

From: **Derek Thibeault** <thibeaultfornashua@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, May 30, 2025 at 2:23 PM

Subject: Ward 8 Newsletter Week of 2025

To:

Good afternoon,

I hope everyone had a good week. It was Budget week at City Hall. We voted and passed the city budget – more on that in a minute.

I walked in the Memorial Day Parade, it was a beautiful day, great crowds, and wonderful people.

This newsletter was mentioned in the Union Leader this week. I thank the constituent who sent it to Laurie Ortolano. No press is bad press, is what they say. Of course, Miss Ortolano put what I said in her own words and left a big piece out, misrepresenting what I said. She is acting as a victim, saying we do not want her to participate, but guess what, she was at our meeting last night and spoke every chance she got. Her article got posted on the SCOOP on Facebook, and then people decided to take her word for it. I think one person called me vile, which I found interesting, I guess. What is vile? Suing the city over 20 times and losing most of these. She begged the city to fill the ethics committee – the mayor and the board did just that, with good, respected citizens, two of them from our ward. They didn't agree with her ethics complaints against Alderman Moran and the Mayor, and now she believes they are compromised. She blames us for spending too much money, but no citizen has cost the city more money. I will respond to her soon. She should be more responsible and accountable for her actions.

Budget

Like I said, we passed the budget. Miss Ortolano said just last night we should have cut jobs to lower the budget. I did not want to do that. As much as it's a people thing. Those people are the services provided. If you remove their jobs, you weaken city services. The biggest complaint City Hall gets is not about taxes but about something not being done or something needing to be done. I was the only one who got any amendments passed to reduce any line items, \$177,000 out of legal services. Taking a gamble, we will have fewer lawsuits against us this year. I voted yes on the budget. We had 3 no votes. I called them out. Some people thought I asked them to explain their vote. I did not. I wanted to know what it would have taken to vote yes. I asked Alderman Sullivan specifically if his \$2.5 million education cut had passed, would he have voted yes. I told him he did not have to tell me in the chamber, but I was curious. I respect a no vote but what is the alternative? I didn't hear much. Alderman Sullivan took offense. But it wasn't directed at him because he usually tries to cut. After the meeting, I discussed this with all 3 of them, and I think there was a better understanding from me of what their viewpoint was. Unfortunately, the way the meetings are structured, that kind of conversation cannot happen in that format. The point I had been trying to make is that it's easy to say no and that the budget is too high. What's an alternative cause? I wasn't seeing another route, especially with some of the items that we were forced to deal with this year.

This week we had some bonds in front of us, and next week too. These are for improvements that are needed. Some were surprised at how much the fire department needs. Not me, I have known from the beginning and have been pushing for them. At some point, we need a new fire station. But first, we have to fix the leaking roofs and the floor at Amherst St Station. We didn't love the way we used surplus and how we had to supplementally appropriate last year, going over the spending cap, so this year we are trying a new approach. Bond the things we need all together in the spring. Do not touch the surplus except for using \$6 million to give tax rate relief. Some didn't seem to like this either. Although most did vote yes on more items than no. Bonding, as Director Cummings pointed out last night, is good for a municipality. Debt service is good. You want this. Projects tend to cost too much money not to have this as an option.

We have one of the highest bond ratings in the country, and even better than the federal government. We have too much infrastructure that has gone without repair way over its life expectancy. I did vote yes for all, but I did ask some questions.

Tax Rate

We will not know this until later in the year, but I will guess that it will be in between \$16 and \$18. Last year was \$15.90. The county budget still has to be worked on. The state reps are going to try to get it lowered, but that is no guarantee. I have put a link to historical tax rates to show that these years will not be out of whack from years past. Property taxes will increase. You can say that for just about any town or city in NH. This doesn't help people who are struggling, but for others, I think we have to look at our budgets and decide what we are going to spend money on this year. And that's the advice to myself. We as a society have gotten away from the basics being important and spending beyond our means. I won't buy something until it's unusable, but some people buy a new car every year. Sometimes we have to save for something or push something off until next year. In 23 years, I have taken 2 family vacations because I am always trying to make sure I have money for the bills and the kids have what they need. This was instilled into me from my grandparents, who had lived through the Depression. This will be an unpopular opinion, it's just mine. We only have one basic tax to pay for services in this state, and it's the property tax. Those services, salaries, benefits, construction costs, materials, vehicles, etc., keep going up in price. I don't like this any more than anyone else. It keeps me up at night.

Here is a little snippet of the link below, you can see how high the tax rate was. It goes back much further if you go into the link. It's very interesting.

