.

Additionally, it was also brought up as a suggestion that maybe we should take the money from the Riverwalk Project and use it to fix the parking garage. Sorry, but French Park is a little bit in disarray right now so I don't think we should stop that in the middle. But it's also at the beginning of this meeting we had a nice little presentation, which clearly showed that the TIF district that we're drawing the money for the Riverfront doesn't include the Elm Street Parking Garage. Another point of stress that I've had to manage as Alderman in the downtown area is that parking revenue is going up. There have been plenty of people who are convinced that that will drive away all business downtown and that is just another money grab from the Mayor who's not even the highest paid staff member in the City. It's not all about greed. We have known that the buildings need investment, we have known that the parking garages are struggling. The Parking Department has been telling us this and we are trying to in a fiscally responsible manner figure out how to address those things strategically. If push comes to shove and we do see a need for immediate repair or preventative action then I would support it because I do understand that not only do the businesses need the parking downtown but residents need it too. And particularly given that they can't just move somewhere else given with no other places to move to it is important to make sure that they have amenities.

So there is a lot of finger pointing done today and it's frustrating to be accused of finger pointing by any people who came here specifically to finger point whenever an attempt is made to correct the record. I think ultimately the record does stand for itself. Our City does operate and perform at a very high level and people love living here because of the culture, because of the investments, because of the community and I think we're all committed to doing that. But I think it's also important to remember that there are more sides and that just because you're the loudest person in the room doesn't necessarily mean that you're right.

I also want to make some brief public comments regarding the sentiments expressed by those supporting the Free Palestine Movement. The Board, I brought to the Board the resolution that I had myself worked on and the Board opted to send it back to committee which I appreciated in the spirit of not just indefinitely postponing it without conversation but that gesture loses its impact if people don't show up for the discussion. So we are bringing it up again on October 21 at the Human Affairs Committee meeting. I would like any members of the Board with any ideas of how to proceed, whether they are complete agreement, complete disagreement or otherwise to at least engage in the dialog so that we can come up with something as a result. If it is the will of the Board to completely table this, it will be over my objections but at least there will be a conversation. At least there will be an outcome that we all participate in. So please participate in the Human Affairs Committee or at the very least forward ideas you have for amendments or specific talking points so that we don't go back to the full Board with nothing new. Thank you.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you very much. I wanted to say thank you to the Nashuans that came out tonight to speak on public comment. Regardless of the issue, I think it was good to see some faces that we normally see but also some new faces. And I can say that common theme is frustration that's running through the residents out there. In terms of you know the Stellos issue, one thing that struck me as I watched a lot of the emails go around and press releases and whatnot you know the word leadership came to mind. And I mean we're all leaders of this City in this room and I think that to the average



layperson, there's ninety some odd thousand people that live in the City. To most of them, they don't understand the intricacies and org charts and who reports to what. I think that you know as City leaders, I think we all have to take a little piece of that, I had a coach used to tell me you got to eat some of your blame pie. And I think we all need to take a bite of it and own up to it. And you know I certainly in Ward 9 certainly do that. And to the folks that I had sidebar conversations with as far as you know who's responsible or whatever. I basically said look I'm a City leader I own some of it, so I would encourage everybody to do the same. Thanks.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, Madam President. So I appreciate everybody that came out this evening too. I was a bit frustrated. I agree with what the previous speaker said that there is a lot of frustration. But for me some of it is seeing the what I would describe as misinformation, rumors, thoughts, things like that. They should have done this. You should have done that. He should have done that. Some people describe it as finger pointing. The point is that you know, this is a big City. It's got a lot of moving parts and the folks who sit on these Boards, on this Board, on the Board of Education, the other elected Boards, all of our Commissions. We do it because we love Nashua. We want to see Nashua be its best. Nobody wakes up and says I want to close Stellos Stadium today, so how can we do that? How can we make the kids suffer? No one says, I want them to play on a terrible field and get hurt and have all these injuries. There's not a single person in the City that says that. Now what might happen on the other hand and this is you know again, to what the previous speaker said is take some ownership of things is that things sometimes get overlooked for whatever reason, messages don't get heard. And I think we need to do a better job communicating with one another between the Boards. I think we need to do a better job listening to what constituents bring to us. I also think that we need to do a better job with quite frankly our communications with our between the City and those that are asking for information from us.

