

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 16, 2012

The City Council Meeting was called to order by His Honor, Mayor Spencer, and upon roll call, the following members were found present: Pepin, Soldati, Hebert, McCallion, Durkee, Tapscott, Witham, Jarvis and Sprague.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

- Councilor Pepin moved to accept the minutes of the State of the City Address held on 3/05/12 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Durkee and passed by a vote of 8 yeas, 1 abstention, Councilor McCallion abstaining.
- Councilor Witham moved to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing on Community Development Block Grant held on 4/02/12 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed by a vote of 8 yeas, 1 abstention, Councilor Soldati abstaining.
- Councilor Tapscott moved to accept the minutes of the City Council Meeting held on 4/02/12 as recorded. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed by a vote of 8 yeas, 1 abstention, Councilor Soldati abstaining.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Real Roseberry, 405 Route 108, commented on the following items:

- Public Works Budget – We had a mild winter, and probably used only half of what was budgeted. There should be a lot of savings there and the Council should be working on that.
- Water Bills – He went around door-to-door to ask people what their feelings are about the monthly billing. He went down West High Street and talked to about 30 people. Four people said it doesn't matter to them; three said they like the monthly billing; twenty-three said they want to go back to quarterly billing. The question should be put on the September or November ballot and the people should decide what they want. Regarding interest rates for late payments, he called Rochester and they charge 12%, Dover charges 18%. Regarding liens, Rochester does not put a lien on property for non-payment of utility bills until more than \$500 is owed. Dover is \$1,000. He does not like this business of putting liens on property for non-payment of utilities. He believes Somersworth puts a lien on property the following month if a utility bill is not paid. We should put a dollar amount on liens like other communities do. Rochester was thinking of going to monthly billing, but they have changed their mind.
- For the homeowners and renters of Somersworth, there will be a clean-up day the beginning of May. He suggested that people go outside and look at their properties and if there is something that needs to be taken care of they should take care of it. This will help out the people who are cleaning up. When he first started riding around town, Franklin Street was really bad. He made a big stink and now it is clean. Green Street is an eyesore from the old court house down to

the corner. If tenants spent 15 minutes a day taking care of things, they could keep their property clean.

- The Council should be looking into whether or not the Local Government Center owes us any money. Also, you should take into consideration that the tax cap is coming back.

MAYOR'S REPORT.

Mayor Spencer reported the following:

- On April 3rd he attended a Spring Health Care Workshop in Pembroke, NH.
- On April 4th, he gave a sermon and toured the Tri-City Christian Academy.
- On April 5th, he delivered Meals on Wheels with Congressman Guinta.
- On April 9th, he attended a meeting with the City Attorney in regards to Sunningdale Golf Club.
- On April 11th, he attended Congressman Guinta's Manufacturing Summit.
- On April 12th, his aunt, Helen Turbide, passed away.
- On April 14th, he attended the budget workshop.
- On April 16th, he attended a meeting with the City's Attorney in regards to the Superfund Site.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

Finance Committee:

Councilor Jarvis reported this Committee met on 4/03/12 and discussed the following:

- Reviewed three line striping bids. This was a joint bid effort with the City of Dover. There was not a lot of savings with that. The committee moved to sponsor a Company called Highway Safety Systems. Two of the three bids were out of Massachusetts, one was out of Vermont. Mr. Willis recommended this company pending the approval of the Public Works Committee.
- Reviewed the Rocky Hill Road tax deeded property. They had a lengthy discussion. When all was said and done, a motion was made to sponsor a resolution that will come before Council to sell the property.
- The Finance Director has done some research to see if a bank lock box agreement would be beneficial. The utility bills would be sent there instead of being processed downstairs. They decided to table this item at this time and see if the automatic debit would decrease some of the volume downstairs. We will see how the EZ Pay works out and will continue to monitor the billing.

Public Works Committee:

Councilor Sprague reported this Committee met on 4/03/12. Those in attendance were Finance Director Smith, City Manager Belmore, Public Works Director Willis and the Committee members.

