

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/INFORMATION SYSTEMS

August 16, 2016

5:30 p.m.

Chairman Sapienza called the meeting to order.

The Clerk calls the roll.

Present: Aldermen Sapienza, Shea, Levasseur, Cavanaugh, Pappas

Messrs.: Alderman Long, B. Gashlin

Chairman Sapienza stated unless there are any objections, I would like to combine Items 3-13. They are all banner applications and we can take one vote.

3. [Banner application from the American Red Cross for a banner to be hung on Elm Street from August 22, 2016 through September 1, 2016.](#)
4. [Banner application from the Manchester Police Athletic League for a banner to be hung on Elm Street from September 19, 2016 through October 02, 2016.](#)
5. [Banner application from Easter Seals for a banner to be hung on Elm Street from October 3, 2016 through October 16, 2016.](#)
6. [Banner application from the Palace Theatre for a banner to be hung on Elm Street from October 17, 2016 through November 14, 2016.](#)
7. [Banner application from the Palace Theatre for a banner to be hung on Elm Street from November 25, 2016 through December 23, 2016.](#)

8. [Banner application from the Palace Theatre for a banner to be hung on Elm Street from January 13, 2017 through February 13, 2017.](#)
9. [Banner application from the Palace Theatre for a banner to be hung on Elm Street from February 27, 2017 through March 27, 2017.](#)
10. [Banner application from the Palace Theatre for a banner to be hung on Elm Street from April 10, 2017 through May 8, 2017.](#)
11. [Banner application from the Palace Theatre for a banner to be hung on Elm Street from May 26, 2017 through June 26, 2017.](#)
12. [Banner application from the Animal Shelter for a banner to be hung on Elm Street from July 10, 2017 through July 24, 2017.](#)
13. [Banner application from Hope for New Hampshire Recovery for banners to be hung on Hanover Street and Kelley Street from September 5, 2016 through September 17, 2016.](#)

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Cavanaugh, it was voted to approve all of the banner applications.

14. [Communication from Alderman Long regarding the creation of a unique Manchester flag.](#)

Alderman Long stated I got a call probably two months ago from a constituent who asked me if I would consider looking at changing the Manchester flag. I agreed to meet with him. I hung up on him and said to myself that is not going to happen. Then I met with him and it just made perfect sense to me. There are a couple of misnomers that I wanted to get out there. We are not looking to...currently our flag has the Manchester seal on it.

We are not looking to get rid of the seal. We are going to have the seal. The Manchester seal is the Manchester seal. The other misnomer was that the example he drew up in a couple of minutes just to give an example of what could be done is not what we are looking to approve. That is just an example. My hope is that we can get the City of Manchester entities like the Art Institute and the Chamber and the Historic Society or our schools to submit plans for a flag. I actually just met a gentleman who has a couple of flags that he had thought of six months ago or so prior to this thinking it would be nice to have a Manchester flag that was identifiable. Right now if somebody comes in from Merrimack, NH they don't know that is the City flag. We can't make out what is on our flag. There has been an effort throughout the country to redesign municipal flags so they are identifiable. I go to Chicago they have an identifiable simple flag. I watch a news program and I see that flag I know we are talking about Chicago because it is a simple flag. It is not detailed. My hope is that this committee agrees to move forward with this. We have plenty of creative people in Manchester. I think we can get some good submissions. I think Manchester is at a point now...our flag was incorporated in 1846 and Manchester has changed since then. We are a different city. I think it is the right time for us to consider this change and again Manchester's seal with not change. What we will have though is a flag that is more simplified and identifiable to Manchester, NH.

Alderman Shea asked how many places display the Manchester flag?

Alderman Long answered I went to a few places. Some of the City of Manchester's properties aren't displaying the flag. I know the Mass School of Pharmacy has our flag and there are a few private entities that display our flag. I think if nothing else we may want to get...I don't know why all of Manchester's properties including our schools don't display our flag. I would think that we should unless the budget was cut and we didn't buy flags anymore. I think we should display our flag.

Alderman Shea asked would the flag be on the same pole as the US flag or the state flag or would it have a separate pole? How does that work?

Alderman Long replied I believe the US, state and City flag are on different poles and their heights are different also.

Alderman Pappas asked Matt how much would it cost to redo all of the City materials that have the flag on it? If we are going to do this I think we would have to change all the logos too if we are talking about making it recognizable which I don't necessarily agree with. What would be the cost?