So you know I think, I sat here listening to everything, and I was frustrated because while I don't think that it's appropriate to pontificate on what could have been or what should have been, I do think that it is appropriate to hear the frustration in the citizens of the City and take that as a take away to say we have to do things a little bit better. We have to do things a little bit differently. So my hope is that again, that there is more communication between the City Departments, between the Boards so that things like this don't happen in the future because nobody here intends for that. Nobody wants that to happen. So again those are my comments this evening. I had other things to say, but quite frankly they really don't matter in comparison to that. So thank you.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you, Madam President. Just to echo the sentiments of the previous two speakers, frustration is certainly the sentiment that's going around and how could any of us in this room not be sympathetic to that. I mean just take our day to day lives and pile it on. And it's unfortunate but it's perfectly fair to say that the residents of Nashua have had it piled on in recent weeks for the re-evaluations surprise, Stellos Stadium, \$45 million that needs to be exempt from the spending cap. It's a lot to take in if you're a resident who's paying attention to your tax bill, maybe you're living paycheck to paycheck, it's a lot to think about. And so I definitely agree that the onus is on us to own that a little bit and to listen to our constituents with an open ear and an understanding ear because they're going to be angry and they're going to be frustrated and may not be pleasant to hear on the phone but that's our job and we really need to take that.

I do want to share my appreciation for a couple of constituents really in the past week or so. I know we all received an email. There was a speaker who spoke tonight and again those same sentiments of frustration but with some constructive input. I have the fortune of serving on Personnel and Administrative Affairs Committee where we have the opportunity to interview everyday citizens who want to help out a little bit more in their City. And to see now even people who aren't signing up for those commissions or those boards be offering in earnest, constructive input for how we can make this better how we could alleviate the situation. That can't go unappreciated especially as we all sit in this circle looking for answers to all these problems.

On another topic I do want to, I didn't want to belabor the point when it came up but I do want to express my appreciation that this board passed O-24-033 tonight. Amid all the frustration one of the constant, constant concerns that I'm hearing from folks in Ward 7 and in Crown Hill in particular is speeding. I don't know what's changed in the last few years but the roadways become raceways, especially in Crown Hill and I'm sure in most of your neighborhoods as well. For us it's Burke Street and it's Allds Street which I recently learned is a 25 you wouldn't guess it by the signs because I think there's three but um and in particular, Arlington Street where we have two community schools. And I know that this ordinance is going to have some notable impact on Arlington Street as it passes in front of the Adult Learning Center and Dr. Crisp Elementary so I'm very excited to see that coming forward tonight. .

And finally, last night at Personnel we had the opportunity to hear from Emily Martuscello whose last name I hope I didn't just butcher regarding a update to the Nashua Hazard Mitigation Plan and what timeliness, if any of us are paying



attention to the news with what's bearing down on Florida right now. My parents happened to be right in the path of it and just had their evacuation plan thrown on its head so hopefully everything's going to go all right for them. But we had, we were talking at work today and you know, talking about folks that we know down in that area and looking through some of that document and it's a big document. Miss Martuscello was keen to remind us that it's 300-400 pages a couple times last night but take some time to look through it because there's a lot of stuff you might not think about. But as we said at work and really I think this kind of ties into everything I've been saying here whether it's natural disasters, man-made disasters, Stellos Stadium, parking garages. You never have a problem until you have a problem. And we got some problems right now and we're going to have to take them on head first. So I just I want to express my appreciation for that document, share my hopes that everybody that's in the line of that storm gets through it alright and that's everything I have this evening. Thank you.