The following items were discussed:

- They concurred with the recommendation to go with Highway Safety Systems for line striping. The total for the job is \$15,334. The City of Dover is also going with the same company. They have used them in the past and were happy with the results. That will be starting in the next couple of weeks.
- They talked about the Town of Berwick. They have a water line that goes beneath the Berwick bridge. It is not active. It is turned on for emergencies. There was an agreement made in 1987 that was enacted. Berwick would like to fix one of their standpipes and would like to get water from us to serve around 950 customers. He attended a meeting a week later with Berwick officials and just listened. He doesn't know where this will go, because he doesn't feel they are ready to pay our water rates. He feels they want to get this done a little bit sooner than we can do this.
- They talked about the sidewalk tractor – received an update from the company they bought it from. They will no longer be taking care of the maintenance because they lost their dealership. The maintenance will be turned over to Chadwick-Baross out of Concord, NH. They are a good company. This will be favorable for us.

Government Operations Committee:

Councilor Tapscott reported this Committee met on 4/13/12. They discussed adding an amendment to the proposed City charter amendments that will have a public hearing on 5/07/12. They want to make the wording of when a new Mayor takes office consistent with the wording regarding City Councilors, which is two weeks after the election.

Recreation Committee:

Councilor Pepin reported this Committee met on 4/10/12 and discussed the following:

- There was a citizen complaint a couple of meetings ago about dog waste at the Pine Street Park. They took up reviewing Chapter 30 of the City ordinances, which deals with parks. Sections 8 and 9 address this issue. Staff is going to go back and do some rewording. The basic law is we do have a leash law and dog waste has to be picked up. We do have signage at some of the parks. It was suggested that we add more signage. Also, there are stations for disposal of the waste in the park areas. The City Manager will also notify the Police Department that if they do see someone not complying with the leash law or the pickup of dog waste they should inform them there is a law that addresses these issues. It will also appear on Channel 22 and on the City web site to educate the public.

Councilor Pepin said Councilor McCallion suggested that he speak with Beth Salinger from the Housing authority to see if they have any money for park facilities. He spoke with Ms. Salinger and she said they possibly would have some funding for this purpose. She attended the Recreation Committee meeting. They went over the Pine Street Park, discussing taking the park items from the Hilltop School and having staff go through the equipment to see what is usable, and relocating it at the Pine Street Park.

- If anyone has been up to the Noble Pines, you will have noticed the work has already started up there. They are looking at having the pavilion done possibly this year. They discussed relocating some of the facilities. The Water Spray Park was designed to be located where the old swimming pool was, however staff has asked them to consider relocating it where one of the tennis courts is because that is where the sunlight is. Also, it is not under the pine trees that tend to plug up drainage, and it just makes more sense to relocate it to that area. The Committee members went along with this change.
- They discussed fence repair at the Jules Bisson Park, which was brought up by Councilor Witham. The City Manager indicated that Liberty Mutual will be coming into our community and donating some time and possibly some money to help build some picnic tables for our park facilities and also will do some landscaping around the Library and the Police Station and Public Works area.
- A citizen called him about golf frisbie being installed at the Malley Farm. The City Manager did some research on that prior to the committee meeting and it is very costly to go forth with that. We decided we would not be doing that.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

COAST Board of Directors:

Councilor Pepin reported he attended a workshop of this Board on 3/28/12. They discussed a possible increase in fares. There would be a higher fare for prime time, and a lower fare for off peak times. The fares will be recalibrated in the near future. The next meeting will be on 4/11/12.

School Board:

Councilor Pepin reported he attended a School Board Meeting on 4/10/12. There was a wonderful presentation done by the Maplewood Technology kids. Everyone should watch it on Channel 22 if they get the chance.