Tax Rate: <https://www.nashuanh.gov/DocumentCenter/View/28727/LIST-OF-TAX-YEAR-RATIO-AND-TAX-RATE-FROM-1990>

Highlights of Past Week's Meetings

Zoning Board of Adjustment: <https://nashuanh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3355/media>

Board of Aldermen: <https://nashuanh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3260/media>

- R-25-143, Amended RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NASHUA GENERAL, ENTERPRISE, SPECIAL REVENUE AND GRANT FUNDS
- R-25-160 APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT FOR A DISCONTINUED PORTION OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARKWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY AND THE EXECUTION OF AN INITIAL LEASE THEREOF (REDEVELOPMENT OF MOHAWK TANNERY)
- R-25-165 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A RADIO COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NASHUA AND THE TOWN OF MERRIMACK
- R-25-167 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NASHUA TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH VAXCARE TO ADMINISTER VACCINES AND RECEIVE AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE

Committee on Infrastructure: <https://nashuanh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3299/media>

- R-25-156 AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF TAX DEEDED PROPERTY LOCATED AT [115-117 WEST HOLLIS STREET](#)
- R-25-161 AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION R-72-75 LAYING OUT COMMON SEWERS AS IT PERTAINS TO THE REDEVELOPMENT OF LAND IN THE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARKWAY REDEVELOPMENT (VMPR) OVERLAY DISTRICT
- R-25-166 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NASHUA TO JOIN IN THE GRANTING OF AN EASEMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF MAP 62, LOT 100 AND ADJACENT LAND IN CONNECTION WITH THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER MOHAWK TANNERY SITE

- Fire Station Facilities Update

Special Board of Aldermen - Public Hearing - R-25-146, R-25-149, R-25-150, R-25-151, R-25-153:

Budget Review Committee: <https://nashuanh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3926/media>

R-25-146 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FOR HYDROELECTRIC IMPROVEMENTS

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- R-25-149 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$600,000) FOR ROOF REPAIR/REPLACEMENT AT POLICE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
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- R-25-150 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED TWO MILLION DOLLARS (\$2,000,000) FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT ROOF REPAIR/REPLACEMENT AT FIVE LOCATIONS AND HVAC IMPROVEMENTS
- R-25-151 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED FIVE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,500,000) FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION GARAGE DESIGN
- R-25-153 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED THREE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,550,000) FOR FIRE AND STREET DEPARTMENT CAPITAL EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND ("CERF") PURCHASES
- R-25-162 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A PLEDGE AGREEMENT WITH THE NASHUA HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY IN CONNECTION WITH A BOND NOT TO EXCEED A \$3,500,000 PAR AMOUNT TO BE ISSUED BY THE NASHUA HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (REDEVELOPMENT OF MOHAWK TANNERY)
- R-25-164 RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF A SCOREBOARD FOR LAJOIE FIELD DONATED TO THE CITY BY THE GREATER NASHUA LITTLE LEAGUE

Aldermanic Meetings for the Week Ending 6/7/2025

Just a reminder, all meetings can be found on Comcast Channel 16 and 1075 live and YouTube the next day.

Highlights:

- Bonding
- Interviews
- Salary Study
- Recoding

Monday 6/2/2025 7:00 PM	<p>Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee – Aldermanic Chamber, Nashua City Hall</p> <p>Agenda: https://nashuanh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3209/files/agenda/7096</p> <p>Interviews: Dan O'Donnell - Keefe Auditorium Commission Shawn Smith - Keefe Auditorium Commission Dennis Schneider - Keefe Auditorium Commission Oscar Villacis - Cable Television Advisory Board</p>
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	<p>Discussion: Classification and Compensation Study for Unaffiliated Employees</p> <p>Legislation: O-25-056 RULES FOR REMARKS BY ALDERMEN AT MEETINGS O-25-057 AMENDMENTS TO DEATH BENEFITS IN THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS RETIREMENT SYSTEM</p>
<p>Tuesday 6/3/2025 7:00 PM</p>	<p>Special Board of Aldermen - Public Hearing - R-25-144, R-25-145, R-25-147, R-25-152 – Aldermanic Chamber, Nashua City Hall</p> <p>Agenda: https://nashuanh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3924/files/agenda/7080</p> <p>Legislation:</p> <p>R-25-144 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF TWO MILLION DOLLARS (\$2,000,000) FOR THE WALNUT STREET OVAL INTERSECTION PROJECT AND WEST PEARL STREET STREETSCAPING</p> <p>R-25-145 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000) FOR SIGNAL COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>R-25-147 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000) FOR LIBRARY BUILDING PROJECT DESIGN</p> <p>R-25-152 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED THREE MILLION DOLLARS (\$3,000,000) FOR HOLMAN STADIUM IMPROVEMENTS</p>
<p>Tuesday 6/4/2025 7:30 PM</p>	<p>Budget Review Committee – Aldermanic Chamber, Nashua City Hall</p> <p>Agenda: https://nashuanh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3925/files/agenda/7099</p> <p>Legislation:</p> <p>R-25-144 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF TWO MILLION DOLLARS (\$2,000,000) FOR THE WALNUT STREET OVAL INTERSECTION PROJECT AND WEST PEARL STREET STREETSCAPING</p> <p>R-25-145 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000) FOR SIGNAL COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>R-25-147 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000) FOR LIBRARY BUILDING PROJECT DESIGN</p> <p>R-25-152 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED THREE MILLION DOLLARS (\$3,000,000) FOR HOLMAN STADIUM IMPROVEMENTS</p>
<p>Wednesday 6/5/2025</p>	<p>Finance – Aldermanic Chamber, Nashua City Hall</p>