Alderman Jette

Thank you. So hearing Alderman Sennott reminded me of the meeting last night. And you know something that I thought he was going to say you know given you know the news about what's going on in Florida, and you know the hurricane that preceded it that raised havoc in Florida and Georgia and South Carolina and North Carolina. You know something that you know she said, call me Emily so I'm going to just call her Emily to avoid having to pronounce the last name. But she reminded us that that flood insurance is available to everybody that lives in Nashua. Nashua is an approved City with FEMA for the National Flood Insurance Program and that you know contrary to what a lot of people think, flood insurance is available to us all who live in Nashua. I think a lot of people are confused because flood insurance is often required by mortgage companies if you live in a flood plain but not if you're not in a flood plain but it's available to all of us. So I know, can't remember if it was last year or the year before there was, I think it was last year we had a in Nashua here we had a series of severe rainstorms that raised havoc and a lot of the city and specifically in Ward 5 along Main Dunstable Road. You know, the brook that runs parallel to Main Dunstable, a lot of those people you know that that little brook that just kind of trickles most of the time you know, raised several feet. You know people who lived whose backyards are above the brook you know, had water coming into their basements. And flooding their basements and destroying or damaging beyond repair their furnaces, their water heaters. And when I visited them most of them said no, we don't have flood insurance and we called our insurance company and they say we're not covered for flood damage. And so you know your homeowners insurance does not cover you but you can buy National Flood Insurance and so I encourage people to you know, to consider that and Emily pointed out that it's a national program. The premium is the same no matter who you buy it from. So it's something that you know people who are in danger feel that they're susceptible to flood damage. You know really you ought to have, ought to look into it and consider getting flood insurance.

The other thing I wanted to talk about is you know I was kind of expecting the resolution regarding the exemptions, exempting the bonded debt principal and interest from the spending cap. Kind of expected that was going to be sent back to the Infrastructure excuse me, the Budget Review Committee for full discussion but I guess we're going to look at it Thursday night I hope. You know that's a special meeting. It's an unusual time. I hope all of us can make it but I hope that the people from the administration, I'm thinking of the Mayor, I'm thinking of Mr. Cummings, I'm thinking of you know the CFO, the City Treasurer, Alderman excuse me I apologize, that was a slip of the tongue. Attorney Bolton can be there because I know I have a lot of questions about the you know the charter provisions. You know I see that not only is there the opportunity provided in the charter to exempt principle and interest from the bonds, there's also the opportunity to exempt capital expenditures. There are additional sections that talk about how you know money can be you know from the surplus, can be used for you know special emergency needs and so there are a lot of the spending cap you know as it was written by the author of the spending cap does provide for many opportunities for us to exempt various expenses from the spending cap.

And so I'm wondering how all of that works and what the and I know that's all in the charter. And I know that there were over the years various ordinances were passed modifying or interpreting the charter provisions. And you know we're being told that that all went out the window with this move by the legislature. So I'd like to get an explanation about how all of that works. So I'm hoping all of those people can be present to answer our questions and hope we all can be there. If we can't be there then maybe it ought to be tabled again for the Budget Review Committee to be able to explore this. Because people are very I'm getting a lot of calls about this, people are very concerned about it and I want to be able to understand it completely and explain to people you know no matter how it comes out exactly what we're doing and why and how, whether or not it's going to affect their tax bill. We've already passed the budget. I think it's close to a 4% increase in the budget so taxes are going to go up by around that amount.

But I don't think a lot of people understand that the recent reassessment does not increase the taxes it just you know it increases their assessment. But as the letter indicated you know don't take your new assessment and multiply it by the current tax rate and think that's what your taxes are going to be. The tax rate is probably going to go down substantially because of the reassessment and we won't know what that is until later this month I think or maybe next month.