Matthew Normand, City Clerk, replied I couldn't even venture a guess. I know that the Manchester flags that we purchase for City Hall are \$130 a piece.

Alderman Pappas stated I don't see this as a need or even an issue. Besides Chicago I can't name another city where I can recognize their flag nor do I really care. It is the American flag and state flag I care about. I would be shocked if 90% of the people in Manchester know we even have a City flag. I don't think it is a big issue. I think the flag is fine but I am also willing to hear more from Alderman Long and this gentleman from his ward. For right now, I just don't see the need for it.

Alderman Levasseur asked we use the City seal as the stamp on our envelopes and letterhead correct?

City Clerk Normand answered yes the City seal is part of the City's approved stationery.

Alderman Levasseur stated well that wouldn't have to change if we got a new flag. That wouldn't have anything to do with it.

Alderman Long stated no. To be clear, the logo is going to remain the same. Our letterhead and envelopes and the seal behind the Mayor's desk will remain the same. That is our seal. In 1846 we just happened to put our seal on our flag.

Alderman Levasseur stated that is interesting. When I visited London 15 years ago it was amazing to me the history of London itself and Great Britain and how far back their flags went for each of their towns as I traveled around. Each town had its own identity. I don't know the history of our flag and when it was decided that was the actual design.

Alderman Long answered 1846.

Alderman Levasseur stated it is pretty impressive that those are the three symbols that they put on for our City which actually still seem to be relevant today. At the same time, it would be neat to unleash some of the creativeness of the City and its students and the people who would like to get involved and have a big contest and see if there was something that could change people's minds to see if we should come into the 21st century with a different look. I like the one we have now but that doesn't mean that somebody couldn't impress upon this board or this City something neater. I don't really want a simplified one. I don't want just a colored flag. I like the symbols that are on there but I don't know if another symbol could be added to what we have or they could be upgraded or something. It would be interesting to see the creativity of the many creative people that are in this City. When you go downstairs and you look at all of the art on the walls, I am blown away by the talent that we have. Our City employees even do a contest. I don't think I would vote to change the flag at this point but I wouldn't mind having a big contest for it and looking at what they bring forward. I don't know if that is what you had in mind.

Alderman Long stated that is exactly what my hope was. As Alderman Pappas pointed out, it is not a big deal but I want it to be a big deal. I want the City to get excited about the flag and to be proud to display their flag. I think if we have this creative effort...the bottom line is the City would own all the rights if we were to implement one of them. I don't see the harm in letting the creative juices flow and see what we end up with. It is not that I don't like the Manchester flag. I know the flag because I am an alderman but prior to being an alderman I didn't know the flag or our seal. It just wasn't of interest to me. To get the creativeness going in the City and to get people excited about these submissions we will be getting from the Institute of Art and maybe our students in the schools and whomever...we have a bunch of art groups that could do us justice with a new flag. Once again I don't think it is an insult and I don't think we are getting rid of our flag because our flag is our seal and we have our seal. Let's see if we can find a creative flag that we like. Manchester has changed from the pictures depicted.

Alderman Levasseur stated I think that what you are bringing out right now and what we are talking about right now is actually going to bring more attention to the fact that we do have a flag. People love old things. They love old buildings and history and the things that we do. They love the brick buildings downtown. They love the culture of our City. I think if anything you are bringing more attention now to what we have and people may, if this experiment goes forward and we have a contest of some sort, realize how good our flag is now. I don't see a negative in any of this.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I saw this on the agenda and I didn't expect to speak but after review it and thinking about it I come from the historical perspective. I remember when Alderman Shea and I both got elected in 1996. It was the 150th celebration of the birth of our City. It was the sesquicentennial for the City of Manchester. It was 1846-1996. The flag that is behind my seat, I have sat in front of for three decades so I know that we have a City flag. At the sesquicentennial a lot of dignitaries were given those

flags. Former mayors showed up and commissioners of the City. The City Clerk has always made sure that we had our flag and it has been a historical artifact. I am a history buff and I supported all of the renovations of this building because this is like a living museum. We use this chamber all the time. In thinking of this, we have the falls represented and the Amoskeag locomotive works and labor. It says "labor vincet" and that is a French Canadian term to signify that the French Canadian wave of labor was here. Today you want to change it and I understand that. I could see that you would endorse a plan to have all the students and the artists make up a new West High flag or Central High flag or Memorial flag but I think for the sense of history we owe it to our forefathers to keep our flag and our seal. It is all one. Right now out in front of City Hall there is the state flag and on the same pole below it is the City flag. In the chamber, it is always right behind me. I actually had awarded to me from the City Clerk the miniature version of the City flag and the US flag. To me it is a historical thing and something I respect and I hold dear. I would say if you want to do something fun and interesting let's make up some school flags. Let's have a Blue Knights flag and a Central High Little Green flag. That is my perspective.