7:00 PM	<p>Agenda: https://nashuanh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3222/files/agenda/7085</p> <p>Legislation: R-25-168 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NASHUA TO ENTER INTO A MASTER DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH LANSING MELBOURNE GROUP, LLC</p>
Thursday 6/6/2025 7:00 PM	<p>Planning and Economic Development Committee - w/public hearing O-25-055 – Aldermanic Chamber, Nashua City Hall</p> <p>Agenda: https://nashuanh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3312/files/agenda/7094</p> <p>Public Hearing: O-25-055 AMENDING THE LAND USE CODE BY ADDING PROVISIONS REGARDING SPECIFIC USES IN THE GENERAL INDUSTRIAL ZONE WHERE OVERLAIN BY THE TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Legislation: R-25-159 APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE MASTER DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AND APPROVING AMENDED MASTER CONCEPT PLAN (REDEVELOPMENT OF MOHAWK TANNERY) R-25-174 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT OF 44 BROAD STREET O-25-055 AMENDING THE LAND USE CODE BY ADDING PROVISIONS REGARDING SPECIFIC USES IN THE GENERAL INDUSTRIAL ZONE WHERE OVERLAIN BY THE TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT</p>
Thursday 6/6/2025 7:00 PM	<p>Planning Board – 3rd FL Auditorium, Nashua City Hall</p> <p>Agenda: https://nashuanh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3748/files/agenda/7076</p> <p>Properties: Mulberry Street Nashua, LLC (Owner & Applicant) requesting site plan approval for a 13,400-sqft, 5-story, 64-unit multifamily development with associated site improvements. The property is located at 11-13 Mulberry Street. Sheet 28 – Lot 26. Zoned Downtown (D-1) and Mixed-Use Overlay (MU). Ward 4</p>

Other Meetings for the Week Ending May 24, 2025

Monday, June 2, 2025

10:30 AM – Board of Public Works Retirement System Trustees Regular Meeting

Location: [848 West Hollis Street](#)

6:00 PM – Board of Education – Special Board of Education Meeting

Location: Nashua High North

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

7:00 PM – Conservation Commission

Location: Room 208

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

8:45 AM – Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

Location: Auditorium

4:00 PM – Board of Education - Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Location: Nashua High North

5:30 PM – Board of Fire Commissioners

Location: 177 Lake Street

7:00 PM – Nashua Public Library Board of Trustees

Location: 2 Court Street

Thursday, June 5, 2025

9:00 AM – Board of Assessors

Location: Auditorium

***** All agendas can be found here: <https://www.nashuanh.gov/agendacenter>

2025 Nashua International Sculpture Symposium Closing Celebration

[3 Pine St, Nashua](#)

Saturday, May 31st at 1pm

Please join in and celebrate the Nashua International Sculpture Symposium's 2025 Sculptors and see their finished sculptures! The group will follow each other in their cars to visit each of the 4 installation sites.

New York City Trip- June 2025

Saturday, June 14th. Bus leaves Nashua at 5:45am, returns around 11:30pm.

Registration Fee- \$90 (includes round-trip transportation via Coach Bus and breakfast). Pre-Registration required.

All Children under 18 must be accompanied by a ticketed adult. Trip Attendees must sign a Public Trip Release Form before getting on the bus.

Connecticut Sun/Indiana Fever WNBA Game Trip 2025

Tuesday, July 15th. Game Starts at 8:00pm.

Registration Fee- \$120 (includes ticket in Balcony 309 Section and round-trip transportation via Coach Bus). Pre-registration required.

All Children under 18 must be accompanied by a ticketed adult. Trip Attendees must sign a Public Trip Release Form prior to getting on bus.

You can register here for either one: <https://www.nashuanh.gov/520/Public-Trips>

Ward Mayoral Meetings

None this week. The last one is June 9th.

Nashua History

1997

1993 Letter about the tax rate – just as a comparison, last year was \$15.90.

Have a great weekend!

Derek