And also on that issue, you know people talked about how you know I think we've all acknowledged that the letter that came from Vision was a surprise. I mean we knew that there was a reassessment being done a statistical reassessment and we authorized it. We knew about it a lot of people that are criticizing us now were asking us to do a more frequent reassessment because they were hoping that the change in the burden between the residential and the commercial that occurred at the last reassessment reflected a downturn in the commercial real estate market and they were hoping that it would have rebounded so that there would be an evening out of things but it doesn't look like that's happened yet.

You know the woman who talked about her you know, people throwing out that thing. When I you know the envelope, it was kind of a nondescript envelope. It didn't have you know the normal official City Seal and you know it's coming from the Tax Collector or the Assessing Department or any other department of the City. It was kind of a nondescript thing and I almost threw it out myself because I thought you know Vision Government Solutions, what the hell is that? You know I didn't remember what their full name was. So I understand you know how it's unfortunate that we didn't you know Vision didn't tell us, at least I didn't know that they had finished their work and that they were about to send these letters out so that we would have known they were coming and given people some warning.

So when the woman who spoke tonight said talking about holding off on this reassessment. I don't know you know if I always hate to spring these questions on the City Attorney but I don't know if he knows the answer. But if he doesn't he could get back to us on it. Is it even possible for us to hold this this reassessment till next year?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Well, if we were in August the answer would be yes, it's certainly impossible and there's nothing illegal about attempting to do that. There is a practical problem in that the regulations of the Department of Revenue Administration requires the assessing officials in every municipality to by October 1st provide certain information to the DRA. That typically refer to and provided on a form called the MS1 form. Now you can get an extension and I believe the City of Nashua has gotten extent an extension until October 15. So we're a week away from that and it's from that information which includes the total tax base, the total of all the assessments in the City and the City budget and the estimated amount of other revenue, motor vehicles and parking fines and parking revenue and all other revenues.

So all of those numbers go into the DRA calculation of the amount of money necessary to be raised through taxes which is also affected by our share of the county budget. So that information they get from the county. They put all this information together, determine the amount of money necessary to be raised by taxes, they look at the total tax base and it's an arithmetic computation. You come out with what the tax rate has to be on that base in order to achieve that dollar amount. I'm oversimplifying it because there are elderly exemptions and disabled exemptions and veterans credits and all kinds of other things that go into the mix, and exemptions for solar panels and windmills and a lot of other things.

The upshot is I don't know if the Assessing Department having put all of that together, is prepared to say well, forget that we're going to use last year's numbers. And I don't know if the DRA would find that acceptable or not because if they don't find it acceptable, they'll just decide the tax rate themselves based upon their own best guess. And they don't guess low, they guess high. So I think there are practical difficulties in trying to do that at this point in time.

Alderman Jette

Okay, thank you.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam President. Alderman Jette took some of my thunder. He's also going to be buying us dinner on Thursday, so please make sure you're there.

So just a couple of things real quick. You know, I thank Alderman Lopez because he's absolutely right. Facts are important and it's too twofold, right? I mean people can come up and they can say whatever they want to us and some of it's going to be true, some of it may not be true, some of it may be completely untrue. So you know, it's our duty as a City to make sure we have the facts to be able to go back and not to you know, shame anybody that maybe not having a fact but just make sure our constituents know what's right and what's not.

You know someone earlier that was speaking said her tax rate went up 23%. Well that's impossible, the rate hasn't come out, so nobody knows what that is. She was probably just saying doing what Attorney Bolton just said and Alderman Jette just said and just taking the last year's tax rate and multiplying it. Well, that's not that's not true. But if you go out there in the world and start saying my tax rate went up 23% everyone's running around going oh my God, our taxes went up 23%. That's not the case and we don't know it yet. So you know, facts are important, trying to and sometimes maybe we don't



have the facts right. And so it's important on our end to make sure that the City and people that are saying stuff in here you know and we can make mistakes so I don't want to say we've made mistakes, I've said the wrong thing. We're not lying but sometimes we may just have the wrong information. You know we were told in July that, or we weren't told but the City was told in July that the Stellos field was playable and not a risk that we had to close it down right then and there. If I would have known we had to close it down right then and there, I certainly would have voted to or if it came before us to do something about that. My son goes to games there, all my kids have gone to games there. You know it's important in my household too.