Councilor Pepin said he voiced his concerns to the School Board about the upcoming budget. Every year when he looks over the school budget he tries to determine where cuts will have the least effect on the education of the students, even though the Council doesn't have any say over where budget cuts come from in the school budget. Most of the time, his decisions would be out of the CIP items because it is usually the case where the taxpayer cannot afford it. As was discussed at our workshop, it is getting worse every year and we are now up over \$7M just for school CIP items. We all asked the City Manager and the Finance Director to work with the school to see what could be worked out. The rumor is there will possibly be a bond to address some of the issues.

Councilor Pepin said he has personally gone over the budget and he cannot see cutting any more off their budget. He would have a concern about the education of the students.

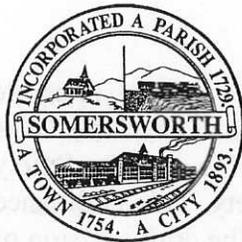
Councilor Pepin said he asked them if they could come up with a list of how bad cuts would hurt the educational needs of the students. Our schools are in need of improvement and there are a lot of things the kids need to go to college are the things that are being cut. The special needs children are governed by law that they need to be protected under No Child Left Behind, but the kids that need to go to college do not fall into that category. That is what his concerns are.

Councilor Pepin said the School Board members and the Superintendent of Schools are perfectly willing to sit down with the Council to work things out. He wants that to be clear to Council members.

Sustainability Committee:

Councilor Soldati reported this Committee will be meeting on 4/19/12 at 7:00 p.m. On 4/21/12, between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., the Committee members will be at the Malley Farm to begin preparing the beds for the community gardens. That is going to include a communal herb bed which anybody can go and harvest herbs and flowers from. The rain date is 4/22/12. Anyone in the City is welcome to come and help.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT.



**CITY OF SOMERSWORTH
Office of the City Manager**

TO: Mayor Matthew Spencer and City Council Members
FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager
DATE: Friday, April 13, 2012
**SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, April 16, 2012
City Council Agenda**

6:45 p.m. Public Hearing

Resolution No. 23-12 Authorizing the City Council to Create a Non-Capital Reserve Fund to be Known as the Building Maintenance Fund for the Purpose Of Unanticipated and/or Unplanned Maintenance for City and School Facilities.

Unfinished Business (under Section 12 of the Agenda):

Resolutions:

- A. Resolution No. 23-12 Authorizing the City Council to Create a Non-Capital Reserve Fund to be known as the Building Maintenance Fund for the Purpose of Unanticipated and/or Unplanned Maintenance for City and School Facilities.** As a reminder, the Finance Committee has forwarded this proposal for full Council consideration after meeting with City Staff and School Superintendent Mosca. If passed, this would establish a second Non-Capital Reserve Fund with the other being for School Special Education/Disabilities. Note: The City Manager's Proposed FY 2013 budget does not propose any funding to these funds.

Other:

- A. Vote to Send Charter Amendments to Ballot.** Attached is a red-lined version of the latest recommended change from the Government Operations Committee. The Public Hearing Notice will need to be amended to include this change should Council vote to move forward with it. I have sent it to the City Attorney for review and hope to have a recommendation by meeting time.

New Business (under Section 13 of the Agenda):

Ordinances:

- A. Ordinance No. 10-12 Add New Chapter 21A Display of Permissible Fireworks.** This is an entirely new Chapter drafted by Interim Fire Chief Bliss and Police Chief Crombie with the assistance of Council's Public Safety Committee. Chapter 21 is entitled Fire Prevention & Life Safety. This Ordinance has been under a detailed review and re-write by Chief Bliss. The draft revision of Chapter 21 will be ready for review in the near future.

Chapter 21A: the Ordinance attempts to strike a balance between being tolerant of this activity during reasonable time periods, allowing the application & permit process to be user friendly, and yet hold permit holders or violators accountable to the permitting process and Community concerns. I recommend a Public Hearing be scheduled for 6 p.m. on May 7th prior to next regular meeting. (6:45 p.m. Public Hearing on Charter Amendments is already scheduled.)