Alderman Shea stated one of the things is if in the event that we want to conduct a contest of some sort somebody has to do it. In other words, and I am kind of searching my mind as to which department might be more appropriate and it kind of centers on the Library. I am wondering if the Library could coordinate what you are saying with other people like the Historic Society and so forth. I hate to put burdens on people but the Library is perhaps the only department that would have any kind of...by its very nature it is cultural and obviously it has resources there and so forth. If in the event we decide to approve a sampling of the seal as well as the flag then I think the Library and the Library Commission would be a good place to do it. That is in your ward too Alderman Long. I am just throwing that out. We wouldn't ask Police, Fire or Highway or so forth.

Alderman Long stated we could just ask a group of citizens to sit on a commission to oversee this. It needs a social media blast.

Alderman Pappas stated I am not going to berate this issue. I do agree with Alderman Hirschmann on the history value of the flag that we have. I do like the fact of having the community come together for an issue or contest but I don't believe the flag is the right item to do it for. I appreciate you fighting for this and I appreciate your constituent who is probably here for bringing this forward and thinking outside the box. It is just that it is a history thing to me too.

Alderman Cavanaugh stated I agree. I think it is a history thing too but I think it is a great civic lesson opportunity to give to the grammar school or high school or whatever students we want in the City along with the NHIA students. If they come back and we still want that flag then we keep that flag but it is a civics lesson for the young and old of the City to see what the City started from and what we did. They could decide that it is perfect so we should keep it the same or we could change it. I think it is a great chance to get some community involvement and pride.

Alderman Levasseur asked what would be the procedure to go forward? I don't know what you are requesting. Do you want us to say go ahead City of Manchester and present all your drawings by January 1 and then this board will vote whether to keep the flag that we have or get a new one. I want to be Simon Cowell and Mr. Pappas can be Howie Mandell and we can have Manchester's Got Talent and we can have some fun with this.

Chairman Sapienza asked do you want us to table it and you can come back with a plan?

Alderman Long answered I would like to know if the committee is looking to do this. If they are not then I won't go any further.

Chairman Sapienza stated I did the same thing you did. I saw let's change the flag and I said we are not doing that and then I read the material and the newspaper today and I said maybe it is a good idea. I am more than willing to explore it.

Alderman Cavanaugh moved to put a committee together to develop ideas for a new City flag. Alderman Levasseur duly seconded the motion. Chairman Sapienza called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

15. [Request on behalf of US Cellular to extend its lease to operate telecommunications antennas and equipment at 220 Hackett Hill Road.](#)

Bob Gashlin, US Cellular, stated US Cellular has been on the water tank at 220 Hackett Hill Road since 1997 and that lease is going to expire in two years I believe and we simply want to extend the lease for another 15 years. We have an amendment that has been reviewed by counsel and agreed upon. We are simply asking to extend the lease another 15 years.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Cavanaugh, it was voted to approve.

Mr. Gashlin asked who would be the signatory for this document.

Chairman Sapienza answered the City Clerk can help you with that.

City Clerk Normand stated typically the mayor would sign it. Once the board approves the committee report on September 20 we will forward it to the mayor for signature. You can contact the Clerk's Office after September 20 and we will get that taken care of for you.

Chairman Sapienza stated staff did a good job on this one and if any other cell leases come up they can do the same thing again.

16. [Request on behalf of Sprint to extend its lease at 230 Hackett Hill Road.](#)

On motion of Alderman Levasseur, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to receive and file.

TABLED ITEMS

17. [Discussion regarding taxi rates and regulations.](#)
[\(Note: Tabled 5/17/16; Referred by the BMA 5/03/16.\)](#)

This item remained on the table.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Cavanaugh, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.



Clerk of Committee