Just want to say Happy New Year to the Jewish Community in Nashua, Shana Tova.

So we talked about blame and we want you know we're leaders so we got to accept the blame. So if people are asking for heads to roll should we all just resign now because that's what they want. They want someone's head to roll for the Stellos stuff. I assume they also want some head to roll for the buses. That doesn't come up at all. Anybody has kids in the City knows that the busing has been screwed up since start of school and it's not fully fixed. I know that because it's hit me at home as well. But where's the where's the accountability for that? I don't see any of us going well I'm a leader in the City so it's my fault, fire me. The accountability comes when they vote us out. That's when they the accountability comes. But people who are hired by the City, Superintendent Andrade for instance, again no transparency on the busing, no accountability. Even Stellos I asked them last week, the end of the week I think it was Friday or maybe it was Monday, I don't know. But I think was Friday afternoon I sent an email to him and President Bishop who's here was on the email as well so she knows that I sent it so I'm not lying. And he said I'd get back to you next week. I have and I sent him questions that a constituent sent not potentially my questions although they would have been some of mine as well. Trying to figure out what happened because again people were asking for accountability. And you know he said I got a meeting on Tuesday, I'll get you some information Tuesday. But I never looked at my email after 5:00 o'clock. So I don't know if he sent anything or not, I'm doubting that he did. So people do have to take accountability in the City for things that go wrong. And he's had a lot of things go wrong since his since he's been in charge. And again, I'm not looking for his head to roll but people are out there wanting heads to roll for all the mistakes that are made. So I mean I think we're gonna get that fixed. So you know I appreciate the work we're doing to make sure Stellos gets fixed. I hope the busing gets fixed.

And just lastly, Happy Birthday to my son where I should be or I should have been celebrating tonight instead, I'm here with all of you people and all the people out there in the audience. So thank you.

Alderman Jette

You're welcome.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. First I wanted to start with wishing everybody in Florida to be that's in the path of Milton to be safe. I know Alderwoman Timmons has family there as does Alderman Senate and I know there are others here who have it. I have family members that are there too and they're on my mind quite a bit. And to Alderman Thibeault's comment about the busing I too send emails and kind of waiting to hear back a little bit on that issue as well.

And I do appreciate everybody who came and spoke and the person who spoke with the idea about trying to hold off is a constituent of mine. She's very thoughtful, and I appreciate everything that she she's had to say. She's very well spoken and so on. And I do appreciate what the City can and cannot do. I've been fielding questions since the beginning of this and I've been I think, almost daily sending out emails about telling people to talk to Vision and to talk to the Assessing Department and how this whole process kind of worked and when it comes down to the abatements. And yes, their taxes probably will go up and it may or may not be part of the assessment. And you know, I listened to the Board of Assessors meeting. I got the information that Vision sent out you know, depending upon the type of your home whether it was a raised Ranch which is this type of house, what was the average increase on it, 21% which is the house that I live in. And I mean I fed every piece of information I possibly can to my constituents that are listening and want this information and but the thing is that I get from everybody why didn't this come out? We didn't get the information in time? Well, why didn't they know about it before? Why wasn't it put in the newspaper? Because we really don't have a newspaper here in the City. So to Alderman, you know, Moran's comment about you know, that weekly news thing. Well, maybe we could do that, maybe we can't do that, I don't know. But the thing is the City does have a website. The City does put things up there.

The one issue that I have and I'm not again blaming, I find information sometimes by tripping over, to be very honest with you sometimes I find out that there's something happening over on Lock Street the end of Lock Street, that there's a road closure because I happen to be on the Facebook page and I trip over what's happening over at Public Works. We don't



get all the information all the time and yet people look for us. There are press releases. And I can't be all things to everybody, none of us can be. We can't be at all meetings all the time and everything. We do our very best. Do we take responsibility, yes I do. I say I miss this.