Resolutions:

- A. Resolution No. 24-12 Authorizing the City Manager to Sell Surplus City Property.** The Finance Committee is sponsoring this Resolution. Attached is a memo being circulated to various City Boards concerning this parcel.

City Manager's Items (under Section 9 of the Agenda):

- A. Informational Items:**

1. **E-Z Pay.** The City has begun advertising the availability of “E-Z Pay,” an automatic payment plan for water and sewer utility bills. There is no additional (convenience) charge. Enrollment forms are available at City Hall or can be downloaded from the City website under the ‘News’ tab.

2. **Byrne Grant.** Attached is a memo from Chief Crombie regarding our Police Department’s participation in this Justice Department Grant Award that is being coordinated by the County. I am pleased to announce our receipt of \$10,825 that will be used for equipment without the need for any City matching funds. The purchases include taser pistols, high speed “stop sticks,” and a Detective Division vehicle.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS.

A. Board of Assessors

- Philip Munck, term to expire 04/15.

B. Conservation Commission

- Scott Gessis, term to expire 04/15.

C. Historic District Commission

- George Poulin, term to expire 04/15.
- Daniel Bisson, term to expire 04/15.
- Albert Marotta, term to expire 04/15.

D. Planning Board

- William Sweeney, term to expire 04/15.
- Anthony Delyani, term to expire 04/15.
- Paul Robidas, term to expire 04/15.

E. Zoning Board of Adjustment

- Harry Irwin, term to expire 04/15.
- Roland Dumont, term to expire 04/15.

Mayor Spencer indicated these are all reappointments and will be voted on at the next regular meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Nominations:

A. Board of Library Trustees

- Donna Donovan, term to expire 02/16.

Councilor Witham moved to accept this nomination. The motion was seconded by Councilor Durkee and passed unanimously.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 23-12 AUTHORIZING THE CITY COUNCIL TO CREATE A NON-CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TO BE KNOWN AS THE BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF UNANTICIPATED AND/OR UNPLANNED MAINTENANCE FOR CITY AND SCHOOL FACILITIES.

Councilor Jarvis said the idea of this resolution was brought before the City Council last year and forwarded to the Finance Committee for review. They have spent many meetings with the School Board and the City Council to come up with different ideas. They were in the process of putting this together when the City Council came up with the discussion for potential bonding for some of the items. They wanted to bring this before Council and have a discussion and find out whatever questions are still out there. You should also keep in mind there is also some discussion about bonding.

Councilor Jarvis said one of the things that came into play when they were discussing this was that it may be more beneficial to have this type of non-capital reserve fund that is in conjunction with the City and schools, not necessarily just for school facilities. The important part of this resolution is it is for unplanned and unanticipated maintenance and repairs on the facilities of either. The other important part of this resolution is being aware that the City Council is named as agents to expend this fund. The committee felt there needed to be some specific guidelines. The amount of the fund is basically 50% of the School Department and City surplus and it cannot exceed \$75,000 per year. There would also be a cap to the fund of \$400,000.

Councilor Sprague said there isn't anything to add to this. All bases have been covered. He endorses the resolution.

Councilor Witham said in concept this makes sense. Prior City Councils and School Boards talked about ways to try to solve budgetary concerns, not the least of which are the capital reserve issues. At one of the earlier meetings, what was raised was the idea of establishing a fund similar to this, but to pay for some of the capital reserve needs such as windows or HVAC units, not necessarily just for emergencies.

Councilor Witham said he doesn't fully grasp this because he feels we already have a mechanism in place, known as our undesignated fund balance. Undesignated fund balance is generated by surpluses and he feels this new fund would take from that. The undesignated fund balance has grown to a much healthier level and it is there for things like emergencies that exist. His question about this would be to ask how it differs from the mechanism we have.

Councilor McCallion said he is in support of this. The reason it failed a few years ago is that we weren't the agent to expend. Communication has been a lot better between the Council and the School Board than in previous years. He thinks this sets the framework for a fund to be designated for a project. The City and School can work together on

projects that need to get done and know there is money in this account that is designated for this.