Alderman Sullivan and I have worked together and when I see something I let him know. When he sees something he'll let me know. We kind of watch each other's backs you know, when we when we see something we kind of try to do this but we can't be everything. Just like the City is going to miss something of getting it out to everybody because we don't have a newspaper here in the City and it's very, very frustrating trying to get the information out. There are press releases going out constantly. Board of Health puts out a press release but what press is it going out to? Is it going out to Manchester? Is it going out to a newspaper that's only kind of doing a Sunday edition?

I get these things that say press release and I'm like where? Is it just the aldermanic page that gets this or is it the website. And I have a lot of constituents that don't get on computers you know. So even though I send out a newsletter they're not getting it. So I don't want to continue on that, but I do want to make comment about the spending cap and I could be wrong Alderman Jette and I'll leave it for better minds to speak to it. But the problem with the legislation is it kind of did a reset. So a lot of the stuff that had been done and supposedly fixed some of the things, I think it hit the reset and kind of brought everything to you just can't go over this and all the things that we had kind of exempted went by the wayside. That was kind of the impression I was given in the State House.

So that's kind of why we had this panic when we were up there and saying let's do some amendments and so on. And no one would accept those. So we were trying to fix it and they wouldn't. And so just to my and maybe we'll learn more on Thursday and I'm willing to hear them as well.

And I want to make a comment about what happened one year ago on 10/7. What happened when those people were at that concert. If that had not happened then maybe what we're hearing about and what we're living about wouldn't be happening today. So to say that all these innocent people are dying and they are, maybe what had happened on 10/7 to start all this. And I have friends of friends that died that day so I'll stop there.

Alderman Dowd

Yes, in a much shorter vein on the Fifth Annual June Caron Senior Outing is November 3rd at 12 noon at the Courtyard by Marriott. It's quite an event. I know that Alderman Wilshire and Alderman O'Brien and others were there last year and we get to hand out the prizes to the seniors and it's quite an event. It's a good time and if you're over 60 it's free. So that's all.

President Wilshire

Get your tickets early. All set Alderwoman Kelly? Okay.

Alderman Lopez

President Wilshire should we accept the paper that was handed out at the meeting?

President Wilshire

Sure.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO ACCEPT THE HISTORY OF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BY FRED TEEBOOM MOTION CARRIED

Alderman Wilshire

So to all of you I guess. The reason I decided to not send R-24-089 back to the Budget Review Committee is because we only had five people show up at the last meeting. This is an important, important piece of legislation. This is going to kind of give us a map for where we're going the next year or so and with needs that we didn't expect. I mean we have the Stellos Stadium. We have you know, you've heard it all. I'm not going to reiterate everything we said tonight but we only had five people show up at the Budget Review Committee. This is an important piece of information that we all need to know about, that we all need to vote on, that we all need to be well informed about. Which is why I thought it deserved its own special meeting so that's why I did it. I know you may not all agree with me, but that's why I did it.



Committee announcements:

Alderman Moran

Tomorrow 7:00 pm Joint PEDC and Human Affairs to discuss unhoused and issues in the City and what we can do to resolve them as a governing body. Sorry is it too late to speak the English language.

Alderman Lopez

There's a regular meeting of the Human Affairs Committee on October 21 at 7:00 pm here.

Alderman Wilshire

I just want to announce that I'd like to see each and every one of us here this Thursday night at 7:00 pm. We have a non-public and then we have this R-24-089 that we really need to hammer out. So please show up. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN THAT THE OCTOBER 8, 2024 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE
ADJOURNED
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

Attest: Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

Client#: 1664199

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DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, may be attached if more space is required) RE: Gateways Beard Street Demolition Grant - DEMO22-168

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