Councilor Pepin said he feels there is a little difference between the Fund Balance and the Non-Capital Reserve Fund. The Fund Balance is a little harder to get at as far as the School Board is concerned. He does not like going into the Fund Balance unless we absolutely have to. This gives us an option that if something does go wrong we don't have to hit the Fund Balance and it can stay stable.

Councilor Sprague said he thinks the biggest part of this mechanism is that it makes you save and put the money away. Otherwise, if we do have a surplus from the budget, the City Council has the right to just put it into paying down taxes or to use it for a specific item. He believes the present Council members have the discipline to do what is right. He likes this mechanism for future Councils. It makes for more frugality.

Councilor Witham said these are very legitimate points raised by the Councilors. His only other comment is this fund is designed for unanticipated or unplanned maintenance items and all the items on the School Department CIP list are certainly not unanticipated or unplanned. If he is reading this resolution correctly, we couldn't fund those projects.

Councilor Sprague indicated if there is a schedule, say if something is supposed to last for seven years but it breaks down after two years, we would have this fund to address the repair.

Councilor Jarvis said there is probably one thing we would all agree on, whether it is City or School buildings, we don't do a great job maintaining them. That is where this falls into place, making us a little bit more responsible. There will be some money there to address problems. If we have this line item and these funds specifically for those issues that are unanticipated, it is a lot different than for us to come to agreement to take money from the Fund Balance. She feels it would definitely be a benefit.

Councilor Durkee asked who determines what is unplanned or unanticipated. For example, in regards to the HVAC units at the school, he thinks there has been a public acknowledgement that those are not functioning well. Is it unanticipated if it dies today versus two weeks from now? He wondered who applies the standard to that. He asked if this is not intended to address any capital improvement projects that have been outlined to date.

City Manager Belmore replied that at the end of the day, it would take a City Council vote to use these funds. It will be the City Council's determination on whether it meets the standards and the purpose and intent of the fund. The School Board would have to vote to bring an item forward to the City Council, and back it up with documentation, estimates, etc. The rules would hold true for both the School and the City.

Resolution No. 23-12 passed by roll call vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays.

NEW BUSINESS.

Ordinances:

A motion was made by Councilor Tapscott that Ordinance No. 10-12 be read by title only due to its length. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 10-12 ADD NEW CHAPTER 21A DISPLAY OF PERMISSIBLE FIREWORKS.

Somersworth, NH

April 16, 2012

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the Ordinances of the City of Somersworth, as amended, be further amended by adding new Chapter 21A, Display of Permissible Fireworks, as follows:

CHAPTER 21A

DISPLAY OF PERMISSIBLE FIREWORKS

1. Statutory Authority

This article is enacted pursuant to the authority granted by Section 17 of Chapter 47 and Section 6 of Chapter 160-C of the New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated.

2. Definitions

“Consumer fireworks” means consumer fireworks as defined in 27 C.F.R. section 555.11 and formerly known as class C common fireworks.

“Fire Chief” means the Fire Chief of the City of Somersworth or his/her designee.

“Permissible fireworks” means consumer fireworks, except for those items that are prohibited pursuant to RSA 160-B:16, 160-B:16-b, and 160-B:16-c.

“Police Chief” means the Police Chief of the City of Somersworth or his/her designee.

3. Permit Required

No person shall use, discharge or explode any permissible fireworks without a permit issued by the City of Somersworth.

4. Permit Application

- A. Any person wishing to obtain a permissible fireworks display permit shall apply to the Police Chief and the Fire Chief at least 72 hours prior to the display. The time frame may be waived at the discretion of the Police Chief and Fire Chief.
- B. The applicant shall provide the following information:
 - a. Date of application
 - b. Name, address and telephone number of the applicant
 - c. Address of the location where the display will be held
 - d. A diagram of the display location, showing the location of all nearby property lines, nearby buildings, public ways, nearby trees, electrical and telephone lines or other overhead obstructions, and the location of any nearby storage of flammable or combustible liquids or gases
 - e. Name of the owner of the property where the display will be held
 - f. Intended date and time of display, including a possible rain date
 - g. Written authorization of the property owner, if different from the applicant
 - h. Signature of the applicant

5. Permit Fee

The fee for a permissible fireworks display permit shall be five dollars (\$5.00) per event. The fee shall be paid at the time of application and is non-refundable.

6. Site Inspection

- A. Prior to issuing a permit, the Police Chief or the Fire Chief may conduct an inspection of the display site to determine whether a permissible fireworks display can be held in a safe manner.
- B. If, in the opinion of the Police Chief or Fire Chief, the proposed site is not suitable for the safe display of permissible fireworks, the application for a permit shall be denied.

7. Restrictions

- A. No person under the age of 21 may possess, use, discharge or explode permissible fireworks.
- B. No permissible fireworks may be used, discharged or exploded during periods of very high or extreme fire danger as determined by the Fire Chief or the NH Division of Forests and Lands.
- C. Permissible fireworks shall be used, discharged or exploded in a manner such that all discharge debris shall remain within the property lines of the approved site.

- D. No permissible fireworks shall be used, discharged or exploded indoors unless a permit for "Pyrotechnic Display before a Proximate Audience" has been obtained from the NH Department of Safety.
- E. No permissible fireworks shall be discharged between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. with the following exceptions:
 - a. January 1: no discharge between 12:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.
 - b. July 3, 4 and 5: no discharge between 12:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.
 - c. December 31: no discharge prior to 8:00 a.m.
- F. The applicant shall be responsible for removing any debris accumulated due to the discharge of fireworks that fall onto the public way, public property, and any private property other than the approved site within twenty-four (24) hours of the display.

8. Permit Revocation

- A. A permit may be revoked or suspended by the Police Chief or Fire Chief for any of the following reasons:
 - a. Very high or extreme fire danger
 - b. Unfavorable weather conditions, such as drought or high winds
 - c. If any person under the age of 21 possesses, uses, discharges or explodes any permissible firework device
 - d. If any pyrotechnic device other than a permissible firework is possessed, used, discharged or exploded on the site
 - e. If the person who is using, discharging or exploding the permissible fireworks appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs
 - f. If, in the opinion of the Police Chief or Fire Chief, the use, discharge or exploding of permissible fireworks would create a threat to public safety

9. Penalty

- A. The Police Chief and Fire Chief are authorized to seize, take, remove or cause to be removed, at the expense of the owner, all firework devices that are being discharged in violation of this ordinance.
- B. Any person who violates the provisions of this ordinance shall be guilty of a violation and upon conviction thereon shall be fined in an amount not exceeding \$1,000.

10. Separability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall be deemed a separate, distinct independent

provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Chapter 21, Fire Prevention Code, Section 6 of the City of Somersworth Ordinances, shall be deleted upon passage of this ordinance.

Introduced by Councilors

David Witham
Martin Pepin
Marcel Hebert

Approved:
City Attorney

Mayor Spencer indicated this ordinance requires a public hearing.

Councilor Witham moved to schedule a public hearing on Ordinance No. 10-12 on 5/07/12 at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor McCallion and passed unanimously.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 24-12 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SELL SURPLUS CITY PROPERTY.

Somersworth, NH
April 16, 2012

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth has acquired the following parcel of property through tax deed,

- 15 Rocky Hill Road, Land and Building, Tax Map 12 Block 13

and,

WHEREAS, after a review of the aforementioned there has been no determined municipal need for the property and it may be considered surplus,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to sell this surplus City property by any means determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Introduced by Councilors
Robin S. Jarvis
Dale R. Sprague

Approved:
City Attorney

Following the first reading of Resolution No. 24-12, it was referred to the next meeting.

Other:

DISCUSSION AND VOTE REGARDING ADDITIONAL CHARTER AMENDMENT.

Councilor Tapscott indicated the Charter currently reads that a newly elected Mayor shall immediately assume the duties of Mayor. This should be changed to read that "a newly elected Mayor shall assume the duties of Mayor two weeks after the election". You have to wait two weeks in order for the election results to be certified.

Councilor Witham moved that we provide the suggested modification to Section 3.5 of the City Charter to the public hearing that is scheduled for 5/07/12 at 6:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor Durkee and passed unanimously.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

School Board Chair Don Austin, 51 Cinnamon Ridge Road, thanked the City Council for establishing the new non-capital reserve fund. This will go a long way to helping them begin to put a program together to take care of their infrastructure which has been an ongoing issue for them.

Mr. Austin said he also wanted to comment on something Councilor Pepin mentioned in his remarks about the School Board meeting. Councilor Jarvis has also asked for some insight into what various levels of cuts would mean in terms of services that they could no longer offer. They will be providing the Council with that information within the next few days. They are still working on it, but are pretty close to wrapping up at least a preliminary document on what that would look like. They will be giving the Council that information with the understanding that it is a snapshot as of today, and when we get the final number things might change. It will be our best estimate as to what certain things mean based on what we know today.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Councilor Durkee said in light of the news this week about the shootings in Greenland, our hearts go out to all of the people that were affected by this. Without question, this makes us appreciate the time and effort and dedication of our police force here. They have reached out to the Police Department to let them know how much their commitment to their jobs is appreciated.

Councilor Witham dovetailed on Councilor Durkee's remarks, stating there are over 800,000 sworn law-enforcement officers in this country who put their lives on the line

every day. Greenland, NH is a town of about 3,500 residents, Somersworth just shy of 12,000. He would suggest that Greenland and Somersworth are the faces of what policing is all about in this country. 89% of law enforcement agencies serve populations of less than 25,000. 74% service populations fewer than 10,000. What that shows is that the tragic killing and injury of police officers is not something that just happens in big cities. It happens in our own backyards; it can happen anywhere. We need to take the work that our police officers do day in and day out to protect all of us very seriously and we need to appreciate their efforts. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Chief Maloney who lost his life in the line of duty, and certainly with the families of the four officers that were injured in that action. This is something we will not soon forget.

Councilor Sprague said he agrees with both Councilors. He would also like to add in fire personnel, and any 911 responders. There is a reason they retire from their fields earlier than other people, because of the stressful nature of their jobs. We should cherish what police forces do for us.

Councilor Sprague said we are getting into budget season, and he will be bringing up some points in the next few weeks about adding some people to our police force. He feels that beefing up our police force with more bodies would help.

Councilor Tapscott said he echoed everyone's sentiments, stating it was a tragic event that happened in Greenland, also the young lady who was killed. He has talked to her mother and she is devastated. The whole thing was senseless. Many people are completely devastated about this.

Councilor McCallion added his sentiments also.

Councilor McCallion said he received a call from a resident of Indigo Hill Road who has noticed increased walkers on their road with the nice weather, and was concerned about the traffic and hoped they would slow down on this road. They also mentioned the possibility of putting sidewalks on this road.

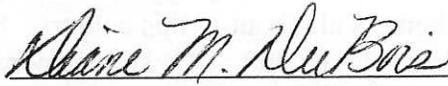
Councilor McCallion brought up that there will be a Cleanup Day on 5/05/12 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will also be a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on 5/05/12 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., where residents can bring their items to the Turnkey Landfill on Rochester Neck Road in Rochester, NH.

Mayor Spencer said Maureen Jackman has said that after the clean up on 5/05/12 there will be a "Touch a Truck" event at the Middle School that will include a fire truck, police cruiser, and a Public Works truck, and also a free lunch provided by Culinary Arts.

ADJOURNMENT.

Councilor Tapscott moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane M. DuBois, City Clerk